THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume IV, 1935

(29th March to 9th April, 1935)

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

1935

NEW DELHI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 29th March, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CERTAIN PARTICULARS OF THE WORKERS IN THE GLASS BANGLE FACTORY AT FIROZABAD.

1133. ***Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant:** (a) Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the following particulars of the workers in the glass bangle factory at Firozabad:

(i) their age and sex;

(ii) income per labourer per day or per month; and

(iii) their education and health?

(b) Is it a fact that there are about 15,000 workers employed as ordinary wage earning labourers in Firozabad?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) I do not know which of the factories at Firozabad the Honourable Member has in mind, but, in any case, I cannot undertake to ask the Local Government to conduct a census of the kind suggested.

(b) I regret that I am unable to say whether the Honourable Member's estimate is correct as separate occupational figures are given in the Census only for the larger cities, of which Firozabad is not one.

SHAREHOLDERS OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1134. ***Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha:** Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Railways please place on the table a statement showing the names of the shareholders of the Bengal and North Western Railway Company?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information.

MEDICAL FACILITIES FOR THE INDIAN RAILWAY STAFF.

1135. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Are Government aware of the fact that the Tundla Railway Station being the Headquarters of one of the Railway districts, there is a great demand for an Assistant Surgeon there, and also that there is a great need for midwives in all Railway Hospitals to attend to Indian ladies in emergency cases?

(b) Is it a fact that European nurses in Railway Hospitals do not attend to Indian patients even during serious troubles, and that ward coolies alone serve the purposes of nurses in these cases?

(c) Is it a fact that Indian women are not attended to by European nurses even during maternity?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The Agent, East Indian Railway, reports as follows:

"(a) A District Medical Officer is stationed at Tundla. Accordingly there is no need for an Assistant Surgeon. The question of the employment of midwives in all the railway hospitals, including the hospital at Tundla, is under consideration.

(b) No.

(c) In all circumstances where facilities exist, Indian ladies, when admitted to hospitals, are attended to, when necessary, by nurses employed by the railway administration, irrespective of the race of the nurse."

GRADATION OF TRAIN CLERKS.

1136. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article "Gradation of Trains Clerks" published in the *Mazdoor* of the 16th June, 1934?

(b) Are the grievances enumerated in the said article true, and if so, what are the steps Government have hitherto taken to remove them?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Government have not seen the article referred to.

(b) Does not arise.

SEVENTY-ONE HOURS DUTY PROGRAMME ENFORCED ON THE TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS IN THE DINAPORE DIVISION.

1137. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that on the 26th October, 1934, the Secretary of the East Indian Railway Union, Dinapore, sent a telegram to the Labour Supervisor, Railway Board, Delhi, protesting against the 71 hours duty programme per week enforced on the Travelling Ticket Examiners of the Dinapore Division?

(b) Was any enquiry held in the matter, and if so, by whom, when and with what result?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) The matter was enquired into by the Supervisor of Railway Labour early in December, 1934, and it was found that the East Indian Railway administration had themselves set the matter right by arranging for the staff concerned to work to a weekly limit of 56 hours with effect from the 1st November, 1934.

RAILWAY CONCESSIONS FOR MILITARY TRAFFIC.

1138. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Railways have to allow concessions for military traffic, both goods and passenger? If so, will Government be pleased to state what these concessions are, and the total amount of loss suffered by the railways on this account during the last five years?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Railways have, for a long time, charged special rates for the carriage of military traffic. For goods traffic, other than coal, kerosine oil, liquid fuel and explosives, which are charged at the same rates, as for public traffic, the rates per four-wheeled vehicle per mile are 0-5-0 on the broad gauge and 0-3-6 on other than the broad gauge. For consignments, not in wagon loads, the rate is 0·38 pie per maund per mile. For carriage by passenger train, the rates per four-wheeled vehicle per mile are 0-5-6 on the broad gauge and 0-4-0 on other than the broad gauge. For small bodies of troops, not occupying a carriage exclusively, second class fares are charged for first class accommodation and third class fares are charged for accommodation in any class other than the first. I presume by the term "loss" the Honourable Member is referring to the difference between the total charges recovered at these rates and what they would have been if the ordinary public tariff rates had been applied. This figure has been estimated by the Railway Department as being in the neighbourhood of a crore of rupees per annum, but any such estimate must necessarily be only approximate as the question of how far the traffic would tend to be diverted to other competitive means of transport must necessarily be a matter of conjecture.

RETRENCHMENT RECOMMENDED BY THE RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE FOR THE ARMY DEPARTMENT.

1139. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of retrenchment recommended by the Retrenchment Committee for the Army Department, as well as the total amount of economy effected during the last three years?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The Army Sub-Committee of the Central Retrenchment Committee made no recommendation as to the total amount of savings to be obtained. They made specific recommendations, amounting to about Rs. 2½ crores and also indicated certain directions in which further economy might be secured. Since 1932, the reduction due directly to retrenchment measures has been about Rs. 5 crores.

GOLD EXPORTED FROM INDIA TO ENGLAND.

1140. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will Government be pleased to state how much of the total quantity of gold exported from India, was imported by England?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to section V in the monthly Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of British India.

RELEASE OF PRISONERS IN HONOUR OF THE KING'S SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

1141. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Is it a fact that the Government of India are contemplating releasing prisoners in honour of the King's Silver Jubilee Celebrations? If so, will Government be pleased to state the basis on which the prisoners will be selected for release?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the feasibility of releasing, on this occasion all martial law prisoners, First and Second Lahore Conspiracy, Kakori Conspiracy and other Political Conspiracy Case prisoners, who have served more than half their sentence?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Government have decided that grant of clemency to prisoners in the form of releases and remissions of sentences should not form part of the celebrations in connection with the forthcoming Silver Jubilee of His Majesty the King Emperor.

(b) Does not arise.

INTERVIEWS BY THEIR RELATIVES WITH PRISONERS CONFINED IN THE ANDAMANS

1142. *Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of prisoners confined in the Andamans, the number of interviews which a prisoner is entitled to have under the rules, and the total number of interviews which these prisoners had during the last ten months?

(*b*) Are Government aware that the relations and friends who go to interview the prisoners, are subjected to great hardship and inconvenience?

(c) Are Government prepared to give greater facilities to the persons who go for interview, by making satisfactory arrangements for their stay in the Andamans and by modifying the rules for interviews in such a way as to enable persons going from such a long distance to have more than one interview during their stay?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) The total number of prisoners in the Andamans on March 7, 1935, was 5,604. The great majority of these prisoners are at large in Port Blair, and, therefore, no rules to regulate interviews are necessary. The terrorist prisoners, who are kept in the Cellular Jail, number 219. They are allowed one interview in three months. The total number of interviews, during the last ten months, has been 62—ordinary convicts 59 and terrorists three.

(b) Government have received no complaints to this effect.

(c) No.

FACILITIES FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WHO GO TO THE ANDAMANS TO STUDY THE CONDITIONS THERE.

1143. *Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Will Government be pleased to state if they give any facilities to Members of the Legislative Assembly who go to the Andamans to study the conditions there for themselves? If none, do they propose to give any?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It is not clear what kind of facilities the Honourable Member has in mind. If any particular Honourable Member desires to visit the Islands, I suggest that he should write or speak to me on the subject.

UPKEEP OF SERVICE AGREEMENTS, SERVICE RECORDS AND CORRESPONDENCE IN RESPECT OF MATTERS CONCERNING THE STAFF ON STATE RAILWAYS.

1144. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will Government please state who is responsible for the upkeep of service agreements, service records and correspondence in respect of matters concerning personnel of the staff on State Railways,—an employee or administrative office?

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Mr. P. R. Rau: The heads of the offices concerned are responsible for the safe custody of all official documents with which they are concerned including service agreements, service records and correspondence.

†1145*.

PROSECUTIONS LAUNCHED UNDER CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE PUNJAB MUNICIPAL ACT IN THE DELHI CITY.

1146. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Will Government please state the number of prosecutions launched under each of the following sections of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911, in the Delhi city during the year 1934?

Sections 114—115, 115-A, 116, 125, 126, 142, 143, 144, bye-laws under section 118 (d), 155, 156, 157, 159.

(b) Will Government please state the numbers of cases which took more than a month for disposal?

(c) Are Government prepared to direct the District Magistrate of Delhi to arrange for the early disposal of prosecutions under the Municipal Act?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) I lay on the table a statement containing the information required.

(b) None.

(c) Government do not consider that any such direction is necessary.

Statement.

Section of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911.	Number of prosecutions launched.
114	*Nil.*
115	*Nil.*
115-A	22.
116	139.
125	47.
126	106.
142	*Nil.*
143	*Nil.*
144	*Nil.*
118-D	There is no such section.
155	31.
156	364.
157	70.
159	*Nil.*

†The answer to this question has been postponed to Tuesday, the 2nd April, 1935.

TRIAL OF PETTY OFFENCES BY STIPENDIARY FIRST CLASS MAGISTRATES IN DELHI.

1147. *Mr. Sham Lal: (a) Are Government aware that even cases of petty offences are being tried by stipendiary first class Magistrates of Delhi?

(b) Will Government please state the number of such cases tried by stipendiary first class Magistrates in Delhi?

(c) Are Government aware that stipendiary Magistrates try these cases in order to increase their out-turn?

(d) Do Government propose to direct the District Magistrate to have these cases tried by Magistrate second or third class?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Yes.

(b) Stipendiary magistrates of the first class tried altogether 463 petty cases in 1934. The majority of these cases were building cases which, owing to their importance, it is desirable should be tried by first class magistrates. Details are as follows:

Additional District Magistrate	9 cases.
City Magistrate	142 ,,
Resident Magistrate	312 ,,

(c) No.

(d) Government do not propose to interfere with the discretion of the District Magistrate.

INSANITARY CONDITION OF THE DELHI CITY AND LACK OF SUPERVISION BY THE HEALTH OFFICER.

1148. *Mr. Sham Lal: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the proceedings of the Delhi Municipality published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 27th January, 1935, in which most of the members complained about the insanitary condition of Delhi city and lack of supervision by the Health Officer?

(b) Do Government propose to take early steps to remove this state of things?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) Government will give careful consideration to any specific proposals to improve conditions which may be placed before them by the local authorities.

RAISING OF THE STATUS OF THE JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER'S COURT IN SIND TO THAT OF A HIGH COURT.

1149. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they are aware that the Sind Administrative Committee recommended that the Court of the Judicial Commissioner in Sind be raised to the status of a High Court?

(b) Is it a fact that the Bar Association, Karachi, and the Bar Council of Sind are of the same opinion?

(c) Do Government propose to raise the status of the highest Judicial tribunal in Sind to that of a High Court?

(d) If not, why not, and do they propose any change?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) Yes.

(b) I am willing to take it from the Honourable Member that this is a fact.

(c) and (d). The matter is under consideration and no decision has yet been reached.

RECRUITMENT OF STAFF FOR THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA.

1150. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) With reference to the supplementary questions to starred question No. 292, answered on the 18th February, 1935, will Government be pleased to state whether over and above the Currency Offices and the Imperial Bank of India's employees to be transferred to the Reserve Bank of India, any fresh recruitment will take place?

(b) If so, when, by whom and in what manner will the recruitment be made?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) and (b). Fresh recruitment will clearly have to be made, in due course, both to replace wastage due to retirement and so on, and also to meet any expansion of work which the Central Board of the Bank may consider desirable. The Central Board is responsible for the time, extent and manner of such recruitment.

PLATFORMS ON THE METRE GAUGE SECTION STATIONS FROM MADRAS TO TRIVANDRUM.

1151. *Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many stations on the South Indian Railway have open platforms, partially covered platforms (without taking into account the third class waiting sheds) and fully covered platforms, on the metre gauge section main line from Madras to Trivandrum?

(b) Will Government state if they have received at any time any memorials or representations to have fully covered platforms to protect third class passengers from the burning sun during the day? If so, will Government state in how many cases they have taken action?

(c) Is it not a fact that at many of the important stations, if not in the majority of cases, the platforms are open to the sky and are Government aware that in the majority of cases where an over-bridge is provided, such bridges are open and cause a great deal of inconvenience and suffering to third class passengers?

(d) Do Government propose to take steps to see that at all important stations and junctions the main platforms, at least, are fully covered in the interests of the health and convenience of the third class passengers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Government regret the information is not readily available.

(b) There have been petitions received occasionally in the past. They have either been forwarded to the railway administrations for consideration or the petitioner asked to take up the matter through the Local Railway Advisory Committee.

(c) Government are aware that many stations have uncovered platforms and overbridges, but they cannot say how many of these are important.

(d) The provision of covered platforms is only one, and not always, or necessarily, the most important of the various possible avenues of amenities to passengers. The decision with regard to any station and any railway has to be made on the merits of each case, and it is entirely a question of how the available resources should be distributed in the best manner possible. The Railway Board have asked the Agents of Railways to consider the possibility of drawing up a definite programme for expenditure on amenities to passengers. The general lines of any such programme that they may be able to draw up will be discussed with the Central Advisory Council as early as possible.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the desirability of consulting the Agent of the M. and S. M. Railway in regard to this particular matter?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The M. and S. M. Railway has been included in the railways which have been asked to consider the possibility of drawing up a definite programme.

CLOSING OF VEGETABLE SHOPS IN THE JULLUNDUR CANTONMENT.

1152. *Mr. Fakir Chand: (a) Are Government aware that the vegetable sellers in the Jullundur Cantonment have closed their shops since 23rd February, 1935, as a protest against the order of the Cantonment Board, Jullundur, prohibiting them under section 212 of the Cantonment Act from selling vegetables within the Sadar Bazar Area?

(b) Are Government aware that the public at large has been put to great inconvenience and trouble?

(c) Is it a fact that the above order under section 212 was issued because vegetable sellers refused to occupy stalls in a market built by the Cantonment Board?

(d) Is it a fact that the Cantonment Board, Jullundur, have built this vegetable market in spite of protests from the residents?

(e) Is it a fact that the Northern Command warned the Cantonment Board, Jullundur, that the vegetable market had been a failure at several places and they should not embark upon it without mature consideration?

(f) Is it a fact that a vegetable market was built previous to this and proved a failure?

(g) Is it a fact that a note of dissent was given by some elected members against the erection of this market?

(h) Is it a fact that the Cantonment Board, Jullundur, had to dismantle this vegetable market [referred in part (f) above] and the public money was thus wasted?

(i) Do Government propose to take necessary steps to see that the public is not put to inconvenience and trouble?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) The vegetable sellers closed their shops, not as a protest, but in compliance with the orders of the Cantonment Board prohibiting them, under section 212 of the Cantonments Act, from selling vegetables and fruit in the Sadar Bazar and asking them to occupy stalls in the new vegetable market which has recently been constructed quite close to the Sadar Bazar.

(b) The reply is in the negative. When the vegetable shops were closed in the bazar, two stalls were immediately opened for the sale of vegetables and fruit in the new market.

(c) Yes.

(d) Protests were received from the vegetable sellers themselves. A protest was also received from certain Hindus against the situation of the new vegetable market near the cantonment mutton market, but not against the construction of the market itself.

(e) Yes, but the proposal was thoroughly considered by the Board and it was finally decided, in the interests of public health, that the market should be built.

(f) The main reason why the previous vegetable market was a failure was that the Cantonment Authority at the same time permitted the vegetable sellers to open shops in the Sadar Bazar.

(g) A note of dissent was given by a single elected member who represented the vegetable sellers. I may add that the resolution to build a vegetable market was passed by the non-official members. The official members did not take part in the voting.

(h) Yes, but most of the material of the old market was utilized in the construction of the new market and other Cantonment Fund buildings.

(i) All the old vegetable shopkeepers of the Sadar Bazar have since occupied stalls in the new vegetable market and there is no inconvenience or trouble of any kind to the public. In fact, the new market adds considerably to the convenience of the public.

CHARGE OF COMBINED POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES IN THE PUNJAB POSTAL CIRCLE.

1153. *Mr. Fakir Chand: (a) Is it a fact that in the Punjab Postal Circle under some orders issued from the Circle Office, purely postal hands have been replaced in the matter of independent charge of combined offices by junior signallers?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, is it not a fact that senior men have to work in a subordinate capacity and juniors as in charge of the offices?

(c) Is it also a fact that in leave vacancies of combined hand Sub-Postmasters, non-combined hands are made to hold charge of offices?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to issue orders to the effect that it is not essential that in-charge of combined offices should be officials qualified in signalling?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Government have no information. The matter is one with which the Postmaster-General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, to whom a copy of the question is being sent, is fully competent to deal.

HOT WEATHER CHARGES FOR SUB-POST OFFICES IN THE PUNJAB POSTAL CIRCLE.

1154. ***Mr. Fakir Chand:** (a) Is it a fact that in the case of most of the Sub-Post Offices in the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Circle, no hot weather charges are sanctioned?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to see their way to sanction the said charges?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) and (b). Government have no information. The matter referred to by the Honourable Member is within the competence of the Postmaster-General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, to whom a copy of the question is being sent.

FUNDS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SCHOOLS.

1155. ***Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raju:** (a) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway Schools are maintained from either the Railway revenues, or the Provincial Government grants, or fees from parents? If so, are they not Government schools in every respect, owned and run by the East Indian Railway for the education of the children of its employees in places where no such facilities by the Provincial Governments exist?

(b) Are these schools managed by local managing committees? If so, who are the members of these committees?

(c) Are they severally or jointly responsible for finding any funds for the institutions they manage? If so, what portion?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative except that, in certain cases, expenditure is partly met from the interest on endowments. As regards the second part, in so far as the schools referred to are the property of the East Indian Railway they are Government schools.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, under the rules and regulations for the management of the East Indian Railway Schools, the members consist of the principal resident servants of the railway who may be willing to serve, and such other residents in the neighbourhood as it may be desirable to have thereon and who may be willing to take an interest in the working of the school.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the negative and the latter part does not arise.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Will Government consider the desirability of appointing Members of the Legislative Assembly belonging to that particular constituency where the school is situated on the governing body, so that Members may have first hand information and know what is happening?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government do not see any reason to do that.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi: Is it not desirable in the interest of the tax-payers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: What is the difficulty, I ask?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The difficulty is that Government do not see any necessity for it.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Why?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Because they do not consider it desirable.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The desirability is so clear that I want to know why Government do not consider it desirable?

Mr. P. R. Rau: It is a matter of opinion. What is desirable from the Honourable Member's point of view may not be desirable from the point of view of Government.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that in one particular school, I will mention the name, if necessary, they have brought a man out from the Lunatic Asylum and appointed him as headmaster, and it is to prevent incidents of that kind that we want Members of the Assembly there?

Mr. P. R. Rau: If the Honourable Member will give me the name of the school, I will make inquiries?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: It is the Tundla School. The man was actually in the Lunatic Asylum and the action which he has done up to now nobody will do except a lunatic. In order to cover up such cases, you don't want Members of the Legislature there?

HEAD MASTERS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SCHOOLS.

1156. ***Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raju:** (a) Are Headmasters of the East Indian Railway Schools, East Indian Railway servants and as such Government servants?

(b) Is it a fact that all the existing Headmasters of East Indian Railway High Schools for Indians draw salaries of the scales and grades fixed for Headmasters of the Provincial Governments concerned? Are the latter all Government gazetted officers?

(c) Is it a fact that the Headmasters of the East Indian Railway Schools have no security of tenure and are removable at any time at the instance of officials, or committees composed of Railway subordinates and outsiders drawing much smaller salaries than the Headmasters?

(d) Will Government please state in detail the changes that have occurred in the Headmasterships of the East Indian Railway High Schools during the last 15 years at (i) Oakgrove, (ii) Jamalpur, (iii) Dinapore, (iv) Sahabganj and (v) Mughalsarai?

(e) What were the causes which led to the change in each case?

(f) In which cases did the Agent give the Headmasters concerned an opportunity of direct representation or made personal investigations, and with what results?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) The pay of all teachers in Railway Schools on the East Indian Railway was assimilated to the pay of teachers in Government schools from the 1st April, 1929. As regards the latter part of the question, from the Civil List of Provincial Governments it appears that there are some Headmasters whose posts are not gazetted.

(c) Under the present arrangements, the control of each school is in the hands of a Committee, the President of which is a senior railway officer. All matters relating to the management of the schools are recorded at meetings of these Committees and require the confirmation of the Superintendent of the Schools who is the Secretary to the Agent.

(d) to (f). The information is not readily available and Government do not consider that the labour involved in collecting it will be justified.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With regard to the answer to clause (c) of the question, is it or is it not a fact that the headmasters of the E. I. R. schools have no security of tenure and are removable at any time at the instance of officials or committees composed of railway subordinates?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am not aware that their position is worse than that of any other class of officials.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: May I ask whether the Governing Body or the Managing Committees are only advisory bodies, or their decisions are final?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The Managing Committees' decisions require the confirmation of the Superintendent of Schools?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Who is the Superintendent?

Mr. P. R. Rau: He is the Secretary to the Agent of the East Indian Railway.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that the other officers of this particular railway have also no security of tenure, and are removable at any time?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then, what is the meaning of the Honourable Member's reply that their position is no worse than that of other officers of the railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: That there is security of tenure for all.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: May I inquire if this requires the permission of any Government authority?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The Secretary to the Agent of the East Indian Railway.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Not the Agent?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Appeals lie to the Agent.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: For what periods are they employed? For what term are they engaged?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have no information on that point, but I have no information to justify the assumption that they are engaged for a definite term.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will you collect the information?

Mr. P. R. Rau: In respect of what?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The East Indian Railway schools.

Mr. P. R. Rau: For all the schools?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: For as many as possible.

Mr. P. R. Rau: No, Sir, I do not consider that it will be any use collecting that information.

Maulvi Muhamamd Shafi Daudi: Will Government inquire into the state of affairs of the Dinapore railway school?

Mr. P. R. Rau: If my Honourable friend will let me know what the particular grievance is that he thinks that the teachers of the Dinapore railway school are suffering under, I will consider whether any examination of the position is necessary.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SCHOOLS.

1157. *Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raju: (a) Is it a fact that the managing committees of Indian Railway Schools are composed mainly of Railway subordinates and outsiders? Have they any administrative or educational experience?

(b) Is it a fact that they have full powers to appoint, punish, discharge and dismiss Headmasters drawing salaries ranging from Rs. 300 to 600 or more a month?

(c) Are there any other departments of the Railway or Government in which similar local committees are permitted to disburse huge Government funds and appoint, dismiss and discharge Government servants or Railway servants? If not, why have the Indian schools been so singled out?

(d) Is not the East Indian Railway High School at Oakgrove free from such continual changes?

(e) Are Government prepared to remove the long-standing grievances of the teachers of the East Indian Railway Schools and come to some definite decision on the several questions which have been a subject of continuous interpellations in this House during the last six or seven years?

(f) Are Government prepared to treat the Headmasters of Indian High Schools either as gazetted officers, like the Headmasters of the Provincial Government Schools, or the Principal and Headmaster of the East Indian Railway, Oakgrove School for Anglo-Indians?

(g) If Government cannot gazette them as officers, are they prepared to grant the Headmasters with full powers directly to communicate with the Secretary to the Agent and the Superintendent, East Indian Railway Schools, whenever necessary and appointable and punishable only by the Agent who, if he considers it wise and proper, may consult the Director of Public Instruction concerned as well, the relations of the Headmasters of the East Indian Railway Schools with their committees being exactly the same as those of the Headmasters of Local Government schools with their school committees?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I have just given to part (b) of his qusetion No. 1155 and part (c) of question No. 1156.

(c) All the schools on the East Indian Railway are managed by committees. I am not aware of similar arrangements in other Departments.

(d) I am afraid I do not follow what continual changes are referred to.

(e) to (g). Certain questions connected with the management of railway schools are at present under consideration by Government. It is hoped that final orders on those subjects will be issued shortly.

(f) No.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: May I ask if it is not a fact that the schools maintained by the Government in all the Departments are under managing committees which are only advisory to the Government, and that Government have in this case the final control, for example, the School of Mines at Dhanbad, the Schools at Dehra Dun, etc.?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I do not know anything about schools elsewhere, but this is not the case with railway schools.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How are the railway committees constituted?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have just replied to that.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With regard to clause (b) of the question, may I know the reasons why Government are not prepared to place the headmasters of the Indian schools on the same footing as the headmaster of the Oakgrove School for Anglo-Indians?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The pay of the headmasters of the Indian high schools have been assimilated to that of headmasters of similar schools in the provinces, and the practice with regard to headmasters of provincial schools is not uniform; some of them are gazetted, and some are not.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am asking the reasons as to why they are not to be placed on the same footing as the headmaster of the Anglo-Indian School—I am particularly asking about the security of tenure.

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am not aware that there is any difference with regard to the security of tenure between the headmasters of the Indian high schools and the Oakgrove high school for Anglo-Indians.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is it a permanent tenure? What is the nature of tenure of the headmasters of the Indian high schools? Are they liable to dismissal for only approved misconduct, or removable merely because the managing committee chooses to do so?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I do not think that any of these headmasters are liable to dismissal at the whim of the managing committee.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I ask the Honourable Member to be good enough to ascertain information as to the tenure of these headmasters of Indian high schools of the East Indian Railway, in view of the serious allegations made in this series of questions?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Sir, these allegations are not supported by any facts, so far as I can see. No facts are given in any of the questions, but I shall be quite prepared to ask the Agent of the East Indian Railway to let me know whether there is any restriction as regards the tenure of these headmasters.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Can the Honourable gentleman give me an example of any school in which the managing committee, which does not provide funds for the maintenance of the school, is given such large powers as are given to these managing committees of railway schools?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No, Sir. I am not aware of any such example.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

LEAVE RULES IN FORCE IN THE OAKGROVE SCHOOL AND THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SCHOOLS FOR INDIANS.

1158. ***Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raju:** (a) Will Government please lay on the table a copy of the leave rules in force in the (i) East Indian Railway Oakgrove School for Anglo-Indians and Europeans and (ii) the East Indian Railway Schools for Indians?

(b) Are the leave rules uniform for all, or do they differ from school to school and in cases, from person to person, and if so, on what grounds?

(c) Is any differentiation made on the ground of nationality as well? If so, why and how long is it to continue in such matters as leave, etc.?

(d) Is it a fact that eight months' leave on full pay and in the same continuation about six months' leave on half-pay was granted in 1931-32 to B. Haridas Goswamy, Headmaster of the Asansole Railway High School? If so, under what rules?

(e) Is it a fact that sick leave on full pay was not allowed to another headmaster in the same year, even though he was senior to Mr. Goswamy in service? If so, why?

(f) Is it a fact that four months' leave on full average pay was allowed, prior to retirement, to the Sanskrit teacher of the Asansole school in 1932-33? If so, under what rules?

(g) Is it a fact that leave prior to retirement was altogether refused to the Hindi teacher of the Tundla school who retired in 1933? If so, on what grounds?

(h) Is it a fact that for some time the teachers of the East Indian Railway School at Mughalsarai cannot get leave even for one day on full pay? If so, why and under what rules?

(i) Are there any other departments of the Railway, in which differentiation is so made in this matter from station to station and from person to person? If not, why has the school department been singled out for this peculiar treatment?

(j) Are Government aware that this discrimination in the East Indian Railway Schools in the matter of leave pay is a cause of serious dissatisfaction? If so, how long do Government contemplate permitting it to continue?

(k) Is it a fact that the question of getting uniform leave rules for all schools belonging to the East Indian Railway has been urged by the members of this House for several years?

(l) Is it a fact that the Honourable Mr. P. R. Rau definitely promised to see that uniform leave rules shall be made and enforced in March 1934?

(m) Is it a fact that he again promised Mr. Ayudhya Das, an *ex*-Member of this Legislative Assembly, in November 1934, to see the leave rules definitely prescribed during the ensuing two or three months? If so, have the rules been promulgated, and have they been enforced?

(n) Are they uniform and applicable to all?

(o) Have leave registers of all teachers been prepared and are they acted upon? If not, when will Government be pleased to take action?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a), (b), (j), (k), (n) and (o). Teachers in East Indian Railway schools have not hitherto been governed by any definite rules, each leave application being dealt with by the Managing Committee of the school on its merits. Draft rules have been framed and are at present under consideration in consultation with the Agents of State-managed Railways. Government hope to issue orders early.

(c) I am not aware that any racial discrimination exists in this matter.

(d) to (i). Government have no information. These are matters entirely for the Agent of the East Indian Railway, but I am sending a copy of this question for any action that may be considered necessary.

(l) I am not aware to what promise my Honourable friend is referring. All that I remember is a statement made in January, 1934, that the question of framing leave rules is under consideration, and that steps will be taken to issue them as soon as possible.

(m) No, Sir. I believe I told Mr. Das, in conversation, that I would try to have the drafting of the rules expedited, but I do not remember to have mentioned any limit of time.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to clause (b) of the question, may I know whether the leave rules are or are not uniform for all?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Till now, there have been no definite rules, the applications being dealt with by the managing committees of these schools. Government recognised that this was not a desirable state of affairs, and they, therefore, decided to frame uniform rules.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have the rules been laid down now?

Mr. P. R. Rau: They are under preparation.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: When will they be laid down?

Mr. P. R. Rau: As I mentioned in my reply to this question, draft rules have been framed and they have been sent to the Agents of the State-managed Railways for their remarks. As soon as they are received, Government hope to issue these rules.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are those rules uniform for all employees—Indian, European and Anglo-Indian?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I must ask for notice of that question. I do not remember to have seen the draft rules.

Mr. M. S. Aney: For the purposes of management of these schools, is it not desirable that the management should be left to the Education Department of the different provinces?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Sir, nobody would be better pleased than I if the Local Governments would take over these railway schools but there is no possibility of their doing so.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Are the Government of India prepared to consider this suggestion that while the Railway Board should finance them, they should be managed by the different Local Governments and their educational authorities?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Sir, if I am to pay the piper, I prefer to call the tune.

Mr. M. S. Aney: That is the point! Do you mean to say that the Railway Board contain sufficient educational experts for the purposes of such management?

Mr. P. R. Rau: That is a matter of opinion, Sir.

NON-RECRUITMENT OF APPRENTICES TRAINED IN THE LILLOOAH WORKSHOPS.

1159. *Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raju: (a) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway recruit a certain number of first grade apprentices every year for training for five years in the Lillooah Carriage and Wagon Workshops? If so, how many young men have completed their training during the last ten years and how many of them have been provided with suitable jobs in the shops at the end of their training?

(b) Is it a fact that during the last five years not even one Indian apprentice has been provided with a suitable job?

(c) When there are no vacancies, why are fresh men recruited every year?

(d) Do Government propose to stop future recruitment till all those who have already qualified or are under training have been provided with suitable jobs?

(e) How many vacancies have actually occurred in the Carriage and Wagon Shops of the East Indian Railway?

(f) Have any outsiders been recruited as chargemen in preference to the shop-trained first grade apprentices? If so, why?

(g) Are Government aware of the impression that the present Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, in charge of the Lillooah Shops, does not like Indians to be placed in charge of works in his shops? If so, what steps do Government contemplate taking in the matter?

(h) Are Government aware of the terrible hardship caused by the refusal of the Railway authorities to engage the young men they have trained, and do they propose to take immediate steps to remedy this wrong?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, 105 apprentices completed their training, during the period referred to, and 41 of them have been appointed in the shops.

(b) No.

(c) Recruitment of the apprentices is made to meet conditions which may prevail five years hence though it is impossible to foresee exactly what those conditions will be either as regards vacancies or the number available to fill them. If no recruitment is made, the flow of apprentices through the shops, and particularly through the Training schools, would cease altogether, and which is obviously undesirable. Recruitment has, therefore, been continued on a minimum basis; two apprentices per year being recruited against a normal recruitment of six fixed in 1930.

(d) No.

(e) 19 in the past five years.

(f) Two during the last five years. One to fill the vacancy of the Saw Mill Foreman, as no suitable man was available for this important post. The second was transferred from the Forest Department for Kiln Seasoning Supervision, as he was a specialist, trained at Dehra Dun in his work, of which no one at Lillooah had any experience.

(g) The Agent has assured Government that its policy as regards the recruitment of Indians in Railway services is being carried out on the East Indian Railway.

(h) Government do not consider it necessary to take any special measures in the matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to answer to clause (b) of the question, may I ask how many Indian apprentices have been provided with suitable jobs during the last five years?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am afraid I have not got the exact number here, but if my Honourable friend wants it, he can put down a question on the paper.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to answer to clause (d), may I know the reason why Government do not propose to stop future recruitment with a view to recruiting those who are already qualified and who have had training?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have already explained that. Briefly, the point is that a regular flow of recruitment is necessary in order to see that the promotion is uniform.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why should not the recruitment be confined to those who have already been trained and who are available?

Mr. P. R. Rau: If we stop recruitment for four or five years, there will be a block afterwards.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What about the provisions for these 54 people, who have been trained and who are not yet employed?

Mr. P. R. Rau: We have reduced the recruitment, the usual recruitment being six and we are now recruiting only two a year.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: But cannot those two also be recruited from these people?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Then, it would mean that boys who are just of an age to be trained for these jobs will be absolutely prevented from getting any employment.

PROMOTION OF UNQUALIFIED CLERKS IN THE REFORMS OFFICE.

1160. ***Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan** (on behalf of Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq): With reference to the answer given to starred question No. 452, dated the 23rd February, 1935, regarding the promotion of unqualified clerks to the Second Division in the Reforms Office, will Government please state:

(i) the name of the community to which the clerks so promoted belong;

(ii) if there is any other Department or Office in the Government of India Secretariat in which under similar circumstances such promotions have been allowed even temporarily; and if not, why not;

(iii) whether the Public Service Commission or the Home Department were consulted at the time of making these promotions, and if not, why not;

(iv) whether the work of a Second Division clerk is considered superior to that of a Third Division clerk;

(v) whether these promotions will be considered as a precedent applicable to other Departments also, and if not, why not; and

(vi) whether they propose to rectify this mistake by replacing those clerks by qualified candidates or by reverting them to the Third Division?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (i) One of the clerks is a Hindu and the other an Indian Christian.

(ii) Similar circumstances do not obtain in other Departments or Offices of the Government of India.

(iii) No. As stated by me in reply to question No. 450, the Reforms Office is a temporary organization, renewed from year to year, and recruitment to its staff is not made through the Public Service Commission or the Home Department. The question of consulting that body or the Home Department does not, therefore, arise.

(iv) The reply is in the affirmative.

(v) No, because the conditions of the Reforms Office are different from those of other Departments.

(vi) No.

APPLICABILTY OF THE HOME DEPARTMENT RESOLUTION FIXING THE PROPORTION OF VARIOUS COMMUNITIES IN SERVICES TO THE REFORMS OFFICE.

1161. ***Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan** (on behalf of Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq): Will Government please state whether the orders contained in the Home Department Resolution fixing the proportion of various communities in services are applicable to the Reforms Office?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, as already stated in my reply to Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim's question No. 451 on the 22nd February, 1935.

ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS SANCTIONED FOR THE REFORMS OFFICE.

1162. ***Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan** (on behalf of Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq): (a) Is it a fact that certain additional appointments in different grades were sanctioned in October, 1934, for the Reforms Office?

(b) Is it a fact that the recruitment of the staff in that Office is not made through the Public Service Commission, and will Government be pleased to state whether the posts referred to above were advertised in all provincial papers? If so, how many graduates applied for and were taken in those posts?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Yes.

(b) Recruitment in this office is not made through the Public Service Commission and the posts were not advertised. I may, however, add for the information of the Honourable Member that of the vacancies filled in October last the posts of one Superintendent and three second division clerks were filled by promotion in office. The posts of Assistants were filled by recruitment of permanent Assistants or permanent clerks qualified for the first division from other Departments. Those of stenographers and third division clerks were filled as the result of a departmental test held by the Deputy Secretary from among candidates already holding temporary appointments in other Departments.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: May I ask whether these appointments were made by transfer and promotion in order to avoid the rule of the Home Department that 25 per cent. should be Muhammadans?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, not with that object. It was a matter of administrative convenience.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: Did it result in that object?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, Sir, I do not think it did.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: How many of these appointments were given to the Mussalmans?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Mussalmans got a little more than their share; about 33 per cent.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: How many of them are Shias and how many of them are Sunnis?

(No answer was given.)

STRENGTH OF THE MINISTERIAL STAFF IN THE REFORMS OFFICE.

1163. ***Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan** (on behalf of Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq): (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total sanctioned strength of the Reforms Office of Assistants, Second and Third Division clerks and stenographers for the year 1934-35, including the additional staff sanctioned in October, 1934?

(b) How many Muslims and non-Muslims were employed as Assistants, Second and Third Division clerks and stenographers on the 15th February, 1935?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether any efforts were made by the Reforms Office to recruit a Muslim stenographer in place of the one who is at present on foreign service? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table. I may also say, that as regards recruitment in the Reforms Office, full effect has been given to the orders contained in the Home Department Resolution No. F.-14/17-B./33, dated the 4th July, 1934. I

would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the statement I laid on the table on the 22nd February last in reply to starred question No. 449.

(c) The vacancy has been left unfilled and will be filled by a Muslim when necessity arises.

Statement.

—	Sanctioned strength.	Actual number employed.	Community to which they belong.
Assistants	14	9	6-Hindus 1-Muslim 1-Sikh 1-Anglo-Indian
Second Division Clerks .	7	7	4-Hindus 2-Muslims 1-Indian Christian
Third Division Clerks . .	7	6	4-Hindus 2-Muslims
Stenographers . . .	4	4	3-Hindus 1-Muslim*

* On foreign service.

ARRANGEMENT OF ACCOMMODATION FOR DETENUS IN THE DEOLI CAMP.

1164. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the arrangement of accommodation for the detenus in the Deoli Camp?

(b) Is it a fact that the detenus are kept in groups in cells at Deoli Camp? If so, will Government be pleased to state why this practice has been resorted to?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) and (b). There are five separate camps in the Deoli Jail each of which has accommodation for 100 detenus. The detenus are not kept in cells. They are housed in large rooms in each of which several detenus live together.

ALLOWANCE GIVEN TO THE DETENUS IN THE DEOLI CAMP.

1165. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what sum is given as allowance to the detenus (i) for personal, and (ii) for fooding in Deoli Camp?

(b) Is it a fact that the personal allowance has been reduced? If so, why?

(c) Is it a fact that the allowance which was given for purchasing newspapers, books and some other daily necessary requisites has been stopped now? If so, are Government aware of their difficulties due to this curtailment? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reason why this action has been taken?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Rs. 11 a month personal allowance and Re. 1 per day diet allowance, with an addition of three annas a day for the three days each week on which fish is supplied.

(b) and (c). The personal allowance was reduced from Rs. 16 a month to Rs. 11 a month with effect from the 1st August, 1934, following a similar reduction in the case of detenus detained in Bengal. This allowance is intended to meet the detenus' incidental expenditure, but they have always been allowed to purchase newspapers, periodicals and books out of it, and have never had any separate allowance for this latter purpose.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: In reply to part (b), the Honourable Member has not said why the personal allowance is reduced.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have said that the reduction was made from the 1st August, 1934, following a similar reduction in the case of detenus detained in Bengal.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why was that reduction made in Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Because the Government of Bengal considered the allowance of Rs. 16 to be excessive.

STOPPAGE OF THE SUPPLY OF STAMPED ENVELOPES TO DETENUS IN THE DEOLI CAMP.

1166. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the stamped postage envelopes supplied to the detenus in the Deoli Camp per week is going to be stopped from the next month and even the detenus will have to meet the expenses of stamps for their petition made for their grievances to Government from their allowance? If so, are Government aware that by enforcing this order the detenus will suffer inconveniences and thereby will be forced to stop writing letters to their relations, causing anxiety to them?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The concession of free postage on letters and petitions was withdrawn from detenus in Bengal in November, 1933, and will be withdrawn from those in the Deoli Camp Jail with effect from the 1st April, 1935. Government consider that expenditure on postage is a legitimate charge on the personal allowances of detenus and they see no reason why the new arrangement should interfere with correspondence with their relatives.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government considered the effect of reducing the allowance first from Rs. 16 to Rs. 11 a month, and then withdrawing the concession of stamped letters? Do they consider that they will not affect the facilities of these detained persons in respect of correspondence?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have just replied that Government see no reason why the new arrangement should interfere with the correspondence with their relatives.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will a penny become a tuppence in spite of reducing the allowance from Rs. 16 to Rs. 11, and then withdrawing postal concessions from these people?

(No answer was given.)

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: If the detenus have to send petitions for redress of grievances, why should they be called upon to pay postage from their own pockets?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Petitions for redress of grievances can be handed over to the Superintendent. It is not necessary to post them at all.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUPPLYING FOOD TO THE BENGAL DETENUS IN THE DEOLI CAMP.

1167. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the arrangements of supplying food to the detenus in Deoli Camp who are all Bengalis?

(b) Are Government aware that Bengal diet is not available at cheap rate there, and the contractor charges exorbitantly for it?

(c) Is it a fact that the contractors in Deoli Camp charge more than the contractors in Bengal Jails and Camps for supplying rations?

(d) If so, are Government aware of the difficulties and discomforts due to this for the detenus in Deoli Camp? If so, what steps have been taken by Government?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a), (b) and (c). Care is taken to ensure that, as far as possible, the detenus get the diet to which they are accustomed in Bengal. Arrangements are made for a supply of fish and of such vegetables and fruits as are procurable. The scale of the diet is not rigid and the wishes of the detenus are taken into account provided the cost is within the daily allowance. The rates charged by contractors for food supplies are fixed by the Superintendent every quarter with reference to the prevailing local rates.

(d) My information is that there is very little complaint in regard to food.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is this food that is sold available for sale at the Deoli Camp at the same price as it is in Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I cannot say.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: If it is not sold in Deoli, then how can the Honourable Member say that it is sold at rates exactly equivalent to that in Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The question is a hypothetical one. Did I understand the Honourable Member to say that if it is not sold, how can the rates be equivalent?

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: How can the diet rates be in accordance with the rates in Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: These people get special diet allowance.

HOME INTERNMENT OF THE DETENUS FOR WHOM THEIR GUARDIANS STAND SECURITY.

1168. *Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that they have under contemplation the question of home-internment of the detenus for whom their guardians stand security? If so, do Government propose to announce this, so that the guardians may know?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether this consideration will be applied to all? If not, what is the reason of such discrimination?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) and (b). The question of the treatment of detenus under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act rests with the Government of Bengal who, for sometime past, have reviewed their cases and granted such relaxations as may be possible consistent with security. I understand that the Government of Bengal are considering the question of release on security in suitable cases as one of the methods of relaxing restraints but there is no question of any general release of detenus. This policy has the full approval of the Government of India.

QUANTITY OF SUGAR PASSED THROUGH VIRAMGAM CUSTOMS CORDON.

1169. *Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Will Government please state what quantity of sugar passed through Viramgam customs cordon from 1st April, 1934 to 1st January, 1935?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: The information asked for, as far as available, is contained in the Kathiawar Trade Statistics published monthly, copies of which are in the Library of the Legislature.

FORMATION OF A CENTRAL COMMITTEE FOR OIL-SEEDS.

1170. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) what action has so far been taken in the direction of forming a Central Committee for oil-seeds;

(ii) and if and when such a committee is organised, whether Government are prepared to consider the advisability of seeing that the representatives of peasants' organisations are also represented on it?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (i) The matter is still under consideration.

(ii) Government recognise the importance of securing representation on the proposed committee of growers of oil-seeds

ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FERTILISERS COMMITTEE.

1171. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government be pleased to state what action has so far been taken on the recommendations of the Fertilisers Committee?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: A statement showing the recommendations of the Fertilisers' Committee and the action taken thereon is available in the Library of the House.

VIEWS EXPRESSED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON THE PROPOSALS OF THE INDIAN OIL-CRUSHING INDUSTRY COMMITTEE.

1172. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state (i) what is the nature of the views expressed by Local Governments on the proposal of the Indian Oil-crushing Industry Committee to fix standard for soaps and to insist upon a stamp of the guarantee of the requisite fatty acid content and (ii) what, and (iii) when the proposed action is likely to be taken?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The recommendations of the Committee are still under consideration and Local Governments have not yet been addressed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When do Government expect to finish this examination and address Local Governments.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I believe, Sir, that the Standing Committee of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has completed and the Industries and Labour Department were consulted and they have also given their views. The Local Governments will be addressed shortly.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OIL-SEEDS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

1173. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they have succeeded in their negotiations with the Inc. Oil-seeds Association of the United Kingdom to see that the Indian linseed is treated in the same way as the Argentine linseed, and if so, what is the present position of Indian linseed *vis-a-vis* the Argentine linseed?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: The Government of India are not aware of any negotiations of the kind mentioned. The present position of Indian linseed *vis-a-vis* Argentine linseed, in the United Kingdom, is that the former is duty free while the latter is subject to a duty of 10 per cent. *ad valorem*. In the case, however, of certain specified exported goods in the manufacture of which duty-paid linseed is used, a drawback of duty is allowed at the rate of 18 sh. per ton of linseed used.

STANDARDISATION OF THE QUALITY AND PACKING OF OIL-SEEDS.

1174. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that due to undue wetting, mixing and bad packing practised by some people, the price obtained for Indian oil-seeds tends generally to fall and if so, what legislative and other action is proposed to be taken to standardise the quality and packing of oil-seeds and thus raise their price?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Generally speaking, Indian oil-seeds are well packed. Indian linseed regularly obtains a small premium for quality over Argentine linseed. Groundnuts from certain areas in South India, however, obtain a lower price due to wetting or wet-shelling. A leaflet was published in August, 1933, by the Madras department of agriculture, explaining the loss which resulted from this practice. The question of grade standards and improved packing for the principal oil-seeds will receive attention during the marketing surveys now in progress.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do Government propose to take any legislative steps to prevent any such wetting?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Government will naturally have to wait until the result of the enquiries which the marketing officers will make become available.

CONCESSIONAL RAILWAY RATES GRANTED FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF BONE-MEAL.

1175. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state in what provinces and to what extent concessional railway rates are granted for the conveyance of bone-meal?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The maximum authorised rate for bone-meal is 0·42 pie per maund per mile at railway risk and 0·38 per maund per mile at owner's risk. On the Bengal Nagpur, Eastern Bengal, Madras and Southern Mahratta, North Western and South Indian Railways, a rate of one-tenth pie per maund per mile is charged for consignments in wagon loads, on production of certificate from a gazetted officer of the Agricultural Department to the effect that the consignments are intended for the purpose of manure only. The rates charged, in cases in which this certificate is not produced, are detailed in the statement I am placing on the table.

Statement showing the basis of rates for bone-meal: Th se are telescopic and apply at owner's risk:

Bengal Nagpur Railway :—

Miles.	Pie per maund per mile.
1—75	·333
76—150	·200
151—300	·170
301—400	·125
Over 400	·100

Eastern Bengal Railway :—

1—150	·140
Over 150	·100

North Western Railway :—Charge being made on the carrying capacity of the wagon used.

Miles.	Pie per maund per mile.
1—100	·200
101—200	·170
201—500	·140
Over 500	·100

South Indian Railway :—For distances of not less than 51 miles. Charge being made on the carrying capacity of the wagon used.

Miles.	Pie per maund per mile.
1—75	·380
76—300	·200
Over 300	·100

ORGANISATION OF OPEN MARKETS AND REGULATION OF FORWARD CONTRACT SALES FOR COTTON.

1176. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state (i) what action has so far been taken in various provinces on the recommendation of the Indian Cotton Committee, that open markets ought to be organised and forward contract sales of cotton to be regulated; (ii) whether any open markets are organised, and (iii) if so, in what provinces and in how many places?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (i) As regards the establishment of open cotton markets, the Government of Bombay, the Government of the Central Provinces and the Government of Madras have enacted the necessary legislation. Forward contract sales are regulated at Bombay and Karachi by the Bye-laws of the East Indian Cotton Association and the Karachi Cotton Association, Ltd., respectively.

(ii) and (iii). Yes. In two places in the Bombay Presidency and in one place in the Central Provinces.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware that very generally forward contract sales prevail in Madras and no action has so far been taken by the Government of Madras?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I have informed the Honourable Member that the Government of Madras have passed the necessary legislation, and my information is that the rules and regulations that have to be framed under the Act have not yet been passed.

ORGANISATION OF OPEN MARKETS FOR THE MARKETING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.

1177. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state whether any steps, legislative or otherwise, have been taken to organise open markets for the marketing of agricultural produce; and if so, what steps have so far been taken in different provinces?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: As regards open cotton markets the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to his question No. 1176. The question of the establishment and development of regulated markets will be included in the investigation of marketing problems generally for which a scheme has recently been sanctioned by Government.

INCONVENIENCES TO PASSENGERS AT THE PALMERGANJ RAILWAY STATION ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1178. ***Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha:** (a) Is it a fact that a large number of pilgrims get down at Palmerganj Railway Station to perform certain religious rites on the bank of the river Poonpun closely?

(b) Are Government aware that the trains stop at the bank of the Poonpun river on Gaya-Mogalsarai section near the Palmerganj Railway Station to enable pilgrims to get down, but they are not permitted to entrain there?

(c) Are Government aware that these pilgrims have to travel all the way from the bank of the river to Palmerganj Railway Station—a distance of over a mile—to catch trains?

(d) Is it a fact that there is no road or track wide enough for carriages or motor-cars to pass between the river bank and the railway station and passengers of all classes and condition of life have got to walk the whole distance to reach the station?

(e) Are Government prepared to sanction the construction of a road by the side of the railway line, or in its close vicinity, to avoid the great inconvenience which is being felt by pilgrims in walking back to station?

(f) Is it a fact that there is no shed on the down platform of the Palmerganj Railway Station and passengers are therefore exposed to rains during rainy season and are therefore greatly inconvenienced?

(g) Is it also a fact that very large number of passengers are booked at this station because of its being the nearest and most conveniently situated station for Aurangabad, the Sub-divisional headquarters of the district?

(h) Is it a fact that there is no train during the best part of the day between Palmerganj and Gaya and passengers are being largely diverted by motor busses to Gaya causing loss to the railway of revenue?

(i) Are Government aware that there is a shuttle train between Moghalserai and Sone-east bank and have Government considered that if this is extended to Gaya, there is a chance of passengers going by train in preference to motor busses?

(j) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of extending the shuttle train to Gaya and thereby removing the great hardship caused to travelling public for want of a day train on Moghalserai-Gaya section of East Indian Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes, during the Pitripukh Mela.

(b) Yes. The matter is now being considered.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes, a footpath eight feet wide from the pilgrim platform to Palmerganj station has been provided by the Railway.

(e) The construction of a road is a matter for the Local Government to consider.

(f) There is a passenger shed on the south side of the line where passengers can obtain shelter till it is time for them to entrain.

(g) The number of passengers booked from Palmerganj station during the year ending 31st March, 1933, was 74,267, and arriving at Palmerganj 81,113.

(h) Passenger trains from Gaya arrive at Palmerganj at 6-37, 7-40 and 19-53 hours and leave Palmerganj for Gaya at 8-48, 18-39 and 21-53 hours. Government have no information as regards the exact extent to which motor bus competition is affecting traffic.

(i) and (j). I am conveying the Honourable Member's suggestion to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for consideration.

PROTECTION TO THE SUGAR-CANE PRODUCERS.

1179. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** In view of the reply of Government on the 27th February, 1935 to a supplementary question to question No. 613, that the cane is competing for demand instead of factories competing for cane, as was anticipated by the Tariff Board, will Government be pleased to state, (i) if they are aware that as a result of such competition among peasants, the ryots are losing the benefit of that proposed additional anna; and (ii) whether Government are prepared to consider the advisability of re-examining the whole position so as to give the necessary protection to the concerned peasants?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The fixing of cane prices is primarily a matter for the Local Governments. The Government of India have no reason to think that the minimum prices fixed by Local Governments are not fair and equitable to all concerned. The Government of the United Provinces have already announced their intention of reviewing the position, after the completion of the present working season in the light of the experience gained.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the Government of India any information in regard to the other Provinces where the minimum prices have been fixed?

Mr. G. S. Bapai: Only two provinces, so far as I am aware, have fixed minimum prices. They are Bihar and Orissa and the United Provinces, and from no province have Government received any information that the prices fixed are inequitable.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about Madras?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: As far as I know, Local Governments have taken no action under the Act.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government of India address Local Governments to see that minimum prices are fixed as soon as possible?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: We framed the Act definitely on the basis that the initiative in this matter must rest with the Local Governments. If cane growers in the Madras Presidency feel that the minimum price ought to be fixed, they have the ordinary constitutional channels open to them to bring pressure to bear on the Government of Madras.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the constitutional remedy available if, on the application of the peasants, the Local Government fail to fix this minimum price?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I hope, Sir, that Honourable Members in the Madras Legislative Council, at least some, are as keen, regarding the interests of agriculturists, as my Honourable friend opposite.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If the Provincial Government fail to do it in spite of their protests, can the Government of India try to influence them?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is a hypothetical question.

SUGAR MANUFACTURING FACTORIES.

1180. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) the number of sugar-manufacturing factories; and

(ii) the number of the co-operative sugar-manufacturing factories?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (i) 142 manufacturing sugar from cane direct.

(ii) Six employing modern machinery.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will Government consider the proposition which was made in the Council of State the other day to free the co-operative sugar manufacturing concerns of the excise duty?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: That question does not arise out of this.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CAPITATION TRIBUNAL.

1181. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

(a) what are the recommendations of the Capitation Tribunal;

(b) whether the recommendations of the Tribunal have been accepted by the Governments of India and England, if not, which recommendations were not accepted and by whom;

(c) what are the recommendations that were accepted; and

(d) what is the result of the acceptance of those recommendations?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) to (d). I would refer the Honourable Member to the Report of the Tribunal and the other papers issued at the time of its publication which are in the Library of the House.

MEAT SHOP NEAR THE MINTO ROAD AND PRESS QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

1182. ***Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** (a) Is it a fact that there is only one meat shop at Minto Road quarters and Press quarters, New Delhi? If so, will Government please state:

(i) whether they are aware that one shop is not considered by tenants enough to supply sufficient meat;

(ii) whether selling of meat in an exposed and open place is not detrimental to the health of the Government employees living in those quarters;

(iii) whether the Health Department have approved of selling meat in a shop devoid of sanitary fittings, etc.;

(b) If the reply to part (a) (ii) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to take immediate steps to build a proper market with sanitary fittings? If not, why not?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: There is at present only one meat shop serving the Minto Road quarters and the Press quarters. This shop has been established as a purely temporary expedient for the convenience of the residents

of the area until shops of a permanent nature can be provided, and is operating with the full cognisance of the Municipal Health Officer who is also the Assistant Director of Public Health of the Delhi Province. The meat is not being sold under conditions which are deterimental to public health. The Municipal Committee have already approved proposals for the construction of properly equipped permanent shops, and detailed plans and estimates are in the course of preparation.

ORDERS FOR RAILS AND METALLIC SLEEPERS PLACED ABROAD AND PROTECTION TO STEEL INDUSTRY.

1183. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** (on behalf of Pandit Nilakantha Das): (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that protection to steel industry depends upon the orders for rails by Government?

(b) Have Government any reason to believe that Indian firms manufacturing rails and metallic sleepers are unable to manufacture any kind of those articles?

(c) Have Government any reason to believe that any fittings to rails or metallic sleepers cannot be manufactured by Indian firms?

(d) Will Government state if during the last seven years the Indian manufacturers of rails and metallic sleepers got orders to their full capacity?

(e) Will Government explain why orders for rails and metallic sleepers were placed abroad during the last seven years?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Government are aware that a sufficient demand for rails is an important factor in the schemes for protection to steel.

(b) No.

(c) At present certain fittings are not manufactured in India but there is no reason to believe that arrangements could not be made for their manufacture by Indian firms.

(d) No; requirements for Railways during the recent period of depression has been considerably below the capacity of Indian manufacturers.

(e) I place on the table a statement showing the value of purchases of imported and indigenous rails and metal sleepers, made by Class I railways each year from 1927-28 to 1933-34.

The reason for the comparatively large importation of rails and metal sleepers in 1927-28 and 1928-29 was mainly the strike at the works of the Tata Iron and Steel Company, and further, in the case of metal sleepers, to large discrepancies in prices between quotations for Indian and foreign manufacture.

It will be noted that the value and percentage to total orders of rails and metal sleepers ordered abroad during years subsequent to 1928-29 is very low.

During these later years the purchases of rails and metal sleepers (and fittings for the same) from abroad have been generally restricted to non-standard sections and qualities, not rolled or hitherto manufactured in India.

Statement showing the value of rails and metal sleepers (imported and indigenous) during the years 1927-28 to 1933-34.

(Figures in thousands of rupees.)

—	Rails.				Metal Sleepers.			
	Imported.	Indigenous.	Total.	Percentage of 1 to 3.	Imported.	Indigenous.	Total.	Percentage 5 to 7.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1927-28 .	1,19,34	1,76,72	2,96,06	40·3	1,72,40	87,29	2,59,69	66·3
1928-29 .	39,78	98,60	3,38,38	28·7	1,38,48	63,63	2,02,11	68·5
1929-30 .	5,04	1,44,11	1,49,15	3·3	34,45	90,57	1,05,02	13·8
1930-31 .	96	1,49,80	1,50,76	·6	1,80	32,19	33,99	5·3
1931-32 .	9,01	97,23	1,06,24	8·4	5,89	57,58	63,47	9·3
1932-33 .	4,47	38,13	42,60	10·5	4	11,72	11,76	·3
1933-34 .	2,38	46,37	48,75	4·9	1,62	20,29	21,91	7·4

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the position today? May I know whether, today, as far as the Honourable Member can throw light on the matter, orders for rails and metal sleepers are placed with the Indian companies to the maximum of their capacity?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No, Sir, it is not to the maximum of their capacity, but practically it is the maximum of the requirements of railways.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it, therefore, that no orders for rails or metal sleepers are placed outside India now?

Mr. P. R. Rau: That I have already explained. I have said that purchases from abroad have been generally restricted to non-standard sections and qualities, not rolled or hitherto manufactured in India.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government consider the advisability of asking these companies to manufacture these kinds of goods, in order that they may supply them to the Indian railway concerns?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I think there is no reason to believe that manufacturers are ignorant of the requirements of Indian railways in this matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do Government accept the policy of buying these goods, as far as possible, in India, and will they, therefore, take steps to bring to the notice of these companies their requirements, so that they may increase their producing capacity?

Mr. P. R. Rau: That policy has been accepted by Government for some considerable time, and the specifications regarding these particular articles have been issued and are available to every manufacturer.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do Government take any direct and effective steps to see that all these supplies are produced in India?

Mr. P. R. Rau: That is not in the hands of Government; it is in the hands of manufacturers. What Government can do is to publish specifications in order that manufacturers may be able to manufacture them and sell them to the railways.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are these manufacturers put in possession of these requirements by Government from time to time?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I think all these are ordered after tenders have been called for.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are the requirements of Governments brought to the notice of these Indian manufacturing firms from time to time?

Mr. P. R. Rau: When tenders are called for, they are advertised.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government manufacturing any of these rails and metal sleepers in any of their workshops?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of manufacturing them?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Because there are private manufacturers doing it, and there is no reason why Government should interfere with private enterprise.

MANUFACTURE AND FABRICATION BY INDIAN FIRMS OF MATERIALS FOR BRIDGE WORK.

1184. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether materials for bridge work are manufactured and fabricated by Indian firms; if so, whether the manufacturers and fabricators of bridge material have been getting orders to their full capacity during the last seven years; and

(b) whether orders for bridge materials were being placed abroad, and if so, why?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). Materials for bridge work are manufactured and fabricated by Indian firms. During the past seven years all orders for bridge girders required by State-managed Railways have been placed with Indian manufacturers. The requirements, however, during the recent period of depression, have been considerably below the combined capacity of Indian firms.

WOOD SLEEPERS FOR RAILWAYS.

1185. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether all wood-sleepers for Railways can be had in India?

(b) Are the creosoting plants and operations set up in India enough for our Railway requirements?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) All the wooden sleepers required by the Indian Railways can be supplied in India.

(b) The existing creosoting plants are adequate for railway requirements. The low price of naturally durable *sal* in recent years has checked the creosoting of perishable timbers in certain areas.

DEPRECIATION IN RAILWAY MATERIALS.

1186. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they are prepared to lay a statement on the table showing the difference between the actual calculated depreciation in our railway materials and the quota fixed for depreciation fund, that is one-sixtieth of the capital at charge, year after year, from the date from which the depreciation quota was fixed?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The information regarding the years 1924-25 to 1933-34 is contained in page 48 of Volume XII, No. 1, of the Proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee. For 1934-35, the figures are 13·73 crores under the old arrangements and 13·25 crores under the new arrangements.

LOSS IN SURPLUS AND OBSOLETE RAILWAY MATERIALS.

1187. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Will Government please state the reasons, with details, why rupees three lakhs were lost in surplus and obsolete materials?

(b) What are those materials?

(c) Were those materials scrapped or used in any other way?

(d) When were those materials purchased and for what purpose?

(e) How did they become obsolete?

(f) Was this amount of rupees three lakhs included in the reduction of stores balance?

(g) Have there been other cases like this during the last ten years?

(h) If so, what are they? Will Government please state the amount of loss in each case, with details as indicated above?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) I presume the Honourable Member refers to certain permanent way material on the Bengal Nagpur Railway which is being disposed of. The difference between the book and scrap value of the material in question is Rs. 2,66,000 and the reasons for its disposal are that it is obsolete or surplus to requirements.

(b) Rails, points and crossings components, sleepers fittings, bolts and nuts, distance blocks, points lever boxes and bridge girder erecting plant.

(c) With the exception of a number of 90 and 85 lb. rails which will be used for other purposes, the materials will be sold.

(d) Except in the case of rails on which the date of manufacture is branded, the information is not available.

(e) Due to replacement by more modern equipment.

(f) Yes.

(g) Yes.

(h) It is the procedure on all Railways to write down the book value of stores which have become obsolete, and Government are of opinion that the work entailed in preparing the information called for would be incommensurate with the value of the information obtained. Certain information is, however, contained in the annual appropriation accounts of Railways.

ARTICLES OR SPECIFICATIONS STANDARDISED BY THE RAILWAY STANDARDISATION DEPARTMENT.

1188. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any articles or specifications have been standardised by our Standardisation Department, which articles and specifications are not available in India?

(b) Are there any patents in our articles and specifications standardised? If so, will Government please enumerate them, with particulars regarding the patents?

(c) Are Government officers, specially those connected with the Railways or its Standardisation Department, entitled to have patents of their own?

(d) Has Mr. Wrench the present Head of the Standardisation Department, any patents of his own?

(e) Had he any even when he was in the Railway Board?

(f) Have Government made any rule in the matter after the exposure in connection with Hayman and Mahendra? If not, will Government state reasons for not having done so?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) Of the many specifications which have been prepared laying down standards to which articles required for Railways have to comply there are none not available in India.

(b) No specifications which have been standardised restrict supply to articles covered by patents, but articles which are covered by patents are acceptable, provided they satisfy the requirements of the relevant specifications.

I place on the table a list of proprietary articles which are accepted as satisfying the standard specifications. Many of these are or were covered by patents, but Government are not aware of the particular feature of the articles for which a patent has been granted.

(c) The present rule runs as follows:

"A railway servant shall not, save with the permission of the Governor General in Council and in accordance with such conditions as that authority may impose, apply for or obtain, or cause or permit any other person to apply for or obtain, a patent for an invention, made by such a railway servant, which is connected directly or indirectly with his official duties."

(d) and (e). Mr. Wrench is the inventor of certain mechanical features, protected by patents which were granted to him before his appointment as Chief Controller of Standardisation, but he has, with the permission of the Government, assigned all rights in the patents to the manufacturers on condition that Indian Railways would continue to be entitled to manufacture their requirements free of royalty. He has no financial interest of any kind in the patents in question. I may add that during the periods Mr. Wrench has been Chief Controller of Standardisation, he has, during the course of his work, evolved various mechanical designs which could have been patented, but he has, in no case, applied for a patent.

(f) I am not clear what exactly the Honourable Member means by exposure since the case was dealt with according to the rules in force at the time which allowed Government either to grant an honorarium or to allow the holder of a patent to draw a royalty on account of the invention in question. As a result of the revision of the Indian Patents and Designs Act of 1930, it became necessary to consider the promulgation of fresh rules and instructions for regulating the grant of permission for the taking out of patents by Government servants. A copy of the instructions applicable to railway servants is laid on the table of the House.

List of proprietary articles incorporated in standard drawings or approved as permissible alternatives.

(1) Permanent way fittings.

Mills spring steel movable jaw for pressed steel sleepers (permissible alternative).

Mills Reinforced holes for pressed steel sleepers (permissible alternative).

(2) Structural fittings.

Robertsons Protected metal and asbestos cement sheets (permissible alternative).

(3) Locomotive fittings.

Alemite grease lubrication fittings
Tecalamite grease lubrication fittings
Wakefield grease lubrication fittings
Speedee grease lubrication fittings
} permissible alternatives.

Longstand water space stays (permissible alternative).

Flannery flexible boiler stays.

Nicholson thermic syphons (permissible alternative).

Keepbrite firehole door
Keepbright firehole door
O. H. R. A. firehole door
Vickro firehole door
Staybrite firehole door
Era firehole door
Krupps H. R. A. firehole door
} permissible alternatives.

Franklin steam operated firedoor
Ajax steam operated firedoor
} permissible alternatives.

North British Mechanical stoker
Standard Mechanical stoker
} permissible alternatives.

M. L. C. multiple Valve regulator
Owen regulator
Joco regulator
} permissible alternatives.

Stirling superheator header.

Forged return superheater elements.

Aefi feed water heater (permissible alternative).
Filtrator water softener (permissible alternative).

Everitt blow off cock
Everlasting blow off cock } (permissible alternatives).

Parry steam soot blower
Clyde steam soot blower
Diamond steam soot blower } permissible alternatives.

Wakefield sight feed lubricator
Vacuum sight feed lubricator } permissible alternatives.

Capretti poppet valve gear
Lent R. C. poppet valve gear } permissible alternatives.

Franklin axlebox lubricator
Ajax axlebox lubricator } permissible alternatives.

Timken roller bearings
Skefko roller bearings } permissible alternatives.

M. L. S. Piston valve (permissible alternative).
Hasler speedometer (permissible alternative).
Superdreadnought vacuum ejector.
A. A. C. firebricks
Kilinger water gauge (permissible alternative).

Brittalic metallic packing
Paxton & Mitchell metallic packing } permissible alternatives.

Hendric By Pass Valve (permissible alternative).
Lamber sanding gear.

Pyle electric generator and head light
Sunbeam electric generator and head light
Stones electric generator and head light
A. E. C. electric generator and head light } permissible alternatives.

(4) Coaching underframe and wagon fittings.

Shakeproof lock washers
Amron lock washers
Grover lock washers } permissible alternatives.

Vibro lock washers
Superlock lock washers
Griplock lock washers } permissible alternatives.

Davis cast steel wheel (permissible alternative).

M. C. A. P. H. centre buffer coupler
M. C. A. No-shock centre buffer coupler } permissible alternatives.

S. and P. rotary oil pump (permissible alternative).

Levick commode flushing cistern
Acme commode flushing cistern } permissible alternatives.

Armco iron panels (permissible alternative).

(5) Electric train lighting equipment.

Stones electric generators and switch gear
Mather and Platt's electric generators and switch gear. } permissible alternatives.

Kent inter vehicle coupler
Acme inter vehicle coupler } permissible alternatives.

LETTER FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, RAILWAY DEPARTMENT, (RAILWAY BOARD), No. 34/572/S., DATED NEW DELHI, THE 14TH MARCH 1935, TO THE AGENTS, BURMA, EASTERN BENGAL, EAST INDIAN, GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAYS.

General instructions for regulating the grant of permission for the taking out of patents by railway servants.

I am directed to invite attention to this Department, Notification No. E.-35-F.-U.-2, dated 18th February, 1935, introducing Fundemental Rules 48-A and 48-B applicable to railway servants. The Government of India have now formulated the general instructions contained in the annexure to this letter which will regulate the grant of permission for the taking out of patents by railway servants under their control.

D.A.—General instructions referred to.

No. 34/572/S., DATED 14TH MARCH, 1935.

Copy forwarded to the Senior Government Inspectors of Railways, Circles Nos. 1, 4, 5 and 7 and Government Inspectors of Railways, Circles Nos. 2 and 2-A, Chief Mining Engineer, Railway Board, Chief Controller of Standardisation and Central Publicity Officer, Indian State Railways, for information and guidance.

No. 34/572/S., DATED 14TH MARCH, 1935.

Copy forwarded to the Agents, Assam Bengal, Bengal and North Western, Bengal Nagpur, Bombay, Baroda and Central India, H. E. H. the Nizam's State, Madras and Southern Mahratta, Rohilkund and Kumaon and South Indian Railways, the Manager, Jodhpur Railway and the General Secretary, Indian Railway Conference Association, for information.

No. 34/572/S., DATED 14TH MARCH, 1935.

Copy forwarded to the Chief Accounts Officers, North Western, Eastern Bengal, East Indian, Great Indian Peninsula and Burma Railways and Director of Railway Audit (with 14 spare copies).

ANNEXURE TO RAILWAY BOARD'S LETTER No. 34/572/S., DATED THE 14TH MARCH, 1935.

General instructions for regulating the grant of permission for the taking out of patents by Railway servants.

1. Application for permission under Rule 48-A of the Fundamental Rules should be made by the railway servants making an invention to the head of his department or if he is himself the head of the department to the Railway Board.

2. The head of the department should deal with the application confidentially and with expedition so that the inventor may not be prejudiced by delay in making his application at the Patent Office, and should forward it with his recommendations to the Railway Board.

3. Permission will be granted to the applicant without any restriction if the invention has no connection with the railway servant's official duties and has not resulted from facilities provided at government expense.

4. If the invention is made in the course of the railway servant's official duties or has resulted from facilities provided at government expense, then:

(a) if the invention is of such general interest and utility that the public interest will be best served by allowing the public a free use of the invention, the application for taking out a patent should be refused and the invention should be published. An *ex-gratia* payment should ordinarily be made to the inventor as a reward in all such cases;

(b) if the invention is not of the kind mentioned in (a) but is of sufficient public utility as is likely to make its commercial exploitation profitable the inventor should be directed to take out a patent and to assign his rights under the patent to the Secretary of State for India in Council. In all such cases, the inventor should be rewarded either by a suitable lump sum payment or by a liberal percentage of the profits made by government in connection with the invention;

(c) in other cases, the inventor should be allowed to take out a patent for his own benefit subject to his undertaking to permit government the use of the invention either without payment or on such terms as they may consider reasonable.

5. When the invention has been assigned to the Secretary of State for India in Council under paragraph 4 (b) above, the Railway Department of the Government of India may exploit the patent themselves, or

(a) advertise the patent and grant licenses on payment to manufacturers, or

(b) sell the rights under the patent to a firm or to a private person.

6. In order to secure for government the full benefits of inventions, the Controller of Patents and Designs will ordinarily be consulted before any awards are made under clauses (a), (b) and (c) of paragraph 4 above or steps are taken for the exploitation of the patents under paragraph 5 above.

STRENGTH OF THE OFFICES OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, CENTRAL REVENUES, AND AUDIT OFFICER, INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

1189. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: (a) Will Government please state, separately for each office, the total strength of the offices of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, and the Audit Office, Indian Stores Department, separately for gazetted, accountants and clerical staff as represented by each province and community?

(b) Is it a fact that the Audit Office, Indian Stores Department, was created at New Delhi some time in 1923, and that the majority of the staff recruited belongs to one community? If so, will Government please state:

(i) the reasons for such preponderance of the men of one province only;

(ii) whether this fact was ever brought to the notice of Government before and, if so, what action was taken by them in that behalf; and

(iii) if any orders were issued to check further recruitment from that particular province?

(c) Will Government please state the number of men belonging to that province taken after the issue of those orders?

(d) If they belonged to any other province to which provinces they belonged?

(e) Will Government please state whether the posts of the Assistant Accounts Officers in the Civil Audit Department are transferable from one Accounts Office to another? If so, are Government prepared to consider the advisability of transferring one or more Assistant Accounts Officers from the office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, and the Audit Office, Indian Stores Department, with a view to safeguarding the interests of the members belonging to other provinces? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) Yes.

(i) The office of the Audit Officer, Indian Stores Department, was formed by recruitment mainly from the offices of the Accountants-General, Bihar and Orissa and Punjab. The Bihar and Orissa office was staffed mainly by Bengali Hindus transferred from the late office of the Accountant-General, Eastern Bengal and Assam. This office had a large number of clerks qualified for posts of Accountant, who volunteered for transfer to the Audit Office to better their own prospects.

(ii) Yes. No special action was considered necessary.

(iii) General instructions have been issued, on other grounds, that current recruitment should ordinarily be made from the Punjab, the United Provinces and the Delhi Province.

(c) Seven, of whom four are retrenched Government servants re-employed, one is an Indian Christian, one has special technical qualifications and one is the son of a Government servant employed in Delhi.

(d) The following are the numbers of men recruited from the other provinces:

Delhi—11.

United Provinces—9.

Punjab—4.

Madras—1.

Bihar and Orissa—1.

(e) The answer to the first question in this part is "no". The remaining questions, therefore, do not arise.

Statement of the total strength of the Offices of the Accountant-General, Central Revenues and Audit Officer, Indian Stores Department, separately for Gazetted, Accountant and Clerical staff as represented by each Province and community.

Rank and office.	By Communities.								By Provinces.										Remarks.
	Hindu.	Muslim.	Sikh.	European.	Anglo-Indian.	Indian Christian.	Gazetted Officers—5	Accountants—13	Bengal.	Madras.	U. P.	Punjab.	Bihar and Orissa.	Assam.	C. P.	Rajputana.	Delhi.	(a) Distribution by Provinces not available.	
Accountant-General, Central Revenues.																			
1. Gazetted Officers—12	8	..	1	2 (a)	1 (a)	..	..	..	6	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	
2. Accountants—54	47	4	2	..	1 (a)	..	..	1	15	2	7	17	4	..	1	..	11	..	
3. Clerks—296	255	23	12	..	5 (a)	1	..	..	129	2	36	69	..	..	..	..	55	..	
Audit Officer, Indian Stores Department.																			
Gazetted Officers—5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Accountants—13	12	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	
Clerks—120	85	25	6	..	1	3	..	..	51	9	13	20	4	..	..	1	22	..	

SYSTEM OF RECRUITMENT IN THE OFFICES OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, CENTRAL REVENUT AND AUDIT OFFICER, INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

1190. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: (a) Will Government please state separately for each office:

(i) the system of recruitment to the clerical staff in the offices of the Accountant General, Central Revenues and the Audit Officer, Indian Stores Department;

(ii) the names of men, together with the province and the community to which each of them belonged, recruited out of the retrenched personnel in the above offices; and

(iii) the offices from which the men so recruited in both the offices were retrenched?

(b) Will Government please state whether there were any orders to the effect that no further recruitment in the offices of the Accountant General, Central Revenues and the Audit Officer, Indian Stores Department, should be made out of the province which already greatly preponderated? If so, were those orders observed in recruiting men after the issue of those orders from outside, and also out of the retrenched personnel? If so, will Government please state the names of men recruited since 1930 and the province to which each one of them belongs?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) (i) Recruitment to the clerical staff in the office of the Audit Officer, Indian Stores Department, is made by selection by the head of the office on the recommendation of a Selection Board. In the office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, it is made partly by selection and partly by a recruitment examination, subject to the general orders regarding the maintenance of communal proportions. Preference is given to retrenched men.

(ii) 33 such men have been recruited. Of these 30 are Hindus, two are Muhammadans and one is a Sikh. Their provinces are as follows:

Bengal—10.

Punjab—9.

United Provinces—7.

Delhi—7.

(iii) Accountant-General, Central Revenues; Audit Officer, Indian Stores Department; Pay and Accounts Offices, Delhi; Central Accounts Office, Public Works Department, Delhi; and Pay and Accounts Office, United Provinces.

(b) I have nothing to add to the information which I have already given in answer to the immediately preceding question.

DISCONTENT AMONG CERTAIN CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, CENTRAL REVENUES.

1191. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: (a) Are Government aware that great discontent is prevailing in the office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues on account of the most inequitable and unjust treatment meted out specially to the S. A. S. passed clerks?

(b) Will Government please state what action they propose to take against the officer responsible for this?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

CERTAIN PARTICULARS ABOUT CERTAIN POSTS IN THE CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE.

1192. ***Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan** (on behalf of Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq): (a) Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) the scales of pay of the following posts in the Central Stationery Office of the Government of India stationed at Calcutta;

(ii) the total number of Hindus in each post;

(iii) the total number of Muslims in each post (noting temporary occupants, if any); and

(iv) the number of Christians in each post;

as things stood on the 28th February, 1935:

Deputy Controller, Assistant Controller, Stores Examiner, Superintendent, H. A. Class I, H. A. Class II, Cashier, Assistant Chemist, Assistants, Clerks, T. W. Mechanic, Typist, Jetty Sarkar, Junior Clerks, Stores Receiver, Record Supplier, Peons, Store Keeper (Stores Department), Deputy Store Keeper (Store Department), Assistant (Stores Department), Clerks (Stores Department), Junior Clerks (Stores), H. A. Class I and II (Clearing and Shipping Section), Clerks (Clearing and Shipping), Peons (Clearing and Shipping), H. A. Class I and II (Reserve Stamp Depot), Clerks (Reserve Stamp), Peons (Reserve Stamp)?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many of the Hindus in all the posts are Bengalis?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). The scales of pay of the Deputy Controller, Assistant Controller and Store Examiner in the Central Stationery Office are as follows:

	Old rates of pay.	Revised rates of pay.
	Rs.	Rs.
Deputy Controller . . .	1,000—50—1,250	900
Assistant Controller . .	550—30—700	500—20—600
Store Examiner . . .	400—25—600	300—20—600

These posts are at present held by Bengali Hindus. As regards the other posts Government do not propose to collect the information as its collection would involve an amount of time and labour disproportionate to the result. The Controller of Printing and Stationery will, however, be glad to show such details, as are available in his office, to any Honourable Member who wishes to see them.

INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT TO THE MANAGER, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI, REGARDING FILLING UP OF PERMANENT VACANCIES.

1193. ***Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Baksh Shah:** (a) Is it a fact that Government issued instructions to the Manager, Government of India Press, New Delhi, to the effect that future permanent vacancies should be filled up by promotion of temporary hands by strict seniority?

(b) If so, are Government aware that in the permanent vacancies of bindery and warehousemen in the above press the senior temporary men are being superseded by junior men by applying the principle laid down in Home Department Resolution of July 1934? Is it not a fact that this circular was meant for fresh recruitment of outsiders and not for grade to grade promotion from temporary to the permanent establishment?

(c) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, what steps do Government propose to take to remove the grievances?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes, but those instructions are subject to the general orders in the matter of communal representation.

(b) Some senior temporary men in the Bindery and Warehouse Branch of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, have unavoidably been superseded as transfers from the temporary to the permanent establishment are not treated as departmental promotion and the rules laid down in the Home Department Resolution of the 4th July, 1934, on the subject of communal representation apply to such transfers.

(c) Government orders on the subject are being observed and no further action is required.

REFUSAL OF COMPENSATION LEAVE OR COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE TO THE STAFF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI, FOR WORKING ON COMMUNAL HOLIDAYS.

1194. ***Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Baksh Shah:** Is it a fact that the staff of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, booked on their communal holidays are given neither day compensation leave in lieu thereof, nor any compensatory allowance? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: 23 days, which include the more important festivals, are treated as closed holidays and a right to payment in respect of attendance on those days or to compensatory holiday in respect of attendance on the weekly holiday is conceded to the industrial staff. This leaves only about 293 working days in the year and Government are not prepared to grant special compensation for work done on these.

PAY OF BINDERS AND WAREHOUSEMEN OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

1195. ***Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Baksh Shah:** Is it a fact that binders and warehousemen of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, are on fixed pay and no time scales of pay are sanctioned for their grade, unlike other posts in all Government Departments?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Apart from certain men on piece-rates the binders and warehousemen are on fixed pay.

NON-CONFIRMATION OF CERTAIN MEN IN THE BINDERY AND WAREHOUSE DEPARTMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

1196. ***Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Baksh Shah:** With reference to Sir Frank Noyce's reply to unstarred question No. 348, dated the 14th April, 1934, regarding non-confirmation of certain men in the Bindery

and Warehouse Department of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, will Government be pleased to state what further steps have been taken to expedite the matter?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Owing to financial stringency the case had to be kept in abeyance but it will now be reconsidered.

INDIANS GRANTED KING'S COMMISSIONS SINCE 1917.

1197. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** (a) How many Indians have been given King's Commissions since 1917?

(b) How many of them have been promoted to the rank of major?

(c) Is it a fact that many of them are retired, when they have a chance of becoming major?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) 248.

(b) One, but I would remind the Honourable Member that the first regular batch of Indians received the King's Commission only towards the end of 1919. They have not yet got 18 years' service and thus, like British officers who were commissioned in the same year, they are not yet eligible for promotion to Major under the time-scale.

(c) No.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know whether these Indians are medical men?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: No: these are not medical men.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Am I to understand that, even in the case of Europeans, not even one European, who has not had 18 years' service, has been promoted to the rank of Major?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: That is correct: no officer with less than 18 years' service is promoted to the rank of Major.

PERCENTAGE OF THE INDIAN COASTAL TRADE BORNE BY INDIAN VESSELS AND BRITISH VESSELS.

1198. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** (a) What is the percentage of the Indian coastal trade that is borne by (i) Indian vessels, and (ii) by British vessels?

(b) Has any attempt been made to encourage Indian shipping? If so, what are those attempts?

(c) What is the settlement that the Commerce Member has made to the great benefit of Indian Shipping, to which he referred in reply to a supplementary question to question No. 632 by Mr. Gadgil on the 27th February, 1935?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) Statistics are not available.

(b) Yes. I would refer the Honourable Member to the answers given by me on the 27th February last to the supplementary questions asked in connection with question No. 632 by Mr. Gadgil.

(c) The settlement referred to was undertaken and made by me at the request of all the Indian and British shipping companies engaged in the trade on the West Coast of India and covered the various points of controversy which had arisen between them.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is that settlement?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: The settlement is a somewhat lengthy document; and if my Honourable friend wants to know the contents of it, I shall be very glad to allow him to see a copy of t' at document.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Can it be placed on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I do not think it is a suitable document to lay on the table of the House; but I should be very glad to let any Honourable Member, who desires to have information, to see the document.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Why can it not be placed on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: That is a matter of opinion, and I have expressed my opinion on the point.

SHIPPING COMPANIES ENGAGED IN THE COASTAL TRADE OF INDIA AND BURMA.

1199. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of shipping companies engaged in the coastal trade of India and Burma, together with the number and tonnage of the steamers of these shipping companies engaged in these coastal waters?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: The information is being collected and a statement furnishing it will be laid on the table in due course.

SUBSIDIES GIVEN TO THE SHIPPING COMPANIES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF MAILS.

1200. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state the amount of the subsidies given by them every year for the carriage of mails, giving separate particulars as follows:

(a) the names of the routes for which the subsidies are given;

(b) the amount of subsidy given for each route; and

(c) the name of the shipping company to which the subsidies are given for each of the above routes?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a), (b) and (c). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the statement showing particulars of the steamer services and the subsidies given on pages 68—72 of the Annual Report on the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department for the year 1933-34, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the subsidy paid to European companies, and what is the subsidy paid to Indian companies?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I supplied a copy of this report to every Member of this House and the Honourable Member will find full information on pages 68 to 72 of the Report.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the reason for the subsidy to the Indian companies being so much smaller, compared to the subsidy given to the non-Indian companies?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: That depends on the service they have to give.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do Government accept or not accept the policy that, being an Indian Department, they ought to use the Indian tax-payer's money for the purpose of encouraging Indian companies?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: That does not arise out of this question: this question asks for information, and I have given the information.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am asking the reasons why. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is a general question of policy.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I want to know why Indian companies get so much less than the European companies . . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already answered that it depends on the amount of service that is rendered.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I want further elucidation whether apart from the service, Government do or do not accept the policy of encouraging Indian companies?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: These contracts are open to tender.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it, therefore, that the Honourable the Industries Member tells this House that, if European companies for the time being are able to quote better terms, they should be encouraged, whatever may happen to the Indian companies?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I am not prepared to discuss this very large question of policy in reply to supplementary questions.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are these services which the British companies are giving such that the Indian companies cannot do?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: It is open to the Indian companies to tender when tenders are called for next.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Did any of the Indian companies tender?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: If my Honourable friend will look at the information to which he has been referred, he will find that Indian companies are doing this work.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How much part of this work are they doing?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I can only once again refer my Honourable friend to the information which has been supplied and which he can study for himself.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It is very small: I want to know why such a small part is entrusted to Indian companies?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Because either they did not tender, or, if they did tender, their tenders were not the lowest or most suitable tenders received.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In all cases, were the lowest tenders accepted?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I must ask for notice of that question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is the lowest tender the only consideration in giving these subsidies?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. There has been a sufficient number of questions.

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OF INDIANS ON THE STEAMERS OF SHIPPING COMPANIES GETTING SUBSIDIES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF MAILS.

1201. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have attached any conditions as regards the training and employment of Indians as apprentices and officers on board the steamers of the company to whom they have been giving annual subsidies for the carriage of mails?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to attach such conditions as regards training and employment of Indians hereafter as officers on board the steamers of the companies which are granted such mail subsidies?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) No.

(b) Up till now no serious difficulty has been experienced in securing employment for suitably qualified Indian apprentices and officers. Should necessity arise, the suggestion contained in the question will no doubt be considered.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know the reasons why Government have not attached any conditions as stated in clause (a) of my question?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: For the reason stated in my reply to part (b) of the question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Does not the Honourable Member consider that suitable facilities should be provided for training more Indians, by attaching this condition?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have nothing to add to the reply I have given.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if all Indians who have been trained have secured suitable employment already?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have told my Honourable friend that up till now no serious difficulty has been experienced in securing employment for suitably qualified Indian apprentices and officers. I have nothing to add.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What about their training? Why do not Government accept it as their primary duty to provide for training of these Indians in the ships of those companies which get encouragement from the Government?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Because Government have provided opportunities for training.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am asking with regard to clause (a) of this question: why do not Government attach a condition that these companies, which get these contracts from Government, should provide training for a minimum number of Indians?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I can only state that the necessity for so doing has not yet arisen.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know why? Are there no Indians qualified who are willing to be trained or come forward to be trained as officers, or as apprentices on board these steamers?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I have already explained, in reply to a question put in this House, that, as stated by my Honourable colleague, no difficulty has yet been experienced in finding opportunities for training for any of the categories of the officers mentioned by my Honourable friend.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it, therefore, that all Indians who came forward to be so trained have been given suitable facilities for training?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: To the best of my knowledge, I think that that is the situation up to the present.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government kindly make inquiries and find out if all Indians who are suitable and have offered themselves for training have had suitable opportunities provided?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I can only refer to cadets, who have passed out of the "Dufferin", and, so far as the "Dufferin" Cadets are concerned, I think I can quite definitely say that no difficulty has been experienced up to date.

RECRUITMENT TO THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION.

1202. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) With reference to the reply given to the starred question No. 31 on the 5th February, 1935, will Government please state whether the recruitment to the Office of the Director of Public Information, is made through the Public Service Commission? If so, for which posts?

(b) Has the Office of the Director of Public Information removed any of the posts from the clerical cadre under the Home Department Office Memorandum No. 94/30-Estt., dated the 18th February, 1931, which have been considered as special or technical?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) The Public Service Commission recruit for the clerical posts in the Public Information Bureau.

(b) No, but there are certain posts in the Bureau for which special qualifications are considered necessary.

†1203*.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, may I make a request to you before you proceed with the regular Legislative Business? In this Session, we were given only three days for non-official business. I find that in 1933, Government had allotted four days for non-official Bills. There were also four or five days allotted last year for non-official business. So I want to make a request to you, and, through you, to the Honourable the Leader of the House, to meet our requirements and to kindly allow us some time tomorrow to introduce some of these non-official Bills. You can meet our request in one or two ways. Either you have to modify the Standing Orders, or if you are not prepared to do that, then, for the day which has been taken away, so to say, from us for the conduct of non-official Bills, the Honourable the Leader of the House should give us about 20 minutes or half an hour tomorrow, so that these Bills may be formally introduced and they may not lapse.

12 NOON.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): So far as the matter lies in its power, the Chair is bound by the Standing Orders. The Chair considered the representation that was made to it on this point, but it found that the Standing Orders were so clear that it could not comply with the request made in that representation. As regards the suggestion that more time should be allowed so far as Bills to be introduced are concerned, that is for the Governor General to decide, and perhaps the Honourable the Leader of the House might like to say something on it.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): As I told you this morning, Sir, I really want to look into the matter to find out how many more days can be given from next Sessions, and what used to be done in previous years. I have not considered the matter, but I undertake to consider it and see if any more days can be given.

†This question was withdrawn by the questioner.

THE INDIAN CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT (REPEAL) BILL.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to repeal the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908, be taken into consideration."

In a House which is full of so many eminent lawyers, so many *ex*-Advocates General and eminent Congress Leaders, who have suffered through the instrumentality of this very Act, I have to make these observations as a layman. Though I remained outside the jail, then, I felt I was really in a living prison, after having witnessed those harrowing and distressing days when the Congress organisations were one by one declared unlawful and hushed up by the wrong application of this Act. Sir, before I speak on the Bill, I must mention on the floor of this House that that great constitutionalist, the late Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar, was the draftsman of this Bill. Before he decided to join the Second Round Table Conference, he, as a staunch Congressman, was very much distressed and pained to see the way in which the Government were misinterpreting and misapplying the laws in respect of the Congress organisations, and he himself drafted this Bill, and the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill was also the draft of Mr. Iyengar, whose untimely death we all mourned and still mourn, and who, even after drafting this Bill, had so much faith in the British Government, that he went to contribute his knowledge and experience to the deliberations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee in England. Sometimes I feel that if Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar had been alive today to see what was manufactured in that Select Committee, his heart would have broken.

I must take back the House to the pre-Minto-Morley Reform days when the then Government of India were contemplating the declaration of the Morley-Minto Reforms, and it has been the practice of the successive Governments of India always to have legislated more intimidating laws, before they announced any dose of Reforms. This was stated by the then Viceroy, Lord Minto, while the Bill was passed in 1908 in the Imperial Legislative Council. The Viceroy, as President of the then Imperial Legislative Council, stated this:

"There are other reasons too for which I have been anxious that the Bill, which we are about to pass, should immediately become law. We are on the eve of the announcement by the Secretary of State of Reforms which have long been foreshadowed and I should be sorry to see that that announcement immediately followed by exceptional criminal legislation such as that with which we have today been dealing."

This was not the only instance we found. Similar repressive laws and similar exceptional criminal laws were brought into being on the eve of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, and we know that the bureaucrats got so afraid of the new Reforms that were to be introduced after 1930, that they promulgated a series of Ordinances in 1931, which have been embodied in the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1932. So, whenever there has been a popular demand to get greater rights of self-determination, those in power inside the Government forged new instruments whereby the executive is armed with greater powers of repression and oppression. Sir, that Imperial Legislative Council of 1907-08 was full of Nominated Members, but I was very pleased to see, after going through the speeches

of the late Maharaja of Darbhanga and Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh (afterwards Sir Rash Behari Ghosh), that they had lodged very vehement protests on behalf of the people of India. Sir, those of us, who had the pleasure of knowing the late Maharaja of Darbhanga, knew him to be a sober, moderate and conscientious supporter of the British regime in India. But it was a very pleasant surprise to me to find this expression of opinion in his speech criticising the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Bill of 1908. He said:

"Here I may put in a word on behalf of a much maligned class in connection with the recent events of an anarchical order, I mean the students of our colleges."

All this had reference to students of colleges in Bengal, and this Act was particularly aimed at suppressing anarchical and unlawful movements in Bengal and Eastern Bengal:

"Because a few misguided young men, acting on bad advice, have been guilty of grave offences against religion and law, it has been assumed in certain quarters that the students as a class are on the side of anarchy and sedition. There never was a fouler calumny."

I say there never was a fouler calumny than that perpetrated by the bureaucratic Government in India in legislating so many penalising laws. The Leader of the House comes from the province which gave birth to the great jurist, Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh, and he emphatically condemned this measure—a moderate at that time, of course, we in this age reckon those leaders as moderates. They might have been great lawyers, eminent jurists, but in our eyes they were moderates. They had not got the spirit to speak out boldly, of course there were exceptions in those times too, such as the late Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjea and Mr. (afterwards Sir) Pherozeshah Mehta; before they were knighted, they were great patriots. Just let me quote one passage from the speech of Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh. I particularly quote it for the enlightenment of my Honourable friend, the Home Member, who is very fond of giving out to the House that there are three public enemies. There is the terrorist and the anarchist, Public Enemy No. 1, Communists are Public Enemy No. 2; and the other day, I think he was going to condemn the Socialists, as Public Enemy No. 3.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): No. I never went beyond two.

Mr. B. Das: I am very glad to have this assurance from my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Craik, that he has no evil intention against Socialists and against those who hold Socialist views in this country:

"We condemn anarchism, because its spread would end in the dissolution of all that holds society together. And we condemn anarchism most, because it is opposed to the laws of God as well as of man."

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: What are you quoting from?

Mr. B. Das: I am quoting Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh. Shall I quote from Mahatma Gandhi? What I mean to say is this, that the views expressed by eminent lawyers, great leaders in those days, like Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh, have the entire approval of mine, and this is not the first

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time that I have condemned anarchism and terrorist crimes on the floor of this House. But what I condemn most is the action of the first Legislative Assembly of 1922 in not repealing Part II of this Criminal Law Amendment Act. It was only intended to apply against anarchical and revolutionary organisations that were at that time (1907-08) alleged to be prevalent in Bengal. I was then a student. I do not think there were any such organisations—some of us used to read newspapers, and one used to see that 99 per cent. of it all was manufactured, and one per cent. true. There are many Bengal leaders here, there is my Honourable friend, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, who suffered through this legislation, through the police troubles at the time, during 1907 and afterwards—prominent public leaders who worked for the regeneration of India and demanded freedom for India, not in the sense that we do demand freedom, but in the way they conceived it in those times of 1907 and 1908.

And my Honourable friend, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya has suffered terribly. He was sentenced to death I believe . . . . .

An Honourable Member: No.

Mr. B. Das: Probably he was sentenced like my Honourable friend, Bhai Parma Nand, to transportation for life. But these laws were misapplied. When the new Assembly was constituted under the Montford reforms, the Repressive Laws Committee was appointed, the effect of which was that in 1922, Sir William Vincent repealed the first part of the Act of 1908. But the Repressive Laws Committee consisted, in those days, mostly of moderates, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru was the Chairman, and I find Sir P. S. Sivaswami Aiyer was a member, Mr. J. Chaudhuri, Mr. Bhurgri, Mr. Samarth, Dr. Sir Hari Singh Gour, and Mr. Shahabuddin. Of course, the two officials were Sir William Vincent and Mr. Hammond. These gentlemen wrote:

"We regret that we cannot at this juncture recommend the immediate repeal of Part II. There are too evident indications that its application might be necessary to prevent the formation of secret societies."

That was the suspicion. They further say in another place:

"It is generally accepted that Part I of this Act has failed to achieve in Bengal the purpose for which it was designed. As regards Part II, the conspiracy sections of the Indian Penal Code might meet the case if, but only if, evidence were forthcoming. It was in no measure the impossibility of obtaining evidence owing to the intimidation of witnesses that led to this enactment."

At the same time, while observing this, they said, Part II of the Act was sparingly applied.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Law Member): Will you kindly read the next six lines?

Mr. B. Das: I think the Law Member should read what suits his part of the argument. I have read the whole, but I am only giving passages supporting my part of the argument. But I hope the Law Member will agree with me that the Committee felt that Part II was sparingly applied. Being moderates, these gentlemen said: "For the present, it should be deferred". I believe that if any of those gentlemen were here today, they would bear me out that it was their intention that after two or three years it should be repealed.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, no. I cannot accept it.

Mr. B. Das: All right. My Honourable friend has probably some secret or confidential report of these gentlemen which he can read out to the House, and the eminent legal talents of the House will listen to it most attentively. As far as my impression goes, subject to correction, —I am not a lawyer, I do not dabble in law cases and volumes of law reports that are to be found in the library of every lawyer—it was very sparingly applied till 1930. Then came the Civil Disobedience Movement and the Congress Volunteer Organisations which were based on the highest principles of the Congress, namely, *non-violence and truth*, but, as usual, the bureaucracy misread the situation. They saw terrorist movements in certain parts of Bengal, and they felt that the whole Congress organisations, throughout the length and breadth of this vast continent, were to be condemned as anarchical organisations. Many of my friends who are sitting on this side of the House have suffered through the wrong application of this Act. Sometimes in the evening some associations were declared unlawful in most of the provinces and the gentlemen who constituted the members of those associations were found arrested the next morning owing to the misapplication of this law. I am not a lawyer and I cannot understand the legal and judicial mentality. I am an engineer. I have got a scientific mind. In our profession, when we enunciate scientific principles, we adhere to those principles. Science has no prevarication, and, in my association with public life and with eminent lawyers on the floor of this House, I find law bears prevarication. Law can be interpreted and misinterpreted according to the peculiar genius of the eminent lawyer who is trying to interpret it. As a public man, I deplore this most. This is not the only law that has been misinterpreted. The other day, there was a question on the floor of the House whether the Foreigners' Act has not been applied wrongly to prohibit Indian States people in British India. It has been applied by most of the Provincial Governments, particularly the Government of Bombay, in deporting the valued co-workers of many of us from British India. 275 gentlemen have been deported and some of them have done yeoman service for Mother India. Is not the Honourable Sir Nripendra Nath Sircar, another member of the legal profession, eminent as Dr. Rash Behari Ghosh, whose name is so very well-known in the eastern part of India? Why does not my friend, the Leader of the House, sit down one day and find out which laws are archaic, which laws are misapplied and do not bear the test of truth? Why does he not bring out new laws? If Government have the power to apply section 144, section 124-A and the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1908, what was the necessity of the panicky condition of the Government of India in 1930 and 1931 which led them to promulgate so many Ordinances? Terrorist and anarchical crimes were in their brain all the time and this misinterpretation of the law can only be possible when an alien bureaucracy sits tight over our heads, without being amenable to reason or to public criticism. The reason trotted out every time is the maintenance of law and order. "Maintenance of law and order" is a catch phrase which is held sacrosanct by every alien Government which is ruling over another country. Japan is today applying that phrase in Manchuria and Korea. Great Britain has gone on applying that phrase in India, and today, the English people stand condemned before the civilised nations of the world as barbarians who misinterpret the chastity of language

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and chaste interpretation of words in order to subjugate people whom they cannot righteously and virtuously subjugate.

Sir, I do not wish to take any more time of the House. I should like to listen to the experiences of my friends sitting on this side of the House who have suffered by the wrong application of this Act. I should also like to hear from the Home Member why, after passing so many Ordinances and incorporating them into the Criminal Law Amendment Act of 1932 and the Bengal and Assam Criminal Law Amendment Acts and legislating so many other penalising Acts, the Government still think that they will perpetuate this wrong measure? Why should the Home Member, an Englishman, do this wrong to his own language, to the chastity of his own language by misinterpreting the Act which was meant for anarchical and revolutionary organisations and applying it to non-violent and peaceful organisations like the Congress? However much you may suppress the Congress today, it shall continue to remain, because it reflects the soul of India. It reflects the people's ambition which no fetters and no jail can subjugate. It will continue to burn in the heart of the people of India till they are free, and I, therefore, ask every part of the House, barring the Government bloc. . . . .

An Honourable Member: Why do you bar them?

Mr. B. Das: . . . . because they have to obey their Master's Voice. I do not know what the Master's Voice will be today. I appeal to my friends, Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah and Mr. Sarma, at one time connected with the *Bengalee* which was founded by the late Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea. I appeal to every Nominated Member and every legal luminary on the other side.

An Honourable Member: What about the Nawab Sahib!

Mr. B. Das: I appeal to every one not to allow this Government to do wrong by allowing this particular Act to continue in the Statute-book. They have misinterpreted it and they have done wrong and injustice to the people. Sir, I think they have enough Acts in their armoury for such emergencies. If they really want such an Act, let them bring out such a measure, after forming a Select Committee composed of eminent lawyers,—and, Sir, they know what their fate will be. With these remarks, I move for consideration of the Bill. (Loud Applause.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill to repeal the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I do not propose to go into high philosophy and high politics. I do not propose to deal with the larger question as to whether repression was the remedy for the alleged violence. The real issue before us is not whether the Act of 1908 was justified by the circumstances at the time. We all know that, in justification for that repressive legislation, it was said that there were many assassinations,

murders and other offences of various kinds which were committed on the eve of that legislation. I do not, however, propose to go into that question at all. It is quite unnecessary to discuss the question as to whether that legislation was necessary or justifiable at that time. Now, twenty-seven years have gone by since that legislation was enacted. The question is, whether it should still be retained on the Statute-book. That is the precise issue before us.

Now, Sir, I am reminded by my friend from behind, Mr. Asaf Ali, that this Act first consisted in 1908 of two very distinct parts. Part I was repealed in 1922. Part No. II, with which we are now concerned, was not repealed, and, with regard to it, the Repressive Laws Committee said this in 1921:

"Subject, however, to the reservations temporarily made in favour of the Seditious Meetings Act and Part II of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, which cannot be abandoned until the present tension created by the non-co-operation has been relieved by the action of its leading promoters, they would emphasise the importance of removing from the Statute-book, as far as possible, all special laws of this character."

That was the recommendation about which there was some controversy a few minutes before between Mr. Das and the Honourable the Home Member. It was said that they hoped that that necessity would be soon gone and thereafter the second part would also be repealed. The non-co-operation movement is gone, but Part II still remains unrepealed. Then, Sir, after the non-co-operation movement subsided, even those political prisoners who, according to the Government version, were anarchists and revolutionaries, were also set at liberty. But, all the same, this Part II of the Act of 1908 remained. Then came the Civil Disobedience Movement. That movement came, and that movement has also gone, but Part II still remains unrepealed. Now, Sir, it appears to me that although the "Civil Disobedience Movement" has gone, the "Criminal Investigation Department" still remains. That is the position. Now, after the withdrawal of the Civil Disobedience Movement, the situation certainly changed—and, therefore, the question arose again as to whether the notification declaring some associations unlawful—for example, those connected with the Civil Disobedience Movement—the question arose as to whether the notifications under the Act should be withdrawn or not. Now, we have got the Government communiqué of June last on this question. Sir, there was a quibbling the other day as to whether my Leader, Mr. Aney, was right when he was speaking on the repressive policy and when he used the words—"the Civil Disobedience Movement has been withdrawn". There was at once a protest from the Honourable the Home Member, who said that the movement had not been withdrawn, but had been only suspended.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): "In abeyance".

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Now, Sir, we find that in this communiqué of June last, it was distinctly admitted by the Government that the Patna Resolution of the All-India Congress Committee accepted the recommendation made in Mahatma Gandhi's statement of 7th April, withdrawing civil disobedience. The communiqué goes on:

"That statement was admittedly open to more than one interpretation, but it was regarded by public opinion generally as indicating a genuine intention to withdraw civil disobedience as the policy of the Congress. The All-India Congress Committee have, moreover, decided by another resolution to put forward candidates for election to the Legislatures on behalf of the Congress, a course which is inconsistent with the continuance of the unconstitutional methods of civil disobedience."

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Then follows an important point:

"In view of the fact that civil disobedience has formally been discontinued, and that as a practical policy under present conditions it may be regarded as having already ceased to exist."

and so on.

That was the position taken up by the Government in June last. But there seems to be a tendency—it might be an unconscious tendency—all the same it is perfectly clear that there is a tendency on the part of the Honourable the Home Member to go back a little upon that position. He would not admit that the movement has been withdrawn or has ceased to exist. We found, however, Sir, that the Honourable the Leader of the House, being a lawyer, at once saw the difficulty, and said:

"I am making no point whether the movement has been abandoned or withdrawn or suspended."

However, the position is that, after the Civil Disobedience Movement was withdrawn, a new situation arose, and, in consequence of that new situation, this particular action was taken by the Government, *viz.*, declaration of policy for the withdrawal of the notification about associations. But, Sir, what is the real fact? In spite of this communiqué, we find that, even at the present moment, so far as my province of Bengal is concerned—and I wish to speak of that province only—I must confess I did not study the question very carefully with regard to the other provinces—I shall confine my observations to Bengal—we find, Sir, that in spite of that notification, as many as 205 Associations which were declared unlawful in 1932-33, that is, during the Civil Disobedience Movement—as many as 205 Associations are still under the ban. It must be admitted that all these Associations were declared unlawful presumably because of their activities in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement. Now, the time when they were so declared is very significant, namely after December, 1931. Now, Sir, one of those Associations from which the ban has not yet been lifted is a remarkable institution known as the Abhay Ashram of Comilla. It is a well-known name and is known, not only throughout the province of Bengal, but also throughout the whole continent of India. Now, Sir, can it be said that this is an organisation which is anarchist or revolutionary? In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a few facts. One fact is that this is a very old institution; it must be about 15 to 20 years old. It is a very well-known institution, and, at its head, are a band of gentlemen who are self-less patriots and who have dedicated their whole life to the work of the country. They are all wedded to non-violence. If Mahatma Gandhi has really got any true followers with regard to the non-violent creed, it is the people of this Abhay Ashram of Comilla. Now, who are these people? There are three or four of them who, if they had cared to remain in Government service, would have been earning by this time Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000 a month. Take, for instance, persons like Dr. Prafulla Chandra Ghosh, Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, Dr. Nripendra Chandra Bose and others who have dedicated their whole life to the service of the country. Now, can it be suggested that these are the people who are guilty of violence? I shall not allow any speculation on that point, because the stern fact is that this is a very old institution and is known throughout the whole country and the authorities never thought of declaring this organisation as an unlawful body. Are we to believe, the Government knew that this was an anarchist association and yet they did not declare it unlawful for such a long time? It certainly joined the Civil Disobedience Movement; there is no doubt about that. But it was not declared unlawful even after the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930. It was allowed to function regularly and normally. My Honourable friend over there, Mr. Mukerje, gave us the other day the story of a certain incident. There was a procession in the course of which a murder was committed. Mr. Mukerje's insinuation was that the murder was committed by the Abhay Ashram people. But it is very important to note that, even after that incident of murder, this Association was not declared unlawful by the Government.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Who committed the murder?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: That is a question which has not been decided. There was a case instituted, and it went on for a long time, but ultimately it was not proceeded with. There is no evidence as to who committed the murder. This is conclusive from the fact that an important case of murder was not proceeded with by the Government. I cannot, therefore, answer the question of Dr. Banerjee as to who the murderer was.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Somebody must know who did it.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: We do not know who committed the murder. All that is known to the people is that a murder was committed. I do not know if the Honourable the Home Member knows who the murderer was. The murder was not committed within the precincts of the Ashram. It was committed in a procession out on the street. There can be no presumption against any member of the Ashram. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Today being Friday, the House will adjourn early.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Sir, I was dealing with the story of murder given by my Honourable friend, Mr. Mukerje. I want to say that it is quite unfair of my Honourable friend to associate the Abhay Ashram people with this murder. As I already said, there was no trial and no finding that the murder was committed by anybody connected with the Ashram. The procession was not the procession of the Abhay Ashram people. All the inhabitants of the town and of the locality joined that procession. I wonder what possible justification had Mr. Mukerje to associate, to suggest, to insinuate that the Abhay Ashram people were

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responsible for that murder. But supposing for the sake of argument—I hope I shall not be misunderstood if I say so—a Hindu committed the murder, or, for the matter of that, a Member of the Abhay Ashram committed that murder, does it necessarily follow that the Abhay Ashram is an organisation of violence. Supposing in a police party one man commits a murder, do you disband the whole police party on that account? Supposing one soldier in a regiment commits an act of violence, do you disband the whole troops on that account? It is taking a very superficial view of the thing. Because there was a procession in which the Abhay Ashram people joined, you cannot at once jump to the conclusion that the murder was committed by the Abhay Ashram people. It is neither fair, nor good judgment. It must be remembered that, even after that murder, the Abhay Ashram was not declared unlawful by the Government. You must remember that this Abhay Ashram had its office and headquarters in the centre of the town, rather, I should like to say, it is a mile from the town. The very fact that there was no notification like that by the Government is conclusive proof to show that at least the Government never thought it to be an organisation which encouraged violence or much less revolutionary activities. May I invite the attention of the House to the activities of this organisation? They have got a khaddar department well known all over the country, they have got a free school, they have got a dispensary where medicine is distributed free. There is also a medical school there, and whenever there is famine or flood, it is the Abhay Ashram people that at once rush to the place to give relief, sometimes independently and sometimes in concert with the Government and the local authorities. After this, he must be a very bold man who will assert that the Abhay Ashram is a revolutionary organisation.

Before I proceed further, I want to make my position absolutely clear with respect to the Act of 1908. I said in the beginning that the real issue before the House is as to whether this Act should remain on the Statute-book permanently. I say that it is unprofitable to discuss, after 27 years, as to whether it was justified by the circumstances of the time. What I mean to say is this, that I was examining the position from the point of view of Government. I know that much water has flowed down the Ganges and the Jumna during these 27 years, and, therefore, even from the point of view of Government, what was necessary in 1908, it does not follow that it is necessary in the year of grace 1935. That was the point of view from which I was discussing the matter. But I should like to make my position clear. My real position is that this sort of legislation is fundamentally wrong, wrong in principle, for this reason that it deprives the citizen of his primary right, the right of free speech and the right of association. These are the inalienable birthrights and the primary rights of people, and no Legislature has any right to deprive the citizens of these primary rights. Therefore, it is a lawless law. We object to it fundamentally on that ground—not only on that ground, but also on the procedure laid down. There is no enquiry, no trial either of the man or the Association. You do not declare one isolated member of the Association, but you declare the entire Association unlawful, in other words, what does it come to? You declare by one stroke of the pen without any enquiry or trial, that about 100 or 200 people belonging to a certain organisation are unlawful. Whether it is the Local Government or the District Magistrate, they have got to rely on the evidence of some police officers and police informers,

and so on. After all is said and done, these notifications, issued under the Act of 1908, are based upon reports of police officers and informers. As I said already, I shall not discuss here whether repression is the proper remedy for the evil. I shall not discuss verdict of history, the lesson of history on this question, *viz.*, that repression is not the proper remedy. I do not like to discuss this old question. It is no good discussing that on the floor of this House. I was examining the position from the standpoint of the Government. That position is that when the Civil Disobedience Movement was in full swing. the Associations were declared unlawful. The Government were saying: "Look here, there is the Civil Disobedience Movement, and so we cannot repeal this repressive law. We cannot withdraw these notifications." My point is this: because there is the Civil Disobedience Movement, it does not follow that you are entitled to declare these associations unlawful. But I am examining the position from the point of view of the Government themselves. Now that the Civil Disobedience Movement has been withdrawn, the question is, what is the justification for as many as 205 being still under the ban? That is the number of associations. Coming now to the number of people, who are being detained even after the withdrawal of the Civil Disobedience Movement, so far as my province is concerned, the number is this. Under Regulation III of 1818, there are 18 people now. There were 21 in all, but two were released and one died. Then:

Interned under the Ordinance and other Acts	1,653
Externed	48
Detained in jail in the province	179
Detained in detention camps in the province	974
Detained in jails and detention camps outside Bengal	500

Altogether the number is 3,372. These are the people who have been detained since April, 1932. I have not got the figures about people still under detention, people who were interned or externed or detained before April, 1932. So, Sir, from the fact that these people were detained since April, 1932, I feel justified in inferring that these detentions are for activities in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement; and that is why I say that although the "C. D." Movement is gone, the "C. I. D." remains. I shall only examine the position from the point of view of Government.

What is the present position? Admittedly there is no riot, no murder, no campaign of no-tax movement, no boycott of men, no social boycott, either of Government servants or of supporters of Government, no boycott of Courts, no boycott of liquor shops, no picketing, no interference with the administration of law and the law Courts, no intimidation. I am sure, it will be admitted that, after the withdrawal of the Civil Disobedience Movement, there has been nothing like any of these. I should again be careful in my language, and I do not wish to be misunderstood. Nothing is further from my intention than to say or to admit that these things were there during the course of the Civil Disobedience Movement,—nothing of the sort. But I am examining the Government's standpoint, and I say that admittedly these things are not there now, and, therefore, I say there is no justification at all events at the present moment for the continuance of the notifications under this Act of 1908. But, Sir, as the Civil Disobedience Movement has admittedly been withdrawn, it is now suggested by

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way of justification that there are some organisations which are revolutionary and there are revolutionary activities in the provinces, and that is why they cannot withdraw the notifications. If that is the argument, let us examine the position from that point of view.

We find that, in Bengal, in 1932, the number of terrorist crimes was 99,—taking, of course, the Government version; whether they were really terrorist crimes or not is another matter. In 1933, there were 42 crimes, in 1934, there were 14 crimes; and, in 1935, not a single terrorist crime. As a matter of fact, it was admitted by the Honourable the Home Member the other day, in answer to a supplementary question of mine, that, during the last 11 or 12 months, there has not been a single terrorist crime in Bengal. It may not be absolutely 12 months, but we may take it that, in the course of nearly one year, there was no terrorist crime; and yet we find Government still as unbending and unrelenting as before. So that, that position does not stand any examination, namely, that although the Civil Disobedience Movement is gone, there are these revolutionary activities.

Then, Sir, apart from the number of people and the number of organisations condemned even now, let us see what is the state of things even now in that unlucky province. So far as the middle class *bhadraloks* are concerned, we have got two problems there. One is the problem of unemployment, and the other and still more acute problem, so far as the young *bhadralok* people are concerned, is,—I do not know how to describe it,—how to save them from the clutches of the police. In Bengal, Sir, the real position is this. The other day, the Honourable the Home Member told us that these young men of Bengal are Public Enemy No. 1. I wonder if the Honourable the Home Member knows that, as a matter of fact, the feeling in that province is that these police officers are Public Enemy No. 1 of the people. I am not here to argue whether that feeling is right or wrong. It may be some exaggeration, and it may not be absolutely justifiable, but that is the feeling there, and the very existence of a feeling like this proves conclusively that there must be something wrong somewhere in the administration of the repressive laws, because I do not believe for one moment that the whole nation can be perverse. In Bengal, Sir, so far as our young people are concerned, Government and the police proceed on the theory that the presumption is that a young educated *bhadralok* must be a revolutionary until the contrary is proved.

Mr. M. S. Aney: How to prove the contrary?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: The contrary cannot be proved, nor are you given an opportunity to prove it, and, therefore, you are condemned unheard. One can prove a positive fact, but it is very difficult to prove a negative fact. Now, Sir, the result is indiscriminate arrest on the slightest suspicion; nobody cares to examine whether that suspicion is well founded or ill founded. We are aware of many cases in which Government had to admit later on that their arrests of people were absolutely unjustified. Some years ago, there was one typical case of two women being arrested, two women of the name of Sindhubala in the district of Bankura. What happened was this. In the course of search of a suspect, a scrap of paper was found in which that name "Sindhubala" was written, and the moment this wonderful discovery was made, at once a warrant was issued from Calcutta for the arrest of this woman of Bankura district with the name of Sindhubala.

Mr. M. S. Aney: All women of the name of "Sindhubala"?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: One "Sindhubala": unfortunately the police officer there was in this difficulty, because he found that in that locality there were two women of this name: and do you know what happened? He cut the Gordian knot in this way: he arrested both of them . . . .

Mr. M. S. Aney: He erred on the safer side.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: One was in the family way and the other had a little child, and both these ladies were made to walk from their home in the village to the zamindar's *kutcheri* and, then, again, from the railway station to the Court-house. Later on, it was found that neither the one nor the other had anything to do with any revolutionary activities, and, after detention for fourteen or fifteen days, they were both let off; and the Government had to admit that the whole arrest was unjustifiable. I discussed this matter in the Bengal Legislative Council, and I told the House that it reminded me of an interesting story of Ramayana when the devoted Hanuman, being asked to bring a medicinal plant, and unable to find out that plant, carried the entire mountain and produced it: it is something like that . . . .

Mr. M. S. Aney: But he took it back.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: This is one typical instance. My Leader, Mr. Aney, asked me how to disprove or rebut a presumption. It is not always possible to rebut that presumption. In this particular case, there was a lot of sensation, and the mere fact that two women were arrested helped us a little: but, I say, this is a typical instance to show how, on very insufficient material, on mere suspicion, people are arrested: I have already told you, Sir, the evidence on which these women were arrested—how preposterous and outrageous is this, simply because on a piece of paper, found in the possession of a man, a man's name or a woman's name appears, and at once, without further inquiry, you issue a warrant for arrest. The result is—this might be somewhat exaggerated language, but this is what I said in the Bengal Legislative Council on a certain occasion—that this procedure leads to the "massacre of innocents". I am complaining that there is no trial and no inquiry; but in those cases in which there is inquiry, in which there is evidence taken, what happens? After a protracted trial, a man is acquitted: the moment he is acquitted, he is rearrested. What happens in these cases? The police officer knows that the judgment will be pronounced: he knows that there is absolutely no evidence and the case will fail and the man will be acquitted by the magistrate: here is the magistrate inside the Court-room with his judicial verdict of not guilty, and there is the police officer waiting outside ready with a warrant; and the moment the man comes out after acquittal, he is rearrested. That is what is happening every day in our province, and I do not know if the same thing is happening in other provinces.

As regards the application of these lawless laws, we all know what unrelenting repression is going on, was going on when the movement was going on, and is going on even now. We know how the police officers used to commit brutal assaults and merciless beating upon unarmed pepole, upon unresisting people. These are not isolated instances: it was the order of the day. When this Civil Disobedience Movement of non-violence

[Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta.]

came, I for one could not believe that such a thing could happen, namely, that you receive the beating, and young able bodied people will offer no resistance. I could not believe this: I thought this programme of Mahatma Gandhi about non-violence was bound to fail; but I found later that I was a very bad prophet, because, as a matter of fact, it must be admitted that all the time that these brutal attacks of the police upon unarmed people were going on, there was no violence on the side of the people . . . . .

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Masses of violence.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: The facts may be different in other provinces—I do not venture to speak of other provinces. I do not know what is the information of the Honourable the Home Member based upon police reports . . . .

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have seen it with my own eyes on many occasions.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Is it suggested that resistance used to be offered when the police officers committed assaults upon processions and processionists, and so on?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have seen with my own eyes a Congress crowd using violence on frequent occasions.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: You have never been in Bengal.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: I do not know: I have said times without number—I want to be absolutely accurate, I am not in a position to speak with confidence and from personal knowledge as to what happened in other provinces: but, speaking of Bengal, and particularly of my own district, I have seen with my own eyes peaceful processionists—their only offence was the singing of "Bande Mataram"—no other offence, no disorder at all—but peaceful orderly processionists being assaulted by police officers most brutally . . . .

An Honourable Member: The same thing happened in the Punjab.

Another Honourable Member: And in other provinces also.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: . . . . . and I do not think the Honourable the Home Member is in a position to contradict my statement. Of course, he can disbelieve me if it suits his purpose to do so; that is quite another matter. But there it is. I say from my own personal knowledge that this is what has happened in Bengal. There are many other things, acts of repression, how respectable ladies used to be molested.

There was a procession of a few ladies in my town of Comilla—nothing disorderly, not even the shouting of "Bande Mataram" they were arrested and they were taken to jail and there—can it be believed?—these respectable ladies were abused by the police officers in most filthy language.

I know of one case: a little girl of about 15 or 16 was arrested under the impression that she must be connected with some crime, because her friends were accused in that case. She was arrested and taken to a certain place, not a police station: there she was surrounded by half a dozen police officers: the police officers placed about five or six revolvers on the table and asked her to try and fire, she said: "I have no knowledge of a revolver: I do not know how to fire." Then she was told: "If you do not do it, we shall thrust pins into your nails." She became so terrified that she became unconscious. When she became unconscious, these police officers found that matters had taken a serious turn, and then her relations were sent for and she was released.

I know of another instance. There was a retired C. I. D. Inspector,—I don't know if he was still alive—whose son was connected with the Civil Disobedience Movement. It was known to everybody. What did the police do? He was living in a remote village, the police went there, arrested two ladies of the family and also the son of the C. I. D. Inspector, and all these people were made to walk from that village to the Brahmanbaria town, a distance of 15 or 20 miles. That story of repression is interminable, and I shall not dilate on it.

Sir, people had been arrested, youngmen, full of promise and courage and education, were arrested on mere suspicion. I don't say here that all people who were arrested were arrested without reasonable suspicion, but I am speaking of only a few isolated cases within my own knowledge. For instance, there is a youngman, called Chaudhuri, who was working in the Labour House at Comilla. The police version is that he was connected with the revolutionary movement before. I am not in a position to say from my personal knowledge whether that allegation is right or wrong; but I know, when he was arrested six years ago, he was leading a quiet life, he was married, had a large family to support, and he was doing some business, and he was arrested on mere suspicion.

Now, I want to ask one question—is it the case of Government that once a suspect, always a suspect? Conceding for argument's sake that a man was connected with the revolutionary movement in whatever remote a degree it may be, does it follow that he continues to be a revolutionary all his life? Do you want to keep alive the revolutionary movement or you want to extinguish it? Merely because a man was suspected of being a revolutionary some time ago, to suspect him and arrest him and detain him for half a dozen years, whenever any trouble arises in his neighbourhood, is most ridiculous. Sir, things have happened like this in my province. Eminent lawyers were externed from the districts. I shall tell you of one remarkable instance. A gentleman by name Mr. Manmatha Nath Das, who had a large practice in Midnapore, had been externed from Midnapore. Those who were at home were externed and those who were abroad were home interned.

Mr. M. S. Aney: The population remains the same.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: I want to say this that I cannot admit for a moment the Government case that the Congress workers had offered violence. On the contrary, my countercharge against the police is that it is they who are guilty of violence. When that Act was passed in 1908, the Government case was that there was a reign of terror established in Bengal and East Bengal by these revolutionaries. I feel, Sir,

[Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta.]

I am perfectly justified in stating without any exaggeration that there is a veritable reign of terror established in the province of Bengal now by the police. (Shame, shame.) If you will examine the position from one end of the country to the other, if you will take the opinions of people of all classes, moderates, extremists, loyalists and people of all shades of political opinion in this country, you will find that the population is paralysed by the fear of the police, there is a feeling of absolute helplessness and despondency, and I wonder if Government can find even a single man who will support their present policy in view of the oppressive and repressive methods employed in putting down and crushing the people, because it is supposed by Government that every educated Hindu youth must be a revolutionary. Therefore, I say, take courage in both hands and repeal these repressive laws and release the people who are in custody under these repressive laws. I say, repeal and release.

I shall conclude my observations in the language of the Government of Bihar and Orissa:

"Subject, however, to the reservations temporarily made in favour of the Seditious Meetings Act and Part II of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, which cannot be abandoned until the present tension created by the non-co-operation movement has been relieved by the action of its leading promoters, His Excellency the Governor in Council desires again to emphasise the importance of removing from the Statute-book, as far as possible, all special laws of this character, so that the Government of India, under the Reformed Constitution, may proceed with a clean slate."

That is my appeal to the Government—repeal and release.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta has given notice of an amendment. Does he wish to move it?.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Yes, Sir.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: On a point of order, Sir? He cannot move his amendment now. We are now discussing the motion for consideration.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It was really an omission on the part of the Chair. The notice was there, the Chair did not see it.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: He cannot move his amendment now. He can move it at the next stage. We are now considering the motion for the consideration of the Bill. Surely he cannot move the amendment till the House has decided to take the Bill into consideration.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is so, the Honourable Member cannot move his amendment now.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: When can I move it, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): When the House considers the Bill clause by clause.

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, though I have stood up to support the motion for the consideration of this Bill, yet I look upon these repressive laws from another point of view. Sir, I am not very much against these repressive laws and against this repression, because, in my opinion, the movement for freedom can never be crushed by any repressive laws or by any repression. The Honourable the Mover of the Bill said in his speech that it has been the policy of the Government to enact these repressive laws whenever any question of reforms is considered. That may be a fact, but my submission is that these repressive laws are generally enacted whenever any popular movement for freedom, for the time being, comes to an end or is in existence. This Act, which the Honourable Mr. Das wants to get repealed, was enacted when the boycott movement of Bengal had ended. Now, Sir, let us see whether any useful purpose, even from the point of view of the Government, has been served by this Act. We find that both the mass movements, after the boycott movement of 1907, I mean, the non-co-operation movement of 1920 and 1921 and the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930 and 1932, came and went on with greater strength than the movement of 1907, in spite of this Act and so many other repressive Acts. I am not very fond of relating stories in my speeches, but today I am rather tempted to relate a story which will put my point of view as far as these repressive laws are concerned. At the end of the Age, *Dwapara*, when this *Kaliyuga* was beginning, there was one Raja by name Kansa reigning in Muttra. He was as good or as bad a king, and his administration was as good or as bad as the Government and their present administration are. It became necessary, Sir, for Lord Vishnu to take incarnation for changing that administration. Now, Sir, when the sister of that king, Devaki, was being married to Vasudeva, there was an *Akashavani*, proclamation from heavens, that the eighth son of Devaki would destroy the king. That king perhaps thought of living for ever, as this Government think that they are going to reign for ever in this country, and he immediately wanted to murder his sister, but Vasudeva came forward and said that he would give him every issue which would be born. On that assurance, the life of Devaki was saved. When Vasudeva got his first son, he took him to the king Kansa, but the king said: "The eighth son is going to kill me, so I do not bother about this baby. You can take it back." Rishi Narada then came to the king and the explained to him: "Well, the *maya* of these gods is wonderful, and the first son may be the eighth if you count the number from the reverse side, and, therefore, you must kill him." In this way, all the seven sons of Vasudeva were killed. Of course, the eighth was Lord Krishna. He could not be killed and he destroyed the king.

Mr. M. S. Aney: But a girl was killed. Don't forget to mention that.

Seth Govind Das: Yes, and my Honourable friend, Mr. Aney, has mentioned that for me. Now, the reason why Rishi Narada went and asked king Kansa to kill all the seven sons was that he thought the greater the atrocities of the king the sooner would come his end, and, therefore, I say, from my point of view. . . . .

Mr. M. S. Aney: Like Narada! (Laughter.)

Seth Govind Das: . . . . . repressive laws and this repression are in the interests of the movement for freedom. ("Hear, hear" from the Congress Party Benches.)

As far as the use or misuse of this Act is concerned, I think it is not in one province or in one district or in one city that this Act has been misused. In the year 1920, under this very Act, peaceful volunteers' organisations in the United Provinces, in the Punjab, in Bengal. . . .

An Honourable Member: In Assam.

Seth Govind Das: . . . . and in other provinces were declared unlawful. In 1930 and 1932, the same thing was done. As far as my province, the Central Provinces, is concerned, I think the Honourable the Home Member cannot say that there has been any terrorist movement in that province, and, in spite of that, this Act was used in that province. All the Provincial Congress Committees there—the *Maha Koshal* Provincial Congress Committee, the Berar Provincial Congress Committee, and the Central Provinces Marathi Provincial Congress Committee—the Honourable the Home Member cannot say that any of these Committees have done anything which can be called violent, and still, all these three Committees—were declared illegal. Many district Congress Committees were declared illegal, and many people were arrested and peaceful meetings and peaceful processions were dispersed by *lathi* blows. Here I shall give only one of the numerous instances of my own city Jubbulpore. After the arrest of Mahatma Gandhi on the 3rd January, 1932, we wanted to hold a public meeting to congratulate Gandhiji. That meeting was perfectly peaceful. I was presiding over that meeting, being the President of the Provincial Congress Committee, and nobody can say that I had any connection with violence whatsoever. Then the crowd, which numbered 20 or 25 thousand, was absolutely peaceful. We were sitting there. As soon as the meeting commenced, the police—special police, mounted police, all sorts of police—came there and the official on behalf of Government came to me and told me that "as soon as you begin speeches, the meeting shall be dispersed". I asked him: "We are only holding a meeting for congratulating Gandhiji on his arrest, and the whole crowd is peaceful. Where is the question of dispersing the meeting or doing anything of that sort?" When he did not pay any attention to what I said, we sat there without making speeches for four days and four nights, mind it, in the bitter cold of January. On the fifth day, in spite of our not doing anything and sitting there peacefully for four days and four nights, that meeting was dispersed with *lathi* blows, and I, with my two comrades, Pandit Dwarka Prasad Mishra and Thakur Laxhmanshingh were arrested and sentenced . . . . . (*Cries of* "Shame.")

An Honourable Member: Did you receive a blow?

Seth Govind Das: Yes, I also received a blow in my back and there was a swelling, and, if the Honourable the Home Member will ask the jail authorities of Jubbulpore, they will say that it is a fact.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Did you retaliate?

Seth Govind Das: No. How we, non-violent people, can retaliate? This has happened, Sir, not only in Jubbulpore. This has happened everywhere. The dispersal of peaceful meetings and peaceful processions was

the order of the day. People having no concern with violence whatsoever were arrested, jailed and fined. I ask the Honourable the Home Member, whether the use of this Act in this way is a right use? If using it in the way in which it has been used cannot be called misuse, I do not know what on earth can be called misuse.

An Honourable Member: It is not misuse. It is abuse.

Seth Govind Das: As I have said in the beginning, though I am not very much opposed to these repressive laws and repression, yet, because there is so much talk of co-operation here, and we always hear from the opposite Benches that we are not co-operating, we want to see whether the Treasury Benches want to co-operate with us. This is one of the ways to show that there is some change of heart as far as they are concerned.

An Honourable Member: They have no heart.

Seth Govind Das: I entirely agree with my friend, but I have rather the mentality of Gandhiji. I always hope to see the change of heart in my opponents.

I have nothing more to say except this that I am absolutely certain that freedom's battle can never be suppressed by this repression or these repressive laws. As has been said by a famous English poet:

> "Freedom's battle once begun,
> Bequeathed from bleeding sire to son,
> Though baffled oft, is ever won."

I have great faith in this saying. Yet, in the present circumstances, as they are, I do support the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: The question which is at issue before this Honourable House is whether this Act of 1908 should be repealed. Is there any justification for its continuance? My Honourable friend, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, said that we need not inquire as to whether this Act was justified in 1908 or not. Let us start with that. Let us start with the fact that this Act was passed in 1908, and the sole question now is, whether, in 1935, this Act should be repealed or allowed to continue. Some of the Honourable friends here began from 1905 and 1906, and so on. I do not propose to do that, but to answer the question as to whether there is any necessity for this Act continuing on the Statute-book, it would be enough for my purpose if I recapitulate before you the history of the last 12 or 14 years.

If I confine myself to Bengal more than to any other province, I do not intend to convey thereby that other provinces are not equally interested in this Act. People who are concerned with Burma may be able to tell this House something about the state of Burma, the Burma rebellion and the secret societies there, but I am confining myself to Bengal, because, first of all, so far as the speeches here today are concerned, they mainly deal with Bengal, and because, comparatively speaking, I know of Bengal more than of other provinces.

[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

I shall start with certain propositions, indicating the conclusions to be derived from the facts which I shall place before this Honourable House. I shall not, at the outset, ask this House either to accept or to reject those conclusions. I shall state my conclusions, and then I shall give you the facts, leaving you to judge whether those conclusions are justified or not, and, I may assure this House that I shall start with what I call facts, not gossips and not the line which has been followed by Honourable Members here—somebody in some village saying something and then some policeman doing something to somebody. I shall take my facts from the records of judicial tribunals. . . .

An Honourable Member: Judicial or executive?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: . . . judicial cases tried in the Courts before Sessions Judges, or the High Court or Special Tribunals, where the accused had the right of cross-examining witnesses, the right of leading evidence to explain or to rebut the evidence used against him, and so on. I shall not start with asking this House to act on anything which I allege is in my possession on some information taken from the police. When I rely on evidence not tested in Court, I shall make that position perfectly clear. Now, Sir, some of the conclusions which I shall, at the end of my speech, ask this House to accept I may shortly summarise as follows.

These terrorist Associations in the olden days of, say, 1906 or 1907, were very small Associations, comparatively speaking. Whatever they did they did secretly, they burrowed underground and they had not then any such help as the subsequent terrorists got by making use, or rather I should say making misuse of the large number of volunteers and other people who were probably originally intended to be employed to do work of quite a different kind.

3 P.M.

Now, Sir, as I said, it would take me too long, and it is unnecessary, to describe what was happening in 1905 and 1906. Those who are interested in it will find that there are at least two or three cases, including an appeal before Mr. Justice Mukherji and his learned brothers, known as the Dacca Conspiracy Case, the Barisal Conspiracy Case, etc., where evidence was led, witnesses were examined and cross-examined, documents were proved, including rules and regulations of the secret societies, their method of recruitment, their correspondence, and so on, but, as I said, I do not propose to go into that ancient history.

I shall start with the launching of the non-co-operation movement. (*Ironical cry of* "Hear, hear,") Yes, Sir, I am "hearing". (Laughter.) And, with the launching of the non-co-operation movement, boys and youths began to leave school. I shall take you subsequently to judicial proceedings to show what the boys were actually doing, although they originally started with a different idea.

It is possible, they did not start with the idea of taking part in any phase of the non-co-operation movement which would lead to violence or murder or dacoity or things of that kind. I shall show that, after this period, Youth Associations, Physical Culture Clubs, Volunteer Clubs, etc., were started at very many places all over Bengal. I repeat the word "Bengal", because I do not intend that my assertions should be taken as going beyond the province of Bengal, unless I specifically say so.

Now, Sir, as I said, I do not suggest that, in their origin, these Associations were necessarily anything but innocent, and, it is possible, that they had no idea of violence, dacoity, murder or bloodshed. Now, gradually, when the spirit of defiance of constituted authority and the spirit of lawlessness were engendered in these hundreds of boys from schools and colleges, as also other persons, this led to a change of mentality which, whatever might be the case in other provinces, in Bengal resulted in a deliberate departure from the path of non-violence which was being insisted on by Mahatma Gandhi and for which he has always himself sincerely and strenuously fought.

Now, Sir, we come to the year 1921 and I shall be very brief over this portion. We have got to remember that Mahatma Gandhi's rules and his principles were the same for the whole of India and he did not lay down any special rule for Bengal, yet you cannot forget the historical fact that, in Bengal, there was, unfortunately—I say "unfortunately" and not with pride—and I make this sorry admission, that, in Bengal, there was this background of violence which had started long before, this non-co-operation movement—which was sometimes appearing in acute form, and sometimes lying quiescent. The spirit of defiance of authorities assumed far more dangerous aspect from November, 1921, when the All-India Congress Committee authorised Civil Disobedience.

Now, Sir, from 1921—to proceed very rapidly, from 1921 to 1924, as I said this process was operating, namely, idle and excited boys in hundreds of schools and colleges were giving up studies, joining processions, forcing their will on other persons often by intimidation, and, they were, practising and enjoining upon others the defiance of law. All this steadily deteriorated the situation. As hostility to law and order was rapidly increasing and non-violence was losing its hold over the youths of Bengal—if indeed at any time there was any firm faith in non-violence.

We come, Sir, now to a very crucial stage in 1924.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Was it Governmental violence?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Well, if my Honourable friend will let me go on—if there is any point of order, my Honourable friend can rise. I am sure, these things are, by reason of their truth, rather unpleasant to some Honourable Members opposite, but I am not going beyond what I believe to be absolutely true and for which I hope to produce evidence before this Honourable House.

Now, Sir, in 1924, there was a very important event which has been referred to by Mahatma Gandhi himself in his speeches as well as in his writings. That was, what is called, the Gopi Nath Saha Resolution at Serajgunj. Honourable Members may remember that a person of the name of Mr. Day was murdered in broad daylight by a man called Gopi Nath Saha. The accused was tried by the High Court, he was sentenced to death. He confessed that he had intended to murder Sir Charles Tegart, the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, but, by mistake, he had murdered Mr. Day in the belief that Mr. Day was really Sir Charles Tegart. However, that happened in January, 1924.

[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

In the Bengal Provincial Conference meeting at Serajgunj, which took place some months later, a resolution was proposed to be passed in which it was intended to record a sense of admiration for the patriotism and the sacrifice of this assassin. We know from the writings of Mahatma Gandhi that this was a kind of thing which he did not approve of. Well, as a matter of fact, in one particularly illuminating article, written by him under the caption "Defeated", he goes into the subject at great length. He explains that people supporting similar resolutions are untrue to the principles of non-violence, and have "Murder as part of their political philosophy".

In 1924, this resolution was passed. Those who passed the resolution contended that they had done nothing to encourage or admire murder, because, in the opening part of the resolution, they had re-affirmed their faith in non-violence. They contended that they had only admired the bravery and the patriotism and the spirit of sacrifice of this assassin: and that they admired the spirit and not the deed itself. This specious argument has been rightly characterised by Mahatma Gandhi as self-deception. It is obvious that you may offer a lip homage to non-violence, you may say: "I believe in non-violence and I ask you to desist from murders", but, at the same time, by admiring the patriotism and self-sacrifice of assassins, the inevitable effect on the minds of young men would be most dangerous. They would tend to the glorification and eulogy of the murderers themselves. The sum total wipes out the affirmation of non-violence with which such resolutions start. Indeed the inevitable effect of such resolutions or statements was to incite young men to murder. But, Sir, I need not depend on the use of my own language, and I shall rely on the exact language which was used by Mahatma Gandhi himself.

Now, I proceed to 1928, because, that is a very important year. After 1924, Honourable gentlemen may remember, some action was taken by the Government of India under Part II of this Act and a number of people, particularly of East Bengal, were dealt with under the provisions of Part II of this Act.

We had the Ordinance No. I of 1924 passed in the year 1924. The result of that was that a large number of suspects—I am using the word "suspects", because they were not tried in a Court—were dealt with by the Ordinance and kept under detention. By 1928, it was known that the Ordinance was about to expire and it was not going to be renewed and there was a general amnesty, because the Government then thought—it appeared later on that they thought erroneously—that because there had been quiescence for four years, there was no necessity for keeping men in detention without trial. The result was that in September, 1928, most of these detenus were let off.

Sir, what I am going to tell you now is about the Chittagong armoury raid, and every word that I shall state has been proved in Court, and I have got the records here. To put it very briefly, the position was this. In 1928, six of the people who have been described in the judgment as the six detenus, including their leader, Surjya Kumar Sen, who has throughout been recognised as the brain of this conspiracy, came out and captured the Congress at Chittagong. Surjya Kumar Sen became the Secretary, and five other detenus became the members of the Congress Committee at

Chittagong. Having captured the Congress machinery, there was an intensive preparation between their release in December, 1928, and April, 1930, when the raid actually took place. The evidence was scrutinised by the Judges. It was very voluminous and the documents cover, I believe, five or six volumes running into hundreds of pages, and the Judges came to the conclusion that the different Associations, which had been started by these people, were really revolutionary societies and they were recruiting young men and school boys with the idea of having an army of violence. The clubs and gymnasiums were cloaks for misleading the authorities. That is the finding of the Court.

The intensive preparation, as I said, lasted from the end of 1928 up to April, 1930. During this period, as the evidence discloses, preparations were made on a very large scale. Boys were supplied with military uniforms, a general officer commanding was appointed, and some persons were appointed majors, others captains and lieutenants, and so on. Their names appear in the records which I have got here. Now, Sir, what was the position? The position was that the Ordinance had expired and the people who were detained without trial had come out. They were making extensive preparations. They were making full use of the mistaken relaxation of pressure. As a matter of fact, the record shows that reports were coming from persons who were called police watchers and who were getting more and more anxious. In fact, a day or two before this occurrence, these watchers were extremely anxious that something was going to happen. Mr. Sen, the Secretary of the Congress Committee, who has been found to be the leader of this conspiracy and who was a very clever man, was actually putting up in the Congress office, and a party of raiders started from the Congress office for the raid. I am not going into the details of the raid. Honourable gentlemen will remember that it was not a small raid, but rather a small battle. Several places were simultaneously attacked and a very large number of revolvers and guns were looted and some persons were killed. Now, Sir, before anything could be done—and there was no Ordinance,—these people were going on making huge preparations, and, although the suspicion had been excited in the minds of the authorities, before they could actually do anything, the raid had taken place on the 18th April, 1930.

Sir, I would ask Members of this House to realise the fact that this apparent quiescence for four years did not mean that, if pressure were relaxed, there was not going to be any further trouble. In this trial, letters written by or to some of these six detenus or six leaders, whatever one might like to call them, were exhibited, from which it appears that one was actually writing to the others that now that the Ordinance has dropped and we are not being watched by the police, this is the time for us to prepare. About the authenticity of these documents, there is not the slightest doubt. The accused were defended by their experienced counsel; most of the documents were admitted, and, as regards some, they took up rather a curious attitude. They said we are not going to admit these documents, nor do we deny these documents, but we ask the prosecution to prove those documents. Upon that, these documents were proved and certain witnesses were called, but, they were not seriously cross-examined. So, about the authenticity of these documents, there can be no question.

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The writings of Sen and other terrorists give us a fairly good idea of their success in recruiting terrorists. I ask this House to conclude that it is clear that when pressure was removed, the detenus thought that that was just the time for starting their preparations. They knew very well, as everyone having any experience knows, that it is not easy to cope with such situations under the ordinary law.

Now, Sir, I have told you that this raid took place in 1930, and I do not propose to go into further details about this raid or of the subsequent orgy of murders which took place before the leading terrorists were rounded up—a process which took nearly two years. There were various incidents connected with it which may be very interesting as showing the various activities of these terrorists and demonstrating the fact, that generally out of fear, and sometimes from motive of sympathy, people were unwilling to give information against them. I have been dealing with the year 1930, and I have shown that a large organisation had been started. Documents were put in and proved which included mobilization lists. In one of these lists, the number of names was 125, and, in another list, the number was slightly more. In connection with other conspiracy cases in Bengal, similar lists have also been proved. It appears to have been their habit to keep a sort of register showing the names of the persons who belong to their party.

An Honourable Member: Is it for the benefit of the police?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: It is for their own benefit, for having their own records, of those who had joined their party. I believe just as in the military department they keep a record of their soldiers, so also these persons kept a register of their soldiers. These terrorists declared that they were at war with Government and they were an army of revolution. But I hope my Honourable friend will not make me digress in this matter. Leaflets were circulated under the heading "Long live Revolution" and one of them ended with the statement that if any person brought an Englishman or an Englishwoman or child, dead or alive, a reward will be paid to him. They declared that they were at war. They had their own general officer commanding. They had Major Sen and Captain Chatterji. They had their own military equipment and they even ordered water bottles of military pattern. [Interruption.]

I hope my Honourable friend will not interrupt me. I am quite sure, it is very unpleasant to him. The greater the truth, the greater is the flutter in a section of this House. He will let me go on in my own way.

Now, Sir, I shall just show you how things are progressing now from 1928 onwards. My Honourable friend, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, made a most emphatic statement that Congress people have never taken part in acts of violence.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: I never said that. I was speaking of my own province and particularly of my own district.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I have already said that I refer to my province; unless I go out of my way to say that I am referring to any other province, all my remarks about acts of violence, by responsible Congressmen, are confined to Bengal. Others will deal with other provinces.

Now, Sir, I quite realise that my Honourable friend's argument is perfectly sound, if I may say so with respect, that if there is a large following, for instance, in a particular place, there is a Congress organisation with 200 or 300 followers, the mere fact that two or even six of them secretly had been throwing bombs or committing acts of violence, does not necessarily lead to any inference against the association. In each case, all relevant facts require consideration. Wherever there is a large association, there must be black sheep, there must be persons who are doing things which may or may not be known to the generality of the members of the association. But, Sir, I have not the slightest intention to rely merely on such instances. But, if we find, again from the judgments of Courts, that the accused in those cases of murders, attempted murders, robbery and dacoity were not merely stray volunteers, but they were office-bearers of the association, they were the Secretaries or Assistant Secretaries or members of the executive committee, then, Sir, I submit that this Honourable House will come to a different conclusion from that of my Honourable friend, Mr. Datta. (Interruption.) I find one of my Honourable friends interrupting, I do not mind that at all. If any interruption, however, must be made, it should be at least audible. I would rather not have these interruptions.

Now, I shall rapidly give you, Sir, a review of the cases which have been tried in Courts. As I said in this part of my submission before this House, I do not want to move one inch beyond the records of Courts. Where I come to matters which are not proved in Courts, I shall make that position perfectly clear.

I have started with the Day murder case, and here I want to remove one misapprehension that, in referring to cases, I do not suggest that everything was done by members of the Congress. I shall tell the House what exactly was found by the Courts. It is not my case that the non-Congress people are all non-violent and that they had nothing to do with these crimes of murder which were happening in Bengal. The point is not of Congress *versus* non-Congress, but the point is this. These unlawful associations, these organisations went on multiplying rapidly as I shall show shortly, after I have given you the cases, mainly due to public speeches and public writings in which admiration was freely expressed for these murders. As Mahatma Gandhi himself pointed out, the deeds of violence were not condemned sufficiently unequivocally in the proper way. The letter of condemnation was adopted, but the spirit was lacking.

I have told you, Sir, about the Gopi Nath Saha case. Nothing was proved in the evidence against him except that he had joined the non-co-operation movement and that he had left the college on account of the non-co-operation movement. Beyond that we know nothing, and I make no suggestion which is not borne out by the records. But I draw the attention of the House to the fact that a person who begins with non-co-operation movement, as I shall show through other cases, very often ends his activities by becoming violent. Defiance of law, and contempt of authorities lead but too often to the spirit of hampering the

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authorities by deeds of violence. It is not the case, that because a man has joined the non-co-operation movement, he necessarily becomes violent, or contemplates acts of violence. Nothing of the kind. I shall presume every man who declares himself to be non-violent to be so until the contrary is proved, but, unfortunately, the contrary has been proved, in too many cases.

I need not refer to the atrocities which had previously taken place at Chauri-Chaura or many other places, and I come to the Mechua Bazar Bomb case. In this case, 27 persons were accused and they were arrested. They were found with bombs, bomb shells, chemicals, formulas for preparing bombs, documents, and so on. It was a very lengthy trial which took place at Alipore. Of these persons, Satish Chandra Pakrashi of Dacca was a member of the executive committee of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee. The accused, Niranjan Sen-Gupta, was a member of the Berhampore Congress Committee. About some of the others we know nothing beyond this that they had joined the non-co-operation movement when that movement was launched. Beyond that we know nothing further, and not knowing anything, I do not suggest that they had anything to do with the executive committee.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: A number of persons who began as non-co-operators have become Home Members and Ministers of the Government.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: They did not become terrorists, and my Honourable friend surely has his right of speech after me and there is no need to interrupt me now.

Then, Sir, I come to the next case, that is the Dalhousie Square Bomb Case of the 25th August, 1930 . . . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What is the date?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I said 25th August, 1930. I can assure my Honourable friend that I have got the dates as also the dates of appeals to High Courts, and so on. If I cannot give it to him just now, I can do it in ten minutes if he wants to have them.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: As regards the Mechua Bazaar Bomb Case, was it not the finding of the Court that the police evidence was manufactured?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Will my Honourable friend kindly explain why then 27 persons were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment?

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: I want that as a piece of information. I distinctly remember that, in one of the cases, it was found by the High Court that the police evidence was manufactured.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: As my Honourable friend knows, the Mechua Bazaar Bomb Case was a horrible case. Something might have happened in some other cases in which the Court might have found that some police evidence was manufactured. But it has

nothing to do with this case. (Interruption.) I do not know why my Honourable friend should start inaudible interruptions. I started by saying that in a large association there must be some who are black sheep. It is not for me to say that there may not be such cases. (Interruption.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it not possible for Honourable Members on that side to listen patiently?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: No, Sir, they cannot like to listen patiently to ugly facts.

This was organised, as the Court found, by Dr. Narayan Chandra Roy. Who was he, Sir? He was a Councillor of the Calcutta Corporation. He made a very interesting confession which was put in Court, not a confession before the police. He was a member of what was called the Congress Group in the Calcutta Corporation. He was found by the High Court to be a man who had entered into a conspiracy with terrorists and that he was making explosives and supplying bombs. As I have already said, this was done by Narayan Chandra Roy who was one of the originators of the conspiracy.

Then, Sir, I come to the Dalhousie Square Bomb outrage on Sir Charles Tegart. One of the assailants, who died practically on the spot, was found to be Anuja Sen. He was a member of the Khulna Congress Committee and he had attended Rajshahi as their representative in the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee. The other assailant was Dinesh who will figure later on after his escape in another crime. All that we know of him is that he escaped from Midnapur jail and he was arrested with his friend and associate, a man called Jagadananda Mukerjee, in the house of the latter, the latter being one of the members of the Majilpore Congress Committee, and what is more, he was probably one of the most prominent workers of the Congress Committee at Majilpore which is in the Twenty-Four Parganas.

Then, I come to No. 4, the Jorabagan Bomb Conspiracy, and that again was in August, 1930. This was started after some bomb-throwing had been done at one of the police stations. Eight persons were arrested with arms, bombs, bombshells and explosives. In this trial, Dr. Narayan Chandra Roy was figuring as one of the accused. Of the eight accused, who were all convicted, I will give you only the confession of Dr. Narayan Chandra Roy as showing how these associations were worked. I will read an extract from the judicial confession in Court of Dr. Narayan Chandra Roy:

"In December, 1928, I attended the Indian National Congress at Park Circus, Calcutta. The speeches of the Bengal extremists"—*(I will not read their names)*—"the leaders of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee impressed me very much. In November, 1929, I decided to contribute explosives which I might prepare in secret. In December, 1929, I began to make experiments which were successful. In the last week of December, 1929, I went to the Lahore Congress as a delegate."

Then, he says:

"I knew Rasik from before, having met him in the National Congress held in Calcutta in 1928. I knew him to be an active member of the revolutionary party. I saw Manoranjan in the Lahore Congress, 1929. The arrangement made was that he would give me shells, and I would prepare other ingredients; and thus I began to make bombs," etc.

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I may also inform the House that, of the other accused persons, Manoranjan, Arun and Bhupendra may be described as leaders of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee; at any rate, they were very prominent members of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee.

Then, Sir, we come to the Writers' Building outrage in which Colonel Simpson, the Inspector General, was killed, and the Judicial Secretary, Mr. Nelson, was not killed, but injured. One of the assailants was Dinesh Das Gupta. What was proved in Court was that he was Lieutenant Adjutant of Staff, No. 569, Bengal Volunteers, which was started as a Congress organisation by their leader,—I again suppress the name although that came out in the Court.

Then, we have the Shambazar Post Office case in June, 1931. The Congress camp was searched at a place called Ramkrishna Lane and certain persons were arrested. These were seven volunteers who were in charge of the camp there. Shells, chemicals and a certain amount of revolutionary literature was discovered. I think all these men, with the exception of one, were convicted. The accused Aswini made a confession in Court and the others admitted that they were Congress members. Some of them made bravado of the fact that they were revolutionaries.

Then, I come to the Maniktalla Armed Robbery, No. 7. The assailants were arrested after some chase, and I will tell you the result. This case created a great sensation, because the car in which they were found belonged to a very well-known lady of the name of Bimal Protiva. Accused Dhiren was convicted. He was a very well-known worker and member of the South Calcutta Congress. In connection with this case, I may remind Honourable Members of one interesting incident that the principal witness in the case was a man called Asutosh Neogy. Within a few days of the trial, this Neogy was called outside one evening by two young men. He came out and was shot and killed then and there, and the two assailants were never arrested. That has some bearing on a question which may have to be discussed at some stage or the other, namely, whether it is always possible to get witnesses who would volunteer to give evidence against terrorists.

Then, we come to the Senate Hall outrage, that is, on Sir Stanley Jackson, and this was on the 6th January, 1932. The accused was a young girl of the name of Bina Das. She belonged to the Nari Satyagraha Samiti which was one of the Congress organisations started by the lady. I have already named, Bimal Protiva, under the auspices of the South Calcutta Congress Committee. She was sentenced to some term of imprisonment, because Sir Stanley Jackson was not actually killed; it was only an attempt to murder.

Then, we come to the Fordyce Lane case on the 15th April, 1932. The man Amarendra was arrested with bombshells and revolvers while passing in a taxi. On a search of his house, papers were found, apart from certain harmless flags, which showed that he was a member of the Khulna District Congress organisation.

Now, Sir, Nos. 10 and 11, if I may lump them together in two sentences, were the desperate attempts which were made on the life of Sir Alfred Watson, the Editor of the *Statesman*. The man who, in the first case, had fired at very close range at the Editor was a boy called Atul Sen. What

appeared in the evidence was that he had left the Jadavpur College where he was being educated, when the non-co-operation movement was started. That is all that is known of him. He was originally a non-co-operator and he ended with this attempt at Sir Alfred Watson. In Assam, he used to do work for the Congress, and he attended the Delhi Congress as a member. For the second attack, the person we are concerned with is one Sunil Chandra Chatterji who was transported for life. He was an open worker and admittedly belonged to the Joynagar Congress Committee, which again is in the 24-Perganas.

Then, Sir, to proceed rapidly over these cases, we come to the Beadon Street Arms Act case on the 19th August, 1932. This was a case of a person being arrested with a Mauser auto-pistol and some cartridges; on house search, more explosives were found. The accused was a member of the Entally Congress Committee and he was a brother of one of the dictators for the time being, Phanindra Nath Kundu. He was a dictator of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee.

No. 13,—we come to the Nimtolla Lane case on the 31st August, 1933. In the house search, conducted by the police, 177 sticks of dynamite. 118 live detonators and various other explosives were found. We find that Jogendra, who was convicted, had, like many others, left his studies on account of the non-co-operation movement. He became a Congress member and he was actually putting up at the Congress office at Purulia. He started his career by picketing liquor and foreign cloth shops, but later busied himself in secretly collecting explosives.

Next we come to the Sealdah Arms Act case on the 20th September, 1932. The three accused who were sentenced in this connection and who had been carrying revolvers, cartridges and chemicals, were—it came out in the evidence—members of the volunteer corps of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee.

Then, No. 15—the Explosives Act case against a man called Satya Chakravarty on the 30th May, 1934. He was arrested with three bomb-shells, cartridges and other articles and he was a prominent Congress worker in the Nadia District; and like many others he started with civil disobedience.

Then, No. 16—the case of Dhiren Das, 10th July, 1934. He was found with 88 live cartridges: he admitted having been recruited by Manoranjan Banerjee who was convicted in the Lebong Outrage Case and belonged to the Bengal Volunteer Group.

Then, about the Chittagong Armoury Raid case, I have already described. The subsidiary outrages, while some raiders were at large, I am omitting.

Then we come to two cases in Midnapore which are particularly horrible cases: they are known as the Chechua Hat murder case: both are dated June, 1930. In the first incident, two sub-inspectors were killed: they were dragged out of the houses where they had taken shelter. The finding of the Court was that the attack was by Congress volunteers; 15 persons were convicted and the Captain of the local Congress volunteers was transported for life.

In the second Chechua Hat case, a mob of 3,000 or 4,000 surrounded the magistrate and the police who had gone there to inquire into the previous case. They were the Congress picketers of the first day. Several members carried guns. Ten men were convicted.

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Now, I come to No. 20, which is known as the Gangail dacoity case in November, 1930. Both accused were convicted: they belonged to the Young Comrades League. I want to point out one thing which came out in the evidence. This Young Comrades League had their creed also, and this creed was non-violence. Just as the people who had been sentenced in the previous cases had their creed of non-violence avowedly, they used to come under the Congress flag, the leader of which believed in non-violence: yet the mere avowal of non-violence is not inconsistent with violent crimes, although that has got to be proved. The Young Comrades League claimed that by their constitution they were part of the Congress.

Then, No. 21—we come to the Sealdah dacoity case in November, 1930. To put it very briefly, six persons were convicted; they were all members of Congress Committees—some of the Mymensingh Congress Committee and the others of the Sherpur Congress Committee.

Then, No. 22—Jamalpur Arms Act case of 1932—possession of explosives and attempted murder. The accused convicted was Bidhu Sen: he was a member of the Mymensingh District Congress Committee. Honourable Members will notice that most of them are from East Bengal, barring Midnapore and the 24-Parganas which are in West Bengal.

Then, we come to another case which is also known as the Jamalpur Arms Act case which had happened much earlier. Three persons were convicted: the leader, Sudhindra Roy, was Secretary of the Bengal Provincial Students Association. This association also had its creed: it had its regulations: its creed was non-violence. As in the case of the Congress, their pledge was of non-violence and they purported to have adopted the Congress creed by their constitution. Another accused was Nagendra who was a member of the Mymensingh Congress Committee.

The next is No. 24—attempted murder of Mr. Cassells in August, 1931: the three persons who were convicted for attempted murder were all members of the Tangail Congress Committee.

No. 25 is the Atharabari Mail Robbery in September, 1931. The three persons convicted, Gopala Acharya and two others, were members of the Volunteer Corps, working under the Mymensingh Congress Committee: they appeared in the photographs of the Congress volunteers taken on the Independence Day.

No. 26 is the Katiadi police case, late in 1931, which is rather interesting for this fact: four persons were convicted for possession of revolvers, bombs and cartridges: they were members of what? Of the Sanatan Sangha: what an innocent name! Whoever could ever connect bombs and revolvers with Sanatan Sanghas; they had also got their creed: They had their regulations and they professed the Congress creed of non-violence. The presumption of innocence with such harmless names as Sanatan Sanghas, and physical culture clubs or village associations, have but too often been rebutted, and they have been found by Courts to have been used for recruiting terrorists.

No. 27 refers to Aranyapasha Arms Find case in October, 1931; I do not know the exact number, but Jagat Bose, Dharani and several others were convicted. One was a member of the Ishwarganj Congress Committee and the others were members, either of Netrakona or Manohardi Congress Committee.

No. 28 is the Swarikanda dacoity case in January, 1932. Govinda Kar, Manmatha and ten others were convicted. Govinda Kar was the organiser of the Sararchar Congress Committee. The other accused were members of the same committee or the committee of the Netrakona Congress Committee.

Then, we come to the Charpara dacoity case—four were convicted, including Sashi Bhattacharya. There was an approver in that case, called Naresh. He was a member of the Tangail Congress Committee and a man called Birendra, who was killed on the spot, was a member of the Bagabaid-Jamalpur Congress Committee, and the accused Sashi and Kali were members of the Mymensingh Congress Committee.

Then, No. 30—we come to the Betal Arms Find case: a man called Sachindra and five others were convicted. Sachindra was a member of the Mejru Congress Committee and he was organiser of the Ishwarganj and Netrakona Congress Committees.

Then, we come to a conspiracy to murder Mr. Graham, the Commissioner: that was in December, 1932. Six persons were convicted—Sitangsu, Sachindra and four others. They were Congress people attached to the Katiadi or Netrakona, and Sitangsu was a member of the Katiadi Congress Committee.

No. 32—we come to Pakundia case of October, 1932: this was a case of robbery on a large scale: twelve persons were convicted. The leader was a person of the name of Annada Pal. I again draw the attention of the House to the society to which he belonged. What an innocent name! The leader, Annada Pal, was the organiser of the Palli Mangal Samiti, a village welfare society. These Samitis claimed, again, by their rules, to be part of the Congress organisation and professed the creed of non-violence.

Then, No. 33—Gangail dacoity case in July, 1932. In this case, Nibaran Chakravarty and nine others were convicted, and all the ten were members of the Kishorganj Congress Committee.

Then, No. 34—Kamalpur dacoity case in May, 1932, in which Manindra and 14 others were convicted. Of the accused, Indu Das was Assistant Secretary, Bajitpur Congress Committee, Manindra was a member of the Kasba Congress Committee, and Satyendra, the approver, was a member of the Mymensingh Congress Committee.

Then, No. 35—what is known as the Kunihati dacoity case in June, 1932. In this case, Sarat Das was convicted. Sarat was a member of Asujia Congress Committee, and Ambika Das, who was an approver in this case, was merely a Congress volunteer.

No. 36—Mymensingh Arms conspiracy case in December, 1933. In this case, the person convicted was Shankar Neogy, who was a prominent member of the Mymensingh Congress Committee.

No. 37—this is known as the Govindapur (Faridpur) case. In this case, Jiban, an officer of Govindapur Congress Committee was arrested in the Congress office in possession of bombs, and he was sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment.

Then, I come to No. 38—this was one of the few cases in which I had unfortunately to appear in appeal. This is known as the Charmuguria case. It started with a dacoity at the point of the revolver in a

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post office, but, unfortunately, when the retiring Hindu youths were chased by the villagers, a number of Muhammadan peasants, who were armed with nothing but clods of earth, some of the villagers were shot down. Now, Sir, these two accused, Manoranjan and Surendra Kar, not only belonged to the Madaripur Congress Committee, but they were well-known members of that Committee.

No. 39—May, 1932. Two of the accused (Jnaneswar and Anukul) were members of the Madaripur *Ain Amanya Samiti* (Society for disobedience of laws) which claimed to be a branch of the Madaripur Congress Committee. This was a serious case, and transportation for life and ten years' rigorous imprisonment were inflicted on the accused. It was a case of Mail Robbery.

Then, we come to No. 40—Kaneswar Mail Robbery case, May, 1932. In this case, the two accused, Madan and Ramani, were members of the Chittaranjan Smriti Samiti. It claimed to be a branch of Gosairhat Congress organisation. I once more draw the attention of this House to the fact that all these organisations professed to be part of the Congress organisation and had avowedly non-violence as their creed.

No. 41—Faridpur Kotwali case, in December, 1932. This was a case in which Rabindra, the accused, was a well-known member of the Faridpur Congress Committee, and Sachindra, another member of the *Ain Amanya Parishad*, was a member of the Faridpur Congress Committee, and Hirday Kumar was a member of the Faridpur *Chhatra Samity* which was called a Students' Association. These organisations professed the creed of non-violence.

Then, I come to No. 42—this was a case in which an attempt was made to derail the special train which was carrying His Excellency Sir John Anderson in July, 1933. The accused, in this case, was a young person of the name of Sukumar who was an important member of the Ratandia Congress Committee.

After this monotony, I come to a rather interesting case which created a great sensation in Bengal, and that is known as the Naldanga dacoity case. The accused, in this case, had succeeded in getting a loot of about Rs. 8,000, but no one was fortunately killed. . . .

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal: Landholders): That is in East Bengal, and not in North Bengal.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I hope it is not near your house.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: I am satisfied.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: However, I may be wrong; it may be East Bengal, or North Bengal; I am really making no distinction between the two. I am speaking generally of both East and West Bengal. Now, Sir, there was this loot of about Rs. 8,000, —and fortunately no one was killed. Some of the culprits went away with a part of the booty. A very large number of persons were tried. They were defended by learned lawyers, and some of the accused were convicted. I shall give the House a description of some of the men who were actually convicted. Hem Chandra was Assistant Secretary of the

Gaibandha Congress Committee. Sarashi was Assistant Secretary of the Naldanga Congress Committee. Abdul Rashid,—I find my friend, Dr. Ziauddin, is rather unhappy,—Abdul Rashid was Secretary of the Naldanga Congress Committee. . . . .

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): He was not from the United Provinces?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Not from the United Provinces.

Then, Haridas was a member of the Gaibandha Congress Committee. Phanindra was a member of the Gaibandha Congress Committee. Jnan Govinda and Satis Chandra were members of the Gaibandha Congress Committee. Now, these persons, including the Assistant Secretaries, were members of the Congress Committees who had joined in this loot, and, as Honourable Members may remember, the avowed object of many of these loots was not personal gain, but acquisition of money to buy arms and ammunitions for liberating the country.

No. 44—Bala dacoity case in July, 1934. In this case, six persons were convicted. Three of them, Nanigopal, Samarendra and Gamir had previous convictions for civil disobedience activities. They were Congress workers and volunteers. Samarendra made a confession in which he stated that he and Gamir were enlisted in the Yugantar Party, while Nanigopal was a member of the Anushilan Party.

Then, we come to Shanti Ghose case, one of the most pitiable cases. Two young girls had murdered Mr. Stevens, the Magistrate at Comilla. I am not going into the details of this case. One of the girls was in her fifteenth year, and the other was slightly younger. This is one of the few cases which was tried in the Calcutta High Court by three High Court Judges, and, unfortunately, I had to see these two girls in the dock. I remember one of the Honourable Members saying,—I shall come to that later. . . . .

An Honourable Member: Later on?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Yes, very much later on. One Honourable Member, when he was talking about repression on Mr. Aney's cut motion, mentioned,—I believe he was talking of the crown of martyrdom, and he asked the Leader of the House, who is the unfortunate self who is now speaking: "Let him go and ask the brave girls of Bengal as to why they have committed these deeds?" I give you some idea of these brave girls. I am not discussing the bravery of girls, but here were two girls, one was of fifteen years of age and the other slightly younger. . . . . (Interruption by Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury.). . . . . I find there is interruption, and there is quasi-interruption. I would rather prefer no interruption.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq (Bakarganj *cum* Faridpur: Muhammadan Rural): Is there any time limit for speeches or not, Sir?

4 P.M.

Some Honourable Members: Order, order.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Is it a point of order?

An Honourable Member: Point of propriety.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: It is not improper to place important facts before you. My Honourable friends here may get impatient. They may in a light-hearted manner say, get rid of this wretched law. My Honourable friend, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, has told this House of the atrocities committed. . . . .

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: We want to repeal the Act of 1908. All these things took place in spite of this Act.

[At this stage, Mr. Asaf Ali rose in his place.]

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I am not going to give way. Any point of order?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): I should like to know the object with which this long recital of 45 cases is made, and God alone knows, how many more are coming.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member cannot understand the relevancy of this recital, other Honourable Members do.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I do not know of all these societies. I am saying that there are different Congress Committees scattered all over Eastern Bengal. I am showing that unlawful associations were continually increasing in number and activity. The young girls, when I was interrupted, I was going to tell the House, were one in her fifteenth year and the other a little younger,—they were convicted and sentenced, I believe, to transportation for life for killing Mr. Stevens. The way in which they were behaving in Court was, to say the least, so disgusting that their own Counsel, Mr. B. C. Chatterjee, had to intercede very often with them for behaving properly. From the evidence in the case, it was fairly clear that they were mere tools in the hands of another older and more experienced woman and a man whose name I do not think it necessary to disclose. These girls at Comilla had been lectured to. Later on, photographs of Bhagat Singh and others had been handed to them. Other instructions had to be given to them, and they were mere tools in the hands of other designing persons. They were too young to realise as to what they were doing. They were completely led away by eulogy of murderers, and were too young to be able to think for themselves.

No. 46—we come to Luke outrage case. The man convicted was Bhola Karmakar, and it was on the 1st February, 1933.

An Honourable Member: What is your last number?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: No. 46. He began also like others with the Civil Disobedience Movement, then joined the Congress. First of all, he joined the Congress volunteers, then became a Congress worker, and he was convicted to a long term of imprisonment for attempting to murder Mr. Luke.

Then, we come to the Hili dacoity case, I only give two names (date, 27th February, 1934), in connection with this not very ancient history,—Lalu Pandey and Bejoy Chakravarti. They were Congress workers, and they were convicted to some terms of imprisonment.

No. 48—we come to the North Bengal Conspiracy Case. The date is 21st July, 1933. The accused was a Congress worker, who had started his career by joining in civil disobedience.

No. 49—we come to the Mail Robbery case in which Mrityunjaya was convicted in April, 1934. He was a member of the Vishnupur Congress Committee.

I come to No. 50—Prabhakar Biruni. He was an important member of the Mahara Congress Committee. He was found in possession of a number of pistols and was convicted on the 22nd December, 1934.

Then, we come to the Parasuram dacoity case, No. 51—Jatindra Kumar Biswas and Nagarbashi Roy, who were convicted in that case in July, 1933. The District Magistrate, who tried the case, found, on evidence as recorded in his judgment, that both the accused began their career as members of the Fulgai Congress Committee. There was a split in the Congress camp, Both branches advocated violence. One party linked itself to the Yugantar Party and the other to the Anushilan Party.

No. 52—the Pahartali Outrage—this was on the 24th September, 1932. Some European gentlemen and ladies were having a whist drive at the Pahartali Institute. Bombs were thrown on them, and a lady of the name of Mrs. Sullivan was killed and eleven other persons were injured. This was directed by Surjya Sen, the brain of the Chittagong Armoury Raid, whom I have already described as Secretary of the Chittagong Congress Committee,—this was one of the crimes directed by him. According to the Court's finding the executive of the Congress at Chittagong were responsible for this outrage.

Then, we come to the Chandpur Shooting case—No. 53—the shooting dead of Inspector Tarini Mukherjee. The Inspector General escaped, but Inspector Tarini Mukherjee was shot at the railway station. In this case also, the Court found that this was due to the activities of the six detenus whom I have already described, and who were the *de facto* rulers of the Congress organisation at Chittagong.

No. 54—the shooting of Inspector Sasanka Bhattacharji on the 16th March, 1931, at Tarakeswar. The accused was a lieutenant of Surjya Sen whom I have already described to this House as having, with his terrorist associates, captured the Congress Committee at Chittagong.

No. 55—conspiracy for blowing off the Chittagong jail. In June, 1931—this again is taken from the records of the case—there was a conspiracy for blowing off the Chittagong jail, because some of the accused, suspected in the Chittagong raid, were being lodged in that jail. A fairly large quantity of explosives, arms and ammunitions were discovered inside the jail. The Court found that the guiding spirit and leader was a girl by name Miss Kalpana Dutt, who had been trained by, and was living for a fairly considerable time, with Surjya Sen and the six detenus. The shooting at Gairala had taken place in February, 1933, when Sen was surrounded by the military and shots were exchanged. This is item No. 56.

[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

My Honourable friend, Mr. Fuzlul Huq, is disgusted because so much time has been taken. I can assure him that, in choosing these 56 cases, I have not tried to make the list exhaustive at all. I have been unable to find here the records of the Burge murder case, the Peddie murder case, the Douglas or Garlick murder case, or of attempts on the Magistrate of Dacca or at Lebong, etc. As I know that statements are repeatedly made that persons who profess non-violence, who have taken the oath of non-violence, whose creed is non-violence, cannot possibly take part in these murders and dacoities, I have thought it fit, instead of indulging in vague and general statements, which are so often indulged in, when charges of what is called counter-terrorism are levelled against the authorities—I thought it desirable that I should refer to evidence which can now be found in records of Court by any Member if he is so interested. I am purposely giving this House the very long time of five months to discover mistakes if I have made any, because there is no probability that this Bill will be passed in another forty minutes' time.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: What is the percentage of these cases to the total number of Congressmen in Bengal in those particular years?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: My belief is that the number of men actually convicted in Court is very small.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: What is that?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I have got to employ a census officer for doing that. Nor is it possible to accurately find out the number of Congressmen in Bengal. The percentage is very small. The percentage in no way reflects the reality of the situation. In East Bengal, speaking generally, and in some parts of West Bengal, though the Congress people who believe in non-violence were very probably very much larger than the party who believes in violence, yet the machinery had been got hold of and was being run by the party of violence. The docile and inactive believers in non-violence were completely in the background. I may have a great deal to say on that. The men who believed in non-violence might have been more, but it is the men, who belonged to the party of violence, who really mattered. Back Benchers naturally follow the path of their Leaders. I am not speaking in any sense of disrespect. The party of violence may be much smaller than the party which believes in non-violence, but I cannot possibly find out the percentage of that. I am assuming in favour of my Honourable friend that it was small, but what did it matter, if the smaller percentage took charge of affairs? In the Chittagong case, you find that there were six detenus as leaders. The mobilisation lists showed about 200 or 250 persons only. It is not for one moment suggested by me that whoever belongs to the Congress belongs to the violent party or that the majority do not abhor violence as much as anybody on this side. They could, and, in fact, did nothing to check the party of violence. . . .

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: How many persons went to jail on offences of non-violence during the non-co-operation and the Civil Disobedience Movement? How many of them have taken part in violence? That number is known to the Honourable the Law Member.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I am afraid I cannot follow.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better wait till the Honourable the Law Member has finished.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: The main issue, in this year of grace, 1935, is whether there is any necessity for this Act remaining on the Statute-book. The cases show that there were various unlawful organisations and associations in Bengal, and it does not matter to me as to whether they were Congress or non-Congress. If Congress looms so large, it is only because, as a matter of fact, they had a much larger number of organisations than other people, but I have not suggested that because a person belongs to the Congress, therefore a kind of presumption has got to be made that he belonged to a party of violence. What is the reason that these associations flourish so much in Bengal? It is not possible, all of a sudden, to change the mentality of the violent party in my unfortunate province. (Interruption.) In spite of the inaudible interruptions, I maintain that the main cause of their success is due to the laudation which they were persistently getting from a large section of the press and from many public speeches. That is undoubtedly the main cause why the secret societies of 1905 and 1906, which had always remained underground, had never received any applause or encouragement, did not multiply like the persons who, during the last ten or twelve years, were being praised to the skies for murders and robberies as patriotic self-sacrifice.

Now, I propose to place before Honourable Members of this House facts showing what the Leader of the Non-Violence Movement himself said with regard to these laudations and speeches.

An Honourable Member: You are quoting the scriptures now!

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Not scriptures, but statements. These so-called resolutions and editorials start with an affirmation of non-violence and often say that "we dissociate ourselves with murderers" or "we condemn violence", and then proceed to eulogise murders. The meagre recital of non-violence is completely masked by glowing praise of murders, and condemnation of the Government. Mahatma Gandhi pointed out that these have a most deleterious effect on the young men and that it was leading more men to commit acts of violence and said: "don't bring in the question of oppression by Government in these resolutions and leave it alone". The familiar method of supporting these resolutions is well known. You start by saying that No. 1, the principle of non-violence, is hereby upheld, No. 2, that we dissociate ourselves with murderers, and then comes No. 3, a long paragraph, which talks of the patriotic self-sacrifice of these young men, and so on. The net result of all this is to create an impression in the minds of the young people that the men who had committed the murder had done something which was being applauded.

That is what happened in the Karachi resolution which I shall read out to you. In the rather troubled times of 1931, the matter of dealing with Bhagat Singh's memory came up before the Karachi Congress. I am reading from the Indian Register, 1931, Vol. I, January to June, on page 267. Now, the resolution, which was moved (I need not mention names), was this:

"This Congress, while dissociating itself from and disapproving of political violence in any shape or form, places on record its admiration of the bravery and sacrifice of the late Sardar Bhagat Singh and his comrades, Sukdev and Rajguru, and mourns with the bereaved families the loss of these lives."

[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, in moving the resolution (I will not read the whole speech), frankly told the audience that he was not ashamed of the cult of violence, but he felt that the cult for the present could not be practised in the best interest of the country, and there was a fear of indulging in communal strife. He won't use this sword now. That is to say, not that on principle the political murder is bad; it is not a thing of which one need be ashamed, but it is not expedient to use it because communal flares will arise. "They did not know"—this is also part of his speech—"they did not know how many Bhagat Singhs they might yet have to sacrifice before India was free—the lesson they should take from Bhagat Singh was to die in a manly and bold manner so that the country might live". Now, let us see how Mahatma Gandhi regarded this resolution. . . . .

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Are Government prepared to allow Mahatma Gandhi to tour in East Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, I am reading from page 230 of the *Young India* of the 13th August, 1931. It says at the top that this is a condensed summary of Mahatma Gandhi's speech in moving the resolution deploring the recent outrages, etc. Now, I may read a few lines:

"When, in the past, we have condemned acts of violence, we have expressed admiration for the courage and sacrifice of the young men. In my opinion the limit was reached when we passed the Bhagat Singh resolution at Karachi."

I shall give you instances of resolutions which were passed in Bengal which were very much beyond the limit of the Karachi resolution, where eulogy of murder was far more emphatic. However, even with regard to the Karachi resolution, the Mahatma says:

"In my opinion, the limit was reached when we passed the Bhagat Singh resolution at Karachi. I now feel that it was a mistake."

Now, Sir, this was in August, 1931, and, in spite of his declaration that this was a mistake, Honourable Members will find that the mistake was not rectified. Again, of course, I am speaking of Bengal; I do not know what happened in other provinces, in Bengal, they were passing resolution after resolution at which large assemblages of persons solemnly stood up in honour of this sacrifice, this patriotism and the glorification of people who were caught red-handed as murderers. Mahatma Gandhi commented thus:

"In my opinion the limit was reached when we passed the Bhagat Singh resolution at Karachi. I now feel that it was a mistake. I find that the qualifications of the resolution have been forgotten, and the praises have been exploited. I now see clearly, that, however worthy the motive was, the way in which the resolution was worded was a mistake, and we have avoided it this time."

As Honourable Members will remember on account of this Karachi mistake, he wanted the All-India Congress Committee to pass a resolution clearly condemning the murderers, without the "ifs" and "buts" and without the glorification of the murderer, or without referring to the oppression of the Government. The All-India Congress Committee did pass such

a resolution, but it had not the slightest effect in Bengal. In fact, after the passing of the resolution, we had, for the next six months, or longer, the worst period in Bengal—one murder following another. Mahatma Gandhi said:

"I now see clearly that, however worthy the motive was, the way in which the resolution was worded was a mistake, and we have avoided it this time. I am asked, 'if you condemn the deeds of your young men, why not simultaneously condemn those of Government too?' —*I was referring to this, when I heard murmurs, 'Government is responsible', and murmurs of 'Government', 'Government'—I was hearing then half a dozen voices.*—I am asked—'if you condemn the deeds of your young men, why not simultaneously condemn the deeds of Government too?' Those who argue like this do not know the Congress. To recite the wrongs of the Government at the time of condemning political murders is to confuse the issue and to mislead the hot-blooded youth."

I may be pardoned, Sir, if I read that over again:

"To recite the wrongs of Government at the time of condemning political murders is to confuse the issue and to mislead the hot-blood youth. We must tell them in the clearest possible language that they must cease the murders, no matter how grave may be the provocation."

This advice was hardly ever followed, the issue not only remained confused, but in speeches, writings and resolutions, eulogy of murder continued to be prominent. I will read four more lines and I have done with this paper. It is in the same article:

"And now a word to the nationalist newspapers. They can help a great deal, if they will. One often sees glaring head lines in them, suggestive of approval of political murders."

I ask, Sir, did the glaring headlines stop. No, Sir. Some of the worst continued to be published even in 1932 and possibly later. Mahatma Gandhi was putting it in very mild language when he said:

"Suggestive of approval of political murder". "Let them, therefore, beware of the slightest suggestion of encouragement."

Now, what was happening in Bengal? Even in this admonition, and long before it. . . .

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran: Non-Muhammadan): How did you treat this apostle of non-violence whom you are now quoting at length?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: With the greatest respect, but if my Honourable friend will not interrupt me, I should be glad; if you want information, I shall give you. Is it my friend's desire that I should digress from the line of argument which I am advancing in answering these questions?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair thinks the Honourable Member had better go on.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Now, Sir, before I proceed further, I would like to say one word more to my Honourable friend, the interrupter, who asked: "how did the Government treat this apostle of non-violence?" May I ask: "how did these followers of Congress, those

[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

who were swearing by his name, those whose creed was non-violence, how did they treat him?'' Those who committed political dacoities and robberies, did they have really any respect for him? (Interruptions.) Sir, the amount of attempted and half-hearted interruptions give me some idea of how the truth of my remarks is going home. (Laughter.) (Hear, hear.) Sir, I treat those interruptions—as I have been asked by the Honourable the President to take no notice of them—I treat those interruptions by taking no notice of them. Now, I think as my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, is here. . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Yes, I am here. (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: May I remind my Honourable friend of the great honour which was done to him on the 3rd October, 1931, when he presided at a meeting of the Students' Association—for, unless it be some other "Satyamurti", I do not know—Mr. S. Satyamurti was the President of the Bengal Students' Conference.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Yes—I was presiding.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Let me remind my Honourable friend that there was a procession of 150 volunteers, some on horse-back, some with drums, some with bugles, the band playing, drums beating, and the body-guard marching (Hear, hear), who came to receive him in right, royal fashion at the Howrah Station then. On the 3rd October, 1931, although the speech was delivered by Mr. Satyamurti in Calcutta on the 3rd October, it was published in the *Hindu* of the 3rd October. I am making no point of that: it is probable my Honourable friend had given them an advance copy, *i.e.*, to the *Hindu*, with a direction to publish it on the day on which the speech was actually delivered.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It is always done. Does not my Honourable friend know that?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I am not making any grievance of it. I am only stating that it was a copy supplied by my friend. Now, Sir, it will probably come back to my Honourable friend's mind as to what were the kind of speeches which were made at the meeting at which he presided. If it does not, may I give some refreshers to his memory. I wonder if my Honourable friend's recollection will agree with the accounts he received of the speeches which were delivered.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: From whom did you receive the report?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: If it agrees with my Honourable friend's recollection, then I need not disclose the source, but if it disagrees with his recollection, then we will investigate the matter further. Probably it will come back to my Honourable friend's mind that Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose delivered a speech in which he attacked Mahatma Gandhi very bitterly. My Honourable friend is nodding his acquiescence. Mr. Bose attacked Mahatma Gandhi bitterly for neglecting the cause of the Bengal terrorists. As we know, there is a good deal of literature on this subject, and Mahatma Gandhi was taken to task severely, and, I may say,

most unreasonably, by many influential people in Bengal, for not intervening with His Excellency Lord Irwin in favour of the terrorists of Bengal, which he steadfastly declined to do. He was not going to help the terrorists in any way.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: They were not terrorists, but detenus.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: They were terrorists.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How do you know?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I know it from Mr. Sen-Gupta's description of them in his speech of the 8th March, 1931. He referred to them as "violent prisoners". I may have to read that to the House. Mr. Bose's speech was followed, if it comes back to my friend's mind, by a speech by a gentleman of the name of Jnanen Majumdar, and he quoted what he alleged was Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru's motto. I do not vouch for the truth of his statement, but he alleged that his motto was: "To live dangerously, to think dangerously and be dangerous to the British Government." Having quoted that, probably he said in his speech—my friend will correct me if I am wrong—that Bengal youths knew how to mount the gallows. These were the kind of speeches that were being delivered, and probably a resolution was also passed in honour of some of the patriotic youths who had sacrificed their lives.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No such resolution was passed.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I accept that fully and unreservedly. In so far as there has been no contradiction, I take those statements to be correct.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It is very unfair.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Why? Let us see if this assembly, to which my Honourable friend had been taken with all befitting pomp and grandeur. . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti: On a point of personal explanation. I do not think it is right for my Honourable friend to get up and say that probably a resolution was passed, and that if I say "No, it was not passed", then he will accept my statement. He must at least say that, to the best of his knowledge, it was not passed.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: To the best of my instructions, a resolution was passed, but if my Honourable friend says, it was not passed, I will accept his statement.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member's recollection is not what the Honourable the Law Member says, then he can deny it.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It is for the Government, with all their resources, to say that. I may not be able to say "yes" or "no". Is it a fair way of arguing?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I really do not know what this excitement is about. Is it unfair to accept the testimony of my Honourable friend? Now, Sir, I read my friend's speech from the *Hindu*. The Government's resources have enabled me to get a copy of the *Hindu*, dated the 3rd October, 1931. This is what it says:

"The fashion in India today for some people is to think always and to talk sometimes of Bengal as the hot-bed of violence. It is a libel on the fair name of Bengal. Her sons and daughters are so recklessly patriotic that some of them resort to deeds which are violent."

This is exactly the thing which Mahatma Gandhi had condemned and which every sensible man will condemn. This is glorifying these murders as recklessly patriotic deeds. Then, the Honourable the speaker goes on to say—of course, I am judging by the newspaper report:

"I am not a philosopher. Therefore, I will not indulge in the ethics or the non-ethics of violence as opposed to non-violence. That is too profound a subject for me (*I am glad to find that there is something which is too profound to my friend*), nor is it possible for me (*I draw particular attention of the House to this illuminating passage*) to say that violence has always been ineffective. (*In other words, he says, don't you worry, boys, sometimes violence succeeds*), and non-violence alone is effective."

You have got to remember that non-violence may also succeed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is the history of the world.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Yes, you come to the history at once and you say that the history of mankind illustrates this. I am looking at it from the point of view of the assembled youth. What would be the effect of his speech on their mind? The question does not arise as to what was the effect on my mind or on my Honourable friend's mind. He is asking them not to follow the path of non-violence and what are his reasons? Not that he has any objection to violence as violence, or that he thinks that political murder is morally wrong, but he gives two specific grounds which I shall immediately place before the House in his exact words.

I may remind the House that talking of the resolutions which were passed in laudation of murderers, Mahatma Gandhi said that it is self-deception to think that there is no distinction between the resolution which was passed at Serajgunj and the resolution which he was thinking about. Those who supported the Serajgunj resolution (I am quoting the exact words of Mahatma Gandhi) "have murder as part of their political philosophy."

If that test is applied, then the other resolutions, which were passed by different Congress Committees in Bengal, were ten times worse than the resolutions passed at Serajgunj or at Karachi. Then, my Honourable friend proceeds to give them the reasons as to why they should not follow the path of violence:

"While other nations may take their own time to learn their lesson, India has made her choice, in my opinion rightly, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, to use the only weapon of non-violence in any struggle for freedom."

Therefore, his point is that we need not discuss as to whether this is in itself bad or good, but you will follow it, because Mahatma Gandhi has accepted this principle.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: India has chosen.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: "Because India has chosen the only weapon in a struggle for freedom." Therefore, he says, you follow it, and, I do not discuss whether it is morally wrong. It may be morally good or bad to murder people with whom you do not agree, but as we have accepted a certain line, let us proceed on that line. Then, he talks of communal differences and also of something which I am afraid very few of the boys of 18 and 20, who were blowing the bugle and beating the drums, could understand:

"She is pledged to non-violence for her own security. Fortunately or unfortunately, India today is a land of different creeds and castes."

That is the same idea. That is to say, we are not discussing as to whether it is morally wrong, but as to whether it is expedient. Once you start terrorism, there will be communal clashes, there will be, as indeed there was, reprisals by Muhammadans at Dacca, Chittagong and other places. Therefore, he says:

"Do not start this, it is not wise, it is not expedient. Communal violence is the worst form of violence and once it is allowed to spread, the prospects of nationhood will recede rapidly into the background. Those of us, therefore, who desire that violence should disappear in this country, at the earliest possible moment, must pray and work for an honourable and peaceful settlement being arrived at between Great Britain and India at the Round Table conference. That will be a radical cure for violence."

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is wrong with it?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: What is right with it? I am stressing not merely on what was said, but what was not said. I ask this House to visualise the situation. Here is my Honourable friend garlanded, bugled and drummed talking to an association of students. . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I appreciate my Honourable friend's jealousy.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Indeed and really I am jealous. I cannot imagine that I shall ever attain that height of fame that there would be buglers and drummers in my honour. . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am very sorry.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: So am I, and so there is no issue between us. I want this House to realise the position. There was this large crowd of students of the Bengal Provincial Students' Association—by the by nobody knew at that time that it had as its Secretary a person convicted for possessing arms. Here was a crowd of young persons before whom exciting speeches were made about mounting the gallows, and these speeches were extremely violent.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No, Sir.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: That is the portion which has hardly not been contradicted, namely, as to what was said about mounting gallows, etc. The only portion which does not agree with my Honourable friend's recollection is that the resolution was passed. A speaker referred to living dangerously, and being dangerous to British Government to a crowd of students.

Now, Sir, we all know that my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, is not lacking in vehemence of language when he wants to denounce anything. Why this milk and water business when denouncing terrorism? Was there any denunciation of terrorism as such here? Were the boys who were collected there told that it was wrong to have murders as part of their political philosophy? The question whether it was expedient or inexpedient and of India having chosen non-violence were undoubtedly pointed out.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair suggests that the Honourable Member is discussing one episode a little too much in detail.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: If I was addressing an audience of murderers, then I would have used such vehement language. I was addressing an audience of students who were all honourable and whom I wanted to train as patriotic limbs of the nation following the creed of non-violence. The Honourable Member need not teach me how to address my countrymen. I know it much better.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Exactly, because you know how to address the youth, I am making these remarks. They were not murderers, but youngmen before whom mounting to the gallows had been eulogised. For six years, these associations have grown in strength, because of eulogy of violence, expressly and by implication.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is not correct, Sir.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: It is because in newspapers as well as in public speeches and in resolutions there has not been an unequivocal condemnation, but condemnation couched in language which prominently brought out the laudation of murders.

An Honourable Member: What was the Law Member doing then? Why did he not condemn then?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I did. I shall give you only some typical examples of the resolution which were passed. I am reading one resolution of the Howrah Congress Workers. It was attended by many eminent people, Mr. Sen-Gupta, Pandit Jawhar Lal Nehru, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya and others, and the following resolution was passed:

"This Conference pays homage to Bhagat Singh, B. K. Dutt and others who have instilled a new life in the struggle of Indian independence."

The next one is the Bengal Provincial Conference:

"This Conference congratulates Bhagat Singh, Bepin Ganguli and others for their arrest and for their service to the motherland."

Service through what? Through bomb and explosives!

The Bankura District Political Conference in April, 1930, passed the following resolution:

"This Conference offers respect to Bhagat Singh, Benoy Bose....."

The Hughli District Conference in May, 1931, under the presidentship of my Honourable friend, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, the whole audience standing, passed the following resolution:

"This Conference expresses sorrow at the death of Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru, Benoy Bose and others and admires their patriotism."

In the Faridpur District Conference, in April, 1931, attended by many eminent leaders, a resolution was passed in this language:

"It highly praises the self-sacrifice and patriotism of Benoy Bose, Sudhir Gupta, Anuja Sen, etc....."

The Youth Conference at Faridpur in April, 1931, passed a resolution condemning the action of the Government in hanging three selfless youths of India, Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru and Benoy Bose in utter disregard of public opinion in India.

I will not read all the resolutions that were passed in the Jessore Political Conference in 1931; at the Berhampore Political Conference, in 1931, and also at the various other Political Conferences.

As regards the writings in the press, we are but too painfully aware that for at least five or six years, there was hardly a week in which the papers—again I am talking of Bengal, I do not know about other provinces —did not have, in the words of Mahatma Gandhi, glaring head lines for murderers. Before you come to abolish this Act, one has got to think what has been the cumulative effect of things which were happening in Bengal, during all this period up to, and including, 1930.

In 1921, before the Civil Disobedience Movement had been launched, the Committee to which my Honourable friend, Mr. Das, referred, in dealing with this part of the Bill which is now going to be abolished, said:

"It was generally accepted that Part I of the Act,"

—I think that provides for speedier trial,—

"That Part I of the Act has failed to achieve, in Bengal, the purpose for which it was designed. As regards Part II, the conspiracy sections of the Indian Penal Code it might meet the case but only if evidence were forthcoming. It was in no small measure, the impossibility of obtaining evidence owing to intimidation of witnesses that led to the enactment. As we have already seen there is definite evidence of certain organisations encouraging acts of violence or resorting to intimidation recently and it has been necessary to declare certain associations of volunteers unlawful under section 16 of the Act. We have carefully examined the circumstances which led to this action. The volunteer movement began with social service, but the adherents soon developed a definite tendency to interfere with the duties of the police and the liberty of the public. They have begun to intimidate and terrorise the general body of the population. There was a tendency towards hooliganism. It has been proved that some of these associations resorted to violence, that their behaviour at the railway stations and public meetings were objectionable and rowdy. They obstructed the funeral of honourable citizens and held the most undesirable demonstrations in the house of another. They actively interfered with the elections by threats and picketing. There was every reason to believe that their activities, if left unchecked, would lead to serious disorder. The conclusion we have arrived at is that

[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

some of these volunteers' associations in Delhi were seditious organisations formed for the purpose of intimidating loyal citizens and interfering illegally with the administration of this province. The result of the action taken by Government has been, we are told, to destroy the worst features of volunteer activity in so far as it was synonymous with rowdyism at Delhi."

Therefore, they were unable to recommend the repeal of Part II. If that was the position of affairs on the 2nd September, 1921, as to the strength of the volunteer organisation, before mass civil disobedience was started in November, what is the evidence we have now got of what the volunteer organisations are capable of and had been doing during all this period to which I have drawn the attention of this House? I submit, Sir, that if, on the 2nd September, 1921, before the mass Civil Disobedience Movement was started in November, 1921, if that was their opinion, surely, at this point of time, it is unthinkable that this section should be abolished.

Mr. M. S. Aney: That seems to be a printed book; is it available in the Library?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: It is not a printed book that I have got, but I can lend it to my Honourable friend at the end of the day. I have secured one copy with great difficulty. Mr. Das has also got it. It is the report of the Repressive Laws Committee, the Sapru Committee. . . .

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is the evidence printed and available?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I could not get it, but I can make further inquiries. I have not got it.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: I shall be grateful for the evidence if I can get it.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Now, Sir, we have a good deal of discussion here as to whether the Civil Disobedience Movement has been suspended or whether it has been abandoned. As I said on a previous occasion, I say, again, that I make no point about suspension or abandonment. Let us say that it has been announced that it has been abandoned, though that is not the fact. But the question is, is the possibility of renewal of mass action so improbable that we should remove this weapon from our armoury? That our fears are not absolutely groundless is, to some extent, corroborated by what I find my Honourable friend, Seth Govind Das, is reported to have said on the 8th February, 1935. I do not vouch for its correctness. It appeared in the *National Call* of Delhi, dated the 8th February, 1935. I am reading this extract:

"I am a very optimistic man; I never give up hope. I am hoping another agitation will be raked up about which you have no idea at present."

If Government Members had suggested this, they would have been charged with a very suspicious mind.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to Standing Order 29 at page 109, which says:

"The matter of every speech shall be strictly relevant to the matter before the Assembly.

* * * * * *

A member while speaking shall not:

* * * * * *

(vi) use his right of speech for the purpose of wilfully and persistently obstructing the business of the Assembly." (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: My Honourable friend has not succeeded in obstructing me successfully for more than two minutes by this point of order.

Now, Sir, what I want to be considered whether it is impossible or highly improbable that this mass movement will again be revived when one of the Honourable gentlemen of this House, and a prominent Member, says: "You do not know what is going to happen. A great agitation is coming. I have great hopes that these hopes will be realised." On our part, we have great fear in that it may be realised.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Is it folly on their part?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I think it is folly on the part of my Honourable friend to try to interrupt me.

Now, Sir, I do not know how long you will sit, and, in view of the fact that I will take at least another 40 minutes to close my speech, I think you might adjourn the House now, and this business may be taken up in the cooler atmosphere of Simla.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: There will be only one non-official day, so that really we will take it up on our return to Delhi next year.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: There were three non-official days last Simla Session,—speaking subject to correction, of course, as I have no clear idea.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: I am also subject to correction.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, on that point, I submit that that is an issue on which every Honourable Member on the non-official Benches feels you can help them. The Government have given us three days for Bills and three days for Resolutions, the smallest number of days. We begged them to give us one day more, but they would not. I know your powers are limited, but I appeal to you to co-operate with us in pushing forward some of these Bills

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair is sure, the Honourable the Leader of the House will consider this matter.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I think my Honourable friend was not here when this matter was discussed. What I said was that there is no possibility of giving another non-official day this Session when we are very much pressed for time. But I am going to look into this matter and find out whether it is possible to give more days in future. I shall certainly pay attention to this matter very carefully.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 30th March, 1935.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, 30th March, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair thought of dispensing with questions today, but found that it might rather inconvenience many Honourable Members as they had had no previous notice. The Chair hopes that the House will be able to finish these demands for grants today: if it is necessary, the Chair will be prepared to sit late and finish them.

ROUTE MARCH OF TROOPS IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

1204. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a party of British soldiers is about to march from Bangalore to Trichinopoly through the Salem District of the Madras Presidency?

(b) Is it also a fact that the District Magistrate of Salem has asked the educational authorities of the District to send the school children to line the route along which they march in order to greet them? If so, under what authority has he so acted?

(c) Have Government considered the effects of such action on a self-respecting people and the inconveniences caused to the school children?

(d) Do Government propose to take any step to stop this practice? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) The 2nd Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment, commenced a route march from Bangalore on the 10th February and returned there on the 23rd February through the Salem District.

(b) Yes, but the Local Government considered such instructions unnecessary and cancelled them before the route march commenced.

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

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am asking "Have Government considered the effects of such action on a self-respecting people?" I understand that the particular march has been cancelled: but does the policy continue?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The route march was not cancelled: the orders directing the school children to turn out to see the troops were cancelled.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Under what rules or authority or practice, did the District Magistrate ask the educational authorities to send children to line the route along which the soldiers marched in order to greet them?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Under standing executive instructions that children should be given a chance of seeing troops, which they generally do not get.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government consider the desirability of cancelling this standing executive instruction, in view of the statement in the question that it is likely to hurt the self-respect of the people?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That is not a statement; that is an allegation.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it giving the children a chance or is it compelling them to go?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I take it the orders would be that the school should be closed for a sufficient time to allow the children to see the troops.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware that the order of the District Magistrate was that the teachers must ask these school children to go and line the routes?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair understands the order has been cancelled.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I want to know whether such things are going to be discontinued in future.

(No answer.)

REVISION OF THE LAND REVENUE POLICY IN THE CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS.

1205. ***Seth Govind Das:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they intend to revise their land revenue policy in the centrally administered areas, in view of the hardship caused to the agriculturists who are unable to pay the revenue, due to the slump in the prices of their crops, and in the light of the demands made by the agriculturists that the basis of assessment should be the same as that of income-tax?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I would refer the Honourable Member to the relevant portion of the Honourable the Finance Member's speech in this House on the 14th February, 1935.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Were any remissions given in the centrally administered areas?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Yes: in 1933-34, when floods were bad in Delhi, they remitted a sum of Rs. 1,32,373 out of a demand of Rs. 3,33,000.

Seth Govind Das: Are they going to do anything this year?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I cannot say just now, because it depends upon the recommendation of the local authorities.

CHANGE IN THE CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF CLERKS IN THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

1206. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Is it a fact that conditions of service of clerks in Army Headquarters have been changed?

(b) What is the nature of the change?

(c) What are the reasons for the change?

(d) What were the defects the Army Authorities found in the previous conditions of service?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) Yes.

(b) Those clerks, British and Indian, who entered the ministerial establishment after 27th September, 1931, have been enrolled in a special section of the Indian Army Corps of Clerks instead of being regarded as civilians.

(c) and (d). The experience of the last ten years or so has shown that a military organization is more suitable for these military offices.

CLERKS OF THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS FORCED TO ENROL IN THE INDIAN ARMY CORPS OF CLERKS.

1207. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Is it a fact that the clerks of the Army Headquarters who were given no notice of new conditions of service before they joined are being forced to enrol in the Indian Army Corps of Clerks under the pain of being retrenched?

(b) Were they given notice of reduction?

(c) If so, were they given due notice of the change of conditions of service? If not, why not?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) No.

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

REDUCTION IN THE PAY OF THE NEW INDIAN CLERKS AND INCREASE IN THE PAY OF THE ENGLISH SOLDIER CLERKS IN THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

1208. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Is it a fact that while the pay of the new Indian clerks in the Army Headquarters was reduced, the pay of the English soldier clerks was raised?

(b) What is the amount of increase in the pay of the English soldier clerks over their previous scale?

(c) What is the amount of reduction in the pay of the Indian clerks?

(d) Was the reduction of the pay of the Indian clerks made to enable Government to give enhanced pay to the English soldier clerks?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) Following the reductions made for civilian personnel in other offices under the Government of India, there has been some reduction in the pay of Indian clerks in the Army Headquarters. The pay of English soldier clerks, on the other hand, has not been raised, but has merely been brought into line with the rates of pay given in other military offices in India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) I lay a statement on the table showing the old and the new rates of pay for Indian clerks in Army Headquarters and in the offices of the Government of India.

(d) No.

Civilian Clerks.

Old rates of pay in Army Headquarters	Rs. 90 to 450
Old rates of pay in Government of India Secretariat offices	,, 90 to 500
New rates of pay in Army Headquarters . . .	,, 60 to 360
New rates of pay in Government of India Secretariat offices	,, 60 to 400

INDIAN ARMY CORPS OF CLERKS.

1209. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Is the Indian Army Corps of Clerks a part of the military organisation?

(b) Is field service during war a part of their normal duties?

(c) Will this Army Corps of Clerks be requisitioned for service beyond India during peace and during war time?

(d) Will the pay and emoluments be enhanced during war time and during field-service?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Their terms of service certainly include a liability to serve anywhere on active service. There is not the least likelihood, however, of their being called upon to serve outside India.

(d) If the clerks were employed on field service, their emoluments would be increased by the amount of any field service allowances and concessions that might be granted.

PASSENGER FARES FOR JOURNEY BY THE GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS BETWEEN MADRAS AND DELHI.

1210. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Are Government aware of the fact that passenger fares are comparatively higher for journey by the Grand Trunk Express between Madras and Delhi?

(b) Will Government state the rates of passenger fares per mile for third class, intermediate class, second class and first class for journey by the Grand Trunk Express between Madras and Delhi and on the East Indian Railway between Calcutta and Delhi per mile per passenger in the various classes?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the difference, if there is any?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) My Honourable friend's question does not indicate what comparison he has in mind.

(b) The total fares charged and the average per mile of distances travelled are given in the statement which I lay on the table.

(c) The differences are due, in the first place, to the scale of fares on each of the railways concerned not being uniform, as each Railway Administration determines for itself the fares to be charged on its line. Then again, in the case of the journey between Delhi and Madras, the telescopic scale of fares applying over each of the three railways concerned is calculated on the local distance over each railway, whereas between Howrah and Delhi, the telescopic scale of fares applies practically on the through distance as apart for a short section of 13 miles between Delhi and Ghaziabad only one Railway is concerned.

Statement.

	Total fare. Rs. a. p.	per mile. pies.
(i) Between Madras and Delhi by the Grand Trunk Express :		
1st Class.	145 6 0	20·51
2nd Class	72 11 0	10·25
Intermediate Class . . .	44 14 0	6 33
3rd Class	23 7 0	3·31
(ii) Between Howrah and Delhi—		
1st Class	74 13 6	15·92
2nd Class	37 7 6	7·97
Intermediate Class . . .	20 0 6	4·25
3rd Class	10 1 6	2·14

SPEED OF THE GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS BETWEEN MADRAS AND DELHI AND THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY MAIL TRAIN BETWEEN CALCUTTA AND DELHI.

1211. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) What is the speed of the Grand Trunk Express between Madras and Delhi and the East Indian Railway mail train between Calcutta and Delhi?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the slow speed of the Grand Trunk Express in comparison with other lines?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of running faster trains over the trunk lines between Madras and Delhi daily?

(d) If daily fast service is for any reason impossible, are they prepared to consider the feasibility of running fast service trains twice a week?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The through speed per hour, including booked stoppages, averages approximately to:

Grand Trunk Express :	
Madras to Delhi	28 miles.
Delhi to Madras	29 ,,
East Indian Railway Mail	
Calcutta to Delhi	39 ,,
Delhi to Calcutta	38 ,,

(b) The slower through speed of the Grand Trunk Express is due to the fact that, except for a short section of 48 miles, there is only a single line between Madras and Delhi, and, on the sections of this line, between Bezwada and Itarsi, most of the road-side stations are non-interlocked, which necessitates a restriction of speed over points to ten miles an hour. Moreover, through traffic on these trains is comparatively small and the trains have to stop at a comparatively larger number of intermediate stations to pick up traffic *en route*.

(c) and (d). These points will be considered.

WANT OF A RESTAURANT CAR IN THE GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS.

1212. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Are Government aware that there is no restaurant car attached to the Grand Trunk Express?

(b) How long do Government propose to take for such a provision in the long journey of 48 hours?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). A third class refreshment car runs between Balharshah and Delhi, and a dining car for upper class passengers between Balharshah and Nagpur. The number of upper class passengers travelling does not justify the running of a through dining car between Madras and Delhi, but sufficient time has been allowed for meals at refreshment room stations over those sections on which a dining car is not provided.

INSUFFICIENCY OF WATER SUPPLY IN THE TANKS OF THE PASSENGER COACHES OF ALL CLASSES ON THE GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS.

1213. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Are Government aware that water supply in the tanks of the passenger coaches of all classes on the Grand Trunk Express is insufficient, and where it is sufficient the tanks are full of coal dust?

(b) Are Government prepared to take effective measures to prevent coal dust from spoiling water tanks in the carriages?

(c) Do Government propose to issue necessary instructions to the Agents of the Railways concerned to refill empty tanks or partially filled tanks three times a day during the journey from Madras to Delhi?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) No.

(b) and (c). I am bringing the Honourable Member's question to the notice of the Railway Administrations concerned with a view to suitable action being taken to remedy matters.

OLD AND RICKETY CONDITION OF PASSENGER CARRIAGES ON THE GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS.

1214. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Are Government aware that the passenger carriages of all classes, particularly the first, second and intermediate classes, on the Grand Trunk Express are old and rickety, having lavatories with disjointed, leaky taps and rattling doors and windows?

(b) Are Government prepared to dismantle them as unfit for use, and if not to issue instructions to the Agents concerned regarding conditions of these carriages and see that necessary repairs are done?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Government have not received any other complaints of a similar nature, since it was decided in 1933 to ask the Great Indian Peninsula Railway to provide the stock.

(b) The matter is being brought to the notice of the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

GRIEVANCES OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT IN BIHAR AND ORISSA FORCED TO DEAL WITH INCREASED WORK AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE.

1215. ***Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Are Government aware that while the Posts and Telegraphs Department resumed work immediately after the Great Bihar Earthquake of last year in the affected regions, other public Departments like Patna High Court, Civil and Criminal Courts, were closed for some time?

(b) Are Government aware that on account of the earthquake the volume of postal and telegraph work increased tremendously, and if so, will Government be pleased to state the probable additional earnings of the Department due to the earthquake, and details regarding the estimated additional traffic?

(c) Are Government aware that the additional work was performed in spite of the panic caused by earthquake without requisitioning additional staff?

(d) Are Government aware that the strain of work on the employees of Posts and Telegraphs Department in Bihar was at least equal to that of other Government employees and in many cases greater?

(e) Are Government aware that the Local Government exempted their servants, working in Bihar, from wage cuts for six months as a partial relief, while the Government of India have not yet taken any action in giving the same relief to postal and telegraph workers?

(f) Is it a fact that the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, during an interview he gave to the representatives of the Bihar Postal and Railway Mail Service Employees' Association, assured them that the same concessions granted by the Local Government to its servants, will be given to the servants of the Posts and Telegraphs Department also?

(g) Is it a fact that the employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department in Bihar have requested Government to convert the advance of one month's pay given to them, into bonus on the ground, among others, that the Department had increased its revenue due to the earthquake and the employees of the Department worked hardest under most difficult conditions? If so, will Government be pleased to state what they propose to do in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) As regards the first part of the question, the facts are substantially as stated by the Honourable Member. As regards the second part, Government have no information.

(b) It is a fact that for a short period immediately after the earthquake, there was a large increase in postal and telegraph traffic but Government regret they are unable to estimate the additional traffic and earnings due to this cause.

(c) The facts are not as stated by the Honourable Member. Additional staff was given where needed to cope with the extra work.

(d) Government have no reason to believe that the strain was less than in some other departments.

(e) As regards the first part, the fact is as stated by the Honourable Member. As regards the second part, it has been decided to exempt from the emergency cuts certain members of the Posts and Telegraphs Staff in the affected area for a definite period, and orders are under issue.

(f) Yes.

(g) As regards the first part, Government understand that the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, has received certain representations on the subject mentioned by the Honourable Member, but these have been based on the loss and hardships caused to the staff and not on the fact that there has been an increase in the Post and Telegraph revenues as a result of the earthquake.

As regards the second part, no such concession was granted by the Government of Bihar and Orissa to their employees, and Government do not consider that there is sufficient justification for treating the employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department differently from those of the Local Government.

PROVISION OF A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF QUARTERS FOR *DUFTRIES* IN SIMLA.

1216. ***Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** (a) Is it a fact that Government have built at Simla a large number of quarters for all classes of employees of the Government of India, except for *duftries*?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state the reasons why quarters for *duftries* have not been provided?

(c) What was the approximate number of duftries who required Government quarters in Simla last summer, and what accommodation, if any, was allotted to them?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of providing sufficient number of quarters for *duftries* in Simla? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). Apart from accommodation set aside for inferior servants employed in the Foreign Office and in Army Headquarters, Government have provided 401 quarters for allotment to inferior servants in Simla. These quarters are distributed to the Departments of the Government of India and *duftries* may be accommodated in them at the discretion of Departments.

(c) In view of the method of allotment the information is not readily available, and Government do not consider that the labour involved in its collection would be justified by the result.

(d) No. Government do not propose to build more quarters for inferior servants in Simla until the question of the Delhi-Simla move is finally settled.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: In view of the fact that it is difficult to get accommodation in the case of *duftries*, will Government be pleased to reconsider the question and see that some arrangement is made for these *duftries* who are, after all, assistant clerks in each and every office?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have already replied to that: I have said that Government are not prepared to reconsider this question until the question of the Delhi-Simla move is finally settled.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When will that question be finally decided?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I will not venture to attempt a prophecy.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it under consideration?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That question has already been fully answered in reply to questions in this House.

DEATHS FROM MALARIA IN BRITISH INDIA.

1217. ***Mr. M. S. Aney:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of deaths from malaria in every province of British India per year from 1924 to 1934?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I lay a statement on the table.

The enclosed statements show for the years 1924 to 1933:

(1) the number of deaths from malaria in certain provinces.

(2) the number of deaths from fevers in the various provinces in British India.

Deaths from malaria are not recorded in all provinces and even for those areas in which they are recorded the figures are not reliable. It is also impossible to determine what proportion of the deaths registered under fevers is due to malaria, but approximately one-third of these deaths may be said to be due to malaria.

STATEMENT (i).

Statement showing the number of deaths from Malaria in certain provinces during the years 1924 to 1933.

	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
Bombay . . .	49,921	48,505	54,224	45,641	44,682	30,851	21,119	20,851	21,038	30,374
Bengal . . .	527,902	497,473	458,208	429,143	368,691	335,414	336,879	349,111	327,386	413,922
United Provinces .	824,428	765,799	749,868	698,290	687,001	711,134	832,113	932,796	782,230	625,694
Burma . . .	2,069	2,320	2,383	2,373	2,559	2,535	2,251	1 795	1,725	1,704
Coorg* . . .	2,541	2,482	3,195	3,006	3,051	2,501	2,593	2,332	2,546	2,770
Delhi . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	12	5	72

* For Urban areas only.

STATEMENT (ii).

Statement showing the number of deaths from Fevers in different provinces in British India during the years 1924 to 1933.

Province.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
Madras . . .	322,356	316,406	337,945	321,995	344,683	339,052	330,496	331,834	291,416	300,182
Bombay . . .	214,563	183,764	222,466	186,543	206,356	246,428	223,274	195,139	195,251	196,527
Bengal . . .	912,408	874,228	822,774	789,006	752,003	713,531	705,066	731,784	691,513	812,393
United Provinces .	947,807	875,594	867,939	786,552	765,954	810,583	942,469	1,025,285	853,256	698,173
Punjab . . .	452,187	401,775	436,156	358,679	316,285	402,429	422,377	416,974	388,427	460,731
Burma . . .	75,288	68,685	72,790	75,321	76,815	78,546	83,950	75,297	75,897	85,816
Bihar and Orissa .	660,635	557,224	584,444	559,360	564,979	602,038	643,518	729,447	564,666	574,548
Central Provinces .	240,944	204,667	252,609	224,068	259,109	271,054	287,330	294,839	237,743	231,851
Assam . . .	113,198	98,015	93,689	89,324	89,255	83,520	89,772	93,189	98,211	103,890
North West Frontier Province.	45,699	35,258	38,221	38,673	33,159	42,415	38,884	38,959	38,582	40,570
Coorg . . .	5,603	4,116	4,441	4,092	4,157	3,111	3,244	2,920	2,944	3,058
Delhi . . .	8,042	8,495	12,069	7,467	6,544	8,437	6,879	7,026	7,305	11,038
Ajmer-Merwara . .	8,932	8,037	12,633	10,374	9,702	11,759	10,435	13,403	10,934	11,522
British India .	4,007,662	3,636,264	3,758,176	3,451,454	3,428,951	3,612,903	3,787,694	3,956,096	3,456,145	3,530,299

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Is malaria on the increase steadily or is it decreasing?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The figures fluctuate from year to year.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: From the figures that the Government have collected, what is the general impression so far as malaria is concerned?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The fact of the matter is that it is impossible to draw any definite conclusion from the figures as to whether it is on the increase or on the decrease: the figures are only for the provinces for which separate malaria statistics are available: they fluctuate according to the seasonal conditions of the year.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Anyway, it is not definitely decreasing.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: No: I am not prepared to say that it is definitely decreasing: nor am I prepared to say that it is definitely increasing.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Is there any province for which figures are not available?.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The fact of the matter is this: that only the provinces of Bengal, Bombay, United Provinces, Delhi, and Coorg maintain separate statistics for malaria: for India as a whole we have statistics for all kinds of fever. That is the position.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government expenditure for the prevention of the spread of malaria increasing from year to year?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: As my Honourable friend is aware, public health is a provincial transferred subject: I have asked for information from the provinces, and, until I have received it, I cannot say whether it is increasing or not.

SALE OF QUININE.

1218. ***Mr. M. S. Aney:** Will Government be pleased to state the quantity of quinine sold in each province and the amount recovered for its price per year from 1924 to 1934?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Information is being collected from Local Governments and will be communicated to the House in due course.

EXPENSES INCURRED FOR THE PURCHASE OF QUININE AND FOR ITS DISTRIBUTION AND SALE.

1219. ***Mr. M. S. Aney:** Will Government be pleased to state the expenses incurred by them per year from 1924 to 1934 for (i) the purchase of quinine and (ii) the distribution and sale of the same in different provinces?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (i) No quinine was purchased during this period.

(ii) Government are trying to obtain the information.

INCREASE IN THE QUANTITY AND VALUE OF QUININE SOLD.

1220. ***Mr. M. S. Aney:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to paragraph 32 on page 16 of the Annual Report of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department for the year 1933-34, which shows that there was an increase of 14·98 per cent. in quantity of the quinine sold and of 17·6 per cent. in the value of the sale during the year under report over the sale of the preceding year?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for :

(i) this great increase in the quantity of the quinine sold; and

(ii) for the larger increase in the value than the quantity of the same?

(c) Is it due to any enhancement in the rate at which the quinine was sold in the previous year? If so, why was the rate increased?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and will be communicated to the House in due course.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do Government propose to set apart a portion of this one crore of rupees for the prevention of malaria?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I think the Honourable the Finance Member stated that the question as to how best the money could be spent would be considered in the light of proposals received from Local Governments. I cannot anticipate what the recommendations of the Local Governments would be.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Is the stock of quinine with the Government of India increasing? What is roughly the amount of stock at the present time?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The stock of the Government of India has been slowly but steadily decreasing. At the present moment, we have a little over 260 thousand pounds, I think, of which 150 thousand pounds we propose to maintain as a reserve for emergency, and the question, as to how best we could dispose of the remainder, is receiving consideration.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: What is the cause of the increase of the rate?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: So far as we are concerned, there has been no increase of rate. We have sold to Local Governments at exactly the same price for the last four or five years, Rs. 18 a pound.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Have you sold only to Local Governments or have you sold to any outside agencies as well?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Upto the present, we have not sold to any outside agency. We have supplied quinine to the Government of Ceylon because of the recent havoc of malaria in that island.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Has any quinine been supplied to the Kina Bureau?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: No quinine has been supplied to the Kina Bureau, but, as I informed the House last Session in Simla, the question of doing so is under consideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Local Governments bound to sell the quinine at the price they get it, or can they increase the price?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The Local Governments, so far as the local bodies are concerned, supply the quinine at the price at which they get it from the Government of India *plus* charges of distribution, but on what conditions they sell to the public we really do not know.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: You are going to hold the stock of quinine for emergency. Have you any estimate as to how much, in your opinion, per head you are going to hold?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: That is a matter of arithmetical calculation. If you divide 150 thousand pounds by 351 millions of people, you get the result.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Has the Honourable Member made the calculation as to what it will come to?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I have not got the logarithmic tables with me. Otherwise I would work it out just now.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: That might have been supplied to us, instead of leaving it to us, because it is an important question as to how much quinine you allow per head, per case of malaria?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I do feel that I could not anticipate that my Honourable friend would ask me to perform an arithmetical process which a child of six could do.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: I should have thought that you hold some stock. There must be some estimate as to how much you are to allow per case of malaria. It is not a question of arithmetical calculation. It is a question of mere practical working of the medical subject.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: As regards that, all I can say is that we have decided upon this figure of 150 thousand pounds on the advice of the Director General of the Indian Medical Service and the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India. Whether they have based this calculation on any mathematical estimate or on a general estimate of what is likely to be required, I cannot say.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: You do not feel interested in knowing as to what it was based on?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I think Government do feel interested in maintaining a reserve which, so far as I know, no other Government does.

TOTAL QUANTITY OF QUININE ORDERED, CONSUMED AND THE QUANTITY IN STOCK AT THE END OF EACH YEAR.

1221. ***Mr. M. S. Aney:** Will Government be pleased to state the figures for the years 1924 to 1934 of the total quantity of quinine ordered, the total quantity consumed, and the quantity in stock at the end of each year?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: A statement is laid on the table showing the quantity of quinine issued from the Government of India stock and the quantity in stock at the end of each year during the period 1924-25 to 1933-34. The Government of India ordered no quinine during this period. The Government of India have no information as to how much of the quantity issued from their stock was actually consumed.

Statement showing the quantity of quinine issued from the Government of India stock, and the stock in hand at the end of each year, during the period 1924-25 to 1933-34.

Year.	Quantity issued.	Quantity in stock at end of year.
	lbs.	lbs.
1924-25	12,159	303,180
1925-26	13,999	334,733
1926-27	16,679	337,764
1927-28	18,251	361,495
1928-29	32,134	339,826
1929-30	23,312	319,625
1930-31	19,987	305,561
1931-32	16,952	290,149
1932-33	11,368	282,758
1933-34	12,955	249,234

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the cost price of quinine and the sale price at which it is sold by the Government of India to the provinces?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I have already informed my Honourable friend that the price at which we sell to the Local Governments is Rs. 18 a pound, and if the rent element were included in the calculation, the cost would be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 17 a pound.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM MALARIA IN INDIA AND IN CERTAIN OTHER COUNTRIES.

1222. ***Mr. M. S. Aney:** (a) Will Government be pleased to publish a comparative statement showing the number of deaths from malaria in this country and England, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Turkey and Greece in Europe, the United States and Mexico and Brazil in America, China and Japan in Asia?

(b) If they have no information on the above point now, will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to collect the above information and publish the same?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) and (b). A statement containing such information as is readily available is laid on the table.

Statement showing deaths from Malaria in England and Wales and in some other foreign countries.

	Number of deaths from Malaria.
England and Wales (1927)	39
(1932)	29
(1933)	22
France (1926)	150
Germany (1926)	46
Italy (1926)	2,683
Spain (1927)	832
Greece (1926)	4,024
United States of America (1928)	4,107
Japan (1927)	172

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: May I request the Honourable Member also to find out how much quinine is distributed per head of malaria in areas where malaria is prevalent?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I shall endeavour to obtain that information from Local Governments.

PERCENTAGE OF MUSLIM EMPLOYEES IN THE CLERICAL AND READING BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

1223. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** Will Government be pleased to state the percentage of Muslim employees in the Clerical and Reading Branch of the Government of India Press, New Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The percentage of the Muslim employees in the Clerical and Reading Branches of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, is 22 and 25 respectively.

NUMBER OF MUSLIMS AND NON-MUSLIMS EMPLOYED AS ASSISTANT MANAGER, AND HEADS OF BRANCHES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES AND IN THE CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH.

1224. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Muslims and non-Muslims respectively employed as Assistant Managers and Heads of Branches in the Government of India Presses of Simla, Aligarh, Calcutta and New Delhi, and in the Central Publication Branch, Delhi?

(b) How many of such non-Muslims are Bengalis?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Information has been called for and a reply will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

ORDER OF THE ASSISTANT MANAGER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSS NEW DELHI, NOT TO GIVE ANY FRESH WORK TO THE COMPOSITORS.

1225. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Is it a fact that the present Assistant Manager of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, has passed an order to the effect that no fresh work is to be given to the compositors?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, what is the effect of the said order on the earnings of the compositors?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

NUMBER OF PERSONS BELONGING TO DIFFERENT PROVINCES EMPLOYED IN THE CLERICAL, READING, MONOTYPE, LINOTYPE, WAREHOUSE AND COMPOSING BRANCHES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

1226. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of persons belonging to the different provinces, province by province, employed in the clerical, reading, monotype, linotype, warehouse, and composing branches of the Government of India Press, New Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I regret that I cannot furnish the information required by the Honourable Member. Its collection would entail considerable amount of labour and, as recruitment is not made on a provincial basis, it would not yield any valuable result.

ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

1227. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many and what administrative posts there are in the Government of India Press, New Delhi?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many of the said administrative posts are held by Muslims?

(c) Is it a fact that the present General Foreman of the said Press is about to retire in May next or thereabout?

(d) If the answer to part (c) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to see that a Muslim section-holder is promoted and appointed to the vacancy to be created by his retirement?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Three: the Manager, Assistant Manager and Overseer.

(b) One.

(c) The General Foreman is due to retire in May if he does not get a further extension of service.

(d) Departmental promotions are regulated by merit and seniority without reference to communal considerations.

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI, RETRENCHED SINCE 1922.

1228 ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many employees of the Government of India Press, New Delhi, were retrenched in 1922 and thereafter?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many of the employees so retrenched have been re-employed?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) About 200.

(b) 74.

DEBARRING OF PERSONS FROM EMPLOYMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI, ON THE GROUND OF RELATIONSHIP TO ANY OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE SAID PRESS.

1229. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there is any rule or Government order to the effect that a person whose relative is employed in the Government of India Press, Simla, is debarred from getting employment in the said Press?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to cancel such rule or order?

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, are Government prepared to issue orders to the officer concerned not to debar any persons from employment in the said Press on the ground of relationship to any of the employees of the said Press?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) No. The Controller of Printing and Stationery has issued instructions to the effect that the recruitment of a large number of relatives in a Press or a branch should be sedulously avoided.

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

NUMBER OF LOAVES GIVEN TO PRISONERS IN THE AJMER JAILS.

1230. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** Is it a fact that in Ajmer Jail only two and a half or three breads are given to prisoners as against five to six given in other jails, such as those of the United Provinces?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: No. The scale of diet is the same as in the United Provinces Jails.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: What is the number of breads supplied?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: I do not know what the Honourable Member means by the term "breads", but the scale of diet is the same as in the United Provinces Jails.

CLOTHING GIVEN TO PRISONERS IN THE AJMER JAIL.

1231. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** Is it a fact that in Ajmer Jail only one pair of clothing is given to prisoners?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: No. Two pairs of "clothing" and a *Chaddar* are given to each prisoner.

SUPERINTENDENT OF THE AJMER JAIL.

1232. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** (a) Is it a fact that the Superintendent of the Ajmer Jail is the Civil Surgeon of Ajmer Hospital as well as the Medical Officer for Ajmer-Merwara, Central India and Rajputana?

(b) Is it also a fact that he is often on tour and therefore visits Ajmer Jail only once a week for a few minutes?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: (a) He is a Civil Surgeon of Ajmer Hospital and Medical Officer for Ajmer-Merwara and Rajputana but not for Central India.

(b) No.

JAILOR OF THE AJMER JAIL.

1233. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** Is it a fact that the jailor of the Ajmer Jail is an *ex*-police officer?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: He is on lent service from the Police Force.

ESCAPE OF PRISONERS FROM THE AJMER JAIL IN 1930.

1234. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** Is it a fact that several prisoners escaped from Ajmer Jail during the period of a few months in 1930? If so, what steps, if any, were taken against those responsible for these escapes?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: No escapes took place from inside the Jail but there were two escapes from prisoners working in extra mural gangs during the year 1930 and the officials responsible for the escapes were dealt with, one by the Court and the other by the Inspector-General of Prisons.

HEARING OF APPEALS BY THE DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ALLAHABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1235. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** (a) Is it a fact that in the Allahabad Division no appeals are heard or decided or enquired into by the Divisional Superintendent himself and are always left to be disposed of by

the very officers who initiate the punishment and thus the employees are in practice deprived of all rights of appeal? If so, why? If not, in how many appeals did the Divisional Superintendent make personal enquiries and reverse the initial punishments?

(b) Is it a fact that, under the rules appeals of cases decided by the Divisional Superintendent, lie only to the Chief Operating Superintendent?

(c) Is it also a fact that this officer does not hear the appeals himself and sends them back to the Divisional Superintendent for disposal and he in his turn, passes them on to his subordinate officers—the very men who initiated the punishment?

(d) Is it permissible under the rules? If not, are Government prepared to call for records of the cases in which the Chief Operating Superintendent has heard the appeals and reversed judgments of the Divisional Superintendent, Allahabad?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Information is being obtained and will be laid on the table in due course.

CONSTRUCTION OF A DOWN PLATFORM AT THE TALEGAON STATION IN THE POONA DISTRICT, GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

1236. ***Mr. K. M. Jedhe:** (a) Is it a fact that Talegaon Station in the Poona District (Great Indian Peninsula Railway) has no down platform?

(b) Are Government aware that quite a large number of passengers entrain and get down at the same station and have often complained about the inconvenience?

(c) Do Government propose to construct a down platform on the said station, and when?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a)—(c). Government have no information but a copy of the question has been forwarded to the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, for consideration.

NEW TUNNEL CONSTRUCTED NEAR THANA.

1237. ***Mr. K. M. Jedhe:** Are Government aware of the fact that the new tunnel constructed near Thana, a few years ago, has reduced the distance between Kalyan and Thana? If so, has the Railway Administration reduced the passenger, as well as goods rates correspondingly?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Yes, the tunnel which was constructed in 1917 reduced the distance by 1-1/3 mile—a relatively trifling reduction. No change was made in the distance for charge for either passenger or goods traffic. I may add that the cost of realigning the railway line was about 16 lakhs.

PASSES TO ATTEND SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN OF RAILWAY SERVANTS POSTED AT ROAD-SIDE STATIONS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

1238. ***Mr. K. M. Jedhe:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether children of Railway servants posted at road-side stations of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, are given passes to attend schools?

(b) Is it a fact that the Agent of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway issued orders that this concession will not be available after 1st of April 1935, except to Railway servants working on the line between Bombay and Kalyan?

(c) If so, are Government prepared to ask the Agent concerned to continue the concession, and are Government aware that there are no schools at many of the road-side stations?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

LOSS IN PAY AND PENSION TO PERSONS RETRENCHED ON ACCOUNT OF THE RE-AMALGAMATION OF THE PAY AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES.

1239. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that the Government of Madras and the Railway Board have allowed the old scales of pay to the re-employed personnel, temporary or officiating, who entered service prior to 15th August, 1931 and 15th July, 1931, respectively, irrespective of any break in their service? If so, are Government prepared to extend the same concessions to the re-employed personnel under their administrative control also? If not, why not?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the resolution No. 6 (a) and (b) of the All-India Audit and Accounts Conference passed at Allahabad? If so, will Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take in the matter?

(c) Are Government aware that the persons retrenched on account of the re-amalgamation of the Pay and Accounts Offices have lost much in pay and pension and future prospects by the application of new scales of pay, being already too much advanced in life? If so, what are the reasons for applying the new conditions of service in their case?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether the re-employed personnel were given to understand that the special retrenchment gratuity, the actual monetary value of which is far less than that of the life-long loss suffered by them, shall not be refunded? If not, does this fact stand in the way in the matter of pay on re-employment?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the pay which an ordinary graduate was drawing in the different Pay and Accounts Offices when discharged, say after rendering four years' service, the amount of gratuity granted to him, and the pay which was allowed to him on re-employment? How many years will he take after re-employment to earn the same pay he was drawing at the time of discharge?

(f) Is it not a fact that the re-employed personnel in the majority of cases in the different Accountant General's offices entered service more than six or seven years ago with the result that if the benefit of Fundamental Rule 22 and Fundamental Rule 31 is not extended to them, as done by the Railway Department and the Madras Government, they will neither reach the maximum of their scale, nor be able to earn the full amount of pension?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) No definite information is available in regard to the orders issued by the Madras Government. As regards the Railway Board, old scales of pay have been allowed only to such of the persons who were in service on or before the 15th of July, 1931, as are borne on the waiting list and are re-employed before the 1st of April, 1936. Conditions in the Railway Services differ very considerably from those in the Civil Departments of Government and the retrenchment concessions given to the Railway Staff were generally less liberal than those given to persons retrenched from the Civil Departments. In view of this, Government are not prepared to extend the concession of old pay scales on re-employment to the retrenched staff in the Civil Departments.

(b) Yes. The action taken by Government is indicated in the replies to parts (c) and (d) of the question.

(c) Retrenchment concessions were granted to these men despite the fact that they were temporary employees, and this special treatment was considered as absolving Government from any further liability. If the option of refunding gratuity and counting past service for pay, leave and pension was allowed to these men, it would also have to be extended to other retrenched personnel whether permanent or temporary and the extra cost would be heavy.

(d) The terms to be offered on re-employment were settled, after the retrenchment concessions had been granted to persons retrenched, and the question of allowing re-employed persons to refund gratuity did not arise nor is it one which could be considered generally. To mitigate hardship in individual cases the Auditor-General has, however, been authorised to grant suitable advance increments to temporary men retrenched with concessions while fixing their pay under the new scales of pay.

(e) The required information in respect of two Pay and Accounts Offices is given in the statement, a copy of which is laid on the table.

(f) The presumption of the Honourable Member is substantially correct. By the grant of advance increments in the new scale, however, Government have gone as far as they consider reasonable towards removing these disabilities.

Statement.

Name of Office.	Pay which an ordinary graduate was drawing when discharged after 4 years' service.	Amount of gratuity granted to him at the time of discharge.	Pay allowed on re-employment.	Number of years' service to be rendered after re-employment to earn the same pay as was being drawn at the time of discharge.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Pay and Accounts Office, United Provinces. .	80	160	54	8 years.
Pay and Accounts Office, Calcutta. . . .	92	184	62	8 years.

FALLING DOWN OF A CHILD FROM A RUNNING TRAIN BETWEEN HAVERI AND BYADGI ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

1240. ***Mr. N. V. Gadgil** (on behalf of Mr. S. K. Hosmani): (a) Is it a fact that a child fell from a running train on the 22nd February, 1935 between Haveri and Byadgi on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that the accident was due to the carriage door not being shut? If so, did the doors of the carriage in question shut inward or outward?

(c) Are Government prepared to enquire and state who was responsible for the accident?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, has reported as follows:

> "My information is that the child fell through the carriage window. The child was aged about 2½ years and was accompanied by its mother. It met with only slight injuries."

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the door of that carriage opened inside or outside? Was it actually used or not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The child fell from the window, Sir. (Laughter.)

TRANSFER OF THE STAFF IN THE BHUSAVAL DIVISION OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

1241. ***Mr. K. M. Jedhe:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what are the considerations that weigh with the Great Indian Peninsula Railway administration in effecting transfers?

(b) Is it a fact that there are a number of clerks in the various sections and Station Masters who are detained in the Bhusaval Division for years ranging from 8 to 25?

(c) Have Government received any complaints that partiality is shown in effecting transfers in Bhusaval Division? If so, are Government prepared to take immediate steps to see that equal treatment is meted to all?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Transfers are generally made in the interests of the public service.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative and the second part does not arise.

DENIAL OF THE BENEFITS OF THE PROVIDENT FUND AND OTHER PRIVILEGES TO THE CREW STAFF OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

1242. ***Mr. K. M. Jedhe:** (a) Is it a fact that the Crew System is in existence on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway for the last seven years and that about 50 young men are employed as a result?

(b) Is it a fact that these temporary young men are not given the benefits of provident fund and other privileges, although similar benefits have been extended to those working in the Crew System on the East Indian Railway and Bengal Nagpur Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The sanctioned strength of the Crew Staff, on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, is 124. Out of these, 73 are temporary and the rest have been transferred from other permanent establishments.

(b) Under rule 2 of the State Railway Provident Fund and Gratuity Rules only permanent non-pensionable employees are allowed to subscribe to the Provident Fund. The Agent, East Indian Railway, reports that two temporary employees in the Crew System were erroneously allowed to subscribe to the Provident Fund but their cases have since been regularised. It is not clear to what other privileges my Honourable friend is referring to, but, I may mention, that the temporary staff employed in the Crew System on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway are allowed free passes, privilege ticket orders, leave, travelling allowances as are allowed to other staff. The Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway, states that the Crew System is not in force on that railway.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES DIRECTLY UNDER THE ADMINISTRATOIN OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

1243. ***Mr. N. V. Gadgil:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the Departments of Public Services directly under the administration of the Government of India and at what places their Headquarters are situated in the Bombay Presidency?

(b) Was the present retrenchment of clerks and officers holding posts in the Departments under the control of the Government of India, brought into effect from November 1931? If so, how many clerks and officers on permanent establishment were retrenched from different Departments, and from what dates?

(c) Are there any rules framed with the mutual consent of the Government of Bombay for the re-employment of the retrenched clerks of the Government of India, in the offices under the control of the Bombay Government? If not, are they likely to be framed? If so, when?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, to prepare a list, as desired by the Honourable Member, with dates, for all retrenchments carried out in all Departments under the Government of India, would involve an amount of labour which Government do not consider would be justifiable.

(c) There are no rules of the kind mentioned and it is not necessary to frame such rules. The conditions for re-employment under the Bombay Government are matters for determination solely by that Government, whether the persons re-employed were, previous to such re-employment, in the service of the Government of India or of the Government of Bombay.

CLERKS WORKING IN THE OFFICES OF THE POSTMASTERS GENERAL AND CLERKS AND SORTERS WORKING IN THE DIVISIONS OF POSTAL CIRCLES.

1244. ***Mr. N. V. Gadgil:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are distinct cadres, one for the clerks working in the offices of the Postmasters General and the other for the clerks and sorters working in the divisions of the Circles;

(b) whether the selection grade posts in the General Line in the Circle offices are meant only for the clerks working in those offices;

(c) whether there are separate selection grade posts in the General Line meant for clerks and sorters in the divisions of the Circle; and

(d) whether the clerks in the Circle Offices have any claims over the General Line selection grade posts meant for clerks and sorters working in the divisions, and *vice versa*?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) to (d). The reply to the first three parts of the question is in the affirmative and to the last part in the negative.

TESTS PRESCRIBED FOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE POSTS OF INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES, HEAD CLERKS TO THE SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES, AND INSPECTORS, RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

1245. ***Mr. N. V. Gadgil:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether a test has been prescribed for appointments to the Posts of Inspectors of Post Offices, Head Clerks to the Superintendents of Post Offices and Inspectors, Railway Mail Service;

(b) whether officials, selected to appear for the test, are required to be clerks in the Post Office or sorters in the Railway Mail Service, and should be practical men in the Post Office and Railway Mail Service work; and

(c) whether Inspectors attached to the Circle Offices are merely attached officers and are not borne on the establishment of the Circle Offices?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes.

(b) The selection is not confined to the classes of officials mentioned by the Honourable Member. Men employed in the Circle and Dead Letter Offices are also eligible for selection if they fulfil the prescribed conditions.

(c) Yes.

CANDIDATES SET UP AGAINST CONGRESS CANDIDATES DURING THE LAST ASSEMBLY ELECTION.

1246. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they asked, by means of circular letters, all Local Governments to set up and help candidates against Congress candidates during the last Assembly election?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Government of India issued no instructions of the nature suggested.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Are Government aware that provincial satraps moved from district to district under the pretext of making a general tour in order to find out suitable candidates to fight against the Congress candidates in the last Assembly elections? I am referring particularly to the Government of Bihar, and I ask—are Government aware that provincial satraps or provincial Governors moved from district to district under the pretext of making a general tour in order to find out suitable candidates to fight against the Congress candidates in the last Assembly elections?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Sir, so far as I am aware, the conduct of Provincial Governors cannot be made the subject of interpellation in this House.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: Are Government aware that the Honourable Ministers and the Executive Councillors in Bihar openly canvassed against the Congress candidates in the last Assembly elections?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Government are not aware of that. So far as Ministers are concerned, I do not see any objection to their canvassing.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: What about Executive Councillors? Am I to understand that the Honourable the Home Member means that he sees no objection to the Executive Councillors going about canvassing for candidates?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I said "Ministers". In the case of Executive Councillors, I do see an objection. As regards Ministers, I see no objection whatever to their taking any part they like in elections.

Seth Govind Das: May I ask if it is not the case that, not only Provincial Executive Councillors, but other Government officials—District Magistrates and officials of that category also toured in their districts and helped those candidates who stood against Congress candidates?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, Sir, I am not aware of that.

Mr. Satya Narain Sinha: Are Government aware that a Deputy Magistrate of the district of Gaya went about canvassing against the Congress candidate? I give his name—Mr. Lachmi Narayan Singh.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: How could I be aware of that?

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Will Government take a note of this and inquire into this matter?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already answered that question.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Are Government aware that the Commissioner of the Gorakhpur Division gave a letter of introduction to certain Zamindar candidates?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know the reason why Government will not make inquiries into these serious allegations? Are they not interested in having pure elections, free from Government influence?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The reason is that the matter is solely one for the Local Government.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a function of a Local Government to interfere in elections? Are not Government interested in seeing that the Assembly elections are free from corrupt influences?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The conduct of their officers is a matter for the Local Governments.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a matter for the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, Sir.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Are Government aware that the allegations against the Commissioner of the Gorakhpur Division were published in the *Hindustan Times*?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): All those questions have been answered. The Honourable Member has already said that the matter is one for the Local Governments. (*Interruptions.*) Order, order. The Honourable Member has said that it is a matter for Local Governments.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I ask whether the Gorakhpur Division is under the Indian Government or not,—whether the actions of the Commissioner of Gorakhpur are under the jurisdiction of the Government of India or not?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member ought to know that questions cannot be put except those which are *primarily* the concern of the Governor General in Council.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF FINES IMPOSED ON CONGRESSMEN AND OTHERS FOR DISOBEYING LAWS AND ORDERS DURING THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENTS.

1247. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state

(a) the total amount of fines imposed on Congress men and all others who disobeyed laws and orders during the civil disobedience movements in 1930, 1932 and 1933, separately and

(b) the total amount of the said fines realized till to-day?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) and (b). I invite attention to the reply I have given to part (ii) of Prof. N. G. Ranga's question No. 1075 on the same subject.

Professor N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the reply was in the negative, would the Honourable the Home Member consider the advisability of trying to ascertain and collect this information and supplying it to this House, namely, the total amount of fines imposed upon the civil disobedience movement prisoners and recovered in the different provinces by the Government of India as well as by the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have already answered that question.

Mr. M. S. Aney: What do you mean by saying that the reply was in the negative?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I asked for this particular information, and the Honourable Member stated that he was not going to collect that information. There is no answer, Sir?

(No answer.)

PROJECTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FEEDER RAILWAY LINES ON BOTH BANKS OF THE INDUS IN SIND.

1248. ***Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) if any projects for the construction of feeder railway lines on both banks of the Indus in Sind were under investigation during the last twenty-five years; if so, the places between which such lines were proposed to be constructed;

(b) what was the result of the investigation in the various cases;

(c) if any projects for the construction of feeder railway lines on both banks of the Indus in Sind are under investigation at present; if so, the places between which such lines are proposed to be constructed;

(d) if it has been decided to proceed with the construction of any such lines; if so, the places between which such lines are decided to be constructed; and

(e) if the reply to part (c) or (d) be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a), (b) and (c). In 1926, a survey was carried out of the Sind Left Bank Feeder Railways consisting of:

(a) a loop line from Mehrabpur to Pad Idan *via* Tharushah;

(ii) a loop line from Nawabshah to Tando Adam *via* Sakrand; and

(iii) a chord line from Tharushah to Sakrand.

As a result of the survey, these lines were constructed and opened to traffic.

In 1927, a traffic survey was carried out for a line of railway from Sita Road to Jacobabad with a cross connection from Dost Ali to Larkana which is known as the Sind Right Bank Feeders Railway.

On examination, the scheme was held in abeyance for the time being, but a revised traffic report has just been made of the above mentioned lines and also of the following:

(i) Shahdadkote Bagh Tail, and

(ii) Various alignments between Shahdadkote and Jacobabad, one or more of which pass through Garhi Khairo, Usta, Rojhan, Jacobabad, Jafferabad, and Mauladad.

Proposals for lines between Nawabshah and Khadro and Tando Mitha Khan and Pithoro are now being investigated.

(d) The revised report referred to above has just been received and is still under consideration.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I ask if the Honourable Member would be prepared to allow a deputation or a representation from the Sind public before the feeder railway question is conclusively decided by the Board?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Sir, if the request for a deputation is received from responsible people, Government will be prepared to consider it.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Is not the Honourable Member, who is putting that question, a responsible Member?

Mr. P. R. Rau: A deputation cannot represent one person.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I think the Honourable Member in charge knows that receiving of a deputation has been asked for, and may I request the Honourable Member in charge to kindly say whether that deputation will be received?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: My recollection is that the deputation has been asked for for another purpose.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Yes. One of the railways, namely, the Sind-Bombay Railway, has been the subject of the report of Mr. Stubbs, and, therefore, a deputation wants a hearing. With regard to the other feeder railways, I am asking the Honourable the Financial Commissioner for Railways whether he will give an opportunity to receive a deputation. I hope the Honourable Member will consider that request and give them an opportunity.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: With regard to the Sind-Bombay Railway, I have already personally assured my Honourable friend that no decision will be taken until the deputation has been given an opportunity of placing its case before the Railway Board and the Honourable Member in charge.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Now, with regard to the other railways, I request the Financial Commissioner to kindly also give an opportunity to those who are concerned with these railways. Will the Honourable Member do it?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I presume the deputation is not intended to represent only the views of my Honourable friend.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Not my own, but the views will be expressed by the deputation on behalf of the whole of Sind. Therefore, I am requesting the Honourable Member to kindly consider this request and give them an opportunity.

Mr. P. R. Rau: When the reports are received and have been considered by the Railway Board, and if there is a general desire for a deputation to be received by the Railway Board, I do not think there will be any difficulty about it.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I ask the Honourable Member that, with regard to the Shahadkote and Jacobabad Railway, Mr. Stubbs' report has left that question yet undecided. Has that question been considered by Mr. Stubbs or not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am afraid, I must ask for notice of that question.

DISPUTE BETWEEN THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY AND THE TINNEVELLY DISTRICT BOARD REGARDING THE WORKING OF THE BRANCH RAILWAY.

1249. ***Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raju:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there exists a dispute between the South Indian Railway and the Tinnevelly District Board regarding the working of the branch railway?

(b) Is it a fact that the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway is getting only 45 per cent. of the gross earnings by working the Bezwada Masulipatam Railway, that the South Indian Railway is demanding practically 70 per cent. of the gross earning, and that the Tinnevelly District Board have agreed to give 55 per cent. of the gross earnings for working Tinnevelly Tiruchendur Railway on the recommendation of Government?

(c) Is it a fact that the Senior Government Inspector of Railways recommended that the District Board's share of the cost of the junction arrangement at Tinnevelly should be fixed at Rs. 1,19,234, including several items not strictly debitable to the Board, that the Railway Board have demanded Rs. 2,40,000 from the District Board and that this is protested against by the latter?

(d) Is it a fact that practically interest at five and a half per cent. is claimed by the South Indian Railway as rental from the Tinnevelly District Board for working the branch line, and that this is not the return on State-owned Railways?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the District Board have been notified of the termination of the working of the branch line by the South Indian Railway, if the terms of the latter are not acceded to?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are prepared to appoint an impartial committee to go into the present dispute between the Railway and the District Board to avoid closing down of an important branch line of a railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The terms of working of the Tinnevelly Tiruchendur Railway have for some considerable time been under discussion with the District Board. All the points with the exception of two have been settled.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative but the agreement for working the Bezwada Masulipatam Railway was entered into 27 years ago when the conditions were different. In the case of the Tinnevelly Tiruchendur Railway an agreement has been reached between the South Indian Railway and the District Board that the line should be worked for 55 per cent. of earnings, including 5 per cent. as hire charge for the use of South Indian Railway rolling stock.

(c) The Senior Government Inspector of Railways reported in 1924 that in his opinion the District Board should be liable for a sum of Rs. 1,79,317. His opinion was not accepted by the South Indian Railway who claimed Rs. 3,32,241. The matter was discussed informally in September, 1930, between the Financial Commissioner, Railways, the Agent, South Indian Railway and Mr. Kumaraswami Reddiar, President, District Board, Tinnevelly. At this meeting the Agent, South Indian Railway, and the President of the District Board agreed that Rs. 2,40,000 would be a reasonable sum to take as the District Board's share of junction arrangements at Tinnevelly.

(d) I am not aware of any such claim.

(e) In communicating the final terms in 1932, the Railway Board remarked that if the District Board refused to accept them the South Indian Railway would be authorised to give notice to the District Board that they would after one year from the date of notice cease to work the line for them. Somewhat similar remarks were made in November, 1934, when a settlement could not be reached on the two points referred to in (a) above.

(f) A proposal has recently been made by the District Board suggesting a further conference between the representatives of the interested parties to settle the two outstanding points, which are:

(i) the rate of interest on expenditure on junction works after 8th September, 1930; and

(ii) the period for which the agreement should be operative.

As regards the first, the Government of India have accepted the opinion of the Madras Government that the rate obtaining for the time being for interest on Government borrowing should apply. As regadrs the second, in view of the fact that the terms agreed to five years ago at a similar

conference have not yet been finally ratified by the District Board, the Government of India consider that a fresh conference is not likely to lead to useful results.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government considered the desirability of settling this matter, in some amicable manner, considering that the Railway Company want five per cent. and they will agree only for five years? Do Government consider that this is not a case for the good offices of the Government of India to be used to settle the dispute between the District Board of Tinnevelly and the South Indian Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The good offices of the Government of India are always at the disposal of the District Board, Tinnevelly, but, as I have already pointed out, this matter was discussed in September, 1930, between the Agent of the South Indian Railway and the President of the District Board with the Financial Commissioner of Railways. Some terms were agreed upon in that Conference, but the District Board has not yet ratified those terms.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Forgetting the past, may I ask the Honourable the Financial Commissioner to consider the possibility of reducing the interest, and making the contract at least for 15 years if the District Board wants it in order to give them a chance?

Mr. P. R. Rau: If the provisional terms are finally ratified by the District Board, I shall be quite prepared to ask the Agent, South Indian Railway, to meet the District Board and consider the possibility of arrangements for the next ten years.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I ask if the only outstanding matter of dispute between the District Board and the railway is as regards the rate of interest?

Mr. P. R. Rau: That is not the only matter. There is another matter, namely, the period for which the agreement should be operative.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: On that matter, the Honourable the Financial Commissioner is willing to use his good offices. Apart from the period of the contract, is it not a fact that the only substantial matter of dispute between the District Board and the Railway Company is as regards the rate of interest on the money spent on the Tinnevelly junction?

Mr. P. R. Rau: As regards the rate of interest, the Railway Board, as well as the Madras Government consider that the rate obtaining for the time being for interest on Government borrowings should apply. I think it is a perfectly fair and reasonable solution of the difficulty.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is the rate of interest now five per cent.?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The rate at the time the money was expended.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government consider the possibility of reducing the rate of interest, in view of the very low rate of interest which is now prevailing?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government are paying that interest on the money borrowed at that time.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I ask, Sir, for how many years they have made contracts with other District Boards?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I should like to have notice of that question.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, VICEREGAL ESTATES.

1250. *Mr. **A. K. Fuzlul Huq**: (a) Will Government please state in the following tabular form details of the establishment of the Superintendent, Viceregal Estates, at Delhi, Simla and Calcutta under the control of the Superintending Engineer, II Circle, Central Public Works Department, as it stood on 1st August, 1929, August 1932 and August, 1934:

for (i) *Permanent Establishment*:

Building Supervisors;

Electrical Supervisors;

Overseers and Sub-overseers;

Clerks and Draughtsmen.

(ii) *Temporary Establishment*:
as in (i) above.

No.	Designation of the post.	Name of the incumbent.	Community to which he belongs.	Qualifications.	Pay.	Allowances.	Remarks

(b) What is the reason of the abnormal increase in the pay and numbe of non-Muslim staff as compared with the Muslim staff?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Statements giving the informatio asked for by the Honourable Member are laid on the table.

(b) So far as the permanent establishment is concerned, there has bee no "abnormal increase" in the number and pay of non-Muslims. Commun proportions have not been taken into consideration in appointing the ter porary establishment who are liable to discharge at any time.

Permanent Establishment.

On 1st August 1929.

No.	Designation of the post.	Name of the incumbent.	Community to which he belongs.	Qualifications.	Pay.	Allowances.	Remarks.
	(1)				Rs.	Rs. a. p.	
1	Building Supervisor	Rai Bahadur Pt. Narain Dass.	Hindu	Passed Matriculation and Sub-Overseer examination from Roorkee.	400	30 0 0	C. A.
2	Do.	Mr. Ahmad Hassan	Muslim	Since removed from service	240	30 0 0	Do.
3	Do.	Mr. Shiv Saran Dass	Hindu	Studied up to Matriculation and passed Sub-Overseer examination.	230	30 0 0	Do.
	(2)						
4	Electrical Supervisor	Rai Sahib A. C. Chatterjee.	Do.	Since retired	360	30 0 0	Do.
5	Do.	Mr. P. N. Chatterjee	Do.	Studied up to entrance class. Electrical Engineer's training in Messrs. F. and C. Osler, Ltd.	S. P. 50 280	30 0 0	Do.
	(3)						
6	Electrical Overseer	Mr. J. N. Ghosh	Do.	Do. do.	165	15 0 0	Do.
7	Sub-Overseer	Mr. Bans Gopal	Do.	Passed Matriculation Examination and 1st examination in Civil Engineering, Punjab.	110	15 0 0	Do.
8	Do.	Mr. Har Narain	Do.	Deceased	85	22 8 0	Do.
	(4)						
9	Head Clerk	Mr. Lachhami Narain	Do	Do.	184		
10	Do.	Mr. Harji Mal	Do.	F.A., F.Sc. and P.Sc.	148		
11	Clerk	Mr. Karimullah	Muslim	No examination	140		
12	Do.	Mr. Shakur Ali	Do.	Passed Middle School Examination.	110		
13	Do.	Mr. Palu Ram	Hindu	Passed Matriculation examination.	90		
14	Do.	Mr. Ram Ditta Mall	Do.	Studied up to Matriculation Standard.	85		
15	Do.	Mr. Data Ram	Do	Passed Matriculation examination.	80		
16	Do.	Mr. M. N. Mukerji.	Do.	B.A. and passed Accounts examination.	115		
17	Steno-Typist	Mr. A. David	Christian	Studied up to Senior Cambridge	85		
18	Clerk	Mr. Amar Nath	Hindu	Passed Matriculation examination.	110		
19	Draftsman	Mr. Mazhar-ul-Haq	Muslim	No examination	140		
20	Do.	Mr. Gulzara Singh.	Sikh	Studied up to Matric and pra tical training.	105		

Permanent Establishment.—contd.

On 1s August, 1932.

No.	Designation of the post.	Name of the incumbent	Community to which he belongs.	Qualifications.	Pay.	Allowances.	Remarks.
					Rs.	Rs. a. p.	
	(1)						
1	Building Supervisor.	Rai Bahadur Pt. Narain Dass.	Hindu .		400	26 4 0	Conveyance All wance.
2	Do. . .	Mr. Ahmad Hasan .	Muslim .		270	26 4 0	Do.
3	Do. . .	Shiv Saran Dass . .	Hindu .		260	26 4 0	Do.
	(2)						
4	Electrical Supervisor	Rai Sahib A. C. Chatterjee.	Do. .	*See* statement for 1929 .	390 S. P. 50	30 0 0	Do.
5	Do. . .	P. N. Chatterjee . .	Do. .		310	26 4 0	Do.
	(3)						
6	Electrical Overseer .	J. N. Ghosh . .	Do. .		180	13 2 0	Do.
7	Sanitary Overseer .	Hussain Ali . .	Muslim .	Studied up to Matric and holds a Diploma from Punjab Sanitary Institution.	185	13 2 0	D .
8	Sub-Overseer . .	S. K. Baruya . .	Hindu .	Passed Matriculation examination and Lower Subordinate examination.	80	13 2 0	Do.
9	Do. . .	Madho Narain . .	Do. .	Passed High School examination and Overseer examination from Hewitt Engineering School, Lucknow.	70	22 8 0	
	(4)						
10	Head Clerk . .	Lachmi Narain . .	Hindu .		200	Maximum	
11	Do. . .	Harji Mall . .	Do. .		168		
12	Clerk . . .	Karimullah . .	Muslim .		150	Maximum.	
13	Do. . .	Shakur Ali . .	Do. .		25		
14	Cashier and clerk .	Palu Ram . .	Hindu .		125		
15	Clerk . . .	Ram Ditta Mal . .	Do .	*See* statement for 1929 .	100		
16	Do. . .	Data Ram . .	Do. .		95		
17	Do. . .	M. N. Mukherji .	Do. .		130		
18	Do. . .	Amar Nath . .	Do. .		125		
19	Steno-typist . .	A. David . .	Christian .		100		
20	Draftsman . .	Mazhar-ul-Haq . .	Muslim .		150	Maximum.	
21	Do. . .	Gulzara Singh . .	Sikh .		120		

Permanent Establishment—concld.

On 1st August, 1934.

No.	Designation of the post.	Name of the incumbent.	Community to which he belongs.	Qualifications.	Pay.	Allowances.	Remarks.
	(1)				Rs.	Rs.	
1	Building Supervisor*	Mr. Shiv Saran Dass	Hindu	*See* statement for 1929.	280	26-4-0	C. A.
2	Do.	Mr. [illegible] Gupal	Do.	Do.	220	26-4-0	Do.
	(2)						
3	Electrical Supervisor	Mr. P. N. Chatterjee	Do.	Do.	330	26-4-0	Do.
4	Do.	Mr. J. N. Ghosh	Do.	Do.	200	26-4-0	Do.
	(3)						
5	Overseer	Mr. Hussain Ali	Muslim	*See* statement for 1932	199	13-2-0	
6	Sub-Overseer	Mr. Madho Narain	Hindu	Do.	87	..	
7	Do.	Vacant					
	(4)						
8	Head Clerk	Mr. Lachhami Narain	Do.	*See* Statement for 1929	200	..	Maximum.
9	Do.	Mr. Harji Mal	Do.	Do.	184	..	
10	Clerk	Mr. Karimullah	Muslim	Do.	150	..	Maximum.
11	Do.	Mr. Shakur Ali	Do.	Do.	135		
12	Cashier and Clerk	Mr. Palu Ram	Hindu	Do.	135		
13	Clerk	Mr. Ram Ditta Mal	Do.	Do.	110		
14	Do.	Mr. Data Ram	Do.	Do.	105		
15	Do.	Mr. Amar Nath	Do.	Do.	135		
16	Do.	Mr. M. N. Mukerji	Do.	Do.	140		
17	Steno-Typist	Mr. A. David	Christian	Do.	110		
18	Draftsman	Mr. Mazhar-ul-Haq	Muslim	Do.	150	..	Maximum.
19	Do.	Mr. Gulzara Singh.	Sikh	Do.	130		

* Rai Bahadur Pandit Narain Das is still employed in the Viceregal Estates, but holds a post of Assistant Executive Engineer on the cadre of the Central Public Works Department.

Temporary Establishment.

On 1st August, 1929.

No.	Designation of the post.	Name of the incumbent.	Community to which he belongs.	Qualifications.	Pay.	Allowances.	Remarks.
					Rs.	Rs.	
1	Sub-Overseer	Mr. S. K. Baruya	Hindu	Passed Matriculation Examination and lower Subordinate Examination.	55		
2	Clerk	Mr. S. K. Banerji	Do.	B.Sc. and passed Divisional Accountant Examination.	65		
3	Time-Keeper.	Mr. Nur Elahi	Muslim	Studied up to Matriculation standard.	65		
4	Time-Keeper	Mr. Bhagat Ram	Hindu	Studied up to Matriculation standard.	65		

Temporary Establishment.—contd.

On 1st August, 1932.

No.	Designation of the post.	Name of the incumbent.	Community to which he belongs.	Qualifications.	Pay.	Allowances.	Remarks.
					Rs.	Rs.	
1	Overseer	Mr. Bans Gopal	Hindu	Passed Matriculation Examination and 1st Examination in Civil Engineering, Punjab.	160	13-2-0	C. A.
2	Overseer	Mr. B. K. Seal	Hindu	Studied up to Matriculation and practical training in Public Works Department, Bengal.	125		
3	Timkeeper	Mr. Bhagat Ram	Hindu	*See* statement for 1929	74		
4	Timekeeper	Mr. Nur Elahi	Muslim	*See* statement for 1929	72		
5	Clerk	Mr. Jiwan Ram	Hindu	Studied up to Matriculation	70		
6	Clerk	Mr. Kundan Lal	Hindu	Passed Matriculation Examination.	60		
7	Clerk	Mr. Santokh Singh	Hindu	Passed Matriculation Examination.	65		
8	Clerk	Mr. S. K. Banerji	Hindu	*See* statement for 1929	80		

Temporary Establishment.

1st August, 1934.

No.	Designation of the post.	Name of the incumbent.	Community to which he belongs.	Qualifications.	Pay.	Allowances.	Remarks.
					Rs.	Rs.	
1	Overseer	Mr. S. K. Baruya	Hindu	*See* statement for 1929	155	13-2-0	C. A.
2	Overseer	Mr. B. K. Seal	Hindu	*See* statement for 1932	135	13-2-0	C. A.
3	Sub-Overseer	Mr. Raghbir Singh	Sikh	Studied upto Matriculation and 8 years practical training in Central Public Works Department.	135	13-2-0	C. A.
4	Timekeeper	Mr. Bhagat Ram	Hindu	*See* statement for 1929	82		
5	Timekeeper	Mr. Nur Elahi	Muslim		80		
6	Clerk	Mr. Kundan Lal	Hindu	*See* statement for 1932	70		
7	Clerk	Mr. Jiwan Ram	Hindu		80		
8	Clerk	Mr. S. C. Ghosh	Hindu	Studied up to Matriculation standard.	70		
9	Assistant Draftsman	Mr. Mohan Lal	Hindu	Studied up to Matriculation and wa apprentice under Sir Edwin Lutyens, Architect.	80		
10	Clerk	Mr. Santokh Singh	Hindu	*See* statement for 1932.	75		
11	Clerk	Mr. S. K. Banerji	Hindu	*See* statement for 1929	90		

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST CERTAIN OFFICERS OF THE SIMLA VICEREGAL ESTATE.

1251. *Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: (a) Is it a fact that in September, 1932, when Rai Bahadur Narain Das, Building Supervisor, was in the Simla Viceregal Estate, one Lachhmi Narain, late Head Clerk of the Viceregal Estate Office in Simla, fell ill and remained in the Ripon Hospital, Simla, as an indoor patient up to the end of December, 1932?

(b) Is it a fact that during the above period, three coolies, namely, Moti Ram, Shiv Ram and Nikkoo Ram, who were coolies on the roster of the Viceregal Lodge, Simla, Estate labour, were deputed to attend on the Head Clerk, day and night in the hospital and that during this period, they were shown as present under the orders of the Rai Bahadur on duty and got their wages regularly from the Estate Fund?

(c) Is it a fact that one of the coolies named Nikkoo Ram also fell sick while attending on the Head Clerk and was admitted as an indoor patient from 20th September, 1932, to 24th October, 1932, but was shown as present on the Viceregal Lodge Estate labour roster and got his regular wages?

(d) If the reply to parts (a), (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, will Government please state if they have taken any action against:

(i) the person who signed the monthly pay sheet and drew the amount from Estate Funds and gave the necessary certificate of these coolies having actually worked on the Estate during the period they remained in the hospital;

(ii) the person responsible for the roll call during the above period; and

(iii) the Rai Bahadur?

(e) Will Government please state whether the removal of Mr. Ahmad Hasan, late Building Supervisor Viceregal Estate, Delhi, and the deprivation of his title, was due to a man having been shown on duty, but, who was actually not doing the work for which he was paid, and the consequential misappropriation of Government money?

(f) Will Government please state whether any time-keepers are engaged in the Viceregal Estate establishment to note the daily attendance of labourers and prepare their pay sheets? If so, will Government please state the name of the time-keeper who noted the daily attendance and prepared the pay sheets of the man who was actually absent from duty, but was shown by him as actually present on duty, on account of which Mr. Ahmad Hasan was removed from service?

(g) Will Government please state what action was taken against the time-keeper?

(h) If no action was taken against the time-keeper, will Government please state why no action was taken? Do Government propose to take action against him now?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) No. I am prepared to take it from the Honourable Member that the men whom he names spent some time at the hospital, but as they are chimney sweeps whose work is confined to certain hours of the day there is no reason to suppose that their absence interfered with the performance of their duties.

(c) I have not verified the admission of Nikkoo Ram to the hospital, but he was shown as absent from duty in the records of the Viceregal Estates from the 21st to 30th September, 1932, and his name does not appear at all after the latter date.

(d) Does not arise in view of the replies to parts (b) and (c) above.

(e) Yes.

(f), (g) and (h). Time-keepers are engaged for the work of noting daily attendances, and the preparation of pay sheets. In the case referred to, however, the attendances were noted by Mr. Ahmad Hasan, and by no one else. In the circumstances, there was no occasion to take action against any one but Mr. Ahmad Hasan.

GRANT OF AN ALLOWANCE TO THE CREWS-IN-CHARGE EMPLOYED ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

1252. **Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Is it not a fact that the crews-in-charge employed on the Eastern Bengal Railway (Traffic Department) are not allowed any allowances, whereas on the East Indian Railway Rs. 20 and Rs. 15 are given as consolidated allowances to the senior grade and junior grade Crew-men respectively?

(b) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of granting them an allowance?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, reports:

"(a) Yes.

(b) The scale of pay originally fixed for crews-in-charge was a consolidated scale which included travelling allowance. This was done to avoid preparation and check of travelling allowance bills. The question of splitting this consolidated scale into pay and travelling allowance separately as on East Indian Railway is under consideration".

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: When do Government expect to arrive at a decision on this question?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I think it is for the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway to settle this question.

RECRUITMENT OF OUTSIDERS AS CREW INSPECTORS BY THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION.

1253. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: (a) Is it a fact that the Eastern Bengal Railway Administration recruited outsiders as Crew Inspectors on Rs. 200 per month, in September, 1934?

(b) Are Government aware that there are members in the crew staff, as well as in the other sections of the Traffic Department, who have reached their maximum pay long ago?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the claims of the existing staff in filling up four vacancies of Crew Inspectors on Rs. 200 per mensem?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Possibly the Railway Board do not interfere in the recruitment for these posts which is a matter within the powers of the Agent. The question has been sent to him for consideration.

LOWER GRADE STAFF OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY POSTED AT STATIONS WHERE NEITHER RAILWAY NOR PRIVATE QUARTERS ARE AVAILABLE.

1254. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: (a) Is it not a fact that many of the lower grade staff of the Eastern Bengal Railways are posted at stations where neither Railway nor private quarters are available?

(b) In view of the fact that rupees two lakhs have been provided in the Railway Budget for the construction of staff quarters, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of apportioning the grant so as to redress the grievance mentioned in part (a) above?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Government have no definite information.

(b) A copy of the question has been sent to the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, for considering the point in making allotments from the grant.

CERTAIN PARTICULARS UNDER THE HEAD "TRACK RENEWALS" OF THE RAILWAY BUDGET.

1255. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Will Government be pleased to state under the head 'Track Renewals' of the Railway Budget of this year:

(a) the exact amount provided for purchasing rails and sleepers;

(b) the exact amount provided for renewal work;

(c) the exact number of wooden sleepers and steel sleepers;

(d) whether the steel sleepers are to be purchased from Europe or locally;

(e) whether the wood sleepers are to be purchased from Bengal or from any other province;

(f) whether Government are aware that wooden sleepers are available in Bengal and whether Government propose to make their purchases from Bengal?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Approximately 2·63 crores.

(b) The total amount under track renewals is Rs. 502,38,000.

(c) The requirements of railways during 1935-36 are as follows:

Wooden Broad gauge sleepers	12,49,000
Metre gauge sleepers	16,24,887
Narrow gauge sleepers	1,15,000
Steel Broad gauge sleepers	1,86,400
Metre gauge sleepers	2,56,566

(d) Steel sleepers will be purchased in India if prices and deliveries are satisfactory.

(e) and (f). Wooden sleepers are purchased from Bengal as well as from other Provinces. Government do not propose to restrict such purchase to any one Province.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the proportion between wooden and steel sleepers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have given the figures, and my Honourable friend can himself work it out.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any working proportion fixed for the guidance of the Railway Board?

Mr. P. R. Rau: There is no definite proportion.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why should not the Government use only wooden sleepers? Why should they use steel sleepers imported from abroad?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Steel sleepers are also obtainable in India, and we also use them.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: What is the necessity for the purchase of steel sleepers when wooden sleepers are obtainable in large quantities in Bengal and in other provinces?

Mr. P. R. Rau: If railways restrict themselves only to wooden sleepers, then their price will rise considerably.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the Local Governments themselves are the biggest suppliers of wooden sleepers from their forests?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am quite aware that Local Governments derive a considerable portion of their revenues from their forests.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why not replace the imported steel sleepers by wooden sleepers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The point is that railways have to distribute their orders for sleepers between steel, cast-iron and wooden sleepers so as to see that there is a market left for all these sleepers. It is not in the interest of the railways that they should restrict themselves to one or other kind of these sleepers, because the result would be that the price of these sleepers would rise out of all proportion.

Seth Govind Das: Do Government care more for the interest of the railways than for the interest of the country?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The interests of the railways are inseparable from those of the country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware that the proportion of steel sleepers is increasing to the detriment of wooden sleepers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: From which figures does my Honourable friend gather that the proportion is increasing?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: From the published reports of the Railway Board for the last three years.

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am not aware that the proportion is increasing.

Mr. M. S. Aney: May I ask since which year are steel sleepers being imported?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I want notice. But, so far as I remember, for a considerable period railways have been ordering wooden, steel and cast-iron sleepers, and their policy is not to restrict themselves to only one kind.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that wooden sleepers are being imported?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Not in recent years.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Will Government consider the advisability of stopping all imported metallic sleepers coming into this country? This was possible in 1929-30?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: Does my Honourable friend suggest that there should be an embargo on all steel sleepers coming into this country from abroad?

Pandit Nilakantha Das: What I mean to say is that all steel sleepers and cast-iron sleepers should be purchased in this country from Indian firms, because this was possible in 1929-30. I do not suggest any embargo. I only want the sleepers to be purchased in this country. Will Government consider the advisability of purchasing them here and not sending orders outside which are perhaps being sent by mistake?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: As far as it is possible, we buy in this country, but we must, to some extent, be guided by considerations of price, though, as a matter of fact, as my Honourable friend is aware, under the Stores Purchase rules, a price preference is given in many cases to articles of Indian manufacture.

Seth Govind Das: Were no sleepers imported into this country in 1929-30?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I want notice. I cannot tell what was imported into this country in 1929?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Apart from the possible cornering by manufacturers of wooden sleepers, are there any mechanical or engineering reasons why railways should prefer steel and cast-iron sleepers to wooden sleepers?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: There are engineering considerations also. I quite admit that engineers differ among themselves, but there are strong opinions held by various engineers as to the comparative merits of the three kinds of sleepers.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware that America is going in for wooden sleepers, more and more?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I think wooden sleepers are undoubtedly bought in large quantities in America and we are doing so too.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do Government accept the principle of Swadeshi, and that, as far as possible, they should buy wooden, or metallic sleepers such as steel and cast-iron made in India?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: As far as possible, we are doing so and we will continue to do so.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Then, why is the purchase of steel sleepers going up?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: We cannot entirely eliminate the consideration of the comparative price of sleepers.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIALS APPOINTED AS SUPERINTENDENT OF POST OFFICES ON PASSING THE PRESCRIBED DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATION.

1256. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) is it a fact that departmental officials who are appointed as Superintendents of Post Offices on passing the prescribed departmental examination cannot in most of the cases reach the maximum pay of the Superintendents' grade? If so, why?

(b) Will Government be pleased to place before this House, a list of Superintendents of Post Offices recruited (i) from outside and (ii) from amongst the departmental officials who retired or were confirmed as Superintendents of Post Offices during the last six years, showing in each case the date of entry in the department, the date of passing the departmental examination, the date of permanent appointment as Superintendent of Post Offices, the pay drawn at the time of confirmation, at the time of retirement and at the present time?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes, sometimes. In such cases, the reason is that they reach the age of superannuation before they reach the maximum of their time-scale.

(b) Government regret the information required is not readily available and they do not propose to collect it as its collection would involve an expenditure of time and labour which they consider would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS WHO HAVE PASSED THE EXAMINATION FOR APPOINTMENT AS SUPERINTENDENT OF POST OFFICES.

1257. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Are Government aware that there are as many as thirty departmental officers who have passed the examination for appointment as Superintendents of Post Offices, including some who passed the departmental examination as far back as 1924, awaiting their chances either for confirmation or for officiating arrangements? Is it a fact that cases have occurred where departmental officials qualified for appointment as Superintendents of Post Offices have been confirmed in such appointments so late as within a few years of the date of their retirement from service?

(b) Are Government also aware that meanwhile Probationary Superintendents of Post Offices have been recruited from outside and even confirmed in most of the cases?

(c) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if Probationary Superintendents recruited subsequently as well as those who pass their examination subsequently are given precedence over departmental candidates in the matter of confirmation? If so, why?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state what measures the Government propose to take to remove the anomalies referred to above?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) No, because a departmental official is confirmed as a Superintendent of Post Offices in every alternate vacancy.

(d) Government do not agree that there is any anomaly in the arrangement under which Probationary Superintendents and departmental officials are confirmed in alternate vacancies: they do not propose to take any action to change the existing system.

INITIAL PAY OF DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS APPOINTED AS ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANTS GENERAL IN THE AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

1258. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Is it a fact that in the Audit and Accounts Department the initial pay of departmental officers who are appointed as Assistant Accountants General is fixed at the fifth stage in the grade for enrolled officers on their appointment in such capacities and that their position in the gradation list is fixed accordingly? If so, will Government be pleased to state why the same course is not adopted in the Posts and Telegraphs Department so far as Superintendents of Post Offices recruited from amongst the departmental officers are concerned?

(b) Is it a fact that the departmental officers who have passed the examination for appointment as Superintendents of Post Offices are promoted to any higher post or granted any special increment in their own grade of pay on their passing the departmental examination unless they are appointed immediately to officiate as Superintendents of Post Offices?

(c) Is it a fact that in the Audit and Accounts Department, the departmental officers who pass the examination for promotion in the S. A. S. grade are granted double the usual increment in their own grade until they are promoted to the S. A. S. grade? If so, will Government be pleased to state why this course has not been adopted in the Posts and Telegraphs Department in respect of the departmental officials eligible for appointment as Superintendents of Post Offices and why similar special increment cannot be granted to such officials until they are confirmed as Superintendents of Post Offices and their pay and position in the gradation list fixed in accordance with the principle referred to in part (a) above?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) and (c). With regard to the first parts, the facts are not as stated by the Honourable Member. The second parts of the questions do not, therefore, arise.

(b) No.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: In what respects are the facts different?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The facts are not as stated by the Honourable

Mr. M. Aney: What are the facts then? That is the question?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: It is only necessary to read the question:

"Is it a fact that in the Audit and Accounts Department, the initial pay of departmental officers who are appointed as Assistant Accountants General is fixed at the fifths stage in the grade for enrolled officers on their appointment in such capacities and that their position in the gradation list is fixed accordingly?"

My answer to that question is, no.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Then, what is the fact?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I want notice. I have to consult the Auditor General.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Was not the notice of the original question enough?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: No, Sir. I was asked whether a certain thing was a fact, and I say, it is not a fact.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Could not the Honourable Member anticipate that if it was not a fact, a question as to what are the facts is likely to be asked on the floor of the House? Could he not have intelligently anticipated that?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: No, Sir.

REVIEW OF THE CASES OF DEPARTMENTAL OFFICERS QUALIFIED FOR APPOINTMENT AS SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES.

1259. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Is it a fact that in pursuance of the orders recently issued by the Director General, Heads of the Postal Circles undertook about a year ago a review of the case of each and every departmental officer qualified for the appointment as Superintendent of Post Offices in order further to curtail the waiting list?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state when the last batch of the departmental officers who passed the departmental examination for appointment as Superintendents was selected?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes. The review was made not with the object of curtailing the waiting list but for the purpose of weeding out the inefficient who had failed to make good use of the ample opportunities provided to them during officiating periods to show their fitness for advancement.

(b) In 1930.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the economy effected by this weeding process?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: None.

SUSPENSION OF THE RECRUITMENT OF PROBATIONARY SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES FROM OUTSIDE.

1260. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Are Government prepared to consider the question of suspending as a temporary and special measure, the recruitment of Probationary Superintendents from outside pending the confirmation of the departmental officers who have already passed the departmental examination for Superintendents of Post Offices?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The reply is in the negative. It is the considered opinion of Government that a certain number of vacancies in the cadre in question should be filled by direct recruits through an open competitive examination and Government see no reason to depart from this principle. Departmental officers who pass the departmental examination for Superintendentships are given no guarantee that they will ultimately be appointed to such posts.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Will not the departmental officers be more assiduous in their duties if they had greater chances of promotion in their offices?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: They get half the chances, and that should be sufficient to make them assiduous in the discharge of their duties.

REFORMS OFFICERS' CONFERENCE.

1261. *Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the agenda for the Reforms Officer's Conference this month;

(b) whether the public opinion will be consulted on any of the matters; and

(c) whether the conclusions of the Conference will be placed before this House?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) I have already, in answer to his question No. 1033, informed the Honourable Member that the Conference was held entirely on an informal basis in regard to matters connected with electoral preparations and I gave certain supplementary answers too. For his fuller information I will now add that the Conference, which was designed merely in order to prepare the ground for further consideration, was convened definitely on an informal basis for the purpose of mutual enlightenment and exchange of views and on the understanding that the opinions expressed by Reforms Officers would in no sense commit their Governments and that no report of the proceedings would be issued. In these circumstances, the agenda of the Conference cannot, with due regard to public interests, be made available.

(b) Consultation of public opinion is a problem which arises at the stage when the authorities propose to make up their minds, and has no relevance to the stage of mutual enlightenment and exchange of views between Reforms Officers.

(c) The foregoing remark should make it clear that there are as yet no conclusions which can be placed before the House.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it, Sir, that before Government make up their minds on the conclusions or recommendations of this or other conferences, they will consult the opinion of this House?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: May I know what is the specific matter to which my Honourable friend's question is directed? What are the matters on which he wants the House to be consulted?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: On all matters which are now engaging, according to the Honourable Member, the attention informally of the Reforms Officers' Conference.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I have no authority at the present moment to give any undertaking to this House All that I can say is that I shall be prepared to consider this matter and see what attitude Government are going to take. But, at the present moment, I am not authorised to give any undertaking.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government at least suspended their judgment on the question of consulting the opinion of this House before they make up their minds?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I think this question is the same as the one I have answered, namely, that I cannot give an undertaking, but I will certainly consider it.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Has the attention of Government been drawn to the work in the Frontier Province on the delimitation of constituencies which is reported in this morning's papers?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: No, Sir; I am sorry I have not seen it.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government in a position to say that Local Governments will not take action with regard to the delimitation of constituencies, without the sanction of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I do not think they will take any action without giving information to the Government of India; it must come to our knowledge. But, Sir, I regret I cannot give an undertaking.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: But will they take the consent of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: That is a hypothetical question, but it will depend on the nature of the orders which are going to be issued.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In view of the fact that the Government of India are willing to consider the question of taking the opinion of this House, I am asking whether we may not be presented with a *fait accompli* in

certain provinces and then told that they have taken action. I am asking in regard to that contingency what the position is. Will the Local Governments be told not to take any irrevocable action in this matter, without first consulting and taking the sanction of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: That is exactly what I have said, that I cannot give any undertaking to this House now at this moment, but that is a matter equally to be considered by the Government of India.

UNIVERSITIES IN INDIA HAVING UNIVERSITY TRAINING CORPS.

1262. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Universities in India who have University Training Corps;

(b) the period for which those Corps have been in existence;

(c) the purposes for which they are maintained and the results thereof;

(d) the Universities who have asked for extension or fresh creation of such corps;

(e) whether those requests have been granted and, if not, why not;

(f) whether there is any proposal to grant Officer's Commission in the regular Army to the officers of the University Corps; and

(g) whether there has been or is any proposal to include military subjects in the University curricula, and the attitude of Government in this matter?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member will find the information he requires at pages 588 to 592 of the current Indian Army List.

(c) Their primary object is educational and they are also intended to form a recruiting ground for other units of the Indian Territorial Force. The results, from the educational point of view, are a matter of opinion, but, as a recruiting ground for other units of the Indian Territorial Force, they have in fact proved of little or no value.

(d) Bombay, Nagpur and Andhra. A request was also received from the Islamia College, Peshawar.

(e) No, on financial grounds.

(f) No, but members of University Training Corps are of course at liberty to take the open examination for entry into the Indian Military Academy.

(g) The subject of Military Science is already included in the curricula of certain Indian Universities, for example, Agra, Punjab and Nagpur Universities. The introduction of this subject in any Indian University is a matter with which the University authorities are primarily concerned.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With regard to the answer to clause (c) of the question, why have these University Training Corps proved of little or no benefit, as regards manning the offices or ranks of the Indian Territorial Force?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I cannot say why, but it is a fact that few members of the University Training Corps have subsequently come forward and asked for Commissions in the other units of the Indian Territorial Force.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: So it is not a case of their having come and then having been found unfit, but a case in which they have not really offered to come forward?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: That is so; they have not come forward.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have any inducements been offered to them to come forward and offer themselves?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: There are the ordinary regulations under which commissions are given to Indian gentlemen who wish to take up commissions in the provincial units of the Indian Territorial Force. Those regulations are published and are well known. I do not think any additional inducements have been given.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government take any steps to bring them to the proper notice of these young men, so that this career may be made better known to them?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I think the regulations have been circulated to all universities.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With regard to the answer to clause (e) of the question, may I know if the difficulty of financial considerations was really accepted by the Army Department or whether they approached the Finance Department or the Standing Finance Committee or this House at any time, and those authorities turned down this extra expenditure?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: No, Sir; we have not approached the Standing Finance Committee. We have at times considered an increase in what is known as the civil grant for this purpose, but that has been impossible for financial reasons. I think the Honourable Member should recollect that, during the last five or six years, we have made very large reduction in the cost of the army, somewhere about ten crores, and that, during that period, there has been practically no reduction in the cost of the Indian Territorial Force. In fact, it is the only branch of the army which has not been subjected to very drastic retrenchment.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government considered the need for encouraging educated young men to take to this career, and will, therefore, Government consider the desirability of approaching the Finance Department or the Standing Finance Committee of this House with a request to vote extra monies for sanctioning University Training Corps for the Universities which desire the creation of such Corps?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The actual amount of enthusiasm shown in places where there are University Training Corps does not lead Government to suppose that the formation of University Training Corps in these other Universities would be very much more successful. At the same time, I can give an undertaking that we will consider this matter, and, when financial conditions improve, no doubt the possibility of opening new University Training Corps in other Universities will receive due consideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware that, so far as the Madras University is concerned, all the places open have been filled, and there are more applicants than can be provided in the University Training Corps?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: That does not tally exactly with my information. I have been told that the University Training Corps in Madras was under strength.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin: Is it a fact that Government have not so far encouraged these gentlemen to come forward and join the formations in the regular army?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: That is not a fact, and I would also remind the Honourable Member that the Territorial force Committee, which went into this matter some years ago, definitely recommended that the encouragement and promotion of the territorial movement was a matter that rested with the non-official leaders of the people rather than with Government.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

TRANSFER OF BARAVALA VILLAGES IN THE WESTERN INDIA AGENCY TO THE CHIEF OF LIMBDI.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether Baravala villages in the Western India Agency are being transferred to the Chief of Limdi?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that the people of the Baravala villages, Western India Agency, have been assured by the Government of Bombay from time to time that no transfer from British control to the control of the Chief of Limdi will be effected without consulting the residents of the villages concerned?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are willing to consult the residents of the villages before the control is handed over to the Chief of Limdi?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: The matter is under consideration; but no decision to transfer the administration of the Baravala villages to the Ruler of Limbdi will be taken without first ascertaining the wishes of the inhabitants of the villages.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: Will it be by plebiscite?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: I have no information as to the exact method which will be employed.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to part (b) of starred question No. 743 asked by Mr. Rahimtoola M. Chinoy on the 21st August, 1934.

RATES OF FREIGHT FOR COASTAL PORTS.

Statement showing the Rates of Freight for the Coastal Ports during the years 1930 to 1934.

Commodity.	Port from and to	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Flour per bag of 196 lbs.	Karachi to Mangalore.	0 15 0	0 15 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 11 0
Sugar per bag of 224 lbs.		0 15 0	0 15 0	0 13 0	0 13 0	0 11 0
Grain per bag of 164 lbs.		0 10 0	0 10 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 6 0
Potatoes per maund		0 12 0	0 11 0	0 11 0	0 6 9	0 6 9
Coir	Mangalore to Bombay	Per ton. 20 0 0	Per ton. 20 0 0	Per ton. 14 0 0	Per ton. 14 0 0	Per ton. 14 0 0
	Karachi	25 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0	14 8 0	14 8 0 0
	Gulf of Kutch	25 0 0	2 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0
	Calcutta or Rangoon	56 14 0	53 0 0	53 0 0	32 0 0	32 0 0
Coffee	Bombay	Per maund. 0 12 0	Per maund. 0 10 0	Per maund. 0 10 0	Per maund. 0 10 0	Per maund. 0 1 0
	Karachi	1 9 0	1 7 0	1 7 6	0 14 6	0 14 0
	Gulf of Kutch	1 9 6	1 7 6	1 7 6	1 7 6	1 7 6
	Calcutta or Rangoon	1 8 3	1 8 3	1 8 3	1 2 3	1 2 3

Statement showing the Rates of Freight for the Coastal Ports during the years 1930 to 1934.

Commodity.	Port from and to	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
		Rs. A. P. Per ton.	Rs. A. P. Per ton.	Rs. A. P. Per ton.	Rs. A. P. Per ton.	Rs. A. P. Per ton.
General cargo per 20 cwts. or 40 cubic feet.	Bombay	48 0 0	48 0 0	48 0 0	32 0 0	32 0 0
	Calcutta	12 0 0	12 0 0	12 0 0	12 0 0	12 0 0
	Rangoon	32 0 0	32 0 0	32 0 0	32 0 0	32 0 0
	G. of Porta	32 0 0	32 0 0	32 0 0	32 0 0	32 0 0
	Bombay to Malabar coast Ports.	20 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0
Grain and seeds per bag of 168 lbs.		0 7 0	0 5 0	0 7 0	0 6 0	0 3 0
Flour per bag of 196 lbs.		0 11 0	0 8 0	0 11 0	11 0 0	11 0 0
Weight cargo per ton of 20 cwts.		10 0 0	7 8 0	10 0 0	10 0 0	7 8 0
Paper per ton of 2 cwts.	Malabar Coast Ports to Bombay.	22 8 0	15 0 0	12 0 0	10 [illegible] 0	10 [illegible] 0
Ginger per ton of 20 cwts.		22 8 0	14 0 0	12 0 0	10 4 0	10 4 0
Copra per ton of 20 cwts.		20 0 0	14 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	6 12 0
Cocoanuts per ton of 20 cwts.		15 0 0	11 0 0	7 0 0	8 0 0	6 12 0
Coir per ton of 20 cwts.		22 8 0	14 0 0	14 0 0	14 0 0	12 0 0
Coir Yarn per cwt.	Cochin to Karachi.	1 11 0	1 11 0	2 0 0	0 11 6	0 11 6
Coconut oil per cask 7½		9 8 0	9 8 0	9 8 0	2 8 0	2 8 0
Pepper per cwt.		1 2 0	1 2 0	1 0	0 10 8	0 10 8

Coir Yarn per cwt.	Cochin to Bombay	15 0 0	14 0 0	14 0 0	12 0 0	11 12 0
Coconut oil per cask of 7½ gallons.		6 4 0	6 4 0	2 1 0	3 8 0	2 1 0
Pepper per ton		22 8 0	15 0 0	15 0 0	10 4 0	10 4 0
Coir Yarn per cwt.	Cochin to Calcutta.	2 0 0	2 0 0	2 0 0	1 8 0	1 8 0
Coconut oil per cask of 7½ gallons.		7 4 0	7 4 0	8 7 0	3 6 0	2 10 0
Pepper per ton		37 8 0	37 8 0	20 0 0	12 4 0	20 0 0
Coir Yarn per cwt.	Cochin to Rangoon.	2 0 0	2 0 0	0 13 0	1 8 0	1 8 0
Coconut oil per cask of 7½ gallons.		7 4 0	9 8 0	3 12 0	7 4 0	7 4 0
Pepper per cwt.		1 14 0	1 14 0	0 12 6	1 0 0	1 0 0
	Calicut to Bombay and Karachi.					
Cocoanuts per cwt.	Bombay	15 0 0	15 0 0 to 11 8 0	7 8 0 to 8 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0
	Karachi	21 0 0	2[illegible] 0 to 13 8 0	10 0 0 to 8 8 0	8 8 0	8 8 0
Copra per cwt.	Bombay	19 0 0	19 0 0 to 14 0 0	8 8 0 to 6 12 0	8 12 0	6 12 0
	Karachi	24 0 0	24 0 0 to 16 [illegible] 0	10 8 0 to 9 4 0	9 4 0	9 4 0

Statement showing the Rates of Freight for the Coastal Ports during the years 1930 to 1934.

Commodity.	Port from and to	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
		Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs A. P.
Pepper per ton	Bombay	20 0 0	20 0 0 to 15 0 0	15 0 0 to 12 12 0	12 12 0	12 12 0
	Karachi	25 0 0	25 0 0 to 17 0 0	17 8 0 to 15 4 0	15 4 0	15 4 0
Rice per ton	Rangoon and Akyab to Bombay or Cochin.	12 0 0	11 8 0	11 8 0	11 8 0	8 4 0
Rice per ton	Rangoon to Galle, Tuticorin, Alleppey, Calicut, Badagora. Cannanore and Mangalore.	13 0 0	12 8 0	12 8 0	12 8 0	9 4 0
Rice per ton	Rangoon to Colachel, Trivandrum, Quilon, Ponani.	13 8 0	13 0 0	13 0 0	13 0 0	9 12 0
Rice per ton	Rangoon to Marmgoa. Katiawar Ports.	14 8 0	14 0 0	14 0 0	14 0 0	10 12 0
Rice per ton	Rangoon to Calcutta	7 8 0	7 8 0	7 8 0	6 8 0	5 0 0
Rice per ton	From Moulmein, Basien and Akyab to Calcutta.	8 8 0	8 8 0	8 8 0	7 8 0	6 8 0
Rice per ton	Rangoon to Chittagong	7 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0
Rice per ton	Akyab to Chittagong	6 0 0	4 0 0	4 0 0	5 0 0	5 0 0
Rice per ton	Bassein to Chittagong	8 0 0	6 0 0	6 0 0	7 0 0	7 0 0
Timber	Rangoon to Calcutta	15 0 0	14 0 0	14 0 0	12 0 0	12 0 0
	Rangoon to—					
	Coromandel Ports and Madras.	19 0 0	18 0 0	16 0 0	15 0 0	14 0 0
	Lower Madras Coast	24 0 0	23 0 0	21 0 0	19 0 0	17 0 0
	Tuticorin	27 0 0	26 0 0	26 0 0	22 0 0	22 0 0
	Cochin	30 0 0	29 0 0	27 8 0	25 0 0	25 0 0
	Bombay	25 0 0	23 0 0	21 0 0	19 0 0	19 0 0
	Kathiawa and Karachi	27 8 0	25 8 0	23 8 0	27 8 0	21 8 0

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 554, asked by Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury on the 26th February 1935.

PERSONS THROWN OUT OF EMPLOYMENT IN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES.

(a), (b) and (c). A statement is attached.

(d) No. The retrenchment concessions granted to these men were considered as given to wipe out any liability of Government for past service.

(e) No. The concession if granted to these men, would have to be extended to all retrenched Government servants in temporary or permanent service, and the extra cost would be heavy. To meet any special cases of hardship, the Auditor-General has been authorised to grant suitable advance increments while fixing the pay of these men in the new scales of pay.

Statement showing the Number of Men thrown out of Employment in each Audit and Accounts office as a result of General Retrenchment on Re-Amalgamation of Audit and Accounts in 1931 with the Amount of Gratuity and Leave Granted to them.

Serial No.	Name of Offices.	No. of men excluding inferior servants thrown out of employment in each Audit and Accounts office as a result of general retrenchment on reamalgamation of Audit and Account in 1931.	Amount of gratuity and leave awarded as compensation at the time of discharge.	No. of men re-employed in the same or different other offices without any break in their service, taking into consideration the period spent on leave.
1	Central Accounts Office, Public Works Department.	65	Leave, if due, on average or half average pay, as the case might be, was granted subject to the following conditions in the case of clerks who having rendered three years' continuous service in the department at the time when their notice of discharge expired had become eligible for the same leave and pensionary privileges as are ordinarily admissible to permanent Government servants of similar status :— (1) that there is deducted therefrom any period during the month of notice during which the individual retrenched drew pay after demitting office, and (2) that no period of leave after the expiry of the month's notice should count as service to enhance the amount of gratuity or pension. (1) *Those with over 5 years' service.*—A gratuity of 3 months' pay *plus* all Leave on Average Pay due limited to 3 months. (2) *Those with over 3 years' service but less than 5 years' service.*—A gratuity of 2 months' pay *plus* all leave on average pay due limited to 2 months. (3) *Those with over 1 year's service but less than 3 years' service.*—Gratuity of one month's pay *plus* leave on average pay due limited to one month.	Only one of these men has been re-employed in the Accountant General, Central Revenues' office without any break. It is not known whether others have been re-employed in any other offices.
2	Pay and Accounts Offices, Delhi	35		
3	Office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues.			
4	Accountant General, United Provinces.	167	Ditto . .	30 men were re-employed before discharge or before termination of leave. The number of men, if any, re-employed in other offices immediately after the termination of their leave is not known.
5	Accountant General, Bengal .	2	Ditto .	2.
6	Pay and Accounts Office, Peshawar.	6	Ditto	2.
7	Audit Office, Peshawar . .	4	Ditto	
8	Pay and Accounts Offices, Calcutta.	3	Ditto .	None.
9	Accountant-General, Madras .	5	Ditto .	None.
10	Audit Office, Bangalore . .	1	Ditto .	No information is available.
11	Pay and Accounts Office, Bangalore.	1	Ditto .	None.

Information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 574, 575 and 580 asked by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, on the 26th February, 1935.

GRANT OF EUROPEAN LEAVE RULES TO CERTAIN STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

574 and 575. The Agent, East Indian Railway, reports that the East Indian Railway Company's leave rules do not apply to persons other than those who were in the East Indian Railway Company's service on the 31st December, 1924, and were taken over by the State on the 1st January, 1925. The Agent states that he is not aware that any other persons have been granted leave according to the East Indian Railway Company's Rules but if any instances are given, he will examine them.

PAY OF STATION MASTERS AND ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS.

580. With reference to the latter part of the reply given by me to this question, I have placed in the Library of the House a "Statement showing the old, co-ordinated and revised (1934) scales of pay applicable to Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters."

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 595 asked by Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, on the 27th February, 1935.

VISION TEST OF THE STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

The Agent, East Indian Railway, reports that:

(a) Staff on the East Indian Railway are examined in eyesight according to the procedure laid down in the Regulations for the medical examination of candidates and employees, Non-gazetted (including inferior) and Labourers' grades Indian State Railways, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(b) The vision of an employee is determined by the examination of each eye separately.

(c) An employee is required to pass the test with both eyes separately.

(d) Yes.

(e) Indication cards are not used. A special apparatus for carrying out the tests for visual acuity, colour perception, night blindness etc., is used.

(f) The object for testing is not a 'C' but a ring with a split in it. This split bears a definite proportion to the size of the ring.

(g) The split ring is revolved and can be placed in any position.

(h) No.

(i) Government are not aware what improvement is desired by the Honourable Member.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 656, asked by Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena on the 5th March, 1935.

ACTION PROPOSED TO BE TAKEN ON CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Serial No.	Date on which moved.	By whom.	Subject of Resolution.	Departments concerned.	Action taken by Government.
1	29th Jan. 1935	The Hon'ble Sir Joseph Bhore.	Consideration of the Indo-British Trade Agreement signed on the 9th January, 1935.	Commerce	No action has been or is proposed to be taken on the motion as amended by Mr. Gaube.
2	13th Feb. 1935	The Hon'ble Sir Frank Noyce.	Ratification of the Draft Conventi n for the regulation of work in sheet glass works.	Industries and Labour.	Will be considered after Government are in possession of the views expressed in both Houses of the Legislature.
3	4th Feb. 1935 6th Feb. 1935 7th Feb. 1935.	The Hon'ble Sir Nripendra Sircar.	Consideration of the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Indian Constitutional Reform.	Home	A telegraphic report of the result of the debate was made to the Secretary of State and the amended resolutions as well as copies of the proceedings a e being forwarded to the Secretary of State.
4	5th Feb. 1935	Mr. B. Das	Removal of the ban on the Khudai Khidmatgars Organi ation.	Home	A copy of the proceedings has been sent to the Local Government.
5	11th Feb. 1935	Mr. K. M. Jedhe	Removal of disqualification of Pandit Dwarka Prasad Misra and Chaudhry Ashrafuddin.	Home	Copies of the proceedings will be forwarded to the Local Governments concerned.
6	14th Feb. 1935	Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad	Revision of the present Taxation Policy of the Government of India.	Finance	Will be considered in connection with the future budgets.
7	11th Feb. 1935	Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha	Importation of foreign rice into India.	Commerce	Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill concerning this subject was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on the 13th March, 1935.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 707, asked by Mr. M. Asaf Ali on the 7th March, 1935.

WATER-COURSES FOR IRRIGATION OF LAND IN THE DELHI PROVINCE.

(a) The water-courses in the Delhi District have not been narrowed, but certain outlets have been remodelled. The figures for irrigation in 1934-35 are not yet available, but irrigation in 1933-34 was very much lower than irrigation in 1930-31. The reasons for the decrease are not yet certain and enquiries on the subject are being made from the Irrigation Authorities.

(b) It is a fact that prices of agricultural produce in the Delhi Province have fallen in comparison with the prices of 1930. Water rates on the Western Jumna Canal, which is responsible for most of the irrigation in the Delhi Province, were reduced in 1934 in conformity with general reductions in the Punjab. The reductions made were not necessarily proportionate to the changes in prices.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 714, asked by Mr. B. B. Varma on the 7th March, 1935.

WANT OF LATRINES IN THIRD CLASS CARRIAGES ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY TRAINS.

Latrine accommodation is provided on all trains in compartments reserved for females. Twelve out of the 22 trains referred to in the question run for short distances not exceeding 26 miles. But in most of these trains and in the other ten trains there is one carriage with latrine accommodation for male passengers. The question of increasing the number of third class carriages fitted with latrines is being taken up with the Bengal and North Western Railway Administration.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—*concld.*

TRANSFER TO THE FUND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BROADCASTING.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 20,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Transfer to the Fund for the Development of Broadcasting'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved.

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 20,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Transfer to the Fund for the Development of Broadcasting'."

There are several motions for reduction . . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, on a point of order, I want to make my submission, and indeed raise four points of order on this particular matter. I will state them, one by one, for your consideration and ruling. My first point of order is that section 67A of the Government of India Act (page 73 of the Manual) says:

"(2) No proposal for the appropriation of any revenue or money for any purpose shall be made except on the recommendation of the Governor General."

If you will turn to Standing Order 74A, at page 123 of the Manual, you will find:

"Communications from the Governor General to the Assembly are made by written message through the President."

I made an inquiry of the Assistant Secretary this morning here, and he tells me—I speak subject to correction, and, if I am wrong, I shall be glad to be corrected—that, so far as his knowledge goes, no communication recommending this demand has been sent to the Assembly by the Governor General, through you. Therefore, my first point of order, for your consideration and ruling is . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not think that has been the practice so far . . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am not concerned with that: I am merely concerned with drawing your attention to the section of the Act and the Standing Order, as they stand. It is my duty to raise it, and your duty, Sir, and privilege, to rule on it. If it has not been the practice before, I am not responsible for it, nor are you . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair simply wanted to know.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I have no information on that matter. I am new to this Assembly, and I labour under that handicap: but no amount of practice, for any number of years, can ever over-ride Statutory provisions. I trust I have made that point clear.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Standing Order 74A provides as to how these communications are to be made.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: You are the channel, Sir, for communications to the Assembly.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is this not a communication to the Assembly?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: This recommendation of the Governor General must be communicated through you, Sir: how else will it be communicated?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair takes it, the recommendation of the Governor General was communicated to the Governor General in Council.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No, Sir: this proposal comes before us, and we are entitled to know, if the Governor General has recommended this proposal being submitted to the vote of the House: my submission is, how are we to know that?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Why not ask the Member of the Government. The Chair thinks they will inform you.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Should they not inform the House, or should not the Governor General send through you to the House and recommend that the following demands be submitted to the House?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not find anything there which requires that such communications should be made through the Chair.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How are we to know that the recommendation has been made?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The communication is perhaps made to the Governor General in Council.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: This section does not say that: according to this section, this House has a right to know. Sub-section (1) of section 67A says:

"The estimated annual expenditure and revenue of the Governor General in Council shall be laid in the form of a statement before both Chambers of the Indian Legislature in each year."

Then follows this sub-section, and, therefore, I submit, for your consideration, that it is a recommendation which is not really between the Governor General and the Governor General in Council. We have got to consider this demand, which comes before us, and we must be satisfied that there is a recommendation. So far as I know, there is no recommendation. That is my first point.

My second point is this: this so-called demand is not a demand at all. You will notice, Sir, that sub-section (1) of section 67A says that the estimated annual expenditure and revenue shall be laid before the Legislature in each year. The proposal should, therefore, be for expenditure for the year . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member means there should be no supplementary demands?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I will deal with that presently. My first point is that it is not a demand: my point is that a demand should be for expenditure for the year.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): For the whole year? It may be allowed more than once?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I concede that: but it must be for that year: there can be no demand for the future. It must be annual, and you will notice, in coming to the facts of this particular case . . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member means, it must be for the current year?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Yes; no demand for future years. It must be a demand for the coming financial year: but if you will notice the facts of this case, turning to page 29, this is merely a supplementary demand for a grant. This is transfer of a part of the revenue surplus to the fund for the development of broadcasting; and, if you will kindly turn to the Proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee, Volume XIV, No. 5, which gives the details of this expenditure, you will find under the heading 'Financial effect of the proposal':

"No detailed plans have yet been prepared. It is roughly estimated that the Delhi station will cost in the neighbourhood of three lakhs. The recurrent expenditure during the financial year 1934-35 cannot yet be estimated."

I do not want to read the whole thing, but you will notice that, as a matter of fact, all these proposals are merely nebulous. I thought that the Honourable the Finance Member would make a statement this morning, as to when this Director is going to be appointed and when this Delhi station is proposed to be constructed. I find no speech, and, in the paragraph on broadcasting, in his own speech introducing the budget, paragraph 32, he simply says that it is proposed shortly to construct a large transmitting station in Delhi, and we hope later to undertake the construction.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's objection is that there are no sufficient particulars.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: There is no proposal for definite expenditure in any definite period of time. It is merely the transfer of a fund.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member says, it is not definite?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Yes, in one sense. I would add that there are no details given even as to the matter of the time during which the expenditure is to be incurred. It is not a case in which we definitely know when the money is proposed to be spent.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's point is that particulars are not given at all?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is again another matter, and, as my friend, the Leader, reminds me, if the expenditure goes beyond the next financial year in the case of an original estimate, it will be out of order. They cannot go on transferring money to the funds to be spent, as and when the need arises for that, in their judgment beyond this financial year.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can object to the demand on that ground that sufficient particulars are not given to enable the House to come to a conclusion.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is on the merits. My point is that, in the case of a supplementary demand, the expenditure must be in the present financial year. In the case of an original demand, you cannot get a demand to be spent beyond the next financial year; and, so far as I can read the original proposal as well as the Standing Committee's details, it means it will go beyond the next year. My third point before you, which I raised the other day, but not as a point of order, is this. They have created a new demand called 69A. If you will kindly turn to the list of demands,—I believe it is the same as last year,—in this bulky volume, you will find that 69 consists of a number of miscellaneous departments, and then broadcasting is 69H on page 437. They have a demand for broadcasting, including officers and various other things; and, when they have got that, I say that it is not open to my Honourable friend to open a new demand, unless it comes within the provisions of the Government of India Act. On that matter, sub-section (5) of section 67A lays down the procedure with regard to demands. It says that the proposals of the Governor General in Council for the appropriation of revenues or moneys, relating to heads of expenditure not specified in the above heads, that is army, and so on, shall be submitted to the vote of the Legislative Assembly, in the form of demands for grants. Then, Rule 44 on page 96, lays down the form of these demands:

"A separate demand shall ordinarily be made in respect of the grant proposed for each department of the Government, provided that the Finance Member may, in his discretion, include in one demand grants proposed for two or more departments, or make a demand in respect of expenditure which cannot readily be classified under particular departments."—*I pause there, and invite your attention to the words*—"or to make a demand in respect of expenditure which cannot readily be classified under particular departments."

If you will kindly look at demand 69, original demands for grants, which I presume is the same for last year as this year, you will find 69H deals with broadcasting. It has been brought under an original demand and, therefore, the Honourable the Finance Member cannot now create a new demand.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is that broadcasting?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Yes. If you will kindly see 69H, it contains the demand under the Miscellaneous Departments. Broadcasting is a demand under 69H. The point I am submitting to you is this. Each demand shall contain, first, a statement of the total grant proposed, and then a statement of the detailed estimate under each grant, divided into items. Demand 69A as now proposed merely contains a statement of the total grant proposed. It does not contain a statement of the detailed estimate under each grant divided into items. If you will turn to the Standing Committee proceedings, you will see how nebulous the proposals are. On page 164, Volume XIV, No. 5, you will find that the Government of India propose to initiate their programme of expenditure almost immediately, and the first two steps will be to engage a broadcasting expert on a contract for a period of five years, and to establish a new broadcasting station in India. No details are given here as regards the pay proposed; and if you will kindly turn to 165, you will find that no detailed plans have yet

been prepared. It has been roughly estimated that this will cost in the neighbourhood of three lakhs during the first and subsequent years; and at the end of it, they say:

"By a supplementary grant during the current year to such extent as may be necessary and by Budget provision in subsequent years."

That was the original idea. Now, they have given up that idea. They do really want this grant to be spent, as and when they want it. On page 166, you will find it stated that:

"The plans for the Delhi station are not yet ready"

and the Committee's opinion is this:

"The Committee approve the proposal on the understanding that further information will be circulated when detailed estimates have been prepared."

Therefore, I submit, on my third point, that there is no power on the part of Government to create a new demand, unless it is in the case of expenditure which cannot rightly be classified under existing demands; and the substance of it is that this demand does not contain the necessary details, and this House cannot be expected to vote block grants. It must get details, because the vote is for particular sums.

My fourth and last point Sir, is that this is not a supplementary demand. I must invite your attention to rule 50, to which I have been turning again and again during the last few days. In actual words, this is not a supplementary demand, and I submit that with confidence. Now, Rule 50, clause (1), sub-clause (i) says:

"The amount voted in the Budget of a grant is found to be insufficient for the purposes of the current year."

Now, Sir, if you will take this supplementary demand for grant 69A, you will find that they say: "original grant, nil" at page 29.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This is not entirely for expenditure during the current year. Is this not as well for the next year?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am now, Sir, on this point that it is not covered, in words or in spirit, by rule 50. Sub-clause (i) of clause (1) of that Rule says:

"That amount voted in the Budget of a grant is found to be insufficient for the purposes of the current year."

The statement is: "no grant is voted". Therefore, it follows, that money which is not voted at all cannot be found to be insufficient for the purposes of the current year.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is not that amount voted in the budget?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: They cannot have it both ways. If they had brought forward any original demand on this subject and then asked for a supplementary demand, that would have been a different matter. If they say it is an original grant now, in that case, since there can be no demand, there cannot be a supplementary demand.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it not possible for the Honourable the Finance Member to make provision for a new service, when the need arises? Is it not possible to have a combination of both?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: But not a combination of "neither", Sir. A combination of neither is not possible. The second point, Sir, is that the need arises during the current year for expenditure for which the vote of the Assembly is necessary upon some new service and—mark the following words—"not contemplated in the Budget for that year". It is not as if they can call it a new service; this is not a new service not contemplated in the Budget for that year. So neither under clause (1) nor under clause (2) can it be called a "supplementary demand". That is my fourth point.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards the point of order raised, does the Honourable the Finance Member wish to say anything?

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row (Government of India: Nominated Official): I propose to say something, Sir, if you will allow me. Sir, my Honourable friend said that it is not a demand at all, as it is not "expenditure". But you will see, Sir, from section 67A of the Government of India Act that the words used there are:

"Appropriation of revenues or monies for any purpose."

(*Voices*: "We cannot hear." "Louder, please.") Sir, the words used in section 67A of the Government of India Act, in sub-section (1), are:

"The estimated annual expenditure and revenue of the Governor General."

In the first place, I say that, it is well-known that it is one of the principles of book-keeping that, if money is transferred from revenue to any fund or any other suspense account, it appears as a revenue expenditure of the year in which the transfer is made. That is the first point. So I say it is revenue expenditure of the year. And then in other sub-sections of that same section you will find the words:

"The appropriation of any money or revenues."

It is not actual "expenditure", but only appropriation; again, in sub-section (3), it is said:

"The proposals of the Governor General in Council for the appropriation of revenue or monies relating to. . ."

Here also, it is not that the expenditure from the suspense account should be incurred during the year in which the amount is put into the suspense account. The actual transfer to the suspense account will be

made in the year in which the grant is voted by the Assembly. Then, Sir, the next point raised by my friend is that this is not a supplementary demand at all, as it is not covered by sub-rule (1) of rule 50 of the Legislative Rules, as it is not a case of the amount voted in the budget being found insufficient for the purposes of the current year. Then he said that it does not come under clause (ii) of the sub-rule as it is not a new service not contemplated in the budget. Now let us first see what the demand is for. It is for the transfer of a certain sum of money from the revenue of the current year to a special fund to be utilized for the development of Broadcasting. It is quite true that Broadcasting, by itself, is not a new service and ordinary expenditure on the development of Broadcasting may not be a new service, but we cannot be quite sure about the latter, especially in view of the various decisions of the Public Accounts Committee. Here I must mention that the question "what is a new service" has been engaging the attention of the Public Accounts Committee for the last so many years, and, with the help of the Auditor General, they have been trying to come to some solution as to what definition to give to the term "new service", and, after a very careful consideration, they came to the conclusion that it was impossible to give a precise definition of the term "new service". They, therefore, decided, on the advice of the Auditor General, that they should build up a body of case law on the subject. (Ironical Cheers.) This is what the Committee said, Sir, in the Report on the accounts of 1926-27:

"We agree with the Auditor General that, as in England, there should be no cast-iron rule and that the application of the term "New Service" could best be governed by the evolution of a body of case law."

This is what the Auditor General said:

"Parliamentary practice in England has always recognised a new work of any importance as a new service. The practice in India is tending to crystallise in the same way."

According to this criterion, Sir, every big scheme of expenditure will have to be treated as a new service.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member says that section 51(2) applies.

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it proposed to spend the amount this year?

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row: The amount will appear as expenditure in the revenue accounts of the Government of India this year, because according to the rules of book-keeping when a transfer is made from revenue to a suspense account, the amount appears as expenditure in the revenue accounts of the year, and for any item appearing in the revenue account as a charge, the vote of this Assembly is required so long as it is not a non-voted item under the Government of India Act. Then, Sir, we may also

[Mr. K. Sanjiva Row.]

examine it from another point of view. The demand is for the creation of a special fund for the development of Broadcasting; it is not for ordinary expenditure on Broadcasting. It is true that the Assembly has accepted the principle of expenditure on Broadcasting but it cannot be said that they have accepted the principle of creating a fund for the development of Broadcasting. So, this involves a new principle which has not been accepted by the Assembly, and, therefore, it should be classified as a new service. Here, I think, I must make it quite clear that the point raised by my Honourable friend about the creation of a fund is not right. The Assembly has been voting, year after year, a block grant of over a crore of rupees for the development of roads, and even this year they voted it. You will find, Sir, from page 498 of demands for grants that they have voted a sum of Rs. 1,31,00,000 as a block grant for expenditure on road development. That expenditure has not been actually incurred in the year and this is also a similar case. It is debited to civil works and transferred to the suspense head 'Road Fund'. Then my Honourable friend said: 'Why was a new demand created?' It is rather curious that this question should have come from the Opposition, because, according to the Parliamentary procedure, the larger the number of demands, the greater the control of the Legislature. It has always been the practice for all Parliaments to insist on a larger number of demands than on a smaller number. Under rule 44, the Finance Member has got full discretion. He can make a demand in respect of expenditure which cannot readily be classified under particular departments. We say that this expenditure cannot be classified under any of the existing heads under Demand 69.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Broadcasting.

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row: It is Broadcasting, but it cannot be classified under any of the heads existing under Broadcasting because it is an amount which is voted by the Assembly simply for a transfer to a fund for the development of Broadcasting. Therefore, we thought that it would give greater control to the Assembly because it would prevent the executive from transferring funds from this grant for ordinary expenditure on Broadcasting. So far as the Assembly is concerned, whether we call it 69 or 69-A, I do not think it affects the discussion in the House in any way.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What about the particulars that are wanting?

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row: So far as this demand is concerned, it is simply a transfer from the revenue to a suspense account and there cannot be any particulars in respect of a transfer. It can only be a block grant and there cannot be any details. I might mention that it is the intention that all detailed schemes should be placed before the Standing Finance Committee for their approval.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What about the sanction of the Governor General?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: May I just elaborate that point. I think the question of detailed control by the Assembly or of detailed information to the Assembly can perfectly be well met, and, in my view, the whole point of substance in this list of points raised by the Honourable Member opposite is that when we propose to incur expenditure on individual schemes out of a fund which has been set up, details should be submitted to the Standing Finance Committee and the House by means of token votes for appropriation of money from this fund. That seems to me to be the real point of substance in the whole of this discussion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What about the recommendation of the Governor General?

Sir Lancelot Graham (Secretary, Legislative Department): So far as I can understand, this (the blue book of demands) is the recommendation of the Governor General. It has been supplied to all the Members, and it can be called His Excellency's message. I am sure, this is sufficient compliance with the Standing Order.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But ought it to be communicated to the Assembly through the Chair or not?

Sir Lancelot Graham: I do find a statement in the Standing Orders that communications by the Governor General to the Assembly *"are"* made by a message to the President. That is a somewhat curious expression. I see from the provisions of Standing Order 74 that communications "to" the Governor General *"shall"* be made through the President. I am not quite sure what the significance of this is, but I observe in the actual provisions of the Act that no new proposal for the appropriation of revenue or moneys shall be made except on the recommendation of the Governor General. I understand from the Finance Department that that recommendation is there, and I understand it is sufficiently communicated through this book (the blue book of demands).

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): In fact, there has been a recommendation of the Governor General.

Sir Lancelot Graham: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The first question is that there has not been compliance of section 67A, clauses (1) and (2), because there has been no communication made by the Governor General to the Assembly recommending this appropriation. As regards that, the Chair does not find anything in the law or Rules or Standing Orders saying that a recommendation of the Governor General for a certain appropriation of revenues must be made to the Assembly through the Chair, and the Chair is informed that the recommendation has already been received by the Finance Department. That, in the Chair's opinion, sufficiently complies with the requirements of the Rules and Standing Orders, and the practice has all along been in all Legislatures that the recommendation is communicated to the Department concerned.

[Mr. President.]

The second point is that, as a matter of fact, this is not a demand, within the meaning of Rule 50, because there is no question of expenditure of this amount during the current year. But, as has been very clearly explained, this demand is for the transfer of a fund to a suspense account from the revenue, and the Chair is not prepared to hold that a demand like that does not come within the purview of the Rules. Then, it has been said that a new demand has been created as 69-A. In fact, the original demand for grant was under 69 with respect to Broadcasting; and Broadcasting has already been included in the demand, and there is no authority for this new demand. The Chair really fails to understand the point of this objection. The real objection of substance, if valid, would be that sufficient particulars have not been given to enable the House to deel with this demand on its merits. But the explanation for that is that what has been proposed by the Government and what has been placed before the House for its acceptance is that a certain amount should be transferred from the revenues in order to form a fund for the purpose of meeting the expenditure for development of Broadcasting in the future. The Chair is informed that precedents exist for such transfers and this demand is now being made for such a transfer following those precedents. In matters of this nature, regarding the procedure and practice of the House, the Chair is not prepared to hold that there is any illegality in making a demand for such a transfer. It may or may not be desirable that such a transfer should be made. That is another matter, but, having regard to the established practice, the Chair cannot hold that the transfer sought to be proposed for which the sanction of the House is asked is illegal.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: You have given your ruling on three of the points raised by me. You have not given a ruling on my fourth point, namely, that this is not a new service.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): On that point the Chair has already given its ruling that it is a new service in the sense that there is a fresh programme which is not contemplated in the original demand.

There is an amendment* in the name of Pandit Nilakantha Das to omit the entire grant. As it is a direct negative, it is out of order.

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Then, I will speak opposing the entire demand.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Not now. The next amendment is in the name of Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum, not exceeding Rs. 20,00,000, in respect of 'Transfer to the Fund for the Development of Broadcasting' be reduced to one rupee."

*"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum, not exceeding Rs. 20,00,000, in respect of 'Transfer to the Fund for the Development of Broadcasting' be omitted."

Sir, let me inform you at the very outset that I have not moved this cut, because I am opposed to Broadcasting or its development, nor because I do not appreciate its value or importance, but I have moved it, because I feel that, under the existing circumstances, the transfer of a big sum like twenty lakhs from the so-called surplus revenue is not a proper expenditure. When I say so-called surplus, I say it deliberately, because I hold and maintain that, so long as the Government of India have at their disposal such large amounts in the shape of stores, depreciation fund, reduction or avoidance of debt and other funds, they can easily manipulate surplus or deficit to suit the purpose of Government for the time being. Sir, you are aware that, till 1923-24, only a sum of 3,78 lakhs used to be provided for reduction and avoidance of debt. In 1924-25, it was increased to 6,86 lakhs, and that was the year when the Railway Budget was separated from the General Budget. Since then, it was expected that this would bring in an income of five crores to the general revenue from the railways, and the Government, instead of utilising the whole of this amount in reducing the taxation and in financing the expenditure on nation-building items, have doubled nearly the provision for the avoidance and reduction of debt. A few years later, when, because of the economic slump, Government were faced with a considerable fall in revenue, they came out with proposals for additional taxation, and, Sir, you, as the Leader of the Opposition, then made the suggestion to the then Finance Member that such a big sum should not be provided for the reduction and avoidance of debt, but the suggestion was spurned by the Finance Member with the remark that it would amount to a raid on the sinking fund. Later on, we find that the same Finance Member came before the House and provided only three crores under this item for 1933-34 and 1934-35 and he did so with a view to get the approval of this House for his proposals for additional taxation which as usual were accompanied by assurances that the taxes would be removed as soon as the financial position improved. Now, Sir, but for this considerable reduction in this item of the budget, we would have been faced with a deficit of 7,78 lakhs and not a surplus of 3,89 lakhs. Let us see what the Finance Member has to say on this subject. In his speech while referring to this subject of avoidance of debt he said:

"I, therefore, accept as reasonable for the time a provision of three crores now prevailing but I should like to make it clear that in my view an increased provision for debt reduction ought to be a first charge on any contribution from the railway in future."

Now, may I ask the Finance Member if he felt that way, why did he not provide for an increase under this head. As a matter of fact it is a strange coincidence that the surplus is exactly the difference between the amounts that have been provided for under this head and that would have been provided if the practice prevailing before had been followed.

Now, Sir, we know what is the reason why he did not provide for it. He did not want to have a deficit bugdet. If he had provided for the full amount under this item, he would have been faced with a deficit budget, but he did not want to come before this House with a deficit budget because he wanted to restore the five per cent. cut on the salaries. Sir, again we find that the Finance Member has threatened us and he says that if we are not going to approve of his proposals for the disposal of this surplus money, this surplus would automatically go to the reduction and avoidance of debt fund.

[Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena.]

Sir, the other day, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant challenged him to cite the rule under which that was going to take place. But two days have elapsed, and the Honourable Member has not been pleased to enlighten us on that point. Sir, I may also remind him that even the surplus of 3,89 lakhs, according to his own statement, is made up of two figures; first Rs. 66 lakhs which is the surplus for 1933-34 and the surplus of 3,23 lakhs for 1934-35. If the practice were followed and if what the Finance Member said were a fact, then this amount of 66 lakhs ought to have lapsed or would have gone to this heading on the 31st March, 1934. I may respectfully tell the Honourable the Finance Member that we are not schoolboys and we are not going to be cowed down by his dogmatic assertions or by his petulant threats or by his angry looks. (Laughter.) We are here as the elected representatives of the people, and I may state, from my own personal knowledge, that with one exception, that is my own self, every one sitting on these Congress Benches. . . .

[At this stage, as the Honourable the Finance Member was speaking to the Honourable the President, the speaker sat down.]

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member will go on.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: As the Honourable the Finance Member was talking to you, Sir, I thought I would sit down.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member ought not to make these remarks. If any Honourable Member wants to communicate anything to the Chair, he is at liberty to come up here and make that communication.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: But the case of the Finance Member was different, because, at this stage, I was particularly drawing his attention.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No, Sir; all he was doing was making some offensive personal remarks, and I was not called upon to listen to those.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better go on.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Sir, I was saying that every one sitting on even the Congress back benches, except myself, holds a front position in the public life of his province and is an unquestioned leader in his district; and they are here by virtue of the sacrifices and suffering which they have undergone in the service of the people. And the Honourable the Finance Member will concede that we, on this side, are a little better acquainted with the conditions of the people and we are in more intimate touch with them than he or, for the matter of that, most of the Members sitting on the opposite benches.

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): So far the Honourable Member has not said one word which is relevant.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: I have been so far dealing with surpluses. Now, Sir, I may say that the exhibition of temper does not add to the reputation of anybody, nor is it conducive to efficiency. A fit of temper only gets the better of one's judgment and blurs one's reason and leads one into mistakes and errors.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is all this? The Honourable Member must confine himself to the demand before the House. The Chair will not allow the Honourable Member to indulge in all sorts of general remarks. This is not the occasion.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: The question before the House is whether it would be conducive to the best interests of the people, whom we claim to represent, that a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs should be transferred to the fund for the development of Broadcasting. Sir, I think the Honourable Members will agree with me that the first claim on the surplus should be of the taxpayer by whose sacrifice it has been possible for the Government to tide over the period of financial stress. But, if it be against the canons of public finance to reduce taxes out of the non-recurring surplus, as the Finance Member would have us believe, I hope the House will agree with me in the other proposition, namely, that it should be utilised on expenditure that is absolutely obligatory. And on this point this House received an assurance from the predecessor of the Honourable the Finance Member and I am going to read it. In his budget speech last year he said:

> "We are still searching for further economies, and have rigidly maintained our rule that no new item of expenditure shall be submitted unless it is absolutely obligatory or unless it is likely to be economically productive."

Now, Sir, I put it to the Finance Member that he has not placed any scheme before us. Does this item of expenditure or his proposal satisfy these two conditions which were promised to be fulfilled by his predecessor before any new item was to be sanctioned by this House? I know that the Finance Member believes in pledges. He has tried to redeem the pledges which his predecessor gave to the services. I want to know what he is going to do with the pledges which he gave to this House, pledges which he gave to the taxpayer. Is he going to redeem them or is he going to have the cuts restored and go on with the expenditure as usual? Now, Sir, I put it to you in all seriousness, if a person came to you for advice as to how he should invest his savings, you will naturally inquire about his circumstances. And if he were to tell you that one-third of the members of his family did not have two square meals a day, if he told you that most of them were ill-fed and ill-clad, if he told you that there were no proper arrangements for medical aid, and if he also told you that his young children were not going to school and there was no arrangement for their education or the employment of the grown up ones . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House has heard all that, the Chair does not know how many times. If the Honourable Member would address himself to the particular demand, it would be far more useful to the House.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: The question is whether these 20 lakhs should be spent on Broadcasting or on some other item which is more necessary, so far as the welfare of the people is concerned. And that is why I put this question to you. Now, if he were to tell you that this was the state of affairs in his family, will you advise him to go in for a radio set and leave the members of his family to starve and undergo all sorts of privations and sufferings? I know your reply will be like that of the ant who, when the mosquito approached it and offered to give lessons in music to its young ones, replied: "I refuse your proposal. If my young ones were to learn music, how will they manage to live and when will they work for their food?" So the whole problem reduces itself to this Is the Finance Member prepared to inform this House whether any lullabies or talks have been composed which, when broadcasted, will quench the pangs of hunger, which are likely to make the listeners immune from the effects of cold and from the ravages of disease? If not, my submission is that under the existing circumstances, this expenditure on Broadcasting is a criminal waste of money. Sir, the Finance Member said that Broadcasting is an immensely important factor in the intellectual and cultural development of a country and India cannot afford to fall behind other countries in this matter. This is what he said in his speech with reference to the Broadcasting programme. Now, I myself am not only anxious, but impatient that India should not lag behind any country, not only in respect of Broadcasting, but in respect of anything. It is the ambition of my life to see India achieve and maintain its rightful place in the free comity of nations, so that it may have its legitimate share in the international trade, and it may be able to contribute its full share towards the happiness and well-being and peace of the world; and we, on this side of the House, are doing our level best to work to that end. But the question before us is whether there are other crying and pressing needs. What about illiteracy? Is not India much behind other nations of the world so far as literacy is concerned notwithstanding the 150 years of British rule about which, the other day, Mr. Bajpai spoke so eloquently? Our percentage of literates is not more than ten. What about other countries? The other day, the Finance Member said: "We have spent so much money for nation-building departments during 15 years". True, you have spent that amount: but with what results? During this period, what have other countries done? What about Russia? What about Japan? Germany came out crushed and crest-fallen from the War, economically worse off than India, and, now, we find that she has regained her old place and other nations in the world are looking at her with respect. In India, during the last 15 or 20 years, so much money has been spent, of which the Honourable the Finance Member boasted, and yet we know that the percentage of literacy has not increased much: we know that the number of unemployed has gone up . . .

1 P.M.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is really wasting the time of the House: all these are matters that are relevant to the general discussion of the budget or the Finance Bill, not now. It is sheer waste of time.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saxena: I was submitting that there are other pressing needs and the Government should attend to them and this surplus should be utilised on those items . . . .

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Hear, hear.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: After all, I was referring to illiteracy. What about unemployment? The other day, I put a supplementary question to the Honourable Member for Labour and Industries, as to what steps had been taken by Government, to tackle the problem of unemployment in the Centrally Administered areas: he wanted me to put a new question; he wanted notice. I say, in this country, when reports are appearing in the papers daily of suicides by young men because of unemployment, do Government need any notice to rouse it to its sense of duty to these unfortunate young men? I think a scheme to have a crusade against illiteracy and against unemployment is more necessary . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair told the Honourable Member that all these matters are not relevant, and it will not allow him to go on further with them.

[At this stage, Prof. N. G. Ranga was noticed walking between the Chair and the speaker.]

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order: the Honourable Member ought to know that he ought not to cross the line between the speaker and the Chair.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I am sorry, Sir.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: I will not make any suggestions about those matters. I will now confine myself to the department of Broadcasting, and the Broadcasting activities of the Government of India. It has got two sides: firstly, the official and the other is the non-official side. So far as the official activities are concerned, we find the same old story. We find that in this department, there are about 183 technically qualified hands employed; and out of them only 46 are Indians and one is a Burman and the others are all non-Indians. We also find, that in 1934, seven Inspectors were appointed and none of them was an Indian. We find, the persons appointed are all pensioned officers and they were not Indians. We find, that the transmission apparatus was purchased from Marconi by the High Commissioner: it was not purchased through the Stores Purchase Department in India: no tenders were invited from firms in India, although there are at least four firms which deal with transmitting apparatus . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is there any such statement?

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes, in the Standing Finance Committee proceedings. As a matter of fact, I may inform the House that originally the idea of the Finance Member was to bring a supplementary demand only in respect of the amount that was approved by the Finance Committee in August; but now, because he could find so much money out of the surplus,

[Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena.]

therefore, instead of bringing the originally estimated supplementary demand, he says that the expenditure for that also should be met out of the money transferred to this fund. Therefore, I am relevant in discussing that scheme or proposal of the Finance Committee. I was submitting that after all what steps have the Government taken during these years for training Indians in wireless? So far as this demand is concerned, we have got no memorandum: we are only referred to the statement of the Finance Member in his budget speech, and, as I have said . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That has been pointed out over and over again. The Honourable Member knows that the rules do not allow of such repetitions.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: I was submitting that even if this amount is to be transferred, at least the Honourable the Finance Member should come to this House for the sanction of pays and salaries that are allowed to these officers appointed in this department. I will now refer to the non-official counter-part of the Broadcasting activity, and, regarding this, I am on firmer ground, because I have better information. We know that receiving stations are being established at various centres, and one of these centres is Dehra Dun. What do we find? We find . . . .

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): I am sorry that I am not sure whether I heard my Honourable friend correctly. Did I hear him say that it was proposed to establish a Broadcasting centre at Dehra Dun?

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Receiving centre.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Not by the Government of India. The Local Government may have some plans in that direction, but the Government of India do not propose to establish any Broadcasting centre at Dehra Dun.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: I was just saying that, after all, when there is a transmitting station here, there must be places fitted up with receiving apparatus. The District Magistrates are organising associations to have this receiving apparatus in various towns.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: All I can say is that I am very glad to hear that the Local Governments do propose to take advantage of the facilities provided by the Central Broadcasting. That is obviously what the Central Broadcasting is intended for.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: I hope the Honourable Member will kindly listen to what I have to say, and I think his gladness will be short-lived. What do we find? There the District Magistrate is the President and the Naib Tahsildar is the Secretary. They have established a Broadcasting Association and they have decided to raise Rs. 50,000. All these facts have appeared in the *Hindustan Times* of the 25th December. We find that promises of subscriptions are secured from those persons who apply for licenses or renewal of their arms, and after those promises had been

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secured, demands for realisation are being made, and what are these demands like? I will just read one of them which I have got in Urdu. The translation of the document is as follows:

URGENT

Dated 6th March, 1935.

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION, TEHSIL DEHRA DUN

Hukumnama (order).

To.....

Let it be known that the sum of Rs. .....the promised amount for Broadcasting has not yet been received in the Tehsil. You are, therefore, ordered by this that you should deposit this sum forthwith in the *Tehsil* and obtain a receipt. There should be no further delay. Treat this as imperative,. Before this English letter, on behalf of the Tehsildar, has been served upon you, this sum should be paid very soon. Take the warning.

(Sd.) ILLEGIBLE,
Naib Tehsildar, Dehra Dun.
Honorary Secretary, Broadcasting Association.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Will the Honourable Member explain what that has got to do with this demand?

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: I was submitting that once the Government of India take up any particular item, these local officials think it their duty to push it on. They know that this transmitting centre will not be a successful centre, unless simultaneously receiving centres are established, and, for what is going on in this connection, I think the responsibility rests with the Central Government. People are being harassed for subscriptions to the Broadcasting fund. Therefore, I think it is a proper subject to bring to the notice of the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is no proposal here for subscriptions?

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: That will be the result of this proposal. When they are going to demand 20 lakhs of rupees, I know that for utilising that amount they must have receiving sets at all the district headquarters. Unless that is done, there will be no use in setting up a transmitting station as Delhi is going to be. Dehra Dun is very near Delhi, and it is because it has been given out that the Delhi transmitting station will be ready by November, therefore, these enthusiasts are in a great hurry to raise money, so that they may be the first to set up a receiving apparatus.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member finished?

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: No, Sir, I have not finished.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): With your permission, Sir, I desire to make a statement as to the probable course of Government business in the week beginning Monday, the 1st April. Having regard to the amount of unfinished business, we have, in the first place, to ask you, Sir, to make a direction that the House shall sit for the transaction of Government business on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The first business on Monday will be a motion for the election to fill the vacancy caused in the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz by the death of Mr. Sherwani. Thereafter, motions will be made for leave to introduce:

(1) a Bill further to amend the Cantonments Act, 1924, for certain purposes; and

(2) a Bill further to amend the Indian Tea Cess Act, 1903, for a certain purpose.

Thereafter, the consideration of the Finance Bill will be resumed. On the conclusion of the Finance Bill, the following business will be taken up:

(1) Motions for taking into consideration and passing the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill (Wheat and Rice).

(2) Motions for taking into consideration and passing the Bill to amend the Indian Tea Cess Act, 1903.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What happens to the supplementary demands?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): That, Sir, entirely depends upon what happens today. If they are not passed by the end of the financial year, certain other measures will have to be taken. In their present form, they must lapse. As to in what precise form they will have to be dealt with, I can say at the end of the business, but I do not know now what is going to happen.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—*contd.*

TRANSFER TO THE FUND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BROADCASTING.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Before the Honourable Member, Mr. Saksena, resumes his speech, the Chair wishes to remind him that he has already spoken for a sufficient length of time, and the Chair does hope he will bear in mind that there may be other Honourable Members who wish to take part in the debate, and that he will also consider the desirability of the business of the House being proceeded with, so that, if possible, the supplementary demands may be disposed of today. (Applause.)

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Sir, when the House adjourned, I was referring to the activities of the so-called non-official agencies at Dehra Dun. I read out an order for payment in original, and the Honourable Members can have an idea as to how these so-called non-official agencies work, so far as raising of funds is concerned. As I said beforehand,

complaints to that effect appeared in the *Hindustan Times* and I had expected that the Honourable Member in charge would take notice of it and make enquiries at least. Sir, the matter is not so simple as it looks, because once the local officials take it into their heads that it is the *policy* of Government, whether local or central, that Broadcasting should be encouraged and receiving stations should be established in all the important places, they will do their level best to raise the necessary funds. In this case, besides these subscriptions, fancy fairs and *dangals*, that is, wrestling matches were held, and, in fact, sub-inspectors went about selling tickets; and I hope, now that this matter has been brought to the notice of the House and of the Government, the Honourable Member in charge will see that, not only at Dehra Dun, but at other places, no undue influence is brought to bear on persons already hard hit by their financial troubles, for finding money for Broadcasting or any other fund.

Sir, now there is another point to which I want to draw the attention of this House. We have not received any scheme. I have got a copy of the proceedings of the Finance Committee dated the 31st August, 1934. From the memorandum in this, it appears that it is likely that this scheme may be profitable and even self-supporting, because on page 164, you will find:

"The figures indicate that, even with a high customs duty and an undeveloped Broadcasting organisation the service is a promising source of additional revenue."

If that is true, I would submit that, if this scheme is going to be a profitable scheme, then the proper procedure would be to charge the expenditure to capital. Well, Sir, I would lastly inquire as to what agency is going to control the operations of Broadcasting,—whether Government will control it, or will it be a non-official agency, and if a non-official agency is going to control it, what will be its constitution, and will Government appoint any committee of elected Members of this House to control the operations? Sir, this is a very important point on which the House must have information before it can be a party to accepting this Demand. We are also entitled to know whether Broadcasting will also include political propaganda. While I recognise that Broadcasting will play an important part in the future development of society, and it has got great potentialities for good, I cannot, however, ignore the fact that it can be very much abused. It is with a view to safeguarding the country from this danger that Broadcasting in England is not in the hands of Government, but is being managed by a non-official agency, and no political party can enjoy any preference in its propaganda. I hope the House will agree with me that, without safeguarding ourselves against its likely abuses, we could not be a party to placing such a powerful instrument in the hands of an unscrupulous, irresponsible and alien administration. (Applause.)

We have had some experience of the working of the Publicity Department attached to the various Provincial Governments. Sir, you will be surprised to know that the Publicity Department of the United Provinces Government was used for promoting class hatred and communal jealousies. In 1922 there was a remarkable degree of unity among the Hindus and Muslims, and it was at that time that the Publicity Department brought out pictures of Moplahs converting forcibly Hindus and these pictures were put up in the temples at Ajodhya, Muttra and other places. Sir,

[Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena.]

when I saw one of them, in one of my speeches I mentioned it and the Publicity Department came out with a contradiction. But when I became a Member of the Council, I asked for a list of the publications by the Publicity Department and a list was laid on the table, when lo! there was that publication included. I confronted the Government Members as to what was the object of publishing such pictures and there was no reply and no justification of their conduct. In fact the subsequent communal troubles can all be traced to this kind of propaganda that was carried on by *Aman Sabhas* and the Publicity Departments. We all know that, during the last few years, similar propaganda, I should say, false and malicious propaganda has been carried on by the Government, while the newspapers are being suppressed.

I may also bring to the notice of the House one more instance and it is about the Frontier Province. We know that leaflets were dropped from aeroplanes and in those leaflets all sorts of misrepresentations were made. While here, it is represented to us that if the British army is removed, the Pathans will come and loot our property and the honour of our women will not be safe. Similarly, it was represented in the Frontier that if the Government were not there, the Congress will establish their own Government and they will be deprived of their property and there will be a Communistic Government and their frontiers will be in danger. Sir, this is the kind of propaganda which has been carried on by the Government, and I wanted to bring it to the notice of the House that it is not safe for the House to be a party to a scheme unless we have specific safeguard against its being used against us. I also wanted to bring to the notice of the House that the Director of Broadcasting has been appointed. I had not noticed it before, but I find he has already been appointed on a salary of Rs. 2,000—50—Rs. 2,200.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: He has not yet been appointed.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: He has been offered.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That is not the same thing as being appointed.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: I will read out the note:

"The High Commissioner was requested to engage a suitable officer in consultation with the British Broadcasting Corporation and has recently been authorised to offer the new appointment of Controller of Broadcasting to a candidate recommended by the Corporation on a salary of Rs. 2,000—50—2,200."

Am I wrong in suggesting that the gentleman has been offered and it is for him to accept or not? So far as the Government are concerned, the post has been offered to him. I should like to know what are the qualifications and the special qualifications of this gentleman. What is his present salary?

There is another item here which says:

"That no real expenditure has been incurred, but an order has been placed for the purpose, involving an expenditure of approximately Rs. 2,30,000."

[Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena.]

If the order has been placed, I want to know whether any tenders were invited. Were they invited only from English firms in Great Britain or from other European countries as well? Why were not these tenders invited from firms in India? Why was not the purchase made through the Indian Stores Department? From this one item the House will have an idea as to how much of these 20 lakhs will go out of India. In purchasing one apparatus, we have sent 2 lakhs 30 thousand, and when this Broadcasting scheme is in full swing, it will not be only the Government that will be spending money in making purchases in foreign countries, but there will be others who will be setting up radios privately and they will also be sending so much money out of the country. It is for the House to consider whether at this time India can afford to send so much money out of the country. This is the time when we are in the grips of great financial difficulties. We know that our people are starving and crying for work and bread. Are we going to give them mere talks and radios? Before voting for this demand, we have to take all these factors into consideration. With these words, I place my motion before the House, and I hope the House will take it into full consideration and will accept it. (Applause.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum, not exceeding Rs. 20,00,000, in respect of 'Transfer to the Fund for the Development of Broadcasting' be reduced to one rupee."

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, as I understand the position it is as follows. Proposals for the construction of a Broadcasting station at Delhi with the necessary staff and the cost of maintenance was placed before the Standing Finance Committee for their consideration and was accepted by the Finance Committee. Since then, the proposal has developed into a demand for 20 lakhs to form a fund for the expansion of Broadcasting throughout India and that is the proposal that is before us today. The only part of this proposal that has been considered and agreed to by the Finance Committee is the construction of the station at Delhi and its maintenance and staff. Therefore, Sir, I think the Finance Department, especially my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, takes upon himself a considerable responsibility for the expenditure of the balance of this 20 lakhs. I find that in the Finance Committee report it is stated that a supplementary grant, during the current year, of such extent as may be necessary, will be demanded and a budget provision, in subsequent years, will be made. Under the circumstances, I would like to know what check this House is going to exercise over the other part of the expenditure and how far it will be scrutinised and checked by the Finance Committee. One method by which it can be done is by a token demand, brought before this House for all other schemes that will be covered by this general demand of 20 lakhs. I trust that will be the method adopted by the Finance Department. Is that so?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I will answer later on all the questions raised.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I think this House ought to have a voice in the question as to other schemes that may be covered by these 20 lakhs. I think it is admitted on all sides of the House that Broadcasting ought to be encouraged and I would be the last to come in the way of the expansion of Broadcasting in this country. At the same time I do feel that this House should be associated with all the schemes that will be paid for and covered by these 20 lakhs. I would also like to be assured that the Finance Committee will be consulted and their opinion taken, and, above all, the watch-dog of our finance, the Finance Member, will keep his eye wide open when funds of this sort are placed at the disposal of departments.

Sir, the Honourable Member sitting on the Government Benches, who spoke on the point of order, compared this fund with the Road Fund. So far as I know, the Road Fund is a fund which is distributed to the provinces. It is money from the Central Government handed over to the provinces,—part of it at least. So far as the monies that are handed over to the provinces are concerned, it is the responsibility of the Local Legislature and of the Local Governments to see that the monies handed over by the Central Government are properly used. This demand is in a totally different category. These monies are for central sources of expenditure, supervised and looked after by the Central Government; and, therefore, I trust that the Honourable the Finance Member will give a satisfactory explanation of the questions I have asked. If those answers are satisfactory I trust the House will grant this demand. I must point out to the House that it was always intended that this money should come out of revenue, and that the Finance Committee were aware of the fact that this money was coming out of revenue. The expenditure on Broadcasting up to now has, I understand, come out of revenue. Therefore, I cannot put up the same contention as I did on the other occasion that the Finance Committee sanctioned the money on the understanding that it should come out of capital. It was decided that this money should come out of revenue and I agree that it should come out of revenue, although I admit that I would have liked to see provision made out of the current year's revenue for this item of expenditure and not out of the surplus. But I am not going to stress that point at this juncture. If I get satisfactory answers, I for one, will support the motion before the House.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, the proposal is, as the Honourable the Baronet says, to utilise part of this now expiring year's surplus in order to be able to accelerate the development of Broadcasting in this country, and, therefore, to allocate to it greater sums than would be possible if you had to rely on the revenue of the coming year alone. He can rely absolutely on the Finance Department exercising just the same control, as over ordinary demands, in fact rather more, because I am quite aware of the danger that normally exists that when there is money readily available there is also a temptation to waste it. He can rely on the normal financial control being as complete as it is in the case of all other demands. As regards the participation of this House in the approval of these schemes, I do not wish to bind myself to the precise form in which the grants will be submitted to the House, and I do not want to convey any misunderstanding about that. I am not yet clear in my own mind whether the more satisfactory way would be to submit individual schemes for individual stations, or whether it would be better to submit the programme for a year; but, in one form or another, there would be submitted to the House in the ordinary way demands for appropriations from the fund to actual expenditure.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: For specific purposes?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: For specific purposes which will be fully specified in the demand. That, I think, is all the assurances that the Honourable the Baronet asked for, and, I hope, I have fully satisfied him.

Sir Darcy Lindsay (Bengal: European): Sir, I am sorry my Honourable friend has moved this amendment, for if it were carried it would put back the clock in connection with the very desirable extension of Broadcasting in India. He seemed to me to blow hot and cold. He approves of the extension of Broadcasting, and yet, on the other hand, he does not want to vote the money to allow of the extension of Broadcasting. He is also afraid that the money if put in a fund will not be properly expended. Sir Cowasji Jehangir raised the similar important point and I would like to suggest to the Honourable Member in charge of Industries that a Standing Committee should be created, on similar lines to the Road Board, who would have before them all schemes in connection with the development of Broadcasting. There will then be continuity. The committee that I suggest, on approving the schemes, would put them up to the Standing Finance Committee for examination and approval or otherwise before they came to this House. It is very necessary, in my opinion, that this fund should be created, because, then the department know where they are as regards a year or two years' programme. Unless they know what money is available for expenditure it is very difficult to formulate schemes.

Then, there is another point I would refer to. I do not know if it is generally realised that the present Broadcasting service produces a surplus revenue over expenditure of, I believe, something like five lakhs. So we are partly spending the money that has been earned by Broadcasting. As regards the desirability of extension I think we have only to examine the position in other countries. Italy has a network of village Broadcasting, and I believe that something like 50,000 sets have been installed in different parts of the country in schools and elsewhere and it is of wonderful benefit to the people. Russia, Germany, South Africa, are all moving in that direction. The latter country recently had a visit from Sir John Reith who is the head of the British Broadcasting Corporation and he has made recommendations for the full development of Broadcasting throughout South Africa. As regards India, Sir, only a few days ago, I saw a notice that a cut has been moved in the Frontier Council for the extension of Broadcasting, and there was also a suggestion that they might receive a portion of these 20 lakhs. Southern India are moving fast in the same direction. They want to see more stations erected so that Broadcasting could spread over the South. There is one other matter that I would like to refer to and that was a point raised in connection with supplementary questions a few days ago. I think my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, asked what steps were being taken for the training of Indians in Broadcasting? Now, Sir, it is not a matter that requires training in the strict

[Sir Darcy Lindsay.]

sense. It is mainly engineering; and I can tell him, as far as my experience goes in connection with Bengal and the station in Calcutta, that the whole of the engineering staff are Indians. Young Indians are recruited and are trained and made eligible for superior posts. In India there is very very little of the European element in Broadcasting. The Indian Engineers were found to be extremely capable: the head Engineer in Calcutta is probably fully qualified in the erection of transmission stations, and what I would like to suggest to the Honourable Member in charge of Industries and Labour is that this Engineer be sent to England and to the Continent, for at least six months, to examine Broadcasting in Europe, and then he will come back to India as highly equipped and as good expert as we could wish to have. With these few words, I oppose the amendment.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Sir, I do not propose to enter once again into that very thorny question of the propriety of debiting the amount of this grant to capital instead of revenue. That has been threshed out already sufficiently, and what I propose to do, in the few minutes that I feel is all I am justified in devoting to this subject, is to make a few comments on the speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Saksena, who started by saying that he did not oppose the development of Broadcasting, and then ended by saying that any expenditure on it was a criminal waste of public money. I should like to remind the House of the past history of this question. Even well-informed critics, keen critics of the Government like my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, apparently did not know, until the other day, that the Broadcasting service in this country is a State service: he thought it was a private service. I should like, therefore, to remind the House of the circumstances in which it became a State Broadcasting Service. Broadcasting was originally started by private enterprise in this country in 1927. In 1930, the Broadcasting Company found that they had taken on more than they could manage and proposed to give up their enterprise. Public opinion was roused in the matter and pressure was brought to bear upon the Government to take the service over, which they did in 1930, I think it was. They paid Rs. 3 lakhs for the assets of the Broadcasting Company. When the economic blizzard set in, it was felt that there was very little justification for continuing this service in view of the many more urgent matters to which money could usefully be devoted. The Government, therefore, proposed to give it up: but great pressure was brought to bear on them, by this House and outside it, to keep it on and eventually they decided to do so. But, in order to make it pay, my Honourable Colleague, the Commerce Member, who was then in charge of my department, brought in a Bill in 1932, raising the customs duty on Broadcasting apparatus from 25 per cent. to 50 per cent. I will read to the House the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to that Bill:

3 P.M.

"Experience has shown that the Indian State Broadcasting service is not yet able to pay its way. The Government of India have decided to maintain the service in view of the public value of Broadcasting and the weight of public opinion against its discontinuance. They consider, however, that the service should not be a charge upon the general taxpayer and they, accordingly, propose that the import duties on wireless reception apparatus should be enhanced so as to ensure that the customs receipts, together with other revenue associated with Broadcasting, may suffice to cover the cost of the service. The present duty including surcharges is 25 per cent *ad valorem*. The Bill proposes 50 per cent and no surcharges."

Now, let me draw the attention of the House to what has happened since then. In 1932-33, the revenue from Broadcasting amounted to Rs. 3,63,000 odd and the expenditure to about Rs. 2,33,000. In 1933-34, the revenue was Rs. 5,78,000 and the expenditure was Rs. 2,81,000. In 1934-35, the estimated receipts are Rs. 8,88,000 and the estimated expenditure Rs. 3,78,000: while in 1935-36, we estimate receipts at nearly Rs. 10½ lakhs and our budget estimates for expenditure are just under Rs. 5 lakhs . . . . .

Pandit Nilakantha Das: The receipt is only from the customs revenue?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I am not giving way. I think that is sufficient to show that Broadcasting has been a valuable source of revenue and that we are really overcharging the consumer. We are making him pay in two ways, one for his license fees and the other through the customs duty; and it cannot be said that we are giving him a really adequate return. In spite of the fact that we have done so little—we have done nothing practically since we took over the Broadcasting service except to keep up the two stations in Bombay and Calcutta—yet, in spite of that, our revenue has gone up. Surely, from two points of view, from the point of view of getting still more revenue and from the point of view of giving the consumer proper value for his money, it is high time that we expanded; and it is in order to enable us to make that expansion that we are placing these proposals before the House. Our first proposal, as the House knows, is to have a Broadcasting station in Delhi. We then propose—and I may mention for the information of the House that our programme was laid before our departmental advisory committee a few days ago and, subject to a mental reservation by Mr. Bardaloi who did not oppose it, it received the approval of that committee—we next propose to bring the Broadcasting stations at Bombay and Calcutta up to date: they are now getting distinctly worn out and it is time that we replaced and made them more powerful. Their present strength is only 2½ kilowatts: we propose to make them of the same strength as the Delhi station, namely, 20 kilowatts: I fear I have got the programme rather in the wrong order. I should have said that the next proposal is to have a station at Madras of similar strength to the Delhi one and then to take up the Bombay and Calcutta stations. With the exception of a small amount for experimental work, our programme is, therefore, to establish two new stations and improve the two old ones.

Now, I think it is desirable I should say something about the criticisms which have been brought against my department in two respects, one in regard to the Controller of Broadcasting and the other in regard to the purchase of the apparatus required for the Delhi station. My Honourable friends opposite are never tired of telling us that India should be self-sufficient in all matters, but, Sir, however desirable it may be that a country should be self-sufficient in all matters, I do not think this self-sufficiency should extend, at any rate at the outset, to a refusal to obtain advice from the best quarters from which it can be got. To the best of my knowledge Russia gets its advice from the best quarters from which it can get it, and I submit that India should do the same. I submit that it would be carrying self-sufficiency to an absurd degree if we were not prepared to accept the advice and experience of countries which have

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

advanced very much further than we have. I think it is generally admitted that the British Broadcasting Company has evolved the most satisfactory organisation of any country in the world, and is it unwise, I would ask my Honourable friends opposite, for us to endeavour to obtain the benefit of that experience? That is the reason why we have gone to the British Broadcasting Company through our High Commissioner and asked them to provide us with a suitable officer. They have suggested an officer who appears to be very highly qualified on the side on which we specially need assistance, that is the programme side. On the technical side, we have already very well qualified officers in our Director of Wireless and his staff. It is on the question of organisation on the programme side and all matters of organisation generally that we feel we ought to get the advantage of an expert from outside this country and that is the reason why we went to the British Broadcasting Company. My Honourable friends opposite asked me about the training of Indians. The expert, when he arrives, will be engaged in training Indians. As I have already said in answer to supplementary questions, all his staff will be recruited in this country and the majority, certainly, probably the great majority of them, will be Indians.. In any case, they will be recruited under the normal rules for recruitment in India. My Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, asked me the other day, "will he train an Indian to succeed him"? Well, Sir, I am not a great believer in training a particular individual to succeed to any appointment. During the time which may elapse between his selection for training and the vacancy in the appointment, he may disappoint your hopes. We shall have four Broadcasting stations within the next year or two, and, I hope, possibly another one or two, before the expiry of the five years. There will thus be ample choice for the selection of a successor to succeed our expert, that is, if the Government of the time want to select a successor. I shall not be here and this Government may not be here but the possibility should not be ruled out of consideration that the services of the expert will be so valuable that the Government of the time may think he is well worth keeping on.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is the danger.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Criticism has been brought against us as to the manner in which we are purchasing wireless apparatus for the Delhi station. I can assure the House that there has been no breach of the stores rules, and I would also remind the House,—if Dr. Ziauddin had been here, he would have borne me out,—that considerable pressure was brought to bear upon us in the last Assembly to have the wireless station at Delhi erected with the least possible delay. We were constantly asked to have it erected at once. In fact, it appeared to be the general desire of the House that it should be in operation this cold weather. In order to make an early start, we had to place our tenders through the High Commissioner. It was originally intended that we should call for general tenders but that again would have caused delay. It would have meant the receipt of tenders from Europe and America and it would have taken us several months before we could come to a satisfactory conclusion. In these circumstances, tenders were called for from two firms only, the Marconi Company and the other was, I think, the Standard Telephone

Company. I am not quite sure, but I think that Company is an American Company. Those two tenders were very carefully considered and it was found that there was very little difference between them. The tender submitted by the Marconi Company was slightly more favourable but in regard to that, and this is a point to which I attach particular importance, in accepting that tender, we were able to get the very valuable advice of the British Broadcasting Corporation in regard to our requirements. They gave us most valuable help that we should not otherwise have had. We are embarking on a new enterprise in this country in erecting a station eight times as powerful as any we have already and it was desirable that we should have the best advice we could get. The policy regarding the erection of future stations has yet to be decided, but I may inform the House that we are working out proposals by which these stations will be erected by the Posts and Telegraphs Department, in which case the orders will be placed in accordance with the rules governing the purchases of that department. I hope, Sir, I have satisfied the House that there has been no Machiavellian policy underlying either of these two important matters—the recruitment of an expert officer from England and the purchase of the necessary apparatus. I cannot say much about my Honourable friend's allegation in regard to Dehra Dun because I know nothing about it. I can assure him that we are concerned only with the Central Broadcasting stations and that I cannot believe that any pressure is being brought to bear upon members of the public to purchase receiving sets in order to swell our revenue. That seems to me a suggestion which only requires to be stated to carry with it its own refutation. The last point raised was in regard to the control of these stations. There has never been the smallest complaint in this respect. There have never been allegations of any kind that the control of the stations in Calcutta and Bombay has in any way been subjected to any political influence and I can assure my Honourable friends opposite that that will continue to be the case. Control of these stations will continue to remain in the hands of the Government, as in the past, and they will be absolutely free from political influence. It is our intention, as I intimated to our departmental advisory committee the other day, to consult Local Governments as to whether the time has not come when it would be useful to have the Director of Broadcasting in charge of the various stations assisted by an advisory committee who can keep him in touch with the material which is most likely to be of value and interest to the class whom one might call the clients of the station.

My Honourable friend, Sir Darcy Lindsay, the other day, suggested that it might be worth having a single Broadcasting station for the whole of India and that this would be a less expensive business than having four stations. Well, Sir, apart from the fact that we have already got two stations in existence, I venture to think that my Honourable friend, who does not usually speak without thinking, did not stop to think on this occasion of the linguistic difficulties that would arise if you had a single station for the whole of India. How could a single station meet the requirements of Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Assam? Apart from that, Sir, I gather that a single station would not be satisfactory. No single station would cover the whole of India. Nor would two. They would cost far more than the present scheme of covering this country with medium-powered stations, and the result would be much less satisfactory. There is more I could say with regard to the relationship of our central stations

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

with the efforts of Local Governments in regard to using Broadcasting for village uplift purposes, if time had permitted, but I may have an opportunity of doing so on some further occasion. I trust, Sir, that what I have said, combined with what my Honourable Colleague, the Finance Member, said in regard to the future control of expenditure on these central stations will convince the House that this is a most desirable development and that Government are fully justified in going ahead with it. (Loud Applause.)

Some Honourable Members: I move that the question be now put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum, not exceeding Rs. 20,00,000, in respect of 'Transfer to the Fund for the Development of Broadcasting' be reduced to one rupee."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 20,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Transfer to the Fund for the Development of Broadcasting'."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 47,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Indian Stores Department'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 47,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Indian Stores Department'."

The motion in the name of Pandit Nilakantha Das is a token motion, in order to raise the question of the futility of inspection, and is not in order. Does the Honourable Member want to speak on the main motion?

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Yes, Sir. One part of it is a new service. This is Industrial Intelligence and Research Bureau. This is just on the same lines as is the Agricultural Research Bureau, which is also going to be started. It is a new service which is going to be created. I shall come to this new service presently.

First, let me point out the inspection circles. Upon that, Rs. 14,000 in this country and Rs 9,000 are spent in England for inspecting articles in the country of their origin. Now, I find that on our Stores Department—both in cases where we make purchases and in cases where we make no purchases through the Stores Department but supply inspection alone—all told—we are making a loss of about four lakhs of rupees a year. Besides, when we purchase something in England or elsewhere, we have got to supply our own inspection to English and other firms in foreign countries, and in that way we have to pay about Rs. 10,000 this year for the railway portion of the purchase alone. I do not know if this inspection is at all necessary, considering the fact that the purchases are not entirely entrusted to us. Our idea is that we should centralise all the purchases under the Indian Stores Department. Sir, where there are no purchases, it is not at all necessary to spend money on inspection. The Stores Department is being patronised by other departments with small and spare purchases and is spending money on inspection, whenever required, without adequate return—so there is the loss. Here there is a loss of Rs. 14,000 and about Rs. 10,000 in England; it is only in the supplementary demand But, in the Indian Stores Department accounts, we shall find that the loss alone in the Inspection Branch of it is about two lakhs. So, year after year, we are sustaining a loss of about two lakhs only for inspection. Yet we are not making all our purchases through the Indian Stores Department, where we could get a survey of the whole system of purchases and we could centralize all our purchases for the sake of economy and for the sake also of the promotion of Indian industry. We could then see to what proportion the Indian articles are being purchased and to what proportion the English articles, which could have been purchased in India, are not being purchased here, and, are being purchased in England or other countries. That we have no means of seeing now.

If we ask: "what is the good of spending money on publicity or on the Trade Commissioner?", we are told: "you cannot calculate what benefit comes to you from an expenditure like that." Similarly in the case of inspection, if we ask: "what benefit is coming out of inspection?", we shall be told: "there [illegible]". The theory seems to be that inspection creates future customers. By means of our extending facilities for inspection, the [illegible] are gradually coming to your standard or specification, and in many other ways they adapt themselves to your requirements so that they may at some time be inclined to purchase things in this country. The same thing, it may be said, holds good in case of articles purchased by Departments of the Government of India. But my view is that this inspection should altogether be abolished and no more money should be spent on inspection, and no more loss should be incurred by the State on that account. No more money should be spent on inspection and inspection alone. Wherever we have got to purchase some articles, we must entrust that work to the Stores Department, and, in the case of purchases only, you should supply inspection. For inspection one per cent. and for purchase one per cent, and, in that way, we shall be able to make both ends meet. We shall not, year after year, go on incurring losses. That is a question which cannot be brushed aside altogether. If you make all the stores purchases through the Indian Stores Department, it is quite likely, I have not calculated in detail, that you will not make a loss of four to five lakhs each year as you are now doing.

[Pandit Nilakantha Das.]

It was seven or eight years ago only one or two lakhs, but year after year, we are sustaining more and more loss. It is a deficit budget and still our purchases are going to other agencies. I propose that all State purchases should come under this department so that the new service that is being created, this Intelligence Bureau will supply that aspect of this purchase department which is now calculated to be done by supplying inspection. You supply other people with the advantage of inspection. You want to secure thereby some kind of general propaganda among the industrialists as well as the purchasers. That will be achieved by this Industrial Intelligence and Research Bureau. For all the information they will supply and they will make propaganda.

Here, again, my idea is that in all the new services that we are going to set up, we shall see whether we can Indianise it, both in spirit and personnel. Here is a new service and we are told that somebody in England, Mr. Brodie, has been appointed.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Mr. Brodie is not being brought out from England for this purpose. Mr. Brodie is an officer who has had long service in the Indian Stores Department in this country. We are not in this case bringing out any expert from abroad.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: I thank my Honourable friend. I stand corrected. This being a new service, I hope that all new appointments would be secured for Indians. When Mr. Brodie is a man in service already, of course there was no other way but to take him. I expect some assurance to the effect that these new services will be secured to Indians, and that the Inspection part of the Stores Department will, as far as possible, be totally abolished and will be amalgamated along with the purchases. As regards inspection and purchase, wherever there is purchase, there should be inspection. That should be the principle and we shall see that, in the Indian Stores Department, we try to meet both ends, so that the budget of the department may no longer be progressively deficit as it is now.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): There is one point to which I wish to draw the attention of the House. I find that this demand is made up of a number of items and the item, which consists of what is known as the Calcutta Inspection Circles, coming to about Rs. 14,000. The note in the Supplementary Demands for Grants says:

"These are required to meet excesses due to (i) increase in the demands made by the Railways for materials requiring inspection in the country of origin before despatch and (ii) purchase of plant and equipment for the testing of anti-knock properties of petrol."

The other items consist of a different nature. My point is this. This House has adopted the policy of having separate budget for railways and civil general revenues. They are being separately presented to this House. Can a demand which arises on account of purchases of railway materials be amalgamated with another demand and brought into one common supplementary demand in this House? That is a point which I want the House to consider.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I am not quite clear about the point raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Aney. Is it that he is surprised at the inclusion of this item owing to the fact that there is a separate railway budget?

Mr. M. S. Aney: Why was it not included in the special demand for railways? That is my point.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I think the answer is perfectly simple. The Railway Department is a commercial department and it pays the Stores Department for any services rendered, so that this additional expenditure on the part of the Stores Department is balanced by a corresponding entry in the Railway Budget of the amount paid to the Stores Department. The Stores Department merely gets its one per cent. for inspection and one per cent for purchase. I hope I have satisfied him on the point.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Yet there is a loss.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I find it difficult to follow my Honourable friend. All I can say, in reply to him, is that this demand for extra departmental inspections represents payment for value of services rendered. If inspections are made in the country of origin, they obviously have to be paid for and that is the reason for the demand. Time does not permit me to deal with the question raised by the establishment of Industrial Intelligence and Research Bureau. I should much have liked to have an opportunity of explaining to the House exactly what that Bureau is and what it is going to do. I cannot, however, do that now. I can only again refer the House to the report of the last Industrial Conference from which they will get a very full statement of our hopes in that direction. My Honourable friend, Pandit Nilakantha Das, asked about the staffing of the Bureau by Indian officers. All I can say in that respect is that we draw our staff, either from the Indian Stores department or by recruitment in this country and if my Honourable friend had studied the newspapers lately, he would have seen several advertisements issued by the Public Services Commission for Chemists and other Scientists to be recruited for the Test House at Alipore where the Research work will be carried on. We are not bringing in any one from abroad for this purpose. The Bureau will be staffed by people already in the country, either by officers of approved experience in the Indian Stores Department itself or by officers recruited through the Public Services Commission.

I trust that will satisfy him on that point.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 47,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Indian Stores Department'."

The motion was adopted.

CURRENCY.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 3,50,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Currency'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 3,50,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Currency'."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, it is proposed that a sum of 3½ lakhs is to be spent for the purification of currency. If any sum is to be spent in order to purify our currency, I think it will be certainly well spent. But I find that today we have some nickel coins of four annas, two annas and one anna also which are usually being counterfeited, and these counterfeit coins have come into general use to such an extent that many helpless people in the villages and even in the towns are made to suffer as a consequence. I do not know whether any steps are proposed to be taken at all either to reshape and recoin these coins in such a way that they cannot so easily be counterfeited or to withdraw them from circulation altogether. From my own experience I can state that when there were silver coins of these particular denominations, *i.e.*, four annas and two annas, there was not so much of counterfeiting. But this counterfeiting has become a real menace only after these nickel coins have been introduced into general circulation. My Honourable friend, Mr. Venkatachelam Chetty, informs me that this capital town of Delhi suffers more in this regard than any other place by a surfeit of counterfeit rupees and other coins in general circulation. I would like to suggest that, if possible, these nickel coins should be withdrawn from circulation, but if that is not immediately possible at least they should be reshaped and recoined in such a fashion that they cannot be counterfeited so easily.

Then, Sir, I find that, after I came to Delhi, there have been three or four occasions when I was cheated with counterfeit rupees also. It has now become almost a habit with every one in Delhi to try to find out the sound of the rupees before he accepts them, even from the railway authorities and post offices. This is a general complaint, and I find that very many wild-cat prosecutions are being started, in different parts of the country against those people who are suspected of trying to counterfeit these coins and notes. And, naturally, not only the general public is being annoyed and harassed but is almost cheated by the police who have found it a very profitable source for manufacturing prosecutions and cases against the public. Sir, it is always a wise policy for Government to try to manufacture these coins and notes in such a fashion that they cannot be so easily counterfeited rather than expect the police to launch an increasing number of prosecutions against those who are suspected of counterfeiting these coins and notes. I, therefore, suggest to the Government of India to devise ways and means for reprinting notes and reshaping and reminting their coins in such a fashion that they will not be so easily counterfeited.

Then, Sir, I come to item "A", where the Government of India propose to spend Rs. 1,35,000. And this particular note says:

"This is required to meet excess due to an increased demand for currency note forms, which will be offset by a corresponding reduction next year."

I do not know the exact implications of this particular item. I do not know whether it means that since there was an increase of currency notes to the extent of three crores of rupees, during last year, there might not be such an increase at all during the next year or there might even be a corresponding reduction in the total currency supplied to our country. I should like the Finance Member to explain this particular item a bit carefully.

Then, there is another item and that is item "E" Rs. 11,000 is written off because, as is said here:

"This is required to meet excess due to the write off of the balance of the amount recoverable from the retired Treasurer of the Cawnpore Currency Office owing to the deficiencies found on the re-examination of rupees held in the Allahabad Fort vault and the Harness and Saddlery Factory at Cawnpore."

It is not stated that he has been dismissed for this particular crime of his. It is only stated that he is a retired officer. Does that mean that, even after having forced the Government of India to incur a loss of Rs. 11,000, he is allowed to retire on his usual pension or has he been dismissed or at least punished for the offence he has committed?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): These are not questions which should be discussed now.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will not only try to answer my questions, but also try to accept the suggestions I have made in regard to the reshaping and recoining of our nickel coins and our notes.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I was not expecting any such disquisition on currency when I came here this afternoon, but, as far as I can, I will answer the questions. The item under "A" is simply and solely for the purchase of paper in order to make notes. It does not relate to the amount of notes actually printed. it is a question of renewing stocks of paper. So that it has no relation whatever to the expansion of currency; but in any case, the control of currency will pass as from Monday to the Reserve Bank and we shall sell them our stocks of paper. Similarly, on the question of counterfeiting notes, the responsibility for the printing of notes will, after a decent interval, after the 1st April also pass to the Reserve Bank and they will be responsible for whatever steps are taken against counterfeiting. As regards the nickel coins and the ease with which they are counterfeited, we have already abandoned making nickel four-anna pieces and the nickel coinage is confined to two anna and one anna pieces. I personally have not previously heard complaints that these particular small coins were so liable to be counterfeited because it does not seem to me that it is really worth while counterfeiting them and it is more likely that people who go in for that sort of game will go in for coins of bigger value. As regards silver rupees my Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, brought to my notice a grievance in this respect last Session. I gathered from him that the grievance is not that the coins are actually counterfeited, but that, owing to a certain number of scares as to counterfeiting, perfectly good coins are refused by cashiers in public places. I personally have a little more reason to sympathise with him now than I did then because I have been landed with the same sort of grievance. But that sort of thing is very hard to prevent because Government cannot manufacture the state of mind of the people and cannot prevent people from getting into this state of mind and saying,

[Sir James Grigg.]

when a coin is perfectly good, that it is bad. As regards the man at Cawnpore and whether he has been punished or not, I am afraid the answer is that I do not know.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, with regard to the small coins, the Finance Member says that there will be something done to them.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I said something has been done,—about the four *anna* pieces.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: But with regard to the larger coins also some attempt ought to be made by Government, because, when I made a present of a false rupee to the Honourable Member last year, that did not involve the point that it was being refused on account of any other defect in it, but only because it was counterfeit. Therefore, Sir, ...

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I am bound to say then that I received the rupee then on false pretences: I thought it was handed to me as a perfectly good rupee which nobody would take, and I tried to put it into circulation, but with no success.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I made it clear to my Honourable friend at the time that the rupee was a false one: and I narrated the story as to how I got it at the time: I was returning from Simla, and at the railway station I offered to purchase a ticket. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Perhaps the Honourable Member is not quite singular in that respect. (Laughter.)

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Therefore, I say that it is not only the smaller coins that must be looked to, but also the larger ones. I got that rupee, I looked at it closely when it was given by the booking clerk, it was, to all intents and purposes, a good rupee, but, after some time, when I wanted to give it to a hawker, he would not accept it, and I then found that it was a false coin. Prior to this, I had brought up the point in the House, but the Honourable the Finance Member would not believe it and wanted evidence of such circulation of coins. Therefore, I thought, if I gave him that rupee, he would have had the required evidence though he would find that the same thing happened in his house also amongst his domestic servants from whom he might have also heard complaints about coins being counterfeited. I say, therefore, that the complaints are two: one is that the counterfeiting is really rife and something should be done to check it, and the second that, on that account, even genuine rupees are also being refused if there is anything the least matter with them. These two complaints must be removed, as otherwise it is causing a great deal of inconvenience and trouble—a point which has been confirmed by the Honourable the President himself. It is necessary that some immediate steps should be taken in this matter, that people may not be cheated: Government need not wait till people are deprived of their money and then wake up and try to do something. It is important that the Government should take this matter into their consideration very early.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 3,50,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Currency'."

The motion was adopted.

MINT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 5,53,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Mint'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 5,53,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Mint'."

The motion was adopted.

CIVIL WORKS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 4,70,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Civil Works'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 4,70,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Civil Works'."

The motion was adopted.

TRANSFER TO THE ROAD DEVELOPMENT FUND RESERVE.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 40,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Transfer to the Road Development Fund Reserve'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 40,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Transfer to the Road Development Fund Reserve'."

There is a token cut on this—it is not in order.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, I am grateful for small mercies: owing to my strenuous, but, for the present, unsuccessful attempts at getting these demands ruled out of order by you—I am grateful to the Honourable the Finance Member that he has admitted that, at least so far as one demand of Rs. 20 lakhs is concerned, he will, by and by, either by way of

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

token cuts or by way of getting specific schemes approved, seek a later opportunity of getting the approval of this House. . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The same will apply to Civil Aviation.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am very glad to hear that, and I hope he will apply. . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: With regard to these schemes there is already provision: it is a perfectly well understood and clear cut procedure: they are always submitted to the Standing Committee on Roads and approved by them.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: But I should like that this House also should be brought in, and I will state my position. I thought the Honourable the Finance Member would at once appreciate this position. . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I appreciate the position very clearly: Civil Aviation and Broadcasting are two new programmes and it is quite right that the House should know the kind of schemes on which the money will actually be spent. But this is a reserve which has been going on for years, and the procedure has been laid down by the House itself and followed for years and I am not introducing any novelty there: I do not see why the existing procedure should not suffice.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: My point is this: if this House by a Resolution has stated that it does not want any further control over block grants and is willing to trust the advisory committee on roads to dispose of its expenditure, I am not satisfied. I put it to this House, to you and to the Honourable the Finance Member that the whole point of voting demands, either original or supplementary, is not only that we vote specific sums, but we vote specific sums for specific services, and we have got to see that the sums granted are not treated by the executive as lump grants, to be allocated by them as and when they choose, but to be spent for the specific purpose, and up to the extent to which the grants are made for those specific purposes and to that extent. That is why the Act and the rules and the standing orders very clearly and specifically provide that, where any extra sum is needed, they should come to us either before expenditure as supplemental demands or after expenditure as excess demands. My Honourable friend, the Finance Member, in moving this demand, has told us merely that this is in accordance with the proposal explained in paras. 28 and 30 of the Finance Member's speech in introducing the budget proposals. If you will kindly turn to paragraph 30, we only find this:

"We also propose to make a special contribution of Rs. 40 lakhs to the Government of India's reserve in the Road Development Fund."

I am sorry I am ignorant, but I shall be obliged to know what are the proposed conditions on which this fund is kept and administered: who is the authority which sanctions expenditure out of this fund: to whom is that money transferred: does part of it go to Local Governments and do they control the expenditure of those parts which are allocated to Local Governments?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I take it, therefore, that all the 40 lakhs is to be spent by the Government of India.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: No, no.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: There is evidently more than one Finance Member here: the Honourable the Finance Member says in answer to my question as to whether part of it goes to Local Governments, "No": I stand corrected, but later on the Right Honourable the Baronet from Bombay says it goes to Local Governments.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Part of it.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: If my Honourable friend will give me an opportunity I will explain the position when he has finished asking questions.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I wish the process were reversed: when 40 lakhs are demanded, I do expect, unless the Treasury Benches think
4 P.M. we are here to vote and not to understand, they had stated something as to how this fund is proposed to be spent. Why should they not?—

"There is obviously great scope for expenditure on road development and I am very glad to be in a position to supplement the somewhat exiguous resources of the Road Development Fund. It was designed, as Honourable Members are aware, for the purpose of making grants towards works of special importance—(*grants to whom and on what principles*)—or to specially necessitous parts of India. The Government have drawn up a programme for the expenditure of the additional sum now available."

I wish this programme had been placed before this House and copies had been circulated to Honourable Members so that we may have some previous notice as to what this programme is, how the money is going to be spent. Why all this secrecy about this?—

"And in this, prime consideration is being given to the needs of the province of Assam which seems to be about the most necessitous of all the provinces."

There the Honourable the Finance Member has my fullest support, that Assam should get a good part of this, being the most necessitous province of all the provinces; but, except this, we get no details.

Now, Sir, I want to put a few more questions to be answered also. ("Laughter" from the Official Benches.) I know the Treasury Benches have been accustomed not to be asked too many questions. We want to set them a new example, and we want to get them accustomed to answering questions. I am sure, Mr. President, you realise, as every Honourable Member realises, that if there is money going for road development, it ought to go first and foremost to village roads. There are thousands of villages today in your province, in my province, and in every province in which there are villages which have no communications whatever, and, in winter, these villages are absolutely cut-off. There is no use pretending here about your great sympathy for the villages and your anxiety to serve their interests. When you get money for the roads, why don't you tell us that the first charge on that will be the construction of village roads? If that is the proposal, I shall be glad to welcome it, and support it. I should like to know if it is. Then, I should like to know, in spending this money, whether foreign material will be imported.

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

That is the usual way in which our money is spent. It is said to be spent for our purposes but a considerable part of it is spent in importing engines, motor lorries and rollers and so on and so forth. It will go to swell the pockets of the foreign capitalists by the purchase of foreign materials, and who is to control the expenditure? If really this money is going to be added to the Road Development Fund, I think the control of this House ought to be ascertained. I would once more appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member. Let him forget the past. He is here as the Finance Member of this Government and responsible to this House, such as he is under the Constitution. Now forty lakhs is being set apart for a fund. What is the control over it? Will he be told as to when the money is going to be spent and how it will be spent? Otherwise, he will have no more control over it, than we have. Sir Frank Noyce may go on spending it jolly well as he likes, so long as it is spent on some road or other.

An Honourable Member: No, no.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is the position, as far as I can see it. I am looking at what is stated here. So long as the money is spent on some kinds of roads, we cannot say anything as to the manner or extent or nature of the expenditure. If the position is that the money is granted to the Local Governments, then I should like to know whether the Local Governments have got to approach their own Local Legislatures and get their sanction. If that is so, I am quite content, because if the money is going to be spent, after sanction by any Parliamentary authority in India, I am quite content; but what I want to know is whether it is going to be done like that, and what are the purposes for which this money is going to be spent.

One last word and I have done. The Honourable the Finance Member suggested that we should gradually develop the practice of building up funds. I think the Honourable the Industries Member said it, so that the departments might know how much money they have for their future development and future programme. This is a dangerous financial principle. As it is in Britain, so in this country, we have a large part of the expenditure which may be called consolidated fund charges, which are commitments from which we cannot get out—salaries, pensions, interest on debt and so on and so forth, which are commitments which this House cannot upset; and if we are going to add to it still more sums which really amount to consolidated fund charges, the amount of control of this House will be further attenuated. I do not think it is sound finance to go on making grants like this as block grants, which departments may go on spending as and when they want to spend them. The House would like to be satisfied on all these matters.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I described my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, just now, as usually well-informed. I fear that I have to withdraw that characterization. I find it difficult to understand his complete ignorance of everything connected with the administration of the Road Development Fund. I should have thought that before he came here to criticise this proposal and to criticise administration of the fund generally he would have taken the trouble to consult the gentleman who sits immediately behind him, my Honourable friend, Mr. Deep Narayan Singh, who is a member of the Standing Advisory Committee on Roads or

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

my Honourable friend, Mr. Sham Lal, who is also a member and have made some attempt to find out exactly what we are doing. I am now in the fortunate position of being in a stronger position with reference to this proposal than in regard to any other proposal which has been put up before this House today. I can state without the slightest hesitation, and I am quite sure my Honourable friends, Mr. Deep Narayan Singh and Mr. Sham Lal will agree with me, that there is no expenditure over which this House exercises closer control than it does over the expenditure from the Road Development fund.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I will explain that now. If my Honourable friend had taken the trouble to apply to me for information, I should have been very glad to give him the very fullest information, even though I know that it was going to be used against me. If he had done that, I should have supplied him with an immense amount of literature on this subject. I should have been happy to give him the Resolution on this subject adopted by the Central Legislature on April 21st, 1934. I should have been happy to give him the proceedings of the Rail-Road Conference two years ago. I should have been happy to give him all the printed proceedings of the Standing Advisory Committee on Roads which are placed before this House at the first possible opportunity after the meetings were held. Now, Sir, let me remind the House of the constitution and functions of this committee. It is very difficult to find out exactly what the House does know on these questions. I was under the impression, but I cannot be so sure about it now, that the House knew that the Standing Advisory Committee on Roads assists Government to administer the fund which is made up of the 2½ anna duty on every gallon of petrol consumed. We get about a crore and a quarter a year out of that of which all but 15 per cent. is allocated to Local Governments and Indian States in proportion to the petrol consumed in the provinces and States. For the purpose of administering the Fund, there is the Standing Advisory Committee on Roads which consists of the Member of the Governor General's Executive Council in charge of the department, two nominated official members, of whom one is a Member of the Legislative Assembly, three members elected by the Council of State and six Members elected by this Assembly from amongst themselves. Sir, non-officials on that committee are in the proportion 9 to 3. Now, I wish to draw special attention to the fact that no approval to any proposal for expenditure from the road account can be given by the committee unless it is accepted by a majority of the members present and voting, who are Members of the Legislative Assembly and by a majority of the members of the whole Committee, present and voting. It will, therefore, be seen that no approval for any proposal for expenditure from the Road Account can be given by the Committee unless it is supported by the majority of non-official Members on the Committee. What better control can you have over expenditure than that?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Where does the House come in?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Sir, it is a Committee of this House that I am talking about. I would repeat that no approval to any proposal for expenditure from the Road Account can be given by the Committee

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unless it is supported by a majority of the members, present and voting, who are Members of the Legislative Assembly. Did my Honourable friend follow me there? No expenditure can be approved, unless it is supported by a majority of the members, present and voting, who are Members of this Assembly. Again, I would ask what better control can you have over expenditure than that? And, Sir, although the functions of the Committee are to advise upon all proposals for expenditure from the central reserve, I have now been Chairman of this Committee for the last three years, and I am glad to say that we have never had the smallest difference as to what proposals for expenditure should be approved. This Committee is, I consider, one of the hardest-worked committees of this House. We have three or four meetings every Session, three or four long meetings, we get through an immense amount of detailed work, and I should like here and now to pay my tribute of appreciation to the invaluable help I have invariably received from all its members, including my Honourable friends opposite who belong to Mr. Satyamurti's own Party, Mr. Deep Narayan Singh and Mr. Sham Lal, who have, I am happy to say, brought to the work of the Committee the same energy and enthusiasm which has characterized that Committee ever since I first presided over it. (Hear, hear.) They could have told him, if he had asked them, that it was only last week that we went very carefully through all the proposals for using those forty lakhs, which my Honourable colleague, the Finance Member, had promised us, subject to the necessary sanction. He has, I am very glad to say, agreed that that amount should be thrown into the pool, and that it should be placed at our disposal, and that has enabled us to prepare a comprehensive scheme in a detailed and balanced way, in a way, that we should not have been able to do if he had said the expenditure of this Rs. 40 lakhs was not to be subject to the purview of the Standing Advisory Committee on Roads but would be subject to some other sanction. I maintain, Sir, that over the administration of this Road Development Fund, this House has the very closest control. My Honourable friend wants to know—what about the village roads? Well, Sir, we are doing our best to push forward the development of feeder roads to railways, we are doing our best to help agricultural development in that way by enabling villagers to get their produce out to the nearest market or the nearest railway. Sir, paragraph 7 of the Resolution, to which I have referred, lays down that the expenditure is to be on various objects, the first of which is on the construction of new roads and new bridges of any sort. Here, as in so many other cases, we have to leave discretion to Local Governments, but even in that respect the schemes they submit have to be submitted to us. The schemes on which they propose to spend their share of the Road Development Fund have to be submitted to us and have to be approved by us. It may interest the House to know that some Local Governments have resented that. They feel that this is their own money and that they should be allowed to do with it as they like. I dealt with that aspect in a very long speech I made almost exactly a year ago. We have done our best to hold the balance even: to retain the control of this House over the money voted by it, and at the same time to enlarge the objects on which Local Governments could spend such funds as are allotted to them. I should have mentioned, that we have full control over the amount in the reserve. We can do with that exactly what we like. The reason for the increase in the reserve from ten to fifteen per cent. last year was to enable us to help backward provinces, such as Assam. In a few days this House will have before it the proceedings of the last meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee on Roads, and from that it will be able to gather exactly how we are proposing to spend these forty lakhs. That, as I have said, has been most carefully considered by the Standing Advisory Committee on Roads, and it may be of interest to my Honourable friend, Mr. Bardaloi, if I tell him, that Assam is getting by far the biggest share in the grants that we propose to allot from the reserve during the next five years. We have worked out a five-year programme. Five years is a popular period for a programme, and we have followed it here also. I hope, Sir, I have satisfied the House that it has a very full control over this expenditure. Surely, Sir, if it is in a position to elect six Members to the Standing Advisory Committee, all that it need do, if it wants to ensure strict control, is to select six Members who are likely to take a real interest in the proceedings of this Committee. That, I am glad to say, it has done, and I hope will continue to do.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur (South Madras: Muhammadan): Will my Honourable friend be pleased to inform us as to whether he has any objection to setting apart a certain precentage towards the construction of the village roads? (Hear, hear.)

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir, that I am afraid we cannot do. We cannot dictate to Local Governments how to spend their money, except that their schemes must be approved: and it seems to me to follow that, if we help them in regard to their main roads, they should have additional money to spend on village roads. That is the best way in which we can help them. We can help them to improve the main lines of communication. One point, I may say, to which we are paying particular attention at the moment, is that, when they construct or re-construct a main road, they should provide means of access from it to the nearest railway. We attach very great importance to feeder roads. We cannot dictate to Local Governments that they should spend money on village roads. If they have any schemes of village roads and that appears to be the best way of spending their money, such schemes will certainly receive our sympathetic consideration.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: May I suggest that the sense of this House should be communicated to the Local Governments so that they may act up to our desire?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The Local Governments already know the position, which was explained at very great length to them at the meeting of the Road-Rail Conference; and I may also point out to my Honourable friends that we have now the Transport Advisory Committee, which we hope will meet annually, when all these questions can be gone into and there will be plenty of opportunities for exchanging views with Local Governments.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Have the Provincial Governments also Committees elected by their Councils on the Road Committees?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I think there are now Provincial Boards of Communications in all provinces. I am not quite sure of their constitution and how far the Provincial Legislatures are represented on them, but there are certainly such Boards in all provinces.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Before putting the question, the Chair would like to point out to the House that it has been asked for a ruling on the different points of order raised by the Honourable Member, Mr. Satyamurti. The Chair confines itself entirely to the interpretations of the Government of India Act and of the Rules and Standing Orders in the light of the prevailing practice. As regards the question whether the Government or the Honourable the Finance Member are justified in putting certain demands in the form that they have done, for instance, without giving sufficient particulars, that the Chair regards is not purely a point of order, but it is for the Government to consider whether the demands contain sufficient particulars or not; and, in that connection, each demand has to be considered on its own merits, and the Government alone, in the Department concerned, can give explanation as regards the form in which the demand is actually put. The Chair thinks Honourable Members have had explanations given on that point and an assurance has also been given that, as regards any new services for which any large demand is made, the House would be given ample opportunity to consider it and to sanction the same after due consideration. Therefore, the ruling is not to be mixed up with the form in which particular demands are put before the House. Upon that, the House can express its own opinion.

The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 40,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Transfer to the Road Development Fund Reserve'."

The motion was adopted.

SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 3,85,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 3,85,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 2,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 2,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

The motion was adopted.

TRANSFER TO THE FUND FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF RURAL AREAS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 1,13,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Transfer to the Fund for the Economic Development and Improvement of Rural Areas'."

I should like to give the House an explanation of the alteration from one crore to one crore and 13 lakhs. The thirteen lakhs is the amount of unallocated surplus. If this House will remember, when I spoke in the budget speech about setting apart of one crore, I proposed that 10 to 15 lakhs should be allocated specifically to co-operative movement and for the rest it should be divided amongst the Provinces probably on the basis of rural population. We have decided to allocate 15 lakhs to assist the co-operative movement and as regards the division of the remaining 85 lakhs, I have found that in dividing on the basis of rural population some of the smaller and backward provinces got a very small sum indeed. I would very much like to supplement their allocation on the purely rural population basis, and to some extent that is why I have asked the House to alter the demand and to transfer the remainder of the surplus to this fund so as to enable us to allocate rather more than their share to the smaller and more backward Provinces. As regards what it will be possible to do by way of giving information to the House on the schemes which are ultimately sanctioned, I cannot say definitely because we have not got schemes submitted in any final form. I can certainly undertake, in due course, to lay before the House all the information in our hands. I can certainly give them the final allocation to the Provinces, and, in due course, after the schemes have been sanctioned or the principles within which the schemes will be sanctioned have been laid down. I should be glad to lay the information before the House. I cannot do that at the moment because the Provinces have not yet submitted their schemes in any final shape.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will sanction be taken?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The sanction of the House will not be asked for for individual schemes. I would take the sanction of the House, if necessary, to the allocation of sums to individual Provinces. We cannot obviously take the sanction of the House to individual schemes for which the Provinces will be primarily and finally responsible.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I presume the Local Councils will have the right of interfering and suggesting to their respective Local Governments.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I imagine so, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 1,13,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Transfer to the Fund for the Economic Development and Improvement of Rural Areas'."

There are several motions with respect to this demand. The Chair may at once say, in connection with those motions, that they are merely token cuts to discuss the general policy, and those token cuts are out of order. But as regards the policy involved in this item, as the Chair has already said previously, discussion of policy to that extent is permissible.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, this is one of the few motions of the Government, to which I have no serious objection. I feel, Sir, that after all the Government are realising, thanks to the Gandhian pressure, their primary obligations to the unhappy millions of inhabitants in the villages. But I do plead, Sir, with the Honourable the Finance Member that they should be slightly more consistent than they are. Of course, the Honourable the Finance Member is not responsible for the famous Hallet circular, but undoubtedly his Government is. The Honourable the Home Member with one hand tells his district officials and the various officials, "Hands off Mahatma Gandhi". Mahatma Gandhi is trying to form an all-India Village Industries Association for helping the villager. He said he had taken leave of politics for the present, and yet Government on the one hand say they will not allow their officials to co-operate with him, and on the other hand they want to spend this money, in the words of the Finance Member:

"In order to show that the Government of India have a very deep concern with the welfare and prosperity of the cultivators and are prepared to help Local Governments to carry out schemes for their benefit."

The Honourable the Finance Member is new to this country, but I think he will learn, if he has not learnt already, that, if Government want to show that they have a very deep concern for the welfare and prosperity of the cultivators, they have no better or stronger ally than Mahatma Gandhi himself. Therefore, they must make up their minds that, if this money is not to be wasted, but is to be spent to the best advantage of the villagers for whose benefit this money is set apart, they should enlist the sympathetic and active co-operation of Mahatma Gandhi. And, I can assure Government, that Mahatma Gandhi will not be slow to grasp the hand of co-operation, if it is sincerely and honourably extended to him.

There is one other point, Sir, with regard to these schemes. There is a danger of part of it being spent on services which will not directly benefit the cultivator. Again I take the cue from the Hallet circular. It says *inter alia* that officials must tour in villages, which are out of the way, in order to be in touch with the villagers; and so I say there will be demands for tent allowances, for special horse allowances, etc., to visit the villages where they cannot go by motor cars; and we shall have requests for tents as they cannot have pucca buildings to have their camps. There is a danger of this money. . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: It will not be spent like that, I can assure the Honourable Member.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am very glad to have that assurance, and I will say no more about this.

There is only one other point that I want to mention. The elections are coming on, as far as one can judge, in all the provinces next year, to the Provincial Councils. There are exiguous ministers in many provinces, certainly in my province, who have nothing to their credit, and they want to go to the electors to get votes. Already my Chief Minister has said that he has a large scheme of rural development, for village wells and for rural education, etc. I am very anxious that this money of the general taxpayer should not be put into the hands of these ministers, just at the time of the election, in order that they may go and spend that money on grandiose schemes, and say that what we pay through the Honourable Sir James Grigg here is to be spent for the greater glory of decadent ministries in the provinces. I am very anxious that some attempt should be made to get the consent of this House for the general principles of the scheme. I entirely agree with the Honourable the Finance Member that it will be intolerable, if we are going to have discussion and control over small schemes of each province. But he has mentioned two principles himself. First, that it will be spent on schemes approved by the Government of India which will improve the econmic position of the people; and secondly, it will be devoted only to schemes which the Local Government would not otherwise have been able to undertake in the immediate future. These two principles and others which this House or he himself may think of may well be put before this House, and their approval taken. And speaking for myself, I may say that we have waited so long and I would wait for the expenditure in the provinces, till after the elections are over. But if the Finance Member thinks that he cannot wait, let him go forward. At the same time, I am anxious that definite principles should be laid down that this money should not be used for the purpose of exploiting the villages, for a particular party or parties in the provinces. I hope, Sir, that these suggestions which I have made will be borne in mind, and that the control of the House will on the one hand be maintained, and on the other the Local Governments will also be told that the primary responsibility for finding this money is on their shoulders and the Government of India cannot be expected to play Deputy Providence for them for all time.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, rural reconstruction is a subject which is dear to most and I will try to give some small suggestions for consideration of Government and of the House. I myself know of cases where Government want to do service but the administrative charges and the establishment charges swallow three-fourths of the amount. Here I will try to point out the wholesome example of some of our national organisations. I will refer to the *Harijan Sevak Sangh*, which was started some time ago. We have there a scheme in which we have laid down that about only five per cent. of the expenditure should be on administrative charges and almost the whole of the 90 or 95 per cent. should go directly to the service of *Harijans* and towards the amelioration of those classes. I would suggest to Government that, of this one crore, at least 90 or 95 lakhs should reach the villagers proper, and, if possible, only five lakhs should go towards the administrative expenses of this huge scheme. And, here, I would suggest that they should whole-heartedly co-operate with the non-official

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organisations that are existing throughout the country. My Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, said that Mahatma Gandhi will not be slow to grasp the hand of fellowship, if ever it was extended by Government. It is not a matter of surmise; Mahatma Gandhi himself has made a statement, more than once, and said that he would work miracles in this country, if only Government would co-operate with him in this matter. And, Sir, Mahatma Gandhi has worked miracles without the support of Government; and with the support of Government I can tell you that Mahatma Gandhi would work a miracle greater than ever.

Now, Sir, I will make a submission with regard to the allocation to the provinces. I understand the allocation will be made in proportion to the rural population. And I hope that when this money has been allocated to the Provincial Governments there will be a wholesale check maintained by the Central Government that the money is actually and really spent on the rural population. I hope some method of check will be found so that this money is not frittered away, as my Honourable friend said, on things which really do not make for the amelioration of the rural population. The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce was talking to us about a committee for roads which is really exercising an excellent check upon the money that is spent on roads. I would suggest that in almost every district some such non-official committees are formed of men who have worked for the country regardless of political opinion whose advice and guidance will be taken into consideration. The Honourable the Home Member said the other day that the rural work that was attempted to be done by Mahatma Gandhi may have a political motive. I say let not this Government also have a political motive behind this rural reconstruction movement. I would appeal to them that just as they have laid down that rural work should be for the sake of rural work only, let them also not combine any political motive with it. Let them warn the District Magistrates and District Collectors against doing any political propaganda about the benefits of British rule in this country by the money that is going to be spent from this item. I appeal to them that whatever they spend, let them not think of the political effects it would have upon the country, whether they would become greater *Swarajists* and greater lovers of the country or otherwise but let this money be spent purely for rural amelioration, purely for the sake of making them better and stronger men. It should be spent for fighting illiteracy and for better sanitary arrangements, and to make improvements in the villages. It was suggested in some quarters that something out of this money may be spent on the development of village roads. I protest against any such idea. There are separate funds for roads and a sum of 40 lakhs has been voted today for that purpose, and I suggest that this money should not be frittered away in the matter of roads or in the matter of Broadcasting or any of those grandiose schemes which, by a different interpretation, may be put down as amelioration of the rural classes. The people of our villages are the poorest and most ignorant, and that is why I suggest that this money, if it is to be spent well, should be spent on basic work, *i.e.*, health, sanitation, education, removal of illiteracy and such other like things which would help them to become a higher and nobler people, and I would suggest another thing: it has been feared in many quarters, and I may say it here frankly that I share that fear, that this money may be spent in creating a sort of spies in this country to spy over

the political activities of people whose opinions are different from the opinions which the Government hold. I request and I appeal that not a pie of this money should be spent in that way. I would like to mention one more point: I do not know whether the Government knows, but I may tell them that there was a proposal to import an Englishman to teach and to do some research work about sheep-rearing, in the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. I may say that sheep-rearing is as well-known in India as in any other country: what I suggest is that this money should not be spent in any way so that the unemployment of another country might be solved. I have said and I repeat it once again that almost 95 lakhs out of this money should reach the villagers for their uplift and only five lakhs should be spent on administrative charges. I have done.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair hopes the Honourable Member, Prof. Ranga, will be short.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I will try to be as brief as possible, Sir. I preface my remarks on this subject by a reference to what the Honourable the Finance Member has said in regard to the distribution of this money and the management of it. He said—he gave us an assurance—that at least the schemes that may be financed out of this money will be placed before this House: but he does not give us an assurance that this House will be given an opportunity to discuss and also to decide upon the schemes that will be eventually financed out of this particular fund. In this connection, I would like to suggest for the consideration of this House, that there should be a central committee to supervise and control the expenditure out of this fund and this committee should be constituted in the same manner in which the roads committee is at present constituted, and, whatever vote may be taken, it should be taken by a majority of the non-official Members and not by all the Members of that particular committee. If such a committee is constituted and if that committee is expected to control and supervise the expenditure and also to see that the provincial schemes that are submitted to it are properly scrutinised and examined, then this House may have some confidence that, after all, this money might not go entirely into the hands of those *Aman Sabha* members and other loyalists and also Rajahs like Bobbili and other Knights from the Punjab and other provinces . . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member ought not to mention names.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: .. who may be more interested in fighting the Congress than in really doing any good to the villagers. I come next to the three schemes, national schemes that have been already placed before this House for consideration by my Honourable friend, Dr. Rajan—a national campaign against malaria, a national campaign against venereal diseases and a national campaign against brothels; and I would like to add to these three, a fourth scheme, that is a national campaign to supply drinking water for all the people in our villages: I find that at least 50 per cent. of our villages today are suffering for want of drinking water, merely because there is not sufficient amount of rain or there are no proper irrigation facilities available in the locality. There is already a complaint before the House—from the very eloquent speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta, we have heard about Chattisgarh: this particular case ought to be investigated and,

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similarly, all over this country, there should be a real serious attempt to see that a good drinking water supply is assured to all our people. In this connection, the *Harijan Sevak Sangh*, started and run under the supervision of Mahatma Gandhi, is doing excellent work, and Mr. Birla, who is the President of this *Sangh*, has already given grants for the sinking and construction of wells in various parts of this country, and, for each well, they have been granting to us about Rs. 250 on condition that locally we should be able to raise another Rs. 250 and sink a well and construct it and protect it properly. Some such scheme ought to be undertaken by the Government of India with a portion of the money they have at their disposal.

I shall enumerate certain other suggestions, without attempting to discuss every one of them particularly. There is the *Harijan* uplift work which has already been referred to by my Honourable friend . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Honourable Members have already mentioned it specifically.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There is the *Harijan* uplift work: in this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a speech made by the Rajah of Bobbili, the Chief Minister of the Government of Madras . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): These are matters which will be considered by the provinces concerned.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Yes: there he says that 70 lakhs of rupees have been spent in the last 12 years by the Government of Madras and he asks: "What has the Congress done?" If that is the way in which this money also is going to be spent and these questions are going to be put to the people at the time of the elections, as is being done in Madras at the time of the bye-election there, and if it is going to be put to the Congress and the people: "What has the Congress done? What has Mahatmaji done?", and so on, then this money is going to be wrongly used and is going to be used against the people who really wish to get rid of this Government and have another form of Government.

Next comes elementary education: my Honourable friend has already mentioned it and I would like that more and more money is spent on it. Then there is housing: this may create some sort of surprise in some Members, but I would like every one of us here to realise the fact that most of the people in our villages today are suffering from defective housing in slums. Believe me, Sir, when I say that millions and millions of *Harijans* are not allowed to live in our villages but are relegated to a hopeless place outside the village to live amidst refuse, amidst jackals and asses and all sorts of rubbish; and if you will only . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member makes out an exhaustive list and hands it over to the Local Governments, it would be very useful.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If I can only feel sure that the Local Government will be just as responsible as this House to the cares and needs of the people, then certainly I would have followed that procedure; but, unfortunately, I do not have today even an iota of confidence in any of the Local Governments not to speak of the Central Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the advantage of making these suggestions, then?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Excuse me, Sir, for trying to reply to your suggestion; but anyhow as far as houses are concerned, I do not want thousands and thousands of rupees to be wasted in constructing the kind of houses in which we are housed here in this New Delhi, so that there may be another cemetery in this Delhi. But I would like small huts to be constructed and I do not want to waste all this money in financing the construction of houses, but to make partial grants for the construction of these huts so that the poor classes of *Harijans* as well as the agricultural workers can really hope to have, not temporary houses as they have now which look at the sun, not with one facet but with several facets—as many facets in fact as there are in a diamond—but Government should construct small decent huts.

Then, I come to irrigation works. The other day, when my friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, suggested that these irrigation works, as well as other construction works, should be undertaken by the Government of India, the Finance Member replied by saying that those works will only be undertaken by the Government of India which will be productive . . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Is not that good sense?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who will undertake the development of unproductive works? There is a great necessity for undertaking unproductive works, and it may not be such a matter for laughter on the other side and they would certainly repent for laughing when I tell them that there are today very many unproductive irrigation works, established by the Government of India in order to protect famine-ridden areas and, I would like that the Tungabhadra Project, the Krishna Reservoir Project, Lower Bhavani Project, and other similar projects ought to be undertaken. They have been given up now because Government has found them to be unproductive in their usual commercial sense. I want them to take up all these irrigation projects which have been considered by the Local Governments as well as the Central Government as famine protection works.

Now, I come to the question of the handloom weavers. Only yesterday . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): All these questions have been discussed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I want more money to be given to handloom weavers and cottage industries. Then, there are the hydro-electric schemes. I want electricity in every village. Serious attempts are made in Madras and Mysore in this direction, so that cottage industries can be undertaken with small dynamos and small power plants, and so on.

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

Lastly, Sir, only yesterday, the House was told that there was not enough money for agricultural marketing. The Government of India are not serious about collecting information. They gave a sort of false answer and suggested that there were Trade Commissioners in all countries. There is no Trade Commissioner in the United States of America, in Japan and other countries. I want the Trade Commissioners appointed in all other countries as soon as possible.

Then, I come to the question of village post offices. Only the other day, my friend told me that 1,500 village post offices were abolished and that a sort of subsidy that was being given for the maintenance of these village post offices was stopped. I would like the Government of India to consider that problem also. I want the Government of India to consider the small wants first. I do not want them to simply waste the money on these Provincial Governments. I do not want my Honourable friend, the Member for Industries and Labour, say "I have handed over the money to the Provincial Governments. I have no control over them", and so on. You have wasted millions of money for all these years in creating institutions in the shape of railways, aeroplanes and telegraphs. They have gone to waste and have not succeeded in winning the people over to your side. This one crore and 13 lakhs is not going to help you to win the people to your side, and, if this is the policy you are going to adopt, we shall make every attempt to get rid of this Government, and, I am sure, we will have the people with us.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 1,13,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Transfer to the Fund for the Economic Development and Improvement of Rural Areas'."

The motion was adopted.

REFUNDS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 11,36,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Refunds'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 11,36,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Refunds'."

The motion was adopted.

BALUCHISTAN.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 34,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Baluchistan'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 34,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Baluchistan'."

The motion was adopted.

DELHI.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 1,54,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Delhi'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 1,54,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Delhi'."

Mr. Sham Lal (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): I shall not take much time over this. I will say that so far as the Delhi City is concerned, the Delhi Municipality should be a model municipality for India. What we generally find is that even people living on the banks of the Ganges never bathe. So it is with this Central Government. This is the Imperial City of Delhi, but about the Delhi Municipality the less said the better. We read in the newspapers that there is corruption and inefficiency in the Delhi Municipality and even the Secretary of the Municipality had to admit that there is too much corruption. In the case of other Municipalities the explanation is generally given that there is no official Chairman, and, therefore, there is all this corruption and inefficiency.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): On a point of order. You ruled the other day that when a vote of this kind is being taken, the discussion has to be limited to the proposals for expenditure which are immediately before the House. I submit that there is nothing in these proposals which relates to the activities of the Delhi Municipality. Therefore, I submit for your consideration that, however interesting they may be, my Honourable friend's remarks are out of order.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): On a motion like this, there cannot be any general discussion of grievances.

Mr. Sham Lal: There is an item of Rs. 60,000 which is going to be given as subvention to the Notified Area Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): General grievances cannot be discussed on this motion.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I submit for your consideration that the Delhi Notified Area Committee is entirely independent of, and separate from, the Delhi Municipality.

Mr. Sham Lal: Cannot I take up this item with regard to the Delhi Municipality?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This motion does not relate to the Delhi Municipality.

Mr. Sham Lal: I shall take up this 60,000 which is going to be given to the Notified Area as subvention. This Notified Area used 5 P.M. to be part of the Delhi Municipality before the Capital was transferred from Calcutta to Delhi. Now, the Capital was not built there, but in Raisina, but those charges remain and subvention is proposed to be given to a Notified Area where the civil officers live. You will always pay a subvention for the convenience of civil officers. The question is: "why not transfer this Notified Area to the Delhi Municipality and make the latter responsible for its administration? Why go on increasing additional charges?" Now, the question is: "Are we going to transfer it to a corrupt Municipality?" (Laughter.) Then, of course, the question of the corruption of the Municipality and the inefficiency of the administration of the Municipality come into question, and I can talk about it. (Laughter.) I can say that the Municipality should be reformed, and this Central Government should see that the Municipality, that is being administered under the very supervision of the Chief Commissioner, should be reformed. Sir, the general impression is that the Municipal Commissioners here belong to the "loyal" section; and if they can organise functions in honour of the Chief Commissioner, then everything is all right. For example, they may take Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,000 for permitting a building. Everything would go alright if they can also organise functions in honour of the Chief Commissioner and some of the Government officials. Sir, all this is simply a tale of disgrace, and it is all scandalous, and I think if there is any one reason for this Government to go, it should go on account of the Delhi Municipality. (Loud Laughter.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 1,54,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Delhi'."

The motion was adopted.

AJMER-MERWARA.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 5,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Ajmer Merwara'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 5,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Ajmer-Merwara'."

The motion was adopted.

RAJPUTANA.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 3,000, be granted to the Governo General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Rajputana'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 3,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Rajputana'."

The motion was adopted.

HYDERABAD.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 4,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Hyderabad'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 4,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Hyderabad'."

The motion was adopted.

ADEN.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 25,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Aden'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 25,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Aden'."

There are a number of motions in respect of this demand. Apparently notice in respect of them has been given in order to raise certain questions of policy, and all these are out of order.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, I am glad my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin, is here, because he took part in a debate in this House on the 31st day of August, 1933, with regard to the proposed separation of Aden; and I find, Sir, from the Standing Finance Committee proceedings that this question came before them. They said:

"Three members of the Committee (*all belonging to our Party*) were altogether opposed to the grant on the ground that in view of the impending separation of Aden, no further supplies should be voted under this Demand from Indian revenues."

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

Aden, Sir, is one of the many issues on which this House and the Government have fought and lost. "Aden", "Burma", "the Statutory Railway Authority", "direct election to the Assembly", and so on and so forth. On this matter, Sir, we had a full-dress debate in this House sometime ago, and I merely want to tell the House in order that the House and Great Britain and the Indians in Aden may understand our position. Aden, Sir, became a part of India out of Indian money. We have spent some crores of rupees on building up Aden, and there is a considerable Indian population there. There is a good trade between Aden and India. There is shipping between India and Aden: but, because Aden unfortunately happens to lie on the strategic route, so far as the British Empire is concerned, Burma on the east shall be separated and Aden on the west shall be separated, so that India, even when she becomes free, may be between the two outposts of the British Empire. (Laughter.) Now, Sir, I want . . . .

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe (Foreign Secretary): Sir, on a point of order. May I inquire if the Honourable Member is in order in discussing large questions of policy on this motion?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I refuse, Sir, to vote a single pice for Aden, and I am giving my reasons why I propose to do so. I am simply surprised at the alacrity with which Members of the Government want to stifle discussion. Why should they be afraid of the Congress Party stating here what they feel should be done with regard to the future administration of Aden? My point, Mr. President, is this. We are told—and I may repeat the sweet words of the Honourable the Commerce Member; I am sorry he is not here. At that time he said . . . .

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): Read it all through. (Laughter.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No, I leave it to your Leader. I am much more business-like than your Leader. (Laughter.) Sir, he said "I need hardly assure the House that the views expressed here will be forwarded for the consideration of His Majesty's Government". That was, Sir, on the separation of Aden.

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: They were forwarded.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: They sent all their views and they were sent to the usual place in the India Office, the waste-paper basket, and the result was that Aden was separated. (Laughter.) Sir, on that matter it is often trotted out . . . .

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: Sir, on a point of information: Aden has not been separated. That is why we ask for this supplementary grant in order that the administration of Aden may be carried on.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Till it is separated?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): In that case the Chair cannot allow this discussion of the question of the separation of Aden. If this demand had been in connection with the separation, then, of course, the Honourable Member would have been in order in stating his reasons as to why he opposes this grant.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: My point is this, Sir, that if Aden is to be separated, I do not want to spend the Indian taxpayer's money on Aden. If Britain wants the separation, why should she come to us and ask for money?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair understands the position is this. The Honourable Member objects to the separation of Aden and to any expenditure in connection with that. But as this amount that is asked for is not in connection with the separation of Aden, but in connection with things as they stand at present, the discussion of the policy of separation is not in order.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: May I know, Sir, if it has been decided that Aden will not be separated from the Government of India?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: We heard just now from the Honourable Member that Aden is going to be separated.

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: I beg your pardon, I said nothing of the kind. The Honourable Member has no right to misquote me. I said that Aden has not been separated.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 25,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Aden'."

The motion was adopted.

COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 5,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Commuted value of Pensions'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 5,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Commuted value of Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 4,92,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 4,92,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, may I oppose this demand on the ground that Delhi should be made the permanent Capital of India? Sir, I have been here for nearly three months, and I find that New Delhi is being lavishly improved upon and nearly 16 crores have been spent upon it. It seems to me that any responsible Government, which had any financial conscience, would not have spent this huge sum of 16 or 17 crores without the object of making it a permanent Capital of India. We are often taught in our school history, I do not know how far it is true, that the Emperor Muhammad Bin Tughlak changed his Capital from Delhi to Deogar or Tughlakabad, and this Emperor is held up to us as an object of contempt and ridicule, because he changed his Capital. But, Sir, whatever the truth of that historical statement may be or may not be, the modern Muhammad Bin Tughlak is hard to beat. The Government changed their Capital from Calcutta to Delhi. That policy is now many years old, and I am not going into that. You chose Delhi, and, rightly or wrongly, you have done that. I am not questioning that. Having come here, I put it to my Honourable friend whether he is right that, after having spent 17 crores and budgeting for more and more expenditure, you should not have Delhi as your permanent Capital.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: May I correct my Honourable friend? As I said the other day, so far we have spent 15 crores, and not 17 crores.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I stand corrected. My Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, who is usually well informed in figures, corrected me the other day saying that it was 17 crores. However, I stand corrected. Even if it is 15 crores, it is not a trifling sum even for this Government of India which is dealing in crores and crores. Perhaps nothing matters to them. But I submit that, even to the Government of India, 15 crores must mean something. Well, Sir, after having spent these 15 crores, they should now come forward and accept the proposal to locate the Capital permanently in Delhi. I am sorry my Honourable friend, from Bombay, is not here. He was one of those who were enthusiastic the other day in supporting this exodus. I say, Sir, that I also like physical comforts, and I should also like to go to a hill station for a short time, but I do not like to do so at the expense of the tax-payer. It seems to me, Mr. President, that there are now certain offices, manned both by Indians and Europeans, certain firms and banks, which go on throughout the twelve months in Delhi. I have never heard that they have not been able to survive this heat. Secondly, as far as one can judge, modern scientific inventions and modern scientific knowledge have placed at man's disposal processes and devices, by which even the hottest places in India could be made tolerable to live in, during the hottest months of the year. I am told, Mr. President, that the cost of the annual exodus is something more than 50 lakhs. I do not know the exact figure, but the total cost of the annual exodus is said to be about 50 lakhs. Can the Honourable the Home Member or any Member on the Treasury Benches tell me the exact figure?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): I do not know the exact figure. It is certainly not 50 lakhs. Your figure is nearly ten times the actual figure.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Does anybody know the exact figure?

An Honourable Member: What do they know? They know nothing.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Yes, they do not know anything, but they only know how to spend what we pay.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: It is six lakhs.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am told it is six lakhs. Whatever be the amount, if that expenditure is spent in increasing the physical amenities of buildings and of other places in Delhi, I submit that these places can be made tolerable to live in, even during the hottest months of the year. After all, if there are big Nawabs, who sit on the Treasury Benches, and if they want to go to hill stations, they can do so for a few months at their own expense, but the offices themselves can remain here. I am often told that it is more efficient to work in Simla than in Delhi. I have lived so far in Delhi, but I hope this summer to go to Simla, and I shall then compare notes as to how it leads to greater efficiency, working in the hills during summer. It seems to me, as far as I hear, that Simla is a sorry place to live in and to work in. It is perched on a hill, and it is raining incessantly for several months in the year. I understand that there is not enough accommodation of houses to live in worth mentioning.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: It rains there the whole time.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I wonder, Sir, if any calculation has been made as regards the increase in efficiency of work in Simla. At any rate, speaking on behalf of the poor tax-payers in this country, it is my duty to protest against this exodus, involving a huge waste of the tax-payers' money.

Mr. M. S. Aney: The Government Members become much cooler in their temperament in Simla.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It is all a matter of temperament. Whether in Delhi or Simla, the Government Members put on the same temperament. I submit, Sir, this poor country cannot afford to have two Capitals and it can afford to have only one Capital and that in Delhi. I, therefore, think that this House ought not to vote this sum, unless the Government assure us that they will consider this question, in consultation with all relevant opinion, and see that the permanent Capital is located here. In any case, Mr. President, when the Federal Legislature comes, I do not think you can live between Simla and Delhi. You are bound to stay in Delhi. In Simla, there would not be room enough for bi-cameral Legislatures, or for the Princes and their representatives and their retinues and their dependants; and, therefore, it appears that it is a question of time when you will have to make Delhi your permanent Capital—sooner or later. Why not take credit for yourself and make Delhi the permanent Capital even now? That is the consideration which I should like the Honourable Member in charge to take into consideration, and see that Delhi is made the permanent Capital of India.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I will make the briefest speech on record. I will ask my Honourable friend only one question, whether he has ever spent a hot weather in Delhi.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I have not.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I thought not, I have.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Then, why was the Capital built in Delhi at all?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I do not know. (Laughter.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 4,92,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

The motion was adopted.

INTEREST-FREE ADVANCES.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 6,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Interest-free Advances'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 6,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1935, in respect of 'Interest-free Advances'."

The motion was adopted.

THE PARSI MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE BILL.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do concur in the Resolution passed in the Council of State recommending that the Bill to amend the law relating to marriage and divorce among Parsis be committed to a Joint Committee of the Council of State and of the Legislative Assembly and that the Joint Committee do consist of 12 members."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That this Assembly do concur in the Resolution passed in the Council of State recommending that the Bill to amend the law relating to marriage and divorce among Parsis be committed to a Joint Committee of the Council of State and of the Legislative Assembly and that the Joint Committee do consist of 12 members."

The motion was adopted.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the following Members of the Legislative Assembly be nominated to serve on the Joint Committee to consider and report on the Bill to amend the law relating to marriage and divorce among Parsis, namely:

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar,
Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai,
Mr. M. A. Jinnah,
Mr. H. P. Mody,
Munshi Iswar Saran, and the Mover."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the following Members of the Legislative Assembly be nominated to serve on the Joint Committee to consider and report on the Bill to amend the law relating to marriage and divorce among Parsis, namely:

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar,
Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai,
Mr. M. A. Jinnah,
Mr. H. P. Mody,
Munshi Iswar Saran, and the Mover."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 1st April, 1935.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 1st April, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

TENDERS FOR THE SALE OF SWEETMEATS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

1263. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** (a) Is it a fact that during June 1931, advertisements were issued asking from contractors for tenders for sale of sweetmeats, etc., on the Bengal Nagpur Railway, and that these advertisements mentioned that "tenders will only be entertained from caterers in local permanent residence at the stations named"?

(b) Will Government be pleased to inform this House of the names and residence of the tenderers to whom contracts have been given since 1932 and the stations for which these contracts were so given?

(c) Is it a fact that in many cases, sub-contractors are actually supplying food?

(d) Are Government aware of this practice and has sanction of the Railway authorities been given?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) There has been no change in the contractors since 1932.

(c) and (d). The Bengal Nagpur Railway Administration report that no sub-letting has been brought to their notice and that sub-letting is forbidden under the terms of the contract.

ANNUAL LICENCE FEES OBTAINED FROM THE SWEETMEAT CONTRACTORS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

1264. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** (a) What is the total annual licence fees obtained from the sweetmeat contractors on the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the different items covered by the above amounts and give a comparative statement of the realisation under different heads from 1930 onwards?

(c) What are the charges that the Indian catering contractors have to pay by way of premium, rent for accommodation, etc.?

(d) Is it a fact that all such realisations (*i.e.*, vending or licence fees, rents, etc.), are credited to the profit and loss account of the Catering Department of the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

(e) Is it a fact that this account makes no mention of the rent charged by the Railway for European refreshment room premises, etc.? If so, does the profit and loss account show the correct financial position of the Catering Department of the Railway? If so, how?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Rs. 83,880.

(b) The amount covers the sale of sweetmeats, *pan*, *biri* and cigarettes, tea-stalls, Indian refreshment rooms and Muhammadan catering. The licences are comprehensive and it is not possible, therefore, to give the amount under each head covered.

(c) The Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway, states that there are no other charges except rent which is charged only for the quarters in which the contractors live.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes. The profit and loss account takes into account only such items of expenditure as would ordinarily be charged to a contractor.

PROVISION OF SUITABLE SITES FOR INDIAN DINING ROOMS IN STATIONS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

1265. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** (a) What is the provision made for providing stations on Bengal Nagpur Railway with suitable sites for Indian dining rooms?

(b) Is it a fact that in many cases, carriage bodies are utilised as dining rooms, and that at Gondia such a carriage body is in front of the public latrine?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The Agent reports that where an Indian dining room is required, a suitable site is provided.

(b) Government are informed that this is not the case.

CHECK EXERCISED AT STATIONS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY ON THE PRICES CHARGED FOR CIGARETTES, TOBACCO, ETC.

1266. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** (a) Is any check exercised at stations on the Bengal Nagpur Railway on the prices charged for cigarettes, tobacco, etc.?

(b) Is it a fact that a uniform tariff rate is prescribed for all Indian food-stuffs for all stations, irrespective of any local conditions which might influence such rates?

(c) What are the arrangements for inspection of food-stuffs at the different stations?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) I understand that schedules of rates are compiled by contractors according to local conditions. These are scrutinised by the Railway's catering inspectors and forwarded to headquarters for approval with such modifications as may be necessary to enable a standard tariff for Indian catering to be adopted for the whole railway.

(c) The normal inspection is made by station masters, traffic inspectors and supervising officers when on tour. At stations where there are European refreshment rooms the Indian catering arrangements are supervised by the Manager of the refreshment room. There are also three catering inspectors who are constantly on tour and the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent, Catering, make frequent surprise inspections. Constant checks are also made by the Railway's medical officials.

CATERING OF THE EUROPEAN REFRESHMENT ROOMS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

1267. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** (a) Is it a fact that the catering of the European refreshment rooms is being conducted departmentally by the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

(b) Are there any accounts kept to show the financial position of the Catering Department?

(c) Are the rates charged for various items in their refreshment rooms and restaurant cars less than the corresponding items on the East Indian Railway?

(d) Is it a fact that the licence or vending fees obtained from Indian Contractors are utilised to run the European refreshment rooms?

(e) Is it a fact that these refreshment rooms and the Catering Department are running at a loss? If so, what has been the annual loss during the last four years?

(f) Is there any concession granted to Railway officers and employees? If so, what is the basis on which such concession is given?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway, states that in a few instances the charges are less than for corresponding items on the East Indian Railway.

(d) and (e). The receipts and expenditure of the Catering Department are embodied in one set of accounts for the Department as a whole. The losses on the working of the Department including the hotels at Puri and Ranchi, were approximately:

	Rs.
in 1930-31	78,000
in 1931-32	6,000
in 1932-33	87,000
in 1933-34	39,000

The Bengal Nagpur Railway anticipate that in 1934-35 there will not be a loss.

(f) Yes, for meals only. The comparative rates charged for passengers and railway staff are shown in one of the tariffs referred to in my reply to the Honourable Member's unstarred question No. 226 of the 25th March, 1935.

BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY'S COMMERCIAL VENTURE AS HOTEL-KEEPERS AT RANCHI AND PURI.

1268. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** (a) Is it a fact that the Bengal Nagpur Railway have engaged in a commercial venture as hotel-keepers at Ranchi and Puri? If so, what is the financial position of such a venture?

(b) Is it a fact that they are running at a loss of Rs. 25,000 annually?

(c) What is the basis on which concession rates are allowed to the Railway officers in these hotels?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). The Bengal Nagpur Railway have hotels at Ranchi and Puri. The Administration state that these hotels act as media of publicity in attracting upper class passenger traffic to these places, which justifies financially their retention. If the earnings on this passenger traffic are not taken into account, there was a loss of Rs. 12,382 on the hotel at Puri and of Rs. 12,205 on the hotel at Ranchi during 1933-34.

(c) Officers of the Bengal Nagpur Railway are allowed to use the rooms at the Railway hotels but must give way to other people paying full rates. The charges, I understand, are fixed on the basis of the mean average of the travelling allowances admissible to officers. The administration considers that the concession rate is of financial assistance to the hotel, as it brings in extra customers and helps to meet overhead charges.

INDIAN RESTAURANT CARS ON THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

1269. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Are there any Indian restaurant cars running on the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No.

RETRENCHMENT EFFECTED IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

1270. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Is it a fact that considerable retrenchment has been effected in the clerical and postmen's cadres for reducing the losses incurred for the unremunerative Post Offices? If so will Government please state the reasons for which the unremunerative Post Offices at military stations and strategic centres have been allowed to exist?

(b) Will Government be pleased to furnish figures showing the percentage of posts retrenched up to the 31st January, 1935, in the following cadres:

(i) officers in the administrative and controlling staff in the Posts and Telegraphs Department;

(ii) subordinate staff in the Postal Audit Offices;

(iii) departmental telegraphists;

(iv) telegraph masters;

(v) officers in the Telegraph Engineering Branch;

(vi) selection grade posts in Post Office and Railway Mail Service;

(vii) postal overseers and postmen; and

(viii) inferior staff in the Post Office and Railway Mail Service?

(c) Is it not a fact that there is a great disparity in the percentages of retrenchment made in the above cadres? If so, will Government please state the reasons for this disparity?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative; as regards the second part, it is sometimes necessary, in the interests of general administration, to retain post offices which are unremunerative, but it is the policy of the Department to curtail the expenditure on such offices in every possible way and, when the loss on an individual office exceeds Rs. 120 per annum, to call upon the local authorities or parties whose interest it is to retain the office to make a contribution or to furnish a guarantee so as to indemnify the Department against loss.

(b) and (c). Government regret that they are unable to furnish the information as its collection would involve an undue expenditure of time and labour.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if there is any intention of increasing the rural post offices in villages?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: We have already stated in reply to another question that in the budget for next year a provision of Rs. 50,000 has been made for opening experimental post offices in rural areas.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is there any plan? Where will they be opened?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: They will be opened in places where the heads of circles consider there is real necessity for such offices.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Have the heads of circles considered this point up to this time or not?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: No; they will consider.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to part (a), will Government please state the reasons for which unremunerative post offices at military and strategic centres have been allowed to exist?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I stated that unremunerative post offices are maintained in the interests of general administration: it is not only in military stations and strategic centres that they are maintained: they are maintained in a large number of other places equally where it is considered, in the interests of general administration, that post offices must be continued.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How many such stations are there?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I cannot say.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What is the answer to part (c)? Why has it not been answered separately?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I have said that Government regret they are unable to furnish the information: and unless we collect the information in (b), we cannot answer part (c).

RETRENCHMENT IN THE SUBORDINATE STAFF OF THE POST OFFICES AND RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

1271. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Is it not a fact that the drastic retrenchment effected in the number of postmen has resulted in curtailment of postal facilities formerly enjoyed by the public in the urban areas?

(b) Is it not a fact that the postal facilities enjoyed by the public in the rural areas have been further curtailed due to the replacement of departmental postmen by extra departmental delivery agents?

(c) Is it not a fact that the Accountant General of Posts and Telegraphs had in his Appropriation Report for the year 1931-32 made the remark that the bulk of fraud and misappropriation cases, especially in connection with Savings Bank transactions, occur in the extra departmental Post Offices?

(d) Will Government please state if the conversion of a large number of departmental Post Offices into extra departmental ones during the last three years has not led to an appreciable increase in the number of fraud and misappropriation cases committed in the extra departmental offices?

(e) Will Government please state if the withdrawal of the public privilege of sending complaints post-free against the Post Offices has led to any appreciable reduction in the number of such complaints against the Post Offices?

(f) Are Government aware that the policy of retrenchment adopted in the Post Office and Railway Mail Service has caused serious public dissatisfaction with regard to the regularity and efficiency of the Postal Service?

(g) If the replies to the above be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to stop any further retrenchment in the subordinate staff of the Post Offices and Railway Mail Service?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) In accordance with the recommendations made by the Posts and Telegraphs Sub-Committee of the Retrenchment Advisory Committee the number of postal deliveries were curtailed in certain towns resulting in the retrenchment of posts of some postmen. It is not a fact that it was the retrenchment in the number of postmen that led to the curtailment in the number of deliveries.

(b) Departmental postmen have been replaced by extra departmental delivery agents only in those places where the volume of delivery work to be done was small and the posts of departmental postmen were consequently unremunerative.

(c) The remark referred to was made in the Appropriation Report for 1932-33.

(d) The facts are not as stated by the Honourable Member.

(e) The privilege of sending complaints against the postal service "post free" was withdrawn with effect from the 1st January, 1932. There was a decrease in the number of complaints received during the year 1932-33 as compared with those received in the year 1931-32 and there was a further decline in the number in the year 1933-34. I may add that Government have no reason to believe that this is due entirely to the withdrawal of the privilege.

(f) Government are aware that the restriction of postal facilities, which they have been regretfully compelled to adopt on account of the financial position of the Department, has caused a certain amount of dissatisfaction to the public, but believe that the retrenchments carried out have been effected with the minimum of detriment to the regularity and efficiency of the service.

(g) As has already been stated in this House, the compulsory retrenchment of staff in the Posts and Telegraphs Department under the special retrenchment concession scheme has ceased with effect from the 31st March, 1935.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: May I know what the salary of the delivery agent is?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: It is not a salary as I explained: in the case of extra departmental agents, we give an allowance, and this allowance varies from place to place: it depends on the amount of work done.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is he a whole-time man?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: No: he is not a whole-time man.

RULES FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES AND RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE AND HEAD CLERKS TO SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES.

1272 *__Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:__ (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Rules framed by the Director General for the examination of recruitment of Inspectors of Post Offices and Railway Mail Service and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices?

(b) Is it a fact that the General Secretary of the All-India (including Burma) Postal and Railway Mail Service Union had submitted several representations to the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, based on a resolution passed at the Ahmedabad Session of the All-India (including Burma) Postal and Railway Mail Service Conference, urging modification of some of the rules and especially emphasising the distress of the staff in the system of nomination, as enforced by the Rules, for the selection of candidates for the examination?

(c) Is it not a fact that the percentage of selection grade posts in the Circle Offices is considerably higher than those in the Post Office and Railway Mail Service and that these appointments are exclusively reserved for the staff in the Circle Offices?

(d) Is it not a fact that the clerical staff in the Circle Offices have no opportunity of acquiring practical experience of work in the Post Office and Railway Mail Service?

(e) Is it not a fact that the General Secretary, All-India (including Burma) Postal and Railway Mail Service Union had urged that the system of nomination should be abolished to eliminate the possibility of favouritism and that the examination should be thrown open to the time-scale clerks and sorters in the Post Office and Railway Mail Service exclusively?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) A copy of the rules is laid on the table.

(b) to (e). The facts are as stated by the Honourable Member.

Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department.

Director-General's Special General Circular No. 22.

Tuesday, 5th December, 1933.

Rules for the new examination for appointment to the posts of (1) Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices and (2) Inspectors, Railway Mail Service.

With reference to Para. 3 of Director-General's Special General Circular No. 46, dated the 3rd March, 1932, the sub-joined rules and syllabus for the new examination for appointment to posts of (1) Inspectors of Post Offices (including Investigating Inspectors) and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices and (2) Inspectors, Railway Mail Service (including Sorting and Headquarters Inspectors) are published for general information.

2. The attention of Heads of Circles is invited to the cases of those officials who were appointed on probation as Town Inspectors on selection grade rates of pay subject to their being confirmed on passing the Lowest Selection Grade examination within a period of two years from the date of such appointment according to the orders issued in Para. 3 of the letter from the Government of India Department of Industries and Labour No. 14-PTE, dated 2nd October, 1928, a copy of which was forwarded to all Heads of Circles with this office letter No. EA-279/27-III, dated the 15th October, 1923. As the Lowest Selection Grade examination has since been abolished and the posts of Town Inspectors on selection grade rates of pay have been converted into those in the ordinary time-scale with a special pay, those officials who were appointed on probation as Selection Grade Town Inspectors and who have not passed the Lowest Selection Grade examination owing to their not having had two chances to pass that examination, must now pass the new examination, even if at the time of examination their age might exceed the prescribed limit of 35 years, so as to make themselves eligible for transfer to the Inspectors' cadre. They will be allowed as many chances for passing the new examination as were left to them for passing the Lowest Selection Grade examination under the orders then in force.

Steps should now be taken by Heads of Circles to hold the new examination for these officials as well as for new candidates with reference to the requirements of the Circle.

[SA. 250-3A/31.]

T. RYAN,
Offg. *Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.*

Rules for the recruitment to the cadres of (1) Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices, on Rs. 160—10—250, and (2) Inspectors, Railway Mail Service, on Rs. 160—10—250.

Recruitment to the cadres of (1) Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices, on Rs. 160—10—250, and (2) Inspectors, Railway Mail Service, on Rs. 160—10—250, is made by promotion from the undermentioned categories of upper division clerical staff of the Post Office and Railway Mail Service Branches Circle Offices and Dead Letter Offices :—

(i) Those who have already passed the *old* examination for Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices, or for Inspectors, Railway Mail Service (held before 1928);

(ii) Those who were allowed to appear as a special case at the first Lowest Selection Grade examination (held in 1929) having already been selected to appear at the *old* examination for Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices, or for Inspectors, Railway Mail Service, and who actually passed the first Lowest Selection Grade examination;

(iii) Those who were allowed to appear as a special case at the second (and last) Lowest Selection Grade examination (held in 1930) as *junior* candidates and who actually passed that examination;

(iv) Those who pass the new examination for appointment to the cadres of (1) Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices and (2) Inspectors, Railway Mail Service.

2. (1) Officials of the 4 categories described in Rule 1 will be eligible for promotion either (i) to the cadre of Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices or (ii) to the cadre of Inspectors, Railway Mail Service according as—

(a) they passed the old examination for Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices or for Inspectors, Railway Mail Service, or

(b) they passed the old Lowest Selection Grade examination with Postal or Railway Mail Service subjects as their syllabus, or

(c) they pass the new examination for Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices, or for Inspectors, Railway Mail Service.

(2) For purposes of this promotion, two separate waiting lists of the eligible candidates will be maintained in each Circle, one for promotion to the cadre of Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices, and the other for promotion to the cadre of Inspectors, Railway Mail Service. In each waiting list, the names of officials of the four categories described in Rule 1 will be arranged in the following order :—

Officials of category (i) will rank senior to officials of all other categories;

Officials of category (ii) will rank senior to officials of categories (iii) and (iv);

Officials of category (iii) will rank senior to officials of category (iv).

(3) In each waiting list the relative seniority of the officials of the same category will be determined as follows :—

Category (i).—In the order in which their names were arranged on the old waiting list at the time of the publication of the results of the *first* Lowest Selection Grade examination for purposes of their promotion to the old cadres of (a) Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices, or (b) Inspectors, Railway Mail Service as the case might be.

Category (ii).—In accordance with their relative position in the general gradation list as it stood on the 14th March 1932, cases of officials of different promotion cadres being decided on their own merits by Heads of Circles.

Category (iii).—Same as in the case of category (ii).

Category (iv).—In order of the year of passing the examination and in the case of officials passing the examination in the same year, in order of merit in the examination.

(4) The two separate waiting lists will be published annually with the gradation list of the Circle.

3. The examination referred to in Rule 1(iv) will be held, ordinarily annually in each postal Circle. It is open to the Head of a Circle not to hold the examination in any year if the number of qualified candidates on the waiting list happens to be excessive at any time. The examination will be held at the headquarters of the Circle. The date of each examination will be announced by the Head of the Circle in his circular about nine months in advance of the examination.

4. The classes of officials eligible as candidates for the examination are the upper division clerical staff of—

(a) the Post Office (including Postal Divisional Offices), } for the examination for Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices;

(b) the Railway Mail Service (including Railway Mail Service Divisional Offices), } for the examination for Inspectors, Railway Mail Service;

(c) the Circle Office cadre, and (d) the Dead Letter Office, } for either of the above two examinations.

5. A candidate must fulfil the following conditions to be eligible for nomination for the examination in accordance with Rule 6 :—

(i) he must have passed the 1st efficiency bar of the time-scale prior to the date of the examination.

(ii) he must not be over 35 years of age on the date of the examination.

(iii) he must possess an unblemished record as regards work, conduct and character.

(iv) he must be physically fit and of active habit and be able to ride a bicycle or a pony,

(v) he must possess a good knowledge of two main vernaculars of the postal circle to which he may belong.

6. Candidates who fulfil the above conditions may be nominated for selection to appear in the examination, by (1) Divisional Superintendents and First Class Postmasters from amongst their subordinates and (2) the Head of the Circle from amongst the staff of the Circle Office and the Dead Letter Office. Ordinarily two candidates will be nominated by each Divisional Superintendent and 1st Class Postmaster and two by the Head of the Circle unless the latter directs otherwise with reference to actual requirements of the Circle. A date for the submission of the nomination will be fixed by the Head of the Circle about nine months in advance of the examination and will be notified in a Circular.

7. From candidates so nominated the Head of the Circle will select those who are to be permitted to appear at the examination and he may reject any nomination without assigning a reason. The decision of the Head of the Circle in the matter of selection will be final and absolute and no appeal will lie against it. A selected candidate will have to produce a health certificate from a Civil Surgeon or District Medical Officer to the effect that the candidate is physically fit for a hard outdoor life, before he can be permitted to sit at the examination.

8. Canvassing for nomination or selection by any candidate or on any candidate's behalf will *ipso facto* be held to debar that candidate from nomination or selection.

9. A candidate will ordinarily be permitted to sit at the examination once only, but, as a special case, a candidate who has once failed at the examination may be nominated and selected a second time for another examination if he still fulfils all the conditions in Rule 5. In no case, however, may any candidate be nominated *more than twice* to appear at the examination. Candidates selected to appear for a second time in the examination will be examined in all subjects.

10. The subjects of the examination and the full marks allotted to each will be as follows :

SUBJECTS.	FULL MARKS.
I. First paper.	
For Postal and Railway Mail Service candidates :—	
(a) English—An essay—time 2 hours	100
(b) A *viva voce* examination in general knowledge of English to be conducted by the Head of the Circle himself ...	100
II. Second paper (without the aid of books)—time 3 hours ...	100
(a) *For Postal and Railway Mail Service candidates* :—	
(i) Post and Telegraph Guide—whole.	
(ii) Posts and Telegraphs Initial Account Code, Volume I, Chapters 1, 2, 4 to 7 and 9 to 16 and Appendix 14 to Posts and Telegraphs Initial Account Code, Volume I	
(b) *For Postal candidates only*—	
Appendix 23 of Posts and Telegraphs Initial Account Code Volume I.	
(c) *For Railway Mail Service candidates only*—	
Appendix 24 of Posts and Telegraphs Initial Account Code Volume I.	

SUBJECTS.	FULL MARKS.
III. Third paper (without the aid of books)—time 3 hours ...	100
(a) *For Postal and Railway Mail Service candidates*—	
(i) Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume IV (Establishments)—Chapters I, II (*except* Traffic and Engineering portions), III to V, VIII, XII, XVI and XVII.	
(ii) Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume V (Post Office and Railway Mail Service General Regulations)—whole.	
(iii) Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume VIII (Post Office and Railway Mail Service Supervising Officers)—whole (*except* Chapter 1).	
(b) *For Postal candidates only*—	
(i) Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume VI (Post Office)—whole.	
(ii) Branch Office Rules.	
(c) *For Railway Mail Service candidates only*—	
Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume VII (Railway Mail Service)—whole.	
IV. Fourth paper (with the aid of books)—time 3 hours	100
For Postal and Railway Mail Service candidates—	
(i) Fundamental Rules (Posts and Telegraphs Compilation)—whole (*except* Rules 82, 94 to 100, 102 and 109 to 130).	
(ii) Supplementary Rules (Posts and Telegraphs Compilation)—whole (*except* Rules 166 to 174, 242 to 266, 274 to 283, and 307 to 310 and Appendices).	
(iii) Civil Service Regulations—Chapters on pensions.	
V. Fifth paper (without the aid of books, except in the case of the Indian Evidence Act, the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code)—time 3 hours	100
For Postal and Railway Mail Service candidates—	
(i) The Indian Post Office Act.	
(ii) The Indian Telegraph Act.	
(iii) The Government Savings Bank Act.	
(iv) The Post Office Cash Certificates Act.	
(v) The Indian Evidence Act.	
(vi) The Indian Penal Code—Chapters I, II, V, IX, XII, XVII to Section 424 and XVIII to Section 477-A.	
(vii) The Code of Criminal Procedure—Chapters I, V, VI, VII, XIV, XXII, XXIV, XXV, XXXIX to XLI.	

11. Candidates who secure 50 per cent. of the allotted marks in each subject and 60 per cent. of the aggregate marks will be considered to have passed the examination. The result of the examination in order of merit according to the total number of marks secured by each successful candidate will be published by the Head of the Circle in a circular.

EXAMINATION FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES HELD IN BOMBAY.

1273. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Is it not a fact that the last examination for the recruitment of Inspectors of Post Offices held in Bombay was thrown open to all officials with certain age and service limits?

(b) Is it not a fact that the Audit and Account Offices, including the Posts and Telegraphs Audit and Account Offices, have done away with the system of nomination with regard to their Departmental examinations for promotion to higher grades that are now open to all officials with certain service limits?

(c) Is it not a fact that under the rules laid down by the Director General the Circle Office and the Dead Letter Office in each Circle have been constituted as one unit and each Superintendent's and First Class Postmaster's Division as one unit and that Heads of Circles have been authorised to nominate only two or three candidates from among the clerical staff of the Circle Office and the Dead Letter Office like the Divisional Superintendents and First Class Postmasters?

(d) Will Government please furnish a statement shewing the number of candidates who were nominated from each Superintendent's Division and First Class Postmaster's Division as also from the Circle Office and the Dead Letter Office in each Circle (i) for the Examination of Railway Mail Service Inspectors held in December 1934, and (ii) for the examination for Inspectors and Head Clerks held in February 1935?

(e) Is it not a fact that the All-India (including Burma) Postal and Railway Mail Service Union submitted representations to the Director General strongly protesting against the nomination of an excessive number of candidates from the Circle Office staff by the Heads of certain Circles for the examination of Railway Mail Service Inspectors held in December 1934? If so, what steps have been taken to rectify the irregularity?

(f) Are Government aware that the nomination of candidates in the various Circles has led to great discontent among the staff?

(g) Are Government aware of the complaint that the principle of nomination for selection of candidates for promotion in the public services is obnoxious from the public point of view as it opens the door to favouritism and nepotism?

(h) Do Government contemplate to abolish the system of nomination for selection of candidates for the examination for recruitment of Inspectors and Head Clerks and to throw open the examination at least to all officials in the Post Office and Railway Mail Service who fulfil all the other conditions laid down for the selection of candidates? If not, why not?

(i) Do Government propose to exclude the clerical staff in the Circle Offices from the examination? If not, why not?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) No.

(b) No.

(c) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part, the fact is not exactly as stated by the Honourable Member. Heads of Circles have discretionary powers to select a larger number of candidates from any particular unit in special circumstances, *e.g.*, when an adequate number of the right type of candidates is not forthcoming from the other units.

(d) Government regret that the information is not readily available and do not propose to call for it as its collection would involve an inordinate amount of labour.

(e) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to my reply to part (c) above. His assumption that an irregularity was committed is not correct, and the question does not, therefore, arise.

(f) Government are not aware that the position is as stated by the Honourable Member. I have no doubt, however, that certain members of the staff, who have failed to secure nomination, may be discontented.

(g) The selection is made after a careful examination of all relevant factors by a responsible officer, *viz.*, the Head of the Circle. The selected candidates have further to qualify at a competitive examination held by the Department and Government consider that this is an adequate safeguard against any abuse such as that apprehended by the Honourable Member.

(h) No. Because Government consider that the existing system meets the requirements of the Department adequately. To throw the examination open to all officials as contemplated by the Honourable Member would create serious administrative and financial difficulties. The cadre of Inspectors' is a special one, requiring special qualification and aptitude, and the scheme has been devised to secure the most suitable men.

(i) No. Because in the interests of the Department Government see no reason to exclude suitable men in the Circle Office from competing for this special cadre.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if this examination takes place for officials and departmental people only or there is direct recruitment also, and, if so, to what extent?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: It is open only to departmental officials.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Why is it that recruitment is not made direct?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Because we do not consider it necessary: we get the suitable men we require from our departmental staff who have experience of the working of the post office.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Then, it means that it is not proposed to have this directly recruited at any time?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: No, Sir.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: When will that be? How will it be that by that time they will have acquired official ability or efficiency?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is merely arguing. The Chair disallows that question.

DISCHARGE OF NINE MUSLIMS EMPLOYED IN THE CARETAKING STAFF AT NEW DELHI.

1274. ***Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether in October 1934, or thereabout nine Muslims employed in the Caretaking Staff at New Delhi, who had rendered satisfactory service for a long time, were discharged on the plea of being overage or unfit for further retention in service?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, is it a fact that the Muslims so discharged were replaced by one Muslim and eight non-Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Seven temporary Muslim employees of the Caretaking staff were discharged in October, 1934; three of them were over-age and four were considered unfit for further service.

(b) No. Sixteen appointments were made to the Caretaking staff shortly after the beginning of the Delhi season—seven in place of the men referred to above, two in place of men discharged on other grounds, and seven seasonal appointments. The Executive Engineer concerned ascertained that Muslims already held 26 per cent. of the appointments on the Caretaking staff. He, therefore, offered four of the sixteen appointments to Muslims. One Muslim declined to accept the offer, with the result that three appointments went to Muslims and thirteen appointments to members of other communities.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Do Government consider the strength of Muslims already in service in making fresh appointments, and, therefore, the 25 per cent. rule did not apply?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir; the 25 per cent. rule ordinarily applies. The question whether it should apply to this sort of service is under my consideration.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Was that the reason for not applying the rule, because the strength of the Muslims was already 26 per cent.?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That, Sir, as I have already said, is a point which is engaging my attention. I noticed it when the reply to this question came to me, and I am making inquiries.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member be prepared to waive the 25 per cent. rule if he finds after inquiry that there were 26 per cent. Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I am not quite sure what my friend's point is. If his point is that one of these four appointment should have gone to a Muslim, I have already told him that that matter is engaging my attention.

SEASONAL APPOINTMENTS MADE IN THE CARETAKING STAFF IN "A" DIVISION AT NEW DELHI.

1275. ***Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** Will Government be pleased to state how many seasonal appointments were made in December, 1934 and January 1935 in the caretaking staff in "A" Division at New Delhi and how many of the persons appointed were Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: 35 seasonal appointments were made in December, 1934, and January, 1935. Excluding 24 sweepers, the men appointed were six Muslims, three Hindus, and two Sikhs.

DETECTION OF OVERPAYMENT OF LARGE SUMS OF MONEY TO CONTRACTORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH IN THE NEW CANTONMENT OF DELHI.

1276. ***Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether in the year 1929-30 overpayment of large sums of money to contractors in connection with the construction of St. Martin's Church in New Cantonment was discovered?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, is it a fact that a certain Sub-Divisional Officer of the Central Public Works Department, New Delhi, was found responsible for such overpayment?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, is it a fact that the said Sub-Divisional Officer was taken to task for grave negligence and it was decided that he should never be given charge of a Division?

(d) Is it also a fact that in the year 1926-27 the same Sub-Divisional Officer was found responsible for slack supervision in the construction of the Assembly Chamber, and action similar to that referred to in part (c) was taken against him?

(e) Is it a fact that the same Sub-Divisional Officer was able to manage to be placed in charge of a Division in 1933?

(f) If the answer to part (e) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reason why this officer's previous record came to be ignored?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state the qualifications of the officer referred and the reason why he has all along been placed in charge of construction work?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Certain errors were discovered in a running bill. There was no overpayment.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). No.

(e) The officer, to whom I understand the Honourable Member to refer, was placed in charge of a Division in 1933.

(f) The record was not ignored, as all the reports were placed before the Public Service Commission, on whose advice the officer was appointed as an Assistant Executive Engineer in the Department. Being a senior Assistant Executive Engineer he holds Divisional charge from time to time as vacancies permit.

(g) The officer in question has been selected for construction work because his sound practical knowledge of engineering, energy, and common sense, have made him unusually successful in work of that kind

RETRENCHMENT OF SOME CLERKS OF THE CENTRAL ACCOUNTS OFFICE, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, NEW DELHI.

1277. ***Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether in 1931 some clerks of the Central Accounts Office, Public Works Department, New Delhi, were retrenched?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, were the following persons among the clerks so retrenched:

(i) Moorti,

(ii) Shib Charan Lal,

(iii) Fateh Chand,

(iv) Muhammad Ismail,

(v) Muhammad Mahdi, and

(vi) Zahurul Hasan?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, is it a fact that the following persons have been directly recruited as clerks in preference to the retrenched personnel:

(i) Narsingh Bahadur,

(ii) P. K. Sinha, and

(iii) M. P. Iyer?

(d) Is it a fact that the direct recruits referred to in part (c) have been taken against permanent vacancies with prospects of confirmation in the near future, while some retrenched officials have been re-employed against temporary vacancies only?

(e) Are Government prepared to see that justice is done to the retrenched officials?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes: in 1932.

(b) Yes.

(c) Offers of employment were made, from time to time, to all efficient persons on the "retrenched" list furnished to the Central Public Works Department, who could be traced, and those who accepted such offers were duly employed. The three clerks mentioned by the Honourable Member are now temporarily employed in the Central Public Works Department.

(d) No. The question of confirmation will be considered on its merits.

(e) Government are prepared to re-employ efficient retrenched personnel whenever this is rasonably possible.

MUSLIMS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT SECTION OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, NEW DELHI.

1278. ***Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Is it a fact that there is only one Muslim clerk in the establishment section of the Central Office of the Central Public Works Department, New Delhi, and that the solitary Muslim clerk is allotted the work of diarising, etc.?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to see that a sufficient number of Muslim clerks are appointed in the said section on important duties with a view to safeguard the Muslim interest?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes. The Muslim clerk is employed on recording work.

(b) No. For obvious reasons it is not possible to reserve posts for members of a particular community in the individual sections of an office.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Does the Honourable Member mean to suggest that a Muhammadan is not fit to do any other work excepting diarising?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir; I said nothing of the kind, and I don't think so, for a moment.

NON-OBSERVANCE OF A HOLIDAY ON THE *JUMAT-UL-WIDA* AND THE *ID-UL-FITR* IN CONDUCTING THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS HELD IN 1933-34.

1279. ***Mr. Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Is it a fact that no holiday was observed on the *Jumat-ul-Wida* (last Friday of the month of fasting) and the *Id-ul-Fitr* in conducting the Indian Civil Service Examinations held in 1933-34?

(b) Is it also a fact that the candidates who appeared at the examination referred to in part (a) included a very large number of Muslims, who were prevented from performing their religious duties on these sacred days by the non-observance of a holiday on those days?

(c) Did a deputation of Muslims wait on the Honourable the Home Member of the Government of India to call attention to the grievance referred to in parts (a) and (b), and did the Honourable the Home Member promise to attend to the matter?

(d) Is it also a fact that at the Indian Civil Service Examination held in 1934-35, the two sacred days mentioned in part (a) were again not observed as holidays?

(e) Are Government aware that the *Jumat-ul-Wida* and the *Id-ul-Fitr* are days of the highest sanctity for Muslims?

(f) If the answers to parts (c) to (e) or (d) and (e) are in the affirmative, are Government prepared to take effective steps to prevent such disregard of the religious feelings of Muslims and such repeated obstruction to the performance of their religious duties?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Yes, but there was no paper until 2 O'clock in the afternoon on each of the two days on which the *Id* might have fallen.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. I have no information about the second part.

(c) Yes.

(d), (e) and (f). As regards the examination held this year, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to my replies to starred questions No. 404 on the 21st February and No. 1006 on the 26th March.

CLOSING DOWN OF THE OGALE GLASS WORKS, LIMITED, OGALEWADI.

1280. ***Mr. N. V. Gadgil:** (a) Are Government aware that the only lantern factory in India, *viz.*, that of the Ogale Glass Works, Ltd., Ogalewadi, which had applied for protection in 1932 and which has been repeating

its request again and again, has been compelled to close down owing to want of protection?

(b) Have Government heard from them recently in the matter?

(c) Have Government taken any decision in this matter? If so, what?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a), (b) and (c). A certain measure of assistance was afforded to the Lantern industry by the imposition of specific duties on glass globes and chimneys for lamps and lanterns under the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1934. Representations for further assistance against Japanese competition have recently been received by Government from the Ogale Glass Works, Limited, and are under consideration.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it true that this factory has been closed down?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I have no definite information on that point, but I am quite prepared to accept the information imparted by the Honourable gentleman, who asked the original question.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS IN REGARD TO REVENUE RECEIVED FROM MOTOR VEHICLES AND LIABILITY FOR MAINTENANCE OF ROADS.

1281. ***Mr. S. K. Hosmani:** (a) Will Government state the relations between the Central and the Provincial Governments in regard to the revenue received from the motor vehicles and the liability for maintenance of roads?

(b) What is the principle on which distribution of this revenue is based?

(c) Have the Government of Bombay submitted any definite plan for economic road development in the Presidency?

(d) Have the Central Government assisted any road projects of the Governments of Bombay and Madras? If so, which?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). The reference to the revenue received from the motor vehicles presumably applies to the surcharge of 2½ annas per gallon of petrol, the proceeds of which are credited to the Road Account. The Honourable Member is referred to the Resolution on Roads, adopted by both Houses of the Indian Legislature on the 21st April, 1934.

(c) The Government of Bombay have, from time to time, during the last five years, submitted for the approval of the Government of India their proposals for the use of their share in the Road Account.

(d) The Honourable Member presumably refers to provincial schemes financed from the Road Account. A statement is laid on the table showing the schemes approved in the case of Bombay and Madras for the expenditure of provincial shares in that Account and the special grants so far sanctioned from the Reserve to these two Presidencies.

Schemes of road development works in the Bombay Presidency approved for being financed from the Road Account.

A. Ordinary share of the Government of Bombay in the Road Account.

(*i*) *Presidency Proper.*

No.	Name of work.	Cost.	Expenditure to end of 31st December, 1934.
		(Rs. lakhs).	(Rs. lakhs).
1	Bombay-Ahmedabad-Rajputana Road	13,44	8,44
2	Bombay Agra Road	4,46	2,87
3	Bombay-Poona-Bangalore Road	5, 0	4,46
4	Dhulia-Bhusawal-Edlabad-Nagpur Road	3,14	0,62
5	Bombay-Konkan-Goa Road	20,66	8,68
6	Karwar-Bellary Road	2,05	1,72
7	Sholapur-Bijapur-Hubli Road	1,81	0,63
8	Bandra-Ghodbunder Road	0,81	0,79
9	Kumta-Hubli Road	2,41	0,61
10	Ratnagiri-Kolhapur-Miraj-Bijapur Road	0,21	0,16
11	Bombay-Poona-Sholapur-Hyderabad Road	0,43	..
12	Asphalting different sections of roads near and about Belgaum.	0,80	0,68
13	Modernising roads in Poona	1,32	..
14	Indapur-Baramati Nira Road	0,81	..
15	Dahanu-Vihigaon Road	0,13	..
16	Bombay-Poona-Ahmednagar-Aurangabad Road	0,10	0,06
17	Belgaum-Khanapur-Haliyal-Yellapur-Sirsi-Kodkini-Mysore Frontier Road.	0,58	..
18	Surat-Chikhli-Bansada-Nasik-Poona Road	0,58	..
19	Cost of survey works for the preparation of plans and estimates and trial borings.	0,16	0,01
20	Cost of repairs and maintenance of works financed from the Road Account (Debit to end of 1935-36).	1,41	0,51 (Inclusive of Sind).
21	Cost of road experiments debitable to local Government's share in the Road Account.	0,48	0,40
22	Ahmedabad-Khaira-Godhra-Indore Road	1,23	} Recently sanctioned.
23	Sholapur-Osmanabad-Yedshi Chausala Road	0,43	
24	Chiplun-Karad-Jath-Bijapur-Sindgi-Raichur Road	1,24	
	Total	64,39	30,64
	(*ii*) *Sind.*		
1	Karachi-Hyderabad-Rohri-Punjab Road (East Road).	15,36	13,88
2	Sukkur Shikarpur Road	3,37	..
3	Kotri-Dadu-Shikarpur-Baluchistan Road (West Road).	2,59	2,16
4	Cost of repairs and maintenance to works financed from the Road Account (Debit for 1935-36 only).	0,44	(Separate figures not readily available).
5	Cost of experimental works to be financed from local Government's share in the Road Account.	0,10	0,10
	Total	21,86	16,14
	GRAND TOTAL	86, 5	46,78

No.	Name of work.	Cost.	Expenditure to end of 31st Dec mber, 1934.
		(Rs. lakhs).	(Rs. lakhs).
	B. Wo ks financed by special grants from the Reserve with the Government of India in the Road Account.		
	Different experiments on road surfaces in—		
	(i) the Presidency	0,43	0,35
	(ii) Sind	0,10	0,10
	Road Development Enquiry in Sind	0,32	0,32
	Total	0,85	0,77

Schemes of road developmens works in the Madras Presidency approved for being finance from the Road Account.

A. From Local Government's ordinary share in the Account.

No.	Name of work.	Cost.	Expenditure to end of 31st December, 1934.
		(Rs. lakhs).	(Rs. lakhs).
1	Bridge across the Nathavalasa river on the Great Northern Trunk Road.	2,25	2,13
2	Bridge over the Yerracalva river at mile 328/3 of the Great Northern Trunk Road.	3,11	2,42
3	Bridge across the Gundla Kamma river at mile 191/6 of the Great Northern Trunk Road.	3,60	3,34
4	Bridge across the Swarnamukhi river at Nayudupeta at mile 69/2-4 of the Great Northern Trunk Road.	4,30	3,45
5	Causeway across the Pennar at mile 104-105 of the Great Southern Trunk Road.	2,61	2,29
6	Protective revetments to No. 5 above.	0,84	0,83
7	Bridge across the Mallattar river at mile 106-107/7-8 of the Great Southern Trunk Road.	0,38	0,36
8	Metalling the earthen road between miles 100-150 of the Great Southern Trunk Road.	1,37	1,31
9	Bridge across the Gomukhi river at mile 134-135/1-2 of the Great Southern Trunk Road.	0,61	0,62
10	Bridge across the Manimukthanathi at mile 132-133 0/1 of the Great Southern Trunk Road.	0,65	0,66
11	Bridge across the Chithanatham at mile 214/7 of the Great Southern Trunk Road.	0,90	1,10
12	Bridge across the Pennar river at mile 285/7-8 of the Madras-Bombay Trunk Road.	1,75	1,61
13	Causeway across the Chithravathi river at mile 237/8 and 238/1 of the Madras-Bombay Trunk Road.	0,68	0,68
14	Bridge across the Peddayeru at mile 178/5 of the Madras-Bombay Trunk Road.	0,63	0,74

No.	Name of work.	Cost.	Expenditure to end of 31st December, 1934.
		(Rs. lakhs).	(Rs. lakhs).
15	Bridge over the Keesars river at Muslipatam-Hyderabad Trunk Road.	7,30	4,54
16	Causeway across the Cheyyar river at mile 81/6 of the Chittoor-Cuddalore Trunk Road.	0,86	1,08
17	Re-making the ghat portions of the Calicut-Vyitri-Gudalur Road.	4,13	2,00
18	Improvements to the Madras-Calicut Trunk Road and extension (first section from Calicut southwards).	5,00	3,94
19	Improvements to the Gudalur-Vyitri-Calicut Trunk Road (miles 74-79).	1,87	1,25
20	Bridge across the Paleru river at mile 168/2-3 of of the Great Northern Trunk Road.	4,33	3,52
21	Bridge across the Manneru river at mile 160/7 of the Great Northern Trunk Road.	2,39	2,03
22	Bridge across the Kandivalasa Gedda at mile 96/2-3 of the Great Northern Trunk Road.	2,42	1,77
23	Bridge across the Budameru Gedda at mile 108/7-8 of the Great Northern Trunk Road.	1,40	1,09
24	Bridge across the Paradi Gedda at mile 33/2 of the Vizianagaram-Karada-Komatiapeta Road.	2,90	2,30
25	Bridge across the Musi river at mile 172/3-4 of the Great Northern Trunk Road.	3,50	1,84
26	Bridge across the Ogeru river at mile 223/7-8 of the Great Northern Trunk Road.	1,75	1,30
27	Bridge across the Vakkileru at mile 147/7-8 of the Chittoor-Kurnool Trunk Road.	1,16	0,83
28	Bridge across the Iruvaram river at mile 97/7 of Madras-Bombay Trunk Road.	0,90	0,94
29	Improvements to the Coimbatore-Hassanur Trunk Road.	2,00	1,64
30	Construction of a girder bridge over the Poini river at mile 76 of Madras-Bombay Trunk Road, near the site of the Rice Causeway, half the cost to be debited to local Government's share in the Road Account.	3,13	About to begin.
31	Construction of a concrete road over the Kistna Anicut at Bezwada.	0,14	Recently sanctioned.
32	Special improvements to the Tirvalam-Katpadi Road to bring it upto Trunk Road standard.	1,32	
33	Reconstruction of the bridge across the Eranjolly river on the Tellicherry-Coorg Trunk Road.	1,16	
	Total	71,34	51,61
	B. Works financed by special grants from the Reserve with the Government of India in the Road Account.		
34	Half the cost of item 30 above	3,13	About to begin.

Mr. S. K. Hosmani: When a certain project concerns two provinces, for instance a bridge concerns both Bombay and Madras, who is responsible for the work? Is it the Central Government or the Governments of both the provinces?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The Central Government is not responsible for any work in the provinces of Madras and Bombay. That is a matter for the Local Governments.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the petrol duty was levied in order to enable the Provincial Governments to abolish toll gates?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir; nothing of the kind.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the Jayakar Committee has recommended that before petrol duty is levied, as a condition precedent, the toll gates should be abolished?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I cannot carry in my head the recommendations of the Jayakar Committee on that point, but, to the best of my knowledge, this 2½ annas duty was levied for additional road development. The abolition of toll gates would not promote the development of additional road.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member lay this matter before the Roads Committee and say that no grant would be given to any of the provinces if they levied a toll duty?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir; the question of toll gates is purely a matter for Provincial Governments.

Seth Govind Das: In how many provinces is the toll duty levied? Is it only in Bombay or in other provinces also?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have no information on that point, but if my Honourable friend wishes to have it, I would suggest to him to put down a question on the subject.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that, if any Provincial Government wishes to impose toll gates it cannot do so without first consulting the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir; it is not a fact. As I have said, this question is purely for the Local Governments to decide. The Government of India are not concerned with it.

SCHEME FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF RURAL AREAS IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

1282. ***Mr. S. K. Hosmani:** Have the Government of Bombay submitted any scheme for the economic development and improvement of rural areas, to the Government of India for their approval? If so, will Government lay them on the table?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: No, Sir.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the Road Development Board in Bombay is nominated or elected?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: This has nothing to do with road development.

PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAMME OF WORKS FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF THE ADDITIONAL SUM MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET.

1283. ***Mr. S. K. Hosmani:** Will Government state the projects, with their estimated costs, included in the programme of works for the expenditure of the additional sum of Rs. 40 lakhs made available for the next year's budget?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The additional sum of Rs. 40 lakhs will be merged in the Reserve of the Government of India in the Road Account. It will, therefore, be governed by the terms of the Resolution on Roads adopted by this Assembly on the 21st April, 1934, in accordance with which no projects can be included in a programme for expenditure from the Reserve until they have been referred to the Standing Committee for Roads. As I explained in the House on Saturday, proposals were laid before that Committee a few days ago and the proceedings of the Committee will, as usual, be placed in the Library when printed.

INCREASED INTEREST SHOWN IN THE DIESEL ENGINE UNITS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES.

1284. ***Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Has Government's attention been drawn to the increasing interest being shown in the Diesel-engine units for motor vehicles?

(b) Are Government aware that much of the advantage claimed for these engines depends on the fact that the incidence of taxation is very much more on a petrol vehicle than on a diesel-engined vehicle? If so, what do Government propose to do in the matter?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) Government are aware that the use of Diesel engines for motor vehicles has increased very considerably in the United Kingdom during recent years and that a small number of vehicles, with these engines, has been imported into India.

(b) It is a fact that the tax on the fuel used by Diesel-engined vehicles is very much lower than the tax on motor spirit. Government are closely watching the imports of these vehicles and will take into consideration the advisability of measures to correct any appreciable adverse effect on their revenues.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the Government of India promised that they would watch the effect of the duty on the agricultural machines and the diesel oil engines? If they have been watching it, what is the effect?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I am prepared to take it from the Honourable Member that the fact stated in the first part of the question is correct, but this is the first time that it has been brought to my notice, and I must ask him to put down a question on the subject.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Apart from the question as to how many of them have been imported, have they watched the effect of this duty on the agricultural operations?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I must repeat, if the Honourable Member will put down a question, I will look into the matter, but this is the first time that it has been brought to my notice.

FILM NAMED "INDIA SPEAKS" EXHIBITED IN AMERICA.

1285. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Are Government aware of the fact that a film "India Speaks" vilifying this country has been exhibited since a few months back in America and is being criticised by the Indian Press?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to stop such vilification and exhibition of this film, parts of which are as reported in the press, faked by the new trick processes?

(c) Is it a fact that the distributors of this film are negotiating to sell it in Continental countries, as described in the extract from a letter supplied by the *United Press* and published in the *Hindustan Times* of the 3rd March, 1935?

(d) Are Government not aware of the fact that in other countries such vilification is immediately protested against and stopped through the diplomatic channels of the countries concerned?

(e) Has the Secretary of State or the Government of India received any reports of His Majesty's diplomatic representatives, from the countries where this film is being exhibited or negotiated for sale? If so, will Government be pleased to place them on the table? If not, why not?

(f) If the reply to part (e) be in the negative, are Government prepared to get the information by cable and make it available to the Members of the Central Legislature? If not, why not?

(g) What measures do Government propose to take against the firm representing the American producer and distributor of this film in this country and for stoppage of the exhibition of this film everywhere it is being shown and negotiated for sale, through the diplomatic representatives of His Majesty?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies given by me to question No. 1088 and the short notice question on the same subject and supplementary questions asked on the 27th March which give all the information I have and the action which has been taken in the matter.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know. . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This matter has been fully discussed. Next question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I do not think clause (g) of the question has been answered, whether anything has been done with regard to the firm which represents the American producer and distributor—whether anything has been done against him, or is this vilification to go on with impunity?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I do not know what firm this is.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Does not the Honourable Member know that there is a firm here representing the American producer and distributor?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: There is a firm here?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Yes.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, I am not aware of that.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am very sorry then. May I request the Honourable Member to find out and do something to stop this vilification? Otherwise, there will be no obstruction to their doing anything they like.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Honourable Member seems to confuse the word; when he says producing he means manufacturing. . . . .

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: They are also manufacturing. The company is a Company which represent the producer and distributor—not that they actually make it here. Those Companies that have been producing and distributing in America have got a firm here representing them. I am told they also produce here. Therefore, I want to know if the Honourable Member is going to do anything with regard to this, or is he going to leave it as it is?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I do not know what the Honourable Member wants me to do. The film has never been produced in India, or, as far as I know, anywhere except in America. I understand the Honourable Member's allegation is that the film, or, at any rate, part of it, was made in India. Even that is, I believe, a matter of pure conjecture, there is no evidence to that effect as far as I am aware.

(Mr. Lalchand Navalrai rose in his seat.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. Next question.

INDIANS HOLDING COMMISSIONED RANKS IN THE INDIAN ARMY VETERINARY CORPS.

1286. ***Mr. K. L. Gauba:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of Indians holding commissioned ranks in the Indian Army Veterinary Corps?

(b) What is the total strength of the officers in the Indian Army Veterinary Corps?

(c) How many Indians with M.R.C.V.S. (London) qualifications passed at the recent examination held at Lahore at the end of January 1935, for recruitment to the Indian Army Veterinary Corps?

(d) Out of these, how many have been recruited?

(e) Are Government prepared to expedite the employment of all the remaining passed candidates to the Indian Army Veterinary Corps?

(f) Are Government prepared to accelerate the employment of qualified Indians to the Indian Army Veterinary Corps?

(g) Are Government prepared to employ all those who recently passed the examination held at Lahore for such recruitment? If not, why not?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) and (b). There are three Indian Commissioned Officers and 107 Viceroy's Commissioned officers in the Indian Army Veterinary Corps. There are in addition 64 British officers of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps attached to the Indian Army Veterinary Corps.

(c) Eight.

(d) Two have just been commissioned.

(e) to (g). Government are considering a comprehensive scheme for the Indianisation of the Indian Army Veterinary Corps. It is hoped that this will enable some of the remaining six candidates, who qualified at the recent examination, to be offered commissions in the Corps.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know when the absorption of these six will take place?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The matter will be considered as soon as this new scheme has received the sanction of the Secretary of State, which I hope will be before very long.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I apologise to you and to the House for not being present this morning, when my questions were called. This is the first time it has happened, and I promise it won't happen again.

INDIANS EXTERNED FROM OR NOT ALLOWED TO RETURN TO INDIA DURING THE LAST THREE YEARS.

1287. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the names of Indians who have either been externed from India or who have not been allowed to return to India, during the last three years;

(b) the period for which they have been so externed or prevented from returning to India;

(c) the reasons for this action; and

(d) whether Government propose to withdraw such orders; if so, when; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) I presume the Honourable Member refers to those British Indian subjects abroad who have applied for and been refused passport facilities to return to India during the last three years. If so, the answer is one. This is the case of Sailendra Nath Ghose who applied more than once during this period to return to India on condition that he is granted an amnesty.

(b) to (d). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me in regard to the case mentioned above on the 15th August, 1934, to Mr. S. C. Mitra's question No. 622 and to the supplementary questions and answers thereon. I have nothing to add to what was then stated by me on the subject.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it, therefore,—I am merely asking for elucidation—that no Indian has been externed, except the one gentleman whose name the Honourable the Home Member gave, who was outside India, and who asked for a passport to return to India but was refused?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, there was only one British Indian subject who has been refused permission to return.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Did Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose apply during these three years for a passport to return to India, and was he refused until recently?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: He did return to India recently and he was given a visa.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Did he apply earlier than the time he actually returned, and was he refused?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That does not arise out of this.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will any mercy be shown to the gentleman who is still externed, during the coming Jubilee Celebrations?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it or is it not a fact that the externment order against Sardar Ajit Singh of Lahore still exists?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I must ask for notice.

PROVISION OF SEPARATE COMPARTMENTS FOR LEPERS IN RAILWAY TRAINS.

***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that several lepers travel by railway trains; and

(b) whether there is any proposal for providing separate compartments for them to travel in; if not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Possibly.

(b) Under the Indian Railways Act, a Railway Administration may refuse to carry persons suffering from an infectious or contagious disorder, such as leprosy, except under prescribed conditions. The conditions prescribed prohibit any passenger suffering from an infectious or contagious disorder from being carried in any train, unless he has engaged a reserved compartment for himself and unless all necessary arrangements have been made to segregate him and his attendants from other persons during the whole time he is on the railway.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government any information whether, as a matter of fact, this rule is being enforced, whether there are any health inspectors or any other agency in the railway stations to examine passengers, and see if they are suffering from infectious or contagious diseases, and, if so, not allowed to travel in the ordinary carriages?

Mr. P. R. Rau: My Honourable friend knows that that suggestion is impracticable. It is impossible to have a health inspector examining all passengers to see which of them have been suffering from contagious or infectious disease.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do Government propose to take any other steps, either by surprise inspection, or by inspection at certain important and big stations, to see that this evil, which one knows does exist, is at least mitigated, if not eradicated altogether?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am afraid it is very difficult to take any practical steps to provide for such inspection. It is impossible to empower the ordinary class of railway staff to examine passengers. They must be competent to find out whether a person is really suffering from leprosy or not.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government take any steps, for example,—to find out the extent of the evil, will they sanction a special staff for a few important stations, for, say, three months, and see if the extent of the evil is so great as to justify any further action being taken?

Mr. P. R. Rau: We will have the matter examined, but I must add that, so far as Government are aware, no case has arisen yet to indicate the need for such an examination or for any segregation which that examination might lead to.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Does the Government think that the evil does not exist, or, if it does, it is in such a small proportion that it can be ignored?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I will have the matter examined and looked into.

SALT PRODUCED IN INDIA.

1289. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of salt produced in India today;

(b) the amount of salt which can be produced in India; and

(c) whether Government have considered that by proper production and transport the entire demand of India cannot be met by purely indigenous supply?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) The annual production of salt in India, excluding Aden, is about 400 lakhs of maunds. If Aden is included, the total will be raised to about 450 lakhs.

(b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the report of the Salt Survey Committee. The Government have not had occasion to consider what amount of salt could be produced in India if considerations of price and quality were left out of account.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Taking quality and price into consideration, have Government considered the possibility of satisfying Indian demand by the production of indigenous salt?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I do not quite follow the Honourable Member's question. We have not considered the possibility of making India self-contained in the matter of salt leaving out of account questions of price and quality.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: If I understand the Honourable Member aright, he will correct me if I am wrong, what I wanted was to find out if the Government considered, taking into account questions of price and quality, the possibility of making India self-sufficient in the matter of salt supply?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Yes, Sir, that was considered on several occasions by the Salt Committee of the last Legislative Assembly, and obviously the scheme which was produced rested on the fact that it was not possible to make India completely self-contained.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have the Government considered this matter and come to any conclusion, or are those conclusions only of committees appointed by the House?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Government were represented. In fact my predecessor was the Chairman of that committee.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Government of India now consider the possibility of increasing the import duty on salt, and making it run for say 3 or 5 years, and thus helping India to be self-sufficient in the matter of salt supply?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That can be debated on the Salt Additional Import duty debate. My *prima facie* answer to the question is in the negative.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Is it a fact that the Bengal Government are against this salt import duty?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: My recollection is that, at the time of the imposition of the original 4½ annas duty, the Bengal Government protested against that action of the Government of India.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: May I know whether in places, where the monopoly system exists, Government are restricting the area as well as the quantity in each year?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I must have notice of that. Obviously that does not arise on this question.

PURCHASES MADE ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA BY THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

1290. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) How many offices or officers besides those in the Indian Stores Department make purchases on behalf of the Government of India:

(i) in the Railways,

(ii) in the Army, and

(iii) in other Departments?

What are their names and the items of purchases entrusted to them?

(b) What is the percentage of purchases in each of the three above cases made by the Indian Stores Department?

(c) What are the difficulties in the way of centralising all the purchases of the Government of India in the Indian Stores Department?

(d) Is it not a fact that the Indian Stores Department is being run at a loss to the tax-payer, to the extent of 10 to 11 lakhs of rupees a year, about more than 60 per cent. of the loss being incurred in the commercial, that is, purchase transactions and the rest in inspection?

(e) What is the objection to meeting the deficit of this Department by making many more State purchases through this Department?

(f) What is the objection to entrusting to the Stores Department the purchases of articles mentioned in Rules 7 and 8—specially Rule 8—of the "Rules for the supply of articles required to be purchased for the public service", appended to the resolution No. S. 217, dated 13th September 1928 (Department of Industries and Labour)?

(g) What is the normal percentage of the articles covered by the said Rule 8 to the entire amount of stores required by the "Naval, Military or Air Forces of the Crown in India"?

(h) What is the percentage of steel articles mentioned in Rule 8 to the entire amount of articles covered by that rule?

(i) What is the percentage of (i) leather, (ii) textile and (iii) other articles under the same?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Such information as can be readily collected has been called for, and a complete answer will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I want to ask one supplementary question on clause (d) of this question. What is the definite answer to that question?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The reply has been given on several occasions recently in this House and I have nothing to add.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Has the loss continued, or has it been reduced?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I beg my Honourable friend's pardon. Is he asking for a reply to part (d)?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Yes.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I thought he was asking for a reply to clause (c). I venture to suggest that he should wait for the complete answer which will be placed on the table of the House. I have not gone into the details of this question in view of the fact that a consolidated answer is being prepared, and I am not, therefore, prepared to answer any supplementary questions on it offhand.

MAKING THE INDIA STORES DEPARTMENT, LONDON, AN AGENT OF THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

1291. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** What is the objection to making the India Stores Department, London, an Agent of Indian Stores Department, Government of India in all matters of purchases?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I cannot do better than refer the Honourable Member to pages 2396-97 of Volume VIII—No. 6 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, which contain my speech on this subject. The matter is still under consideration.

DETAILED REPORT OF ALL GOVERNMENT PURCHASES.

1292. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of compiling a detailed report of all their purchases together in one book, giving divisions such as (i) steel and iron, (ii) textile, (iii) leather and (iv) other industrial products, giving also details as regards their places of manufacture and places and manner of purchase with a survey as to how Indian industry is helped by State purchases and how it is contemplated to progressively help the Indian industry in future by State purchases?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Government regret that they cannot undertake to compile a report of the nature desired by the Honourable Member, as it would entail labour and trouble out of all proportion to the value of such a report. I may mention that, so far as the Indian Stores Department is concerned, all available information, on the points mentioned in the question, is published in the annual Administration Reports of that Department, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

RESEARCHES UNDERTAKEN BY GOVERNMENT.

1293. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) How many kinds of researches are undertaken by Government?

(b) In how many researches Indians are at the head, and guide the researches?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of publishing a comprehensive report of all their research work explaining how Indian talent is used in it, and how it is contemplated to progressively use Indian talent in the work in future?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) to (c). Scientific and industrial research is carried on on a large scale by Government and a progressively increasing number of Indians is being employed in conducting it. Government do not consider that any useful purpose will be served by compiling a comprehensive

report of all research work conducted in India. The various scientific departments periodically issue reports, journals and other publications which are available to all who are interested in the matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the result of this progressive realisation of Indians in these appointments? What is the number of Indians and Europeans?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I can only speak for the departments with which I am concerned. My Honourable friend's question covers the whole range of scientific activity. Take for example the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. It employs 142 research workers. Every one is an Indian. The Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun employs eight, of whom three are Europeans and five are Indians. Then the Imperial Institute of Research at Pusa—four Indians and three Europeans.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why are these Europeans there? Is it because we cannot get qualified Indians?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The fact of the matter is that the research appointments at the Forest Research Institute and the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research were originally filled by members belonging to the services, such as the Indian Agricultural Service. Those officers who were appointed have not yet attained the age of superannuation. My Honourable friend will agree that we cannot send them away.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Therefore, are they kept because they cannot be sent away, or because they have any aptitude for research?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: They are kept because of their aptitude for research and the question of filling their places does not arise till they retire in the ordinary course.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How is it contemplated to progressively use Indian talent in this work? Is it the policy of Government to replace these Europeans by Indians as and when occasion arises?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The answer to that, if I may say so, is furnished by what I have said in regard to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. That is the most recent of these departments. As I have already informed the House, every research worker employed there is an Indian, so that the policy of Government is to employ Indian talent so far as it is available.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am glad to hear that.

POSITIONS UNDER GOVERNMENT (INCLUDING RAILWAYS) REQUIRING OUTSTANDING TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS TO SERVE AS HEADS.

1294. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) What is the number of the positions under Government (including Railways) where outstanding technical experts are required to serve as heads? How many experts for big planning operations have been requisitioned during the last ten years (This statement may not be thoroughly exhaustive, if not possible, but it will have to include Engineers who plan big building undertakings, *e.g.*, difficult Railway lines, big bridges, buildings, annicuts, etc.)?

(b) How many committees of investigation have been set up during the latest ten years (*e.g.*, the committee of investigation in connection with the Harding Bridge) for helping Government with expert opinion?

(c) In how many cases referred to in parts (a) and (b), respectively, has Indian talent been used as the head or the guide of the position or the committee, as the case may be?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of publishing a yearly report, to explain how Indian talent is being used in their technical requirements, and what they are doing or propose to do to employ Indian technical talent to meet such necessity of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Information has been called for and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

PROVISION OF A RAISED PLATFORM FOR THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY PASSENGERS AT MYMENSINGH.

1295. ***Mr. Suryya Kumar Som:** Are Government aware of the fact:

(a) that Mymensingh station, being the junction of the Eastern Bengal Railway and M. B. R. Branch of the Assam Bengal Railway, is not provided with raised platform for the Assam Bengal Railway passengers;

(b) that there is no proper lighting arrangement for the Assam Bengal Railway passengers;

(c) that the passengers, specially ladies, experience great hardship while entering the compartment and getting down from the same in view of the fact that there is no raised platform and sufficient lighting arrangement;

(d) that the public has complained of this to the authorities;

(e) whether they are prepared to consider the desirability of providing the station with a raised platform and proper lighting arrangements for the Assam Bengal Railway passengers, and to take immediate steps to that effect?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have sent a copy of the question to the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, for consideration, but I would point out to the Honourable Member that the Local Advisory Committee is the natural channel for bringing such matters to the notice of the administration concerned.

NOISE MADE BY TRAINS RUNNING ON THE SIRAJGUNGE, NARAYANGUNGE AND BAHADURABAD-NARAYANGUNGE LINES OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

1296. ***Mr. Suryya Kumar Som:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the trains running on the Sirajgunge, Narayangunge and Bahadurabad-Narayangunge lines of the Eastern Bengal Railway make a roaring noise while in motion, making any sort of conversation impossible;

(b) what this peculiar sound is due to;

(c) whether it is a fact that abnormal jerking is experienced by passengers while in motion;

(d) what this jerking is due to;

(e) whether they are prepared to consider the desirability of replacing the rails by those of modern type; and

(f) if the answer to part (e) be in the affirmative, when they propose to take steps?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Reports have been received that in places this track is noisy.

(b) It is believed to be due to the rails, and the dampness of the locality has probably something to do with it. So far as Government are aware no satisfactory theory has yet been produced to account for this satisfactorily.

(c) and (d). No reports to this effect have been received. There is no connection, so far as I have been able to ascertain between roaring rails and jerky motion.

(e) and (f). A short length of rails has been replaced by more modern track as an experiment. It is too soon to say that this has cured the roaring. I am sending a copy of the question to the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, for consideration.

RATE OF FARE CHARGED FOR PASSENGER TRAFFIC IN INDIA AND SPEED OF TRAINS ON THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

1297. ***Mr. Suryya Kumar Som:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the highest rate of fare charged for passenger traffic in India;

(b) the rate charged by the Assam Bengal Railway and the Eastern Bengal Railway;

(c) when the M. B. Branch of the Assam Bengal Railway was started;

(d) whether it is a fact that even now there is no train on the M. B. Branch of the Assam Bengal Railway exclusively for passenger traffic and that some bogies are attached to the goods train to carry passengers;

(e) whether it is a fact that due to the above arrangement the train takes longer time to cover a distance;

(f) what is the general speed of a passenger train on the M. B. Branch of the Assam Bengal Railway and what is the time taken by a passenger train to cover the distance from Mymensingh to Netrokona; and

(g) whether they are prepared to consider the desirability of immediate introduction of exclusively passenger trains on the M. B. Branch of the Assam Bengal Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). The scales of fares in force over the various railways are on a telescopic basis, *i.e.*, the rate charged per mile decreases as the distance for charge increases. Moreover, the scales applicable on each railway differ from those applicable over other railways. The actual fares charged for certain distances on one railway may, therefore, be higher for some distances and lower for others than on other railways. I am placing on the table a statement showing the basis of third class fares, which I presume is what the Honourable Member has in mind, on the principal railways, including the Assam Bengal and Eastern Bengal Railways.

(c) The Branch was opened for traffic on the 1st May, 1918.

(d) and (e). According to the current time table there are no exclusively passenger trains—three mixed trains run in each direction over the Mymensingh Bhairab Bazar Branch.

The time taken varies from 4 hours 20 minutes to 6 hours 45 minutes.

(f) The average through speed of the six trains run on the Branch varies from about 11 to 17 miles per hour. The through trains from Mymensingh to Netrokona take one hour 49 minutes, two hours 13 minutes and two hours 24 minutes respectively.

(g) I am communicating the Honourable Member's suggestion to the Agent of the Assam Bengal Railway for consideration.

Statement showing the basis of third class fares on Class I Railways.

			Pies per mile.
Assam Bengal Railway	1—300 miles	Mail and Express.	4
	+Over 300 miles		3 1/2
Bengal Nagpur Railway	1—300 miles		4 1/2
	+Over 300 miles		3 1/2
		Ordinary.	
	1—300 miles		3 1/2
	+Over 300 miles		2 1/2
Bengal and North Western Railway	1—50 miles	Mail and Express.	2 1/2
	+Over 50 miles		2
Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway	1—50 miles	Ordinary.	4½
	+51—200 miles		4
	+201—300 miles		3 3/4
	+Over 300 miles		3
Burma Railways	1—50 miles		3½
	+51—200 miles		3¼
	+201—300 miles		3
	+Over 300 miles		2 3/4
Eastern Bengal Railway	1—300 miles		3 1/2
	+Over 300 miles		2 1/2
East Indian Railway	1—50 miles		3 1/2
	+51—300 miles		2
	+Over 300 miles		2 3/4
			1 3/4

Statement showing the basis of third class fares on Class I Railways.

		Pies per mile.
	Mail and Express in local booking.	
Great Indian Peninsula Railway	1—50 miles	5
	+Over 50 miles	3
	Ordinary trains in local booking and all trains in through booking.	
	1—50 miles	4
	+Over 50 miles	3
Jodhpur Railway	1—50 miles	4
	+51—150 miles	3 1/2
	+150—300 miles	3 1/4
	+Over 300 miles	2 3/4
	Mail and Express.	
Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway	1—50 miles	4 1/2
	+51—250 miles	4
	+Over 250 miles	3 1/2
	Ordinary.	
	1—50 miles	4
	+51—150 miles	3 1/2
	+151—250 miles	3
	+Over 250 miles	2 1/2
	Broad Gauge.	
H. E. H. the Nizam's State Railway	1—150 miles	3 1/2
	+Over 150 miles	3
	Metre Gauge.	
	All distances	3
North Western Railway	1—50 miles	3
	+51—300 miles	2 3/4
	+Over 300 miles	2 1/2
Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway	All distances	2 1/2
	Mail and Express.	
South Indian Railway	1—300 miles	4
	+Over 300 miles	3 1/2
	Ordinary.	
	1—150 miles	3 1/2
	+151—300 miles	3
	+Over 300 miles	2 1/2

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government ask the Agent to report upon the action that he proposes to take on all these three questions, Sir?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have not asked for any report, Sir.

PROVISION FOR RETURN TICKET SYSTEM ON THE MYMENSINGH-BHAIRAB BAZAR BRANCH OF THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

1298. ***Mr. Suryya Kumar Som:** Is there any provision for return ticket system on the M. B. Branch of the Assam Bengal Railway? If not, are Government prepared to introduce the same without delay?

Mr. P. R. Rau: From the current time table it appears that a large number of return tickets are issued over the Assam Bengal Railway including the Mymensingh Bhairab Bazar Branch. The second part of the question does not arise.

ACCOMMODATION FOR INTERMEDIATE CLASS PASSENGERS ON THE ASSAM BENGAL AND EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAYS.

1299. ***Mr. Suryya Kumar Som:** (a) Are Government aware that accommodation for the intermediate class passengers on the Assam Bengal Railway and Eastern Bengal Railway is very limited and is quite insufficient for the number of passengers travelling with intermediate class tickets, and that many persons have to travel in the third class compartment for want of space?

(b) Are the passengers entitled to occupy the immediate upper class compartment when there is no space in the compartment for which they hold tickets?

(c) Are Government prepared to arrange for the return in cash of the excess fare to the passenger who is compelled to travel in a lower class for want of accommodation in the class for which the ticket is held? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Government have no information, but I am bringing the Honourable Member's question to the notice of the Agents of Assam Bengal and Eastern Bengal Railways for consideration.

(b) Not unless they pay the difference in fare.

(c) A refund of the difference in fares is made by the Administration provided the guard's certificate is produced to show that the guard was informed before the commencement of the journey. I presume, however, my Honourable friend's suggestion is that a refund of the difference in fares should be made immediately either during the course of the journey or at destination. Government consider that such an arraugement is likely to lead to serious abuses arising.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government considering any reduction in third class and intermediate class fares on these particular railways, namely, the Assam Bengal and Eastern Bengal Railways?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have seen no such proposals.

AMOUNT BORROWED BY THE BOMBAY GOVERNMENT FOR THE SUKKUR BARRAGE.

1300. ***Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon:** (a) With reference to the statement laid on the table in reply of my question No. 542 of the current session will Government please state what amount was borrowed by Bombay Government for the Sukkur Barrage in each year, from 1921-22 to 1931-32?

(b) Will Government please state whether they are charging interest as per their statement up to 1933-34?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please state on what basis they are charging such high rate of interest on the Sukkur Barrage project?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b). Yes.

(c) The rates are based on the cost of borrowing by the Government of India during the years in question. As already stated by me in reply to the Honourable Member's question No. 542, the full benefit of the conversion operations of the Government of India has been passed on to the Provincial Government. The benefit of future conversions will similarly be passed on.

The amounts borrowed by the Government of Bombay for the Lloyd Barrage Project during the years 1921-22 to 1931-32 are as follows:

	Rs.
1921-22	81,43,529
1922-23	38,14,410
1923-24	38,89,245
1924-25	68,42,542
1925-26	2,52,85,000
1926-27	99,46,000
1927-28	1,72,24,000
1928-29	3,01,54,000
1929-30	3,21,57,000
1930-31	3,44,10,000
1931-32	3,08,76,000

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Are Government aware how much the Bombay Government is charging as interest on account of the Sukkur Barrage?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No, Sir. I am not aware of that without notice. If the Honourable Member will put down a question, I will look into it.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Is it a fact that in the case of the money borrowed, say, in 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924 the interest rates were very high at that time, and those loans have been already paid up by the Government of India; and today, the Government of India are borrowing at cheap rates of interest. That being so, do Government consider the desirability that, according to the present rate of interest, they should charge a special low rate of interest with regard to the barrage loans?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: If the loans of any particular year, out of which money was advanced to the Bombay Government, have been completely paid off and replaced at a lower rate of interest, the full benefit has been given to the Bombay Government; but in some cases the loans outstanding from these years have only been partially repaid, and therefore the adjustment of interest has been only partial. As regards the Honourable Member's question which he asked a little while ago and in reply to which I said I would look into it, I may inform him that the Bombay Government charges to the barrage precisely the same rate as the Government of India charges it.

ROADS IN THE SUKKUR BARRAGE AREA.

1301. ***Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Is it a fact that the Government of India sent an expert Road Engineer in Sind to survey the Sukkur Barrage area? What is the condition of roads in that area?

(b) If the reply to the first part of (a) above be in the affirmative, did the Road Engineer submit his report? If so, will that report be circulated to the Members of this House? If so, when?

(c) Have Government made any decision on that report? If so, what?

(d) Are Government aware that on account of paucity of roads, or shortage of roads, in the Sukkur Barrage area zamindars are experiencing difficulty, as they have to undergo high charges for carting or sending on camel-back, their produce to the market, and are unable to pay the land revenue? If so, are Government prepared to do something to overcome their difficulty and commence to construct the roads?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes. The condition of roads is defective.

(b) Copies of the report on Road Development in Sind by Mr. S. G. Stubbs, O.B.E., I.S.E., have been placed in the Library.

(c) No. Government have examined the Report and have also sent copies to the Local Government for examination. They have invited the views of the Local Government thereon.

(d) I am not prepared to accept the Honourable Member's suggestions in their entirety, but roads in Sind are undoubtedly inadequate, and it is for that reason that the Government of India defrayed the cost of the special investigation. The proposals in the Report referred to are intended to reduce the cost of transport for agricultural marketing.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether, in view of the recommendation of Mr. Stubbs that in view of the condition of the roads being bad, preliminary steps should be taken to appoint a Secretary to begin with the work, Government are going to do that soon?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: As I have already explained to my Honourable friend, Government have sent copies of the report to Local Government for examination. They must await their views before they decide what steps should next be taken.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Is it a fact that this report was submitted about six to eight months ago, and that still the Bombay Government have not come to any decision yet?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I am not quite sure when the report was submitted, but I may explain to my Honourable friend for his information that as soon as we got it, we had it examined and we have sent our own comments to the Local Government in order to facilitate their examination of the report. More than that, we could not do.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Are Government prepared to advise the Road Board Committee at Delhi that, since we have sanctioned about Rs. 40 lakhs for the Road Board Committee from excess revenue, they should spend more money on these bad roads in Sind?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir. Our attitude towards the roads in Sind is that we must know the views of the Local Government before we decide what steps should next be taken. The roads in Sind are a special problem, and that problem probably requires special treatment, until we know exactly what it is, we cannot say what expenditure on road development in Sind should be incurred; but I need hardly assure my Honourable friend that the subject of road development on suitable lines there will receive our sympathetic consideration.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member expedite the report being made by the Bombay Government?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I cannot do that. I am quite prepared to ask them to hurry it up, but I cannot bring any more pressure than that.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Thank you.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Is the Honourable Member prepared, when they distribute the amount of Rs. 40 lakhs to the Bombay Government, to advise them that out of this money they must spend more money on Sind than in other parts of the Bombay Presidency?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: We know, Sir, that more money will have to be spent on road development in Sind. We cannot say what the most suitable method of meeting that expenditure will be until we know more exactly the extent and nature of the problem. As soon as we know that, we will see how best it can be solved. I really am not in a position to say more than that when we know the nature of the problem, we will see how the necessary funds can best be found.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Is the Honourable Member aware that the Government of India advanced about Rs. 26 crores for the Sukkur Barrage, and that if the roads are not constructed properly there, the Sukkur Barrage might become a failure, and that that amount the Government of India might not get back?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I cannot usefully add to what I have already said. We do know that this is a very important problem and we are giving it and shall continue to give it our most serious consideration. We know that roads are a vital necessity for the proper development of the Sukkur Barrage and we shall take action accordingly.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

FILES AND RECORDS OF THE OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE FOUND MISSING.

1302. ***Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon:** (a) Is it a fact that during the last Simla season a number of files and records belonging to the office of the Central Board of Revenue were found missing?

(b) Is it a fact that the Simla Police took up investigations about the missing files and records?

(c) Is it a fact that during enquiries the case was withdrawn from the Police? If so, by whom and why?

(d) Is it a fact that besides the loss of files the following thefts were also committed in the Board's office:

(i) members of the Boards lost some of their personal articles left in their rooms in the Board's office;

(ii) one of the members of the Board lost his fountain pen in the Board's office;

(iii) one of the members of the Board lost a large sum of cash left in his room in the Board's office; and

(iv) some of the liveries, or similar other property were misappropriated by one of the *daftries* of the Board's office?

(e) Are Government prepared to send for the report of the police or the Superintendent of Police and lay it on the table?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. The Board withdrew the case from the Police as it was decided to conduct a departmental enquiry in the matter.

(d) (i). Yes.

(d) (ii). Yes.

(d) (iii). Yes.

(d) (iv). No. A *daftry* of the Central Board of Revenue omitted, on the return from leave of a certain inferior servant of that office, to issue to him certain articles of uniform which were due to be issued to him. This charge is not regarded as a very serious one.

(e) No.

CADETS SELECTED FOR ENTRY INTO THE TRAINING SHIP "DUFFERIN" FROM THE SHIP'S ESTABLISHMENT.

1303. ***Mr. B. Das:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cadets selected for entry into the Training Ship "Dufferin" from the ship's establishment up to date, year by year;

(b) the number of cadets who passed the final examination, year by year;

(c) the number of cadets who were taken up as apprentices, year after year, giving separate figures of the cadets taken up as apprentices by different Shipping Companies, year after year;

(d) the number of apprentices thus taken up as mentioned in part (c) above who obtained their certificate of competency as second mate;

(e) the number of cadets, thus obtaining their certificate of competency as second mate, who found employment:

(i) in the Bengal Pilot Service,

(ii) in Indian shipping companies, giving separately the number of cadets employed by each Indian Company, together with the number and tonnage of the vessels of that shipping company engaged in the coastal trade,

(iii) in the British shipping companies, giving separate figures of the number of cadets employed as officers by each of the British shipping companies together with the number and tonnage of the steamers of that Company engaged in the coastal trade, and

(iv) in the service of the Port Trusts in India?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: Sir, I beg to lay on the table a statement giving the information required. As regards the latter portions of part (e) (ii) and (iii) of the question I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given on 29th March, 1935, to Mr. Satyamurti's question No. 1199.

Statement showing the number of cadets admitted to, and passed out from the Indian Mercantile Marine Training Ship "Dufferin", Bombay, since its establishment, and their employment as apprentices and officers in the service of the British and Indian Shipping Companies and Port Trusts, etc.

(a) June, 1927					30
January, 1929					35
January, 1930					33
January, 1931					33
January, 1932					33
January, 1933					33
January, 1934					33
January, 1935					50
				Total	280
(b) Passed Final Examination, 1930		17	Sea time only		10
1931		29	,, ,, ,,		5
1932		25	,, ,, ,,		4
1933		29	,, ,, ,,		4
1934		20	,, ,, ,,		6
Total		120	,, ,, ,,		29

Sea time only implies a failure in a non-technical subject but admits of the training on the "Dufferin" as qualifying for apprenticeship at sea.

(c) *Apprentices*—

British Shipping Companies.

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
British India Steam Navigation Co.	8	7	7	8	5
P. & O. Steam Navigation Co.	2	2	2	2	2
Asiati Steam Navigation Co.	2	2	1	2	2
Mogul Line	1	2	3	2	2
Nourse Line	0	2	2	0	2
Burma Oil Company	0	2	0	0	2
Total	13	17	15	14	15

Total number of cadets taken up as apprentices by British Companies . 74.

Indian Shipping Companies.

Scindia Steam Navigation Co.	8	7	7	8	6
Cowasjee Dinshaw	1	1	1	0	1
Bombay Steam Navigation Co.	0	1	1	0	0
Total	9	9	9	8	7

Add one cadet engaged by Eastern Steam Navigation Co. as junior uncertified officer on coast after 5th term on "Dufferin" in 1931 . . . 1

Total number of cadets taken up as apprentices by Indian Companies . 43

Number of cadets taken as apprentices by the British and Indian Companies combined:

Total 1930	22
,, 1931	27
,, 1932	24
,, 1933	22
,, 1934	22
Grand Total	117

(d) Out of 22 cadets who went to sea in 1930 as apprentices, 21 completed their sea time and passed for 2nd Mate in 1932 and 1934.

Out of the 26 who went to sea in 1931, with one or two exceptions, all have just completed their sea time and 25 have taken or are about to take their examination. Information to date shows that 14 have passed for 2nd Mate.

(e) Number of cadets holding certificates of competency as 2nd Mate who found employment in—

(i) Bengal Pilot Service	7
(ii) Indian Shipping companies—	
Scindia Steam Navigation Co.	11
Eastern Steam Navigation Co.	1
(iii) British Shipping companies—	
British India Steam Navigation Co.	2
Asiatic Steam Navigation Co.	2
(iv) Port Trusts in India—	
Calcutta Port Commissioners	1

Mr. B. Das: May I inquire, Sir, whether the Honourable Member feels satisfied that the employment of the "Dufferin" trained candidates in the shipping companies is satisfactory?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I think I told the House the other day that, to the best of my recollection, until last year all fully qualified *ex*-"Dufferin" candidates had succeeded in getting employment.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they got an employment which will suit their qualifications?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I think so.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDIAN MERCANTILE MARINE COMMITTEE REGARDING EMPLOYMENT OF CADETS COMING OUT OF THE TRAINING SHIP "DUFFERIN".

1304. ***Mr. B. Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee recommended that it should be made obligatory on the shipping companies engaged in the coastal trade to employ at least 50 per cent. of the cadets coming out of the Training Ship "Dufferin" and obtaining their certificate of competency as Second Mate as Officers on the steamers of the said companies?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether it will be possible for them to carry out the above recommendation of the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee in view of paragraph 354 of the Joint Parliamentary Committee Report?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the steps that they propose to take in case the cadets coming out of the Training Ship "Dufferin" and obtaining their certificate of competency as Second Mate do not find employment as officers?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: Sir, I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given on the 28th March, 1935, to Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant's question No. 1129.

APPORTIONMENT OF WATER IN THE TUNGABHADRA RIVER BETWEEN MADRAS, MYSORE AND HYDERABAD GOVERNMENTS.

1305. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Madras Government have requested the Government of India to appoint a Commission to go into the question of apportionment of water in Tungabhadra river between Madras, Mysore, and Hyderabad Governments?

(b) Has such a Commission been appointed? If not, when do Government propose to appoint one?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes. The Government of Bombay are also concerned.

(b) The matter is under consideration. The reference from the Government of Madras was received in February last, and I need hardly say that it will be necessary to consult the other Government concerned before coming to a decision.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the concerned Governments, namely, the Governments of Mysore and Hyderabad, been addressed with regard to this matter?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Obviously, the Governments of Madras and Mysore and Hyderabad already know all about it. As I said, the Government of Bombay are also concerned but to the best of my knowledge they have not yet been addressed. The examination of the letter from the Madras Government is proceeding.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How long will the Government of India take to complete the consideration of this letter from the Madras Government and then address the Governments concerned?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That, Sir, I cannot say. The question is a very difficult one, and as the Honourable Member is fully aware, we have, for the last two and a half months, been very fully occupied with the business of this House.

QUANTITY OF GOLD PLEDGED IN THE IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA BRANCHES AT CUDDAPAH, NANDYAL AND BELLARY BY THE PEOPLE OF THOSE PLACES.

1306. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold pledged in the Imperial Bank of India Branches at Cuddapah, Nandyal and Bellary by the people of those places for the past five years; and

(b) the quantity of gold sold to the bank out of the mortgaged gold?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) and (b). Government have no information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government call for this information?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why, Sir?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is a matter for debate.

ENQUIRY INTO THE IMPORTATION OF RICE INTO THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

1307. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether an officer has been deputed by the Government of India to enquire into the importation of rice into the Madras Presidency;

(b) whether the said officer has submitted his report;

(c) what are the main recommendations of the officer in that report;

(d) whether they are prepared to place the report on the table of this House; and

(e) what action they propose to take on the report?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) The Statistician to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research was deputed in July, 1934, to obtain certain information regarding the prices of various grades of rice in the Madras Presidency.

(b) Yes.

(c) The investigation was purely exploratory and the officer was not required to make any recommendations.

(d) The report was not prepared in a form that would lend itself to publication.

(e) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Bill to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, which was introduced by the Honourable the Commerce Member on the 13th of March.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware that an enormous quantity of Siamese rice has been imported into this country during the last month?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: No, Sir, I am not aware of that.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Is it not a fact that there has been a considerable increase in the paddy that has been imported during the last fortnight?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I have not seen the figure for the last fortnight. I am sorry.

ADEQUATE PARTICIPATION OF SHIPPING, OWNED, CONTROLLED AND MANAGED BY INDIANS IN THE COASTAL AND THE OVERSEAS TRADE OF INDIA.

1308. ***Mr. N. V. Gadgil:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is their policy to provide for an adequate participation of shipping, owned, controlled and managed by Indians in the coastal and the overseas trade of India, and is it a fact that that Government declared in a communiqué issued on the 6th January, 1930, that the responsibility for the development of such Indian shipping rested on Government themselves?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what is the Indian and non-Indian tonnage engaged in the coastal trade of India, and whether they consider the employment of such Indian tonnage as adequate participation of Indian shipping in the coastal trade of this country?

(c) Will Government be pleased further to state the tonnage owned, controlled and managed by Indians engaged in the overseas trade of India and whether Government consider that the engagement of such tonnage in the overseas trade as an adequate participation of Indian shipping in the overseas trade of this country?

(d) If the answer to part (b) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take to see that there is an adequate participation of Indian shipping in the coastal trade of India?

(e) If the answer to part (c) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take to see that there is an adequate participation of Indian shipping in the overseas trade of India?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Information regarding the exact amount of Indian and non-Indian tonnage egaged in the coastal and overseas trade of India is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

(d) and (e). I would refer the Honourable Member to the answers given by me on the 27th February last to the supplementary questions asked in connection with question No. 632 by Mr. N. V. Gadgil.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there any step which the Government are now contemplating with regard to the increase of the participation by Indian shipping in the coastal trade of India?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I think I made it clear to the House that quite recently the Government of India had intervened in this matter and secured further participation in the coastal trade for Indian shipping. At the present moment, there is no further action contemplated by them.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: Does the Honourable Member know that only last Saturday Mr. Walchand Hirachand issued a statement that his Company, namely, the India Steam Navigation Company, accepted the arrangement as there was no alternative to it?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I am not concerned with what Mr. Walchand Hirachand says.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I ask, Sir, the Honourable Member if the percentage of the tonnage of Indian shipping is not roughly about 21 per cent., to his knowledge?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I should not like to commit myself until the figures are definitely placed before me.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is the Honourable Member satisfied with the percentage?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: My Honourable friend must realise that, in a matter of this description, it is unavoidable that progress should be slow. He cannot, in a moment's time or within the space of a few years, expect a complete turnover from British-owned to Indian-owned shipping. Progress must be slow, and my Honourable friend must possess his soul in patience.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How long does the Honourable the Commerce Member expect us to possess our souls in patience till we get, say, 50 per cent. of the coastal trade for our shipping companies?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: The Honourable the Commerce Member is quite satisfied that there has been definite and regular progress within the past few years.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there any guarantee for future progress?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I can guarantee nothing for the future.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: What is the rate of progress by which we can calculate?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: The rate of progress is to be judged by the commonsense of the individual.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Which individual, Sir?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: Those individuals who possess commonsense.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE.

1309. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they have given effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture and if so, to what extent, with what result and in which part of the country?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the four reports, issued by Government, showing the progress made in giving effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India. Copies of these reports are available in the Library of the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will these reports be made available to the Members of this House?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: They are already available to the Members of the House in the Library of the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will they be supplied to us?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: If any individual Member applies to me for a copy, I will try to meet his wishes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the Royal Commission on Agriculture has suggested the undertaking of a Rural Insolvency Act, and I would like to know what action Government have taken in this behalf?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: My Honourable friend cannot reasonably expect me to answer that question without previous notice.

EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY GOVERNMENT IN RESPECT OF THE INDIAN LAC CESS COMMITTEE AND OF THE INDIAN LAC RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

1310. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) What is the total expenditure hitherto incurred by Government in respect of the Indian Lac Cess Committee and of the Indian Lac Research Institute?

(b) What is the actual benefit hitherto obtained by the Indian lac cultivators from the activities of the said committee and lac institute?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) *None.* The expenditure is met from the Indian Lac Cess funds which are derived from a cess on exports of lac and refuse lac.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the publication of the Institute entitled 'Lac and Indian Lac Research Institute', a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

CONVERSIONS FROM ONE FAITH TO ANOTHER FOR SECURING GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

1311. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) Is it a fact that a student in the Thompson Civil Engineering College, Roorkee, secured admission to that college after being converted from Hinduism to Sikhism, and secured an appointment in the superior service being considered a member of a minority community?

(b) Have such instances of conversions from one faith to another for securing Government service been brought to the notice of the Home Department by the Public Service Commission? If so, what action has the Home Department taken in this matter?

(c) Will the Home Department kindly submit these cases of conversion from one religion to another for the sake of service, for the information of this House?

(d) Is it not a fact that the attitude of Government in this matter is contrary to their policy of neutrality in religious matters?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) No such case can be traced.

(b) Yes. The practice has been (1) to take no account of a change of religion or a changed declaration of religion occurring after an examination has commenced for the purpose of deciding whether the person in question is eligible on the results of that examination for an appointment reserved for minority communities, and (2) when a candidate's religion is doubtful, to take the advice of the District Magistrate, or Deputy Commissioner concerned. The question as to what procedure should be followed in such cases in future is under consideration.

(c) I lay on the table a list of doubtful cases of conversion dealt with by the Public Service Commission in accordance with the above practice.

(d) No.

List of doubtful cases of conversion dealt with by the Public Service Commission.

Candidate.	Religion to which the candidate claimed or intended to be converted.	Examination at which the candidate appeared or intended to appear.	Action taken (if any).
1. A. B.	Sikhism	Superior Telegraph Engineering and Wireless Branches of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, 1933.	His claim to Sikhism was rejected by the Government of India on advice of the Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, Lyallpur, and the Government of the Punjab.
2. C. D.	Sikhism	Ministerial Service, 1933	Final orders were not passed as he did not attain a sufficiently high rank in the examination to make his appointment likely.
3. E. F.	Sikhism	Do.	His claim was accepted on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioner, Lahore.
4. G. H.	Sikhism	Do.	His claim was rejected.
5. I. J.	Sikhism	Indian Civil Service and Indian Police Service, 1931.	Final orders were not passed as the occasion to recommend him for appointment did not arise.
6. K. L.	Sikhism	Ministerial Service, 1931	His claim was rejected in accordance with Government of India's ruling that no account should be taken of a change of religion or a changed declaration of religion occurring after an examination had commenced.
7. M. N.	Christianity	No examination (it was a hypothetical inquiry).	He was informed as in Government of India's ruling quoted in No. 6 above.
8. O. P.	Any religion of a minority community.	Indian Railway Service of Engineers, etc., 1931.	Do.
9. Q. R.	Mohamedanism	Do.	Do.

WOMEN'S MEDICAL SERVICE.

1312. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) Will Government please state (i) how the Women's Medical Service was created, and (ii) under what statute the recruitment to that service is made?

(b) Is the Women's Medical Service analogous to the Indian Medical Service, and are women doctors in this service held eligible to go on war service, if necessary, like the Indian Medical Service officers?

(c) Will Government please state the names of women doctors, European, Anglo-Indian and Indian, recruited in the Women's Medical Service since its inception to the present date, with their pay and allowances, and the institutions to which they are attached?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) The service was created in 1913 as part of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund, with the help of a recurring grant made by the Government of India. The service is regulated, as to recruitment and other conditions, by the General Rules and Regulations of the Council of the Fund which are available in the Library of the House.

(b) No.

(c) Government regret that the information, for a period covering more than 20 years, is not readily available. Information regarding officers employed at present is laid on the table. As regards pay and allowances, Honourable Member's attention is invited to rule 8 of the rules referred to in the reply to part (a).

Statement.

List of Doctors in the Women's Medical Service in 1935 and the posts held by them.

Name of Doctor.	Nationality.	Post.
1. Dr. Naoroji	Indian	Medical Officer-in-Charge, Zenana Hospital, Bhuj, Cutch. (Seconded.)
2. Dr. M. V. Webb	British	Chief Medical Officer, Women's Medical Service.
3. Dr. H. M. Franklin	Do.	Professor of Surgery, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi.
4. Dr. C. L. Houlton	Do.	Principal, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi.
5. Dr M. C. Murphey	Anglo-Indian	Senior Medical Officer, Women's Medical Service, U. P., and Assistant to Inspector General of Civil Hospitals. (Seconded.)
6. Dr. D. Kamalakar	Indian	Medical Superintendent, Lady Hardinge Hospital, Jubbulpore.
7. Dr. Hamilton-Browne	British	Medical Superintendent, Dufferin Hospital, Karachi.
8. Dr. H. Lazarus	Indian	Medical Superintendent and Principal, Victoria Hospital and Lady Willingdon Medical School, Madras, (Seconded.)
9. Dr. G. Stapleton	British	On leave.
10. Dr. G. Brindley	Do.	On leave.
11. Dr. deMeneres	Indian	Medical Superintendent, Dufferin Hospital, Nangpur, C. P.
12. Dr. Keess	Anglo-Indian	On leave.
13. Dr. R. Young	British	Director, Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau, Red Cross Society, (Seconded.)
14. Dr. A. R. H. Greig	Do.	On leave.
15. Dr. D. Bolton	Anglo-Indian	Municipal Zenana Hospital, Peshawar.
16. Dr. N. R. Mucadam	Indian	Medical Superintendent, Lady Elgin Hospital, Jubbulpore.
17. Dr. G. P. Patel	Do.	Medical Superintendent, Lady Reading Hospital, Simla.
18. Dr. L. Ghosh	Do.	Professor of Pathology, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi.
19. Dr. R. E. Roulston-Mitton.	British	On leave.

Name of Doctor.	Nationality.	Post.
20. Dr. L. Torrance-Allen	British	Medical Superintendent, Dufferin Hospital, Calcutta.
21. Dr. Dodhi	Indian	Medical Superintendent, Lady Elgin Hospital, Gaya.
22. Dr. E. Wingate	British	Medical Superintendent, Zenana Hospital, Jaipur. (Seconded.)
23. Dr. Alankaram	Indian	R. M. O., Lady Reading Hospital, Simla.
24. Dr. Reuben	Do.	Offg. Medical Superintendent, Women's Hospital, Chhindwara.
25. Dr. Singham	Do.	On leave.
26. Dr. McDermott	Anglo-Indian	Professor of Anatomy, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi.
27. Dr. U. Morton	Do.	Principal, Women's Medical School, Agra. (Seconded.)
28. Dr. H. Acheson	British	Medical Superintendent, Lady Aitchison Hospital, Lahore.
29. Dr. Proctor-Sims	Do.	Medical Superintendent, Lady Sandeman Hospital, Quetta.
30. Dr. G. Alphonso	Anglo-Indian	Medical Superintendent, Dufferin Hospital, Cawnpore.
31. Dr. D. P. Bali	Indian	On leave.
32. Dr. C. Wiseham	Anglo-Burmese	On leave.
33. Dr. I. Callender	British	On leave.
34. Dr. J. Orkney	Do.	All-India School of Hygiene, Calcutta.
35. Dr. Pichamuthu	Indian	Medical Superintendent, Women's Hospital, Vizagapatam.
36. Dr. S. Matthew	Do.	Medical Superintendent, S. M. V. Hospital, Surat.
37. Dr. Neal-Edwards	British	Lecturer in Surgery, Women's Medical School, Agra.
38. Dr. P. V. L. Epps	Do.	Professor of Medicine, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi.
39. Dr. H. Herbert	Do.	Medical Superintendent, Dufferin Hospital, Allahabad.
40. Dr. J. Thomson	Do.	Professor of Midwifery, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi.
41. Dr. M. Nolan	British	Medical Superintendent, Dufferin Hospital, Benares.
42. Dr. S. Shrikhande	Indian	Clinical Pathologist, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi.
43. Dr. L. Arratoon	Armenian	Resident Medical Officer, Dufferin Hospital, Calcutta.
44. Dr. H. Keane	Anglo-Indian	Medical Superintendent, Victoria Zenana Hospital, Delhi.
45. Dr. D'Abreu	Do.	Medical Superintendent, Dufferin Hospital, Amraoti.
46. Dr. K. Ghosh	Indian	Lecturer on Ophthalmology, Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi.
47. Dr. D'Monte	Do.	Municipal Zenana Hospital, Dera Ismail Khan.
48. Dr. H. B. Patil	Do.	Lecturer in Pathology, Women's Medical School, Agra.
49. Dr. B. N. Joly	British	Lecturer in Medicine, Women's Medical School, Agra.
50. Dr. Hulke	Do.	Medical Superintendent, Dufferin Hospital, Lucknow.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Is it a fact that a large number of missionary women doctors have been recruited for this service?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I can inform my Honourable friend what the racial proportions in the service are. I am not in a position to say how many of the persons have been missionaries in the past. I do not know that.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask what control do Government have over this service?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Government have no control over this service. The service is recruited and maintained by the Countess of Dufferin Fund which is an Association registered under Act XXI of 1860.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government give grants for this Indian Medical Service?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai That is perfectly true. Government do give a grant of roughly Rs. 3 lakhs 70 thousand a year.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that Government are spending more than three lakhs on the service, will they consider the question of bringing this service under their own control?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: We will consider that suggestion.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will Government consider the advisability of reserving half the number of posts for Indians?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: If my Honourable friend were to look at the position of the service, he will find that the demand has not only been acceded to, but exceeded.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEDJAZ.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and 12 NOON. Lands): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, one Muslim Member to sit on the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz in the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. T. A. K. Sherwani."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, one Muslim Member to sit on the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz in the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. T. A. K. Sherwani."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I may inform Honourable Members that, for the purpose of election of a Member to the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations up to 12 Noon on Wednesday, the 3rd April, and that the election, if necessary, will, as usual, take place in the Secretary's Room on Friday, the 5th April, 1935, from 10-30 A.M. to 1 P.M. The election will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

THE CANTONMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham (Army Secretary): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cantonments Act, 1924, for certain purposes.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cantonments Act, 1924, for certain purposes."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN TEA CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tea Cess Act, 1903, for a certain purpose.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Tea Cess Act, 1903, for a certain purpose."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

DECLARATION BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL REGARDING THE CUSTOMS SUPPLEMENTARY DEMAND REFUSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I lay on the table the Declaration by the Governor General in Council under section 67A(7) of the Government of India Act regarding the Customs Supplementary Demand refused by the Assembly as essential for the discharge of his responsibilities.

"In pursuance of Section 67A(7) of the Government of India Act, the Governor General in Council is pleased to declare that the Supplementary Demand of Rs. 11,01,000 which has been refused by the Legislative Assembly is essential to the discharge of his responsibilities."

(Signed) P. C TALLENTS,
Secretary to the Government of India.

30th March, 1935.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—*contd.*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Indian Finance Bill will now be considered clause by clause. The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move the amendment which stands in my name:

"That clause 2 of the Bill be omitted."

Sir, the salt tax is very very old grievance of the people of this land, and even a moderate of moderates like the late Mr. Gokhale opposed this tax and fought for its abolition. As it is a very old grievance, no new arguments need be advanced in favour of its abolition or in favour of its retention. I shall, therefore, be very brief.

Sir, as far as the Congress is concerned, it is pledged for the removal of the salt tax. The Congress does not want this prime necessity of life to be taxed, and when indigenous salt is not taxed, there will be no need to levy a tax on imported salt, because our indigenous salt would be sold so cheap that outside salt will not be able to compete with it.

The principle on which the retention of this tax is advocated is that every person must pay some tax or other to the State. The Duke of Argyll was perhaps the first person who advocated this principle. It is said, that the tax on salt is the only tax which the poor people of this country have to pay. But the question is whether it is a fact that this is the only tax which the poor people of this country have to pay. In fact all the taxes, directly or indirectly, are paid by the poor people of this land. Who pays the land revenue? Not those big *zamindars* and *taluqdars* and *malguzars* who live in palatial buildings but those poor farmers and labourers who work in the field. Who pays most of the income-tax? Not those industrial magnates who live in big *kothis* or bungalows, but those poor workers who have to work in the factory. Sir, I have a personal experience of paying this land revenue and this income-tax. I belong to a family which used to pay, not thousands, but lakhs as land revenue and income-tax, and I know, Sir, that we are only middlemen. These taxes are paid through us, no doubt, but we do not pay them. In fact, the poor people have to pay these taxes. And then, Sir, the excise duty on sugar, the excise duty on matches, the excise duty on kerosene,—all these taxes are paid directly or indirectly by the poor people in this country. And what benefit does the poor man derive from this Government,—specially the poor man who lives in a broken hut or under the shade of a tree? This huge army is of no use to him, this highly paid Civil Service is of no use to him, these Courts are of no use to him; the whole administration is of no use to him. And yet he has to pay the tax on the salt which he eats with his dry bread. I say that a greater injustice than the salt tax is not possible in this poor country.

Sir, if the Government want to retain this tax, I shall support them on one condition, and that is that they should earmark this amount for the benefit of the people of this country. Let them earmark it for the poor people of this land; let the whole amount be spent on rural uplift, according to the suggestion of my Honourable friend, Nawab Sir Mehr Shah,

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under the presidentship of Mahatma Gandhi; and then I at least shall support this tax. But, unless that is done, and so long as this money taken from every morsel of the poor man's bread is spent on the gluttony of the highly paid services, I or any Congressman can never support it.

Sir, as I said in the beginning salt is the prime necessity of life. Many eminent doctors in this country have said that one of the reasons for the poor physique of the people of this land is that they do not get sufficient salt to eat. Medical men say that at least 20 pounds of salt per head should be consumed every year, but I have seen figures of various provinces, and I can say that in some provinces not even ten pounds of salt is consumed per head every year. The reason is quite clear that for the poor people the price of salt is too high. It is said, Sir, that the amount which falls on every individual under this tax is so small that even the poorest cannot feel it. It is very well for those who get hundreds of rupees per day to advance this argument, but for a poor man who does not earn even two annas a day, the price at which salt is sold is too high. And if the poor do not feel it, will the Honourable the Finance Member tell me why it is that whenever this tax is reduced, the consumption of salt goes up, and whenever it is enhanced, the consumption comes down? Here, Sir, I shall give some figures to the Honourable the Finance Member. In the year 1902, the salt tax was Rs. 2-8-0 and the consumption was 3·2 crores of maunds. In 1903-04, when the tax was reduced to Rs. 2, the consumption rose to 3·82 and 3·97 crores of maunds. In 1906, when the tax was further reduced to Rs. 1-8-0 the consumption rose to 4·11 crores of maunds. In 1907-15, when the tax was brought down to Re. 1, the consumption grew to 4·27 and 5·22. Now, Sir, let it not be said that, because the population was increasing, therefore this consumption rose, because, in the next year, 1916, when the salt was again taxed at Rs. 1-4-0, the consumption immediately came down. This shows and proves to the hilt that whenever the salt tax is reduced, the consumption goes up, and whenever it is increased, the consumption goes down. The Taxation Inquiry Committee has accepted it. It said:

"It is usually the case that the consumption increases with the decrease in the duty."

Now, Sir, salt tax is not a proper tax and this is accepted even by eminent Englishmen, and I shall give some opinions here. The Bristol Chamber of Commerce once said:

"If it were necessary to abolish the salt tax at *home*, it appears that millions of Your Majesty's subjects in India have a *much* stronger claim in their case, wretchedly poor as they are and essentially necessary as salt is to their daily sustenance."

Sir James Westland, once the Finance Member of the Government of India, said:

"It is with the greatest reluctance that Government finds itself obliged to have recourse to the salt duty."

And the present Premier, Mr. MacDonald, once said:

"The salt tax has been long regarded as a blemish on our Indian fiscal system; the salt tax is exaction and oppression."

Then, another great injustice is that Government want to keep the monopoly of salt trade and at the same time want to tax it. Under the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, the concessions that were given in this respect to some people living near about the sea have also been withdrawn. And, then, how much do they tax it? Government accept that the cost of preparing salt per maund is not more than two annas, and the tax per maund is Rs. 1-4-0, which comes to about one thousand per cent. Will the Honourable the Finance Member tell me if there is any other commodity in the whole world which is being taxed at such an exorbitant rate?

Another wonder is that Government place the salt and liquor tax on the same basis,—salt which is the very nectar of life, and liquor which is poison for it. Up to the 1st April, 1924, salt and *abkari* formed one and the same department in every province. A Government which considers the salt tax and the liquor tax as the same kind of tax can never claim to be the trustees of any country.

Professor Fawcett once said that a man's right to eat salt must be as free as his right to breath air or to drink water. The whole fight for freedom, in 1930, was based on this moral issue. I shall, in the end, quote what Mahatma Gandhi said in this respect in the year 1930 and then resume my seat, because, as I said at the outset that, this being an old old grievance, no big speech in support of its abolition is required. This is what Mahatma Gandhi said:

"I regard this tax to be the most iniquitous from the poor man's standpoint. As the independence movement is essentially for the poorest in the land, the beginning will be made with this evil. The wonder is that we have submitted to the cruel monopoly so long.....I hope there will be tens of thousands ready in a disciplined manner to take up the work after me and in the act of disobeying the Salt Act lay themselves open to penalties of a law that should never have disfigured the Statute-book."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That clause 2 of the Bill be omitted."

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, it is really a matter of regret that I have got to stand up today to advocate the abolition of a tax that should have been abolished long ago. Unfortunately, I was one of those who took part in the movement of salt *satyagraha*, and I am aware, at the time, of the reasons which the Government stated against the picking of salt by the poor people. They issued a communiqué to the effect that the salt, which was available in the Vedaranyam swamps—a huge swamp of over 45 miles in length, wherein sea water was brought in by the action of the waves and was impounded by nature and the brine got accumulated and salt of a beautifully white crystal—as white as any that you can find anywhere—was found there, not in small quantities, but by thousands of tons. What happened was that, after each monsoon, these thousands of tons of salt, which would have provided salt for this country—not only for this country but for the whole continent—was allowed to be washed away by the monsoon. There is a season for collecting it, and collected in that season it would have provided free salt, not manufactured but given by nature: the Government issued a circular at the time saying that that salt contained a large quantity of magnesium in it and was,

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therefore, injurious to health. I was inclined then to take that statement at its face value: but I had only to wait one month to see whether it was borne out by the facts. What happened was this: this salt which was removed by thousands of people was distributed free to all the neighbouring villages and the poor people, who were in such sad need of salt and for which they could not pay, greedily got at the salt that was given free to them and they began to use it: and when I saw them using it for months and months with impunity, I could not reconcile myself to the scientific finding of the Government that it contained more magnesium salt, and, therefore, was injurious to the health of those people. But, at the conclusion of the Gandhi-Irwin agreement, a free concession was permitted to this effect that every man who cared to collect salt could take one head load of it, as much as he could carry not only for his own use but to go about in the neighbouring villages and sell it for what it was worth. In the Vedaranyam tract for about six months, subsequent to the Pact, it was a sight for everybody to see: on an average from two to three thousand people round about the two taluks situated near by were found on the sea coast night and day—men, women and children, all marching to and fro, not to manufacture salt but simply to lift the salt that was lying there: they lifted salt to the extent a man could carry—a big head load would usually fetch 8 to 12 annas: he had only to walk 10 or 15 miles to the sea coast, take this bag of salt and walk back and sell it in the nearest place. In fact a man could, in three days, take a big bagful to the nearest place and sell it. This huge trade was going on for about six months, and I have been credibly informed that the amount of salt that has been so far taken by the people was worth about 14 lakhs. This is exactly what happened, and all that quantity of salt, taken by nearly 2,000 people every day and distributed broadcast all over the villages, was consumed by the people and no after effect of any sort happened: they were all hale and hearty, enjoying the gift that was given as a result of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact. What happened? The people who were taking away this salt were all poor, miserably poor people who had to walk 20 miles and more for a headload of salt. Such is the poverty round about this area, because the lands being saline they could not cultivate them and yet they had to live. These poor people found salt in abundance in the very place where they lived, at their very door practically and it was being drained away by the sea year after year, and they could not, being poor, naturally resist the temptation to lift. In fact, of the thousands who came to take salt, a few brought a carriage in order to load it with salt and take it away—they kept the carriage a furlong away from the place where they picked salt: they were caught and they were prosecuted and fined. But what happened? Subsequently, this was considered as an infringement of the rules of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact with the result that the whole *taluk*, the whole salt swamp extending for over 40 miles and all the neighbouring districts were denied this privilege for that one mistake. We raised questions in this House with regard to the petitions that were submitted to the Local Government asking that those cases may be reconsidered and the poor people granted the privilege of lifting the salt free. We were told the other day that the Local Government were the final authorities and the Government of India had nothing to do with it and they cannot take any action for the revision . . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): That is not quite the case: I said that we were devolving the matter on to the Local Governments and not that they are by law the final authority: but for the time being they are, in fact, the final authority: there is very little distinction, I agree.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Am I to understand that you are going to reconsider the decision of the Local Government?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: That is exactly what I am stating. In fact, here is a case in which the Local Government have said that these people after enjoying this privilege, have lost it and there the matter ends. These people have applied to the Local Government in an enormous number of cases: they have said that the men responsible for committing offences have been punished according to law: and I do not, therefore, see how that privilege that was given can now be taken away from thousands, for the fault of a few who have been punished according to law: in fact, after having punished the offenders, you are now punishing thousands and thousands who honestly did honest work, for no fault of theirs. I have told you the conditions in which the salt is there, how pure it is: Government have not manufactured it: everybody can lift the salt there which is available in such large quantities. Look at the criminal waste which the country is suffering by allowing such salt to be washed away every monsoon for the benefit of nobody except perhaps the sea—I do not know whether the sea gets more rich in brine on account of this salt being washed away into it. I ask whether any Government would deprive the people of this privilege. Are they entitled, in the name of humanity, in the name of everything that is good and holy in this land are they entitled to come and say: "No, you shall not take this salt; you must pay Rs. 1-4-0 for it"? It is an atrocious privilege which the Government is demanding from the poor man; and, after having seen the nature of the salt that is there—the people have got on very well in health; I ask you whether the people should be deprived of a privilege that has been got after a decent fight, an honest fight and a decent and gentlemanly agreement between Mahatma Gandhi and Lord Irwin. The only condition on which that privilege could be taken away was abuse of the privilege and the abuse of the privilege was this: if a man has abused it, he is liable to punishment and he has been punished. Why go and inflict punishment upon lakhs and lakhs of poor village people who are removing this salt? I say, Sir, this tax is atrocious; it must go, because this salt is given to us by Nature in our own country, it is given to us by Mercif Providence, and the poor men are dying to take away as much sa as they can which is lying in front of them, and they are asked to p a tax, and the privilege of their getting free salt is withdrawn. Wh we come to this House and say that these poor people have submitt memorials asking the Government to restore to them this privilege, are told that the Local Government have taken action on it and that t Government of India do not want to interfere. Whatever it is, t poor man's grievance in this House has not received the due answ that it should, and that is, that the privilege they have been asking

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be restored to them, a privilege which has been denied to them for no fault of their own. I put it to this House, whether such a tax as this is permissible at all and can be justified by anybody? Therefore, I think, it is a most obnoxious tax and it ought to be removed, and the sooner it is removed the better it is for everybody. The blessings of the poor men in this country and the blessing of God will be on those who will remove this tax.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, I may have spoken more than ten times on the question of the salt tax, but I feel that it is my duty to continue making speeches on the salt tax. However unpleasant and wearisome the duty may be, I have to do it. I hope, Sir, that the time will soon come when we shall have no more discussion on the salt tax. I object to the salt tax on several grounds of principle. In the first place, I am opposed to most forms of indirect taxation, and salt tax is an indirect tax. It falls upon people without any regard to their ability to pay taxation to Government. Right taxation should come out of a surplus, but, unfortunately, salt tax falls upon subsistence. Then, Sir, in my view a right taxation should never fall upon people who have no voice in Government. Salt tax, being an indirect tax, has all the defects which I have mentioned. I am, therefore, opposed in principle to the Government levying salt tax.

Then, Sir, when we come to the question of reduction of taxation we must consider which is the tax which should receive precedence. This question, Sir, was considered by the Taxation Inquiry Committee and they came to the definite conclusion that the order of precedence should be that indirect taxes, which fall upon the prime necessities of life of the poor people, should come first, and they mentioned sugar, kerosene oil, matches and so on. I know that the Taxation Inquiry Committee, which consisted of very wealthy people, did not recommend the reduction of salt tax as one which should have priority when the question came up for the reduction of taxes, but, Sir, it must be said to the credit of Dr. Paranjpye that he was the one man who recommended that the reduction of salt tax should take precedence over any other tax. Sir, I feel that the policy which the Government of India are following, in fixing the order of precedence in the matter of reduction of taxation, is a wrong policy. They should follow the policy laid down by the Taxation Inquiry Committee. They do not pay much attention to the recommendations made by the Taxation Inquiry Committee. On the other hand, the policy which they follow, in fixing the order of precedence, is to reduce taxes on those people who have the greatest political influence. Sir, I feel it is a wrong policy for the Government of India to follow. A Government that follows the policy of reducing taxation on the ground that these taxes fall upon people who have got political influence is not worth maintaining. I would, Sir, not pay a single farthing to that Government which forgets its duty towards its poor subjects and reduces the taxation, because the particular taxation falls upon people who have votes in this Legislature, and, therefore, I say that the Government of India is making a great mistake in the matter of fixing the priority as regards the reduction of taxation. I would like the Government to reduce the tax on salt when they get an opportunity to do so, and I favour the reduction of tax on salt not only on the ground that it is an indirect

taxation, but it is a prime necessity of life, as my friend, Seth Govind Das, said. Even if rice is taxed, even if our wheat is taxed, poor people can eat *bajri* or *jowari*, but if salt is taxed, what substitute can they find for salt? I, therefore, feel that the salt tax is the worst kind of tax and I would like the Government of India to begin the policy of reduction of taxation by reducing the salt tax. Moreover, if the Legislature has to exercise its right and its power to reduce taxation, I would like the Members of the House to read the Finance Bill very carefully and find out which other indirect tax they could reduce to the greater benefit of the poor people than the salt tax. We may have a desire to reduce several other taxes, perhaps we may reduce the taxes recommended by the Taxation Inquiry Committee, but, unfortunately, we cannot do that under the Finance Bill. Therefore, Sir, if we are to exercise our power in showing the direction to Government, in the matter of fixing the priority for the reduction of taxation, we cannot do anything better than ask the Government to reduce the salt tax. Sir, I do not wish to speak at the moment on the merits of the salt tax, because the question has been discussed very thoroughly. The Taxation Inquiry Committee itself has said that in Great Britain the *per capita* consumption of salt is I think 17 lbs., while in India it is 12 lbs. There should be no difference in the matter of consumption of salt. In India the average quantity of salt consumed per capita is, I think, less than the quantity of salt given to prisoners in jail in several other countries. I do not wish to speak on that point at all. I feel that this salt tax is a very bad tax, and that in accordance with the principles laid down by the Taxation Inquiry Committee we should begin with the reduction of salt tax, because that is the only thing in our hands under the present Finance Bill. Sir, it is said several times that the reduction of salt tax will not benefit the poor people beyond a few annas. I think the computation made by the Taxation Inquiry Committee is that the salt tax imposes a burden of three annas and four pies or something of that kind on the poor people. It may be a small burden, but what we have to consider is what is the total income of the poor people out of which three annas are taken. And, if we consider the amount of burden thrown, and the ability of the people to pay, three annas may be a much heavier burden on a man whose cash annual income is not generally more than Rs. 20 or Rs. 25 a year than income-tax or super-tax upon people whose annual income is 100,000 rupees a year. I feel that a man whose annual income is more than 20 or 25 thousand rupees need not feel the burden of any tax. He can pay the whole amount which is over Rs. 25,000 a year, and still he will not feel the burden at all so far as his personal comforts are concerned. I, therefore, feel that it is wrong to argue that the salt tax imposes a very small burden of three annas or three and a half annas *per capita*.

As regards the motion which is now before the House, let me say this. Although I am against the salt tax altogether on principle, I feel I would not be justified in voting for the motion which my Honourable friend has made, and it is for this reason. At present we get more than Rs. 8 crores from the salt tax. If we abolish the salt tax, then it is quite possible that the Governor General under his powers may certify the Finance Bill. That is a thing that I do not want. I do not want that the Governor General should certify the salt tax and that the Government

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should get the whole of the salt tax. I would, therefore, like the Legislature to reduce the salt tax by some amount, say, Rs. 2 or 3 crores, which is practically the surplus of the present budget, so that the Governor General will have absolutely no excuse for certifying the Finance Bill. Let me make it quite clear. Even if the whole salt tax is abolished, I feel the Governor General will not be justified in certifying the Finance Bill, because the Government of India could have made much better proposals for taxation. They could have increased the income-tax, they at least need not have reduced the income-tax at all.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Salary cut.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Therefore, I feel that even if the salt tax is abolished, the Governor General would not be justified. But I fear that if we abolish the whole of the salt tax, it is quite possible that the Governor General may certify the Finance Bill. I wish that there should be no possibility of that kind when we are going to pass some proposals as regards salt tax. I would, therefore, recommend to Members of the Congress Party and to the Members of this House that, instead of trying to abolish the salt tax altogether, which, I am afraid, will lead to certification, they should, by their votes, reduce the salt tax by a substantial amount. If I may make any definite recommendation, I would recommend that they should reduce the salt tax by eight annas, that is, maintain the salt duty at twelve annas per maund. That will reduce the burden of taxation by Rs. 2½ crores or about that, and I think our budget can very well stand that loss of revenue. I hope the House will accept my proposal.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am not one those who fear that if the salt tax is abolished, it will be restored by His Excellency the Governor General. Sir, we know that such a procedure has taken place several times. In 1922-23, the salt tax was abolished by this House.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Not abolished.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Here it is. It was abolished, but it was restored.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: It was not abolished.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I stand corrected, but I find in this debate.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd (Government of India: Nominated Official): It was reduced from Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 1-4-0.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: At one time it was abolished altogether, that is my impression from what I have read in this report. However, I am open to correction on that. In 1929, again, an attempt was made to abolish it, but the Government reduced it to some extent. We should know for certain whether the Government are going to reduce this salt tax

to any extent now. In pre-British days, there was no salt tax. People were making salt, selling salt, and they were self-contained. In the British regime, the salt tax was imposed. No doubt it has been in existence for a long time, but may I also say that the public have always agitated against it and shown their discontent. The discontent has at times gone so far that it was necessary for the Secretary of State of those days and the present Premier to express their own dissatisfaction with this tax. I will read one or two passages. It will be found in the Debates of 1929, Volume III, page 2313, where Lord Cross said this:

"I do not propose to comment at length on any of the measures adopted by your Government except the general increase in the salt duty. While I do not dispute the conclusion of your Government that such an increase was, under the circumstances, unavoidable, I am strongly of opinion that it should be looked upon as temporary and that no effort should be spared to reduce the general duty as speedily as possible to its former rate."

Further on, he said:

"I will not dwell on the great regret with which I should, at any time, regard the imposition of additional burdens on the poorest classes of the population through the taxation of a necessary of life; but apart from all general considerations of what is in such respects right and equitable, there are, as Your Excellency is well aware, in the case of the salt duty in India, weighty reasons for keeping it at as low a rate as possible."

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: What year was that?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: This was in 1929.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I was talking of Lord Cross.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Only a year or so before 1929, I believe.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No, no. It was in the eighties.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Very good, then, it is much more in my favour. Then, from the very early times, there have been such remarks and such directions, and yet those directions have not been complied with by the Government of India. There has been so much agitation that it was necessary, even for the Congress people at one time, to undertake campaigns to go and make salt. There can be no better index to the discontent. Then the point now arises whether this salt tax should be wholly abolished or it should be reduced. In the first place, my own opinion, looking to the condition of the salt industry now, is that it requires to be developed in India. There can be no doubt that facilities have not, up to now, been given for the purpose of increasing salt production in India. Bengal has always been crying that they should be given funds and that they should be given help to increase the indigenous salt there. There has been a protection Act enacted. That provided that the money, that will come out of it, will be given to Bengal. . . .

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: There is nothing about it in the Act.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: There was the report of the Committee then.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: There was a Resolution.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: It may be a Resolution. I am speaking from memory. Therefore, what I meant to say is that no one in India wants that there should be foreign salt imported into India, but the only question is that the Government of India should allow those industries that are already existing in India to be developed more and more. Karachi has got an industry. Karachi has been putting a great output, but if it is helped more, then it would also help the country and Bengal as well. Karachi has been selling in Bengal at a low price and it is not a price which can be called exorbitant. I would much like that the import duty on foreign salt should remain so that the foreign salt may not come into India at all.

An Honourable Member: It is not coming now.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: It is coming. I have got facts and figures to show that it is coming still. If you remove the imposition of the import duty, then it will come more and more. On that point I have to refer to what the attitude of the Finance Member is on this point of the duty. When he came to India, this question arose as to whether there should be an import duty on this salt, in order to see that the foreign salt is not introduced in India. It so happened coincidently that the Honourable the Finance Member went to Bengal and we already knew what the view of the Governor there was, and I am sorry to say that when he returned from there, at least to my mind, it appeared that he returned somewhat prejudiced as to whether the imposition of this import duty should continue. Then, a Resolution was placed before the House by Mr. Neogy and some others, but it was not pushed on, because the Honourable the Finance Member proposed that there will be a talk with them. I do not know what happened then.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): May I correct my Honourable friend? The Resolution put down by Mr. Neogy and his friends entirely related to the distribution of the proceeds of the additional salt import duty and had nothing whatever to do with the abolition or retention of it.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: This is a question which can never. . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: You obviously cannot distribute the proceeds if there are not any.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Their complaint is that the money that is allocated to Bengal, from import duty, is being used for other local purposes by the Government of Bengal. That is the main contention. Therefore, what I am submitting is this, that I was sorry to find the attitude of the Honourable Member which was rather halting. We have seen the budget speech and what do we find? He seems to doubt if protection duty on salt is of any utility. I am not quoting his exact words but the impression is that he said that if the House was going to continue it he had no objection. This is very halting. Unless the Government's idea is to make those Italians send very much more quantity of salt from the Red Sea, unless that is the view of the Government, the Government ought to be in a very strong position and they should see that the industry is developed in India. Now, the English proverb is "be true to your salt". Now, the other day,

Sir Frank Noyce, who is not here in his seat now, said in reply to a question that the Britishers are not foreigners. Now, with regard to the salt duty under the Salt Act, let me see if the Britishers who have come here are Indians and whether they are true to their salt or not. If the Honourable the Finance Member is true to Indian salt, he must come forward and give some relief to India from a tax which is unpopular.

An Honourable Member: They take table salt.

Another Honourable Member: They take somersault!

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: It is that mischief that I want to see eradicated. I do not want to see that table salt on the table. I want to see Indian salt on the table, and it can only be done by this import duty being increased and excise duty reduced. At first, there was an import duty of four annas, then it was reduced to two annas. Now, when the foreign salt has more or less stopped, they are showing a halting attitude. The Honourable the Finance Member says "I will leave it to the House to decide".

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I did not say that. The Honourable Member does not encourage me to make jokes again?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am not quoting the exact words, but the idea is there. If that is not the case, I will sit down to hear an explanation.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: What I said was that I would bring in a Bill to extend the duty for another year and that will be the policy of the Government placed before this House. The rest of the remarks was rather by way of flippancy. I am very sorry that I was flippant, especially in view of the fact that it has provoked the Honourable Member to make a long speech which is completely *mal à propos*.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am very glad he virtually admits what I am saying. He wants to emphasize the first portion of his speech and not the latter portion. Anyway, let me now see the goodwill and wait and see whether the tax now under discussion is abolished or reduced. There are graded amendments to say that the tax should be reduced to one rupee, ten annas down to four annas. Let us see where the Honourable Member draws the line. It is a tax which is tormenting the people. In a place like this, where salt is available in one's neighbourhood, it is a pity that people should be driven to purchase foreign salt and their own salt should be taxed. This is adding insult to injury. With these words, I will support this motion though I have also an amendment to say that it should be reduced.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Sir, although the Honourable Member who moved this motion put it forward as part of the Congress creed, with what I may be permitted to describe as a *quasi*-religious sanction, I still feel emboldened to ask the House to consider the matter purely as a practical business proposition. I am emboldened to adopt this attitude, Sir, by memory of the observations which the Honourable the Deputy Leader of the Opposition made in the general discussion on the Finance Bill, when he said that, although it was revolting to him to provide any means at all for this alien administration, yet he would be prepared to

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[Mr. A. H. Lloyd.]

examine the Finance Bill on its merits in a practical way. Now, if we are going to approach this as a purely practical proposition, it might be almost enough for me to answer that the cost of this amendment, if it is accepted by the House, will be 8,13 lakhs.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What about the cost of collection? Is it not about one crore and odd?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The cost of collection is not as much as that. 8,13 lakhs is the duty alone. It is not the figure that appears in the budget, which includes a considerable sum—I think it is 50 lakhs or 60 lakhs representing the price at which we sell salt made at Government sources. You have to set the cost of manufacture against that price,—the price that we recover from salt that we manufacture at Government sources; against the 8,13 lakhs, you have only to set the cost of preventive administration, which, of course, is a very much smaller figure than what my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, indicated. Now, eight crores is a figure that this budget will not stand. Even those who have argued that the Honourable the Finance Member has under-estimated here, or could have carried revenue forward from last year's surplus there, will not pretend that we could possibly balance the Budget, or produce anything but a position of absolute bankruptcy before the world, if we accepted the proposal to reduce our provision by eight crores. That might almost seem the only answer needed from this side. Yet I should like, with your permission, Sir, to make a few brief remarks on the merits of the case. Apart from what I have ventured to describe as the *quasi*-religious sanction which perhaps found expression in my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti's words, that salt should be exempted from taxation, because it was a gift of God—apart from that, the objection felt to this tax—an objection felt not only by my Honourable friend and his Party, but by others like my friend, Mr. Joshi,—is that the tax falls upon the poor, I have no doubt there are many others in this country to whom this tax, which falls equally on the poor and the rich, is objectionable.

An Honourable Member: It falls more on the poor.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: How can that be—because they do not eat more salt than we do? But relatively more, naturally. Now it is a necessity. None of the poor can escape paying it indirectly. That is a vice in the view of Honourable Members, but still, one way or the other, they have to pay it. It is a widespread article of necessity, for every single individual. I am not going to say that I like taxing the poor. I have no fantastic theories about the taxation of the poor being in itself desirable. I have heard it suggested that they should not be entirely free from indirect taxation in order to make them realise that they have a stake in the country, the answer is that indirect taxation does not give such a realisation. Sir, I am prepared to put myself on the side of those who do not like taxing the poor. In fact I would go further. Speaking now purely personally, I do not share the feeling of many Honourable Members on the other side of the House who are perfectly ready to tax the poor, and to tax the poor heavily, so long as the proceeds go not to the revenue but to the industrialists. (Hear, hear.) We have had this morning, at question time, and again just now,

two Honourable Members pleading for the retention and even for the enhancing of the additional import duty on salt, the benefit of which goes but to a small extent to the revenue, and to a large extent to industrialists in the Bombay Presidency. (Hear, hear.) But apart from that inconsistency, if I may venture to say so, in the attitude of Honourable Members opposite, I am prepared to go with them to the extent of saying that I dislike taxing the poor. I agree that the burden of taxation should fall upon the broadest shoulders, as far as possible, but as a practical proposition we have to recognize that the circumstances are not yet such that we can carry that process to the extreme limit of freeing the poor from any taxation whatever and confining the whole of our taxation to the rich. The reason for that is too obvious and well-known for me to dilate on it at length; well-to-do persons in this country are not perhaps very numerous, compared to the huge size of the population, and they are to a great extent inaccessible to our taxation processes.

An Honourable Member: Why, why?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: In the first place, indirect taxation is chiefly derived from goods paying customs duties, and a large proportion of the well-to-do classes in this country do not consume very much in the way of imported commodities; and, if we try and put the duties too high so as to get the money out of the balance, we at once stimulate that establishment of industries in this country which my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, is so anxious to see carried out. It is not a good revenue proposition and now I am speaking solely about the means of getting revenue. When I say "inaccessible", there is this limit to their accessibility from the point of view of indirect taxation. As regards direct taxation, we have, from the point of view of this Government, the fact that the great majority of the well-to-do people in this country derive their revenue from agriculture, and we cannot get at them through our income-tax law. That leaves a few hundred thousand, from whom we can collect income-tax, against the several hundred million over whom we can spread the burden of a tax like the salt tax. And yet, even now, we are getting from these few hundred thousand twice as much in income-tax alone as we are getting out of the 330 million from the salt tax. Now, when I put forward those figures, it is to show that we have already reached the stage at which the broadest shoulders have to bear a very great deal of the burden, and that the amount of the burden, which we leave for the weaker vessels, is relatively very small indeed. When you come to the incidence upon individuals, the figures really are startling. I should like to take my own case purely as an illustration. I do not claim that I am rich, but I admit I am well-paid. (I have no doubt Honourable Members opposite will say, that I am over-paid.) I put myself forward as one of the well-to-do as far as this country is concerned. Now, I have calculated as well as I can what contribution I make to the finances of the Central Government by way of taxation, and, so far as I can make it out, I must be paying something like Rs. 8,000 a year in the way of taxation that goes to the Central Government.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What percentage will that be?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Civil List where my pay is shown; I have no other income except my pay.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I do not mean that. What is the percentage you have worked out in your case?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I have not worked any percentage. Apart from income-tax, I suffer customs duty, because I consume so many foreign articles, such as liquors and tobacco, and I wear foreign cloth and so does my wife. Indeed, I ought to be encouraged as one of those who, by making himself accessible to taxation of this sort, has helped to reduce the burden to be imposed on the poor. (Laughter.) Well, Sir, so far as I am concerned, I pay, in the shape of taxation, Rs. 8,000 a year, and I have included in this my household also. Now, take the poor man. In addition to this salt tax, as my Honourable friend, Pandit Nilakantha Das, reminded us, we have to consider the kerosene excise and also the excise on matches. I am prepared to take my Honourable friend's combined figure of six annas per head, though the actual figure for salt is three annas and ten pies per head. I have got this figure after eliminating from the population of India as a whole the population of those few States which do not contribute to the Central Exchequer in the shape of salt tax. By the way, I might mention in passing that the salt tax is a tax through which we can obtain contributions from other parts of India towards what have been described as Federal items of expenditure; but I would not like to develop this digression, as it might take us too far. As I was saying, the burden of the salt tax is three annas and ten pies per head and I am quite prepared to accept Pandit Nilakantha Das' figure for the other taxes mentioned, since they are lighter and can be more easily avoided. A villager can sit in the dark, and he can use a burning string outside the *Biri* seller's shop instead of using matches. I am, therefore, prepared to accept the Honourable the Pandit's six annas per head. Taking an average family of five persons, this will give us Rs. 2 per household per annum. Now, I will ask the House to compare this Rs. 2 with the Rs. 8,000 that I am subscribing.

An Honourable Member: Compare the two incomes also.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: My income is very far from being 4,000 times the income of that family.

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan Urban): How many people like you are there to pay?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: My point is that if we are to reduce the incidence of taxation on the poor man from six annas to, say, four annas, that is to say, by one-third, it seems to me to follow that the burden upon me has got to be raised by three or four thousand rupees. I am not saying that it is impossible for me to bear it but I should have to consider my position seriously. I do say that it illustrates my practical proposition. The saving to the poor would be trifling whereas the increase in the burden on the rich would be out of all proportion. We must look upon this matter as a practical business proposition and not purely in the light of theory. To

save 300 million people one anna a year, it is going to be very difficult to get the equivalent amount out of several hundred thousand people. Those are the only people we can get at.

[At this stage, Prof. N. G. Ranga made an interruption.]

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair must ask the Honourable Member not to obstruct.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I am not obstructing, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: If the position is, as I believe it to be, that we have reached a stage where, in order to meet the necessary expenses of the country, we have put the utmost burden on the broader shoulders, we must ask others to contribute a very small share to the cost of the administration, and I think there is something to be said for maintaining that contribution in the form of the salt tax. The evil that we know is better than to fly to others that we wot not of. The salt tax is a traditional tax and has been in existence in India for a long time and the public are used to it. (Interruption.) I personally believe that most of the public would not think very much about it because the incidence is so light if persons like my Honourable the interrupter did not whip up the agitation against the tax. Then, again, as I have said, the burden is a very light one indeed. The very fact that the article is a necessity goes to secure that it is in the inelastic class of taxation. While it does not bring much more money, in times of prosperity, it still brings in money when we find ourselves in difficulty such as we found ourselves in 1931. I can perceive from the expression on the face of my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, that he is going to make use of that argument against me. He is welcome to do so.

If I might, with your permission, turn very briefly to a few specific points raised by various speakers, I would like first of all to say that my Honourable friend, the Mover, made a speech strongly in support of my case. My Honourable friend has urged that *all* taxation falls upon the poor. In that case what does it matter what form of taxation we choose?

Seth Govind Das: The salt tax falls more on the poor.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: If all taxation falls upon the poor, you cannot say that one tax falls more than another. It depends upon the amount of the taxation. I would also like to observe that I cannot in the least follow my Honourable friend's statistics. He said that in 1916, when the duty was increased by four annas, there was an immediate drop in consumption. But I find that in the year 1915-16, the quantity of salt issued for consumption was 457 lakhs of maunds and in the year 1916-17, when the duty was Rs. 1-4-0, having been in the previous year Re. 1, the quantity was 5,12 lakhs of maunds. I am not going to stress that point too much.

Seth Govind Das: I have got my figures from the salt reports. In the previous year, it was 5.22 crores, and, in the next year, when the duty was increased, it was 5.12 crores.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I am afraid, it is impossible for me to compare our figures actually, because the figures that I have with me do not include Burma, though I do not think there could be sufficient variation in Burma to make the difference. But the fact is that in 1915-16 in India, excluding Burma, the issues for consumption were very much less than those of 1916-17. That illustrates the difficulty of working on the statistics of any individual year in the matter of salt and the reason is one which should always be borne prominently in mind by Honourable Members of this Assembly. The salt market, in certain parts of India, is very susceptible to speculative influences when there is any idea of a change of duty. The salt market is very responsive to such influences. The figures that we have quoted as figures of consumption are not of course the actual consumption, for we cannot watch salt into the mouths of the persons who swallow it. They are the figures of clearances and they are liable to variation, in any individual year, owing to speculative action, hurried clearance on the one hand or in another year reluctance to clear. Now the last two years give ample illustration of that. In February, 1934, there was a rumour that Government proposed to increase the salt tax and we were pestered on all sides to make special arrangements to enable merchants to clear salt very much more rapidly than at the normal rate.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can resume his speech after Lunch.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Sir, when we adjourned for Lunch, I was pointing out that statistics, from year to year, are difficult to follow on account of violent fluctuations owing to speculative influences at the time when a change in the duty is anticipated. I was about to describe what happened last year and again this year; but, I am so sure that my point is clearly understood by Honourable Members that I will not take up their time by giving practical illustrations.

Seth Govind Das: May I ask my Honourable friend a question? Is it not a fact that every time the salt duty was enhanced, the consumption fell down?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: That, Sir, is a very difficult question to answer for the reason I am giving. We cannot take individual years. At a time when a change in the duty takes place there is usually some reason to anticipate the change in duty and there are speculative influences which upset individual year's statistics. The most striking instance, of course, was in the year 1922 when the duty was doubled and again reduced. From figures for a period of several years one can perhaps obtain useful light. I would just like to read what are the figures for periods of five years. I think this rather proves my point. From 1923-24 to 1927-28, the average annual

clearance of salt, for consumption, was 500 lakhs of maunds; for the five years, 1928-29 to 1932-33, the average was 526 lakhs of maunds. It will be seen that the mean points of these two periods of five years are five years apart and an increase of five per cent. is very much in keeping with the increase in the rate of population; and that, in spite of the fact that the last 2½ years of the second period covered the time when the duty had been enhanced by the surcharge which was imposed in the middle of 1931. So that those figures, so far as they prove anything, prove the direct opposite of my Honourable friend, Seth Govind Das's contention that an increase in the duty must necessarily result in a decrease in consumption. I can give figures for individual years, but, for the reasons I have given, they are really useless. In 1933-34, the figure was 537 lakhs; in 1934-35 we are practically certain the figure will be 510 lakhs. For the reason I have given you must take the mean of these two and that again comes pretty near the average of the last five years. If it was expected that the increase in consumption would be greater than those figures indicate, the only answer I can give is that the Delhi Pact is still in force and we are undoubtedly still losing a considerable amount of revenue,—may be small compared with our grand total,—but still a considerable amount of revenue from the fact that that pact still exists. In some provinces it has not been touched and the loss is considerable.

Well, Sir, I do not wish to elaborate this; I am sure the House has got a little impatient with it. It is my duty, however, to just make a few remarks about what Dr. Rajan said regarding the Delhi Pact. The relevant clause in that Pact said that arrangements were made:

> "to permit local residents in villages, immediately adjoining areas where salt can be collected or made, to collect or make salt for domestic consumption or sale within such villages, but not for sale to, or trading with, individuals living outside them."

As regards the machinery for enforcement of that clause, Mr. Gandhi had certain discussions with us in Simla, after the Pact was signed, on this very subject, and I think it is not perhaps out of order for me to disclose the fact that he was, to all intents and purposes, the author of the rules and instructions that were laid down for giving effect to the provision that I have read and which were published in a press communiqué of the 22nd May, 1931. The last clause of those instructions said:

> "The concession will be withdrawn from villages where it is found that it is abused. Wherever it is discovered that salt is manufactured or collected in quantities above the requirements of a particular village abuse of the concession will be presumed."

There was a reason for this, and the reason why Mr. Gandhi agreed to this is that it struck him, as it strikes us, that it would take away the whole moral value of the concession if it were coupled with restrictions in the form of direct and immediate and permanent supervision by subordinate officials of Government; and failing such direct and permanent supervision at every point by officials of Government (apart from the question of expense), there would be no means of dealing with abuses except the provision that was there made,—that so long as there was no serious abuse we shut our eyes to it and allowed the Pact to continue, but, if there was serious and widespread abuse, then the question of withdrawing the concession altogether would have to be taken into account. Partial withdrawal and an exception in favour of the innocent is impossible unless you are to have that kind of close inquisitorial supervision which Mr. Gandhi himself was particularly anxious to avoid.

[Mr. A. H. Lloyd.]

I do not propose to attempt to deal with my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi's remarks, because really his speech is not in support of this amendment but in support of another amendment which is to come before us later on and there will be another opportunity of dealing with it. As regards what my Honourable friend from Karachi said, I again leave the discussion of the policy of the additional import duty on salt for the proper time when the relevant Bill is before us. But I would merely like to observe that when he quoted a passage from a speech of Lord Cross, without apparently having discovered in what year Lord Cross was speaking, he was referring to a time when Government had raised the duty from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2-8-0 a maund, and what Lord Cross wanted was not to abolish the duty, but that the duty should be put back to Rs. 2. For very many years, right up to the end of the 19th century, the duty stood at rates varying between Rs. 2 and Rs. 2-8-0 and even higher; but now, even with the surcharge it is well below Rs. 2. I, therefore, submit that simultaneously with the growth of the burden of customs duties and income-taxes, which has been tremendous, in the same period the reduction of the salt duty does show that the Government of India are in sympathy with the desire of relieving the burden on the poor as far as that can be done, though, on practical considerations and practical possibilities, they are unable to dispense with the duty altogether. For these reasons I oppose the motion.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, I am sorry, my Honourable friend, who preceded me just now, spoiled a very excellent and businesslike speech by a lapse, when he said that if we did not work up or whip an agitation against the salt tax, the people here would not complain. I wish he had not said that because it seems to me that it will be impossible for any Party, and certainly not for the Congress, to whip up an artificial agitation. In this country, we were able, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, to lead a very powerful agitation against the salt tax, because there is a genuine widespread and strongly felt feeling that this tax must go. I want the Members of the Treasury Bench to realise that agitations cannot be worked up in this country—I do not know what it is in their country—except on facts which the people know, and on strongly held beliefs with regard to those facts. Moreover, I want to say that we support this demand for the abolition of the salt tax with a full sense of our responsibility, in spite of the Honourable the Finance Member's challenge to us that we believe that only those who have no responsibility can put forward schemes which they feel the Government cannot accept. I believe that I speak for the vast mass of my countrymen—I certainly speak for the Indian National Congress—when I say that we want to see this salt tax abolished. Against that my Honourable friend quoted some figures. I will take the figures from the Explanatory Memorandum given to us by the Financial Secretary. You will notice that, on page 4 of that memorandum, the revenue from salt has varied from Rs. 634 lakhs in 1921-22, to Rs. 10 crores in 1923-24 and 1932-33. It now stands, as proposed in this year's budget, at Rs. 873 lakhs. The cost of collection has varied from Rs. 156 lakhs to Rs. 118 lakhs; and, therefore, roughly the loss to the treasury will be something over Rs. 7 crores, if this salt tax is abolished altogether.

My Honourable friend asked us how we will meet this deficit. May I give him a few suggestions? This surplus of Rs. 3½ crores may well have been put aside for the purpose of meeting this deficit. Secondly, I find

from a telegram which I am sure other Honourable Members also have received—I have received it—from the sugar interests wherein they say:

"Indian Sugar Mills Association invites attention to very low estimate of Rs. 175 lakhs made by the Honourable the Finance Member, as proceeds from import duty on sugar based on estimated import of only 90,000 tons. Association firmly believes that imports of sugar will be over two lakhs tons: imports during 11 months of this year exceed two lakhs tons already. Import revenue from sugar will thus be about Rs. 5 crores etc., etc."

This is another item from which my Honourable friend may have tried to meet this deficit. Moreover, I said, and I repeat it again, that the provision for the reduction or avoidance of debt is not so necessary or so urgent, as relief under this head of oppressive taxation. Taking all these methods wholly, or all these methods partially, I venture to suggest to the Honourable the Finance Member and to this House that this loss of something more than Rs. 7 crores may be easily met.

I was glad to find that my Honourable friend, who preceded me, conceded a very large number of our fiscal propositions, first, that the poor ought not to be taxed beyond the absolute necessities of the case of the State: the poor ought to be taxed less than the rich, and the rich ought to be taxed more than the poor. But may I ask him, whether he is satisfied, apart from his own individual tragic instance which he gave with an amount of pathos which was wholly unconvincing, that he really considers that in this country the incidence of taxation is so proportionate to the richness or the poverty of the people? Perhaps it is not easy to compare things in this country with things in other countries: our poverty is so colossal: our average income is so small, that your head reels at comparisons. You cannot really have any kind of incidence of taxation on a man whose average income, even on the most optimistic estimate, does not exceed two annas a day. Therefore, it seems to me that even assuming that the Government of India today are trying to tax the rich more than they tax the poor,—I am sure my Honourable friend will concede—that the incidence of taxation on the poor is much greater than that on the rich. . . . .

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Because I will tell you why; an anna on an income of about ten rupees a month is much more in value, than one rupee on an income of Rs. 2,000 a year. You cannot compare these in mere denominations of money: you have got to consider the needs of the person, and his resources, and equate them, and then try to find out the actual incidence. To the rich man Rs. 10 or Rs. 100 is nothing: to the poor man, it may be all his wealth for the next few months. Therefore, I put it to my Honourable friend that he cannot say that, in this country, the taxation of salt does not bear more heavily on the poorest.

On this matter, it is not a latter day Congress invention or a brain wave of Mahatma Gandhi which makes us fight this salt tax. Our political and economic *Guru* in many matters, as I am sure, he is of you, Sir, and of many Indians, Dadabhai Naoroji, in his historic book, "Poverty

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

and un-British Rule in India" has stated the case against the salt tax in immortal words. He referred to the opium trade first, and went on to add:

"In association with this trade is the stigma of the Salt-tax upon the British name. What a humaliating confession to say that, after the length of the British rule, the people are in such a wretched plight that they have nothing that Government can tax, and that Government must, therefore, tax an absolute necessary of life to an inordinate extent! The slight flash of prosperity during the American War showed how the people of India would enjoy and spend when they have anything to enjoy and spend; and now, can anything be a greater condemnation of the results of British lines of policy than the people have nothing to spend and enjoy, and pay tax on, but that they must be pinched and starved in a necessary of life?"

That leads me on to the next position, which is often urged, namely, that the poor people of this country will not pay anything like what they ought to pay to the Government, if the salt tax were abolished. On that matter, I want to quote the very high authority of one, who was known in this House and respected in this House, as a great authority on Indian financial matters, the late Mr. Gokhale. Mr. Gokhale, speaking on the budget of 1903, said:

"Again, my Lord, I have heard the opinion expressed that the duty on salt does not constitute any serious burden on the resources of the poorer classes of our country because this duty, it is urged, is the only tax which they contribute to the State. Here again I must say that those who express such a view hardly realise what they are talking about. Our revenue is principally derived from land, opium, salt, excise, customs, assessed taxes, stamps, forests, registration and provincial rates. Of this the opium revenue is contributed by the foreign consumer and may be left out of account",—*it is now passing out of account altogether*,—"of the remaining the proceeds that come exclusively from the middle and upper classes of the people are less than 2 crores",—*it is much higher now*,—"on the other hand, the bulk of the salt revenue comes from the tax of the poorer classes. The bigger of the revenues again is contributed mainly by them; so also is the forest revenue. Under stamps and registration, they contribute their fair share. I believe they also contribute their share under customs, and, as land revenue in *ryotwari* tracts, at any rate, a large proportion of this revenue comes from very poor agriculturists. So far, therefore, from contributing less than their fair share to the exchequer of the State, the poorer classes of our community contribute as a matter of fact much more than they should, relatively to their resources."

The position, Sir, still remains what it was in 1903.

Then, Sir, my friend, taking his cue from his Chief, the Finance Member, twitted us that, while we want the taxes on the poorer classes to be removed, we are still asking for protection, in spite of the fact that that protection may cost something more to the consumer than if foreign manufacturers were allowed to exploit our country. I quite concede the inconsistency therein, but I want to remind my friend that inconsistency is the hobgoblin of little minds; and we are perfectly willing and able to reconcile, as I said before,—in fact we are anxious and willing to reconcile—the interests of the consumers and the interests of the industrialists in the country, the larger of whom will be nationalised, and the smaller of whom will be allowed to make reasonable profits, subject to the payment of income-tax, super-tax, and various other kinds of contributions to the exchequer of the State.

As regards the particular action of the additional import duty on salt, those of us who advocate that,—and I am one of those who want it to be extended to three years and to be raised to Re. 0-4-6 from Re. 0-2-6

per maund to extinguish the import of foreign salt and encourage the production of indigenous salt, and, I believe, there are ample resources in this country to meet all our legitimate requirements. First class salt which can be manufactured and which can be made available. . . . .

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: . . . . . and will cost more.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It will cost nothing under my scheme.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Giving it away?

Mr S. Satyamurti: Your imported salt alone will cost, and we will do without it, as early as we can.

Then, Sir, my friend made another suggestion that the rich people are not directly assessable to tax. On that, Sir, I join issue with him. I am sure he has read the Indian Taxation Inquiry Committee's Report; I am sure he has read Sir Walter Layton's illuminating chapters in the Simon Commission Report on Indian Constitutional Reforms; and I am sure, he will have found from there that there are many directions which they suggest—for instance, death duties, bringing agricultural incomes within the scope of the income-tax, and many other ways in which we can tax the richer, more than we are doing today. . . . .

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: We have examined all those suggestions.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Who has examined them?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: We have.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: We are not in your place. When we take your place, we will do that; in the meantime, just have the humility to recognise that you are not the last word in financial wisdom.

So far as the Taxation Inquiry Committee is concerned, they themselves conceded that this tax has several well-known objections to it. It falls on a necessary of life, and to the extent that salt is essential for physical existence, it is in the nature of a poll-tax. The bulk of it is paid by those who are least able to contribute anything towards the State expenditure. Salt is also required for various industrial and agricultural operations and for cattle. Unless it is issued duty free for these purposes, some burden is thrown upon the industries in which it is used. Then, Sir, they quote the opinion of Sir Josiah Stamp on this matter. This is what he says:

"I should work out the tax burden on a low income and ask if abolished, or altered, in what probable respects well-being would be improved by the ordinary exercise of the improved purchasing-power. If inconsiderable, I should continue the burden."

I think, Sir, the speaker, who preceded me, said that the cost was Re. 0-3-0 or Re. 0-3-6 per head. . . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: It is Re. 0-3-10.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Or it may be Re. 0-6-0 per head.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: May I explain, Sir, that the Re. 0-6-0 per head I mentioned, I took from the Pandit's speech on the general discussion on the Finance Bill where he gave that figure himself, and I agree that it represents roughly the burden in respect of salt, excise on kerosene and excise on matches taken together.

Mr. S Satyamurti: I stand corrected. Then it comes to Re. 0-3-10 for salt alone per head. If, therefore, an average family of say five has got to be taken as a unit, it comes roughly to something like Rs. 1-4-0. Now, Sir, it may surprise my friends to know one thing—that Rs. 1-4-0 is not an inconsiderable sum in the budget of most of the families in this country. . . . .

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I said I am not surprised.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am glad to hear that. Therefore, I think this test of Sir Josiah Stamp must rule out the possibility of this tax being continued, because he says he would ask, if abolished or altered in what probable respects well-being would be improved by the ordinary exercise of the improved purchasing power. To that extent, *pro tanto*, it will increase his purchasing power, and it will be a benefit to the poorest of the people of this country.

On the question of consumption, Sir, to which we attach some importance, I agree that it is impossible on the present method of calculation to find out the exact consumption year after year. After all, Government have no machinery; they only issue, and they do not know at what particular stage this salt is being consumed; but I think there are figures to show that, whether with the reduction of taxation the consumption increases or not, with the increase of taxation the consumption goes down. I think, therefore, that it is a fair test to suggest that this necessary article of food, if it is to be taxed at all, must be taxed on the minimum scale. That is so far as the Report of the Taxation Inquiry Committee goes.

As regards the history of this question, Sir,—because my friend referred to it and said towards the end of his speech, it is a traditional tax,—perhaps it was, Sir; but I think my friend will agree, if he has read the history of this country with some imagination, that, excepting a few taxes directly paid to the State, salt tax was very rarely collected with that thoroughness and with that efficiency with which the British Government now collects it. I remember, Sir, in my younger days,—it was not actually done,—but older people in my house told me that, not very long ago, salt of a somewhat crude kind was available to most of the poor families in the countryside. It is now,—thanks to the thorough efficiency of the British Government,—not available, not one grain of salt is available except under the terms of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, wherever it is in force, or except under this duty. The supply of salt was monopolised at one time. Then it was made open to British manufacturers and traders, from abroad, at another time. Then the private manufacturers were unable to compete with the foreign importer, and the consumption of salt fluctuated with the increase or decrease in salt duty, and the Government of India, at one time, abolished the local cess of the customs line in regard to salt duty. They favoured excise, and, ultimately, there was a lot of illicit traffic and smuggling and so on, and today the position is that, as I said, practically all the salt consumed in this country is either salt on which

the tax is levied, or the small percentage of imported salt. I say, therefore, that we, who believe that this tax should go, are right for the following reasons. First, salt is a necessity for man and cattle, and also for many industries, and, therefore, it ought to be free to the people. Salt tax is a form of taxation which is not known in many civilised countries of the world; and in India it is peculiarly inappropriate because of the colossal poverty of the vast millions of our countrymen, who have got to pay this tax, and because the Government should be willing to carry on its administration without what amounts to really a poll-tax on the poorest of the people.

I will conclude as I began. I believe it is financially possible for the Government here and now, even maintaining its present high
3 P. M. level of expenditure, to abolish the salt tax and to find the loss of about Rs. 7 crores of revenue by other means. My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, thought that we should not press for the abolition, but that we should ask for a reduction. If he were the Finance Member and offered me a reduction, I would take it at once with both hands and thank him, in the hope of converting him to my view that the tax should ultimately be abolished. . .

Mr. N. M. Joshi: You need not convert me. That is my view.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: But you are satisfied today with a reduction.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Because that is the only thing practicable.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is my trouble in this House. I can understand the Government saying something as impracticable, but I find non-official Members out-heroding Herod and telling me, this is impracticable, that is practicable and so on. Can my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, tell me that his reduction will be accepted by the Finance Member as practicable? Therefore, it seems to me we have got a clear choice before us. Provided we are convinced on the merits that the thing is right, we ought to press it on the Government and we ought to insist on the Government making it practicable, so long as they do not vacate their seats and hand them over to us to show how it is practicable. I say, honestly and sincerely, that, if I were placed in the Finance Member's position today, I would do away with the salt tax, and still manage to run the administration on the present scale of expenditure. It is perfectly possible, but if other Honourable Members think that, with five crores or four crores they can manage it, let them agitate for ten annas of the duty being removed immediately, and force it on the Government. What the Government does is this. We move the abolition. Somebody says it is not practicable. Then we come to what Sir Austin Chamberlain called the Dutch auction, of four annas, eight annas, twelve annas, one rupee, one rupee and four annas, and stick at some figure. Immediately the Government go to the Viceroy's House and come back with their own minds thoroughly unchanged. That seems to be not right. If Mr. Joshi believes that this salt tax ought to be abolished altogether, I ask him to vote for it in the belief that it is perfectly practicable. Why should there be this provision for reduction and avoidance of debt this year? Why should the surplus be spent on Civil Aviation and Broadcasting? Why should they not budget for a higher duty under sugar excise? I have given three suggestions which are well worth being explored by the Finance Member

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and his department. I, therefore, hope that this House will send a message of hope and cheer to the poorest in this country, and tell them that those of us who claim to represent the poorest are going to make no common cause with the Government, but to stand and vote for this principle that salt shall be tax-free and be available as God's gift to man and beast in this country.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Member for Commerce and Railways): Let the question be now put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That clause 2 of the Bill be omitted."

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Before you put the amendment to vote, there is an amendment in my name, which appears in the order paper as item No. 4. It is, in fact, a consequential amendment, and, if the amendment which has already been moved is thrown out, there will be no room for me to move it, and I would be locked out. I want to replace the present law by a different clause. So, before you put the motion under discussion to vote, I would request you to give me an opportunity of moving my amendment, and, along with it, to speak on the present amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the effect of the Honourable Member's amendment?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: The effect is this. If the amendment that has just been proposed is adopted by the House, it will still be open to the Governor General in Council to impose any salt duty under cover of a rule framed under section 7 of the Indian Salt Act. So, in order to block this course, my amendment is necessary.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The effect of the Honourable Member's amendment will be that there will be no salt duty at all. The Chair understands that, under the Indian Salt Act, there is a limit to the amount of duty that can be imposed by rule, and the Honourable Member's proposal is that that provision of the Salt Act of 1882 should be repealed.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Not like that . . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: To destroy any power of notification.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: For this year.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Those powers will be taken away?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: That is, in fact, the purport of amendment No. 2, it is restricted to the current year. This is 1st April, All-Fools

day, and we are entitled to say current year instead of the budget year. So, my amendment is:

"That for clause 2 of the Bill, the following be substituted:

'2. Despite the provisions of section 7 of the Indian Salt Act, 1882, the Governor General in Council shall not impose any duty on salt manufactured in, or imported into, any part of British India other than Burma or Aden during the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1935'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): How can this be linked with the other amendment?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: I will just submit what the position is, and then I will be guided by your ruling. The clause that is before the House lays down that the Governor General in Council will impose a duty of Rs. 1-4-0 per maund of salt. The amendment that has been moved asks the House to reject that proposal. The Governor General in Council professes to proceed under the provisions of section 7 of the Indian Salt Act. Under that section, it is always open to the Governor General in Council to impose any duty up to the limit of Rs. 3-8-0 per maund by virtue of any rule that he chooses to frame under this section. Now, if the House omits the clause included in this Finance Bill, obviously it will direct thereby that the Governor General in Council should not impose any duty on salt. That is, in substance, the purport, the import, and the objective of the amendment which is before the House. But still, technically speaking, it will be open to the Governor General in Council, even after this amendment has been carried, to issue a rule under section 7 and to impose even a higher duty.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Why didn't the Honourable Member move it first? It has wider scope.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: It has wider scope in the sense that it will restrict the hands of the Governor General in Council.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As well as prevent this clause coming into operation?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: As you called the gentleman whose name was at the top, I did not like to intervene.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That has been moved now.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: It makes no difference.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If that is carried, there will be no clause left. This will be out of order.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: That is not my difficulty. If that is carried, perhaps you will still allow me to move my motion. But if you think otherwise, then there is still more reason why I should request you to permit me to move it.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: May I make a suggestion to the Honourable Member. There is a good deal of correctness in his appraisement of the situation. It is a fact that if the first amendment is carried, it can be made inoperative by other powers of the Governor General.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): To a certain extent, not entirely.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Both the Mover of the present amendment and the Honourable Member who preceded him wish to secure one thing—that there should be no salt duty during the current year. It is quite clear that their intentions are precisely the same. Therefore, the Mover of the first amendment, and my Honourable friend, who is now speaking, can secure their joint object by taking a division, not on the first, but on the second amendment, the debate which has taken place being regarded as a debate on the simple question—shall there be a salt duty or not.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then the Honourable Member does not raise any objection.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I have no objection to the division being taken on the second amendment.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: I am thankful to the Honourable the Finance Member for having facilitated my course. Sir, with your permission, I have the honour to move . . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The position is not strictly correct.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: May I rise on a point of explanation? Am I to understand that if my Honourable friend's amendment is carried here, the Governor General is deprived of his power of certification?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No. He is deprived of the power of notification, which is a different thing, under the Salt Duty Act, fixing the duty for the current year. The powers of certification remain.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: There is absolutely no difference as regards the significance of the vote, except that the amendment moved by my Honourable friend goes further than the amendment moved by my Honourable friend who moved the first amendment.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: With your permission, and with the indulgence of Sir Cowasji Jehangir, I have the honour to move this amendment No. 4:

"That for clause 2 of the Bill, the following be substituted:

'2. Despite the provisions of section 7 of the Indian Salt Act, 1882, the Governor General in Council shall not impose any duty on salt manufactured in, or imported into, any part of British India other than Burma or Aden during the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1935'."

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I can object to it, if I want to.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: That is why I said "with your indulgence". The motion that I have made before the House does no more than fulfil the intention of the Mover of the preceding amendment, and we are in perfect agreement. It is no more than a matter of form. I have chosen to achieve the same object in a more legal, and, to a certain extent, more effective manner, as, even if the amendment moved by the Honourable Member from Jubbulpore is carried by the House, it would still leave a loophole. I do not say that the Governor General in Council will have recourse to it, but all the same it would be a clumsy method of dealing with the matter. If, in reality, we do not want the salt duty to be imposed, then our purpose should be expressed in an unmistakable manner and we should not leave room for confusion because of the form in which the motion is made. Sir, to me it is a pity that there should be any form of taxation in any country under which an almost negligible amount has to be distributed over millions of people. If one were to speak in America of a tax of this type, even in this age of chaos, the people there would be almost amazed.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Planning?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: In a day or two, I will have my turn to speak about planning, and I hope that my Honourable friend will appreciate if I do not digress now. On the question before us, I feel that this salt tax is associated with the inconceivable poverty of our people, and that is exactly the reason why we are objecting to the existence or continuation of this tax. If we were a rich people, no Government would have imposed a tax which, according to them, amounts to an incidence of less than four annas per head over 280 millions of people. If, on the other hand, we had been rich, we would not have minded a tax which in effect did not entail a burden higher than three annas ten pies as we were just told by Mr. Lloyd. Sir, it is only a commentary on the economic destitution to which this country has been reduced. About three or four years ago, I was travelling by train, and I met a party of enlightened Americans who had been touring round this country in cities and who had also taken the trouble of visiting a number of villages. I asked them as to what in this country had struck them particularly, as to what it was that they had found remarkable or notable. Unanimously they all told me that what had struck them was the colossal, the inconceivable and the unimaginable poverty of the people in this country. They said that they could not possibly conceive or imagine how any biped on earth could drift in the manner in which men and women had been managing to breathe and to move in this vast land. Sir, that is the background on which this picture has been painted, and that is the background which you have to place before yourself in order to judge as to the nature of the burden and the incidence of the salt tax. In other advanced countries, as I submitted, it would be unusual for people to object to a tax of this sort, but, unfortunately, situated as we are, we have to face the deplorable situation in our own country. Does not even the Honourable the Finance Member accept that the tax does bear heavily on the people? If not, may I know why he favours the withdrawal of the import duty on the salt that we import from abroad? That is much less than this. It amounts only to two annas six pies per maund. He thinks that he will be giving distinct relief to the people of Bengal, Bihar and other places by withdrawing the import duty. Sir, whatever be our differences in other matters, I think the Honourable

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the Finance Member will agree that Rs. 1-9-0 is certainly bigger than two annas six pies. There perhaps he will concede this point. So, Sir, when even a withdrawal of two annas six pies per maund can afford appreciable relief, undoubtedly the reduction of Rs. 1-9-0 must go much further than two annas six pies. Sir, it is not absolutely correct to say that this tax presses equally and evenly on the rich and the poor. In fact, Sir, the tax presses with much greater weight on the poor than on the rich, and, in fact, the poor consume a larger quantity of salt than the rich if they can afford to do so.

Sir, salt is one of the indispensable, essential ingredients of human life, but the rich men can manage to get their quota of salt out of fruits, out of vegetables, out of several other things which have the chemical ingredient of salt, but, so far as the poor are concerned, they have no other alternative, they have no other option (Hear, hear), and they can use nothing except natural salt in order to get the minimum of chemical salt needed to preserve and maintain their existence. So, Sir, in fact, the poor, if they can afford, consume a larger quantity of salt than the rich: and, consequently, the salt tax is borne to a greater extent *per capita* by the poor than by the rich.

Sir, in the opinion of experts, who have made an inquiry into the matter, the salt tax is an oppressive tax in this country, and the salt tax, in fact, from the days of Fawcett has always been regarded as an undesirable type of tax. I think the Honourable the Finance Member remembers Fawcett's dictum that water and air and salt should be free. (Hear, hear.) He laid it down that no man should have to pay anything for fresh air or for fresh water or for his salt. So, it is one of those bounties that Nature has provided for every individual, and which it is a crime against God and man to keep away from any individual. In the circumstances, salt must be treated as a commodity which must be provided by the State to every individual, and, in respect of which, the State should not at least embarrass anybody who stands in need of it. Sir, it has been proved again and again that the reduction of the salt tax serves as a stimulus to greater consumption. I ask Mr. Lloyd if he does not accept that proposition; and if he does not, I can remind him of a statement that he himself made some time back. Sir, Mr. Lloyd said, what he does not seem to remember now, on the 17th March, 1925:

"When the salt duty was Rs. 2-8-0 a maund in 1902-03, the average consumption of salt per head of the population was five seers. When it was at rupee one a maund ten years later, the average consumption was only six seers per head of the population. Some increase in consumption must be allowed for."

I hope he will revise the statement that he made in the course of his speech, and he will concede that he was labouring under a mistake when he made certain remarks which do not tally with the statement relating to facts—not to matters of opinion—which he himself had made previously. I wish the Honourable Members of Government had a tenacious memory. Sir, we on this side may easily and even without reason be taunted and twitted with short memories, but they are expected to guide us at least in matters of fact, and we are, I think, entitled to refer to them for facts, and to a certain extent, they are entitled to ask us to accept their facts, but if there are lapses of this type on the Treasury Benches, then, naturally, their statements about facts lose the weight and value to which they would be otherwise entitled.

Sir, I have got a statement before me of the salt duty for a series of years from 1899 to 1925, and another for still later years, and both lead to the same conclusion. These figures of the gross revenue, expenditure, net revenue and consumption, are interesting as affording evidence of the influence of a lower rate of duty in stimulating consumption and consequently adding to the total revenue, and so on. Sir, the same conclusion is borne out by other facts. The consumption of salt per head in *England* amounts to forty pounds, while, in our country, it comes to only ten pounds. Obviously our people are not getting as much salt as they need. I concede that in England this figure goes up also, because, perhaps, it includes salt used for other purposes, but we could as well make use of salt for our cattle, for industrial development, for manure and for many other profitable objects. We are not able to do so . . . .

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: May I say, Sir, that much salt *is* issued for these purposes from the Government factories. I have left all such figures out of account in the figures I gave.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: I am not unaware of that fact, but the concession is illusory. It is fantastic to expect the poor villager in the remote corner of this country to send a direct order to the Salt Department or to the Central Revenue Department for a duty-free consignment of salt. How does he benefit by this rule on paper? It is utterly ineffective and futile. Sir, every single tola that is used pays the duty so far as the really poor classes are concerned, on whose behalf I am making this proposal on the floor of this House. Then, there are other ways of arriving at the same conclusion. There is a higher allowance for salt per head in the army, and there is a higher allowance per head in jails than the average consumption *per capita* in the country. What is the result of that comparison? The figure that we reach is higher in the case of jails and much higher in the case of the army. What does it show? Does it not show conclusively that the amount of salt that the average consumer can manage to secure for his urgent necessities falls far short of what his system needs; and, then, I am reminded of another fact which may not be within the knowledge of many Members here. We in jails, Sir, had our usual allotment of salt, and this, as I have told the Members of the House, is much higher than what the average Indian consumes, but even that was not enough, and we used to spend some annas every month out of our own pocket in order to obtain for ourselves the necessary quantity of salt; and, Sir, salt is really regarded as a boon inside the jails. Ordinary prisoners always feel the want of salt. All these circumstances go to establish that, on account of this duty, people are unable to enjoy, to utilise one of the most primary necessities of life. In these circumstances, the salt tax is certainly uneconomic, the tax is certainly un-social and this duty is oppressive.

Sir, the Taxation Enquiry Committee report shows that at least one of the Members, Dr. Paranjype, was of opinion that in normal years the duty on salt should not exceed eight annas per maund: And there is another important feature of the present situation which has also to be taken into account. During the last five years, the prices of agricultural products have gone down almost by 50 per cent. The crops that were sold for five rupees are now yielding no more ordinarily than two rupees; while everything else has fallen in value, the only oasis in this desert is

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this salt which retains its old index and which continues to be as costly as it was when agricultural products were fetching double their present prices. There is only one island above water, *viz.*, the safe island of the salaries of the Government servants, and only one oasis, that of salt, in the desert in which everything else has been reduced to sand. Sir, whatever might have been the case in normal years, is it not strange, is it not queer that salt, for which Government hold the monopoly, should be doubly as costly at present as it was five years back? Salt even now sells ordinarily at the rate of ten or eleven seers per rupee. The average villager could get ten or eleven seers of salt formerly by parting with five seers of wheat, but today he has to part with about 14 seers of wheat in order to get 10 or 11 seers of salt. It shows how callously the Government have been moving in this matter. No other Government dare retain the original rates in the face of the slump in respect of everything else. After all, the prices generally have to be co-related to the prices of other articles, especially to the prices of staples in the country. So when the price of everything else produced in this land has fallen, that salt should still continue to be as dear as it was five years back, especially when it is a monopoly of the Government, is indefensible. The salt tax is no less than a poll tax, and a poll tax which has to be paid inversely in a higher amount as the income of a man declines, the smaller the income, the higher being the poll tax, and the larger the income, the smaller the poll tax. We were told by Mr. Lloyd that the proportion of direct taxes in this country has increased considerably. I do not know where he formed that impression. He must remember that in England, since 1916, the increase in direct taxes has been about 700 per cent., while the increase in the indirect taxes does not exceed one hundred per cent. In our own country, if you remember, up to 1916, the income from customs was almost nil. We had only the revenue tariff between five to ten per cent. at the most; but, during the last ten years, the direct taxes have increased by a much smaller amount, while the indirect taxes have gone up enormously, with the result that today indirect taxes yield a proportion of about 77 per cent. to the revenues of the Government of India. In England, the indirect taxes do not go beyond 40 per cent. In other countries, they are equally low. So, in these circumstances, Mr. Lloyd was perhaps a bit careless when he made that remark, and I submit that it is high time that we revised our Schedule and Scheme of Taxation. I believe in this matter I have the sympathies of the Honourable the Finance Member.

An Honourable Member: Revise which Schedule and how?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Revise the Schedule so as to reduce the incidence of indirect taxes, and, to make a beginning, by repealing the salt duty today. The question was put, and not altogether an irrelevant question, that if you want to take away this duty, how is this gap to be filled? I could have met that question with the answer which Mr. Asquith gave to the Prime Minister at that time, "it is no business of mine". But I will oblige the Honourable the Finance Member in spite of our "Bacchanalian abandon", a phrase for which he will be remembered in this House as immortally and for ever, as another Member for his "congenital idiocy", and both of whom have made abiding contributions

to the grace and dignity of this House. I, on my part, happen to be a teetotaller and also a vegetarian, and I never worshipped at the temple of Bacchus and never drunk from the fountain. Similarly, I have never gone to Billingsgate market to purchase any fish. So I have the advantage of being a teetotaller and a vegetarian, but here in this House we have the unique opportunity of learning many things from the Benches opposite in which they are experts, about which we ourselves are utterly ignorant. So I am prepared to learn these words, these expressions, these beautiful epithets from the Benches opposite. I had said, Sir, that I am prepared to offer certain suggestions as to how the gap could be filled. May be, I made these suggestions in a mood of "licentious abandon", I will not use the other adjective. I had said then that the Honourable the Finance Member will, I believe, be able to earn a greater surplus than he has budgeted for, and I have given my reasons for that. The Honourable the Finance Member has a very facile way of dealing with things, I will not call him flippant, I will not use the words "flip-flap", he has a fine method of conveniently overlooking hard facts, and if one cannot deal with one's adversary in argument, then either put on the look of anger or try to ridicule him. That is really a useful method by virtue of which one can manage to tide over really difficult positions. After all, he thinks, in a House where argument is the main principle which should guide and determine decisions, what does it matter if occasionally one deviates a little from truth? I will not press this further, as, I expect, I will have another opportunity for general observations during the third reading of the Bill.

The Honourable the Finance Member then said that my suggestions, which he analysed in his own inimitable way, were either hollow or perverse or unfounded. Sir, I had suggested that I expected a larger amount of surplus than he has provided for. I have the support of the European Group and of all the commercial bodies, and though the Finance Member has his own ineffable charm in spite of his other frailties, I will not be sorry, if I have to be in this larger company than in the unique company of the solitary eminence of the great Finance Member. (Laughter.)

As to the other point, I had said that we are entitled to count upon the railway contribution of 5 crores 20 lakhs which had been fixed in 1924. That is a fixed contribution, and it is the first charge on the income of the railways. Sir, even in the Railway Budget of the current year, the amount has been calculated, and it has been put down here as:

"Net payment due from railways to general revenue in 1935-36, Rs. 5,20,58,498."

A sum which is given in such detail is not altogether fabulous: it has internal evidence of being a genuine figure. Then, Sir, the description given here, "Net payment due from railways to general revenue in 1935-36", clearly shows that the railways have definitely made themselves liable for this payment of 5 crores and 20 lakhs. I may remind the House of what the Honourable Sir Charles Innes said when he placed before this House his proposal for the separation of railway from general finance. I will read only one sentence though there are many which would be perfectly relevant. He said:

"The next point I wish to bring out is that the House has got to remember that we have to pay this one per cent on all our capital at charge on commercial lines. I have just referred to the fact that it takes some years before we get a return upon new capital, specially new capital sunk in new lines. Further, we undertake to pay

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the dividend year by year, and we take the risk of the season. When the season is good and trade is good, our earnings go up; when the season is bad and trade is bad, our earnings go down. But whatever the state of the season, whatever the state of trade, we undertake to pay this dividend year by year."

And the main reason for the separation of accounts in the very first clause of the Preamble ran thus:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that, in order to relieve the general budget from the violent fluctuations caused by the incorporation therein of the railway estimates,.....the railway finances shall be separated .....and the general revenue shall receive a definite annual contribution."

There are other clauses too which are equally clear, but it is not necessary to read them. In fact, it is admitted that the railways are liable to the tune of 5 crores and 20 lakhs for the current year. The railways have not gone bankrupt; we have not treated the railways yet as a dead weight and a lost asset. They may be part of a lost dominion some time later; but, so far, the railways continue to be a perfectly valuable and solid asset. And that is further proved by the fact that we have got a constructive programme, and we are spending several millions each year for these railways. In these circumstances, I want to know what can be the justification for not taking this income of 5 crores and 20 lakhs into account. We, on our part, so far as the general budget is concerned, are required to pay interest even on the railway depreciation fund; but, on the other hand, I find that the railways are not charged with this revenue which is certainly due from them under the contract between the Railway Department and this House. So, I submit that we are entitled to take these 5 crores and 20 lakhs into account. It may be that the railways are not in a position to pay them in cash today. Even about that, I think, they can, for we have taken away some 30 crores in the form of interest. Part of the interest could stand over and the revenue could be paid. The fact remains that the railways have a potential liability of 5 crores and 20 lakhs, and that liability is genuine, real, substantial, incontrovertible and conclusive. In the circumstances, what reason can there be for the Honourable the Finance Member disregarding it and for treating a suggestion to take it into account as a hopeless illustration of "diseased abandon"?

Sir, there was another suggestion that I made, and it was this that the restrictions in the matter of deposits in savings or postal banks should be removed. The Honourable the Finance Member either misunderstood me or,—I would not say he misrepresented me even if he did. He said I had suggested that the rates of interest on savings banks should be raised. I never said anything like that. My suggestion is a very simple one, and it is this that the savings banks get money from the public and Government have reduced the interest very low. Government may still reduce the interest, and, in some cases, cut it out completely,—I do not worry about it. But at present the maximum limit of the deposits does not go beyond Rs. 750 or something like that. Similarly, withdrawals cannot be made except after certain intervals. I want Government to leave it free to the public to make such deposits as they choose, and to give them the facility of withdrawing money from the postal bank freely or oftener than they can at present. In such manner, I think the current rupee floating debt could be almost reduced to an evanescent degree, and

there can be a material saving. I do not see what difficulty Government find in it. But that is not my quarrel. I am here as an ordinary layman; the Honourable the Finance Member, in spite of his distrust, if not disgust, of economists, is an expert. And if he does not accept a suggestion, it is open to him not to do so. But to misrepresent that suggestion and then to treat it with flippant frivolity is not just to us here. He is entitled to take decisions, and that is why he is there. But we are similarly bound to make our suggestions and why should he not treat them in a fair and reasonable spirit? Why should he come forward and make a political speech which may suit the Honourable the Home Member in spite of his age (Laughter), but which, so far as he is concerned, and holding the office that he does, is altogether unbecoming of him? So I submit, Sir, that that suggestion of mine was worthy of acceptance.

Then, Sir, another suggestion I made was this. Money is cheap, and you have to pay many debts at high rates of interest. Money is also lying idle. You could raise new loans, pay away old debts and make a great saving even thereby. So there are many ways and many methods of tackling the finances. Sir, I may be wrong. I do not claim to be infallible, and, after all, I do not claim the expert knowledge which the Honourable the Finance Member possesses and is expected to possess, and which, if he did not possess, would give cause for pity. But, for all that, why should he treat our suggestions in a spirit of levity and almost of malicious animosity? Sir, I am using only expressions which he introduced on the floor of the House. Formerly, I used to think that "malicious" was an unparliamentary expression, because it carried with it an implication that a man had intentionally done what is wrong and sinister. But he thinks it is parliamentary, and I am prepared to accept it so far as he is concerned.

Sir, then, there were other suggestions which I made. Though he did not discard them altogether, he said that others on this side might not agree with the suggestions that I had made as to higher taxes on higher incomes and on unearned incomes. As to that, I can assure him, in case this assurance can be of any help to him, that the Congress in its Karachi Resolution has accepted in clear terms the policy that I advocated. He can very well say that the Congress does not represent the people except when it is leading them on to the goal of Communism: but, for the time being, if he can make use of this proposal, it is at his disposal. I do not want to say more about it. So, from whatever point of view you may look at it, I am inclined to hold from the materials at my disposal and from the little light that I can afford to apply to these questions, that the Government can make a reduction in taxation to the tune of Rs. 10 crores this year. It may look a very big figure: it does, on the face of it, look like that; but if you remember that the amount due from railways alone on account of fixed contribution comes to Rs. 520 lakhs, and when you take into account the other suggestions that I have made, I believe there is reasonable ground for the support of the conclusions I have tried to place before this House in a clear and unmistakable manner:

I will not take more time. The House cannot do better than make a beginning with the abolition of the salt duty. The poorest of the poor must have the benefit of the first occasion which we can have, for giving relief to the taxpayer. Honourable Members opposite may not worry about these things, as their cut in pay has already been restored, and they need not bother about other things. But we here, even if we cannot

[Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant.]

succeed in making economies and in making retrenchments, should certainly press the Government for making a proper use of the surpluses that are and can be made available and force their hands, in order that, those who are suffering, those who are groaning under the weight, those whose life is nothing except a wretched and miserable existence, may heave at least a little sigh of relief at some moments in the day and some time in the night in the dark corners of their ill-lit sheds and huts in inaccessible villages.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Further Amendment moved:

"That for clause 2 of the Bill, the following be substituted:

'2. Despite the provisions of section 7 of the Indian Salt Act, 1882, the Governor General in Council shall not impose any duty on salt manufactured in, or imported into, any part of British India other than Burma or Aden during the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1935'."

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I shall try not to import into this debate any heat, but really I was at a loss to understand the burden of the Pandit's complaint. He has on a number of occasions in this House attacked me, rather violently, but, in a way which I certainly do not resent. He is perfectly entitled to attack me as violently as he likes: but when he says that I am not to answer back, that I am an expert, it is my business to be an expert only and not to answer back, really that is an outrageous suggestion. It reminds me of the definition in Buffon's "Natural History" of a certain animal—I do not know what it was—of whom it was said:

"Cet animal est méchant: Quand on l'attaque il se défend."

"This animal is wicked: when he is attacked, he defends himself."

I certainly am going to defend myself: you may call it politics or whatever you like; but I assure you, every time I am attacked, I am going to answer back. ("Hear, hear" from the European Group Benches.) I hope that in general I shall do it so as not to hurt intentionally the feelings of Honourable Members opposite. I had no idea. . . .

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: I assure you my feelings have not been hurt and I have no objection to your hitting as much as you like: I have absolutely no objection.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: It really is a new principle in controversy that those who are shot at are not allowed to shoot back. It seems to me and I have never been so surprised in my life as to have this principle enunciated, that the opposition can say exactly what they have to say, in terms as offensive as they like, and I am to answer back in a nice little essay on finance and economics. No. (Laughter). . . .

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: But did I suggest that? I merely commented on your "Bacchanalian abandon": I did not say that my Honourable friend has no right to hit back.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Really the Honourable Member must preserve some sense of humour: a little exaggeration or metaphor is allowed now and again, surely. May I, after that preliminary, come back to the subject of the debate over which I do not propose to detain the House very long. I certainly do not intend to follow my Honourable friend, who spoke last, further than is necessary for the purpose of the question under consideration, namely, the complete abolition of the salt duty. Of course, I may say at the start, that it is quite possible to accept and I do accept some of the general principles laid down by Honourable Members opposite, which all boil down to this, that if you can raise the money otherwise, it is in general undesirable to raise taxation from the poor. That is an absolutely unexceptionable sentiment. But it does not carry us very far. The question is not that. The question is, can we, in this year, after the salt duty has been for 50 or 60—I do not know how many—years an integral part of the Indian taxation system—can we, in this year, and at a moment's notice, raise eight or nine crores otherwise? I personally do not think so; and, if I may be allowed to, I will try once more to examine very briefly the suggestions which have been made for doing it. Mr. Satyamurti has said that I can make use of the surplus of Rs. 3 crores odd which had accrued last year. He forgot that it was only two days ago that the House agreed to motions allocating the whole of that surplus except 36 lakhs: how then can we use it twice over? It really is a case, as I said before—I do not wish to be considered as saying anything in any offensive spirit—it really is a question of trying to have it both ways, or three or four ways for that matter. The surplus, therefore, is unavailable: it has been disposed of already.

Then, he says, suspend the provision for the reduction of debt. The merits or demerits of sinking funds, whether you should or should not make allowances for sinking funds, are matters for interminable expert discussion, which lead nowhere because there are no immutable principles in this matter. But all I would say is that although Mr. Satyamurti says that Rs. 3 crores is too much to provide for debt reduction in present conditions, there are a certain number of Honourable Members—Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji, I think, is one, Sir Ghulam Hidayatallah is another—who said that Rs. 3 crores provision for sinking fund was quite inadequate. At present, I am not prepared to say that it is too little, but I am certainly not prepared to say that it is too much, and, therefore, I am unable to accept the suggestion of Mr. Satyamurti that you can make available three crores more by raiding the sinking fund. Mr. Satyamurti's next suggestion—I am not sure if my Honourable friend, the Pandit, joined in it—was that I should write up the sugar revenue: instead of three crores I have budgeted for, the revenue should be something like five crores: in other words to write up that revenue by just under two crores. On that matter I do not nor in any other matter may I say, for the Pandit's information, I do not claim. . . .

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: I did not mention the sugar duty at all: you are putting in my mouth words I did not utter.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Would the Honourable Member mind waiting till I finish my sentence? It may be that in this as in other matters the Honourable Members opposite think that I have made a mistake in the estimates of revenue: I know lots of other people do—the European Group for example: but, again, without wishing to lay myself open to misunderstanding, I say the estimates of revenue are prepared by me with a certain sense of responsibility and I have got to stand by them and I am the only one who can be kicked if I turn out to be wrong; if your estimates are wrong, nobody can say anything to you. . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti: We cannot kick you either: we cannot kick you out. . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I only said "kick": I did not say "kick out". . . .

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: But what will you do if there is a surplus next year?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: One year at a time, Sir. (Laughter.)

Well, the Honourable Mr. Satyamurti and others said that I have under-
1 P.M. estimated the sugar revenue by two crores. I don't think so But supposing, I am wrong, is anybody opposite prepared to say that, in view of the change of outlook which has come over the world during the last six weeks, a certain amount of conservatism is not wise? After all, the condition of Europe and other parts of the world looks very different from what it was a month ago. The estimates were prepared under conditions which assumed a further substantial improvement in trade, and provided for substantial improvement in import revenue other than sugar. Is anybody prepared to say pontifically, or perhaps if that word is regarded as prejudicial, with any amount of certitude that if the estimates were now being made, they would not have been more conservative and not less than they have been. I certainly am not prepared for one moment to admit that there is any serious or material under-estimate in the figures of revenue which have been put before the House. So, we must assume that the carrying out of the present amendment would completely destroy the balance of the Budget and involve all the consequences as regards confidence and credit which inevitably follow any deliberate budgeting for a deficit. So, I am afraid, I cannot accept Mr. Satyamurti's solution as a satisfactory one.

Now, let us turn to the Pandit's solution which he repeated today and incidentally he seemed to be very angry that I did not find it very alluring. I am very sorry. Perhaps I had better now, in view of possible misunderstanding, confine myself to a dispassionate examination of it. He says that the railway contribution is a definite debt from the railways. What is the relevance of that? It is no good people owing if they cannot pay it . . .

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Reduce that contribution.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I hope that we shall get the payment of the railway debt during my term of office. But I am bound to say that I am not confident of it, and I am certainly not going to base my budgetary

calculations on this hypothesis, and if you are going in for that thing, why stop at five crores? The arrears of railway contribution to a good deal, 30 crores or so, and why not use it to sweep away deal more taxation, for the principle is the same,—you are not g get back any of it.

Then, the Pandit says,—this is a capital debt, it is a debt wl absolutely due. You can bring that into the budget, and if necess Railways need not pay their interest in full,—what difference dc make whether they pay you five crores by way of capital or inte makes absolutely no difference to your accounts. Really the is not treating the House fairly in suggesting that five crores, wl entirely imaginary money, are available for tax reduction.

Then, we come to Savings Banks deposits. I am very sorry if understood him on a previous occasion, but quite honestly whatev understanding there was, it does not affect the main argument. Tl ment is simply this that you attract, by whatever method you do savings from the people into the savings banks and into cash cer That is capital borrowing. It is not recurring receipts from taxati capital borrowing, and his plan is the same general plan which runs out his thesis, to take into his budget a number of large capital and assume that they are available for tax reduction. They can sibly be applicable in this way. You cannot go on borrowing ev and assume that you can reduce taxation by a precisely similar ar that year. . . .

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: May I explain, Sir? What I s was that you could attract money at nominal rates of interest to the Bank and use it for purposes for which you have to borrow at hi today. It obviously makes a saving.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: But the Honourable Meml know that the rates for savings certificates are above the ordinar rates at which we borrow. . . .

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: They are 2½ per cent. But you ce money at nominal rate and even without paying interest if other re are withdrawn.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I am talking of the savi ficates, they are above the market rate, taking into account the of the loan and the conditions under which they can be withdraw are an expensive form of borrowing. Then on savings bank deposi 2½ per cent., but they are withdrawable on demand, at any time market rates for such short term loans are very much lower. borrow call money at 1 per cent. . . . .

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Treasury Bills?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Treasury Bills are under 2 per cent. It is an extremely uneconomic form of call money borrowing.

Then, my friend said why not, as opportunity arises, borrow and pay off old loans raised at higher rates of interest? We certainly do that whenever occasion arises, but I would like to know the secret, if the Honourable Member could tell me, of inducing a bond-holder, who has got a guaranteed rate of interest for a certain term, to give up his bond before the term of his bond is over. . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Offer him a premium.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Exactly. You cannot get it unless you give him a premium. But that means there is no saving. If I may say so without fear of misunderstanding, it is a complete delusion to think that you can induce people to give you something for nothing.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How did they do it in England?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The loan was due and called.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Yes, it was, I was myself very much concerned in that transaction and I can assure you that that loan was due, and callable and called.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: You have loans that you can liquidate.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: As I say, whenever they fall due, they will be liquidated, and I hope that we can do it at very much more favourable rates of interest.

Now, Sir, I hope that I have said enough to show that there are not really any of the simple means that the two Honourable Members opposite think of raising easily and readily in this year ten crores of extra revenue to sweep away the salt tax. Perhaps I may end up with one general illustration on the question of burdensomeness of taxation on the poor, and in defence, moreover, of the necessity which I feel of asking the Assembly to retain the duty on salt. I may say that the burden per head of the population of the salt duty is Re. 0-3-10. Let us compare that burden with the burden of other taxes which, taken together, yield a slightly smaller sum. These are the protective part of the duty on sugar and the protective duties on piecegoods. I am leaving out of account the excise duty on sugar, because, in so far as there is an import duty and an exactly countervailing excise—nobody in his senses—I beg your pardon, I withdraw that expression for fear of misunderstanding—(Laughter)—nobody would deny that that kind of taxation is borne by the consumer and borne entirely by the consumer. I am referring only to the Rs. 7-12-0 which is the amount of the protective duty on sugar. That gives to the exchequer well under two crores, the duties on cotton piecegoods yield about five crores to the exchequer, and that makes seven crores altogether. I wonder if the House has any idea of the burden of those two sets of duties on the consumer. I have had some rough calculations made—there may be a margin of error, but I am quite convinced that they give roughly a fair picture. I have had calculated that the burden on the consumer of the protective part of the sugar duty is 14 crores. The burden on the consumer of the cotton piecegoods duties is 20 crores. Therefore, the total burden on the consumer of these two sets of duties, taken together, is 34 crores, and the exchequer gets seven crores. In other words, for seven crores that the exchequer gets, the industrialists get 27 crores, or four times as much. In other words, the burden of these two protective duties per head is five times that of the salt duty, and yet the salt duty yields rather more than the other two taxes put together. Therefore, when Honourable Members opposite or on this side of the House or anywhere in the House speak of the burdensome taxation on the poor, I would ask them to remember that, if your real object is to reduce the burdens on the poor, there are ways of doing it without costing nearly so much to the exchequer but quite as efficaciously, as I think will be clear from what I have said before. The Government must oppose this motion.

Some Honourable Members: Let the question be now put.

Some other Honourable Members: No.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Let the question be now put.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I object. The Honourable Member who has last spoken says that the question be now put. That is wholly unparliamentary.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. G. Morgan (Bengal: European): May I ask your ruling, Sir. The original clause says that the Governor General in Council shall impose a duty on salt manufactured in, or imported into, any part of British India, other than Burma or Aden, whereas the amendment says, that he shall not impose a duty on salt manufactured in, or imported into, any part of British India other than Burma or Aden. Does that mean that he will have power to impose excise duties on Burma and Aden?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is exactly what it means. That is to say, that there shall be no duty on salt manufactured in, or imported into, any part of British India except Burma or Aden, which means there shall be a duty on salt manufactured in, or imported into, Burma and Aden. If this amendment is carried, there will be no salt duty on any part of British India except Burma and Aden.

The question is:

"That for clause 2 of the Bill the following be substituted :

'2. Despite the provisions of section 7 of the Indian Salt Act, 1882, the Governor General in Council shall not impose any duty on salt manufactured in, or imported into, any part of British India other than Burma or Aden during the year beginning on the 1st day of April, 1935'."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—54.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.
Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Aznar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Banerjea, Dr. P. N.
Baqui, Mr. M. A.
Bardaloi, Srijut N. C.
Bhagavan Das, Dr.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
Das, Mr. B.
Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fakir Chand, Mr.
Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
Govind Das, Seth.
Gupta, Mr. Ghanshiam Singh.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
Khan Sahib, Dr.
Khare, Dr. N. B.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Mudaliar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.
Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, Qazi.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nageswara Rao, Mr. K.
Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta.
Pant, Pandit Govind Ballabh.
Raghubir Narayan Singh, Choudhri.
Rajan, Dr. T. S. S.
Raju, Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Saksena, Mr. Mohan Lal.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Shafi Daudi, Maulvi Muhammad.
Sham Lal, Mr.
Shaukat Ali, Maulana.
Sheodass Daga, Seth.
Singh, Mr. Deep Narayan.
Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Shri Krishna.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.

NOES—61.

Abdoola Haroon, Seth Haji.
Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama.
Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
Bajpai, Mr. G. S.
Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.
Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.
Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
Dalal, Dr. R. D.
DeSouza, Dr. F. X.
Drake, Mr. D. H. C.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Sahib Shaikh.
Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kumar Vijaya Ananda.
Gauba, Mr. K. L.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Syed.
Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.
Graham, Sir Lancelot.
Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
Hidayatal'ah, Sir Ghulam Hussain.
Hockenhull, Mr. F. W.
Hudson, Sir Leslie.
James, Mr. F. E.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Kirpalani, Mr. Hiranand Khushiram.
Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
Mehr Shah Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad.
Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.
Milligan, Mr. J. A.
Monteath, Mr. J.
Morgan, Mr. G.
Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
Mukerje, Mr. N. R.
Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
Nayar, Mr. C. Govindan.
Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
Rau, Mr. P. R.
Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
Sarma, Mr. R. S.
Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
Scott, Mr. W. L.
Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar.
Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Nawab.
Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
Sloan, Mr. T.
Swithinbank, Mr. B. W.
Thein Maung, U
Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.
Yakub, Sir Muhammad.
Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair will now put the other motion moved by Seth Govind Das. The question is:

"That clause 2 of the Bill be omitted."

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: On a point of order, Sir,—the motion just rejected by the House is in more general terms than that you placed before the House just now. The House, having rejected Panditji's motion, cannot now vote on one of a more restricted kind.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Clause 2 of the Bill covers a narrower ground.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Panditji's motion covers more than the omission of clause 2 of the Bill. Panditji's motion covers the one moved by . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The clause, as it is, stands, on the result of the motion. Order, order. The question is:

"That clause 2 of the Bill be omitted."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—57.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.
Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Banerjea, Dr. P. N.
Baqui, Mr. M. A.
Bardaloi, Srijut N. C.
Bhagavan Das, Dr.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
Das, Mr. B.
Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fakir Chand, Mr.
Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
Govind Das, Seth.
Gupta, Mr. Ghanshiam Singh.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
Khan Sahib, Dr.
Khare, Dr. N. B.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Mudaliar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.
Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, Qazi.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nageswara Rao, Mr. K.
Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta.
Pant, Pandit Govind Ballabh.
Raghubir Narayan Singh, Choudhri.
Rajan, Dr. T. S. S.
Raju, Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Saksena, Mr. Mohan Lal.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Shafi Daudi, Maulvi Muhammad.
Sham Lal, Mr.
Shaukat Ali, Maulana.
Sheodass Daga, Seth.
Singh, Mr. Deep Narayan.
Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Shri Krishna.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Thein Maung, Dr.
Thein, Maung, U.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.

NOES—61.

Abdoola Haroon, Seth Haji.	Kirpalani, Mr. Hiranand Khushiram.
Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.	Lal Chand, Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.	Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.	Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.	Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad.
Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama.	Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F
Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.	Milligan, Mr. J. A.
Bajpai, Mr. G. S.	Monteath, Mr. J.
Bewoor, Mr. G. V.	Morgan, Mr. G.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.	Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.	Mukerje, Mr. N. R.
Chatarji, Mr. J. M.	Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.	Nayar, Mr. C. Govindan.
Dalal, Dr. R. D.	Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank
DeSouza, Dr. F. X.	Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
Drake, Mr. D. H. C.	Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Sahib Shaikh.	Rau, Mr. P. R.
Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kumar Vijaya Ananda.	Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
Gauba, Mr. K. L.	Sarma, Mr. R. S.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.	Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Syed.	Scott, Mr. W. L.
Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.	Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar.
Graham, Sir Lancelot.	Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Nawab.
Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.	Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
Hidayatallah, Sir Ghulam Hussain.	Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
Hockenhull, Mr. F. W.	Sloan, Mr. T.
Hudson, Sir Leslie.	Swithinbank, Mr. B. W.
James, Mr. F. E.	Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.	Yakub, Sir Muhammad.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.	Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.	

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are a number of other amendments on the list—from No. 4 to No. 11. There is one amendment by Mr. Satyamurti that is practically the same as that of Pandit Pant's. Nos. 6 to 11,—these are to vary the duty. If these amendments are accepted, the duties that will be left will be four annas, eight annas, ten annas, twelve annas or one rupee. They mostly stand in the name of Members belonging to the Congress Party. The Chair does not know whether they are in a position to select any of these amendments. The Chair wants to know whether Honourable Members want to move each and everyone of these amendments and want the Chair to put them one by one.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Yes, until we win.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): In that case, the Chair will ask that all these motions be moved formally and then a debate will take place, if necessary, on all the motions.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, the words 'one rupee and' be omitted."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, the words 'one rupee and' be omitted."

Srijut N. C. Bardaloi (Assam Valley: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, for the words 'one rupee and four annas', the words 'eight annas' be substituted."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, for the words 'one rupee and four annas', the words 'eight annas' be substituted."

Seth Govind Das: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, for the words 'one rupee and four annas', the words 'ten annas' be substituted."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, for the words 'one rupee and four annas', the words 'ten annas' be substituted."

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, for the words 'one rupee and four annas', the words 'twelve annas' be substituted."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, for the words 'one rupee and four annas', the words 'twelve annas' be substituted."

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Will it be in order for me to give one figure of the loss in revenue on each of these amendments which are being moved, so that the House could know exactly what each amendment entails?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can give the figures any time he likes.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, for the words 'one rupee and four annas', the words 'one rupee' be substituted."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, for the words 'one rupee and four annas', the words 'one rupee' be substituted."

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: On amendment No. 6, the loss of revenue would be 6½ crores, on amendment No. 7, the loss would be four crores and 87½ lakhs, on amendment No. 8, the loss would be four crores, and 6¼ lakhs, on amendment No. 9, the loss would be three crores and 25 lakhs, and on amendment No. 10, the loss would be one crore, 62½ lakhs.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Has the calculation been made on the basis that a decrease in taxation will increase the consumption of salt?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That has been done.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do Government accept any of these amendments?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No, Sir.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I wish to say a few words as regards one particular point.

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it on the general principles?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: No, Sir, I am not going to speak on general principles at all. There is only one point about which I will say a word and I dealt with that point in my speech. My Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, again asked me why, if I objected to salt tax in principle, I should not vote for the abolition of the salt tax altogether. I explained my reason, and that was that the Governor General had more than one alternative. If the Governor General had only one alternative, namely, to find another source of taxation, I would certainly have voted for the amendment moved by the Congress Party. But the Governor General has another alternative, namely, to certify the Finance Bill and get the salt tax restored. In this connection I would like to narrate a little experience of mine in this Legislature. Some years ago, the Government of India proposed to increase the salt tax. The Legislature, on my own amendment, voted against the increase of the tax, and we defeated the Government and the amendment was carried reducing the salt tax. The Government of India found that it was much better to co-operate with the Legislature of those days, and the spirit of the Government in the Legislature was a little different from what it is today. The Government of India believed in argument and the Legislature too believed in the method of argument.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: When were those golden days?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: There was greater co-operation between the Legislature and the Government. The Honourable the Finance Member of that time proposed to the Legislature that they should meet informally and make a suggestion as to the alternative source of revenue. We met informally and the Honourable the Finance Member of that time, Sir Malcolm Hailey, was in the meeting. We put forward suggestions, and I myself put forward a suggestion that the income-tax should be raised, but we found we could not get the informal meeting to accept any taxation. Under these circumstances, the Governor General certified the Finance Bill. I do not want, Sir, the Government of India to certify the Finance Bill. I am a believer in getting the salt tax removed from the Statute-book by whatever method I can. The only method is to prevent the Governor General certifying, and I, therefore, propose to vote for the reduction of salt tax

by eight annas, that is to substitute twelve annas for Rs. 1-4-0. If we succeed in reducing the salt tax to twelve annas, this year, I am quite sure there will be another surplus next year and when there is a surplus in the budget the Governor General will have absolutely no excuse for the certification of the Finance Bill.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What a pathetic faith!

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I, therefore, hope that the House will carry the amendment for reducing the tax on salt at such a point when there will be no excuse absolutely for the Governor General to certify the Finance Bill. I, therefore, propose to vote for the reduction by eight annas.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, on a point of information. Just now the Honourable the Finance Member said that the duty, if reduced by such and such, will entail a loss of such and such in revenue. I want to ask a question. On page 29 of the Budget under Salt this year, you have budgeted for an expenditure of one crore 18 lakhs. If we reduce the duty to twelve annas or eight annas per maund, what do you expect to reduce in the expenditure on the manufacture of salt or collection of the duty.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: If there is any taxation at all, we expect no reduction in the expenditure. If the rate of tax on salt is reduced, that does not at all affect the cost of the collection or manufacture of salt. The expenditure is the same whether the tax is one rupee and four annas or twelve annas. We do not use tax-framers nor do we pay commissions to anybody. I may be permitted to mention with reference to the figure of 1,18 lakhs which the Honourable Member mentioned that about 60 to 70 lakhs of that represent the cost of producing salt and has nothing to do with the collection of revenue.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I think my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, is at least now disabused, although he originally refused to vote with us for the total abolition of the excise duty. Now, amendments for various grades of duty have been moved, so that Government Members may at least agree to one of them and show that their heart is really with the poor. It is only for that reason that we graded it up and gave all possible opportunities to all Members of the House, to whatever Party they may belong, to show their sympathy and reduce the salt tax to whatever figure they choose. Now, seeing that the Finance Member is absolutely adamant, it is too late for Mr. Joshi now to come back and vote for our original motion, but he can vote with us in respect of other motions.

Sir, we find that, as an emergency measure, the surcharge on salt as well as other surcharges were imposed in 1931. Now, we have to pay for each maund of salt Rs. 1-4-0 as excise duty and a surcharge of five annas,

[Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.]

and, so far as Bengal and Burma are concerned, an additional two annas and six pies on each maund of salt. From the printed papers, which have been circulated to us, we find that a hundred maunds of salt sell at Rs. 50 today in Bengal, besides the duties that have to be paid. The ordinary market rate of salt per maund ranges between Rs. 2-8-0 and Rs. 3 at the several Presidency headquarters of India, and, in the mofussil, it may be even more. Sir, as this duty was imposed as an emergency measure, now, when the emergency no longer exists, the first help that is to be rendered to the poor is to relieve them, to some extent, of the taxation that had been imposed. Far from doing that, we find that those persons, who have been getting decent salaries, are going to have their pay cut removed. All sections of the House have expressed it as their opinion that, with regard to taxes on income, the minimum should be raised to Rs. 2,000. Government have come forward with a proposal that the surcharge on income-tax is to be removed or lessened to some extent. I ask every Honourable Member of this House to place his hand upon his heart and say whether these two measures should have preference over the lessening of the salt duty. Sir, we have the largest coast that any country in the world has. In England, between 1700 A.D. and 1750 A.D., there was no salt tax, but they were importing salt from France. Still they were not slow to find measures, and now England is fully able to satisfy her own needs, and she sends out large quantities of salt to Bengal. It is a disgrace to our patriotism and to our national self-respect to go on eternally living on this imported salt, and refusing to vote for the reduction of the tax. It is not for man alone that we are bargaining here. Next to water and air, this is an article of universal consumption in this country. It is not man alone that requires salt, but even cattle and crops also require salt in large quantities. You are unable to get salt which is round about you and import large quantities of manure, and the Government give us a concession, by not imposing an import duty on manure and agricultural implements. The idea is not, of course, to support the poor agriculturists, but that large quantities of implements might be imported from foreign countries and thus relieve unemployment in England and other countries. That is the way in which this step-motherly affection is shown to our country. The smallest we can do and should do now is to reduce the salt tax to whatever extent it is possible.

Now, Sir, it has been shown clearly that, at the present rate, 5,20 lakhs of maunds of salt are usually issued from year to year in India. In the printed Explanatory Memorandum given by the Financial Secretary, I find that, from the year 1931 right up to 1934, the quantities of salt ranged from 5,10 to 5,40 lakhs of maunds. Therefore, you can take it that approximately 5,20 lakhs of maunds of salt is the entire output in this country, inclusive of the quantities of salt that are brought from Liverpool and other foreign countries and that are produced in Aden. Distributing that over 300 millions, it works to 12 or 14 pounds of salt per head. I would say that it is preferable to be in the jail at Madras where 18 pounds of salt are given to a convict. By denying the agriculturist even this quantity of salt, you are driving him to commit theft, so that, in order to get the necessary salt, he may go into the Madras Jail where he will get 18 pounds!

Then, there is another thing which has got to be taken into consideration. This 12 pounds is the bare minimum for a human being, and that is what goes to each man when we distribute the 5,20 lakhs of maunds. But you have to take into account the cattle also. The Royal Commission on Agriculture gave statistics as to the number of cattle that we have in this country. At the ordinary rate, the amount of salt that is absolutely necessary, in order that the cattle may live here, is, 2,00 lakhs of maunds. The other day, my friend, Mr. Gupta, said that at Chattisgarh the cattle were little better than dogs. I say that if you want to reduce agricultural poverty and indebtedness and do not want to heighten it and make it worse at any rate, give him this small relief, so as to enable each poor man to purchase salt as much for himself as for his cattle.

Then, as regards agriculture, there are at least 200 millions of acres of land for cultivation. Expert opinion is that each acre of land requires at least a maund of salt for proper manuring. This would give us two thousand lakhs maunds of salt that has to be produced in this country. I would, therefore, say that we are now absolutely behind in salt. Instead of giving a crore of rupees for the purpose of village reorganisation, if Government really want to make a spectacular demonstration, they should make it a point to distribute salt free and they may make a start on the Silver Jubilee day. That would solve the real problem. I would also request every Member of this House, to whatever Party he may belong, to vote for one or other of these amendments that we moved.

In the report of the Taxation Inquiry Committee, Dr. Paranjpye said that the salt tax must be imposed only as an emergency measure, and at no time should the tax be more than eight annas per maund. To protect the industries, various measures of relief have been granted by the Assembly. Protective duties have been imposed, revenues duties have the effect of protective duties, and the poor man is paying most of these taxes and undergoing these burdens. As the Finance Member said, by the duties on sugar and some articles of textiles, the Government get a tax of seven crores of rupees, but the poor man really pays to the extent of 34 crores more for the articles; the poor man is only put to this inconvenience for the sake of the various industries. I ask every rich man and business magnate in this House, who represents the various industries, that as the poor man is prepared to shoulder these additional burdens, whether it is not his duty in turn to vote for a substantial reduction of the salt tax. In a hot country like India, where rice is the principal article of diet, salt is very necessary: it may not be so much in need where wheat is the principal article of diet. Mr. Lloyd said that he is paying Rs. 8,000 by way of taxes, or something of that kind. I would ask him to consider whether almost to the last pie, that sum does not go away in some form or another—liquor or any other substance—for relief of unemployment in his own country . . .

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: May I ask the Honourable Member to repeat his question? I shall be glad to answer it.

5 P.M.

Mr. M. Ananthasyanam Ayyangar: To the extent to which you consume every foreign article, to that extent it goes to relieve unemployment in your own country: you are not even prepared to purchase the salt of this country!

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: My principal answer to that question is that much the greater part of what I pay is in the way of income-tax and super-tax; and, of the rest, the goods are not all imported into this country—petrol for example.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: That, again, goes from one pocket to another. There was another European friend who was more frank in this matter: when he invited an Indian friend of his to tea, he said "Barring water, which also was distilled water, there was no article of consumption which belonged to this country". I would further say this. This is a matter which has also been mentioned in the Taxation Inquiry Committee Report in paragraph 177:

"Both in Madras and in Burma, the manufacture of salt is in a large measure a subsidiary industry to agriculture."

I, therefore, say that if we help this subsidiary industry in this matter, a large amount of unemployment will be relieved. I would accordingly request that this principal amendment should be voted for.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Sir, I want to say a word: I have not said a word so far. I have not the slightest doubt in my mind that this question of salt has agitated this country for a number of years. I am perfectly aware of the theories propounded by one of our greatest leaders of, I will not say the past generation, I will say, of the present generation—Mr. Gokhale. Times have since changed and I am not at this late hour prepared to go into the intricacies of the question or to discuss the incidence of taxation that falls on the shoulders of the different classes in this country. But I would like to place one major factor before Honourable Members. There are many other items in this budget which are of vital importance to the poorest classes of our countrymen. There is the post-card; there is the one tola letter: there is the income-tax on the poorest classes of our people, earning between 1,000 and 2,000 rupees a year.

An Honourable Member: The poorest people do not pay any income-tax.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: There are a large number of other points that will come up for discussion before this Honourable House. Now, we must make up our minds as what method we are going to adopt; and I would most respectfully place my point of view for the consideration of my Honourable friends who control a very large number of votes in this House and whose voice will decide the question. Now, my point of view is this: are we this year going to throw out, or, shall I say, reduce, the demands by such large amounts as to practically justify certification?

Or are we going to make such cuts as are evidently and definitely for the benefit of our people, which we honestly believe Government should not certify? There is always a limit. You can make cuts to an extent which will definitely justify Government resorting to certification: You can make cuts which may be certified, but which you conscientiously believe Government should not certify. I would prefer the latter method, to make such cuts as we conscientiously believe Government should not certify, and then if they do certify, the responsibility is theirs. But if we go on making cuts after cuts throughout the budget, which will give justification to the Government for certifying the whole, we shall derive no benefit from the majority we have against the Government. My greatest regret is that having the voting power we throw away that advantage by going on making cuts which we know will be certified with one signature instead of with two or three. Therefore, I would appeal to my Honourable friends all round me to go in for such cuts only which we conscientiously believe Government should not certify and let the whole amount be such as we can justify and which will enable us to say conscientiously that we shall not reduce in any way the credit or the stability of the financial position of this country. That is the only way under the present Constitution, bad as it is, that we can take full advantage of our strength in this Honourable House . . . . .

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): May I ask the Honourable Member what is that limit which would not enable the Government to certify?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I have tried to make that position clear by saying an amount which we believe, conscientiously believe, we are justified in cutting. If I were asked my opinion I would say that if we cut down this budget by a crore and a half we should be justified. That is my own calculation—to cut down this budget by a crore and a half. But if you go on and cut down this budget by 162 lakhs in salt alone, there is nothing left for your postcards, there is nothing left for your letters, there is nothing left for the poorest classes who pay income-tax; there is nothing left even for those who really deserve some consideration at the hands of this House, those other people who pay income-tax and super-tax. Nothing will be left, and, therefore, I do appeal to Honourable Members to take full advantage of the strength of the non-official voting in this House on this occasion. If that advantage is to be thrown away, well, we shall not be responsible: the whole budget will be certified and will be passed exactly as it has been presented, and we shall gain nothing: and I am most nervous that even those really poor and most deserving classes, those who pay income-tax on incomes between 1,000 and 2,000 rupees, may not get any relief. I do appeal to my Honourable friends to look at the whole question from that point of view and not to press for any cut in the salt tax this year and give the advantage of that crore and a half to the other items that we shall discuss in a very short time and which will show tangible results in the form of immediate benefit and immediate relief to all classes. I do not mean to say that I am in any way definitely in favour of salt tax or will be so in the future. I am talking of conditions that exist today.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, the words 'one rupee and' be omitted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then the Chair will put No. 9. The question is:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill, for the words 'one rupee and four annas' the words 'twelve annas' be substituted."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—63.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.
Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
Banerjea, Dr. P. N.
Baqui, Mr. M. A.
Bardaloi, Srijut N. C.
Bhagavan Das, Dr.
Chhattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Venkatachelam.
Das, Mr. B.
Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fakir Chand, Mr.
Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
Govind Das, Seth.
Gupta, Mr. Ghanshiam Singh.
Hosaimani, Mr. S. K.
Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Khan Sahib, Dr.
Khare, Dr. N. B.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta,
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Mudaliar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.
Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, Qazi.
Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nageswara Rao, Mr. K.
Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta.
Pant, Pandit Govind Ballabh.
Parma Nand, Bhai.
Raghubir Narayan Singh, Choudhri.
Rajan, Dr. T. S. S.
Raju, Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Saksena, Mr. Mohan Lal.
Sant Singh Sardar.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Shafi Daudi, Maulvi Muhammad.
Sham Lal, Mr.
Shaukat Ali, Maulana.
Sheodass Daga, Seth.
Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Nawab.
Singh, Mr. Deep Narayan.
Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Shri Krishna.
Som, Mr. Suryya Kumar.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Thein Maung, Dr.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Visanji, Mr. Mathuradas.

NOES—55

Abdoola Haroon, Seth Haji.
Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab
Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama.
Bajpai, Mr. G. S.
Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.
Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
Dalal, Dr. R. D.
DeSouza, Dr. F. X.
Drake, Mr. D. H. C.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Sahib Shaikh.
Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kumar Vijaya Ananda.
Gauba, Mr. K. L.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Syed.
Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.
Graham, Sir Lancelot.
Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
Hockenhull, Mr. F. W.
Hudson, Sir Leslie.
James, Mr. F. E.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
Kirpalani, Mr. Hiranand Khushiram.
Lal Chand, Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.
Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad.
Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.
Milligan, Mr. J. A.
Monteath, Mr. J.
Morgan, Mr. G.
Mukerje, Mr. N. R.
Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
Nayar, Mr. C. Govindan.
Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank
Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
Rau, Mr. P. R.
Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
Sarma, Mr. R. S.
Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
Scott, Mr. W. L.
Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar.
Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
Sloan, M. T.
Swithinbank, Mr. B. W.
Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.
Yakub, Sir Muhammad.
Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The result is that the other amendments lapse, namely, Nos. 7, 8, 10 and 11.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on **Tuesday, the 2nd April, 1935.**

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 2nd April, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN.

Mr. Andrew Gourlay Clow, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Women's Medical Service.

1313. *Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Will Government please state whether the control of the Women's Medical Service is in the hands of the Government of India or some other body, and if the latter, why?

(b) What is the pay of the Chief Medical Officer who controls this service? Have Government considered whether she cannot be replaced by an Indian woman doctor on reduced salary?

(c) Have Government considered whether this work cannot be done by any branch of the Director General, Indian Medical Service?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) The Women's Medical Service is administered by the Council of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund.

(b) Rs. 1,400 per mensem. The matter is one for the Council of the Fund.

(c) As already stated the service is not a Government service and the work of the Chief Medical Officer cannot be transferred to the Director General, Indian Medical Service.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask in connection with this Women's Medical Service, whether some members of this service, who were serving some outside organisations, were given the benefit of the outside service after they were taken up by this service?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I have to ask for notice of that question. I do not know whether this is the case or not.

WOMEN'S MEDICAL SERVICE.

1314. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** Has any doctor of Indian race been placed on the Executive Committee of the Women's Medical Service or Selection Committee and if so, with what result?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the information laid on the table on the 31st August, 1934, with reference to Mr. S. G. Jog's question No. 682. Dr. Pannell who is an Indian has since been appointed to be a member of the Executive Committee also.

PERCENTAGE OF RECRUITMENT OF INDIANS AND EUROPEANS IN THE WOMEN'S MEDICAL SERVICE.

1315. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) What is the percentage of recruitment of Indians and Europeans in the Women's Medical Service and what percentage is recruited, respectively in England and in India of European and Indian women doctors?

(b) Are any posts reserved for Europeans or Anglo-Indians?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) The present composition of the Service is 22 Europeans and 28 Indians. Recruitment is made on the basis of merit.

(b) No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if recruitment being made on grounds of merit has resulted in 22 Europeans and 28 Indians? Are there no Indians who can take the place of the 22 Europeans?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: My Honourable friend will appreciate that Indianisation can proceed only as vacancies occur.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if every vacancy is being filled by an Indian?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: According to my information, since 1924, the Fund has been recruiting Europeans and Indians in equal proportions.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know the reason why European recruitment still goes on? Is it because there are no Indians qualified, or is any policy involved in it?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: There is no question of policy involved. If my Honourable friend would wait for another question on that subject which comes up later, I will give the information then, but, if he likes, I can give it now. My information is that sufficient Indian women possessing the requisite qualifications are not forthcoming yet. That is the reason why the proportion is maintained at 50 : 50.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it that, if qualified Indians are available and apply, they will be appointed?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I assume so, Sir.

DUFFERIN FUND AND THE INDIAN NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR SUPPLYING MEDICAL AID BY WOMEN TO WOMEN OF INDIA.

1316. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) Is it a fact that 50 years have elapsed since the creation of the Dufferin Fund and the Indian National Association for supplying medical aid by women to women of India?

(b) Is it a fact that even after half a century's experience and training of Indian women, European women doctors are found necessary, to give medical aid to the women of India?

(c) Is it not a fact that the Dufferin Fund was raised from contribution by the princes and the people of India?

(d) What is the contribution which Government of India make annually towards the Central Dufferin Fund?

(e) Is it a fact that the notification published in the *Statesman* of Delhi, dated the 10th June, 1934, regarding recruitment to the Women's Medical Service, is contrary to the announcement made by Sir David Petrie, Chairman of the Dufferin Fund that holding the M.B.B.S. degree of any Indian University is sufficient qualification for Indian ladies for entry into that service?

(f) Are Government prepared to take immediate steps to stop the recruitment of non-Asiatics to this service in England, and to Indianise this service by Indian women medical graduates?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) and (f). Government are informed that Indian women doctors, with the necessary qualifications and experience, are not yet available in sufficient numbers.

(c) Partially so.

(d) During the current year (1934-35) Government gave a grant of Rs. 3,44,300 to the Countess of Dufferin's Fund.

(e) The matter is one for consideration by the Council of the Fund.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have the Government of India any control or supervising authority over the appointment of staff for this particular fund?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I answered that question yesterday. The appointments are made by the Council of the Fund. Government have no control over them.

†1317*—1318*.

†Questions Nos. 1317-1318 lapsed as the questioner (Munshi Iswar Saran) was unseated as a result of an election petition against him.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO ENCOURAGE THE PRODUCTION AND EXHIBITION OF EDUCATIONAL FILMS.

1319. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they give any financial assistance to encourge the production and exhibition of educational films, specially in centrally administered areas? If so, to whom are these grants made and how much?

(b) Are educational films exhibited in schools in rural areas in India as suggested by the Cinematograph Committee?

(c) Are any rules framed or instructions given by the Central Government to the educational authorities in India on the subject? If so, will Government be pleased to place them on the table?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) No direct subvention is given in centrally administered areas. Educational films receive a rebate of customs duty and are also wholly or partly exempt from censorship fees.

(b) Very considerable advance has been made in this direction in recent years in many provinces.

(c) No; Education is now a transferred subject.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Does the Honourable Member know if the Provincial Government give any help to this cinematograph industry?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I have informed my Honourable friend that Provincial Governments do exempt partly or wholly educational films from censorship fees.

FORMATION OF A CENTRAL CINEMA LIBRARY AND LABORATORY FOR GIVING TRAINING IN CINEMA TECHNIC.

1320. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if there is any cinema library and laboratory for giving training in cinema technic to the people of this country?

(b) If not, do Government propose to form a Central Cinema Library and Laboratory for the purpose? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The Government of India have no information. I may remind the Honourable Member that the development of industries and technical education are both Provincial transferred subjects.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Does the Honourable Member know if the Provincial Governments do anything in this direction?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have no information.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Has not the Honourable Member collected any information from them?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No.

CRIMINAL TRIBES ACT AND FRONTIER REGULATIONS IN FORCE IN BRITISH BALUCHISTAN.

1321. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the Criminal Tribes Act and Frontier Regulations in force in British Baluchistan apply to the 'Hindu' residents of British Baluchistan? If so, which?

(b) Is there any practice of sending Hindu residents of British Baluchistan for trial for any offences by *Jirgas* (Courts of Elders) in British Baluchistan? If so, under what law, rules, or regulations is the same done?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: (a) The Criminal Tribes Act does not apply to Baluchistan. The Frontier Crimes Regulation applies by Notification issued under section 1(4) of the Regulation, with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council, to all persons, not being European British subjects, who are born or ordinarily resident in British Baluchistan and the Agency territories and consequently also to Hindu residents.

(b) Yes, in accordance with the above, cases between tribesmen and Hindus born or ordinarily resident in the tribal areas are referred to *jirga*. When this procedure is followed it is arranged that there should be an adequate Hindu representation on the Council of Elders.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know on what principle this Frontier Regulation is being applied to the Hindus?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: I explained that in the main answer to the question. On the principle that they are born or are ordinarily resident in British Baluchistan and the Agency.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know why the ordinary law is not being applied to them as it is being applied in the neighbouring parts of the country?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: The ordinary law can be applied so far as it is applicable, but it frequently happens that Hindus are plaintiffs in a case and the defendant belongs to one of the frontier tribes, in which case the Hindu prefers to have his civil suit tried under the Frontier Crimes Regulation.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: What about the criminal jurisdiction? Are Hindus tried by *jirga* for offences?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: I could not obviously give an answer to that without notice. There may have been cases and there may not have. If the Honourable Member wishes to have precise information, he had better put down a question on paper.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin: Is there a separate law for Hindus and Muhammadans in Baluchistan?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: No. There is the same law.

TREATY BETWEEN THE SULTAN OF ZANZIBAR AND GREAT BRITAIN.

1322. *Mr. S. Satyamurti: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there is a treaty between the Sultan of Zanzibar and Great Britain?

(b) On what terms and conditions was the British Agency and Consulate established at Zanzibar to protect the rights of Indian settlers there 1841?

(c) Will Government please lay a copy of such treaty on the table? If not, why not?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: (a) and (c). There are probably several treaties between His Majesty's Government and the Sultan of Zanzibar but the only treaty, of which information is immediately available, is dated 5th June, 1873, and relates to the abolition of the Slave trade. This is presumably not the Treaty in which the Honourable Member is interested but further enquiries will be made into the Treaty relations between His Majesty's Government and the Sultan of Zanzibar if the House so desires.

(b) The information asked for is not readily available since the records of 1841 are kept in Calcutta and not in Delhi and considerable historical research would be necessary to elucidate the question put. This Department will, however, if the Honourable Member so desires, undertake this research and lay a reply upon the table in due course.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With regard to clauses (a) and (c), may I invite the Honourable Member, with your permission, to collect the information?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: I have undertaken to obtain the information, but the Honourable Member will understand that when old records dating back to 1841 have to be searched, the information cannot be obtained within the short space allowed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am willing to wait. With regard to clause (b) of the question, may I know if the Honourable Member has any information as to whether the rights of the Indian settlers now in Zanzibar are affected by any of these treaties?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: That is exactly the information which I propose to obtain by historical research into the records which are kept in Calcutta.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I ask one more question? With respect to the recent dispute between the Government of India and His Majesty's Government in the Colonial Department, with regard to the rights of Indian settlers in Zanzibar especially about the clove trade, has any reference been made either by this Government or by His Majesty's Government to any treaty rights or obligations on the part of the parties concerned?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I do not think, Sir, that I would be justified in disclosing, even by implication, what material we have relied upon in making our representations to His Majesty's Government but I think I can assure my Honourable friend that every relevant material available to us has been utilised for the purpose of making representations.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government referred in their representation to His Majesty's Government to any treaty rights secured to Indian settlers in Kenya between the Sultan of Zanzibar and the British Government or the Government of India?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Sir, I should have to look up that point, I could not say off-hand.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: When was this representation made?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The last representation was made after the middle of March.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have the Government of India heard from His Majesty's Government in answer to that representation?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: No, Sir.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Did this Government ask the Government of Zanzibar to stay their hands until this Government's representation had been considered by them—or did they so ask the Colonial Office?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I answered that question in reply to a supplementary question asked by my Honourable friend on the 11th March. I said that the question of staying hands would arise only when the new clove crop is on the market. That won't be till July next.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What action do Government propose to take before July next?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I hope, Sir, as a result of the further representation which was made to His Majesty's Government, it will not be necessary to take any action but the action of a friendly acknowledgment of their acceptance of our representation.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Has the Honourable Member any basis for this optimism?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Sir, hope springs eternal in the human breast. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is poor consolation!

MOVE OF THE OFFICE OF THE IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH BETWEEN SIMLA AND NEW DELHI.

1323. *Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raju: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the office of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research is a moving office between Simla and Delhi?

(b) Will Government state the reasons why this office should be made to move between Delhi and Simla?

(c) Will Government state if it is not a fact that during the sittings of the Retrenchment Committee in 1930 or 1931, a suggestion was put forward by the head of this office that the office could usefully be kept down in Delhi with saving in travelling and other allowances and no loss of efficiency?

(d) If the answer to part (c) be in the affirmative, will Government state the reasons why the suggestion was not accepted and why it was decided to continue the old practice?

(e) Is it a fact that a part of this office is already located in Delhi throughout the year, and if so, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of keeping the whole office down at Delhi permanently?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Yes, with the exception of the Publication and Library Sections.

(b) The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research Department is a Department of the Government of India.

(c) In view of the serious financial stringency, which was then prevailing, the Vice-Chairman stated that it would be possible to carry on the work of the Department if it remained at Delhi throughout the year, provided that he and a limited staff were allowed to move to Simla with the Government of India.

(d) After careful consideration Government decided, that for reasons of administrative convenience and efficiency, it was not desirable to leave it in Delhi during the summer.

(e) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the matter has already been considered as stated in the answer to part (d).

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In answer to clause (c) of the question, I think the Honourable Member said that the proposal was made to retain the office in Delhi in view of the financial stringency. What is the reason why the Government have turned down that proposal? Is it their opinion that that financial stringency has passed away?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: No, Sir. I think my Honourable friend did not follow what I said on the subject, or perhaps I did not make the point clear. I said that the Vice-Chairman, during the period of the financial stringency,—and I presume that it continues,—offered to stay down, but the Government, after a consideration of all the relevant circumstances, came to the conclusion that, along with the other Departments of the Government of India, this Department should continue to move; in other words, it has been moving all the time.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the reasons why the Government have come to the conclusion that this Department should also move to Simla and back again to Delhi?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Because the Government feel that this Department is of such great help to them as regards furnishing information on agricultural problems and assisting them in matters bearing on agricultural problems that they came to the conclusion that it would be undesirable to leave it down in Delhi for six months.

Seth Govind Das: Did the Retrenchment Committee not see the point which the Honourable Member is pointing out?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The Retrenchment Committee no doubt considered every point, but my Honourable friend will appreciate the fact that the decision rests with the executive Government.

Seth Govind Das: Have they ever been following any of the recommendations of this Retrenchment Committee?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: That would involve historical research extending over many years; I could not answer the question now.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to clause (e) of the question, may I know why Government are not prepared to consider the desirability of keeping the whole of this office down at Delhi?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Sir, the position is that the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research Department is a Department of the Secretariat of the Government of India like other Departments, and we feel that there cannot be any distinction or discrimination made against this Department. In other words, the question, as to whether it can be left down or not, is part of the general question of the move to Simla.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it that no part of the Secretariat will ever be allowed to remain on and work in Delhi, until the Government come to the conclusion that there will be no exodus?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I cannot answer for other Departments, Sir, but that is our attitude in regard to this Department.

SUCCESSFUL MECHANICAL *Ex*-APPRENTICES OF THE LILLOOAH WORKSHOPS, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1324. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Are Government aware that in spite of the assurance given by Government no endeavour is made to provide the successful mechanical *ex*-apprentices of the Lillooah Workshops, East Indian Railway with posts?

(b) Are Government aware that every endeavour is made by the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer (now designated as Divisional Superintendent, Mechanical) East Indian Railway, Jamalpur, to provide the *ex*-apprentices with posts in other workshops of the same Railway as well, such as Charbagh and Alambagh?

(c) Are Government aware that not a single successful *ex*-apprentice of Lillooah Workshops has been provided in Charbagh and Alambagh Workshops, although these Workshops are under one and the same head, i.e., the Chief Mechanical Engineer, East Indian Railway? If so, why?

(d) Are Government aware that the majority of the chargemen, mechanics and journeymen at the Charbagh and Alambagh Workshops, East Indian Railway, are illiterate (cannot speak in English even) and received no technical education at all? Are Government also aware that even some clerks have been promoted to these posts?

(e) If the answer to part (d) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state the reasons for appointing these illiterate persons and clerks, who received no technical education at all, in preference to many technically trained *ex*-apprentices of the Lillooah Workshops, who are still waiting for appointments?

(f) Are Government prepared to take necessary steps to put a stop to the practice of appointing illiterate persons to such posts in future and appoint successful mechanical *ex*-apprentices of the Lillooah Workshops to these posts, and issue necessary orders to the Agent, East Indian Railway to this effect? If not, why not?

(g) Are Government also prepared to take necessary steps to replace those illiterate chargemen, journeymen and mechanics by the successful *ex*-apprentices who are waiting for appointment? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 1324, 1325 and 1326 together. Information is being collected and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: How is it that since lately the Honourable Member is always saying like that—that "the reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course"?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I ask the Honourable Member, when he says that the matter is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course, whether it is to be laid on the table as a matter of course, or does he expect any further question on the matter?

Mr. P. R. Rau: As a matter of course.

EX-APPRENTICES OF JAMALPUR TECHNICAL SCHOOL, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†1325. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Are Government aware that the *ex*-apprentices of Jamalpur Technical School, East Indian Railway, who completed their training at earlier dates, have prior claims, in the matter of appointments, to their juniors who completed their training at later dates?

(b) Are Government aware that the *ex*-apprentices of Jamalpur Technical School, East Indian Railway, who completed their apprenticeship training after 1933 and were retained in service under the Chief Mechanical Engineer, East Indian Railway in Jamalpur and other workshops, are governed by the old scales of pay?

(c) Are Government aware that some of the successful *ex*-apprentices of the Jamalpur Technical School, who completed their training before 1933 and were discharged, there being no vacancies, are now on re-appointment under the Chief Electrical Engineer and the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer (now designated as Divisional Superintendent, Mechanical) Jamalpur, East Indian Railway, governed by the revised scales of 1934?

†For answer to this question, *see* answer to question No. 1324.

(d) Are Government aware that some *ex*-apprentices of the Jamalpur Technical School, East Indian Railway, who were appointed as Train Examiners in 1932, under the Chief Operating Superintendent, in Howrah Division, are also governed by the old scales of pay, and that they were also discharged after the completion of their apprenticeship training but were reappointed?

(e) If the answers to parts (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether they are prepared to consider the cases of the senior *ex*-apprentices who were re-appointed, and take necessary steps to put them in the old scales, as their juniors are given, and issue necessary orders to the Agent, East Indian Railway to this effect? If not, why not?

(f) If the answers to parts (b) and (c) above be in the negative, are Government prepared to make an enquiry into the matter and take necessary steps? If not, why not?

CONFIRMATION OF CERTAIN MECHANICAL *EX*-APPRENTICES UNDER THE CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†1326. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Are Government aware that in spite of the assurance given by them the first grade bound mechanical *ex*-apprentices, whose services have been retained after the completion of their apprenticeship training under the Chief Mechanical Engineer, East Indian Railway, are not confirmed within six months, but are kept on probation for years?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether:

(i) they are prepared to take immediate steps against this action of the Railway Administration who are deliberately acting in contravention of the policy laid down by Government; if so, when and in what way; if not, why not; and

(ii) they are prepared to confirm them in their posts without further delay and issue necessary orders to the Agent, East Indian Railway, to this effect; if not, why not?

(c) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, will Government please state whether they are prepared to make an early enquiry into the matter and take necessary steps? If not, why not?

MOVE OF THE OFFICE OF THE MILITARY ACCOUNTANT GENERAL TO SIMLA.

1327. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Is it a fact that the entire Military Accountant General's Office is moved to Simla every year unlike the sister account and audit offices, such as that of the Auditor General in India? If so, what are the reasons for such differential treatment?

(b) What is the total expenditure incurred on this account each year?

†For answer to this question, *see* answer to question No. 1324.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) The Military Accountant General's office is an attached office of the Military Finance Department. A portion of this office remains in Simla the whole year round, but much administrative inconvenience would result if the whole of the office were located for a large part of the year away from the Military Finance Department and the Headquarters of the Military Administration.

(b) On an average about Rs. 26,000.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why should this administrative inconvenience not be obviated by doing it the other way about, that is, by removing the military offices to Delhi? Why not get rid of this inconvenience of having offices in two places?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: They will have to move up again when Army Headquarters moves up.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why should they move up?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is the same question as that which the Honourable Member has already been asking.

INSTALLATION OF TELEPHONE CONNECTIONS TO THE RESIDENCES OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

1328. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the rules which govern the installation of telephone connections to the residences of Government officials, and the conditions under which they are installed at Government expense?

(b) Is it a fact that all the officers of Military Accountant General's Office have got such telephones at their residence at Government expense *vide* telephone directory—Army Headquarters? If so, what is the cost and what public interest is served by providing such installation in each quarter?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) The installation of a telephone connection at the residence of an officer can only be sanctioned if the official concerned is required to deal with urgent cases out of office hours.

(b) Five out of seven officers have telephones at their residences. The total cost is Rs. 95 per mensem. The officers who are provided with residential telephones are expected to be available for advice at all times to officers of the Army Headquarters and Military Finance, and to deal with urgent cases after office hours.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are there any urgent cases?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I am bound to say, from my own experience, that a number of cases are treated as urgent which ought not to be.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are these urgent cases disposed of at night?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: It depends on your definition of night.

PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF OFFICERS AND STAFF OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER, MILITARY FINANCE, AND THE DIRECTOR OF ARMY AUDIT.

1329. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Is it a fact that the pay and allowances of officers and staff of the Financial Adviser, Military Finance, and the Director of Army Audit, are met from civil estimate? If so, what is the total amount involved in them and why are they not met from the defence service estimates?

(b) Is it a fact that pay and allowances of the Financial Adviser, Posts and Telegraphs, is met from the Postal budget estimate? If so, why is a distinction made in the case of the Financial Adviser, Posts and Telegraphs and Military Finance?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) Yes. The total amount involved is approximately Rs. 10 lakhs a year.

(b) Yes. Except in the case of commercial departments, such as the Posts and Telegraphs Department, expenditure is classified in the public accounts as expenditure of the authority exercising control. The Financial Adviser, Military Finance, and the Director of Army Audit are not under the control of the Army Department but under the control of the Finance Department and the Auditor-General respectively.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is that the principle which is applied to all Departments,—that all expenditure on audit is debited to the Finance Department, and not to the Department concerned?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: It is debited to the controlling authority, except in the case of the commercial departments.

COST OF THE ASSAM RIFLES AND THE BURMA RIFLES.

1330. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Is it a fact that the cost of the Assam Rifles and Burma Rifles, is met from the provincial revenue instead of from the central budget? Does that form part of the defence service?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what other similar expenditure, is borne by (i) central civil estimates and (ii) provincial estimates?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) The Assam Rifles and Burma Military Police, to which the Honourable Member presumably refers, fulfil a dual role of guarding the frontiers and preserving the internal security of the two Provinces. The cost of those portions of the two forces which are employed on frontier defence is met by contributions from the central revenues which are shown under the head "Frontier Watch and Ward" in the budget. The cost of the remaining portions of the two forces which are engaged on internal police duties is met from Provincial revenues.

(b) There are certain other civil armed forces maintained wholly for guarding the frontier—*e.g.*, frontier constabulary, North-West Frontier Province, the expenditure on which is legitimately borne by central civil estimates and classified under the head "Frontier Watch and Ward". No part of the expenditure on these forces is debited to provincial revenues.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the proportion between the provincial expenditure and the Central expenditure with regard to these two units, the Assam Rifles and the Burma Military Police?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The subventions paid to Burma amount to Rs. 45,74,000, and that paid to Assam is four-fifths of the total cost of the force subject to a maximum of 16 lakhs.

RECORD CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, CENTRAL REVENUES.

1331. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Record Clerks in the Accountant General, Central Revenue's Office?

(b) Is it a fact that they were originally appointed on Rs. 30 per mensem and that their pay has now been reduced to Rs. 25 per mensem according to revised scales of pay, without giving them any previous notice to this effect?

(c) Is it also a fact that all the retrenched hands thrown out of employment on the amalgamation of the Pay and Accounts Office with the Office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, have been provided?

(d) Is it a fact that these Record Clerks are not promoted to the clerical cadre, although outsiders are being recruited to fill up vacancies in that cadre? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) Nine, of whom eight are matriculates and one has lower educational qualifications.

(b) They were originally appointed as temporary record clerks as an experimental measure on a fixed pay of Rs. 30 a month. A revised scale of Rs. 25—1—45 was applied to record clerks with effect from the 1st of August, 1934, after due notice had been given as in the case of other grades.

(c) No.

(d) Yes. They are not promoted to the clerical cadre because their appointment as record clerks was made on the understanding that they would not ordinarily be eligible for promotion to the clerical grade, for which they are not fitted. Only graduates are ordinarily appointed to the clerical cadre.

CIVILIAN CLERKS EMPLOYED IN THE MILITARY ENGINEERING SERVICES.

1332. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state as regards civilian clerks employed in the Military Engineering Services:

(i) the number of permanent upper and lower division clerks in each Command separately, and

(ii) the number of temporary clerks in each Command?

(b) What is the proportion of Muslim clerks in the total number referred to at parts (i) and (ii)?

(c) What is the number of clerks of each community appointed to permanent and temporary services after the issue of the Government communiqué in July 1934?

(d) Was the proportion as laid down in the communiqué adhered to in making the appointments, permanent or temporary? If not, why not?

(e) If the reply to part (d) above be in the negative, are Government prepared to consider the question of cancelling the appointments (permanent or temporary) given to the members of the majority community over and above the proportion laid down and of appointing Muslims in the vacancies so caused? If not, why not?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) I lay a statement on the table.

(b) 15·7 per cent.

(c) Muslims—9.

Other communities—48.

(d) and (e). The recognised communal proportions are observed, when appointments are made, but it is impossible to maintain those proportions in the temporary establishment owing to constant fluctuations in its strength.

Command.	Number of permanent upper and lower division clerks.	Number of temporary clerks.
Northern	173	222
Southern	94	116
Eastern	119	166
Western	52	64

APPOINTMENTS OF CIVILIAN CLERKS IN THE MILITARY ENGINEERING SERVICES, AND DISTRICT COMMANDING ENGINEERS.

1333. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Is it a fact that Command officials are responsible for making permanent appointments of civilian clerks in the Military Engineering Services, and District Commanding Engineers for temporary?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if the Army Headquarters issued instructions to their subordinate recruiting officials to adhere to the Government communiqué of 1934 or they were supposed to act accordingly after the issue of the communiqué?

(c) Is it a fact that officials responsible failed to take due notice of the communiqué, and if so, what action do Government propose to take in the matter?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) Yes.

(b) The Resolution of 1934 was communicated to Commands by Army Headquarters, and instructions were issued that members of minority communities, if available and adequately qualified, were to be given reserved vacancies in the clerical establishment of the Military Engineer Services in order to redress communal inequalities.

(c) No.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE POSTS OF CIVIL CLERKS IN THE MILITARY ENGINEERING SERVICES.

1334. *Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: (a) Is it a fact that permanent appointments to the posts of civil clerks in the Military Engineering Services are made from the existing temporary staff and that temporary clerks are recruited without any entrance examination?

(b) Is it a fact that temporary clerks are recruited generally on the recommendations of the Head Clerks of District Offices?

(c) Will Government state the reason for inadequate representation of Muslims in the Commands?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) Permanent appointments to the clerical establishment of the M. E. S. are normally made from temporary clerks who have qualified in an examination prescribed by Army Headquarters. Individuals are required to possess a particular standard of education before they are appointed as temporary clerks and have to qualify in an examination for retention as such.

(b) No.

(c) The percentage prescribed for Muslims in the Home Department Resolution of the 4th July, 1934, has not yet been worked up to because the necessary adjustments depend on vacancies and can, therefore, only be effected gradually.

ARRANGEMENTS IN FORCE ON THE VARIOUS RAILWAYS REGARDING INSPECTION CARRIAGES.

1335. *Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether in a Memorandum "on the arrangements in force on the various railways regarding inspection carriages" to the Standing Finance Committee for Railways in June 1934, Government have stated?

"The conditions on Indian railways are entirely different from those on railways in other countries (especially in the West). Inspections on Indian railways have mostly to be commenced in the early morning and this cannot be achieved unless inspecting officers can travel at nights to road-side stations ready to start work in the early morning. Such night travel would be entirely out of the question unless officers are supplied with the minimum comforts and facilities that are available in most of these inspection carriages."

(b) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway have twenty-five bogie and one six-wheeler inspection carriages for the Heads of Departments and the Divisional Superintendents and one hundred and one four-wheeler carriages for other gazetted officers?

(c) How many Heads of Departments (including the Agent) and Divisional Superintendents are there on the East Indian Railway?

(d) Will Government please state the number of gazetted officers on the East Indian Railway in the year ending the 31st March, 1934?

(e) Will Government also please state the number of occasions the twenty-five bogie and the one six-wheeler inspection carriages were used in 1934?

(f) Is it a fact that when a bogie inspection carriage is attached to a passenger or express train for the journey of an officer, a bogie third class carriage has to be detached from the train in order to prevent an overload?

(g) Are Government prepared to consider whether these twenty-five bogie inspection carriages should be converted and utilised for the carriage of passengers, and the six-wheeler carriage and the 101 four-wheeler inspection carriages be set aside for the use of the officers?

(h) Are the subordinate inspecting staff required to perform their work "in the early morning"?

(i) What arrangements are in existence on the East Indian Railway for "the minimum comforts and facilities" of these subordinate employees of Government?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The quotation is substantially correct though not quite accurate.

(b) The East Indian Railway have 25 bogie and one six-wheeler inspection carriages for 35 administrative officers and 101 four-wheeled carriages for nearly 300 Executive and Assistant Officers.

(c) 17.

(d) 332.

(e) The information is not readily available and its compilation would involve considerable amount of labour incommensurate with the value of the information obtained.

(f) No.

(g) Government consider this proposal impracticable.

(h) The subordinate inspecting staff may have to perform their work in the early morning.

(i) The headquarters of the subordinate inspecting staff are so arranged as to be centrally situated for the sections they inspect, and furnished rest houses are provided for their comfort at suitable intervals throughout the railway.

CONVENING OF A SELECTION BOARD BY THE CHIEF COMMERCIAL MANAGER, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1336 *Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Will Government please state whether the Chief Commercial Manager, East Indian Railway, passed orders in February, 1935, convening a Selection Board consisting of Messrs. E. E. Ellis, D. G. Dickens and A. J. Doran?

(b) Was Mr. C. A. Crawford, Assistant Superintendent, subsequently nominated to this Board to replace Mr. Dickens?

(c) Did this Board sit on the 25th February, 1935, to select an incumbent for the post of Personal Assistant to the Chief Commercial Manager, grade Rs. 400—20—500 and held by a Mr. T. J. Ryan, which will fall vacant in April, 1935?

(d) Is it a fact that this Selection Board examined four Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans only?

(e) Is it also a fact that two of these men are in the grade Rs. 275—15—380 and two in grades below Rs. 250?

(f) How many Indians (excluding Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans) are there in the grade Rs. 275—15—380, and in the same grades as the two men referred to in part (e)?

(g) Were any Indians examined by this Selection Board?

(h) Are there any Indian officers in the office of the Chief Commercial Manager, and in the same grade as Mr. C. A. Crawford?

(i) Was "a positive act of selection" performed by the Selection Board and recorded in writing, justifying the selection of Mr. Purcell?

(j) Are Government prepared to order the appointment of a fresh Selection Board to decide on a suitable candidate for the vacant post?

(k) What action do Government propose to take to remove those employees who are working in the subordinate grades and who have relatives in gazetted posts in the same offices?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. This was in order to have a representative of the Rates Branch on the Selection Board. Messrs. Ellis and Dickens were both Claims Branch officers.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes. Government are informed that the Selection Board first scrutinised the lists of clerks in lower grades which included Indians and examined those they considered suitable. The only Indian among those considered suitable was already officiating in a similar grade. Government understand that it was only a coincidence that the candidates actually examined included no Indian.

(e) Yes.

(f) There are four Indians in the grade of Rs. 275—15—380, nine in the grade of Rs. 200—10—220 and seven in the grade of Rs. 178—10—218.

(g) No.

(h) No.

(i) Yes.

(j) No. Government do not consider that their interference is called for in this case.

(k) None.

APPOINTMENTS OF INSPECTORS OF CREWS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

1337. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) Is it a fact that the Eastern Bengal Railway advertised for applicants "for temporary posts of about three Inspectors for the Crews on Rs. 200 per mensem" in June 1934?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state:

(i) the number of Inspectors actually appointed; and

(ii) whether they had any previous railway experience?

(c) How long were these Inspectors utilised for Crew work?

(d) In what capacities have they been utilised after their removal from Crew work?

(e) What are the revised salaries for the posts of:

(i) Inspectors of Crews; and

(ii) the jobs the men are now on?

(f) Is it also a fact that the Eastern Bengal Railway again advertised in January 1935 for applicants "for temporary posts of four Crew Inspectors on Rs. 200 per mensem"?

(g) Have any appointments been made?

(h) If the answer to part (g) be in the affirmative, will Government please state the previous railway experience of these men?

(i) Are they being utilised for Crew work?

(j) Are these appointments in conformity with the rules laid down by the Railway Board for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff?

(k) Will Government please quote the rule which permits of direct recruitment to the posts of Inspectors of Crews on a salary of Rs. 200 per mensem?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, reports:

"(a) Yes.

(b) (i). Four.

(ii) No.

(c) and (d). These Inspectors work directly under the Deputy Traffic Manager, Commercial, and not solely on crew work. They actually travel over the system checking the work performed by station and crew staff with a view to detecting malpractices on the part of the staff leading to loss of revenue such as carriage of ticket-less passengers, booking of parcels underweight, etc.

(e) (i). Rs. 180 and Rs. 200 *plus* travelling allowance.

(ii) Rs. 200 consolidated, which includes travelling allowance.

(f) Yes.

(g) No.

(h) and (i). Do not arise."

(j) Yes.

(k) I would refer the Honourable Member to Rule 64 of the Rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff on State-managed Railways, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

TRAINING GIVEN TO THE SON OF A EUROPEAN GAZETTED OFFICER EMPLOYED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF COMMERCIAL MANAGER, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1338. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) Is it a fact that in the Office of the Chief Commercial Manager of the East Indian Railway the son of a gazetted officer (European), employed in that office, is being unofficially trained in railway working for the past eleven months?

(b) Will this concession be extended to other applicants?

(c) Is such private training in accordance with the rules laid down by Government? If not, what action do Government propose to take in this case?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) This concession has also been given to another. Government understand that these facilities have been afforded on the personal responsibility of a gazetted officer of the Commercial Department without any obligation on the part of the administration for subsequent employment.

(c) Though such arrangements are, I understand, common on foreign railways, it has not been the general practice on Indian Railways to give facilities for training in such circumstances. The Agent, East Indian Railway, is being advised to withdraw these facilities and to stop this practice entirely in future.

ESTABLISHMENT MANUAL FOR RAILWAYS.

1339. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Establishment Manual, for the preparation of which a sum of Rs. 13,000 was sanctioned by the Standing Finance Committee for Railways in June 1934, has been completed?

(b) Will this Establishment Manual, like similar Government publications, be available for sale?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the negative, will Government please state the reason why railway employees should be deprived of the opportunity of knowing the rules that govern their service?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The Manual has not been completed but is expected to be ready shortly. A good portion of it is already under print.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

CASES OF SUPERSESSION OF CLAIMS IN RESPECT OF PROMOTIONS IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1340. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** Are Government prepared to enquire and state:

(a) how many cases of supersession of claims in respect of promotions have taken place in the Moradabad Division of the East Indian Railway during 1934, and to date during 1935 due to the decision of the selection boards due to the recommendations of the Divisional Superintendent as a personal recognition of an employee's case, and due to transference of men from one branch to another with reference to the following Branches:

(i) office establishment,

(ii) Travelling Ticket Examiners,

(iii) Ticket Collectors, and

(iv) Guards;

(b) whether the orders of the Railway Board in respect of promotions and recruitments of staff have been adhered to while transferring men from one branch to another and while promoting staff in their proper channel in regard to:

(i) the channel of promotion,

(ii) the grant of maximum pay on "direct appointment" and "direct recruitment" to the different classes, and

(iii) holding of a selection in non-selection grade posts?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Government have no information and do not consider the expense and labour involved in its collection will be commensurate with the results to be achieved.

(b) Government have no reason to presume otherwise.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: Is it legible for a Member of the Government to say, after the Honourable the President of the Assembly has passed a question and has considered it fit to be answered, that the expenditure and labour involved are not commensurate with the results to be achieved?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): With regard to the point of order raised, I think it is quite within the competence of the Government to say that the labour involved in collecting certain information is such that it would not be justified by or commensurate with the result. The Chair can have no knowledge and cannot estimate the amount of labour involved in answering the question.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: Is it to be left to the Department alone to judge whether the labour involved is commensurate with the effect or not when the Honourable Member of the House and the Honourable the President consider that this question should be answered and the information should be supplied to the House?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There may be some obvious cases in which the Chair can interfere and suggest to the Honourable Member on behalf of the Government to try and answer the question, but ordinarily it must be left to the Government.

FINES IMPOSED AND RECOVERED IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1341. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of persons on whom fines were imposed and the total amount recovered and the number of various categories of staff so affected during 1934, and up to the 15th February, 1935, in the Moradabad Division of the East Indian Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no reason to think that fines are being imposed unnecessarily and are not prepared to collect the information required as the expense of time and labour will hardly be commensurate with its value.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the latter part of your reply?

Mr. P. R. Rau: They are not prepared to collect the information required as the expense of time and labour will hardly be commensurate with its value.

DISCONTENT PREVAILING AMONGST THE EMPLOYEES ON THE MORADABAD DIVISION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1342. *Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Is it a fact that in the Moradabad Division of the East Indian Railway there is grave discontent prevailing amongst the employees, because they do not get a reply to their letters for months, no leave is granted in time, and no satisfactory reply is given to the appeals preferred by the employees for the redress of their grievances, except that they are told either to stop further correspondence or that their appeal was put up before the Divisional Superintendent who upholds the decision of his subordinate officers, or that the orders stand?

(b) Are Government prepared to see that proper reply is given to the appeals?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Government have no information.

(b) Government have no reason to believe that the orders on the subject of appeals from staff are not being carried out in the Moradabad Division.

MILEAGE ALLOWANCE ADMISSIBLE TO THE RUNNING STAFF ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

1343. *Dr. N. B. Khare: Is it a fact that the mileage allowance admissible to the running staff on State-managed Railways in India is treated as pay under Fundamental Rule 9(21)(a)(iii)?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No.

Dr. N. B. Khare: In reply to question No. 866, part (a), which was asked on the 12th March, 1935, and which was of a similar nature, Government said that these allowances up to a certain scale were treated as pay. May I know which answer is correct?

Mr. P. R. Rau: What is the answer referred to by the Honourable Member?

Dr. N. B. Khare: It is question No. 866, part (a), which was asked on the 12th March, 1935.

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have not got that question and the answer here in my possession. Will the Honourable Member kindly read them out?

Dr. N. B. Khare: We also feel the same difficulty when you refer to answers given on previous occasions. I am simply paying you back, in your own coin. The question was:

"Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the old Travelling Ticket Inspectors of the Accounts Department on the East Indian Railway were paid mileage allowance which unlike all other forms of travelling allowances, was treated as pay for all practical purposes?"

The answer was:

"Yes, up to the end of May, 1931."

And today the answer is "No."

Mr. P. R. Rau: The question here is whether it is treated as pay under Fundamental Rule 9 (21) (a) (iii), and my reply is that this fundamental rule does not refer to mileage allowances.

Dr. N. B. Khare: What is the difference between "pay proper" and "treated as pay"?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The reply to the previous question was that these allowances were treated as pay for the purpose of leave salary, provident fund and bonuses.

Dr. N. B. Khare: Will the Honourable Member quote the rule under which these allowances are treated as pay proper?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I want notice. I cannot remember off hand the particular rule under which they were allowed to count these allowances as part of pay for the purpose of leave salary and provident fund bonuses.

Dr. N. B. Khare: There is no rule to that effect.

Mr. P. R. Rau: If the Honourable Member has already got that information, there is no use in asking that question.

Dr. N. B. Khare: Just to bring it to the notice of the Honourable Member and this House.

CLASS OF EMPLOYEES TERMED AS TRAIN STAFF OR RUNNING ESTABLISHMENT ON RAILWAYS.

1344. *Dr. N. B. Khare: Will Government please state the class of employees termed as train staff or running establishment under Article 1067 of the Civil Service Regulations?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Article 1067 of the Civil Service Regulations has been superseded by Supplementary Rules 82 and 83. Classes of staff who are directly connected with the charge of moving trains, such as, drivers, firemen, guards, brakesmen, etc., are termed as running staff.

NON-GRANT OF ALLOWANCE TO MEET INCIDENTAL CHARGES ON TRANSFERS FROM ONE STATION TO ANOTHER ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

1345. *Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Is it a fact that the staff on State-managed Railways are never granted allowance to meet incidental charges (cartage from residence to station, loading and unloading of household, luggage, furniture, etc.) on transfers from one station to another? If so, why is such hardship done to low paid staff on Railways?

(b) Do Government propose to fix a rate or to pay actual expenses incurred by a non-gazetted or inferior staff on transfers? If not, why not?

(c) Is the staff employed in other Departments under the Governor General in Council also denied the privileges?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) to (c). The rules governing the travelling allowance of State Railway employees are those contained in Supplementary Rules 82 and 119. They are different from those governing the T. A. of employees of other departments of Government. State Railway employees are granted free passes for their own journey and their families, and also free passes for the conveyance of their luggage and personal effects to an extent which, in practice, cover almost invariably their entire needs. In addition they are granted daily allowances for any day on which they are absent from their headquarters for more than eight consecutive hours. Government do not consider that the existing rules entail any hardships and that there is any necessity for modifying the rules.

PRIVILEGES OF GAZETTED OFFICERS ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

1346. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** Is it a fact that the gazetted officers on State-managed Railways are entitled to carry their wives, children and other members of the family, whether dependent or not, relatives and friends in their inspection carriages while travelling on duty, at the expense of Government? If so, will Government please state:

(a) whether officers of other Departments under the Governor General in Council are paid railway fares for their wives, children, etc., when travelling on duty within their jurisdiction; if not, the reason for this differentiation;

(b) whether the officers of departments other than State-managed Railways are required to spend nights outside their headquarters; if so, whether they do not take their wives, children, etc., with them;

(c) whether Rest Houses, Rest Rooms, etc., are provided on State-managed Railways;

(d) whether P. W. D. Rest Houses, Rest Rooms, etc., are open for occupation by Railway officers;

(e) what are the conditions of occupancy of the Rest House at Raiwala on Hardwar-Dehra Dun Railway by Railway officers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: A gazetted officer, travelling in an inspection carriage, must have a pass for himself, and every person travelling with him must also be covered either by a pass or a ticket.

(a) No. It is believed it is the universal practice on all railways to allow the wife and children of a railway officer a limited amount of free travel as a privilege.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. I have no information as regards the second part.

(c) There are Rest Houses and Rest Rooms at certain stations.

(d) Possibly, but always subject to the superior claims of Public Works Department officers, I believe.

(e) Government have no information.

SENIORITY OF STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY AND THE OLD OUDH AND ROHILKUND RAILWAY.

1347. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to the information laid on the table of the House on the 21st January, 1935, in reply to starred question No. 633, asked on the 20th August, 1934 regarding seniority on the East Indian Railway and old Oudh and Rohilkund Railway staff, will Government please state:

(a) the date when the two Oudh and Rohilkund Railway Sub-Engineers' posts were converted into Grade II Inspectors of Works and were filled by East Indian Railwaymen;

(b) the date when an adjustment was made by filling the next two vacancies in that grade by Oudh and Rohilkund Railwaymen;

(c) whether the seniority of the staff was affected; if so; to what extent;

(d) whether the posts of Sub-Engineers were converted in the interest of East Indian Railwaymen;

(e) whether the conversion affected the old Oudh and Rohilkund staff; if so, to what extent;

(f) how many posts held by company's staff on retirement have likewise been converted to lower grades since the amalgamation;

(g) whether it is the policy of Government to accept proposals through which the further advancement of the staff is jeopardised;

(h) what other posts on the old Oudh and Rohilkund Railway Section are contemplated to be converted into lower grades during the year 1935; and

(i) whether Government propose to allow and receive a deputation from the class of staff to be affected by such conversion before approving the scheme or sanctioning the conversion or abolition; if not; why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The Agent, East Indian Railway, reports as follows:

"(a) Two Oudh and Rohilkund Railway Sub-Engineers posts were converted into grade II Inspectors of Works, one on the 5th May, 1928, and the other on the 18th February, 1929. They were filled by East Indian Railwaymen from the 1st April, 1930.

(b) The adjustments were made from the 1st June, 1932, and 3rd February, 1934, when two Oudh and Rohilkund Railwaymen were promoted.

(c) No. Promotions to the next higher grade posts are made by selection.

(d) No.

(e) Yes. The Oudh and Rohilkund Railway Inspectors of Works now have two posts in higher grades open for promotion where none existed before.

(f) None, except the two posts referred to in part (a).

(g) No.

(h) None ...

(i) No.

APPOINTMENT OF GUARDS IN THE DINAPORE DIVISION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1348. *Dr. N. B. Khare: With reference to the information placed before this House on the 21st January, 1935, in reply to starred question No. 729, asked on the 21st August, 1934, regarding appointment of guards in the Dinapore Division, East Indian Railway, will Government please state the categories of vision test required for (i) firemen, (ii) shunters and (iii) guards; and what is the difference in the test of these classes of employees?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I would refer the Honourable Member to Regulation 3 of the rules for the medical examination of candidates and non-gazetted employees (including inferior and labourer grades) on Indian State Railways and appendices 2 and 3 of these rules, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

POSTS OF CONTROLLERS IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1349. *Dr. N. B. Khare: With reference to the information printed on page 32 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, dated the 21st January, 1935, regarding the posts of Controllers in the Moradabad Division, East Indian Railway will Government please state:

(a) the authority who assured Government that the allegation is unfounded;

(b) whether the Governor General in Council satisfied himself that the allegation is unfounded; and

(c) whether the Railway Board have perused the classified lists for the period referred to in part (a) (i) of starred question No. 735, asked on the 21st August, 1934; if so, with what result?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The Agent, East Indian Railway.

(b) Government have accepted the assurance of the Agent.

(c) No.

Dr. N. B. Khare: When the Government say in answer to (c) that they have not seen the classified list, how can they say that the allegations are unfounded?

Mr. P. R. Rau: They have been assured by the Agent that the allegations are unfounded.

Dr. N. B. Khare: What was the material before him on which the Agent reported?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have left it to the Agent to decide as to what material he should collect to give a reply to the Railway Board.

Dr. N. B. Khare: Do not Government rely on their own classified list?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The question refers, so far as I can see, to subordinate staff in particular divisions of the East Indian Railway, and these lists are not in the possession of Government.

CONSOLIDATED ALLOWANCE OF TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1350. *Dr. N. B. Khare: With reference to the statement laid on the table of this House on 29th January, 1935, in reply to unstarred question No. 216, asked on the 19th March, 1934, regarding consolidated allowance of Travelling Ticket Inspectors, on the East Indian Railway, will Government please state.

(a) the strength in each grade or time-scale of the Travelling Ticket Inspectors prior to the crew system;

(b) the rate of allowance paid to this class prior to the crew system;

(c) the strength in each grade or time-scale of this class during crew system;

(d) the rate of allowance paid to this class during crew system;

(e) the strength in each grade or time-scale of this class under Moody-Ward system;

(f) the rate of allowance paid to this class under Moody-Ward system;

(g) the reasons for differences, if any?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The information asked for is not readily available. Government do not consider that the time and labour involved in its compilation will be justified by results.

PROMOTION OF NUMBER TAKERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1351. *Dr. N. B. Khare: With reference to the statement laid on the table of this House on the 29th January, 1935, in reply to part (e) of starred question No. 417, asked on the 7th August, 1934, regarding promotion of Number Takers on the East Indian Railway, will Government please state:

(a) the date on which the word "Selection" was added to the rules for the recruitment and training of staff on State-managed Railways governing the normal channel of promotions of individual classes referred to in the said rules;

(b) whether it is the intention of the Governor General in Council that each and every promotion from lower to higher grade or from one time-scale to another time-scale or increments therein should be by selection; and

(c) the policy of the Railway Board, of the Agents, of the Divisional Superintendents of individual officers (senior-junior scales or lower gazetted), and of Inspectors, in respect of promotions from lower to higher grade, from one stage to another in time-scale and for increments in the same stage?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) I regret I have not been able to understand this question. The rules issued in 1931 provide for selection in certain cases.

(b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the 'Rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff on State-managed Railways'. Increments in the time scale are regulated by rule 24 of the Fundamental Rules.

CLASS OF EMPLOYEES ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS WHO ARE PAID PRESIDENCY ALLOWANCE.

1352. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state the class of employees on State-managed Railways who are paid presidency allowance?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The information required is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

CLASS OF EMPLOYEES EQUIVALENT TO TRAVELLING TICKET COLLECTORS ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

1353. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state the present equivalent class of employees on State-managed Railways to Travelling Ticket Collectors as used in paragraph 392 of State Railway Open Line Code, Volume II, Provisional Issue 1908?

Mr. P. R. Rau: My Honourable friend is presumably referring to paragraph 362. The classes of employees who are now charged with the duties of checking passengers' tickets in trains are Travelling Ticket Examiners, or Special Ticket Examiners or crew-staff where such a system exists.

TRAVELLING TICKET COLLECTORS CLASSED AS TRAFFIC TRAIN STAFF.

1354. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state the reasons and circumstances under which in 1908 the Travelling Ticket Collectors were classed as Traffic Train Staff as used in paragraph 392 of State Railway Open Line Code, Volume II, Provisional Issue 1908?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government regret that they are unable to trace the circumstances which led to the Travelling Ticket Collectors being treated as Traffic Train Staff in 1908.

APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PARAGRAPHS OF THE STATE RAILWAY OPEN LINE CODE, VOLUME II, ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

1355. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state whether paragraphs 155 to 302, 319 to 384, 403, 562 to 589 and Appendices 2, 3, 5, 6, 8 and 10 of State Railway Open Line Code, Volume II, Provisional Issue 1908, are still effective and operative upon the State-managed Railways? If not, will Government please lay on the table of the House the authority revising, modifying or anulling the said Code and the said paragraphs?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

STAFF DISCHARGED ON ACCOUNT OF THE REDUCTION OF STAFF ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE MOODY-WARD SCHEME OF TICKET CHECKING ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1356. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state whether the staff discharged on account of the reduction of staff on the introduction of Moody-Ward Scheme of ticket checking on the East Indian Railway is treated in the same way and manner as the staff discharged on account of the reduction of staff on the basis of general economy in 1931?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No. The reduction of the crew staff was not part of the economy campaign but of a change of system of checking adopted independently of retrenchment measures. The special terms for retrenched staff did not, therefore, apply.

SURPLUS STAFF OF CREW SYSTEM OF TICKET CHECKING ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1357. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state the number of the surplus staff of Crew System of ticket checking on the East Indian Railway who were not absorbed in the Moody-Ward system of ticket checking and the number, with the terms and conditions provided in service shortly after the 1st June, 1931? If so, on what terms and conditions?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no detailed information, but understand that on the abolition of the Crew System on the 1st June, 1931, most of the Crew staff were absorbed in the Moody-Ward System, and only those who were considered unsuitable were discharged.

SURPLUS STAFF OF CREW SYSTEM OF TICKET CHECKING ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1358. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state whether the surplus staff of Crew System of ticket checking on the East Indian Railway remained from absorption into the Moody-Ward system of ticket checking and whether they preferred appeals against their discharge? If so, what were the orders passed on the appeals?

(b) How many of them were taken back in service and on what terms and conditions?

(c) What were the reasons for non-condoning the services of the Crew system?

(d) Does Governor General in Council propose to extend the clemency to this poor class of employees by permitting them a link (continuance) with the service in the Crew system?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The Agent, East Indian Railway, reports that staff who were surplus after meeting the requirements of the Moody-Ward System were discharged. Appeals against discharge were received, in some cases, and those cases were reviewed. Those among the surplus staff who were found fit for employment under the Moody-Ward scheme were placed on a list of staff awaiting re-appointment.

(b) The information is not readily available.

(c) Temporary service followed by a break cannot be added to subsequent service for purposes of gratuity.

(d) No.

Mr. M. S. Aney: With regard to part (b) the question is how many?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The information, I understand, is not readily available.

APPLICABILITY OF FINANCE DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR No. F.-78-XI-Ex-1—31, TO THE STAFF ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

1359. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** Is it a fact that the instructions contained in Circular No. F.-78-XI-Ex-1—31, dated Simla, the 3rd August, 1931, issued by the Finance Department of the Government of India are also applicable to the staff on the State-managed Railways? If so, will Government please state:

(a) whether the Court of Enquiry presided over by Mr. Justice Murphy rejected the principles laid down in Railway Board's letter No. 683-E. G., dated the 3rd March, 1931;

(b) whether the said Court of Enquiry ordered that the staff retrenched under the Railway Board's said letter should be taken back and recalled to duty;

(c) whether the said Court of Enquiry recommended that Committees be appointed to select the staff for retrenchment;

(d) if the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, whether any Committee assembled to retrench the staff of the Railway School of Transportation, East Indian Railway, Chandausi in 1933;

(e) the date on or from which the staff at Railway School of Transportation, East Indian Railway, Chandausi was brought under retrenchment;

(f) the extent and class of staff retrenched at Railway School of Transportation, East Indian Railway, Chandausi;

(g) whether it is a fact that the Agent, East Indian Railway in an Extraordinary Gazette, dated the 24th June, 1933, notified that he had decided to retrench, one month from date, or subject to the necessary notice from any subsequent date prior to 31st July, 1933, staff to the extent shown in the accompanying statement;

(h) whether it is a fact that the statement accompanying the Agent's said notification is published in English on pages 4 and 5 of the said Gazette, showing the class and number of the staff surplus (i) in the Mechanical Workshops (Jamalpur Shops; Carriage and Wagon Shops, Alambagh; Locomotive Shops, Charbagh); Printing (Press Staff); and Engineering (Block Signal Shop, Howrah) Departments; and (ii) in the Non-Workshops of Electrical; Stores (Lillooah and Jamalpur Depots); Printing (Press Staff, Stationery and Printed Forms) Departments; Howrah; Asansol (Transportation; Power and Way and Works Branches) Dinapore; Allahabad; and Moradabad (office Peon and Way and Works Branch) Divisions; and that the statement does not indicate the Staff (School Sergeant; Head Mali; Cooly Jemadar and Coolies) of the said School;

(i) how far the information laid on the table of this House on the 19th July, 1934, in reply to part (b) of starred question No. 310, asked on the 2nd March, 1934 is correct;

(j) whether the information furnished by the Agent is not correct, and if so, what action has been taken against the Agent; if none, why not;

(k) what was the function or duty of the School Sergeant;

(l) what is the function or duty of the School Stewart?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The staff on State-managed Railways, who were retrenched in 1931, were governed by the orders contained in Railway Board's letters, No. 683-E.G., dated the 3rd and 6th March, 1931, respectively, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

(a) The Court of Enquiry came *inter alia* to the conclusion that of the four principles laid down by the Railway Board for the selection of individuals for retrenchment that of short service seemed to be the only one suitable for block retrenchments.

(b) The Court recommended the reinstatement of 80 employees and the re-examination of the cases of 68 employees retrenched in 1931. They also considered that those retrenched on the ground of short service only should be given an assurance of re-employment when recruitment is resumed and that men should ordinarily be recalled in the order in which they had been discharged.

(c) In paragraphs 363 and 364 of the report the Court recommended that committees should be formed in each administration affected to prepare the orders to be issued to the administrative officers who were to carry out retrenchment and that an appeal by the individuals affected should be allowed to such a committee.

(i) and (j). If the Honourable Member will state precisely in what particulars the information supplied is incorrect, Government will consider what action is necessary.

(d) to (h), (k) and (l). The information is being collected and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

FURNISHING THE AGENT, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY, BY HIS SUBORDINATE OFFICERS WITH A STATEMENT OF APPEALS WITHHELD BY THEM.

1360. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** Is it a fact that the Agent, East Indian Railway is furnished by his subordinate officers with a statement of appeals withheld by them? If so, will Government please lay on the table copies of such statements received by the Agent during the preceding three years ending on the 28th February, 1935? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The rules provide that a quarterly list of all appeals withheld, if any, other than those addressed to an authority to whom under the rules no appeal lies, is submitted to the authority to whom such appeals are addressed. Government have no reason to think that this is not being followed in the East Indian Railway. As regards the second part Government do not consider that the expense and labour involved in collecting the information will be commensurate with its value.

AGREEMENTS ARRIVED AT BETWEEN ACCOUNTS AND OPERATING DEPARTMENTS, HEADS OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE STAFF, ETC.

1361. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** Is it a fact that the Governor General in Council has adopted a policy authorizing the Agents of the State Railways in India not to act upon agreements, if and when, arrived at between Accounts and Operating Departments, Head of the Department and the staff, etc.? If not, will Government please state the reasons for not enforcing the agreement arrived at at a meeting held at Calcutta on the 3rd May, 1927 as published on page 45 of the Report on Crew System by the Chief Operating Superintendent, East Indian Railway, dated the 5th January, 1928?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am not quite clear what exactly my Honourable friend means by the agreements he refers to, but obviously the Agent has complete discretion whether to approve or to reject proposals made by his subordinate officers.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES IN FORCE PAID TO RAILWAY STAFF.

1362. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** Is it a fact that the Governor General in Council has adopted a policy authorizing the Agents on State-managed Railways to reduce, alter or modify the terms, rates, or conditions of travelling allowances in force and paid to staff from time immemorial against the option of the staff?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am not aware of any such general instructions. If my Honourable friend will tell me what particular order he is referring to, I may be in a position to give him a definite answer.

STATION MASTER'S EXAMINATION IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1363. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to the information printed on page 33, of No. 1 of Volume I, of the Legislative Assembly Debates, of 1935, regarding Station Master's Examination in the Moradabad Division, East Indian Railway, will Government please state:

(a) whether the books provided at station can be taken by staff to their residence or while on study leave for preparing for the examination;

(b) whether the staff can devote their time in study while on duty or to pay attention to the routine work;

(c) the dates from which it has been made a rule that staff should not be supplied with books in which they are to be examined;

(d) the date from which it is considered that Station Masters' examination is not equivalent to the Goods Accounts Examination; and

(e) whether the Inspectors appointed in 1934 on the East Indian Railway have passed the Goods Accounts Examination; if so, when and where individually; if not, what are the reasons?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) to (e). All the matters referred to relate to matters of detailed internal administration which is entirely within the competence of the Agent to decide and Government are not prepared to interfere.

TRAIN CONDUCTORS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1364. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to the information placed on the table of this House on the 21st January, 1935 in reply to starred question No. 918 asked on the 30th August, 1934, regarding Train Conductors on the North Western Railway, will Government please state:

(a) the reference to the rule from the Rules for the Recruitment and Training of Subordinate Staff on State-managed Railways;

(b) the consideration for appointing guards as Train Conductors; and whether this is against rules for the recruitment and training of non-gazetted staff on State-managed Railways;

(c) whether Government propose to do away with this anomally; if not, why not; and

(d) whether the Government are aware that Ticket Collectors or Special Ticket Examiners in case of emergency and exigency are drawn up from their duties to work as guards; if so, how far the answer to part (d) of the said starred question is in conformity with practice?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The Agent, North Western Railway, reports as follows:

(a) and (b). The rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff do not apply in this case. Conductor Guards are appointed from the existing senior Guards, Grade IV, the majority of whom entered the service many years ago. Junior Guards both now and in the past are and were recruited as such, without reference to any 'conducting' functions which they may perform in future years.

(c) The alleged anomaly is not apparent.

(d) At times of occasional emergencies station staff including Ticket Collectors or Special Ticket Examiners, and who may happen to be qualified in guards' duties and physically fit to work as such, are put on as ordinary guards. For instance, if a guard falls sick in the middle of his run, any employee qualified as guard and available on the spot has to take his duties. This is an emergency and in no way conflicts with the answer to part (d) of question No. 918.

RE-INSTATEMENT OF THE DEMOTED DRIVERS OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

1365. ***Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to the reply to starred question No. 922, asked on the 30th August, 1934 regarding the re-instatement of the demoted drivers of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway laid on the table of this House on the 21st January, 1935, will Government please state:

(a) whether the report of the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, is being scrutinized by the Railway Board;

(b) whether the Railway Board or the Agent is not in a position to know the connection for which the meaning of the expression given is required;

(c) the reference to the Railway or ordinary dictionary, where the meaning of "re-instated" is given as "promoted" or "re-promoted";

(d) the rule under which service in a demoted grade is disallowed or debarred from counting towards increments;

(e) whether on reinstatement the staff is permitted to count their intervening service; if not, how and why;

(f) under what rule qualifying and approved service is not allowed to count towards increments on re-instatement;

(g) whether in the absence of any rule, the Governor General in Council is prepared to permit the demoted staff to draw their increments to which they were eligible had they not been demoted;

(h) whether demotion is permissible under Fundamental Rule 15;

(i) whether the seniority is affected by demotion and repromotion, if so, how and why; and

(j) the circumstances under which no increments are due to demoted staff on re-instatement?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a), (b) and (c). Government have nothing further to add to the reply to parts (i) to (iii) of Mr. S. G. Jog's question No. 922 placed on the table of this House on the 21st January, 1935.

(d), (e), (f) and (j). The provisions prescribing the conditions in which service counts for increments in a time scale are contained in Fundamental Rule 26 under which service in a lower post does not count for increment in a higher post and an employee can get increments only if the conditions prescribed in the rule referred to above are satisfied. A copy of the Fundamental Rules is in the Library of the House.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Government of India's decision given under Fundamental Rule 15 in the Posts and Telegraphs compilation of the Fundamental Rules.

(i) I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraphs 5 (1) and (4) of Railway Board's letter No. 683-E.G., dated the 3rd March, 1931, which was placed on the table of the House on the 12th February, 1932, *vide* Legislative Assembly Debates, 1932, Volume I, pages 608-610.

Dr. N. B. Khare: With reference to (c), what is the meaning of the word "re-instated"? Does it mean promoted, or does it mean re-promoted, or has it got any other meaning?

Mr. P. R. Rau: With regard to the explanation of these terms, the original reply quoted ran as follows:

"It is not possible to say what material difference there may be between the meaning of the expressions given unless it is known in what connection they have been or are to be used."

REVENUE LOST OVER THE KALKA SIMLA RAILWAY AS A RESULT OF THE ROAD MOTOR COMPETITION.

1366. ***Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** (a) Are Government in a position to state how much revenue they lose over the Kalka Simla Railway as a result of the road motor competition?

(b) Are Government aware that a large number of people use road motors to avoid smoke, particularly in the tunnels?

(c) Is it a fact that the smoke nuisance can be effectively removed by burning coke instead of coal?

(d) What will coke cost as compared with coal if the former is used in passenger trains between Kalka and Simla?

(e) Do Government propose making an experiment with coke during the ensuing move of the Government of India to Simla? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) It is not possible to estimate, even approximately, what revenue is lost to Government on the Kalka-Simla Railway as a result of road-motor competition. It cannot be assumed that all passengers travelling by road would travel by rail under altered conditions.

(b) It is possible that some people prefer using road motors in order to avoid smoke on journey by rail; whether the number of such people is large or small is not known.

(c) The burning of coke possibly reduces smoke nuisance, but sulphurous fumes from coke are injurious, especially in confined spaces, hence in tunnels the burning of coke would be a positive danger to human life especially to the engine crew, upon whose shoulders the safety of passengers lies. Further, it would be quite impossible to work trains up the heavy gradients to Simla with coke, as it does not generate steam fast enough.

(d) If coke could be used, its cost would be prohibitive, steam coal costing Rs. 3-6-0 per ton as against Rs. 16 per ton for coke.

(e) No, for reasons already stated.

CLOSING OF OPEN ARCHES AT THE CORNERS OF SEVERAL SQUARES OF ORTHODOX QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

1367. ***Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** (a) Did Government some time ago close the open arches at the corners of several squares of orthodox quarters in New Delhi? If so, why?

(b) Do the open arches between the orthodox quarters on the Lady Hardinge Road provide a constant thoroughfare for pedestrians, cyclists and cattle over the lawn in front of the quarters in spite of the resistence offered by the *mali* who is responsible for its maintenance?

(c) How do Government propose to check this nuisance? Have they received any representations for the control of this traffic? If so, what action have they taken in the matter?

(d) Do Government propose to close the arches or to make a straight road connecting them with the Lady Hardinge Road? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes, as it was found that the squares were being fouled by men and cattle.

(b) Yes.

(c) No recent representations have been received regarding the alleged nuisance.

(d) I am asking the Chief Engineer to examine the matter.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE IN THE SIND BALUCHISTAN CIRCLE.

1368. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Is it a fact that retrenchment in the Railway Mail Service in the Sind Baluchistan circle is under contemplation?

(b) Is it a fact that officials of over 25 and below, seven years service in the circle are proposed to be retrenched and even some poor sorters of 25 years service are already retrenched while officials with more than 30 years' service in the Punjab circle are kept in service?

(c) Is it a fact that there are vacancies in the Railway Mail Service line in 'L' and 'D' divisions? If so, why are not these persons transferred to that division?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) to (c). Government have no information and do not propose to call for it as compulsory retrenchments have ceased from the 1st April, 1935. Government have no reason to believe that any retrenchments that were made were not carried out strictly in accordance with the orders on the subject. If any individual official feels aggrieved he is at liberty to represent his grievance through the proper channel.

COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE TUNGABHADRA PROJECTS.

1369. ***Mr. K. Nageswara Rao:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether on the representation of the Madras Government they appointed a Commission to investigate the Tungabhadra project in consultation with the other Governments concerned? If so, what are the names of the members and the terms of reference?

(b) Do Government propose to make the terms of reference adequate to work out a comprehensive scheme?

(c) If the Commission is not yet appointed, are Government prepared to appoint the Commission at an early date?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) No Commission has yet been appointed.

(b) and (c). The matter is under consideration.

Mr. K. Nageswara Rao: I know something about this project. There is one scheme costing 15 crores and another smaller scheme costing about eight or nine crores. When the matter comes before the Government of India, will they make inquiries about both schemes before they sanction it?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have not yet seen the papers, and I cannot give a definite answer to my Honourable friend.

Mr. K. Nageswara Rao: I am only making a request to the Honourable Member to inquire into both the schemes before they give their sanction, and they should, if possible, sanction the larger scheme.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: When I have examined the matter, I shall be in a better position to reply to my Honourable friend. I can only express my thanks to him for having brought this fact to my notice, and I can assure him that I will take it into consideration.

Mr. K. Nageswara Rao: I had a consultation about this matter with the Chief Engineer of Madras, and he gave me this information.

BRIDGING THE KISTNA AND GODAVARI RIVERS.

1370. ***Mr. K. Nageswara Rao:** Will Government be pleased to state whether the importance of bridging the Kistna and Godavari rivers was brought to their notice to make the Madras-Calcutta Grand Trunk Road a useful trunk road in reality? If not, are Government prepared to investigate the matter in consultation with the Madras Government and the District Boards concerned?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Schemes for bridging the Kistna at Bezwada and the Godavary at Rajahmundry were at one time proposed by the Government of Madras as objects for assistance from the Government of India's Reserve in the Road Account, but no definite estimates were prepared; and, owing to their apparently prohibitive cost, the schemes were abandoned. It rests with the Local Government to revive them, but it may be mentioned that the provision of these two bridges, even were that possible, would not complete the necessary bridging of the direct road from Calcutta to Madras.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it or is it not a fact that the construction of these two bridges will certainly help the development of the through road traffic between Madras and Calcutta?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The Honourable Member is stating a fact, he is not asking a question.

BUILDING OF AN OVERBRIDGE AT THE LEVEL CROSSING AT THE BEZWADA RAILWAY STATION.

1371. ***Mr. K. Nageswara Rao:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they received any representation regarding the urgent need of building an overbridge at the level-crossing at Bezwada Railway station, which causes considerable loss and inconvenience to the public? If not, are Government prepared to issue instructions to the Agent of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, to investigate the matter in consultation with the authorities of the Bezwada Municipality and report at an early date?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No representation has been received by Government, but they are forwarding this question to the Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, for consideration.

REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF POST OFFICES AND LETTER BOXES.

1372. ***Mr. K. Nageswara Rao:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state why the number of the Post Offices and letter boxes was reduced in 1932—1934 from 60,611 to 59,372?

(b) What is the amount saved in closing these Post Offices?

(c) What is the number of the offices closed in rural and urban areas, respectively?

(d) How much loss is incurred in the rural areas and how much in the urban areas in working the post offices in the above year?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) The net reduction in the number of post offices and letter boxes existing on the 31st March, 1934, as compared with those existing on the 31st March, 1933, was 121 and 1,239 respectively. Post Offices are closed when they are found to be working at a heavy loss thus indicating that the local public does not need the facilities provided to any appreciable extent. Letter boxes are removed when it is found that few articles are posted in them indicating that there is no real need for the provision of this facility.

(b) As I have stated above, the reduction in the number of post offices is a net figure. A number of post offices are closed every year but, on the other hand, such new ones are opened as may be found necessary from time to time. Exact figures of the amounts saved in closing certain post offices are not readily available and cannot be collected without an undue amount of labour and expense.

(c) In urban areas there was a net increase of 28 in the number of offices existing on the 31st March, 1934, as compared with that existing on the 31st March, 1933. In the case of post offices in rural areas, however, there was a net reduction of 149 offices during the same period.

(d) It is not possible to maintain or work out figures of the profit or loss on the working of the post offices in rural areas separately from that in urban areas. The total loss on the working of the post offices in the whole of the areas served by the Department amounted in round figures to 6,07,000 in 1932-33 and 11,69,000 in 1933-34.

Mr. M. S. Aney: With regard to (a), what is the minimum number of articles required for retention of letter boxes at any place?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: There is no minimum laid down. The number of letters posted in a letter box is generally noted by the postman who clears the letter box and a report is submitted to the Superintendent of the Division, and the Superintendent on a general consideration of all the circumstances either has the letter box removed from that particular village entirely or has it transferred to a neighbouring village where there is more likelihood of the letter box being of real use to the public.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If there are no post boxes placed in even those villages where there are no post offices, how do Government expect to collect the letters that are sent from that particular village to other parts of the country?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The villagers go to the nearest village where there is a letter box.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that postmen are expected to go to each village by a particular system twice or thrice a week, will Government consider the advisability of placing at least one post box in every village visited by the postmen?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: That will be prohibitively expensive. There are about 7,00,000 villages in India, and we cannot possibly contemplate 7,00,000 post boxes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are all the villages visited by the postmen?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: No: there are certain villages which are regularly visited and which are known as the fixed beat villages, and there are certain villages which are visited only if there are any letters for delivery in that village.

CONSTRUCTION OF SERVANTS' QUARTERS ATTACHED TO THE VICEREGAL ESTATE.

1373. ***Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan** (on behalf of Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq): (a) Is it a fact that in the summer of 1934 some servants' quarters attached to the Viceregal Estate were to be constructed? Will Government kindly state what was the estimated amount of their construction?

(b) Is it a fact that tenders were duly called for the work and the Superintendent of the Estate forwarded for the sanction of the Superintending Engineer, Second Circle, the acceptance of the lowest tender?

(c) Will Government kindly state what was the classification of the work and the specification of the material to be used therein?

(d) Is it a fact that shortly after giving the above contract, some police quarters in the Viceregal Estate were to be constructed? If so, will Government kindly state what was the estimated cost of the work? Will Government kindly state what was the specification of the material and classification of this work?

(e) Are Government aware that instead of the first class material only third class material was used, for instance, the old tiles of a dismantled building, auctioned by the Central Public Works Department in New Delhi and third class and rejected bricks were used in these works?

(f) Are Government aware that when the Superintendent of Viceregal Estate paid a visit to these works from Simla, first class bricks and other first class material were kept on site and as soon as he left, these were at once removed and the above rejected material was actually used in the works?

(g) Are Government prepared to invite any expert in structural work, not connected or interested in Delhi in any way, to inspect these works and pronounce his opinion as to the material actually used in the buildings?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes. The estimated cost of the work was Rs. 25,000.

(b) Yes.

(c) The work was classified as original construction chargeable to the head "57—New Capital". The standard specifications of the Central Public Works Department were laid down. It is not possible to detail them within the limits of a reply to a question, as they amount to five pages of typed matter.

(d) Yes. The estimated cost of the work was Rs. 19,000. The standard

specifications of the Central Public Works Department were laid down. The work was classified as original construction chargeable to the head "41-Civil Works (Provincial)—Police".

(e) and (f). No.

(g) No, in view of the reply given to parts (e) and (f) above.

ENQUIRY INTO ALLEGATIONS MADE ABOUT THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFICERS.

1374. ***Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan** (on behalf of Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq): (a) With reference to the answer to my starred question No. 508 will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact or not that the Chief Commissioner of Delhi made a suggestion that enquiries be made regarding the allegations made about the Central Public Works Department Officers, etc., in the *Riyasat*, dated the 6th August, 1934? What action was taken or what action do Government contemplate taking now? If no action is to be taken, why?

(b) With reference to part (d) of my starred question No. 508 asked on the 23rd February, 1935, will Government be pleased to state when they expect to start examining the statements supplied by the Central Public Works Department officers regarding the property owned by them?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) No reference was made to my Department and no action is proposed.

(b) As early as possible.

APPOINTMENT OF FIVE NEW SUBORDINATES IN THE "B" DIVISION OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1375. ***Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan** (on behalf of Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq): (a) Will Government please state whether the figures given in part (a) of their reply to my question No. 512 on the 23rd February, 1935, regarding the appointment of five new subordinates in the 'B' Division of the Central Public Works Department, relate to technical and clerical posts only or they include the inferior staff also?

(b) Will Government please give up to date figures regarding permanent, temporary and work-charged staff (technical, non-technical, clerical and inferior staff, etc., etc.), separately by communities? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The figures relate to technical appointments of Engineering Subordinates, and not to clerical or inferior posts.

(b) A statement showing the communal composition of the non-gazetted staff, excluding the work-charged and inferior staff, as it stood at the end of the year 1934, is placed on the table. Information in regard to the inferior staff is being obtained and will be placed on the table in due course. Information in regard to the work-charged staff is not readily available and the results of collecting it would not justify the labour involved.

Statement showing the communal composition of the various classes of non-gazetted establishment of the Central Public Works Department, excluding Central India and Rajputana at the end of the year 1934.

Section.	Posts.	Strength.	Hindus.		Muslims.		Europeans and Anglo-Indians.		Sikhs.		Indian Christians.		Other communities.	
			No.	Percentage.	No.	Percentage.	No.	Percentage.	No.	Percentage.	No.	Percentage.	No.	Percentage.
Technical staff.	Building and Roads.	(1) Sub-Engineer, Subordinates and Works Assistant. Permanent	57	34	59·6	13	22·8	..	..	9	15·8	1	1·8	..	..
		Temporary	25	15	60	5	20	1	4	4	16	..	..	..	..
		(2) Draftsmen, Computors and Pressmen. Permanent	40	17	42·5	20	50·0	..	..	2	5·0	1	2·5	..	..
		Temporary	9	3	33·3	4	44·5	..	..	1	11·1	..	..	1	11·1
	Electrical and Mechanical Staff.	Supervisors and Subordinates. Permanent	13	6	46·1	2	15·4	2	15·4	2	15·4	1	7·7	..	..
		Temporary	5	3	60·0	1	20·0	..	..	1	20·0	..	..	..	..
	Horticultural Staff.	Subordinates, Chowdharies and Labour verifiers. Permanent	16	8	50·0	6	37·5	..	..	1	6·25	1	6·25	..	..
	Office Staff	Superintendents, Stenographers, Assistants, Head clerks and Clerks. Permanent	202	142	70·3	50	24·7	4	2·0	1	0·5	5	2·5	..	..
	Miscellaneous Staff	Storekeeper, Store clerks and Caretakers. Permanent	11	6	54·6	1	9·1	3	27·3	..	..	1	9·1	..	..

Statement showing the communal composition in the various classes of non-gazetted establishment of the Indore Central Division Central Public Works Department at the end of 1934.

Section.	Posts.	Strength.	Hindus.		Muslims.		Europeans and Anglo-Indians.		Sikhs.		Indian Christians.		Other communities.	
			No.	Percentage.	No.	Percentage.	No.	Percentage.	No.	Percentage.	No.	Percentage.	No.	Percentage.
Technical Staff	(1) Upper Subordinates, Overseers and Sub-overseer.	Permanent 6	6	100·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Temporary 10	7	70·0	3	30·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(2) Draftsmen and Tracers.	Permanent 2	2	100·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Temporary 2	2	100·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(3) Mechanical Overseer.	Permanent 1	..	..	..	..	1	100·0	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Permanent 12	11	91·7	1	8·3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Office Staff	Clerks	Temporary 5	4	80·0	1	20·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Statement showing the communal composition in the various classes of non-gazetted establishment of the Ajmer Central Division Central Public Works Department at the end of 1934.

Technical Staff	(1) Overseers and Surveyors.	Permanent 5	3	60·0	1	20·0	..	..	1	20·0	..	..	..	..
		Temporary 1	1	100·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	(2) Draftsmen and Tracers.	Permanent 3	2	66·7	1	33·3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Temporary 3	3	100·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	Store Keepers	Permanent 1	1	100·0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
		Temporary 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	100·0	..	..	..	..
Office Staff	Clerks	Permanent 8	7	87·5	1	12·5	..	..	..	..	1	12·5	..	..
		Temporary 8	6	75·0	1	12·5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1376. ***Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan** (on behalf of Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq): Will Government please state what is the total number of Superintendents in the Central Public Works Department? How many are Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: There are six posts of Superintendents in the Central Public Works Department. One of these posts is held by a Muslim.

TENURE OF THE APPOINTMENTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1377. ***Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan** (on behalf of Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq): (a) Will Government please state what is the practice obtaining in the Central Public Works Department, regarding the tenure of the appointments of the Superintendents?

(b) Are they not transferred from one Section to the other? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). There is no rule regulating the tenure of appointments of Superintendent in the Central Public Works Department. Transfers are made when they are required on administrative grounds.

REFUSAL OF ANNUAL INCREMENTS TO DRAFTSMEN AND CLERKS IN THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1378. ***Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan** (on behalf of Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq): Is it a fact that many draftsmen and clerks, etc., in the Central Public Works Department, drawing Rs. 95 per mensem and who are even employed in the time-scale up to the maximum of Rs. 200, have not been given their annual increments for the last several years? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply which I gave on the 21st March, 1934, to Mr. S. G. Jog's question No. 543. It has since been decided to permit members of the clerical establishment to cross the efficiency bar if they are considered capable of performing responsible duties efficiently, and individual cases are now under examination in the Central Public Works Department.

There are no such restrictions in the case of Draftsmen.

APPOINTMENT OF APPRENTICE PERMANENT WAY INSPECTORS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

1379. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the advertisement which appeared in the *Statesman*, dated the 16th November, 1934, regarding the appointment of Apprentice Permanent Way Inspectors on the Eastern Bengal Railway?

(b) Will Government please state how many applications were received by the Eastern Bengal Railway for the apprentice Permanent Way Inspector job and how many candidates, departmental and outsiders, respectively, were actually called for interview by the Selection Board of

the Eastern Bengal Railway and what was the number of vacancies under the following heads for which candidates were called for interview:

(i) Hindus,
(ii) Muslims,
(iii) Anglo-Indians; and
(iv) Sikhs?

(c) Are Government aware that out of the required quota under (i) three-fourths will be selected from among the Departmental employees, *i.e.*, mistrees, gangmen and others, while one-fourth will go to the relative of a high officer on the Eastern Bengal Railway?

(d) Are Government aware that candidates called for interview came from various provinces and at their own expense?

(e) Will Government please state the object of the Eastern Bengal Railway in inviting outsiders for interview? Is it a fact that the Railway authorities had already earmarked the Departmental candidates and the relative of a high officer for these appointments?

(f) Will Government please make enquiries from the Eastern Bengal Railway as to why they did not consider the necessity of reserving any appointments for Departmental candidates and advertise only those residue for outsiders?

(g) Are Government aware of the amount of disappointment the outsiders have met with after undergoing long journeys and incurring heavy expenditure, particularly when they came to know that there was not a single post for them?

(h) Are Government prepared to cancel the selection and order a new one to be made by the Chief Engineer, Deputy Chief Engineer, and Deputy Agent purely from among the outsiders, while the cases of candidates already in Railway employ should be considered for promotion separately and departmentally? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am obtaining certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

CANDIDATES REQUISITIONED FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION BY THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

1380. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will Government please state the number of candidates requisitioned from the Public Service Commission by the Army Headquarters, branch by branch for employment in the I. A. C. C.?

(b) Is it a fact that the Army Headquarters experience difficulty in obtaining qualified men for employment in the I. A. C. C? If not, are Government aware that when the Public Service Commission offers appointments to qualified candidates for employment in the Army Headquarters they invariably decline the offer?

(c) Are Government further aware that it is due to unattractive and hard conditions of service under the I. A. C. C. which have become the source of unpopularity and discontentment among the civilian Indian staff?

(d) Are Government aware that on account of not being able to get qualified candidates from the Public Service Commission, the branches of the Army Headquarters do not forward applications of their employees, for transfer to other Departments, and will Government kindly lay on the table a statement showing the number of such candidates, whether holding permanent or temporary appointments, branch by branch?

(e) Are Government aware that owing to the unpopularity of the I. A. C. C. service of the Army Headquarters, whosoever accepts it and takes the appointment, he is also anxious to get himself transferred to the civil offices in order to improve his future prospects?

(f) Are Government aware that there are some qualified candidates who were never warned of the change of conditions of service before the examination by the Public Service Commission was held?

(g) Do Government propose to issue orders to the effect that applications for transfer from one office to another should in no case be withehld? If not, do Government propose to consider the abolition of the I. A. C. C.?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) and (c). This is not borne out by the last Public Service Commission examination at which about 90 per cent. of the candidates expressed their willingness to accept appointments in the Indian Army Corps of Clerks.

(d) No, except that one Branch of Army Headquarters, owing to the exigencies of the service, has had to withhold applications for transfer during the last six months.

(e) No.

(f) Yes.

(g) The answer to both parts of the question is in the negative.

Statement showing the number of candidates requisitioned from Public Service Commission by the Army Headquarters, branch by branch, for employment in the I. A. C. C.

Name of the Branch.	Number of candidates requisitioned.
G. S. Branch	1
A. G.'s Branch	7
Q. M. G.'s Branch	7
M. G. O.'s Branch	8
M. S. Branch	2
E.-in-C.'s Branch	5
Medical Directorate	4
A. M. S. (Personal) to H. E. the Commander-in-Chief	..
Judge Advocate General	..
A. D. O. S. (P.)	..
R. A. F. Headquarters	4
	38

PROMOTION OF A CLERK OF THE ROUTINE DIVISION TO THE SECOND DIVISION IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

1381. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Is it a fact that under the orders contained in paragraph 1(iv) of the Home Department O. M. No. F.-452/27-Ests., dated the 8th December, 1928, it is open to Departments in cases of exceptional merit to promote a member of the routine division to the Second Division in not more than one of every five vacancies?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many vacancies have been filled in the Second Division in the Departments of the Government of India since the issue of the Home Department orders mentioned above and how many of these were filled by the appointment of unqualified men?

(c) Is it a fact that the Home Department have issued orders in October 1934, to the effect that in Departments where owing to the retrenchment campaign of 1931-32 Second Division posts are to be replaced by Third Division posts, only the first and every fifth vacancy occurring after the 1st October, 1934, should be filled by promotion from the routine division, provided qualified and exceptionally meritorious men are available? If the reply be in the affirmative, will Government kindly state whether unqualified men in the routine division who are of exceptional merits are eligible for promotion in these vacancies along with men who are qualified for the Second Division but working in the Third Division? If not, what are the reasons?

(d) Will Government please state whether in Departments where there are no qualified Second Division men working in the Third Division, it is permissible to promote to the first and the fifth vacancy unqualified routine division men who are of exceptional merit? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative and the reply to the second part is in the negative. The orders issued in October, 1934, were designed to meet the case of qualified men serving in Divisions lower than those for which they have qualified, who have better claims to promotion than unqualified men.

(d) No, Sir; qualified men are eligible for appointment in promotion vacancies by inter-departmental transfer and it has been decided that until these men have been absorbed, no unqualified persons should be promoted.

CREATION OF A NEW SECOND DIVISION IN THE ATTACHED OFFICES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

1382. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that with effect from the 1st June, 1934, a new Second Division has been created in the Attached Offices of the Government of India, and the then existing members of the lower division have been treated as members of the Second Division?

(b) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative, will Government please state:

(i) whether all the members of the new Second Division, are eligible for promotion to the First Division in the vacancies reserved for departmental promotions;

(ii) whether only such members of the new Second Division are eligible for promotion to the First Division, as are qualified for the Second Division of the Secretariat, and if so, will Government please state the reasons for the preferential treatment of this category of clerks when all clerks are considered members of the new Second Division; and

(iii) whether such members of the new Second Division as have not passed the Second Division examination are not eligible for promotion?

(c) If the reply to part (b) (ii) be in the affirmative and (b) (iii) in the negative, are Government aware that this will cause heart-burning and hardship to members falling in the category (b) (iii)? Is it a fact that in several instances, they are senior in service and pay to members mentioned in (ii) and have also officiated in the First Division, and earned annual increments in that grade?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Members of the Second Division in the Attached Offices (whether qualified for the Second Division of the Secretariat or not) are eligible for promotion to the First Division in accordance with the rules issued from time to time, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

(c) Does not arise.

REVISED SCALES OF PAY FOR SUBORDINATE STAFF ON RAILWAYS.

1383. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of this House a copy of the orders issued by the Railway Board on the subject of revised scales of pay, for subordinate staff?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if any explanatory memorandum was issued by them on this subject? If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of this Memorandum also?

(c) Is it a fact that these orders were interpreted by various Railway Administrations and Heads of Departments according to their own choice?

(d) Are Government prepared to examine all the circular letters issued by the State Railway Administrations and bring them into a line?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to Railway Board's letter No. 807-E.G./II, dated the 31st August, 1934, a copy of which will be found in the Library of the House.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative and the latter part does not arise.

(c) and (d). The same question was put by my Honourable friend on the 5th March, 1935, as question No. 695. I have already given him a reply.

AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BETWEEN A STATE RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION AND AN EMPLOYEE.

1384. *Sardar Sant Singh: Will Government be pleased to state if an agreement entered into between a State Railway Administration and an employee on form No. W. W.-87 duly stamped, is an agreement which entitles the particular employee the full benefit of the provisions of that printed agreement? If so, can revised scales of pay rules be made applicable to him? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The Agent, North Western Railway, reports that Form W. W.-87 referred to in the question is a stamped declaration signed by subordinate staff engaged for purely temporary purposes or special works and contains a statement of the conditions of service applicable to the particular employee who signs the Form and accepts the conditions. Such a declaration cannot be termed an Agreement. It does not show the rate or the scales of pay to be drawn by the employee and the application of the old or revised scales of pay is not dependent on the execution of Form W. W.-87 but is regulated in accordance with the Rules and Orders issued by Government on the subject from time to time.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if any employé on the basis of this form of agreement—which the Honourable Member says is no agreement—can go to the law Court and sue the administration if the administration does not act according to that?

Mr. P. R. Rau: That is a question for a lawyer to advise on: and, I am sure my Honourable friend will advise any person who approached him in the best manner possible.

RAILWAY ADMINISTRATIONS REPRESENTED ON THE PERSONNEL SECTION OF THE INDIAN RAILWAY CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION.

1385. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Is it a fact that various Railway Administrations who are represented on the Personnel Section of the Indian Railway Conference Association, consult each other in important questions affecting the staff as a whole? If so, was the question of revised scales of pay discussed by that section?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of this House a copy each of the discussions, if any, and the findings of this section on the subject of revised scales of pay for subordinate staff?

Mr. P. R. Rau: My Honourable friend asked the very same question some time ago and I replied to it on the 5th March. To refresh his memory, I might add that the number on the list is 696.

SENIOR AND JUNIOR AUDITORS IN THE SUBORDINATE RAILWAY AUDIT SERVICE.

1386. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Will Government please state the present strength of Subordinate Railway Audit Service of the Indian Audit Department by (i) Senior Auditors and (ii) Junior Auditors?

(b) Will Government please state the percentage composition of each class by Hindus, Muhammadans, Sikhs and Christians?

(c) Is it a fact that one member of the Sikh community passed the Subordinate Railway Audit Service Examination in 1928?

(d) Is it a fact that he has been passed over by members of other communities, who had equal length of service in the clerical grade, but passed the Examination in 1932, *i.e.*, some four years after?

(e) If the answer to part (d) be in the affirmative, will Government please state if this is due to the application of a rule framed after 1928, which has been introduced in the Railway Audit Department and is not in force in any other Department?

(f) If the answer to part (e) be in the affirmative, will Government please state:

(i) the reasons for providing such special rule for the Railway Department only;

(ii) the reasons for applying it to men who had passed the examination prior to the framing of the rule; and

(iii) what steps Government propose to take to set right the mistake?

(g) Is it a fact that the percentage composition of the Sikhs in the service is practically nil, and are Government prepared to consider the possibility of promoting to the service members of the Sikh community who have passed the Subordinate Railway Audit Service Examination?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) Senior Auditors: 48.
Junior Auditors: 61.

(b) The approximate percentages are as follows:

	Hindus.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Europ ans and Anglo-Indians.
S nior Auditors.	92	2	2	4
Junior Auditors.	87	6½	..	6½

(c) Four Sikh clerks passed the examination in 1928. Three of these clerks are employed in the Railway Accounts Department and one in the Railway Audit Department.

(d) The Sikh clerk who is at present employed in the Railway Audit Department holds a permanent post in the lower grade of the clerical establishment and has, therefore, been considered junior to men who hold permanent posts in the upper grade of the clerical establishment.

(e) and (f). This is in accordance with the rules approved in 1925. Similar rules are not in force in other branches of the Audit Department because conditions are not the same.

(g) Promotion to the Subordinate Railway Audit Service from the clerical grade is departmental promotion regulated, among those who have passed the examination, by seniority and merit, and is outside the scope of the rules governing the recruitment of members of minority communities.

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Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Did the Honourable Member say 6½ persons or 6½ per cent.?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: 6½ per cent.

UNDERCHARGING BY THE BOOKING STATIONS OF GOODS CONSIGNED BY RAILWAYS TO DIFFERENT STATIONS.

1387. ***Babu Baijnath Bajoria:** (a) Is it a fact that at times the Booking Stations undercharge goods consigned by railways to different stations of railways?

(b) Is it a fact that the railway freight rules provide that the freights charged by the station booking the consignment must be checked at the destination station before delivery of the consignments to the consignee?

(c) Is it a fact that the destination station has been empowered to withhold consignments unless and until the difference of undercharge and actual charge is paid to the railways by the consignee?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether in every case of consignment of goods the delivery station calculates the freights charged? If so, will Government be pleased to state whether in cases of excess charge, the difference is paid to the consignor immediately after the goods are delivered to the consignee before the consignor claims a refund?

(e) Are Government aware that in many cases the consignors are not aware as to whether the charges levied by the starting station is correct or in excess?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the total amount the different railways have earned by such excess charges on consignment of goods during the year 1934 and for which claims of refund have not been made? Will they be pleased to state how much of such excess charges have been refunded on claims made and how much of such claims for refund have been rejected by the different railways during the year 1934?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state how much of such excess charges have been forfeited by the different railways in the absence of any such claims from the consignors?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) The accuracy of the freight charges invoiced is required to be checked before a consignment is delivered. Overcharges of not less than Rs. 5, detected by the Accounts Department are brought to the notice of the Traffic Department which arranges for a refund after ascertaining the names of the persons legally entitled to the refund.

(e) Possibly.

(f) and (g). The information is not readily available.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Do the railways claim any under-charge from senders of consignments?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Yes; if claims are made.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Do railways refund, of their own accord, any over-charge when they come to know that an over-charge has been made?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have already replied to that question. I said:

"Overcharges of not less than Rs. 5 detected by the Accounts Department are brought to the notice of the Traffic Department which arranges for a refund after ascertaining the names of the persons legally entitled to the refund."

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: What happens when it is over Rs. 5?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I was referring to cases where it is Rs. 5 and over.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN INDIAN PRINCES AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA ON THE INDIAN FEDERATION.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased 12 NOON. to state:

(a) whether the Government of India or His Excellency the Governor General have been kept informed of the progress of negotiations between the Indian Princes and the Secretary of State for India about the Indian Federation;

(b) whether Government were at any time called upon to express their opinion on these negotiations;

(c) whether His Excellency the Governor General was consulted;

(d) whether he asked the Government of India for their opinion;

(e) whether they gave any opinion, and if so, what it was;

(f) whether Government considered the legal and constitutional implications of the requests of the Indian Princes to amend the Government of India Bill in respect of the future Federation;

(g) whether Government are aware of the consultations, now going on in London, between the legal advisors of the Princes on the one hand and the legal advisors of the Crown on the other;

(h) what their scope is; and

(i) whether Government propose to place the whole matter before the Assembly; if not, why not?

I will also ask, with your leave, question No. 1145 in the printed list of business today.

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN INDIAN PRINCES AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA ON THE INDIAN FEDERATION.

1145. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that negotiations are proceeding between some Indian Princes and the Secretary of State for India regarding the proposed Federation;

(b) whether Government have any knowledge of these negotiations;

(c) whether the Secretary of State has agreed to table amendments to the Government of India Bill to meet the demands of the Princes, and if so, what those amendments are;

(d) whether the Government of India were consulted in this matter;

(e) whether any opportunity will be afforded to the Legislature or public opinion in British India to pronounce on these amendments; and

(f) what are the amendments to the Bill which the Princes want, and the reason why they want them?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: If you approve, Sir, I will first answer question No. 1145, and if my friend finds it necessary he can put supplementary questions to both.

(a) and (b). If I am correct in presuming that the Honourable Member is referring to negotiations with regard to the accession of States to the Federation the answer is in the negative, and I need only state the constitutional position which is that no such negotiations can be undertaken till the proposed Government of India Bill has been passed. If, on the other hand, the Honourable Member is referring to representations which the States have made to His Majesty's Government through the Government of India with regard to the draft of the proposed Government of India Bill, then the answer is in the affirmative.

(c) The Secretary of State has made his intentions clear in his telegraphic despatch to the Government of India, dated the 14th March, 1935, and the memorandum accompanying it, which formed part of the White Paper presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State on 18th March, 1935. This has appeared in the press and I have agreed to have copies circulated to Honourable Members.

(d) In the public interest the Government of India are not prepared to give any further information.

(e) The answer is "No", as I have already stated in reply to part (e) of his question No. 1077.

(f) The Honourable Member's attention is directed to the White Paper referred to above.

I will now answer the short notice question.

(a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to my answer to part (d) of his question No. 1145, which I answered just now.

(c) In the public interest, Government are unable to make any statement concerning the Governor General as distinct from the Governor General in Council, or to answer parts (c) to (e).

(f) Yes.

(g) to (h). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the White Paper. They have no further information.

(i) No. The Government of India do not think it desirable to do so.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Before I put the supplementary questions, I wish to ask your ruling on a point of order; and that is with reference to the answer given by the Honourable the Leader of the House to clauses (c), (d) and (e) of my short notice question, in which, if I caught my Honourable friend aright, he stated that, apart from the argument of public interest on which you have given your ruling, and which I accept, he refuses to answer the question as to the consultation or advice between the Governor General and the Governor General in Council. I have looked up the matter carefully, and I want you to bear with me for a minute, when I make my submissions for your consideration and ruling. In May's Parliamentary Practice, the position with regard to this matter is stated at page 241. "Questions may be asked of the ministers who are the confidential advisers of the Crown, regarding matters relating to those public duties for which the sovereign is responsible; but no question can be put which brings the name of the sovereign or the influence of the Crown directly before Parliament, or which casts reflections upon the Parliament". Now, Sir, taking my stand on that, my submission is this. In this country the position is even stronger. In Great Britain, as you know, the King reigns, he does not govern. In this country the Governor General governs, if anybody governs at all, and with regard to these matters the Governor General is, I submit, more amenable to this House than even the sovereign in England. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair thinks the Honourable Member will find that Speaker Lewther ruled that no questions can be put. . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And the ruling is at the bottom of the very page from which I have quoted the above, and it is stated here:

> "It has been ruled that the Prime Minister cannot be interrogated with regard to the advice that he may have given to the Sovereign with regard to the grant of honours, or the ecclesiastical patronage of the Crown or with regard to the prerogative of mercy."

I entirely concede that position. There are certain points which are in the absolute discretion of the Crown, like the prerogative of mercy, conferment of titles and so on, on which, I agree, this House cannot ask questions. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member will bear in mind that this is a matter of putting questions, and whether those questions should be answered or not. . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Questions may be asked, and my submission is, once a question is asked, the only ground on which my friend can refuse to answer it will be that it will be against the public interest to answer the question. He cannot. . . .

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: May I put in a word here, Sir? I think my Honourable friend did not catch the answer which I gave:

> "(c) to (e). In the public interest, Government are unable to make any statement concerning the Governor General as distinct from the Governor General in Council, or to answer parts (c) to (e),"

that is to say parts (c) to (e) have not been answered on ground of public interest. I may remind my Honourable friend that when this discussion

arose on a previous occasion, I said that I would raise no discussion as to what questions can be put or what questions cannot be put, but if a question is put, then whether that question can be answered or not, that is a different matter, and what you have referred to at page 241 related to a question being allowed to be put. That has been done, but whether Government need answer it or not that is for the President to say. Mr. Satyamurti is labouring what can be put, when I have not objected to question being put.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The Honourable Member's answer consists of two parts—the latter part of which I accept, that is to say, Government saying that they refuse to answer the question, but their refusal to make a statement as to what happened between the Governor General and the Governor General in Council is not covered by any authority. I also submit for your consideration, Sir, a specific ruling on this matter in Campion's Introduction to the Procedure of the House of Commons at page 130. . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should tell the Chair—does the fact that the Government of India, the Governor General or the Secretary of State is not responsible to the Legislature gives him wider power to put questions or less power?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Yes, Sir, it gives me more power. We cannot displace them. I beg of you to consider that we must have more power, because we cannot displace them. I can understand that, if we can really take the bigger action, it is perfectly open to waive our rights at question time, but this is the only occasion on which light can be thrown on this matter. If you look. . . .

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: My friend is still misquoting me as usual.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: This is an old complaint. This is the paragraph entitled "Constitutional Propriety and Rules of Order":

"The following types of questions are out of order as infringing constitutional propriety, etc.

26. Asking what advice a Minister proposes to give the Crown.

But it is in order to ask what advice he has given."

It is ruled specifically there. Then, I want to draw the attention of the Chair to this also. Sub-clause 30 says:

"Seeking information about matters which are in their nature secret, such as, decisions or proceedings of Cabinet, (including the Committee of Imperial Defence and other committees of the Cabinet), advice given to the Crown by Law Officers, etc."

These are in their very nature secret and confidential. Or:

"Reflecting on the decision of a Court of Law." etc.

I do not propose to ask those questions at all. There is one other ruling, to which I should like to draw your attention; it is reported in Hansard of 1921, Volume 139, page 846. Mr. Delvin asked a question about the exercise of the prerogative of mercy in respect of two Irishmen,

named, Thomas Whelan and Patrick Moran. The Speaker informed him that the question could not be put. He raised the question on the floor of the House of Commons, and the Speaker ruled:

"The general rule which has been laid down repeatedly—and I think I have sent to the Honourable Member a copy of the last occasion when it occurred, when Mr. Bryne, late Member for Dublin Harbour, asked a question, and the ruling was then given—is that no question ought to be answered, either by the Home Secretary as to the advice which he will tender to the Crown, or by the Chief Secretary as to the advice which he will tender to the Lord Lieutenant, in respect of the exercise of the prerogative of mercy. The House has always felt that it is very undesirable that these cases should be discussed here or even raised by way of question and answer. The questions which have been asked and to which the Honourable Member refers have, I think, been questions on matters of fact as to whether or not the prerogative in a particular case had been exercised."

In this case, one of my questions is whether the Governor General consulted the Government of India. The Honourable Member refused to answer even that. In this specific case the question was asked and was allowed whether the prerogative of mercy had been exercised or not:

"I see less objection to that, but I do see great objections to putting in interrogative form reasons for, or it may be objections against, the prerogative of mercy."

I will not quote more rulings, but I may say I have examined all these rulings. Questions cannot be asked as to the advice given by a Minister to the Crown in respect of bestowal of titles or honours, in respect of the prerogative of mercy. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): On what ground?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: They are within the sole jurisdiction of the Crown. The Crown is not expected to act on any advice given to it, such advice as is given to it is really a matter within the cognisance of nobody but the Crown.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Supposing there are matters within the sole jurisdiction of the Governor General or the Governor General in Council or the Secretary of State, then what will be the position?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: If the Governor General has, as a matter of fact, exercised the discretion without consulting the Governor General in Council, I am out of court. I concede that. That is why I have asked the preliminary question, if the Governor General did, as a matter of fact, consult the Governor General in Council. And, if the Governor General in Council gave any advice, I submit I am entitled to put a question and get an answer, except in the one contingency on which you have ruled,—though, if I may say so, you have no means of judging it—where they may say that in public interest they refuse to answer the question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is what the Honourable Member has done.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: There are two parts that are answered, if you will kindly look at that.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: You will find the words control both the parts.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim):

"In the public interest, Government are unable to make any statement concerning the Governor General as distinct from the Governor General in Council."

Mr. S. Satyamurti: As regards refusal to answer, it is for them to say. They may appeal to you in exceptional cases and you may rule it is not in public interest. Generally they are the best judges to say what is in public interest. But I am entitled to an answer to the question whether as a matter of fact they were consulted by the Governor General. That is not a matter on which they can say they refuse to answer.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is really part of the same question. . . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The public interest is this. We want to know if, in these very important matters being done over our heads, . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member knows that the Secretary of State may or may not consult the Governor General. That is the Constitution.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And that is what I want to know. Were they consulted, will they tell me whether in this case they were consulted? If I know that they were consulted and they refuse to answer my question, I know the result. In view of the rulings I have cited, I ask whether it is a *bona fide* exercise of the right to refuse to answer a question in the public interest. I submit, Sir, after all, there is some residuary power in your hands. They cannot take shelter under this plea, whenever there is an inconvenient question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): In a matter like this, it is impossible for the Chair to say whether the answer is *bona fide* or not.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The Chair does not realise our difficulty. We are trying. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member wants any further ruling, the Chair will give it, but at present . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti: If the ruling is going to be against me, I do not want it. (Laughter.) I will take a more favourable opportunity.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As a matter of fact, the Chair may inform the Honourable Member it has thought over the whole matter. The Chair has gone through many of these references but as the Government were prepared, and very rightly prepared to answer some of these questions, the Chair refrained from giving its ruling.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I shall wait for a more favourable opportunity. In the meantime, I will merely ask what is the public interest which the Honourable the Law Member says will be affected adversely by his answering the question specified in (c) of the short notice question No. 2307.

What is the public interest which, according to the Law Member; will be adversely affected by his answering my question (c) of short notice question No. 2307, whether His Excellency the Governor General was consulted?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I do not think that my Honourable friend will find any authority for permission to cross-examine me on what is public interest. It is easy for him to think of the reasons which can be urged, in support of public interest.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am not cross-examining him. I am asking a straight question. I am not equal to the Honourable Member in legal genius, I am simply asking what is the public interest which the Honourable the Law Member thinks will be adversely affected by answering the simple question whether the Governor General was consulted.

(No answer.)

May I ask with regard to part (d), what is the public interest which will be adversely affected in answering the question "whether he asked the Government of India for their opinion"?

(No answer.)

What is the public interest, again, which will be adversely affected by answering the question "Whether they gave any opinion, and if so, what it was?"

(No answer.)

An Honourable Member: Government are dumbfounded!

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: No. I repeat the same answer that my Honourable friend has no right to cross-examine me as to what is public interest. My friend is going on repeating.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am asking what is the particular public interest which, according to the Leader of the House, will be adversely affected by his answering any of these questions.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If that question were put to the Honourable Member himself, he would perhaps find it difficult to answer.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I would answer it readily. But coming back to question No. 1145, may I ask with regard to clauses (a) and (b) of the question, what is the knowledge of the Government of India—assuming the latter part as correct, that was the meaning in which I put the question—the Honourable the Law Member gave two interpretations, and said yes to the latter interpretation, that was the sense in which I put the question? I am asking, what the knowledge of the Government is about the negotiations, especially the later stage of the negotiations.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Our knowledge is derived from the White Paper.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government no further knowledge?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I have already answered that question. We are not willing to give any further information in public interest.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do the Government of India know whether the Secretary of State has made up his mind on the question of the further amendments to the Bill in the later stages of the Bill before the House of Commons?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: We are not aware of that.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are the Government of India consulted about the amendments which are moved by the Secretary of State to the Bill in order to oblige the princes?

The Honouable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I repeat the same argument and the same answer I have already given this morning.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to clause (f), whether Government have considered the legal and constitutional implications of the request of the Indian princes to amend the Government of India Bill in respect of the future Federation, I thought I heard my Honourable friend say "yes". Am I right?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Yes.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Very good, Sir. What are the conclusions to which they have arrived?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: We have arrived at no definite conclusions?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the indefinite conclusions at which they have arrived?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: If they are indefinite, they are not conclusions at all.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I give it up!

SIMULTANEOUS HOUSE SEARCHES IN DELHI.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that simultaneous searches were conducted by the special staff of the Criminal Investigation Department in several houses in the Delhi City on the morning of Wednesday, the 27th March, 1935;
(b) the purpose of these searches;
(c) the names of the persons whose houses were searched;
(d) the results of the searches; and
(e) whether this denotes any change of policy on the part of Government?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The houses of eleven persons in Delhi were searched on the 27th March in connection with two dacoities committed in the Meerut district. So far as the dacoity cases were concerned, nothing incriminating was recovered but certain books, including proscribed literature which were found in some of the houses searched, were seized by the police. The searches were carried out in the usual course of the investigation of crime and do not involve any question of policy. I do not think it is desirable to give the names of persons whose houses were searched.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No supplementary questions, Sir. (Laughter.)

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

HUNGER STRIKE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AT THE DACCA CENTRAL JAIL.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair has received notice of a motion for the adjournment of the House by Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar and a similar notice by Mr. Chattopadhyaya. The first notice is that the Honourable Member proposes to ask for leave to make a motion for the adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance as follows: the reported hunger strike of 18 political prisoners at the Dacca Central Jail for over 63 days. Is there any objection?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): I take objection to this motion on more than one ground. My first ground, which I hope will be found conclusive, is that it relates to what is not a matter of recent occurrence. My attention was first drawn to this incident by a short notice question put down by a Member of this House, on the same subject, so long ago as the 20th or 21st of March. I refused to accept short notice question as I had no information about the incident, and the question has not actually been put. Then, Sir, I find that so long ago as the 22nd March, that is 11 days from now, the matter was discussed in the Bengal Legislative Council. In the first place, there was a short notice question put to the Home Member of the Bengal Government, and, on the same day, there was a lengthy discussion on a cut motion during the course of the budget discussions. Those proceedings were published at length in the newspapers of the 24th March, or rather in the newspapers that reached Delhi on the 24th March. A lengthy report of the discussion, for example, will be found in the newspaper called *Forward* of that date. I understand, it reached here on the 24th or the 25th March. All aspects of the question were discussed in the Bengal Legislative Council, and, ultimately, the cut motion was defeated without a division. These facts must have been or could have been in the knowledge of Honourable Members of this House on the 24th or at the latest on the 25th March, that is eight days ago, and it was not till yesterday that any steps were taken to bring the matter before this House. I submit that in those circumstances it is impossible to claim that this matter is one of urgent public importance or that it deals with a matter of recent occurrence. That is my main ground. In case that ground is not successful as an objection to the motion, I have a further ground which I should like to state later, if necessary.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The first objection raised by my Honourable friend, the Home Member, is that it is not a matter of recent occurrence. I may say that it came to our knowledge only when we saw the *Hindustan Times* yesterday, and, after that, we gave notice. As regards the debate in the Bengal Legislative Council about which the press reports have appeared, according to the Home Member, they were not published in the *Hindustan Times* as far as I am aware.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are other papers in which it appeared.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: May I interrupt the Honourable Member for a moment? There were two articles. There was a fairly lengthy article in the *Hindustan Times* of the 24th March. The Honourable Member says that he saw it only on the 31st March. In that case, I am not the only person who does not read the morning papers.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I submit even the *Hindustan Times* of the 24th could not have raised the question on the occasion of the 63rd day of the fast. The fast is continuing, and this is the 65th day, and, therefore, it is a matter of very urgent importance.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It is not urgent on the 53rd or 5[illegible] day. It becomes urgent only on the 63rd day?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The lives of 18 people are at stake, and I submit to the House that the matter is urgent and important. Therefore, the motion should be allowed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): On the facts stated by the Honourable the Home Member, the Chair must hold that this is not an urgent matter or a matter of recent occurrence within the meaning of the Rules or Standing Orders. The Chair, therefore, rules the motion as being out of order.

Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya's motion relates exactly to the same matter and is also out of order.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—*contd.*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume consideration of the Finance Bill, clause by clause.

As regards clause 2, the Chair said that there are a number of other amendments which also, it thinks, are out of order, having regard to the result of the voting on amendment No. 9. The Chair now, therefore, puts the question. . . .

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): But what about my amendment No. 35?

Dr. P. N. Banerjea (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): And what about my amendment No. 34, Sir?

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): And what about my amendment No. 32, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): With regard to the surcharge? That is out of order as being outside the scope of the Bill.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Mine is on the salt surcharge levied in 1931—No. 34.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not fall within the scope of the Bill at all.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: It is a proviso to be added to this Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That makes no difference.

Now, with regard to amendment No. 35, is that in order having regard to what has been passed?

Pandit Nilakantha Das: It is an *Exception*—a saving clause.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The point raised in amendment No. 35, Sir, by my Honourable friend, is that, so far as any person manufacturing salt for non-commercial domestic purposes is concerned, the duty on that should go; that was never discussed. I quite agree that all amendments relating to the rate are out of order, because the House has already given its verdict.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It does not affect the rate?

Pandit Nilakantha Das: It is a remission. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair wants to know why it is out of order, with regard to the vote of the House. Has the Honourable Member any objection? What is argued on the other side is that this is an exception. Supposing the clause, as it stands, is amended, this will work as an exception to that?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I am afraid that with the best will in the world, I am not able to make out a very convincing case for this being out of order. It is merely intended to make Statutory the Gandhi-Irwin Pact. If the amendment is moved, it is unnecessary, because it is already done administratively.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) That is another matter.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Sir, my amendment is that:

"That to clause 2 of the Bill the following proviso be added :

'Provided that the said provisions shall, in so far as they enable the Governor General in Council to remit any duty so imposed, be construed as if with effect from the 1st day of April, 1935, they remitted the said duty to the entire extent in value on salt manufactured by any person for non-commercial domestic purposes, that is, not for making any commercial profit out of the sale of such salt, and which remission shall be deemed to have been made out of the leviable duty by rule made under that section'."

[Pandit Nilakantha Das.]

There is a misprint here—it should be "and such remission" instead of "and which remission".

Now, the Salt Act of 1882, clause 7, says:

"The Governor General in Council may, from time to time by rule consistent with this Act:

(a) impose a duty not exceeding Rs. 3 per maund manufactured or imported by land into any part of British India."

Then, according to this clause, he will impose 12 annas per maund, as we have passed.

Then, clause (*b*) empowers the Governor General to reduce or remit any duty so imposed and re-impose any duty so reduced or remitted.

So I propose that, according to clause (*b*) of this section, this duty on salt, manufactured for domestic consumption and non-commercial domestic purposes, *i.e.*, the duty of 12 annas per maund already imposed on this salt, that is, salt which is manufactured by individuals for non-commercial domestic purposes will be deemed to have been remitted by the Governor General in Council.

It was a subject of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact of 1931. You are allowed to manufacture salt for your domestic consumption, Sir, according to that Pact. But many things have happened since then, and, in many parts of India, it is not clear whether people are enjoying this privilege, as a matter of right, to manufacture salt for their domestic purposes. Of course, the Government are willing to allow people, wherever they strictly observe the terms of the Pact, to manufacture salt for their domestic purposes, but we should like to see that some provision should be made in the Act so that people may enjoy that privilege as a matter of right. It may be that there are some officials or some people in the areas where people manufacture salt for domestic purposes, who may, for some reason or other, want to victimise those manufacturers. There may be various such cases and then these people have no appeal in Courts of law. So if this privilege is to be extended, it should be extended as a part of some Statutory provision. As Government have no objection to allow people to make their own salt for their domestic consumption and for non-commercial purposes in a *bona fide* manner, I think there will be no objection on the part of the Government to allow this proviso to be added to section 2 of this Act.

I may explain here fully that it is not only for people who live by the side of the sea. In our country people make their salt from salt earth. Of course, the quantity of the salt so made is not much but it is enough for their domestic purposes. In the interior, I have seen they made salt from the salt earth found in fields and in cowsheds—from their fields and from their cowsheds they take some earth and manufacture salt out of this for their domestic consumption. Then there are certain wells and springs for instance, in Assam, the water of which is guarded by the Salt Department now and people are not allowed to take any water out of them. From that water also they make salt for their domestic consumption. Then, some people also make salt from the banana plant. They dry out the banana leaves and other refuse of the banana plant and from the ashes of these they prepare salt for their domestic purposes. But when we come to

think of salt manufacture in this House, we think of salt pans and then calculate the labour, capital and interest involved in the undertaking. Only the other day, I was reading that for producing five lakhs of tons of salt only 600 men are to get employment. I will give an instance for analogy. Suppose, rice is husked in mills and Government makes a monopoly of it and it is dealt out to people at a certain price. Suppose, after the monopoly there is some excise duty like the salt duty and then if you calculate that, if people do not make it at home, then in so many mills only about 15 to 20 thousand people are employed all over the rice eating tract of India and only so many people will get employment. If you calculate in that manner in this mass production of husking rice, then you will find the husking much cheaper, for in the houses women have to do it with an ordinary country machine. If you calculate the wages and other expenses in home husking, then it becomes much more than what you would spend on husking rice in your mills. So, just like that, we sometimes calculate the price of salt. Suppose, from half a dozen banana plants the housewife makes some salt, you cannot calculate the cost of it because there is no cost involved. It is only on account of our State monopoly that we always think in terms of big pans and plants for salt making. It is said that the cost of making the Panga salt is about eight annas to ten annas per maund. That may be so; but if people are allowed to make their own salt, it will not cost them so much.

Sir, salt is a prime and bare necessity of life. It is more so to people who live on rice, for rice eating people require more salt than others. It is a bad necessity of life to people in the eastern part of India, particularly from Assam up to Cape Comorin and even in Malabar, for the whole of this tract is rice eating. Thus, in the peninsular India and the Eastern India, it is a supreme necessity. Then, again, it is necessary for cattle. And the third necessity is for plantations. In the eastern and Malabar coast of the peninsular India cocoanut plantations require salt very badly. If you give salt to cocoanut plants, their produce will be just the double of the usual quantity. Now you contemplate protecting the Indian cocoanut against the Ceylon cocoanut, and, therefore, it is high time that we should now think of free salt specially for this coastal area. Salt is the food of cocoanut and it is the best manure for it. If you put salt under the plant, you will get cocoanut in much greater quantity. That is my experience because I have got cocoanut plantations. So I say, it is now high time that you should think of giving this privilege as a matter of statutory right to people especially in the peninsular and eastern India where people will profusely make use of this privilege.

Sir, rice eating people require more salt. Poor people sometimes eat wet rice and salt. Then, again, it is required for their cattle and perhaps our cattle in the rice fields are more hard-worked than in the wheat fields. Then it is also required for cocoanut plants. Therefore, this privilege should be extended to our people as a matter of statutory right. I hope Government will raise no objection to this proviso which I have proposed and will support me in adding it to the Act.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That to clause 2 of the Bill the following proviso be added:

'Provided that the said provisions shall, in so far as they enable the Governor General in Council to remit any duty so imposed, be construed as if with effect from the 1st day of April, 1935, they remitted the said duty to the entire extent in

[Mr. President.]

value on salt manufactured by any person for non-commercial domestic purposes, that is, not for making any commercial profit out of the sale of such salt, and such remission shall be deemed to have been made out of the leviable duty by rule made under that section',"

Mr. A. H. Lloyd (Government of India: Nominated Official): I regret to say that I must disappoint the Honourable the Mover of this amendment by saying that it is impossible for the Government to accept it. Whatever his motive, and I understand his motive to be a desire to put the provisions of the Delhi Pact of 1931 on a statutory basis, the method by which he is undertaking to do it is completely unworkable. He appears to overlook the fact that the Delhi Pact, with its arrangement that the officials should close their eyes to offences against salt laws, deals with a great many other provisions besides that which lays down the rates of duty. This clause merely refers to the rate of duty and it says nothing about the machinery in the various Salt Acts in force in this country for controlling the production of salt. If this provision were put into law, it would still be open to us to exercise our rights to the full in controlling the production of salt so as to see that the salt which purported to be duty free under this amendment should not be diverted to other purposes. That it would be necessary to use those powers is obvious if the wording of the amendment is seen. It merely says:

"Remitted the said duty to the entire extent in value on salt manufactured by any person for non-commercial domestic purposes."

It does not say who is to determine what is a non-commercial domestic purpose and it does not say what are to be the limits of quantity. There would be no method of controlling the concession except the close, inquisitorial supervision which I referred to yesterday and which one of the part-authors of the Delhi Pact was particularly anxious to avoid. The clause in the instructions of May, 1931, which immediately preceded the one that I quoted yesterday said that watchers should be withdrawn. Now that clause would be completely unworkable if we had a provision such as this which left it for determination on the merits in every single case whether or not the concession is being abused. The only workable scheme is the one which Mr. Gandhi himself approved of allowing the concession by shutting our eyes generally to the provisions of the law and withdrawing it if abuses became widespread. To watch each individual person and to see that he does not abuse the concession would be an impossible task. There are other points on which I might dilate, but really I do not wish to take up the time of the House beyond mentioning one, namely, that we should, in many cases, retain the full right to impose a preventive staff over the places in which salt was made, *albeit* it is made for duty free purposes. Under the law we shall be allowed to charge the maker of salt with the cost of the preventive staff. Let us suppose that we engage a peon on Rs. 20; that would cost Rs. 240 a year to the man in order to enable him to enjoy a concession that might give him a benefit of Rs. 1-8-0 or Rs. 2 in the year. That I merely put forward as an illustration to show that this is an unworkable proposition. We are satisfied that the method which was adopted, in 1931, is the only possible method; it gives discretion to the Government and the Government officials, a discretion which, I am confident, we can say is not abused; and the method adopted, by avoiding all complicated interference with a number of statutes, is far and away the simplest,—that is to say the method of issuing executive instructions which involve our shutting our eyes to the provisions of the law rather than issuing statutory rules, let alone a statutory provision such as the Honourable the Mover wishes us to embody in the law. For these reasons, I oppose the motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir in opposing this particular motion, the Honourable Member on the Government Benches has stated that the system of giving discretion to the local authorities of seeing and checking the free manufacture of salt by the poor people, in different areas, has worked very well and he did not see any reason why any change should be made in the present practice. Only the other day, through a supplementary question, I tried to draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to what is happening in certain parts of the Madras Presidency. Sir, although this discretion has been granted to the local officers whether or not to allow the peasants and workers to manufacture salt free in their own local areas for their local and personal use, yet the police have been taking the law into their own hands and have been going about frightening away the masses from exercising this particular privilege of theirs and thus preventing the ordinary people from making use of this particular privilege. Secondly, when we asked the Honourable the Finance Member whether in cases where the local officers refused permission to freely manufacture salt to local people, any appeal lay to him against their decisions, he gave his answer in the negative saying that he did not see any reason why there should be any appeal at all to him against the decisions taken by the local officers. Sir, the effect of these two things, the *zulum* used by the local police on the one hand and the refusal of the Honourable the Finance Member on the other hand to interfere, whenever the local officers decided against the petitioners for freely manufacturing salt,—the combination of these two circumstances will result in the actual nullification of this particular Gandhi-Irwin Pact. It will become impossible for peasants and workers anywhere in this country to try to take advantage of this particular Pact and even where these people have been manufacturing salt for a long time freely and in an unfettered manner, it would become impossible for them to go on manufacturing salt because of the police *zulum*.

As Honourable Members are aware there is famine in five districts of the Madras Presidency, known as the Ceded districts and I learn now that there is also famine in two other districts, Tinnevelly and Nellore.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur (South Madras: Muhammadan): And Trichinopoly.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My Honourable friend says, in Trichinopoly too. When famine is prevalent in eight districts of Madras Presidency, applications have been sent by various peasants and workers to the authorities in Madras Presidency for permission to freely manufacture salt, and yet, except in the case of peasants and workers in the Anantapur and Bellary districts, in all other cases, these petitions were dismissed and we are told that there should be no appeal at all against the refusal of the local authorities, to permit these hard pressed people, to manufacture salt freely for their own use or for local sale. If this is the manner in which the Government of India wishes to implement the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, in so far as free manufacture of salt is concerned and, if this is the manner in which the

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

Government of India wish to leave everything to the discretion of local officers and refuse to interfere even where there are flagrant instances of injustice, then it is better that this House should insist that this power of enforcing this Gandhi-Irwin Pact should not be left to the discretion of the executive authorities, but should insist on a statutory provision being made in this particular Finance Bill. Even in the case of these two districts, where permission is supposed to have been granted to the peasants and workers, it is specifically stated that this permission is given to them only because there is supposed to be famine in those districts and not because they can possibly and easily manufacture salt in their own local areas without causing any effective loss to the Government of India in their revenues. I would like to know whether the Government of India, when they were concluding this particular Pact, had in mind the granting of this particular concession only to those areas, only to those people who are supposed to be suffering from any particular calamity, like famine, or whether they really thought of permitting people to manufacture salt freely in their own local areas and for their own local use. I am sure that at the time when this particular Pact was concluded, it was thought by those who concluded the Pact, as well as those outside in the country who accepted it, that this particular privilege will be extended to those workers and peasants and other poor people who could easily manufacture salt in their own areas and for their own local use or personal use irrespective of any special or economic conditions of their particular locality. If that is so, I find now that the present practice that is being followed by the Madras Government and according to the instructions of the Government of India and also as admitted by the Government of India in this House is a slow process of contravention of the real intentions of this Pact and also of the authors of this Pact. I, therefore, suggest to this House that it should not leave this thing entirely to the discretion of the Executive Government, but insist upon a Statutory provision being added to this particular Finance Bill, so that, hereafter, at least those millions and millions of people, who are in this country, would like to have this small privilege left in their hands and be benefited. It may be argued and I feel that my Honourable friend, Mr. Haroon, will argue . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That need not trouble the Honourable Member.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Mr. Haroon is impatient about making a possible remark about the loss of revenue that may have to be incurred by the Government of India in regard to this. Even in that connection, what I would like to state is that after all, in view of the admission made by Mr. Lloyd on the other side only yesterday that this particular tax certainly presses hard upon all these poorer classes and upon every person to the extent of six annas per annum, it is but fair that those of them who can possibly manufacture salt for their own use and who can possibly make a small living for a few days in the year by selling the salt that they manufacture in their own areas, ought not to be prevented from enjoying this particular privilege. I, therefore, sincerely hope that Honourable Members on this side will accept this particular amendment and carry it.

1 P. M.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I did not want to intervene in this debate, but even after hearing the arguments of my Honourable friends, Pandit Nilakantha Das and Prof. Ranga, I cannot understand even now how the individual man or the poor man can manufacture salt on an economical basis. A maund of salt can be manufactured by mass production at two annas, 2½ annas or even three annas. And a family of four persons, each person requiring about 15 pounds of salt, requires 60 pounds or hardly a maund. And how can they be able to produce or manufacture that salt, as suggested by Pandit Nilakantha Das. . . . .

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, on a point of information, I may tell my Honourable friend that the salt is available there. They are not to manufacture, but simply to take it; that is all.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Yes, I have seen this also in Karachi in the midst of the agitation in 1930. There was a bed on the sea coast where salt was lying for many years, and, in the midst of that agitation, thousands of men, women and children went to bring that salt from the bed. What I found was that all that salt was sold to merchants in many places and they even commenced to sell it in the market by hawking it, and some bags were even despatched through the railways. If my Honourable friends want to change the law on that point, I have no objection if they think it is proper. But if the argument only is that the poor man will be benefited by this salt, it is at least beyond my understanding as to how it can be possible for a family to collect the salt. It was said by one of my friends just now that much salt is lying in the earth. I know on the sea coast there is plenty of salt lying in many places, but in the interior of the country I have a little experience of how they manufacture salt, and, in my opinion, to produce a maund of salt from the earth might cost even Rs. 2 or 3 more than if they were to buy it in the bazar. I have no objection if Honourable Members sentimentally want to enter these things in the Bill itself. But, economically, to benefit the poor, there is, in my opinion, no case at all.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I beg to move that the question be now put.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, in order to cut short this discussion, I would, with your permission, just put a question to the opposite Benches, and if their answer is satisfactory, perhaps my friend might withdraw his motion and the discussion will be cut short and the time saved. Will Government be pleased to tell us if they adhere to the letter and the spirit of the provision relating to salt embodied in the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, and if they have any rules on the subject?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, that assurance can readily be given. Government do adhere to the Pact, and, to the best of their belief, they are administering the salt tax in the spirit of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact and have every intention of so doing. But I would point out to my Honourable friend that the last clause of that Pact does provide for the withdrawal of the concession in cases of abuse and provides a *prima facie* criterion of what is abuse drafted by Mr. Gandhi himself.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, I am in sympathy with the object of this amendment, because I have seen the poor people really suffering in Bihar and Orissa, not only on the sea coast, but in the villages also. There are poor people who have to make salt from saltpetre, but they have got to take a license and pay a heavy sum on that account. I have not been able to understand my Honourable friend, Mr. Lloyd, over there, who says that giving effect to the provision of this amendment is something impossible. If I feel that it is impossible to make provision for remission of excise duty on salt made by persons for non-commercial domestic purposes, that is a different matter. But reading the Indian Salt Act, 1882, I find that there is a provision in section 7(*b*) to remit any duties so imposed and that that power is given to the Governor General in Council. I think that the object of this provision in the Act was really to remit all duties likely to be imposed under the other provisions of the Act on those who prepare salt for their domestic purposes.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Sir, may I just explain? I said that the thing was unworkable. I did not say that it was impossible within the terms of section 7(*b*). I said that, as drafted, the amendment was unworkable, because even if a remission of duty is granted, there will still remain provisions for controlling the output of the salt to see that the remission is not abused.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi: The provision in clause 7(*b*) must have been introduced for some purpose, and the purpose must be to relieve the poor people for preparing salt for their domestic purposes . . .

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The usual use of clause (*b*) is for salt issued for industrial purposes.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi: My point was, why no provision has still been made, since 1882, to relieve poor people who prepare salt for their domestic purposes. That would have been a laudable object. I believe, every one will admit that the poor people, who have got no employment whatsoever and those who cannot afford even an anna for the purpose of buying salt, should be allowed to employ their time usefully by the seaside and get salt for their domestic purposes. You are depriving them of the little salt which they can get by their manual labour. That is the objection I have to this excise duty. For that reason alone, whatever may be the Pact between those two Pact makers with which I have nothing to do, for the sake of the poor people I feel that some such provision should be made for these people who have no money to pay even for their salt.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I move that the question be now put.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Sir, I shall probably withdraw this amendment, but I would make a request to the Government. I find they have now agreed, under these rules, to give effect to the Gandhi-Irwin Pact on this particular subject. . . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: It has been in effect for four years.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: . . . . . and these are the rules, I believe:

"Clause 20 is intended to benefit the poor classes. It will be open therefore to those in villages adjoining salt areas to make or collect salt for domestic use and sale in their respective villages.

Domestic use shall include use for manure, cattle or fish-curing by individual fishermen.

For this purpose the villagers may make salt pans or beds.

There should be no sale of salt for purposes of trade outside the villages. It follows therefore that such salt can be carried only on foot and not in carts or such other conveyances.

Wherever manufacture of salt under the foregoing clause is permitted, salt pans will not be dirtied or otherwise interfered with by Government officers and regular watches will be withdrawn."

This is all right so far as it goes, but clause (5) says:

"The concession will be withdrawn from villages where it is found that it is abused. Wherever it is discovered that salt is manufactured or collected in quantities, above the requirements of a particular village, abuse of the concession will be presumed."

I would request the Government and the Honourable the Finance Member that it may well be that in withdrawing the concession it may be due to the act of a single individual in the village who may make some mischief. . . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: To the best of my knowledge, the concession has never been withdrawn except in the case of widespread abuses; and let me tell the Honourable Member that in one of the cases about which he wrote to me saying that the concession had been withdrawn, I have now received an answer to my inquiries to say that the concession has not been withdrawn.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: In that case, I gladly beg leave to withdraw my amendment. I am, moreover, thankful to learn that the concession is not to be withdrawn from the Kakatpur area in the Puri district.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

[Mr. President.]

The first part of clause 3 relates to duty on silver. There is one amendment by Seth Govind Das, and the Chair holds that it is out of order.

As regards the next part relating to skins, there is an amendment by Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. There is also another amendment by Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty. That is clearly out of order.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): I propose moving it if this amendment is not carried.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is out of order, because the House cannot refer one clause of a Bill to a Select Committee unless the Bill itself has been referred to a Select Committee and comes back here. Then, it is possible that one clause may be re-committed, but one clause of the Bill alone cannot be referred to a Select Committee.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That sub-clause (*2*) of clause 3 of the Bill be omitted."

In introducing the budget, the Honourable the Finance Member, in paragraph 37 of his speech relating to export duty on skins, said thus:

"The third change of a minor order is the abolition of the export duty on raw skins. During the eight months ending 30th November, 1934, the export trade in raw skins declined in volume as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, from 13,133 tons to 8,938 tons and in value from Rs. 2,24 lakhs to Rs. 1,19 lakhs. We all believe, of course, that the most necessary factor in India's economic recovery is a revival of her export trade."

Then, he goes on:

"Many of us feel angry and humiliated at our inability to suggest any positive action designed to promote that end, apart from international action of a kind which is not at present likely to be taken, namely, a general agreement to reduce tariffs and quotas. But here is one case, though, unfortunately, only a small one, where some action is possible within the bounds of our available resources and I think that it should be taken."

That is the reason why he says that a small export duty, which gives about eight lakhs to the exchequer, might be abolished. Sir, I do want by this amendment that this export duty should be continued, for this reason that it helps one of the most important industries of Southern India, which is a key industry for the whole of India,—I refer to the tanning industry. The Hide Cess Committee, which was appointed to report on this matter, has found that to the extent of nearly 48 to 50 crores of rupees worth of raw skins and tanned skins are being produced, of which some are consumed in this country and the rest are exported. We find from the Trade Review published for 1932-33, that the volume of export trade in raw hides and skins was to the extent of only eight crores and odd, and the balance must have been wholly consumed in India. At the time when the Hide Cess Committee reported, the value might have been double the value which now prevails, and, therefore, reducing it by half, it may come to 25 crores. The value of the total quantity produced in this country may be 25 crores, of which after deducting eight crores worth hides and skins which are exported, there is a balance of about 17 crores

worth of hides and skins which are used up in this country. The major portion of raw hides and skins are used up in this country either in factories or in cottage industries, and nearly three millions of Indians are employed in this industry. I would refer my Honourable friends to paragraph 129 of the Report of the Hide Cess Inquiry Committee. At page 168 this is what they say:

"The value to India of this industry taken as a whole, (*i.e.*, the raw stock and leather trades and the leather, leather working and other allied industries) is about forty to fifty crores; it provides employment to large numbers of men, (tanners and leather workers being a little under three million) and is a factor in the economic well-being of millions of the depressed classes. There is scope for work in order to reduce the national waste. Improvement effected will not only benefit those directly engaged in the industry as a whole but will also re-act favourably on the peasantry of India. Our proposals have this objective in view, and are, in our opinion, so designed as to achieve it, as far as it is practicable."

Now, out of the volume of export trade which is to the extent of nearly eight crores a year, more than half are tanned skins and hides. Of the balance of four crores, hides come to nearly two crores, and skins two crores. It was in the year 1919, in order to protect this tanning industry against unhealthy competition from abroad, an export duty of 15 per cent. was imposed, with a rebate of 10 per cent. in favour of exports to any part of the British Empire. This worked quite well for some time, say till 1923, when the 15 per cent. export duty was reduced to 5 per cent. duty all round. Since then, we find from the figures that have been collected in the Trade Reviews, year after year, that the tanning industry has been working against heavy odds. America has taken special precautions to prohibit the import of even a square inch of tanned leather into the country. Germany also has taken similar precautions and has included even tanning materials in the list of articles prohibited. It only wants raw skins and raw hides, but it has prohibited the import of even a square inch of tanned articles into the country. France and Australia have prohibited the export of raw skins and hides in order to develop their industries. Under these circumstances, it was thought necessary that hides and skins which form one-third of the total volume of the whole trade, should be utilised for the purposes of tanning industry. Sir, the history of this industry will clearly show that during all these years the protection that has been extended to it, by way of an export duty, has certainly served a very useful purpose. We are now able to use nearly 20 crores worth of articles produced, locally in the several tanneries. The two or three crores that remain untanned here are being exported in a raw and unfinished state. There is considerable scope for using up these two or three crores worth of articles also in this country itself. Sir, I find that in the year 1922-23, the export of tanned hides was 9,900 tons, and of skins 4,700 tons; in 1923-24, 13,200 and 4,900 tons; in 1925-26, 12,100 tons and 6,300 tons; 1926-27, 11,300 tons and 7,000 tons; in 1927-28, 15,800 tons and 7,500 tons; and in 1928-29, 16,400 tons and 7,100 tons respectively. Thus, we see that, from the year 1922-23 right up to the year 1928-29, there has been a progressive increase in the volume of export trade in tanned hides and skins. It may be worth while to remember that with respect to skins India practically holds a monopoly in the world.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Question.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Now as I am questioned in this matter, I would request my Honourable friends to refer to paragraph 150 of the Taxation Enquiry Report:

"The duty on skins falls in a different category. Indian goat-skins, though they contribute only one-third of the world's total, enjoy a good reputation, and the trade figures since the duty was imposed do not indicate that it has had an injurious effect."

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Enjoy good reputation means monopoly?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I did not say that. But when we command one-third of the whole trade of the world with respect to goat-skins. . . . .

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: That does not show that there is a monopoly. When we hold only one-third share, it shows that we hold no monopoly.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is not absolute, but I would say to a large extent we are commanding.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Then we hold a monopoly in everything, if this is your mathematics of calculation.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You will please wait and see.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Honourable Member will go on.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: At page 111 of the "Review of Trade of India for the year 1932-33," we find:

"The total value of the trade has fallen from Rs. 8,92 lakhs in 1931-32 to Rs. 7,43 lakhs in the year under review, a fall of 16 per cent. The main reason for this decline, as explained in earlier issues of this Review, is the trade depression, which led to a reduction in the demand for hides and skins. The average declared value for raw hides and skins declined from 7 as. 9 ps. to 7 as. 2 ps., whereas in the case of tanned hides and skins, the decline was from Rs. 1-7-10 per lb. to Rs. 1-7-0 per lb."

Later on, in the next page:

"As usual, the United States of America took the major portion of the exports of goat skins, her share amounting to 7,600 tons valued at Rs. 87 lakhs in the year under review as compared with 11,600 tons valued at Rs. 1,77 lakhs in the preceding year."

Then, at page 113:

"The United States of America ceased to be interested in these exports in the year under review...Shipments of tanned hides were, as usual, mostly to the United Kingdom."

Towards the end of that paragraph.

"The United States showed no interest whatever in this line of trade during the year. Of the total quantity of tanned skins exported, the United Kingdom took 86 per cent, and Japan 8 per cent. as compared with 87 per cent. and 9 per cent. respectively in the preceding year."

Thus, we find that with respect to tanned hides and skins, the United States of America, which was a very good market some years ago, has ceased to purchase any quantity of either tanned hides or skins. It only wants our raw materials to our detriment. Therefore, reading that paragraph in the Taxation Enquiry Committee's report in conjunction with the actual figures that have been given in the Review of Trade for India as to how other countries have been taking our hides and skins now in a raw condition and not in a tanned condition,—still there is a market for it—I wanted to say, though, of course, not absolutely, that with respect to goat-skins at least we command to some extent a monopoly in that direction, not an absolute monopoly.

An Honourable Member: Question.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Have you seen the two tables in the "Review" which you have just quoted?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I have seen all the tables there. The five per cent. duty that is now imposed on exports does not stand in the least in the way of an increased export trade. Prices have fallen nearly by fifty per cent., of all articles in this country, of grains, and other articles and of the skins also in particular, and this export duty of five per cent. is not going to stand in the way of an increase in the sale of hides and skins. In 1934, the export duty was removed with respect to hides. The then Finance Member, in moving the clause in the Finance Bill relating to the removal of the export duty on hides, said that, so far as hides were concerned, it was necessary in order to augment the trade in foreign countries, but he did not press for the removal of the export duty so far as skins were concerned. Now, Sir, if we have not had such large exports of raw materials to foreign countries, it is not due to the fact that there is a want of foreign market, but to the way in which our raw products in this country are being manufactured. The Hides Cess Committee reported that there was great scope for improvement in this direction. The cattle are not bred properly, some of them die on account of starvation or disease, and the hides that are sent to other countries are quite inferior in quality, and that was why India was losing the hold on the foreign market so far as hides were concerned. A number of suggestions were made by the committee that cattle should be bred properly, and that, after they grow into proper size, they should be killed and the hides and skins exported or after they die a natural death. Even in the process of curing and the preparation and preservation of hides and skins, there is much scope for improvement. The ordinary man with little or no scientific knowledge does it in a manner which makes them absolutely unfit for use. The Hide Cess Committee say. . . .

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: From what book are you reading?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am referring to the Legislative Assembly Debates, page 2585. I quote from Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya's speech:

"Then, Sir, the methods used here are comparatively primitive, while, in other parts of the world, they employ advanced and scientific methods. India greatly lacks in them, and then they point out on page 59 of the report:

'We shall describe the chief defects under the heads (i) adherence of foreign matter and lack of general cleanliness, (ii) freezing, sun blisters or burns and surface drying, (iii) uneven cooling and drying and crumpling, (iv) over drying, and (v) dragging and scratching or rubbing of the grain'."

[Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.]

Thus, the man that handles and removes the skin, handles it in a manner which makes it absolutely unfit. He has no scientific knowledge about it at all.

Thirdly, in the report, they refer to the fact that marketing facilities have not been given for our products when they are exported, say, to England and other countries. There is great scope for further improvement in this matter also. It is on account of these defects that gradually, from year to year, our raw skins and hides have been losing their hold on the foreign market, and it is, therefore, idle to contend that the five per cent. duty on exports stands in the way of the increase or augmentation of this article of trade. It is well to note that the tanning industry is not confined only to the Madras Presidency. In Bombay also this industry is flourishing and in Cawnpore and in some portions of Northern India also. Nearly 75 to 80 per cent. of the total quantity of hides and skins that are produced in this country are being utilised in this industry. Those persons that are anxious to avoid this export duty of five per cent. can rest well content by selling those articles to these various tanneries and factories and to those other persons who are eking out a living in the cottages by running these as cottage industries. Again and again on the floor of this House and elsewhere, we are making a plea for the amelioration of the depressed classes. That plea will be absolutely futile so long as we do not do anything to improve their condition. This industry is giving them a means of sustenance year after year. If you go to shops and buy foreign articles, boots, shoes, etc., made of leather originally untanned, having sent away skins in an undressed form from India only to come back in a finished form to us, you are only taking away the bread from out of the mouths of hundreds and millions of depressed classes in this country. The effect of the removal of this duty will be to divert the entire volume of trade to foreign countries, and even for small things, such as *chappals* and shoes, we shall be at the mercy of foreign countries for supply here.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: *Chappals* are not made out of these skins. It is out of hides.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: My friend wants to justify the action that was taken in 1934. A sin was committed against this tanning industry in 1934 by making an inroad upon it.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: We are discussing skins here.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Honourable Member was not in this House last year, but the way had already been paved for the ruin of this industry. This removed one of the corner stones of that building. Let us not add one more injustice to the injustice that has been already done. There is already an inclination towards the foreign market. We do not want to contribute to it by the removal of this tax by way of export duty. I am sorry that the Honourable the Finance Member has entirely misjudged the situation in his budget speech. We do want special protection for this industry. There is no meaning in saying that the 5 per cent. duty stands in the way of the export trade. If originally an export duty of 5 per cent. was imposed it was to protect this industry in 1910.

Now, the question that one has to address oneself to is whether this protection has served its purpose. It has amply justified itself. We have now nearly 80 per cent. skins tanned in our own country. Therefore, there is ample justification for continuing this small protective duty. It has been suggested sometimes that if an industry is to be protected, it is by means of an import duty upon articles of like description and not by way of export duty on raw articles exported to foreign countries. You will kindly consider that this aspect of the principle cannot work properly so far as hides and skins are concerned. The total imports of hides and skins or leather in a finished or unfinished form into this country is not more than a crore of rupees a year, whereas the total amount of exports, either of raw skins or hides or tanned skins or hides to foreign countries year after year, is not less than 8 to 9 crores of rupees. Therefore, if the tanning industry has got to be protected it is not by imposing a duty on the one crore of worth of materials sent to this country and by giving up the 8 or 9 crores worth of the unfinished articles sent to other countries. Tanning industry is different from the industry of making boots and shoes. That is converting the raw hides and skins from the natural form to another form fit for converting them into various articles of use and apparel. If these raw skins and hides are sent away, year after year, in large quantities to other countries, tanning industry would fail for want of sufficient material and there is a danger ahead of this industry. Already an injustice has been committed regarding hides. Even with respect to goat skins and sheep skins which are practically put under a different category even by the Taxation Committee report, should we perpetuate the wrong. The question is also whether we should do anything which will have the effect of taking away the bread from out of the mouth of hundreds of thousands of persons who are starving in this country.

I can tell this House that I am not personally interested in this industry and the members of my community have nothing whatever to do with it. Most of the Mussalmans in the south of India are tanners. Their main occupation is tanning. Honourable Members of this House, who are not acquainted with the tanning industry, may note that our brothers, the members of the Muslim community, are running this industry and the members of the depressed classes have made this their main occupation as labourers and coolies. It is thriving as a cottage industry also. Therefore, we must bear in mind that this duty does not directly affect the consumer. If this five per cent. duty is imposed on the finished articles that are imported into this country, then it will affect the consumer. There is absolutely no question of the consumer being affected, so far as this 5 per cent. export duty is concerned, which helps the industry. If the fall of 50 per cent. in prices has not been able to achieve the object of increase in exports, the removal of this five per cent. duty is not going to achieve it.

There is another danger also which has been visualised in the Hide Cess Committee Report. If we remove this export duty on hides and skins we shall be putting a premium on the killing of these animals prematurely. If the animals are killed prematurely, the leather will not have assumed a proper thickness or toughness. Just as food grains cannot be eaten raw, *i.e.*, before they are ripe, so these hides and skins will be useless unless and until the animal is fattened, grown to a good size and precautions are taken that it is not starved or that it does not die of disease.

These are all the conditions imposed to make these hides marketable. Therefore, let us not go away with the impression that persons from Madras at the other end of the continent are crying hoarse over the continuance

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of the five per cent. duty without rhyme or reason. We say mere provincial barriers ought not to stand in our way. Sir, we have been taxing ourselves more and more for the sake of this industry and that industry—for the cotton industry, for the sake of the mill industry, for the sake of the salt industry, for the sake of the iron and steel industry, and for the sugar industry of Northern India. (Hear, hear.) Likewise, even if, in spite of all that has been said from time to time and what I have been able to say today, the House is not convinced at any rate with regard to the cry that we are making from the other end that the abolition will seriously interfere with our industry, let the Members put up with this five per cent. duty.

Then, there is one other matter with respect to which the Honourable the Finance Member made some remarks. This is an absolutely minor matter—the export of hides and skins does not get us more than eight crores of rupees a year, whereas our foreign exports are of very much higher value.

An Honourable Member: Eight lakhs.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The revenue is eight lakhs, I know. The total volume of trade is eight crores. Now, eight lakhs is such a small matter. We can easily afford that. The Honourable the Finance Member says that the salvation for India lies in the exports that it makes of raw produce to other countries. Sir, I want to shatter that proposition. It is absolutely unsound. In the present circumstances, the fact is, that no other country is prepared to take our raw produce unless it is absolutely compelled to do so. Whatever kind of raw produce it is able to produce, it produces itself. Well, so far as finished articles are concerned, we have been finished long ago. God has, in His dispensation, finished us to that extent. It is impossible to visualize the date in the distant future when we shall be able to produce finished articles and export them to other countries. We are destined to remain the hewers of wood and the drawers of water. Perhaps the Honourable Members from Bengal will realise our position. With regard to the export duty on jute that commands a monopoly there, jute which was selling to the value of 33 crores some years ago has now come down to 26 crores and cotton from 26 crores to 20 crores.

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Then, with regard to rice and wheat, unfortunately we have been reduced from the position of exporters to that of importers, and with regard to the cry for the reduction of the import duty on wheat, well, Bengal Members have been complaining against that.

Now, with respect to the problem of rice in Southern India, we have been considering various projects and schemes, but we are not able to export large quantities of rice, but, on the other hand, Siam is trying to dump rice on us. Where, then, is the market for our produce? It is idle to consider that in the future there will be a huge market for our produce. Java, Japan, China,—everybody is going to grow its own rice. On account of the sugar import duty on Java sugar, they have been converting all their land into rice-producing areas. Then, Sir, if Honourable Members of the House will patiently go through the report of 1932-33 or the "Review of Trade" and find out the balance of trade from year to year, we are absolutely nowhere in the world. The balance in 1930-31 in our favour

was as follows. Our total exports in 1930-31 were 226 crores. I mean "private merchandise"—not the distress gold that has been going away to other countries. The balance of trade was then 50 crores in our favour. In 1931-32, 161 crores was the total export of private merchandise to foreign countries. Then we had Rs. 30 crores in our favour as the balance of trade. In 1932-33, from 161 crores it has come down to 136 crores in our exports and our balance of trade was three crores only. If you take the years 1933-34 and 1934-35, you will find how degraded we have become. If we treat the large quantities of gold as commodities which have gone away from our country, there is a balance of trade in our favour. But, Sir, should we not be ashamed that this position is only fallaciously reached by our exporting vast quantities of our available gold, in terms whereof alone we realize all our commodities? Thus, our export trade is absolutely shrinking. The exports *minus* the imports are absolutely nothing: and the imports stand out as being in the very forefront and they have the upper hand. How is the Finance Member going to relieve us from this inconvenient situation, except by processes of our own self-help—by our trying to improve our cottage industries, as well as our own industries and factories, etc. and, Sir, unless we become self-sufficient, there does not seem to be any hope for us in the near future. There is this small pittance of five per cent. export duty which persons, who do not really understand the tanning industry, are clamouring. They had been crying hoarse previously and got it reduced to 5 per cent. Sir, I request the Government, in the name of humanity, in the name of the future salvation of this industry and similar industries in this country, and in the name of the well-being of more than three millions of depressed class workers, to save this important industry in the Southern Presidency and to continue this five per cent. duty. I hope all sections of the House will kindly appreciate the position and the difficult position of this industry and whole-heartedly vote for the amendment. (Loud and Prolonged Applause.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That sub-clause (*2*) of clause 3 of the Bill be omitted."

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Sir, I find that a great industrialist and experienced legislator like my Honourable friend. Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, is showing great interest in this question, and I see also the great readiness for a fight which my Honourable friend over there, Mr. Nauman, is showing. I, therefore, very earnestly request the Honourable Members of this House and particularly those gentlemen who seem to hold different views to give their earnest and dispassionate consideration to this question.

I cannot, Sir, congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member for throwing this apple of discord, and, as a matter of fact, he has thrown it more as a matter of introducing the thin end of the wedge. His intention is not so much to increase the export trade in skins, or for that matter the export trade of India, as to give the go-by to the policy of protection to which this House is committed for some time past. As for the presentation of materials in respect of the case that this export duty should be retained, I do not think I can improve on the speech made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar; but one point that I desire to bring prominently to the attention of the Honourable Members is, whether this House is going to revise its opinion in respect of the policy of protection for our industries. If that is not the intention, whatever

[Mr. Sami Venkatachelam Chetty.]

might be the merits of the case for the abolition of this duty, I earnestly request Honourable Members to ignore those considerations for the present, and have only one matter in view, namely, the grant of protection to industries of this kind. (*A Voice*: "Question.") Sir, I take it that the Honourable Members of this House are divided even on the question of protection to industries of this kind. Had it not been so, probably, when the time comes, they will find representatives from the Southern Presidency to be more in agreement with them than those of Upper India. But in order to see that other industries are protected, when we will be in a position not only to supply our own needs, but, if possible, at a distant date to be able to furnish to the markets of the world our finished products, all Presidencies which are not now industrious are willing to sacrifice their interests in the prosecution of that national policy. I expect the same kind of consideration from those Honourable Members representing other Presidencies who seem to hold different opinions upon this. After all, the only justification which the Honourable the Finance Member has put forward in support of this case is that the export of raw skins has been falling since last year and he has quoted the figures only for a period of nine months.

Now, with regard to that situation, I may state for the information of the House that during nine months from April to December in the year 1932, the export of raw hides in tons was 9,608, tanned hides 7,127, tanned skins 4,188, raw skins 8,985. I will make no mention so far as hides are concerned, because the hides question does not arise. But so far as skins are concerned, in 1932, for the same period of nine months, that is, April to December, the export in tanned skins was 4,182 and in raw skins 8,135. In 1933, it was 4,732 in tanned skins and 14,857 in raw skins. In 1934, it was 4,857 tanned skins and 10,421 raw skins. After all, in a matter like this, when the trade conditions are undergoing revolutionary changes all over the world, is it a far test to take the figures for one period of nine months of a particular year and come to a conclusion in order to remove a duty which is considered to be a protective duty in respect of the tanning industry? I ask the Honourable Members to bear in mind that if they are going to agree with the Honourable the Finance Member in the matter of the abolition of this duty on the mere plea—a specious plea, no doubt—of there being a small decrease in the export of tanned skins and raw skins during the last nine months, they will have to follow up that kind of support in respect of other matters which I daresay he will bring in in course of time. It is rather a very minor plea indeed to ask the consent of this House for the abolition of the export duty on raw skins. As I have been saying, this tanning industry is one of the foremost industries so far as the Southern Presidency is concerned, and we have very few industries indeed to boast of. This industry employs as many as 50,000 workmen and the number of people who are dependent on this industry is more than two million and all of them belong to very poor classes. It is one of the cottage industries. It must be rather an absurd proposition that while, on the one hand, you want to increase the so-called export trade of India, you should be depriving the people of the very means of livelihood, as so many of them depend entirely upon this tanning industry.

What, after all, is the objection to the retention of this duty? The only objection that I can possibly conceive of is that in respect of those

provinces which have not got the tanning industry, but which are able to export raw skins, the prices affect them. They seem to think that the export of raw skins by those Presidencies which have not got the tanning industry is impeded by the fact that there is an export duty. With regard to that, I will say that the prices have fallen down so considerably that this five per cent. is only a flea-bite in respect of the falling prices. Sir, my experience in skins business is that of an apprentice in that line of business. I believe I learnt business as an apprentice in the skin line and subsequently left it off. But I know the prosperity of merchants at that time, and I also know the miserable condition in which those merchants are today. That is due to the very phenomenal fall of the price of leather. My Honourable friend over there questioned the statement made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar, that we hold practically a monopoly in the matter of raw hides and skins. (*A Voice*: "He said goat skins.") I do not want to make any difference in that matter now. The whole question is whether we are not possessing a considerable portion of that trade, and whether that percentage is not such as to command respect in the matter of hides in other markets. If that be so, and if, during the Great War, the whole of the British Empire was able to depend upon India for the production of these raw skins and hides, I do not think one should despair of the position it holds today. I should also like in this connection to make an earnest appeal to the Government. Government consented to impose this duty during the time of war owing to the help which this tanning industry rendered to Government during that period. I expect that, though they are at liberty to break the political pledges that they gave, at least in matters of trade and in matters of industry they will observe their promise scrupulously. I should only be sorry if the Honourable Members sitting on this side of the House should, on account of extremely local conditions, give a handle to the Honourable the Finance Member to run down the protection policy that is now being adopted by this House and allow him to make raids upon this industry in the near future. Sir, I do not want that this matter should be decided upon a tussle of arguments. Arguments there could possibly be on both sides of the House which would appear to be quite plausible. The question is, whether, having regard to the central demand which this tanning industry is meeting,—a demand which will not affect a very large portion of the interests of other people,—they should still be straining on the ground that it would affect their local trade. I may assure Honourable Members of other provinces that it is not likely that the export trade in raw skins will improve in case this duty is abolished.

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Certainly it will improve.

Mr. Sami Venkatachelam Chetty: It will not increase. As has been stated by my Honourable friend, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, there is not a single country which is not planning its own economy in order to see that it is self-sufficient in all matters. I respectfully ask the Honourable Member there to point out one country which will take more raw skins if this duty is abolished. Who is our competitor in the matter of these raw skins, and what is the price that is ruling in respect of that?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: England can buy.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: And Germany also can buy.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: So, Sir, there is a difference of opinion with regard to that between two Honourable Members. They are not quite sure which country it is that is going to take our raw skins.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: Both the countries will purchase our raw skins and there may be many other countries in Europe.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: We have shut out the trade of other foreign countries by the blessing which the last Assembly has conferred upon us, namely, the Ottawa Pact. We have been shut out from our Empire countries, and there is no meaning in expecting any increase in the export trade so far as other than Empire countries are concerned. I ask Honourable Members to point out one Empire country which would take more raw skins in case this export duty is abolished. It might be a flattery to the interests of those who want to oppose this and who want to see this export duty abolished. I daresay that if they are going to join hands with the Government which is already strong in this matter, they might be able to defeat us, but let them understand that they are causing an unnecessary sore in the interests of other people with absolutely no tangible benefit to themselves, and if their unfortunate example should be followed by us, we would be drawn to the necessity of acting as a stumbling block to those that might ask for protection on behalf of their province in respect of any particular article in which they are interested. (Applause.)

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Sir, I may tell at the very outset that I have no direct or indirect interest in this particular trade or in this particular industry.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In what other trade are you interested?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: I may point out that I am interested in the prosperity of the country. I may add that I have known persons who are interested in the export trade and also persons who are interested in the tanning industry. Mr. Jamal Muhammad, who is very much interested in the tanning industry, is a personal friend of mine. Therefore, I look at the whole problem from a dispassionate point of view. Perhaps it would be well that I should give the real difference between hides and skins, because some Honourable Members may not realise the difference between the two. The skin of buffaloes and cows is called hides and the skin of goats and sheep is called skin. This is the real difference between hides and skins. I was told by a tanner, I do not know how far it is correct that Indian conditions are not good enough to tan leather of really first class type.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: You are wrong.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: I may be wrong.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Then, why do you make a wrong statement?

Dr Ziauddin Ahmad: This is the opinion of my friend over there. Let experts fight out the whole thing outside the Chamber and leave me alone to continue the debate. In proof of this, that India is not fit for high class tanning, I may just here give the figures of imported leather in this country. I have got before me the sea-borne trade for 1934. The import of tanned hides, in 1929-30, was Rs. 7,31,240, and in 1933-34, it has increased to Rs. 13,06,582. As regards weight, in 1929-30, it was 99 tons valued at Rs. 7,31,240; in 1930-31, it was 40 tons valued at Rs. 5,22,499; in 1931-32, it was 65 tons valued at Rs. 7,97,600; in 1932-33 it was 122 tons valued at Rs. 12,78,031 and in 1933-34 it was 166 tons valued at Rs. 13,06,582. Sir, thus it appears that the import of tanned skins is continually increasing from 1929-30, and, in spite of that fact, no tanner has ever applied and no tanner has ever demanded that this particular industry should be protected by means of an import duty. The very fact that they did not apply for any import duty in order to stop this import of skin into this country clearly shows that the kind of article which is being imported in this country cannot be produced in this country. If that is not the case, I should like to know why no demand has so far been made to protect this industry by means of an import duty. I may be permitted to refer to the history of this particular industry. I will not follow the example of a great philosopher who began the history of philosophy from the time of Adam. He began his history by first discussing whether Adam was or was not a philosopher. I will not take you to the time of Adam and Eve in tracing history of this particular trade, but anyone who is interested in this particular trade, in the earlier stages, will please consult Macdonald's History of Sanscrit literature, pages 167-168, and if you come to the Middle ages, you may take Mooreland's book. I will really begin from the time when this import duty of 15 per cent. was levied in 1919. On September 11, 1919, an import duty of 15 per cent. was levied and the effect of this duty was really well summarised by Chaudhri Shahabuddin (now Sir Chaudhri Shahabuddin) during the debate in 1927:

"During the twelve months, preceding the imposition of export duty 32,960 tons of raw and 29,577 tons of tanned hides and 33,006 tons of raw and 5,033 tons of tanned skins were exported. As against these figures let me quote the figures of exports during the year 1920. From January, 1920, to the end of December, 1920, the figures are, raw hides, 24,952 tons; tanned hides, 7,178 tons; raw skins, 16,186 tons and tanned skins, 3,135 tons. A comparison of these figures clearly shows that the export of raw hides and skins has gone down considerably; and that the export of tanned hides and skins as compared with the figures for the twelve months preceding the imposition of the export duty is ridiculously small."

That was the effect immediately after the imposition of the 15 per cent. duty. This question was also examined by the Fiscal Commission a year later, and their verdict is as follows. The Report says on page 107, paragraph 190; that the duty on raw hides and skins is wrong in principle, and that, if the tanning industry requires protection, it should be given by an import duty and not by an export duty.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Then, they accept the principle of protection.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: The Report says on page 108:

"We have received evidence that the hides are frequently allowed to rot on the carcasses, and that in consequence of the low prices, which have undoubtedly been accentuated by the export duty, a source of wealth, in the aggregate not inconsiderable, has actually been destroyed."

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Well, Sir, that is really the finding of the Fiscal Commission. Now, the report further continues and says:

"It has been suggested to us that one effect of the export duty on hides has been, by making the sale of hides unprofitable, to reduce the number of cattle slaughtered and that, from this point of view, the duty has had a beneficial effect on the country generally. It is, however, by no means clear that the duty has had any effect in reducing the number of cattle slaughtered. We have already pointed out that the demand for high class hides which are derived from slaughtered animals has been comparatively less affected, and that the main cause of the smaller supply of hides was that the hides were not collected from the cattle which died a natural death."

In the end, they say:

"We are opposed to the use of differential export duties for the purpose of granting preference. The existing export duty on hides and skins contains a preferential provision. The duty is at the rate of 15 per cent. *ad valorem* with a rebate of ten per cent on hides and skins tanned within the Empire. We have no hesitation in condemning this provision, both on general grounds of principle and on a consideration of the actual effect it has produced."

This was the finding of the Fiscal Commission on the export duty which the Government levied in 1919. Sir, the question was again examined very clearly in 1927 when the proposal was laid before the Assembly to abolish this duty altogether. Here, I may just quote from the speech of Sir Charles Innes who first moved this particular motion. In moving this motion before the House in 1927, he said:

"Let me remind the House of the history of this unfortunate export duty. It is one of the worst mistakes that the Government of India ever made. At the end of 1919, at the height of the post-war boom, when neither the Government of India nor the trade were in a condition, I think, of real sanity, the Government of India arrived at the conclusion that they were in a position to dictate the form in which their raw materials, these Raw Hides, should leave the country. Consequently they put on this extremely heavy export duty, an export duty of 15 per cent *ad valorem*."

Later on, Sir Charles Innes, while moving this particular motion, said:

"Now, Sir, I come from Madras. I used to take a very great interest in that industry, in fact I used to run a School for the benefit of that industry. But, Sir, though I come from Madras, I protest most strongly against sectional interests like the interests of Madras and Cawnpore in a House like this, a House which is representative of all India, being allowed to override the general interests of the country. Sir, what is the Madras tanning industry? I do not wish to decry it, but is it an industry which makes things which are used in this country? No. The Madras tanned hide is merely a half-tanned hide. It is a very useful industry in that it employs a certain number of tanners, but the product is exported, just like the raw hides are exported, to England. It is not an industry which produces anything for use in India. And if you want protection for industries of that kind, take protection by all means after you go to your Tariff Board, but protect them by means of an import duty, do not go protecting them by means of an export duty of this kind."

This is the speech that Sir Charles Innes made in 1927. Then, he goes further:

"In Burma the effect this export duty has been—I say it with sorrow—very disastrous indeed. All efforts to encourage tanning in Burma have failed, the trade has been gravely injured.....The House this morning did justice, as they thought, to the poor man. Let me appeal to the House again to do justice to a poor trade."

Before I take you to the history of that tanning from the year 1927 onwards, let me just divert and reply to one or two arguments used by my Honourable friends, Mr. Ayyangar and Mr. Chetty. As regards Mr. Ayyangar, I am really very much surprised to note that he used the very same paragraph which I wanted to use in support of my proposition. He also used the same argument which I am going to use in favour of my argument and this reminds me of the proverb:

"Bold is that thief who always walks with a lantern in his hand."

He reminds us of unfavourable balance of trade. It is really to make a *good* balance of trade that I am advocating that this duty should be abolished so that our export duty may be increased.

Now, as regards the other points, I will come to them later on. This was the history of the year 1927. From the year 1927 up to the year 1932, I summarised the whole thing in my speech in this House on the 28th March, 1933. I said:

"The Government decided in 1927 that the 5 per cent export duty should be removed. Therefore, I take 1927 as the starting-point and I will show things have changed from bad to worse. I want to establish certain propositions and I leave the Honourable House to draw their own inferences. The first proposition that I want to establish is that the hides and skins export trade is diminishing. This I do by showing that our export has diminished and our income from export duty has also diminished. In proof of that I shall just give a few figures. In the year 1927-28, the export of cow hides was about 30,500 tons. Now it has diminished to about 10,500 tons, that is, to about one-third. I have taken the figures of the last ten months and added to it one-fifth in order to get the exports for the whole year of 1932-33. Buff hides in the same year was 8.8 thousand tons; now it is reduced to 1½, that is about one-fifth. Goat skins were 18,706; now they have been reduced to 11,138. Therefore, we find that the export of hides and skins of every variety has been further diminished since the time we decided to remove the duty of five per cent, *i.e.*, 1927-28. Looking at the same thing from the point of view of income, we find that the income from export duty has also been steadily diminishing. In 1929-30, our estimated income was Rs. 37·74 lakhs, but realised only 35.49; in 1930-31, actual income was 24·80 lakhs; last year it was only Rs 14 lakhs, and this year it is not likely to be much above though our estimates are for 14 lakhs. So, the actual income has diminished from Rs. 38 lakhs to about ten lakhs. I have, therefore, established by giving figures that the trade has diminished to about one-third during the last five years and that the income also has diminished by about the same proportion, and the tendency is still downwards and we are going down by double marches."

So I said that, up to 1927, the trade was diminishing, and the figures that I have just quoted show that, during the next five years, 1928 to 1933, the trade has been further reduced to one-third.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In tanned skins and hides also?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: I am coming to that just now:

"My second proposition is that not only has the export of raw hides and skins diminished, but also the trade in the so called 'tanned skins', because some people argue, that because one thing has diminished, the other thing has gone up and they erroneously believe that the loss of export trade is the gain of Madras."

It is really the belief of some people that if the trade in raw hides diminishes the trade in tanned hides will increase proportionately. That

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is a proposition which is wrong. Had this been true I would perhaps have supported the original proposition:

"I want to prove that the export of tanned hides and skins has also decreased. Let me give you the figures. In the year 1927-28, the amount of tanned buffs and cows exported was 15,760, and this year it is only 9,177. For this year I have taken the figures of the last ten months and added one-fifth to it. In the case of goat-skins, it was 3,724 tons, and now it has diminished to less than 3,000 tons, and the total of tanned hides and skins of every description has diminished from 23,256 in 1927-28 to 14,738 in 1932-33. In other words, the trade of tanned skins has also diminished to about two-thirds."

Therefore, from these figures it is clear that during the next five years our export in raw hides has diminished and our revenue therefrom has diminished to one-third and the trade in tanned skins has diminished to two-thirds. Both of them diminished but the raw hides diminished to a greater extent.

Now, Sir, after 1933, the Government of India abolished the duty on hides, and what was the effect? Here I take the figures of this year. Before I gave the figures let me remind the House that on one occasion, when I advocated the abolition of the duty, the Commerce Member wanted me to prove that if the duty were abolished the trade would revive. This was the question which he also put to a deputation of merchants which waited upon him to advocate the abolition of this duty. In this matter certain documents were placed in my hands. I think I showed them to the Finance Member and I quoted them in my speech in which I said that if the duty of 5 per cent. be abolished the merchants of this country can successfully compete in Germany, America, the United Kingdom, with other countries who carry on similar trade. It was this five per cent. duty which really works on them as a handicap. I do not argue now in theory, because a year has passed away since the export duty on hide was abolished and I have now got the facts before me. We remember that the duty of five per cent. on hide was abolished last year, but the duty on skin was retained. Here I have a copy of the "Sea-borne Trade" of February, 1935. On account of the abolition of the five per cent. duty, the trade in hides has gone up. . . .

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Was that the only cause?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: . . . . and the trade in skins has gone down. Had it been due to other causes, it would have affected both; but the very fact, that the trade in hides has gone up and the trade in skins has gone down, clearly shows that it was really due to the abolition of the export duty on hides. I am sure, if the duty on skins is abolished, the trade in skins will also go up. Looking at the figures of sea-borne trade for February, 1935, (page 192) we find that export trade was 18,261 tons for 11 months in 1933-34, and it has increased to 19,998 tons for the same period this year. In the case of goat skins, the figures are 17,774 tons last year and 13,499 tons respectively, therefore, we find that by the abolition of the five per cent. duty on hides the trade in hides has gone up, while that in skins has gone down. Had it been due to some other factors, which my friend, Mr. B. Das, was contemplating, and which he will probably expound in the course of this debate, then I would certainly ask him, why did it affect only hides and why did it not affect skins? But the figures I have quoted are clear proof that this five per cent. duty is the root cause behind.

As regards this duty on skins, I would remind Honourable Members of some speeches on this subject: I would like to quote the same passage which has been quoted by my friend, Mr. Ayyangar, where he says:

"The value to India of this industry taken as a whole—the raw stuff and leather industry, is about 40 to 50 crores.....it provides employment to large numbers of men, not only tanners but also other people, and this is a factor in the economic well being of millions of the depressed classes", *the depressed classes being these chamars and others.*

I would like to quote one or two passages about the effect in the case of the hide industry from my speech which I delivered in 1931:

"The effect in the case of the hide industry has taken the form of complete strangulation of the source of income of many thousands of the lowest classes of village-dwellers. These men who are engaged in the collection of hides from fallen animals and the preparation of such hides for sale in the various markets throughout India are immediately and particularly unfairly affected by a drop in the exports to foreign countries. The position today is that the prices which the shippers can afford to pay for their hides are so low that, by the time the material has been railed to the ports and the profit of the *Beparis* been set aside, there remains for the village flayer a figure so small that it is no longer worth his while to collect the hides and cart them to the market."

There is one passage more . . . .

Mr. B. Das: Whose speech are you quoting?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: My own speech. (Laughter.)

"If we calculate the value of these skins and the loss to India, by a simple mathematical calculation, it comes to about Rs. 6 crores a year. Therefore, on account of the policy of the Government, in one particular commodity alone, the whole country is losing Rs. 6 crores every year."

That was what I said in 1931. The loss is greater in 1935.

Now, coming to recent figures, I will quote from the same book which my friend, Mr. Ayyangar, quoted from: he quoted the passage which suited him and did not refer to the figures which are given in the same book—I will quote them—page 11 in the Review of Trade for 1932-33. In the year 1913-14, the value of the export trade in hides and skins was Rs. 11,69 lakhs: in the year 1932-33, it has been reduced to Rs. 2,76 lakhs or a loss of about Rs. 9 crores to India on account of this fall in trade. Coming to the next page, we find that, as regards the tanned hides and skins, the figures of export for 1913-14 are Rs. 422 lakhs. while, for 1932-33, it is Rs. 466 lakhs or an increase of only 40 lakhs. Therefore, my friends, the people of Madras, are gaining only Rs. 40 lakhs at the expense of nine crores for the rest of India; and I ask, is it business? I can quite understand a loss of 110 or 125 to gain 100 rupees: but if we have to lose nine crores to make 40 lakhs, that is a proposition too good to be admitted or supported.

There is one other proposition which my friend, Mr. Chetty, challenged, and here I wish to establish this other proposition as well: this is what I wanted to prove:

"My third proposition is that the world requirements have not diminished, that the amount of hides which Germany, America and the United Kingdom have been

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

importing from other countries during the same year has remained almost uniform. Though our exports have diminished, the world requirements have not diminished, and therefore one cannot say that this diminution is due to world depression. If it had been due to world depression, then certainly the import of hides and skins into countries like Germany, America and the United Kingdom would also have diminished. I have got the import figures of all these three countries in my hand. The imports from Germany are pretty nearly five millions; it is just fluctuating, slightly over and sometimes slightly less, but it is practically about five millions. I need not read all the figures, because they would be uninteresting, it was five millions in 1912, 5·7 in 1931 and 5·3 in 1932. Now, coming to the United States, I find there also the quantity of import is practically the same. The imports from India into the United States of America have diminished from 38 per cent of the total to about 28 per cent, and the amount from China has increased from 13 per cent to 17 per cent. My point was that the world requirements have not substantially changed. The demand for hides and skins in these three important manufacturing countries is pretty nearly uniform Hence I conclude that our loss of trade both in tanned skins and in raw hides is not due to the world depression. That is the third proposition which I wanted to establish.

The next thing which I want to prove is that the price at which the duty is calculated is not the price of the day, but it is the price which Government evaluated a few years back, and therefore the five per cent duty really works out to something much higher. In the case of goat skins the prices have gone down to about 60 per cent, and therefore the actual duty which they have to pay is not five per cent, now, but 8·13 per cent. In the case of kid skins, it is about 14 2/7. In the case of smaller pieces, the duty is so large that the trade has practically been killed, because the value has fallen to Rs. 15 per hundred pieces, and therefore the 5 per cent duty works up to 33·3 per cent. and this duty has killed completely the trade of smaller pieces."

The next thing I want to prove is that the tanning industry in Madras practically tans for India. This is what the Fiscal Commission said:

"As regards skins, the proportion consumed by the indigenous tanning industry—both organized and of the cottage type—is much smaller. No precise information is available, but over a decade ago the Indian Munitions Board estimated that nine-tenths were exported. In the triennium ending 31st March, 1929, the proportions of (i) raw skins exported to (ii) those tanned in the country and then exported and to (iii) those tanned and finally consumed in the country work out to 6 : 4 : 1.

Mr. B. Das: No, no.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: My friend says "No, no", but I quote from an authoritative Report, and if my friend objects, he must also quote from an authoritative work.

My friend then said that 20 per cent. was exported and that consumed in this country comes to about 80 per cent. These figures may apply to Madras, but they cannot really apply to other parts of India. In regard to skins of slaughtered animals we do consume about 80 per cent. but in regard to skins of animals, which die a natural death, the number is just the reverse, and a very large quantity is exported to foreign countries. I say, I am prepared to give Madras the entire market for India. We support you in all measures if you are prepared to supply the Indian demand. We are also prepared to allow you to compete in any foreign market provided you also allow us to sell the surplus stock to outside world and place them in a position so that we may compete with them with the outside world. You may take whatever you want, but for goodness's sake, place us in such a position that we may be able to sell the surplus goods in the foreign market. Demand whatever you want, but, at the same time, you should not place us in a position that we may not

compete with other countries. It is a proposition which is neither philanthropic nor generous. This is really what is happening. If the Madras tanners desire that their industry should be protected, I am all with them, but this protection should be in the shape of an import duty and not export duty. But if you want that this industry should be protected by levying an export duty on raw hides so that they may buy this stuff at a nominal price or for no price at all in order to enable them to compete with the outside world, this is not desirable. The point I want to impress upon the House is this. This duty of 5 per cent., as I have proved, had affected very adversely our export trade in hides and skins. I also showed that it has gone down to about one third and by removing this duty, as I have also proved, the trade in hides has gone up and the trade in skin has gone down, and, therefore, I am sure, that if the present duty is removed, our trade in skin will improve, and though it may not reach the position it held in 1914, still it will make a substantial improvement. I have also proved that our loss on account of this duty is about nine crores, but I think these figures are much larger now, because we ought to be able to export much more than we did in 1914-15. As the number of cattles now is much more than the number in the year 1913-14, the proportion of the export ought to have increased proportionately. Therefore, I support the proposition that the duty on skins ought to be abolished. I really advocated in 1930, in 1931-32, but the figures and the facts that have emerged since then have compelled the Government to come to this conclusion, a conclusion which they admitted in 1927 as correct and which they ought to have carried out then but which they did not carry out, and it is very gratifying indeed, that after all they are taking the right step to remove the genuine grievances of this particular trade. With these words, I support the original proposition and oppose the amendment.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Mr. President, I rise to oppose the amendment of the Congress Party and explain the position of the skin trade in India. From my own humble experience in commerce, as a member of different commercial bodies in India, and as a practical businessman dealing in hides and skins besides other commodities, I only feel that the skin trade has reached a level where it may be ruined, like the Indigo trade, unless some relief is immediately given.

May I inform the House that, on the one hand, skin leather is being replaced by the use of artificial leather, fabric oxide leather, and, on the other hand, this trade has to meet the competition from Russia, China, Madagascar, Mombassa, Africa, Persia and a few more other countries. My friends opposite told us that in the skin trade we were probably holding a monopoly. This is absolutely erroneous on his own arguments when he immediately said that we were holding only one-third share of the trade in skins in countries like the United States, France and England, etc. If one-third share in a trade can be said to be holding a virtual monopoly, I agree with him, but I hope he would not compel me to accept his absurd calculations and this kind of mathematics. For the information of the House I may say that Russia, China, Madagascar, Mombasa, Africa and Persia are all exporting raw skins to England, France, Germany, America and other countries who are import-

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in hides, but it also has its tanneries. Cawnpore has its tanneries, but it has no export trade at all as a port, so that obviously interests differ. As I see it, the object was to encourage the tanning of hides within the country, but what has happened? I do not want to quote a lot of figures because my Honourable friend, Mr. Misra, quoted some. . ."

I have only quoted this to show that Sir Water Wilson, who was considered to be an important man in the commerce of India, held this opinion, as long ago as 1927. My Honourable friend opposite over there says that a five per cent duty cannot help export. In the same way I may say that the removal of that duty cannot hinder the tanning industry. My Honourable friend on the Congress Bench said: "We only produce for others". I think this applies more to the Madras tanneries who only tan them in the first stage and it is only a step further from raw. The Madras tanners tan them in a half finished condition, which is only a step forward from raw. To give them the benefit of this five per cent. protection is to encourage them in continuing their profession of "Half art" for an unlimited time. They will never develop by this method. Another argument adduced is that it will encourage the killing of animals at a premature time. I think this is another absurdity. Goats are slaughtered for the necessity of the people, for supply of meat, and no consideration is made for ascertaining mature age. Concluding my speech, I will only point out that the figures which have been quoted on the floor of this House show that the trade has been decreasing all along. My Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, has fully explained the different figures which I need not repeat, but I will say this that since the hide duty was removed last year the hide export trade has improved considerably, whereas the skin trade has decreased in the meanwhile. The obvious reason is that, with a handicap of this duty, we cannot compete with other countries.

Then, my friend opposite asked me which were the countries which would take these skins if this five per cent. duty was removed, and what change it will bring on the trade? Probably he being himself a tanner, he does realise what change it will make, but he does not want to confess it here. The value of skins depends on selections and assortments. One skin has one value, so different to another. You can buy one skin for Rs. 3, and another for one anna a piece. The *ad valorem* duty is so fixed that we have to pay the same amount on the skin of one anna as we have to pay on the skin of Rs. 3 and for the last eight years we have not been able to ship any inferior class of skins, which value about Rs. 5 per 100 to any foreign country. Supposing we exported 100 pieces of 5 Rs. An export duty of 5 per cent on that means about 50 to 60 per cent. of value, and, by the time it reaches the destination, it means a lot in price, and we cannot resell same. The cost of these inferior skins in Europe will affect it so differently that we cannot ship them at all. We have been receiving letters from customers in England, Australia, Germany, who say that they could use our inferior class of skins provided they get them at cheaper price and we cannot give them at a cheaper price because of this duty. Supposing we paid Rs. 5 for 100 pieces of a fourth class skin and we have the five per cent. duty on the top, it only makes Rs. 10, and then, with the cost of freight, insurance and other things, we cannot sell them at all, and the poor butchers and the producers, who are *chamars* and depressed class people, have to throw them off

and suffer miserably. They can sell it for no price, and exporters will not have any use for them. I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member on having taken this step. I brought this fact before the Commerce Member in 1933, when I led a deputation to the Commerce Member, on behalf of the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, and I was given a definite promise that Government would take action as soon as the time came. I am glad that it has now come when I am in this House as a Member. With these words, I oppose the motion, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I should like at the outset to correct my friend who has just finished. He made two mistakes. In the first place, I should like to say that Mr. Sami Vencatachelem Chetty is not a tanner.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: He has told me that he knows tanning.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: That is something slightly different.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelem Chetty: What I said was that I learnt my business in the tanning industry. That is all I said.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: What does it mean in the English language, if you do know the language?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: He is not a tanner and what he said was from a dispassionate point of view, out of which he could not reap any benefit. The second thing was that my friend said that a duty of 5 per cent. on Rs. 5 meant Rs. 10. That is something beyond my mathematics. (Interruption.) Beyond that, I was not able to understand very much. I am glad that Dr. Ziauddin is here. He was absent some time ago, because I would like to meet some of the points that he raised. If I understood him correctly, he made three propositions with which I have no quarrel. One is that the export trade has to be stimulated. No. 2 is that this tanning industry has to be protected, and he agrees that its claim for protection may be granted, but may be protected by an import duty and not by an export duty, and, No. 3 is that it represents a sectional interest and so it should not be allowed.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Sir Charles Innes said it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The weight of Sir Charles Innes' opinion has been endorsed by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad. I am here, Sir, to give my humble answers to those three points, and, if possible, to satisfy him. I agree that exports have to be stimulated, that our balance of trade has to be met; that at present our balance of trade is not very favourable and it is getting dangerously bad against our country, and exports have to be stimulated. I suggest that there are two ways of making up the balance of trade—either by restricting the imports or trying to enlarge the exports, and I would suggest to him that in a matter like this we should follow the example of various other countries of the world. Italy, Roumania, Germany and even Persia are now restricting their imports. If we want to make the balance of trade all right, either we should restrict our imports or enlarge our exports. Both things can be done, but, as a right measure, I would suggest that imports should be restricted. I have no quarrel when it is said that exports must be stimulated. I am all for it but I am against it when it comes to a point of not encouraging our industries, rather of discouraging our industries for the sake of exports. Every civilised country encourages

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the manufacture of her raw materials into finished goods within their own limits, for the simple reason that they can get work for their labourers, develop their industries and enrich the people of the country. To our surprise, what do we find in this country? We want to encourage the export of raw materials. We are having a small industry which is growing with the help of this duty. Our aim ought to be to export as much of manufactured goods as we can and we must try to make an article as much finished as possible, and, if we cannot do it like other countries, let us at least go half way and manufacture 50 per cent. in this country and export an article which is partially manufactured, and I would suggest to this House that if we do that, it will enrich this country to that extent. I agree with Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad that exports may have to be stimulated but those exports must be manufactured goods and not raw materials which may be necessary for the industry of this country.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: I pointed out that the export has diminished by nine crores and the increase in the tanned hide is only about half a crore. How will you account for it?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: That is one of those things that pass my comprehension. With all the reference books in my hand, I must confess that my intelligence was not upto that. I could grasp the lakhs but I could never grasp the crores. It has been suggested that tanning is a growing industry in our country and encouragement has got to be given to it. Mr. Nauman said that protection may be given. Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad also said that protection may be given but what he suggested was that protection should be given by means of an import duty.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: May I put one question, whether my friend Mr. Chettiar, can produce any figure or fact from which he could satisfy the House as to how much the export of tanned skins rose during the last five years?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am coming to that. (Interruptions.) My Honourable friends will allow me to proceed, and I shall be able to answer them as much as I can.

The second suggestion of Dr. Ziauddin was sought to be supported by the very valuable and weighty authority of the Indian Fiscal Commission. He tried to make out that protection can be given to the tanning industry only by an import duty. Sir, if you will pardon me I shall quote a few figures, for I am not fond of quoting too many figures myself. It is from the Indian Year Book. Sir, the import of leather goods into this country—I am reading from the import of merchandise quoted here for the year 1932-33—of leather goods and shoes is Rs. 55·77 lakhs. With this I would mention another matter, *i.e.*, tanned skins in the raw state are being exported to the tune of ten crores, if I remember aright, and how are you going to give protection to an industry in which about Rs. 25 crores worth of manufacture is concerned by putting an import duty on half a crore worth of finished articles? I am taking the statistics of the Hide Cess Enquiry Committee, which suggested that about 50 crores of hides and skins are produced in this country, and that is what my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamal Muhammad, says—out of which we may take it, for the present, that now the price has come down to fifty per cent. so that we may presume that about Rs. 25 crores are produced in this country. Of these

25 crores, about ten crores are exported out of India, four crores are in the raw form and six crores are in the tanned form. I have got the figures for the year 1923-24.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: At that time the exports were very high. What are the figures today?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In 1933-34, the export of tanned skins was about six crores and the import of raw skins was about 19 crores—I mean, 19 million tons.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: 18 million only.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What I suggest is that when there is an export of six crores and an import of 50 lakhs, it is beyond my comprehension how you can give protection to a trade of six crores by giving protection to 50 lakhs of most finished articles imported into this country? Common sense says and public finance demands that by a small duty on very finished and specialised articles you can never give protection to a material which can be used for so many other articles. Protection by means of an import duty on shoes and boots can be achieved only to the extent of that shoes and boots industry, but, on the other hand, there are leather skins and hides which can be utilised for so many other purposes: that can never serve as a protection to these vaster category if you impose so small an import duty on a particular and specialised item of the goods. Thirdly, an import duty not being sufficient, neither it being possible for an import duty on boots and shoes to give protection to the tanning industry, I would suggest the question: "what is the way in which you can give protection?" and the answer will be: "by an export duty on raw skins". I would take up the third point of Dr. Ziauddin and that is, that sectional interests are concerned in this matter and national interests are endangered. Sir, I absolutely agree that sectional interests should not be sacrificed for national interests, but I would ask—are these sectional interests? If tanning is a sectional interest, where 50,000 workers are employed in the tanning factories and about three million workers are employed in cottages, I ask what is not sectional? If an industry which caters to the necessities of 30 lakhs of workers is not a national industry, and if it is a sectional interest, then it is beyond my comprehension to know what is really a "national" industry. Take any other industry: take the textile industry, the sugar industry, every other industry. I submit every such industry can, in each case, only be confined to a particular province or to particular people: and if we take them as sectional, there is no other industry which can be said to be non-sectional. What I would suggest is that an industry which commands the employment of so many men and in which money is invested to the tune of Rs. 20 crores can never be considered sectional. Sir, I think Sir Charles Innes must have had other reasons for saying what he has been reported to have said. The arguments of Sir Charles Innes did not go very much further.

An Honourable Member: That House contained Swarajists.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The House rejected this proposal by the casting vote of the Chairman and the proposal was not carried. I would suggest that in a matter like this we should not go away with the idea that something is sectional and say: "we should not vote for it". This is a matter in which large numbers of people are concerned.

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Next, Sir, there has been another argument generally advanced against this export duty, and that other argument is that this duty works as a hardship on the agriculturist and the poor man. In fact, while speaking on another matter, the Finance Member said the other day that if the import duty is allowed to remain, the agriculturist would lose part of his income. I would submit that this is not the case. In most cases in our country, as far as I know, in South India, this matter of hides and skins is in the hands of Harijans and the Harijans mostly do the work of the tanning in their own villages. Now it is beyond my comprehension to see how he does not get the benefit of the export duty. If he gets the work of tanning which he does, that means he gets the benefit of the duty. The tanner gets the benefit of the duty and the Harijans, who are mainly in charge of the work, get the benefit of the duty. They are the men in charge of carcases. There is no hardship to anybody here by the retention of the export duty. Its removal will help the export of the article in raw form to a greater degree, and in that sense it will deprive them of the work he has been getting. For these very reasons, I would suggest that there is a very good reason why these duties should continue, and I would again submit another point. During the discussion over the reconsideration of the system and policy of taxation obtaining in our country, my Honourable friend, Mr. Mody, said that there are many industries which have grown under the shade of revenue duties and these have now vested interests, and Government must think twice before recasting their system of duties, to the detriment of these vested interests. In 1919, Sir George Barnes—I think that was the name of the Honourable the Commerce Member when he introduced this Bill for an export duty—specifically stated that this export duty was being given as a sort of encouragement to the tanning industry, and I submit, Sir, that for all these reasons this export duty ought to be retained.

Several Honourable Members: I move that the question be now put.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, the motion proposed by our Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar, has been discussed from the point of view of facts and figures by several speakers, some supporting it and others opposing it. I propose to make a few remarks against the motion of Mr. Ayyangar from what I may call a common sense point of view.

Our friend, Mr. Ayyangar, appeared to contend that the mere abolition of the export duty on skins will not accelerate the trade in skins. Now, I think it is quite clear from the comparative figures quoted by my learned friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, that ever since the export duty on skins was imposed, the volume of the export of skins has rapidly decreased. That may be, Sir, due to some other causes as well and it may not be due only to the export duty but certainly the export duty is one of the causes, because all Honourable Members, who are interested in this trade, have all along been contending that this export duty should be abolished. Those people who are actually engaged in that trade are expected to understand and know all the factors which go to raise the prices or to bring about a fall in the prices of their goods and all the facts relating thereto. So, their contention which has been very strongly maintained all along in this connection cannot be ignored. It appears to me after listening to the speeches on both sides that, although the last speaker,

our Honourable friend, Mr. Chettiar, contends that the motion before the House is not a sectional motion and that it is not in the interests of a section but in the national interest, there is no doubt that the case really stands as Madras *versus* the rest of India. There appears to be a great desire on the part of the Honourable Members hailing from Madras to push the motion to success anyhow, and to get the proposal of the Honourable the Finance Member to remit the export duty on skins somehow rejected. In fact, the Mover, Mr. Ayyangar, in one part of his speech did make an appeal to Members from other provinces that Honourable Members from other parts of India should consider his motion in the spirit of self-sacrifice and that other provinces should make a sacrifice in the interests of the tanning industry which is growing up in Madras. Now, from that point of view, it may as well be said that Madras may impose on itself a self-denying ordinance in favour of other provinces because, on the showing of Mr. Chetty, who followed Mr. Ayyangar, there are only 50,000 workers employed in the tanneries, and, as pointed out by Mr. Chettiar, there are about three million people who are engaged in the cottage industry of tanning. If that is so, I may point out that it is a very small number indeed which is, according to these learned speakers, beneficially affected by the existence of this export duty, whereas there is a very large number of people indeed—I think it may be about a hundred times more than this number—who are affected adversely by the incidence of this export duty. Everyone who sacrifices a goat has an interest in getting the price of the skin. Now, just count how many people in India sacrifice goats on the occasion of the *Idul Azha* and how many out of them sacrifice more than one. Then, just count how many people go about purchasing those skins and how many others are interested in purchasing from those purchasers, till, of course, you reach the wholesale dealer in skins and then firms which export skins out of India. In that way you can count how many people are interested in this skin trade and their number is certainly very much larger than the number which is alleged to be interested in the tanning industry in Madras. So, the benefit of the abolition of this export duty will certainly go to a much larger number of people than the benefit of the retention of this export duty can go. In fact, to plead merely that in the interests of the tanning industry this export duty should be retained, is really arguing on a line which may be very dangerous indeed if applied to other things. One quotation from the speech of Chaudhri Shahabuddin has already been given by my learned friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, and from the same speech of Chaudhri Shahabuddin I propose to give another quotation, because he has put the point there much more forcibly than perhaps I can. Therefore, instead of putting the point in my own words, I would prefer to quote from his speech. I quote from page 138 of the report of the Hides Cess Inquiry Committee:

> "It was intended that this should be stopped and that India should tan her own skins for her own use. Does not the same argument apply to cotton? Why is it that cotton is not subjected to any export duty? Is not cotton wanted in India? Is it not a fact that the very cotton which is exported from this country in enormous quantities is returned to this country in the shape of fine manufactured goods? Does not the same argument apply in the case of hides and skins? Sir, I may tell the Assembly that all people, especially the Mussulmans, are suspicious, and I for one would say that they are fully justified in their suspicions."

Now, surely we know that, apart from ginning and pressing factories, there are spinning and weaving factories established in India and, of course,

[Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang.]

it is highly desirable that more such factories should be established and that spinning and weaving should be done in India, on a scale which may be sufficient to supply all the clothing in this country, and yet nobody has ever contended that for that reason and in order to keep cotton in this country, it should be subject to an export duty. On the other hand, we are anxious to find markets for the cotton grown in India. On the same principle, we are anxious to find markets for the skins which form the commodity of so much trade and so many firms and we want to carry on that trade under easy conditions. Therefore, we are anxious to see that this export duty is abolished. For this reason I oppose the motion moved by Mr. Ayyangar and I submit that we should, as proposed by the Honourable the Finance Member, abolish this export duty.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: As it is late in the day, I do not propose to occupy much of the time of the House. Sir, I support the motion put forward by my Honourable friend, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, and supported by my Honourable friend, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chettiar.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: What a pity!

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: My Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Yakub, says what a pity that I support them. He will realise later on as to whether it is a pity or it is a reality that I want to give shape to. Sir, facts and figures have been furnished to this House by the previous speakers. So far as those that oppose this motion are concerned, my Honourable friend, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, has rebutted the arguments put forward by my Honourable friends, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad and Mr. Nauman. So, I need not go into those facts and figures. What I say is that all of us are unanimous in thinking that tanning industry in South India is next in importance only to the textile industry. It cannot be gainsaid by anybody here. While so, Sir, it was deemed necessary that this industry should be given protection; especially during the time of the Great War, South Indian tanners helped a good deal, not only the Britishers, but also the Allies, and, in recognition thereof, this export duty was imposed.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: What a loyalty!

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: It was loyalty at the time of adversity. We are always loyal at the time of adversity, but we are not blindly loyal at all times like our friend. (Hear, hear.)

Sir Muhammad Yakub: What about Turkey? Loyalty to Turkey?

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: It was only the Northern India people who were disloyal. Sir, at the time of the War, the tanners in Southern India helped the Government, and so this tanning industry was given protection which continued for years together. In 1927, an attempt was made to do away with it, and my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, quoted from the speech of Sir Charles Innes and jumped to the conclusion that, because Sir Charles Innes was a civilian from Madras, he had every sympathy for this tanning industry, and such a man proposed that this export duty should be abolished. My Honourable friend

knows full well what fate it met at the hands of the Swaraj Party which did not consist only of Madrasis, but also of Members from all the provinces. That itself goes to prove that it was not a sectional question, but it is an all-India question. (Hear, hear.) What about the European Chamber of Commerce of Madras? This is not only an Indian question, but it is also a European question. They have passed a resolution to the effect that this export duty should be retained.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I quoted the opinion of the Associated Chamber, which is the mother of all these Chambers.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: My Honourable friend, Mr. Nauman, is personally interested in the matter, and, therefore, his contention is that this export duty should go off. He has also led a deputation which waited upon the Commerce Member for the abolition of this export duty. He prides himself on the presumption that, during his presence in the Assembly, this export duty is going to be abolished, and he also takes pride that the deputation led by him is to fructify.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I led the deputation on behalf of the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, a responsible body of important merchants.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: That is the Muslim Chamber of Commerce of Bengal, and not the Muslims of other Provinces. The last speaker, my Honourable friend, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, said that only 50,000 people are earning their bread through this tanning industry, while, in other places, lakhs and lakhs of people are starving, and that is why he says that this duty should not be retained. I submit, it is not a question of only 50,000 people, but it is a question of 50,000 families who earn their livelihood by this tanning industry. Above all, the principle of protection to a local industry should be conceded, and we should not bid farewell to that principle. If this export duty is to be done away with, you will be doing away with the tanning industry altogether which, as I already said, is only next in importance to the textile industry. Moreover, Sir, the Harijan question also should be borne in mind. Those that are concerned in this industry are mostly members of the depressed classes. The other day, the House might have read that a Harijan came to Trichinopoly in search of work and he could not find any work, because some of the tanneries had been closed and so he committed suicide. Such is the case. If this export duty on skins should be abolished, then the result would be that the remaining tanneries in Southern India will also be closed resulting in starvation and suicide of many a member of the depressed class in whom all of us cannot but feel keenly interested. (Applause.)

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I do not think it is necessary for me to detain the House very long in winding up this debate, because so many big guns have fired from opposite directions that I think most of the points which can be said to be detailed and technical points which can be made have already been met. Perhaps I might point out one misconception which seems to have prevailed in the course of the debate. As far as I can understand, there has been a good deal of mixing up of hides and skins. Here there is no question of export duty on hides; that was removed last year. On referring to my predecessor's speech last year, I find that had it not been for a few lakhs of revenue which he badly wanted,

[Sir James Grigg.]

or he thought he badly wanted at that time, he would have also removed the duty on skins. But this year it is only the question of skins that we are dealing with and so, as far as I can make out, a certain amount of argument that has been used which is entirely beside the point. To come to the broad merits of the question, I do not think two facts can be gainsaid. These two facts are that the removal of this export duty will benefit the export trade and that the removal of the export duty will benefit the agriculturists, the primary producers. The question of industrialisation has been raised and it is not necessary for me to go into the whole question of whether industrialisation is a good thing or not. What does seem to me to be raised here is a much narrower point and that point is that if you can only establish in India an industry by injuring the agriculturists who are already sufficiently depressed by the disasters which have happened to the world since 1929, then I think we have no right to exploit the agriculturists to establish that industry. And that is the point on which Government take their stand, and their proposal to remove this duty is a step simultaneously designed to promote the export trade and relieve to some very small extent, but an appreciable extent, the lot of the agriculturist.

5 P.M.

Sir, Government must oppose this amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That sub-clause (2) of clause 3 of the Bill be omitted."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—61.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
Banerjea, Dr. P. N.
Bardaloi, Srijut N. C.
Bhagavan Das, Dr.
Chhattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Venkatachelam.
Das, Mr. B.
Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
De'Souza, Dr. F. X.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fakir Chand, Mr.
Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
Giri, Mr. V. V.
Govind Das, Seth.
Gupta, Mr. Ghanshiam Singh.
Hidayatallah, Sir Ghulam Hussain.
Hoosaini, Mr. S. K.
James, Mr. F. E.
Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Khan Sahib, Dr.
Khare, Dr. N. B.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Mudaliar Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nageswara Rao, Mr. K.
Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta.
Pant, Pandit Govind Ballabh.
Parma Nand, Bhai.
Raghubir Narayan Singh, Choudhri.
Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
Rajan, Dr. T. S. S.
Raju, Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Saksena, Mr. Mohan Lal.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
Sham Lal, Mr.
Sheodass Daga, Seth.
Singh, Mr. Deep Narayan.
Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Anugrah Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Shri Krishna.
Sinha, Raja Bahadur Haribar Prosad Narayan.
Som, Mr. Suryya Kumar.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Visvanji, Mr. Mathuradas.

NOES—60.

Abdoola Haroon, Seth Haji.
Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Bajpai, Mr. G. S.
Baqui, Mr. M. A.
Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
Clow, Mr. A. G.
Craig, The Honourable Sir Henry.
Dalal, Dr. R. D.
Drake, Mr. D. H. C.
Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Sahib Shaikh.
Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kumar Vijaya Ananda.
Gauba, Mr. K. L.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Syed.
Giduey, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.
Graham, Sir Lancelot.
Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
Hockenhull, Mr. F. W.
Hudson, Sir Leslie.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Kirpalani, Mr. Hiranand Khushiram.
Lal Chand, Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.
Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad.
Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.
Milligan, Mr. J. A.
Morgan, Mr. G.
Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
Mukerje, Mr. N. R.
Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
Nayar, Mr. C. Govindan.
Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
Owen, Mr. L.
Rajan Bakhsh Shah, Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed.
Rau, Mr. P. R.
Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Scott, Mr. W. L.
Shafi Daudi, Maulvi Muhammad.
Shaukat Ali, Maulana.
Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar.
Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Nawab.
Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
Sloan, Mr. T.
Swithinbank, Mr. B. W.
Thein, Maung, U.
Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.
Yakub, Sir Muhammad.
Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on **Wednesday**, the 3rd April, 1935.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 3rd April, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SCALES OF PENSIONS FOR THE INFERIOR SERVANTS IN THE EMPLOY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, ETC.

1388. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scale of pensions for the inferior servants in the employ of the Government of India, Posts and Telegraphs, etc., retiring on the completion of their services is Rs. 4;

(b) whether this scale was fixed about half a century ago;

(c) whether such inferior servants are now granted pension equivalent to half their average pay by some Provincial Governments;

(d) whether it is true that the scale of pension of the higher services have been revised owing to rise in prices;

(e) if so, why the scale of pensions of the inferior servants have not been revised; and

(f) whether Government are now prepared to consider the necessity for revising the scale of pension of the inferior servants in their employ?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes, except that under Article 481 of the Civil Service Regulations, certain classes of inferior servants are entitled to higher pensions than Rs. 4 per month. All small pensions have also been given a temporary increase during the last 12 years.

(b) Yes.

(c) Only by one Local Government, *viz.*, the Government of Bombay.

(d) Yes, some years ago, mainly owing to the general rise in the cost of living.

(e) and (f). The question of the revision of the pensions of inferior servants under the Central Government has not been taken up owing to the unfavourable financial conditions. As promised by the Honourable the Finance Member on the 9th March, 1935, in reply to Mr. N. M. Joshi's motion on the demand under the head "Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)", it will be given early and sympathetic consideration.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will it be considered before the end of the financial year?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The Honourable the Finance Member promised the other day that he would take it up as soon as possible.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is roughly the financial commitment which is likely to be incurred, if these inferior servants are given Rs. 8 instead of Rs. 4?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: That has not been calculated. If the Honourable Member will put down a question, we will work out the figures.

SECURITY DEMANDED FROM NEWSPAPERS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

1389. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** (a) Will Government state, when security is demanded from newspapers, or when it is forfeited, whether the Local Governments act by themselves or they do so in consultation with the Government of India?

(b) Have Government laid down any rules for the guidance of Local Governments in the interests of a uniform policy? If so, will Government lay the rules on the table of this House?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) I invite attention to the provisions of sections 3 to 10 of the Press Act. The Government of India are not consulted before action is taken under those provisions.

(b) The Government of India have issued certain general instructions to Local Governments in regard to the administration of the Press Act, the general purport of which was that while the Act should be so administered as to achieve the object for which it was enacted, care should be taken to see that no undue hardship was caused in cases in which the Local Government were satisfied that the newspaper or press was not likely to offend against the provisions of the Act. It was also suggested that admonitions or warnings should be given in suitable cases, and that editors and others should be able to obtain advice from an officer of Government if they so desired. As these instructions are confidential, I regret, I cannot lay a copy on the table.

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member tell us whether all the deposits which were demanded at the time of the Civil Disobedience Movement and are still held by Government have been returned to the various papers?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have said, Sir, that it is a matter for the Local Governments to consider. I cannot possibly answer all questions concerning the Local Governments.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government given any instructions that, so far as newspapers and presses who do not print matter likely to incite to violence to person or property, Local Governments are not to take any action?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have said, Sir, that instructions are to the general effect that undue hardship is not to be caused in cases in which the Local Governments are satisfied that the newspaper or press is not likely to offend against the provisions of the Act.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am asking, Sir, whether in those instructions any reference has been made to distinguish between newspapers and newspapers, on the basis of their inciting the readers or not inciting them, to acts of violence?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The security is demanded when the declaration is made. That is usually before the newspaper is published, and the District Magistrate uses his discretion whether to demand security or not. The purport of our instructions is that he should use his discretion so as not to cause hardship to a paper or press which he thinks is not likely to offend against the provisions of the Act.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am asking, Sir, with regard to the subsequent proceedings about the forfeiture of deposits, whether there are any instructions directing the Local Governments not to take action, unless they are satisfied that the newspaper or the press is propagating matter which is likely to incite people to violence, to person or property?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The security cannot be forfeited unless the newspaper has offended against the Act.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The Act is very comprehensive. I am, therefore, asking whether instructions have been given by the Government of India to the Local Governments to restrict the scope of action to cases where there is definite violence being advocated?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, I don't think so.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have any fresh instructions been sent after the withdrawal of the Civil Disobedience Movement?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Not so far as I am aware.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Has any officer been appointed by the Local Government to advise editors of newspapers to the knowledge of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, Sir.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In what provinces have such officers been appointed?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I cannot say off-hand, but certainly in some provinces, to my knowledge, such officers have been appointed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the duties of such officers?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: In this particular respect, the duties of these officers are to advise the editors when they come to them for advice.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do they submit articles or letters to them before publication, and get their approval? Do the editors or other people who are responsible for publishing matter, either in the form of newspapers or pamphlets, submit that matter for the previous approval of the officer mentioned by the Home Member, and get his approval or advice?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I cannot say whether that is the general practice, but I have known cases where that has been done.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do Government approve of this kind of pre-censorship in this country?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It is purely voluntary; it is not pre-censorship of a compulsory kind.

Seth Govind Das: The Honourable Member just said that securities are demanded before the newspapers are published, but is he aware of the fact that from certain newspapers security was demanded at the time when the papers had already been in existence when the Civil Disobedience Movement was in progress, because certain articles contained in those newspapers were considered to be objectionable? Under the changed circumstances, don't Government think it proper that those securities should be returned now to the papers from whom they were taken?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It depends on what line the newspapers are taking now.

PERSONS CONVICTED IN THE BURMA CONSPIRACY CASE IN 1916 AND SENTENCED TO TRANSPORTATION FOR LIFE.

1390. *U Thein Maung: (a) Are Government aware that Babu Amar Singh, S. Kapur Singh, Mr. Kirpa Ram, Mr. Mustafa and Mr. Hardutt Singh, were convicted in the Burmah conspiracy case in 1916 and sentenced to transportation for life?

(b) Are the above mentioned persons still undergoing their sentences in the Andamans?

(c) Is it a fact that persons sentenced to transportation for life are generally released after 14 years?

(d) Are Government prepared to give reasons for not releasing the above mentioned persons, even though they have undergone their sentence for more than 18 years?

(e) Are Government prepared to consider their case for release?

(f) Will Government please state the number of those persons who were sentenced to transportation for life in 1916 and have not been released up to this time?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Yes.

(b) None of these prisoners is in the Andamans. Amar Singh, Kirpa Ram and Hardit Singh are in jails in Burma. The other two have been released.

(c) and (d). A sentence of transportation for life is actually a sentence for life and its limitation to a period of years is a matter for the Local Government concerned. There are executive orders directing the consideration of the cases of prisoners serving sentences of transportation for life in a jail in India at the end of 14 years, but it is for the Local Government to decide whether at the end of that time he should be released.

(e) The cases of the three prisoners who are still in jail will again be considered in due course by the Local Government.

(f) The Honourable Member presumably refers to the prisoners sentenced to transportation for life in the Mandalay conspiracy case. If so, only these three prisoners are still serving their sentences.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if there is any other case on record where a prisoner was sentenced to transportation for life and was not released after 14 years except in the case of these political prisoners?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, I am aware of many other cases.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I request the Honourable Member to quote any such cases?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: There are certainly certain prisoners convicted in 1919 in the Punjab.

Sardar Sant Singh: They are the same political prisoners. I want to know whether non-political prisoners convicted of murder, for instance, have ever been detained after 14 years of their imprisonment?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I recognise no distinction between political and non-political prisoners.

Sardar Sant Singh: The distinction, I may say, is very clear. Those who are convicted of offences connected with political disturbance are political prisoners. Is there any case in which a man was convicted of an offence like murder in an ordinary trial and was detained for more than 14 years?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, many.

Sardar Sant Singh: I would like my Honourable friend to quote a single case. My position is that there is not a single case of that kind, and the Government are vindictive in the case of only these prisoners in question.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No. The Honourable Member is misinformed. I know of many such cases.

Sardar Sant Singh: I would like the Honourable Member to lay on the table of the House any case in the Punjab, where a man, who was sentenced to transportation for life in an ordinary case, was detained after more than 14 years?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I can obtain the information if the Honourable Member wants me to, but I can assure him that I personally know of cases in which I myself as a Member of the Punjab Government had to pass orders.

Bhai Parma Nand: Is the Honourable Member aware that in a similar case, the Lahore Conspiracy Case, one man having the name Parma Nand, has undergone imprisonment for 20 years now, having been convicted in 1915, and it is now 1935, and he is still in the Lahore Jail and he has not yet been released?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That does not arise out of this question.

Bhai Parma Nand: But the case was similar.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state what were the reasons that led the Government to release some of those who were convicted in the same trial on similar grounds, and why these people are being detained?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Because the offences committed by the persons released were of a less heinous character.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it not a fact that they were convicted in the same trial, and they were given the same sentences by the presiding tribunal?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I cannot say that they were all given the same sentences, but they were all convicted at the same trial.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it or is it not a fact that those persons who are now in the Burma Conspiracy case were convicted on the same ground, and this Burma Conspiracy case was a part of the Lahore Conspiracy cases, and these persons were charged with the same offences and they were convicted, though by different tribunals, of the same offences, but committed at different places?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The offences were committed in different places and the two trials were held separately, and I do not see how the Honourable Member can say it is one and the same case.

NOMINATION OF "Y" CADETS TO THE DEHRA DUN ACADEMY.

1391. ***Mr. N. V. Gadgil:** (a) With reference to the reply given to part (d) of the starred question No. 628, dated the 5th September, 1933, will Government please state in how many cases the Officers Commanding of different units, with which the so-called 'Y' cadets selected by the Army Headquarters have been working, have not since then recommended them for nomination to the Dehra Dun Academy and in preference to them have recommended their own nominees?

(b) On what grounds did the Officers Commanding recommend their own nominees in preference to the nominees of the Army Headquarters and what were the comparative educational and other qualifications?

(c) Who were nominated from the Army for the last two Sessions for admission to the Academy and from which regiments? What were their ranks and their educational and other qualifications?

(d) In how many cases have the Officers Commanding of units totally condemned and withdrawn the special facilities provided for such 'Y' cadets, and who are they and what are their educational and other qualifications and the age at present?

(e) Are Government aware that the predecessor of Colonel Mallock of the General Staff Branch, Army Headquarters, was of the opinion that the selection of candidates for 'Y' cadetship should be made by the Army Headquarters as a result of the competitive examination held for the Academy, and such a proposal was then accepted and candidates were selected for affording them special facilities for training in the ranks?

(f) Are Government also aware that on the assumption of the charge by Colonel Mallock, instead of the abovementioned procedure, he got his proposals to permit the Officers Commanding to select any man for the grant of such special facilities for training in the Army accepted and thus gave the Officers Commanding all powers of recruitment for King's (Indian) Commission?

(g) How many men of the regiment to which Colonel Mallock belonged before taking this appointment at the Headquarters have been admitted to the Academy under these revised orders and what were their qualifications?

(h) Are Government further aware that as a result of the change mentioned in (f) the Officers Commanding began to take the sons and relatives of those officials only who were directly under them?

(i) Are Government also aware that in this way many deserving and highly educated persons, particularly non-Jats, are debarred from entry to the Army?

(j) Are Government also aware that many a time many of the Jat families who have not got any of their men in the Army are also debarred from entry to the Army, even though their sons may be well-built and fit all round for Army service?

(k) Are Government also aware that as a result of this sort of difficulties in the way of general public, this service is being monopolised by a few families only?

(l) Are Government prepared to appoint a small Committee of this House to suggest some means whereby every suitable candidate may have a fair chance of entry to the military service through a central body which may make the selection of 'Y' cadets and control their training? If not, why not?

(m) In case Government are not prepared to appoint a Committee are they prepared to consider the advisability of controlling the recruitment of 'Y' cadets themselves by way of recruitment through the Army Headquarters and select the best hands from the ranks of the 'Y' cadets for admission to the Academy? If not, why not?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) and (b). The collection of the detailed information asked for would entail considerable time and labour, but I can inform the Honourable Member that the whole of the 1930 batch have already entered the Academy and of the 30 who were specially enlisted in 1931, seven have secured cadetships, four were discharged at their own request, ten have been definitely dropped as being unlikely to make efficient officers and nine are still serving and have a chance of securing a cadetship in due course.

(c) The names have already been published in the Press, but I lay a statement on the table.

(d) In no case have the cadets in question been denied the facilities promised to them, but, in accordance with an undertaking that I gave in the Assembly in 1933, ten of them have been told that they would never be likely to secure a cadetship and might be wasting their time if they stayed on in the hope of doing so. These ten were given the option of continuing to serve in the ranks of the Army or of taking their discharge so as to seek other employment. Their names and ages are given in the statement which I lay on the table.

(e) and (f). The Honourable Member is under a complete misapprehension in suggesting that there has been a change of policy and attributing it to the staff officer whom he mentions by name. As I have frequently explained before, the "Y" cadets, on whose behalf he is interested, were young men who had failed to pass the open examinations in 1930 and 1931 and who were then given an opportunity of redeeming their failure by enlisting in the Army and standing their chance of securing an Indian Army cadetship. This procedure was followed, as a special case, in order to supplement the supply of Indian Army cadets until experience showed whether the full number of suitable candidates could be secured from those

normally serving in the Army. It was decided not to repeat the experiment after 1931, *i.e.*, before the staff officer in question joined the General Staff Branch; but, apart from this there has been no change of system.

(g) Two. Their qualifications were the same as those of other Indian Army cadets.

(h) to (m). No. As stated in reply to starred question No. 32 on February the 5th, the allegations made are entirely baseless and Government are satisfied that the present methods give all suitable candidates a fair chance of securing a cadetship at the Academy.

Indian Army Cadets admitted to the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, for the terms commencing on the 24th August, 1934 and 31st January 1935 showing rank and unit, vide part (c) of starred question No. 1391.

Rank and Name.	Unit.
24th August, 1934.	
L/Naik Ghulam Farid Khan	4th Bn., 13th F. F. Rifles.
2/Lieut. H. C. Badhwar	11th Bn., 7th Rajput Regiment.
L/Naik Shaukat Ali Shah	6th Royal Bn., 13th F. F. Rifles.
L/Daffadar Kalwant Singh	19th K. G. O. Lancers.
Naik Ajmer Singh	1st Bn., 16th Punjab Regiment.
L/Naik Ram Singh	3rd Bn.,15th Punjab Regiment.
L/Daffadar Mohommed Abdel Ali	7th Light Cavalry.
L/Daffadar Ifthikharuddin	P. A. V. O. Cavalry.
L/Naik Bagambar Singh	1st Kumaon Rifles.
Jemadar Bhaskarrao Garud	2nd Bn., 5th Mahratta Light Infantry.
Naik Ahmad Din	K. G. O., Bengal S. & M.
L/Daffadar Man Singh	The Central India Horse.
L/Naik Bashir Ahmed	1st Bn., 14th Punjab Regiment.
L/Daffadar Jawsant Singh	P. A. V. O. Cavalry.
L/Naik Kartar Singh	4th Bn., 15th Punjab Regiment.
L/Naik R. Gurasami	Q. V. O. Madras S. & M.
L/Naik Rati Ram	2nd Bn., 19th Hyderabad Regiment.
L/Naik Nagindar Singh	2nd Bn., 11th Sikh Regiment.
31st January, 1935.	
L/Daffadar Shivdarshan Singh	6th (D. C. O.) Lancers.
L/Daffadar Malik Sher Bahadur Khan	7th Light Cavalry.
L/Daffadar Amrik Singh	P. A. V. O. Cavalry (11th F. F.).
L/Daffadar Mohd. Mashal Khan	13th D. C. O. Lancers.
L/Naik Balwant Singh	4th Bn., 2nd Punjab Regiment.
L/Naik Niaz Ahmed Rashid	1st Bn., 7th Rajput Regiment.
L/Naik Niaz Ahmed Khan	2nd Bn., 7th Rajput Regiment.
L/Naik Kartar Singh	5th Bn., 8th Punjab Regiment.
Naik Said Ali Khan	4th Bn., 10th Baluch Regiment.
L/Naik Hardial Singh	2nd Bn., 11th Sikh Regiment.
Naik Bikarmajit Singh	5th Bn., 12th F. F. Regiment.
L/Naik Inayatullah Jan	3rd Bn., 14th Punjab Regiment.
Jemadar Chaudhri Kartar Singh, I.D.S.M.	2nd Bn., 15th Punjab Regiment.
L/Naik Gian Chand	1st Bn., 16th Punjab Regiment.
L/Naik Mohammad Yusuf	2nd Bn., 16th Punjab Regiment.
L/Naik Nausher.van Khan	2nd Bn., 16th Punjab Regiment.
Naik Paritam Singh	3rd Bn., 16th Punjab Regiment.
Havildar Habib Khan	3rd Bn., 15th Punjab Regiment.
L/Naik Abdullah Jan	I. A. S. C. Training Centre.
Corporal C. W. Adams	Dehra Dun Contingent, Auxiliary Force (India).

The qualifications of the above candidates were those necessary for admission to the Indian Military Academy, namely:

(*a*) medically fit,
(*b*) in possession of the Indian Army Special Certificate of Education,
(*c*) of at least the rank of Lance Naik,
(*d*) under the age of 25 years on the date of entry into the Academy,
(*e*) recommended by their Commanding Officers for selection.

Names and ages of 'Y' cadets who have been discharged or given the option of serving on in the Army, vide part (d) of Starred Question No. 1391.

Name.	Age.
Harbans Singh Bawa	23 years, 6 months.
Wazir Chand	23 years, 6 months.
Abdul Hamid Khan	23 years, 2 months.
Mohammed Barkat Ullah	21 years, 10 months.
Gurbaksh Singh	23 years, 7 months.
Mohammed Ayub Khan	22 years, 3 months.
Goverdhan Lall Chandha	23 years, 6 months.
Ram Narain Sazena	23 years, 6 months.
Mohinder Singh	23 years.
Satya Prakash	22 years, 3 months.

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan: May I ask if the Army Headquarters have the authority to nominate the "Y" Cadets?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: No. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE OFFICERS IN THE MEDICAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.

1392. *Mr. Samuel Aaron: Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) the total number of Indian Medical Service officers in the Medical Research Department;

(ii) how many of them are Indians and how many of them Europeans;

(iii) how many of them had research work to their credit before they were appointed to the Research Department;

(iv) whether these officers have been able to do any important research after they were admitted into the Research Department;

(v) whether Government will place on the table the results of the research work done by these officers; and

(vi) how many of these officers have not been able to carry out any research after their admission to the department?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (i) Sixteen.

(ii) Seven Indian and nine Europeans.

(iii) All.

(iv) Yes.

(v) I lay on the table a list of publications reference to which will show the research work done by officers of the Medical Research Department.

(vi) None.

List of Publications.

The Annual Reports of the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India (Section VIII with Appendices.)

The Indian Journal of Medical Research.
Records of the Malaria Survey of India.
The Indian Medical Gazette.
The Reports of the Research Workers Conference, and the Technical Reports of the Scientific Advisory Board, Indian Research Fund Association.

Annual reports of the laboratories and institutes where officers of the Medical Research Department are employed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that out of the five scholarships recently given, three were reserved for the I. M. S. officers, and that the qualifications of the non-I. M. S. applicants were found to be far superior to those of the I. M. S. applicants, yet the I. M. S. men had to be selected because of the reservation?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I think that my Honourable friend is not correctly describing the position. There are no such things as scholarships; there are appointments in the department, and the sanctioned cadre of the department provides for 18 I. M. S. and 12 non-I. M. S. men.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the reason for this reservation in a research department? Why does not the Government make a rule that those who are most competent to carry on research should be given the first offer, and why should they reserve any particular places for members of the I. M. S.?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: That is really linked up with the larger question of the strength of the I. M. S. on the civil side. We have to provide a certain number of appointments for the I. M. S. on the civil side, and, taking into consideration the position in the provinces and in the Government of India as a whole, we have fixed it at the figure which I have mentioned, namely, 18. But I can assure the Honourable Member that no member of the I. M. S. is chosen, merely because he is a member of the I. M. S., he is chosen only for his qualifications.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know that happens if there are not enough I. M. S. men for the places which are reserved for them, who are qualified, according to an independent and competent tribunal, to be appointed to those posts? Are the next class of the I. M S. appointed, and the better men outside not considered?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: No, Sir. If it so happens that the requisite number of vacancies of I. M. S. officers cannot be filled because of the lack of suitably qualified men, the posts are held in abeyance.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How has it happened in the past? Is it the view of the Government that in the past, whenever a vacancy arose for a post reserved for the I. M. S., there was available a competent man from the I. M. S. competent to do research work?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Hitherto, I can assure my Honourable friend that the Government of India have felt no difficulty in getting suitable men to fill these posts. And if only my Honourable friend will take the trouble to look at the work which some of them have done, men whose names I shall mention, such as Sir Richard Christophers, Colonel Acton or Colonel Chopra—I can go on mentioning them—he will find that such work as has been done by them eminently demonstrates what I have already stated regarding their fitness for research.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have all the men, who have been appointed to the research department, done work, which, in the opinion of the Government, is satisfactory to carry out the work which is set apart for this department?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I have only quoted the names of members of the I. M. S. who have served in the research department. Further, I would like to inform the House that there is a very strict probation extending over two years. That is to say, the officer after selection is attached to a tried and proved research worker for two years. It is a very real and effective probation, and only if the man makes good in those two years he is confirmed in the research department.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is the probation after appointment?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: This probation is after recruitment for the medical research department.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government considered, or will they consider the desirability of removing all this reservation, and throwing open appointments to the research department, purely on merit?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: As I have already informed the House, the question of reservation for I. M. S. officers is linked up with the larger question of the total number of appointments to be provided for such officers on the civil side. I cannot give any undertaking on that point. I shall see in connection with the next re-organisation of the I. M. S. whether any reduction of the reservation for I. M. S. officers is possible.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government bear in mind that, in future recruitment to this department, they should secure the very best men available, whether they belong to the I. M. S. or not?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I can assure my Honourable friend that it is a self-evident thing, namely, that Government will appoint only qualified persons.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do Government always accept self-evident things?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: My Honourable friend will agree that what is self-evident to everybody, must be self-evident to Government.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Who decides the number of reservations? Is it the Government of India or the Secretary of State?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The number of reservation is decided by the Secretary of State.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the proportion of I. M. S. to non-I. M. S. men? Is it 2 to 1?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: 18 to 12.

SPECIALIST APPOINTMENTS IN THE MEDICAL BRANCH OF THE INDIAN ARMY.

1393. ***Mr. Samuel Aaron:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) the number of specialist appointments in the medical branch of the Indian Army;

(ii) how many of them are held by Indians and how many by Europeans;

(iii) how many of these specialist appointments are held by officers of the R. A. M. C.;

(iv) whether there is any Indian in the commissioned ranks of the R. A. M. C. in India;

(v) how many Indians are holding the position of A. D. M. S. and above;

(vi) whether there are any Indian I. M. S. officers in Army Head quarters in Delhi or Simla; if so, how many; and

(vii) how many European I. M. S. and R. A. M. C. officers are employed in Army Headquarters?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (i) 92.

(ii) Indians 21, Europeans 70, one post is at present *vacant*.

(iii) 58.

(iv) No. It is a British corps.

(v) None at present.

(vi) Yes, one.

(vii) Seven.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know the reason for this extraordinary proportion of Europeans to Indians in the Medical branch of the Indian army?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I presume that there are more Europeans qualified for these specialist appointments on the army side, than Indians.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the proportion of the reservation for Europeans?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: There is no proportion reserved, as far as I know, either for Europeans or Indians.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it because proper qualified Indians are not available?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: On the army side—we are dealing here only with the army side—we employ both R. A. M. C. and I. M. S. officers, and, of the I. M. S. officers, there are a certain number of British and a certain number of Indians. From the figures I have given, the Honourable Member will see that in the I. M. S. there are more Indian than British officers employed as specialists. In addition to that, we have to take into account the R. A. M. C. who are entirely British. One of the reasons why more Indians are not appointed as specialists on the army side may be that Indian members of the I. M. S. have preferred civil employment rather than military employment, and, therefore, the best Indian officers in the I. M. S. have gone to the civil side.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there any proposal to increase the number of Indians in this branch?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: There is no separate branch of specialists. They are all part of the military peace establishments of the army.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there any proposal to increase the number of Indians in this department?.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The whole question of the strength of the military peace establishments is under consideration, and I cannot say more than that at the present moment.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware of the desire of this country that more and more Indians should be employed in this branch?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: We have certainly borne in mind the desire that more Indians should be employed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware that the Indians so far appointed have proved satisfactory in the discharge of their duties?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I cannot answer that in reply to a supplementary question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You are not prepared to pay a compliment to Indian officers?

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Is it a fact that four posts in the appointment to the Council of Medical Research are reserved for the I. M. S.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I do not see how that arises out of this question.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: I am talking about the Council of Research and the reservation for the I. M. S.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: That question does not arise out of this, as I have already said in regard to the previous question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the answer to clause (v)?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: None at present.

RENEWAL OF LICENCES GRANTED TO SHIPPING BROKERS UNDER SECTION 24 OF THE INDIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT.

1394. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to Recommendation No. 158 of the Royal Commission on Labour in India, will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they have accepted the recommendation not to renew the licences granted to shipping brokers under section 24 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act;

(b) whether, as mentioned on page 58 of the Third Report of the Department of Industries and Labour on the action taken by Government on the Commission's Recommendations, Government have withdrawn the shipping brokers' licences in Calcutta;

(c) whether they are aware that shipping brokers in Bombay have had no hand in the recruitment of seamen for the last several years and are only functioning as shroffs, making advances of first month's wages to seamen of certain shipping companies only;

(d) whether they are aware that the P. and O. S. N. Co., B. I. S. N. Co., and certain other shipping companies have for the last six years made their own arrangements to pay their seamen and thus totally eliminated the medium of the shipping brokers;

(e) if so, why Government have not yet passed orders for the termination of shipping brokers' licence in Bombay;

(f) whether Government have recently renewed the Bombay shipping brokers' licence;

(g) whether Government have replied to the National Seamen's Union, Bombay, that no license is required for making advances of first month's wages to seamen; and

(h) if so, why Government are continuing the licence to the shipping brokers of Bombay?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) Government have accepted the principle of the recommendation.

(b) The licences will be withdrawn on the 20th June next when the notice given to the present licencees expires.

(c) Government are informed that this statement is not correct.

(d) Yes.

(e) Because certain other shipping companies still make use of licensed brokers for the recruitment of seamen, and Government understand that the present licencees are working satisfactorily.

(f) No. The licenses are annual and are due for renewal on 31st May.

(g) Yes.

(h) The reply is the same as that to (e) above.

TIME TEST FOR CORRESPONDENCE WORK IN FIRST CLASS HEAD POST OFFICES.

1395. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that there is no Time Test for correspondence work in first class Head Post Offices?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state on what basis a large number of clerks of the Correspondence Department of the Calcutta General Post Office have been retrenched?

(c) If the reply to part (a) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state what is the standard of fixing staff for the Correspondence Department of first class head offices?

(d) Will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the number of clerks who worked in the Correspondence Department of the Calcutta General Post Office in the year 1931-32 and the number reduced up to 28th February, 1935?

(e) Is it a fact that the present Correspondence Department of the Calcutta General Post Office is a combination of several offices, *viz.*, offices of three City Superintendents, the Superintendent, Calcutta Sorting Division, and the Presidency Postmaster, Calcutta?

(f) Will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the number of (i) selection grade posts, (ii) time scale supervisory posts, and (iii) clerks working in the offices of the Inspecting Postmasters of the two Divisions in Bombay and of the Presidency Postmaster, Bombay?

(g) Is it a fact that the Postmaster General, Bengal and Assam Circle, further contemplates to reduce some clerks of the Correspondence Department, Calcutta General Post Office? If so, on what basis?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

(b) and (d) to (g). The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

CONVEYANCE CHARGES FOR CLERKS WORKING IN TOWN SUB-POST OFFICES OF CALCUTTA.

1396. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that some times clerks working in town Sub-Post Offices of Calcutta are asked to go to the Calcutta General Post Office to bring some official documents from that office?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state who pay their conveyance charges?

(c) Are Government prepared to arrange to pay them the cost of conveyance? If not, why not?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) to (c). Government have no information. A copy of the question is being sent to the Head of the Circle who is competent to deal with the matter.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Will the Honourable Member inquire into this matter and inform this House?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: It is not necessary, Sir. The Postmaster General is competent to pass the necessary orders in the matter as to whether any cost of conveyance should be paid to these clerks if they travel on duty?

SUPERVISOR FOR CLERKS IN THE MONEY ORDER BRANCH OF A POST OFFICE.

1397 ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that according to the present Time Test (Mr. Bewoor's Time Test) there should be one supervisor for six clerks in the money order branch of an office?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state what is meant in Appendix B-3 (page 81) of the Report on the Revision of Time Test of 1929?

(c) Will Government please state how many clerks are working in the Money Order Department of the following offices:

(i) Calcutta General Post Office, (ii) Bowbazar, (iii) Dharamtola, (iv) Barabazar, (v) Park Street, (vi) Beadon Street, and (vii) Amherst Street town sub-offices in Calcutta?

(d) How many supervisors are justified in the Money Order Departments of each of these offices?

(e) Do Government propose to sanction necessary supervisory posts in the offices where such posts are justified? If not, why not?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). Government regret that the information required is not readily available. The Head of the Circle concerned is fully competent to deal with the points raised, in accordance with existing orders and a copy of the question is being sent to him for suitable action.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: With reference to part (c) of the question, I do not see why Government do not give the information and also how many supervisors are justified in the money order department. I understand from the circular of my Honourable friend, Mr. Bewoor, that for every six clerks there will be one supervisor. Will Government take note of this fact?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Yes, Sir. I have replied to part (a) in the affirmative. The Postmaster General has full powers to recommend the appointment of a supervisor if it is justified according to the test, and, if I receive any recommendations from him, I will consider the matter.

SUBSIDY PAID TO THE STAMP CONTRACTORS OF CALCUTTA FOR SELLING STAMPS TO THE PUBLIC IN THE CALCUTTA POST OFFICES.

1398. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of subsidy paid to the Stamp Contractors of Calcutta for selling stamps to the public in the Calcutta Post Offices?

(b) Will Government please also state whether they are to sell stamps at all hours of the day, or at some selected hours of the day?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) The total amount of subsidy paid to the contractor for selling or arranging for the sale of postage stamps and postal stationery in the Calcutta General Post Office and its 18 town sub-offices and in the Howrah Head Office is Rs. 1,850 per mensem.

(b) Under the terms of the agreement with Government, the contractor is required to employ the number of servants to work as stamp vendors as is fixed in the agreement and these are required to attend the post offices punctually on working days, holidays and Sundays at such hours as the Postmaster may fix subject to the condition that the total attendance of each of the stamp vendors shall not exceed eight hours per day and 52 hours per week of which not more than four hours shall be on Sundays.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why not sell stamps directly, Sir?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: We do sell them directly in many offices, but in the bigger offices we find it cheaper to arrange to have a contractor.

PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT QUARTERS FOR CLERKS WORKING IN THE DELHI POST OFFICE.

1399. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Is it a fact that clerks working in the Delhi Post Office are provided with Government quarters?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether any rent is charged from them and whether they are prepared to extend this concession to the postal employees working in Bombay and Calcutta?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes, to a limited extent.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, accommodation for clerks has been provided, to a limited extent, in Delhi and New Delhi in view of the special local conditions. There is no similar necessity for providing accommodation for clerks in Bombay and Calcutta.

TENDERS INVITED TO CARRY MAILS IN CALCUTTA BY MOTOR VANS.

1400. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Is it a fact that tender has been invited to carry mails in Calcutta by motor vans?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state when the present contract will expire?

(c) What is the rate of mileage charged by the present contractors, and what is the rate of mileage prevailing in Calcutta?

(d) What amount is paid to the contractors annually?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes.

(b) The present contract is due to expire on the 31st August, 1935.

(c) As regards the first part, I may inform the Honourable Member that the contractor is not paid on a mileage rate. He is paid a certain fixed subsidy per month for carrying mails according to an agreed schedule. As regards the second part, Government have no information; nor would the comparison suggested by the Honourable Member be at all helpful since, as I have already explained, the contractor is not paid on a mileage basis.

(d) The amount paid annually to the contractor is Rs. 1,98,000.

CONTRACT FOR TREASURY WORK OF THE CALCUTTA GENERAL POST OFFICE AND ITS TOWN SUB-OFFICES.

1401. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Is it a fact that the Treasury work of the Calcutta General Post Office as well as its town sub-offices will be given on contract?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether any tender has been issued?

(c) Has any contractor been selected for the purpose?

(d) If so, what will be his monthly subsidy?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) to (d). The question of introducing a contract system for the performance of treasury work in the Calcutta General Post Office is at present under consideration but tenders have not yet been called for.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisibility of carrying on this work directly by themselves, instead of asking for the intervention of the contractors?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: We do carry on treasury work in most post offices, but in the bigger post offices we find it more convenient and more economical to employ a treasury contractor.

POSTMEN RETRENCHED IN THE YEAR 1934-35 IN EACH POSTAL CIRCLE.

1402. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total number of postmen retrenched up to 31st January, 1935, in the year 1934-35 in each Circle separately?

(b) What is the net saving due to this retrenchment?

(c) How many Extra Departmental Delivery Agents have been appointed in their places and what is their pay?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a), (b) and (c). Government regret that they are unable to furnish the information as its collection would involve an undue expenditure of time and labour.

Mr. M. Ghiasuddin: I rise to a point of order, Sir. Is it right for the Honourable Member to say that the Government are the sole judge as to whether a certain information is too costly and would involve too much labour? I put it to you, Sir, that it is a gross insult to the House to say that. I can accept the Government's point of view if they say that it is not in the public interest to disclose certain information, but day after day we hear them saying, that the Government are not prepared to do it, because it would involve too much work. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Yesterday this question was raised and the Chair gave its ruling that it cannot say whether, in answer to a particular question, the information, that is to be supplied, entails so much labour and cost that it is not desirable that the Government should be asked to undertake to collect such information, but, as the Chair said, if, as regards any particular question, any Honourable Member thinks that the collection would not entail so much labour, then that particular question can be brought to the notice of the Chair; and the Chair has not yet heard any Honourable Member to suggest that in this case or in any other case yesterday the objection raised by Government was unreasonable.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Sir, in this particular case, if I just state the facts before you, I hope it will be considered by you and by the Government?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards this question, the Chair thinks it is possible that the Government's objection

is not unreasonable, for information is sought as regards the number of postmen retrenched up to 31st January, 1935, in the year 1934-35, in each Circle separately. The Chair does not see either what object will be served by collecting this information.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Sir, the collection of the figures may take time, but I do not understand why it will be too expensive to get the information. It may be quite difficult to get the information in ten days, but if the Government come to this House and say that they will take a little more time, I may agree, but I am not prepared to accept the statement that it is not possible.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The retrenchment campaign started in June, 1931. The Honourable Member wants information about the number of postmen retrenched during the last four years and he wants it circle by circle. We have over 30,000 postmen employed in about 20,000 post offices and the collection of this information would involve a great deal of time and labour. I may further add that, as the retrenchment campaign has been definitely closed down on the 31st March, 1935, I do not understand what particular use this information could be, because there is not going to be any further compulsory retrenchment of postmen.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair must ask the Honourable Members to remember that to answer a question does entail a considerable amount of time, labour and cost. It is not known what the exact cost is, but, 1,400 questions have been answered already. Perhaps Government Members will be able to say what the cost of each question roughly is?

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Sir, this is the only privilege we have got of asking questions, when there is an irresponsible Executive. (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I understand that one estimate of average cost is Rs. 75. There are other higher estimates of the work and cost entailed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the bases of the calculation?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I cannot go into that now.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member ought to realise that it is all right if a definite purpose is to be served by asking a particular question, but the Chair has come across many questions which apparently are asked merely out of curiosity.

PAYMENT OF PENSIONS TO THE RETIRED POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH EMPLOYEES FROM POST OFFICES.

1403. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Is it a fact that with effect from the 1st April, 1935, pensions to the retired postal and telegraph employees will be paid from the Post Offices?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what will be the approximate saving from this?

(c) Will Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the total amount contributed to the Central Revenues as pensionary charges from the year 1924-25, and what amount was actually expended on payment of pensions during these years?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes.

(b) The approximate saving to the finances of the Department as a result of making payments of pension to Posts and Telegraphs employees from Posts Offices cannot be estimated until the system has been in operation for some time. For the purpose of the budget estimates, however, a saving of about five lakhs of rupees has been assumed.

(c) I lay on the table a statement showing the amounts contributed by the Department to Central Revenues on account of pensionary charges since the year 1925-26. The amount actually expended on pavment of pensions to Posts and Telegraphs officials, during 1924-25, was Rs. 33·57 lakhs, but no information is available for subsequent years as no separate account of these payments has been kept.

Statement showing the amounts contributed by the Posts and Telegraphs Department to Central Revenues on account of pensionary charges since the year 1925-26.

	Rs.
1925-26	49, 9,049
1926-27	49,73,454
1927-28	49,74,107
1928-29	58 00,000
1929-30	60,00,000
1930-31	61,93,000
1931-32	58,39,583
1932-33	57,07,427
1933-34	55,93,932

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICIALS WHO PASSED THE INSPECTORSHIP EXAMINATION AS INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES OR RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

1404. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Is it a fact that at the time of abolition of the selection grade examination in the Post Offices, it was decided by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs that officials who passed the Inspectorship examination will be appointed as Inspectors of Post Offices or Railway Mail Service and there would be a distinct line of their own?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why in making officiating appointments in the vacancies in the line of Inspectors in the Bengal and Assam Circle, many passed Inspectors have not been taken in, while some unpassed men have been allowed to act either as Inspectors or as Head Clerks to the Superintendents?

(c) Are Government prepared to see that, while making such appointments, claims of the passed Inspectors are not overlooked? If not, why not?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) The facts are substantially as stated but the officials, referred to by the Honourable Member, were to be appointed as Inspectors only if they were not already holding lower selection grade posts in the general line at the time.

(b) and (c). Government have no information but they have no reason to believe that the orders regarding officiating arrangements in the Inspector's line are not being followed in the Bengal and Assam Circle. If any official considers that he has a grievance, it is open to him to represent it to the proper authority through the usual official channel.

FOREIGN TELEGRAMS BOOKED THROUGH COMBINED OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTAL TELEGRAPH OFFICES.

1405. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of foreign telegrams booked through combined offices and departmental telegraph offices, together with their values, separately, in respect of the year 1933-34?

(b) Is it a fact that telegraph communication with the foreign countries is maintained by the Eastern Cable Company, or some other Company?

(c) What is the rate of subsidy paid to the Company?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) The number of foreign telegrams booked through Combined and Departmental telegraph offices was 2,86,718 and 6,66,208 respectively. Their total value was Rs. 16,75,793 but it is not possible to give separate figures for Combined and Departmental offices.

(b) Telegraphic communication is maintained with foreign countries by (1) the Indian Radio and Cable Communications Company, Limited, and (2) Cable and Wireless, Limited.

(c) No subsidy is paid to these Companies.

IMPOSITION OF AN IMPORT DUTY TO STOP IMPORTS OF FOREIGN RICE AND PADDY.

1406. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) if they have received any more representations from the Madras Government, since the passing of the resolution by this House on the necessity for imposing an import duty, etc., to stop the imports of foreign rice and paddy; and

(ii) if so, when, and what is the nature of such representations?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (i) Yes, Sir.

(ii) A representation has been received within the last few days. As the document is considered confidential, I regret I am not able to disclose its contents.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they recommended an increase in the import duty?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: My Honourable friend is trying to get information which I have already described as confidential.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it the latest representation made by the Madras Government with regard to the adjournment motion passed in the Madras Legislative Council protesting against this Bill?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: The latest motion is in respect of the Bill which is now before the Assembly.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Expressing their dissatisfaction, Sir?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I have already said that I am not prepared to disclose any of the contents of that communication which is considered confidential.

PROHIBITIVE DUTY UPON IMPORTS OF PADDY AND RICE FROM SIAM, INDO-CHINA AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

1407. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) the imports of paddy and rice from Siam, Indo-China and other countries during January and February of the current year;

(ii) whether Government have come to any decision regarding the necessity for imposing a prohibitive import duty upon such imports;

(iii) if so, when Government propose to publish and enforce it; and

(iv) if not, when they are likely to come to a decision in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (i) A statement is laid on the table.

(ii) to (iv). The Honourable Member is referred to the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill introduced in this House on the 13th March, 1935.

Statement showing imports of paddy and rice into India from Siam, Indo-China and other countries during January and February, 1935.

		Siam.				Indo-China.				Other countries.				Total.			
		Paddy.		Rice.		Paddy.		Rice.		Paddy.		Rice.		Paddy.		Rice.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		(Tons).	Rs.	(Tons).	Rs.	(Tons).	Rs.	(Tons.)	Rs.	(Tons).	Rs.	(Tons).	Rs.	(Tons).	Rs.	(Tons).	Rs.
January, 1935		1,517	76,372	5,632	3,83,125	*Nil*	*Nil*	217	18,900	*Nil*	*Nil*	6	1,251	1,517	76,372	5,855	4,08,576
February, 1935		*Nil*	*Nil*	14,223	11,23,790	3,936	2,13,569	2,127	1,84,408	*Nil*	*Nil*	4	733	3,936	2,13,569	16,354	13,08,931

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government got any necessary statistics of the imports of paddy and rice for March also?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: No, Sir, I am afraid not. I have got the figures for February.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government give their reasons for not including paddy or whole rice or for not imposing higher duties, when they introduce the Bill?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I assume that Government will state their case fully before the House.

QUALIFYING TEST EXAMINATION HELD FOR THE POSTS OF JUNIOR READERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

1408. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that a qualifying test examination was held for the post of junior readers in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, in November 1934?

(b) Is it a fact that copyholders and candidates from other branches were also allowed to sit at the said examination?

(c) Is it a fact that copyholders were examined on the 10th November, 1934, and other candidates were examined on the 12th November, 1934, and the same proof was given for correction on both days?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to declare the examination null and void, and re-examine all the candidates on the same day with the same question paper without further delay? If not, why not?

(e) Is it a fact that there were 100 words in dictation on the 10th November, 1934, and nearly 60 words on the 12th November, 1934, but seven mistakes were excused for a pass on both days? If so, why was this sort of differential treatment observed by the Manager of the Government of India Press, New Delhi?

(f) Is this sort of examination, *i.e.*, examination on different days with the same question paper, observed in any other Department of the Government of India, or in any University or in any Education Department? If so, will Government please state their names?

(g) If the answer to part (f) be in the negative, will Government please state why this strange system was observed in the Government of India Press, New Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a), (b), (c), (d) and (g). I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 11th March, 1935, to parts (a) to (e) of Bhai Parma Nand's starred question No. 821.

(e) I have no information regarding these details.

(f) The ordinary practice is to examine simultaneously candidates who are attempting to pass the same test and to give them the same question paper in each subject.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Will the Honourable Member kindly repeat the answers to parts (e) and (f) of my question?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:

"(e) I have no information regarding these details.

(f) The ordinary practice is to examine simultaneously candidates who are attempting to pass the same test and to give them the same question paper in each subject."

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Will the Honourable Member kindly collect the information so far as part (e) is concerned and inform the House in due course?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir. The matter hardly seems of sufficient importance to justify my doing so.

QUALIFYING TEST EXAMINATION HELD FOR THE POSTS OF JUNIOR READERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

1409. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that a qualifying test examination for the posts of junior readers was held in December, 1933?

(b) Is it a fact that pass mark in proof reading at that examination was to correct 66 per cent. of the mistakes?

(c) Is it a fact that pass mark at the examination of 1934, in proof reading was to correct only 50 per cent. of the mistakes?

(d) If the answers to parts (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state why this sort of change in pass marks was observed by the Manager of the Government of India Press, New Delhi?

(e) Is this practice, *i.e.*, frequent change of pass marks, observed by any other Department of the Government of India? If not, why was it observed in the Government of India Press, New Delhi?

(f) Are Government prepared to declare those candidates as passed (qualified) who corrected 60 per cent. or more than 60 per cent. of the mistakes, but less than 66 per cent. in proof reading and passed in the dictation at the examination held in 1933, and to promote them according to their seniority? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). I am not in possession of these details, but assume that the Manager fixed what, in the light of experience, appeared to be a suitable standard.

(e) I do not know what is meant by the Honourable Member's reference to "frequent changes". Only one change is mentioned in the earlier part of his question.

(f) No. I see no reason for interfering with the results of an examination held in 1933.

ADVERTISEMENTS SENT TO NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS WITH REGARD TO THE RAILWAYS, POSTS AND OTHER PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.

1410. ***Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the rules or policy, if any, which guides them in sending out the advertisements to the several newspapers and periodicals in this country, with regard to the Railways, Posts and other such public utility services?

(b) Do Government make any discrimination, and if so, on what lines, between the advertisements sent to Indian-owned English daily newspapers, and vernacular newspapers on the one hand, and British-owned or British-managed newspapers on the other?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The general policy is to select newspapers for advertisements according to their publicity value.

(b) No descrimination of the sort is made.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the considerations in deciding the publicity value—the number of subscribers, or the circulation of the paper?

Mr. P. R. Rau: That is part of the publicity value of the paper.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there any other consideration which is before the Government, apart from the extent of circulation?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The class of circulation.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Do Government maintain any list of approved papers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am not aware of any such approved list of papers.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that generally advertisements are sent to Anglo-Indian papers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are they sent to nationalist papers also?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I should like to have a definition of the "natinalist" papers?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are they sent to the *Indian Express* Madras?

Mr. P. R. Rau: If my Honourable friend wants particular information as regards particular papers, it is obvious I cannot reply without notice.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I ask how many advertisements are sent to Indian-owned and Indian-managed vernacular papers on the one hand, and to British-owned and British-managed newspapers on the other? Is there any proportion kept, or can my Honourable friend give me any figures?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am afraid not.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government place a list of the papers on the table of the House to which advertisements are given?

Mr. P. R. Rau: My Honourable friend will realise that there are a large number of Railways in India and each railway has to advertise in various papers on various occasions and for various objects. It is quite impossible for us to obtain information with regard to the various insertions of advertisements in each paper.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I would like to bring this particular answer to your notice and later on ask for your indulgence for obtaining this information from the Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Yes.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Apart from the railways, may I ask whether Government have any particular policy of giving advertisements to newspapers, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That question does not arise. The question is with reference to railways.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No, Sir. It also relates to Posts and other public utility services.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards these services, supplementary questions can be asked.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: As regards the Post Offices, I can assure the Honourable Member that we do use the vernacular papers. The question of giving advertisements depends upon the publicity value, and the publicity value depends not merely on the circulation, but on the class of readers which any particular paper claims. For example, if we want to advertise telephones, it is no use advertising it in a newspaper which is not likely to be read by people who are in a position to use telephones and to pay for them. As regards vernacular newspapers, I have got here a list of 13 papers which are published in Urdu, Deonagri, Bengali, Gujrati and Tamil. I hope this will satisfy the Honourable Member.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member place that list on the table of the House?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: All right, Sir. This list includes the Daily *Inqilab* of Lahore and there is a larger number of other papers. I simply wanted to tell the Honourable Member that the information I have given to him is correct.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Is the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* included in the list?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot put questions regarding every newspaper.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: The list is there, and instead of the Honourable Member reading out the whole of it, I wanted to inquire if the *Ananda Bazar Patrika* was included in it?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The *Ananda Bazar Patrika* is not in the list.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why can't we get a satisfactory answer, Sir? What we want to know is whether Government are using the tax-payer's money in giving advertisements, to help papers which are pro-Government, and not to help papers which are supposed to be anti-Government?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: Most certainly not.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Who decides this thing?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: The Agent of the Railway concerned.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the control of the Government over the Agents in this matter?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

List of vernacular newspapers which the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department selected for the purpose of advertising Posts, Telegraphs and Telephone facilities during the year 1934-35.

1. Daily Inqilab, Lahore (Urdu).
2. Millap, Lahore (Urdu).
3. Simla Samachar, (Urdu).
4. Daily Tej, Delhi (Urdu).
5. Millat, Delhi (Urdu).
6. Nav Yug, Delhi (Devnagri).
7. Aj, Benares, (Devnagri).
8. Hind Jadid, Calcutta (Urdu).
9. Dainik Basumati, Calcutta (Bengali).
10. Bombay Samachar, Bombay (Guzrati).
11. Sandesh, Ahmedabad (Guzrati).
12. Swadeshmitran, Madras (Tamil).
13. Watan, Delhi (Urdu).

MONEY SPENT ON NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.

1411. ***Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) the amount of money spent on newspaper advertisements in the several departments of the public utility services, which require such advertising from time to time, during the last ten years; and

(ii) the amount spent in such advertisements in the several daily newspapers, distinguishing between the English and vernacular newspapers in the several provinces?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons which necessitate such advertisements, and regulations or conditions under which such advertisements are sent out, as well as the authorities by whom they are sent out?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Reserve Bank would require any such advertising service, and if so, whether any rules have been framed for sending out such advertisements?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The information is not readily available and as its compilation would involve a considerable amount of labour, Government regret they are unable to undertake it. I should point out, Sir, that the Honourable Member desires information for ten years.

(b) The reasons vary according to the advertisements published. I presume, however, my Honourable friend has in mind advertisements which are in the nature of publicity propaganda, for which no regulations have been prescribed, it being left to the discretion of publicity officers and others with whom the responsibility rests in such matters to decide what form such publicity should take. The extent to which such advertisements may be published is limited by the funds sanctioned for advertising.

(c) Government have no information. The Reserve Bank if it needs to advertise will presumably make its own arrangements in the matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, I will request you to kindly give a ruling with regard to this question. Some of us consider that it is a very important matter, and we should know how this money is spent. Will you kindly direct the Government to collect this information and give us a month later?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): From the nature of the question it is quite apparent that the objection taken by the Honourable Member representing the Government is well-founded.

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS MADE IN COUNTRIES OUTSIDE INDIA FOR ANY OF THE INDIAN PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.

1412. ***Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any newspaper advertisement is made in countries outside India for any of the Indian public utility services, particularly in regard to Railways, with special reference to attracting tourist traffic?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the amount of such advertisements during the last ten years, distinguishing the several countries in which such amounts were spent, and mentioning the authorities responsible for making that outlay?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) *Only* the London and New York Branch Offices of the Central Publicity Bureau, Indian State Railways, advertise in newspapers in countries outside India.

(b) The Branch Office of the Central Publicity Bureau in London is responsible for advertising in the principal countries in Europe, and the Branch Office in New York advertises in the U. S. A. and Canada. Particulars are not available of the amount spent for advertising in each country. But I am placing on the table a statement showing the total amount spent during the years for which information is available.

	London.	New York.	Total.	—
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
1927-28 . .	..	..	26,000	Particulars of the amount spent separately for London and New York are not available.
1928-29 . .	..	..	29,000	
1929-30 . .	48,000	40,000	88,000	
1930-31 . .	20,000	73,000	93,000	
1931-32 . .	13,000	50,000	63,000	
1932-33 . .	9,000	48,000	57,000	
1933-34 . .	25,000	62,000	87,000	

ADVERTISEMENTS TO POPULARISE OVERSEAS TELEPHONE SERVICE, TRUNK TELEPHONE SERVICE IN INDIA AND LOCAL TELEPHONE SERVICES.

1413 ***Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji:** What steps have Government taken, in the nature of advertisement generally, to popularise their overseas telephone service, trunk telephone service in India and local telephone services, so as to reduce the loss under the Posts and Telegraphs Department collectively considered?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The various telephone services of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department have been widely advertised in both English and Vernacular newspapers. These services are also being advertised extensively by the direct distribution of hand-bills to likely customers. The advertisement campaign which commenced in 1933-34 has already shown satisfactory results as indicated by the increasing revenue under this head shown in the Post and Telegraph Budget.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Was this advertisement given to the *Ananda Bazar Patrika*?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: No, Sir.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Does the Honourable Member know that it has got the largest circulation in India?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: No, Sir. I do not know.

ADVERTISEMENTS IN REGARD TO GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND MANAGED PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES.

1414. ***Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji:** Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of the policy, if any, in regard to advertising generally with special reference to Government owned and managed public utility services; and if so, whether they would submit such a policy for consideration of this House?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have explained the policy of Government in my reply to question No. 1410.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government submit that policy to the consideration of the House?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The House has opportunities in the usual way of expressing its opinion. My Honourable friend can move a Resolution on the subject.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know the reason why Government do not propose to submit voluntarily their policy for the consideration of the House?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The policy of Government, as I have explained, is purely to select newspapers for advertisement according to their publicity value, and Government consider that there cannot be possibly two opinions on that subject.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: If there can be no two opinions on the subject, then why not submit it to the House for its consideration?

Mr. P. R. Rau: My Honourable friend, as I already said, has the usual facilities for bringing this question before the judgment of the House.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Very unusual facilities!

GRADUATES EMPLOYED ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY IN THE DIVISIONAL OFFICES.

1415. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** Will Government please state the number of graduates employed on the North Western Railway in the Divisional offices?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The information is not readily available.

RECRUITMENT OF GRADUATES INTO DIVISIONAL MINISTERIAL SERVICES ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1416. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** Will Government please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the North Western Railway Administration recruited certain graduates into Divisional Ministerial Services in order to improve the efficiency of the office;

(b) whether those graduates were given an assurance, at the time of appointment, of further advancement in preference to the employees already in service in the grade;

(c) whether those graduates are now told that their advancement will be in order of seniority; and

(d) whether Government propose to remove the bar of seniority in order to fulfil the assurance given at the time of recruitment; if not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information but I am forwarding a copy of the question to the Agent, North Western Railway for examination.

FOOT-PATHS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BAZAR OF SUBZI MANDI IN OLD DELHI.

1417. ***Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi:** (a) Are Government aware that the foot-paths on both sides of the *bazar* of the Subzi Mandi in Old Delhi are used by petty traders, thereby causing considerable inconvenience to the public passing through that *bazar*? If so, is it not a fact that the public is compelled to use the main road of Subzi Mandi *bazar*, and there is always a serious danger of accidents?

(b) Will Government please state whether these petty traders have been authorized by the Municipality to use the said foot-paths? If so, under what rule, and do they propose to build any other foot-path for the public? If so, where? If not, why not?

(c) Will Government please state whether the police has been authorized by the Municipality to allow petty traders to use both the foot-paths of the Subzi Mandi *bazar*? If not, are they aware that the police constables on duty there remain silent and do not stop this practice? If so, why?

(d) Are Government prepared to issue instructions to the police to warn the constables on duty at Subzi Mandi *bazar* that they should not allow any petty-trader to use the said foot-paths? If not, why not?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) No stalls are placed by petty traders on these foot-paths but sometimes hawkers and peddlers frequent them when selling petty articles.

(b) Petty traders have not been authorised by the Municipality to use the foot-paths.

(c) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The police challaned about 90 hawkers in 1934, and have challaned about 40 during the present year up to date for selling articles on these foot-paths obstructing traffic.

(d) Instructions have already been issued to the police to challan hawkers utilising these foot-paths for the sale of their wares in a manner obstructive to traffic.

COMPULSORY RETIREMENT OF BRITISH KING'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

1418. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** (a) Will Government state what percentage of British King's Commissioned Officers have been compulsorily retired?

(b) What is the percentage of the Indian King's Commissioned Officers so retired as compared with Europeans?

(c) Is the percentage of Indians retired more than the percentage of Europeans? If so, why?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The Honourable Member has given no date from which he wishes the information to be collected; but, in any case, as I have previously explained, a large number of British Officers had to be compulsorily retired, both immediately after the war and also during the last five or six years, in order to avoid a surplus in particular ranks. Any comparison based on statistics would, therefore, be misleading. I can only assure the Honourable Member that in the matter of compulsory retirement precisely the same standards are applied to British and Indian Officers.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know the exact statistics for the last four or five years? I understand the Honourable Member has got figures for the past four or five years.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: If the Honourable Member wishes me to collect the information for the last four or five years, I shall do so. I have not got the information with me here.

INDIANS WHO HAVE PASSED THE EXAMINATIONS FOR MAJORS' POSTS.

1419. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** (a) How many Indians have passed the examinations for the Majors' posts?

(b) How many of those passed have been appointed as Majors?

(c) Is it a fact that some Indians are compulsorily retired just before they should be promoted to Majors' post?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) Four.

(b) None.

(c) No.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In reply to part (b), why none was appointed?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Because none of them had enough service, that is to say, 18 years' service.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Is it a fact that the Government are retiring certain Indian officers under the War block terms?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: It is a fact that certain Indian officers do come under the War block terms.

Sardar Mangal Singh: With a view to facilitating Indianisation, is it not desirable that Indians should not be retired on War block terms?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I do not see how that arises out of this question. The Honourable Member opens a very large question and asks for my opinion. He does not ask for any information on a matter of fact.

Sardar Mangal Singh: My point is that the Government are retiring certain Indian officers under the pretext of War block terms, and that should not be done?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: My Honourable friend is speaking without knowledge of individual cases. I do not actually know the details yet myself, but I believe that most of the Indian officers in the War block were recruited when they were considerably above the normal age, and, therefore, most of them would have no chance of commanding their regiments. They would be super-annuated in any case before they reached command of their regiments.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it not a fact that, in answer to a previous question, the Honourable Member said there was one Indian Major?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: There is one Indian Major who was promoted as a special case without passing the promotion examination.

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE REMOVAL OF CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION AND OTHER PARTS OF BIHAR FROM THE LIST OF "EXCLUDED AREAS."

1420. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Are Government aware of the fact that on the 18th day of February last, a resolution recommending the removal of Chota Nagpur Division and other parts of Bihar from the list of "Excluded Areas" has been passed in the local Legislative Council of Bihar and Orissa, and if so, what steps are they going to take in this matter?

(b) Are Government aware of a similar Resolution passed by the Indian Legislative Assembly on the 10th of February, 1927, and if so, will they be pleased to state what steps they have hitherto taken in this matter?

(c) Will Government be pleased to explain the significance of "Special Treatment" hitherto accorded and also to be accorded in future to the people of the backward tract and what are the actual measures hitherto taken and proposed to be taken in future by the Local and the Central Governments to give effect to the underlying principles of the "Special Treatment"?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) The Government of Bihar and Orissa have communicated the fact to the Government of India, who have informed the Secretary of State.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. A copy of the Resolution, together with a copy of the relevant proceedings of the House, was forwarded to the Secretary of State on the 3rd March, 1927.

(c) As regards the existing position I refer the Honourable Member to section 52A(2) of the Government of India Act and the Reforms Office Notification No. 4-G, dated the 3rd January, 1921. For information regarding the future treatment of these areas, I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the relevant provisions of the Government of India Bill in clauses 91 and 92 read with clause 52 and to paragraph 144 of the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

GRIEVANCES OF MUSLIMS IN THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1421. ***Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq:** (a) With reference to the answer to my starred question No. 509 asked on the 23rd February, 1935, will Government please state what is the proportion of Sikhs as compared to officers, temporary and permanent, serving in the Central Public Works Department?

(b) Will Goverament be pleased to give figures community-wise of officers, subordinates, technical and non-technical, ministerial staff, fitters and wiremen, etc., etc., in the Central Public Works Department, who are temporary or work-charged?

(c) Is it a fact that on the 28th February, 1935, out of 24 temporary subordinates, there were four Muslims, seven Sikhs and 13 Hindus in the Central Public Works Department?

(d) Is it also a fact that out of 25 temporary clerical appointments on the 28th February, 1935, five were held by Muslims, four by Sikhs and 13 by Hindus?

(e) Is the percentage of Sikhs very high? If so, how do Government propose to redress the grievances of Muslims in these appointments? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) I presume that the Honourable Member refers to Gazetted Officers. Sikhs at present hold ten per cent. of the gazetted posts in the Central Public Works Department.

(b) It would involve an undue amount of labour to collect information regarding work-charged establishment. But I have obtained information in regard to temporary and officiating staff, and a statement giving this information is laid on the table.

(c) No. There were 41 temporary and officiating subordinates and surveyors in the Department on the 28th February last, of whom ten were Muslims, six were Sikhs and 25 were Hindus.

(d) No. Of 60 temporary and officiating appointments, which were in existence on the 28th February last, five were held by Sikhs, 13 by Muslims, 41 by Hindus, and one by an Indian Christian.

(e) I do not consider the percentage of Sikhs unduly high. The Honourable Member is very well aware that 25 per cent. of all new recruitment is reserved for Muslims.

Statement showing the strength of communities of officers, subordinates, technical and non-technical, and ministerial staff in the Central Public Works Department employed in a temporary or officiating capacity on 1st April, 1935.

Class of post.	Total No.	Hindus.	Muslims.	Europeans and Anglo Indians.	Sikhs.	Indian Christians.	Other Communities.	REMARKS
Temporary Engineers	3	1	..	2	..	..	..	
Temporary Sub-Engineer	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	
Works Assistant (Temporary)	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	
Temporary Sub-Divisional Officer.	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	
Subordinates and Surveyors	(a) 44	(b) 28	10	..	6	..	..	
Draftsmen	20	10	8	..	1	..	1 (Parsi).	
Clerks	57	(b) 39	12	1	5	..	..	

(a) Includes 2 Surveyors.
(b) Includes 1 Jain.

POSTINGS, TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS IN THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1422. *Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: With reference to the reply to my starred question No. 510 given on the 23rd February, 1935, will Government please state whether the Chief Engineer passes orders on all establishment cases individually or a statement is submitted to him fortnightly?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: All important cases are submitted to the Chief Engineer for orders. Weekly (and not fortnightly) lists of sanctions are also submitted to him for approval.

TRANSFER OF THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FROM PUSA TO DELHI.

1423. *Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: (a) Are Government aware that there have been reports in the Press about earthquake tremors in Delhi in the course of the last one or two months? Are Government aware that there was a severe earthquake shock in Delhi in January 1934?

(b) Is not the sole reason for the transfer of the Pusa Agricultural Institute to Delhi the situation of Pusa in the earthquake zone?

(c) What are the advantages of transferring the Institute from one earthquake zone to another?

(d) What will be the cost of repairing the buildings etc., in Pusa, if the Institute were not transferred to Delhi?

(e) What is the cost of establishing a new institute at Delhi?

(f) Is it a fact that the cost of transferring the Institute to Delhi is more than the cost of repairs to the buildings in Pusa, and if so, why have Government decided on its transfer?

(g) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of locating the Institute in a non-earthquake zone, like the Madras Presidency?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) to (f). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my speech on the motion for a Supplementary Grant on the 31st August, 1934, and on the 27th and 28th March, 1935.

(g) No.

GRIEVANCES OF MUSLIMS ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

1424. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Will Government please state the number of (i) Muslim, (ii) Hindu and (iii) other officers including those on leave out of India, in the (i) Agency, (ii) Audit, (iii) Engineering, (iv) Signal, (v) Construction, (vi) Locomotive and Carriage, (vii) Stores, (viii) Medical, (ix) Traffic, (x) Watch and Ward, and (xi) Electrical Departments of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that there are not more than two per cent. Muslims in the superior services of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, taken as a whole?

(c) Is it not a fact that there are (i) no Muslim officers as against 12 in the Agency, (ii) no Muslim officers as against 14 in the Audit, (iii) no Muslim officers as against 33 in all, and eight from the Hindu community, in the Engineering Department, (iv) no Muslim officers as against seven in the Signal Department, (v) one Muslim officer as against 36 in the Locomotive and Carriage Department, (vi) no Muslim officer as against eight in the Stores Department, (vii) no Muslim officer as against eight, in the Medical Department, (viii) two Muslim officers as against 47 in the Traffic Department and (ix) no Muslim officers as against 11 in the Electrical Department of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The available information is contained in appendix F of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1933-34, Volume I.

(b) Yes.

(c) If the figures given by the Honourable Member are intended to show the position as on the 31st March, 1934, they are not quite correct as will be seen from the Report I have referred him to.

GRIEVANCES OF MUSLIMS IN THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

1425. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Is it not a fact that in the Engineering Department of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, out of a total of 33 officers, and a total of eight officers from the Hindu community alone, there is not a single Muslim officer?

(b) Is it not a fact that the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Administration has recently appointed a Hindu, who was working as an unpaid apprentice in the Locomotive and Carriage Department at Ajmer, as a probationary Assistant Engineer?

(c) Is it not a fact that 'a protest' was made to the Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, regarding this and that no heed was paid by the said administration?

(d) How do Government propose making amends for this disparity in the percentage of the Muslims in the said department, and what steps do Government propose to take for the breach of the rules regarding the recruitment of the Muslims?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The total number of officers in the Engineering Department (including Signal Engineering Department) of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway on the 31st March, 1934, was 50, out of whom 14 were Hindus. No Muslim was employed in this Department as officer on the 31st March, 1934.

(b) and (c). Government have no information.

(d) The Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, has been asked to obtain the concurrence of his Board of Directors to the adoption of the policy laid down by the Government of India with the approval of the Secretary of State that 25 per cent. of all vacancies in superior service to be filled by direct recruitment of Indians should be reserved for Muslims.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN STAFF ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

1426. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: Will Government please state what was the actual number on 1st January 1935 of staff (i) Muslim, (ii) Hindu, and (iii) others, in the lower and upper subordinate grades of Rs. 40—80; Rs. 80—120; Rs. 120—160; Rs. 160—200; Rs. 200—250 and upwards, in the Agency, Audit, Engineering, Signal, Stores, Traffic, Electrical, Medical, Watch and Ward, and Locomotive and Carriage Departments of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway broad and metre gauge systems?

Mr. P. R. Rau: With your permission, Sir, I shall reply to questions Nos. 1426, 1427, 1428 and 1429 together.

The information, in the possession of Government, with regard to the actual communal composition of staff on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway is contained in Appendix F to the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1933-34. Under the terms of the contract, the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, like other Company-managed Railways, has full powers in regard to recruitment of staff and the Government of India can, therefore, only advise them in such matters. The action the Railway Board have taken in order to give effect to the policy of the Government of India, is to fix percentages for Muslim recruitment, in each railway, so as to obtain the fixed percentage of 25 per cent. on all railways taken together, but, so far as Company-managed Railways are concerned, this is not mandatory but only advisory. The Agent, Bomby, Baroda and Central India Railways, has been asked to obtain the concurrence of his Board of Directors to the reservation of 12 per cent. of future recruitments for Muslims. Government hope that this scheme will be accepted by them but according to the contract they are not in a position to insist on this being done.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF DOCTORS OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA. RAILWAY.

†1427. ***Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** (a) Will Government please state how many doctors (Sub-Assistant Surgeons and Assistant Surgeons)—(i) Muslims, (ii) Hindus, and (iii) others—were employed on the 1st January, 1935 in the Medical Department on the broad and metre gauge systems of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

(b) Is it not a fact that the Muslim community is conspicuous by its almost total absence, there being not more than two Muslim doctors in the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Medical Department?

(c) Do Government propose to issue definite orders, breach of which should be reprimandable, regarding making amends for the injustice that has been done, or is being done to the Muslim community in the Railway Medical Department of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF "A" GRADE APPRENTICES IN THE CARRIAGE AND WAGON SHOPS OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY AT AJMER.

†1428. ***Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** (a) Will Government please state how many 'A' grade apprentices, (i) Muslim, (ii) Hindu and

†For answer to this question, *see* answer to question No. 1426.

(iii) others, have been taken in the Carriage and Wagon Shops of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, at Ajmer, since 1922?

(b) How many (i) Hindus, (ii) Muslims and (iii) other, passed apprentices have been fixed and promoted to the Chargemen's and Senior Chargemen's grades?

GRIEVANCES OF MUSLIMS ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

†1429. ***Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** (a) Is it not a fact that little attention is paid by the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway authorities to the instructions and orders of the Government of India, regarding the fixation of a minimum of 25 per cent. of the appointments for the Muslim community?

(b) Is it a fact that no publicity is given to any vacancy or vacancies, either in the Officers' or Subordinates' grades, and vacancies are filled up and appointments made secretly without giving fixed minimum portion to the Muslim community?

(c) Do Government propose to press the authorities of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway to issue, as well as follow, the rules fixing due proportion for appointments and promotions in all grades and departments over the broad and metre gauge systems?

(d) In view of the foregoing, are Government prepared to appoint a Committee of the official and non-official members of the Central Legislature to investigate into the grievances of the Muslims in the service of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway? If not, why not?

FOREIGN INSURANCE COMPANIES DOING BUSINESS IN INDIA.

1430. *Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if foreign insurance companies can start and do business in India without any special conditions being imposed on them in any manner, whatsoever? If not, what are the conditions imposed?

(b) Are Government aware that Indian insurance companies cannot do such business in foreign countries without fulfilling some discriminatory conditions? If so, what are the conditions imposed by each foreign country on Indian insurance companies?

(c) Are Government aware that recently the Italian Government refused to allow an Indian insurance company to do business in Italy?

(d) Are Government also aware that recently several Italian insurance companies started their business in India and are carrying on their business?

(e) Are Government under any pact, treaty or contract with the Italian Government to allow their insurance companies to do business in India, while the latter Government might decline such facilities to Indian insurance companies?

(f) If not, are Government prepared to represent to the Italian Government that the continuance of their Companies in India will depend on similar treatment being accorded to Indian Companies in Italy?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) Yes.

†For answer to this question, *see* answer to question No 1426.

(b) Government are not aware that it is necessary for Indian insurance companies to fulfil any discriminatory conditions before setting up business in foreign countries.

(c) Government have been informed that one Indian company has experienced difficulty in setting up business in Italy.

(d) So far as Government are aware, only one Italian company is transacting insurance business in this country.

(e) No, Sir. Article 1 of the Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between the United Kingdom and Italy, concluded on the 15th of June, 1883, which is applicable to the commercial relations of Italy and British India, provides that the subjects of each of the two parties shall enjoy the same rights, privileges, liberties, favours, immunities and exemptions in matters of commerce and navigation, which are or may be enjoyed by native subjects.

12 NOON.

(f) Government are prepared to make representations in any case in which it appears that the provisions of the Article just quoted have been infringed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government take any steps with regard to the particular case mentioned in the reply to clause (c) of the question?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I think this particular case is already receiving attention. We have not been favoured by the individual concerned, as far as I know, with the details of his case, but the matter is being looked into.

Sardar Sant Singh: Has the attention of Government been drawn to the remarks made by a speaker in the meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce recently that the Government of India have given an assurance to the Government of Italy that no steps will be taken against the Italian insurance companies in India even if Indian companies are not allowed to work in Italy?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I am not aware of any such assurance, Sir.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is there any truth in that statement?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: Not that I am aware of.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Are Government prepared to put some restrictions on foreign insurance companies?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: No, Sir; we cannot do so. As a matter of fact, I have quoted the terms of this treaty which regulates these questions of rights, privileges, liberties, etc., of the two parties, and we cannot infringe those terms.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know at what stage the negotiations between the Government of India and Italy are just now?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: We are still expecting a reply from the Government of Italy.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When do Government expect these negotiations to be over?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: How can I be responsible for that?

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

"Y" CADETS SELECTED FOR ADMISSION TO THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY.

260. **Sardar Sant Singh:** With reference to my question No. 178 on the th August, 1933, in this House, will Government be pleased to place the table a statement giving:

(i) the names of the "Y" Cadets who were selected for admission to the Military Academy subsequently, their period of service in the ranks and the date of their admission to the Military Academy;

(ii) the names of those who voluntarily resigned from the Army;

(iii) the names of those who are found unsuitable and asked to resign with dates of their resignation: and

(iv) the names of those who are still serving in the ranks?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I lay a statement on the table.

Name.	Period of Service.		Date of admission to the Academy.
	Years.	Months.	
(i) Waheed Haidar	2	3	1st February 1934.
Mohamed Abdel Ali	2	10	24th August 1934.
Jaswant Singh	2	9	24th August 1934.
(ii) Syed Wajid Ali			
Sikander Khan			
Hardip Singh Uberoi			
Mahbub Khan			

Name.	Date on which orders were issued by Army Headquarters giving the option of taking discharge or remaining in the ranks.
(iii) Mohamed Ayub Khan	28th November 1933.
Goverdhan Lall	7th September 1933.
Ram Narain Saxena	1st November 1933.
Harbans Singh Bawa	4th April 1934.
Gurbakhsh Singh	11th July 1933.
Abdul Hamid Khan	25th July 1932.
Wazir Chand	1st June 1933.
Mohamed Barkat Ullah	19th July 1934.
Satya Prakash	13th June 1934.
Mohinder Singh	12th March 1935.

It is not known which of them elected to serve on in the ranks.

(iv) Sultan Muqarrab.
Joginder Singh.
Swarup Singh.
Jagat Singh.
Vithalrao Jadhav.
Sampuran Bachan Singh.
Jal Sorab Cama.
Manohar Lal Katyal.
Sadiq Ullah Khan.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF THE SUBORDINATE STAFF ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

261. **Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government be pleased to place a statement on the table of this House, showing the number and percentage of subordinate staff, excluding labourers and inferior servants, employed on the North Western Railway by communities on the 31st December, 1934 in the following departments: Agency, Engineering, Transportation (Traffic and Commercial), Mechanical Engineering and Transportation (Power), Stores, Electrical, Medical, Accounts and others?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The latest information in regard to communal representation in railway subordinate services which gives the position on the 31st March, 1934, is given on pages 107—110 of Volume I of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1933-34.

CERTAIN INFORMATION IN RESPECT OF THE BOMBAY, CALCUTTA AND MADRAS GENERAL POST OFFICES.

262. **Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** Will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the following information in respect of the Bombay, Calcutta and Madras General Post Offices, separately:

(i) number of selection grade posts of Rs. 250—350;

(ii) number of selection grade posts of Rs. 160—250;

(iii) number of Time Scale Supervisors;

(iv) number of clerks (Upper Division);

(v) number of clerks (Lower Division);

(vi) number of sorting postmen;

(vii) number of Overseers;

(viii) number of postmen; and

(ix) number of inferior and other miscellaneous staff?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Information has been called for and a statement will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

CERTAIN STAFF IN THE BOMBAY, CALCUTTA AND MADRAS GENERAL POST OFFICES.

263. **Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the number of (i) selection grade posts, (ii) time-scale supervisory posts; (iii) clerks of the staff, accounts, correspondence, sorting, money order, savings bank, delivery, deposit, sub-accounts, registration, and parcel departments of the Bombay, Calcutta and Madras General Posts Offices, separately, for each department?

(b) How many Town Inspectors are there in each of these three offices?

(c) How many town sub-offices are there in each of these towns?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a)—(c). Information has been called for and a statement will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

RENT OF POST OFFICE BUILDINGS IN BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, MADRAS AND RANGOON.

264. **Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total amount of rent paid for the occupation of the Post Office buildings in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Rangoon in the year 1920-21 and in the year 1933-34?

(b) Has there been any increase in the payment of house rent?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what is the cause of the increase?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) The attached statement furnishes the information required by the Honourable Member.

(b) Yes.

(c) The increase is due to (i) the general rise in house-rents, (ii) the provision of additional accommodation for certain post offices necessitated by the growth of business, (iii) the removal of certain post offices to more spacious and centrally located buildings, and (iv) the opening of certain new post offices.

Statement showing the total amount of rent paid for the occupation of the Post Office Buildings in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Rangoon in the years 1920-21 and 1933-34.

Name of station.	Amount of rent paid during the year 1920-21.	Amount of rent paid during the year 1933-34.	Increase (+) Decrease (—).
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bombay	70,931	1,15,799	(+) 44, 868
Calcutta	67,317	1,37,998	(+) 70,681
Madras	18,991	33,388	(+) 14,397
Rangoon	3,984	6,980	(+) 2,996

CLERKS IN CERTAIN SUB-POST OFFICES IN CALCUTTA.

265. **Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of clerks working in the following offices?

(i) Shyambazar, (ii) Kidderpore, (iii) Bhowanipur, (iv) Kalighat, and (v) Elgin Road, Calcutta.

(b) Will Government please also state who remains in charge of these offices during the day when the Sub-Postmasters remain off duty?

(c) Do they get any special pay? If not, why not?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) (i) Shyambazar—12 (including one Deputy Sub-Postmaster on time-scale of pay)

(ii) Kidderpore—ten.

(iii) Bhowanipur—nine (including one Deputy Sub-Postmaster on time-scale of pay).

(iv) Kalighat—eight.

(v) Elgin Road—nine.

(b) In the Shyambazar and Bhowanipur Town Sub-offices, the Deputy Sub-Postmaster remains in charge, while in the remaining three offices, the senior clerks remains in charge.

(c) As regards the first part of the question, the reply is in the negative. In regard to the second part, I may inform the Honourable Member that the senior clerks who look after the office generally during the short period of the day when the Sub-Postmaster is off duty are not entitled to any special pay. The question of granting special pay to the Deputy Sub-Postmaster of the Shyambazar and Bhowanipur Town Sub-Offices who perform definite and wholly supervisory duties is under examination.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF THE POST OFFICE BRANCH.

266. **Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the income and expenditure for the year 1933-34 of the Post Office branches in each Circle separately?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: As the accounts of the Department are not kept by Circles, Government regret that they are unable readily to furnish the information. Special preparation would involve an expenditure of time and labour, which would be incommensurate with the value of the result.

PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF BRITISH AND INDIAN SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS OF THE ARMY.

267. **Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** Will Government be pleased to make a full statement relating to the pay and allowances of:

(i) a British private,

(ii) an Indian Sepoy,

(iii) a British Commissioned officer,

(iv) an Indian officer with a King's Commission,

(v) an Indian officer with a Viceroy's Commission,

(vi) a British non-commissioned officer, and

(vii) an Indian non-commissioned officer?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The information desired by the Honourable Member will be found in the Royal Warrant for Pay and the Pay and Allowance Regulations, Parts I and II and Part I—Special, copies of which are available in the Library.

COST OF BRITISH AND INDIAN INFANTRY AND CAVALRY BATTALIONS.

268. **Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** Will Government be pleased to state the cost of:

(i) a British infantry battalion,

(ii) an Indian infantry battalion,

(iii) a British cavalry battalion,

(iv) an Indian cavalry battalion, and

(v) an artillery unit?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the statement on page 25 of the "Budget Estimates of Expenditure on Defence Services, 1935-36".

INCREMENTS MADE TO THE SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF BRITISH AND INDIAN SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS OF THE ARMY.

269. **Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** Will Government be pleased to state what increments have been made to the salaries and allowances of:

(i) a British private,

(ii) an Indian sepoy,

(iii) a British Commissioned officer,

(iv) an Indian officer with a King's Commission,

(v) an Indian officer with a Viceroy's Commission,

(vi) a British non-commissioned officer, and

(vii) an Indian non-commissioned officer?

since the last European War?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The correction slips, in the books referred to in my answer to unstarred question No. 267, will show where any alteration has been made in the rates of pay and allowances since their original publication. To provide a complete answer to the question would involve an expenditure of time and labour incommensurate with the result.

AMOUNT OF INCREASE IN THE ARMY EXPENDITURE.

270. **Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** Will Government be pleased to state the amount of increase in the army expenditure since the pre-war year 1913-14, giving the details of increase under different heads and mentioning the causes of the increase in each case?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: It would involve an unnecessary amount of labour to collect all the information the Honourable Member asks for, but much of it he will find in the pamphlet "Some Facts and Figures about Indian Defence, 1935-36", a copy of which was furnished to him last month.

INCOME FROM THE SALE OF REVENUE STAMPS AND POSTAGE STAMPS.

271. **Mr. V. V. Giri:** Will Government be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the total amount of income from the sale of revenue stamps from April 1934 to January 1935, together with the total amount of sale of postage stamps for the corresponding period?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I lay on the table two statements giving the information available.

STATEMENT I.

Statement showing the revenue realized by the Provincial Governments during the period 1st April, 1934, to 31st October, 1934, from the sale of New Revenue Stamps.

Provincial Government.	Amount of Revenue. Rs. A. P.
(1) Madras	5,04,049 0 0
(2) Bombay	4,64,293 14 1
(3) Bengal	4,94,452 13 8
(4) United Provinces	2,62,859 0 0
(5) Punjab	2,03,800 7 0
(6) Central Provinces	68,175 0 0
(7) Bihar and Orissa	1,02,145 0 0
(8) Assam	23,369 7 0
(9) Coorg	2,526 0 0

NOTE.—The above information relates only to those Provinces where the new Revenue Stamps are used and which, previous to the introduction of these stamps received annual assignments from the Posts and Telegraphs Department on account of the use of Unified Stamps for revenue purposes. The new Revenue Stamps have not been introduced in Burma while the North-West Frontier Province was a Central Administration and no assignment was paid to the Local Government by the Posts and Telegraph Department. Statistics for later period November to January, 1935, are not available at present.

STATEMENT II.

Statement showing receipts from the sale of postage stamps of all denominations during the period April, 1934, to January, 1935.

Postal Circle.	Amount of revenue. Rs.
(1) Central	36,12,094
(2) Burma	35,50,558
(3) Bihar and Orissa	28,34,731
(4) Bengal and Assam	1,15,81,087
(5) United Provinces	60,97,135
(6) Punjab and North-West Frontier Province	97,28,479
(7) Madras	1,17,44,510
(8) Sind and Baluchistan	24,42,702
(9) Bombay	1,31,69,810
(10) Wireless—*Deduct* amount of charges for fees for Wireless licenses, certificates, etc. realized in postage stamps and subsequently credited to the head "Postage and Message Revenue	—1,05,500
Total	6,46,55,606

CERTAIN PARTICULARS ABOUT CERTAIN POST OFFICES AND POSTAL MATTERS.

272. **Mr. V. V. Giri:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the following particulars for the year 1933-34:

(i) total number of money orders issued and paid in India and Burma;

(ii) total number of money orders issued and paid in Bengal and Assam Circle excluding Calcutta;

(iii) total number of money orders issued and paid in Calcutta;

(iv) total number of V.P.P. articles in India and Burma;

(v) total number of V.P.P. articles in Bengal and Assam Circle (excluding Calcutta);

(vi) total number of V.P.P. articles issued in Calcutta;

(vii) total number of V.P.P. articles issued in Bombay Circle (excluding Bombay), and Bombay separately;

(viii) total number of money orders issued and paid in Bombay Circle (excluding Bombay), and Bombay separately;

(ix) total number of Savings Bank transactions in India and Burma;

(x) total number of Savings Bank transactions in (1) Bombay Circle excluding Bombay, (2) Bombay, (3) Bengal and Assam Circle excluding Calcutta, (4) Calcutta, (5) Madras Circle excluding Madras, and (6) Madras;

(xi) total number of letters posted and delivered in India and Burma;

(xii) total number of letters, packets, etc. (unregistered), posted and delivered from the following places:

(1) Bombay Circle excluding Bombay,

(2) Bombay,

(3) Bengal and Assam Circle excluding Calcutta, and

(4) Calcutta;

(xiii) total number of registered articles and parcels posted and delivered in India and Burma; and

(xiv) total number of registered articles and parcels posted and delivered from the following places:

(1) Bombay Circle excluding Bombay,

(2) Bombay,

(3) Bengal and Assam Circle excluding Calcutta, and

(4) Calcutta?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: A statement furnishing the information required by the Honourable Member, as far as it is available, is appended.

Statement shewing the statistics of certain classes of postal articles for the year 1933-34.

	Issued.	Paid.
(*i*) Total number of money orders issued and paid in India and Burma	37,567,000	37,971,000
(*ii*) Total number of money orders issued and paid in Bengal and Assam Circle excluding Calcutta	8,194,000	5,984,000
(*iii*) Total number of money orders issued and paid in Calcutta	2,253,000	2,952,000
(*iv*) Total number of V. P. articles in India and Burma	8,777,000*	
(*v*) Total number of V. P. articles in Bengal and Assam Circle (excluding Calcutta)	464,000*	
(*vi*) Total number of V. P. articles issued in Calcutta	1,861,000	
(*vii*) Total number of V. P. articles issued in Bombay Circle (excluding Bombay), and Bombay separately—		
(*a*) Bombay Circle excluding Bombay	555,000	
(*b*) Bombay	1,017,000	

* Figures relating to V. P. articles posted have been shown.

	Issued.	Paid.
(*viii*) Total number of money orders issued and paid in Bombay Circle (excluding Bombay), and Bombay separately—		
(*a*) Bombay Circle excluding Bombay	2,839,000	2,857,000
(*b*) Bombay	1,496,000	1,861,000
(*ix*) Total number of Savings Bank transactions in India and Burma	10,008,000	
(*x*) Total number of Savings Bank transactions in—		
(1) Bombay Circle excluding Bombay	891,000	
(2) Bombay	300,000	
(3) Bengal and Assam Circle excluding Calcutta	1,782,000	
(4) Calcutta	594,000	
(5) Madras Circle excluding Madras and	1,440,000	
(6) Madras	186,000	
(*xi*) Total number of letters posted and delivered in India and Burma—		
Registered	28,189,000	*
Unregistered (estimated)	428,708,000	*
(*xii*) Total number of letters, packets, etc. (unregistered), posted and delivered from the following places :—		
(1) Bombay Circle excluding Bombay—		
(*a*) Unregistered articles of the letter mail	123,869,000	†
(*b*) Unregistered parcels	733,000	†
Total unregistered articles	124,602,000	†
(2) Bombay—		
(*a*) Unregistered articles of the letter mail	61,066,000	†
(*b*) unregistered parcels	126,000	†
Total unregistered articles	61,192,000	†
(3) Bengal and Assam Circle excluding Calcutta—		†
(*a*) Unregistered articles of the letter mail	141,637,000	†
(*b*) Unregistered parcels	264,000	†
Total unregistered articles	141,901,000	†
(4) Calcutta—		†
(*a*) Unregistered articles of the letter mail	62,783,000	†
(*b*) Unregistered parcels	74,000	†
Total unregistered articles	62,857,000	†
(*xiii*) Total number of registered articles and parcels posted and delivered in India and Burma :—		
(*a*) Registered articles of the letter mail	31,323,000	‡
(*b*) Registered articles of the parcel mail	9,864,000	‡
Total registered articles	41,187,000	‡

* Figures relating to number of Registered (including insured and V. P. (letters posted and estimated number of Unregistered letters received for delivery, which are available have been shown.

† Figures relating to number of unregistered letters, packets, etc. received for delivery and unregistered parcels posted, which are available, have been shown.

‡ Figures relating to number of registered articles and parcels posted, which are available, have been shown,

(*xiv*) Total number of registered articles and parcels posted and delivered from the following places :—		
(1) Bombay Circle excluding Bombay—		
(*a*) Registered articles of the letter mail	2,278,000	*
(*b*) Registered articles of the parcel mail	609,000	*
Total registered articles	2,887,000	*
(2) Bombay—		*
(*a*) Registered articles of the letter mail	2,297,000	*
(*b*) Registered articles of the parcel mail	921,000	*
Total registered articles	3,218,000	*
(3) Bengal and Assam Circle excluding Calcutta—		*
(*a*) Registered articles of the letter mail	3,669,000	*
(*b*) Registered articles of the parcel mail	866,000	*
Total registered articles	4,535,000	*
(4) Calcutta—		*
(*a*) Registered articles of the letter mail	3,237,000	*
(*b*) Registered articles of the parcel mail	1,580,000	*
Total registered articles	4,817,000	*

* Figures relating to number of registered articles and parcels posted, which are available, have been shown.

CLERKS, POSTMEN, SORTERS, ETC., IN EACH POSTAL CIRCLE AND RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE DIVISION.

273. Mr. V. V. Giri: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the following information :

(a) (i) clerks, (ii) postmen, (iii) selection grade posts of Rs. 160—250, and (iv) selection grade posts of Rs. 250—350 retrenched from April 1934 to January 1935 in each Circle separately; and

(b) (i) sorters, (ii) selection grade posts of Rs. 160—250, and (iii) Inspectors in each R. M. S. Division, separately from April 1934 to January 1935?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) and (b). Government regret that they are unable to furnish the information as its collection would involve an undue expenditure of time and labour.

SUBSIDY PAID TO AIRWAYS COMPANIES FOR CARRYING AIR MAILS AND INCOME FROM AIR MAIL ARTICLES.

274. Mr. V. V. Giri: (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total amount of subsidy paid to the different Airways companies for carrying air mails in India and outside India?

(b) What was the total number of postal articles carried by these mail companies from 1st April to 31st January, 1935, and the weight of the mails?

(c) What is the total income from the air mail articles?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to parts (a) and (b) of Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury's starred question No. 507 in this House on the 19th March, 1934.

(b) No account of the number of postal articles despatched by air is maintained and Government are not, therefore, in a position to supply the information required. An account of the weight of mails carried is, however, maintained and a statement showing the weight of the mails carried during the period 1st April, 1934, to 31st January, 1935, by the different air services, is attached.

Statement of the weight of mails carried by different Air services in India and outside India from 1st April, 1934 to 31st January, 1935.

N.B.—The figures below represent the weight of mails for which India pays air conveyance charges to the companies, *i.e.*, mails originating in India and Burma, and mails for which transit charges are recovered by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department from foreign Postal Administrations.

Air Services.	Name of company.	Weight of air mails.
		lb. oz.
1. Karachi-Croydon	Imperial Airways, Ltd.	*67,833 14½
2. Karachi-Singapore	I. T. C. A., Ltd.	35,813 14½
3. Singapore-Australia	Qantas Empire Airways	†253 8½
4. K. L. M. (Dutch)	The Dutch (K. L. M.) Company	347 6½
5. Air France (French)	The French (Air France) Company.	703 1
6. Perth-Adelaide	West Australian Airways, Ltd.	557 3
7. Karachi-Madras	Messrs. Tata Sons, Ltd.	37,188 2½
8. Calcutta-Dacca	Indian National Airways, Ltd.	1,418 12
9. Calcutta-Rangoon	Ditto	2,148 9½
10. Karachi-Lahore	Ditto	‡4,552 14½

*This excludes 2,636 lbs. 3 ozs. of air mail parcels despatched from India for U. K.

†This represents the weight of mails from the middle of December 1934 when the service was introduced.

‡This represents the weight of mails from 4th December 1934 when the service was introduced.

VACANCIES IN THE CADRE OF MEDICAL OFFICERS ON RAILWAYS.

275. **Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in the cadre of Medical Officers under Government railways during the last five years;

(b) how many of these vacancies were filled by direct appointments and how many by promotion; and

(c) how many of these appointments went to the candidates from the Province of Bihar and Orissa?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) On the State-managed Railways there were seven vacancies during the five years ending the 31st March, 1935.

(b) Five vacancies were filled by direct recruitment and two by promotion.

(c) None.

CARRIAGE OF MAIL BY TONGA FROM SHANKER GARH IN THE GURDASPUR DISTRICT.

276. **Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Is it a fact that mail is sent from Shanker Garh, District Gurdaspur (Punjab) to out stations on contract by means of tonga?

(b) Is it a fact that the town of Shanker Garh has been connected by railway line?

(c) Is it a fact that soon after that, the people of Shanker Garh represented by several memorials to authorities that the mail be carried by railway instead of by tonga and that these representations of the people have remained unattended to?

(d) Is it a fact that the mail by tonga takes double the time and in rainy season treble the time which would have been taken by the Railway?

(c) If the answer to parts (c) and (d) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to enquire into this case and take necessary action?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) to (e). Government have no information, but I have called for a report on receipt of which I will take suitable action.

COMMUNAL PARTIALITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF THE HEAD MISTRESS OF THE GOVERNMENT GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, AJMER.

277. **Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Is it a fact that the Ajmer-Merwara Education Department follows the United Provinces Education Code, which provides that a District Inspecting Officer shall have complete knowledge of both forms of vernacular (Urdu and Hindi)?

(b) Is it a fact that on a recent appointment of Head Mistress of the Government Girls High School, Ajmer, who has to perform the duties of Assistant Inspectress of Girls Schools, the rule was ignored on the ground of her belonging to a particular religion, and the claim of another better qualified lady who did not belong to that religion, was set at naught?

(c) Has the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara received any representation, both from the Hindus and Muslims, against this step of the Department?

(d) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article in the *Hindustan Times* of the 3rd October, 1934 giving an expression of the feeling of the public resentment with reference to the partiality of the Department to a certain community?

(e) If the answer to parts (c) and (d) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to take steps to remove the grievance of the public on account of communal partialities?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) The United Provinces Educational Code is followed by the Ajmer-Merwara Education Department as far as possible.

(b) No; the lady who was appointed to the post possesses exceptionally good qualifications.

(c) Four representations were received; two urging, and two opposing, a different appointment. No protest was received, however, after the selection had been made.

(d) Yes.

(e) Government do not consider that the allegations in the newspaper cutting referred to by the Honourable Member are correct.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS STARTED BY GOVERNMENT IN THE CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS AND PAY OF TEACHERS IN THEM.

278. **Seth Sheodass Daga:** (a) Will Government lay on the table a list of schools and other educational institutions which were started by Government in the centrally administered areas of India with a five years' educational programme as a result of a Resolution of the Legislative Assembly passed about nine years back?

(b) How many of these educational institutions have since then proved a success and been confirmed as permanent institutions? What are the names of such institutions?

(c) Is it a fact that the staff appointed in these institutions were given grades only for five years?

(d) Have the grades of these teachers been revised since then? If so, will Government please state the names of institutions, the teachers of which have been given revised grades, and also the names of those institutions, the teachers of which have not been given revised grades?

(e) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of revising the grades of these teachers?

(f) If the answer to part (e) be in the negative, do Government contemplate to keep these teachers in their present grades for another twenty-five years of their service? If so, what new principle has been evolved to apply to these Government servants?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Complete information is not readily available, and its collection from local authorities would involve an expenditure of time and labour which would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

CONFIRMATION OF STAFF RE-EMPLOYED IN THE OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, CENTRAL REVENUES.

279. **Seth Sheodass Daga:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the normal period in which a qualified man is generally confirmed in the various Departments of the Government of India?

(b) Is it a fact that the re-employed personnel retrenched from the main office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, have rendered service ranging between four to six years and have not yet been confirmed? If so, do Government propose to look to their early confirmation?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) A qualified man, recruited against a permanent vacancy in the Departments of the Government of India, is ordinarily confirmed after the satisfactory completion of one year's probation. The confirmation of a person recruited, against a deputation or leave vacancy, or to fill up a temporary post added to the cadre, depends on the occurrence of a vacancy in the permanent cadre, and it is not possible to specify the normal period after which such a person will be confirmed.

(b) Yes. The personnel to whom the question refers will be confirmed when it is possible to do so.

SCHEME OF RECORD CLERKS INTRODUCED IN THE OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, CENTRAL REVENUES.

280. **Seth Sheodass Daga:** (a) Is it a fact that the scheme of record clerks recently introduced in the Audit Department was postponed in the Office of the Accountant General, United Provinces? If so, why was this scheme given effect to in the Office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, even before the formal sanction of the Government of India was obtained? Were the circumstances in which it was postponed by the Accountant General, United Provinces, equally applicable in the case of the Office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues? Are such questions of vital importance decided simply on the recommendation of the individual officers?

(b) Is it a fact that the Auditor General had been pleased to order that this scheme of record clerks should be introduced in such a way that the interest of the retrenched personnel be not prejudiced and their even flow not checked? If so, why were record clerks in batches recruited when there was a large number of retrenched clerks still unprovided for, and why was it always that the re-employed clerk was discharged on the termination of any temporary post while the record clerks were allowed to continue in service irrespective of seniority?

(c) Is it a fact that the Accountant General, Central Revenues, has further submitted a scheme of routine clerks for the consideration of the Auditor General? If so, do Government propose to see that the interest of the temporary and re-employed personnel in that office in the matter of their confirmation in their respective scales is not affected in any way?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) No. The scheme of Record Clerks is not peculiar to the office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues, but is being introduced as a general measure of economy in all Civil Audit offices under the Auditor-General at the suggestion of an officer who was placed on special duty by the Government of India in connection with the revision of scales of pay.

(b) Yes. In the Accountant-General, Central Revenues' office, Record Clerks were entertained in additional temporary posts created for routine duties, and not against regular clerical posts in which the retrenched clerks are usually appointed.

(c) Yes. In introducing any scheme of record and routine clerks the Auditor-General will carefully watch the interests of retrenched personnel.

ABOLITION OF THE POSTS OF SPECIAL RELIEVING STATION MASTERS IN THE KOTAH DISTRICT OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

281. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a number of posts of Special Relieving Station

Masters of the grade of Rs. 165 per mensem and Rs. 120 per mensem have been abolished in Kotah District of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, and if so, how many?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information. These matters are disposed of finally by the Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway.

RELIEVING STATION MASTERS ASKED TO OFFICIATE AS DEPUTY STATION MASTERS OF GANGPUR CITY OR KOTAH JUNCTION.

282. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Is it a fact that Relieving Station Masters drawing Rs. 85 per mensem are asked to officiate as Deputy Station Masters of Gangpur city or Kotah Junction or as Controllers, who draw more than Rs. 225 per mensem?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the staff drawing substantive pay of Rs. 85 per mensem are dealt with in the same manner as those drawing Rs. 225 to Rs. 300, when the former relieve the latter and commit same or similar mistakes?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information. The matters referred to are entirely within the competence of the Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, to decide.

STAFF GIVEN COMPULSORY LEAVE WITHOUT PAY ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

283. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of staff given compulsory leave without pay in slack season on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that complaints have been made that new staff are recruited, ignoring the claims of those on compulsory leave due to slack traffic on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

(c) If so, are Government prepared to recommend to the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway to give preference to those on compulsory leave before engaging new staff?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, reports:

"(a) 170 men were on compulsory leave during the last slack season.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise."

DUTIES PERFORMED BY THE DEPUTY STATION MASTERS AND GUARDS AT CERTAIN STATIONS ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

284. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Is it a fact that the Deputy Station Master of Idgah, Agra, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, has to work as a signaller as well as a ticket collector?

(b) Is it a fact that a former guard of Agra-Belanganj line is now asked to work at Idgah as a menial brakesman and ticket collector alternately?

(c) Is it a fact that the Deputy Station Maser of Shamgarh is asked to work as a signaller, booking clerk and ticket collector?

(d) Is it also a fact that a Deputy Station Master of Rutlam Station is required to supervise staff and work at two platforms considerably distant from each other?

(e) If the reply to the previous parts be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for the same?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information and are not prepared to interfere in these matters of detail which are entirely within the competence of the local Railway Administration to decide.

GRANT OF AN ALLOWANCE TO TICKET COLLECTORS ACTING AS GUARDS IN THE RUTLAM DISTRICT.

285. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in Rutlam District, permanent ticket collectors drawing Rs. 55 or Rs. 70 per mensem are posted in the acting vacancies of guards in the grade of Rs. 140 without any relieving or acting allowance?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the Railway Administration propose to grant relieving or acting allowance to the staff concerned in this respect?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information, but have sent a copy of the question to the Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, who has full powers in these matters.

RELIEF OF THE STAFF GRANTED LEAVE IN THE KOTAH DISTRICT OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

286. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Is it a fact that it rests only with District Traffic Superintendent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, Kotah District, to sanction due leave and passes and with Traffic Inspectors to make arrangements for relief of the staff, with the result that several cases occur in which although leave is sanctioned, staff are not timely relieved, or though relieved from duty after sanction of leave, passes are not timely received?

(b) Are Government prepared to ascertain from the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Administration whether it is a fact that a pointsman, named Badri of Bandbarata, claimed damages from his Traffic Inspector for not relieving him from duty in time to enable him to remove his wife to the Civil Hospital, Agra, with the result that she died due to inadequate medical assistance?

(c) Are Government prepared to enquire whether the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Administration investigated this case, and state what steps have been taken to prevent recurrence of such cases in future?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have called for information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

NOTICE OF DISCHARGE SERVED ON ASH-PIT CLEANERS IN RUNNING SHEDS OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

287. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether more than 250 ash-pit cleaners in running sheds on the broad gauge line of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway have been recently served with notices of discharge and their work handed over to private contractors? If so, have the concerned Railway Unions been consulted in the matter? If not, why not?

(b) Are Government aware that the Whitley Commission recommended that departmental labour should be substituted for contract labour and if that the action of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway is contrary to that?

(c) Are Government aware that by the proposed steps, the service conditions of the staff employed in the same labour will be drastically curtailed, and are Government prepared to recommend to the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Administration not to substitute contract labour for the existing departmental labour?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (c). The Agent, Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway, reports:

> "The cleaning of ash-pits is being done at present by departmental labour. It was proposed to do the work in future by contract at an estimated saving of approximately Rs. 1,200 per mensem. The proposal would result in the services of 185 purely temporary men and 11 permanent men being dispensed with. The proposal is still under consideration."

(b) Government are aware of the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Labour referred to. After considering this recommendation the Railway Board came to the conclusion that this matter is one which must be left to the discretion of the Agents and that the most efficient and economical method of undertaking particular works must be adopted in each case.

STAFF DISCHARGED ON ACCOUNT OF INDEBTEDNESS ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

288. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of staff discharged on the ground of indebtedness on Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The information is not readily available.

STAFF IN CAWNPORE-TUNDLA DOUBLING WORK AWAITING EMPLOYMENT.

289. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Agent (Engineering), East Indian Railway, Calcutta, requested the Divisional Superintendent, Allahabad, under letter No. E. E.-8875 of the 22nd March, 1933, that all doubling staff discharged should be given employment in vacancies in divisions, and that none of them has so far been given work, and that new men have been appointed in suitable vacancies?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many of the doubling staff in Cawnpore-Tundla Doubling are still awaiting employment?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information; but have sent a copy of the question to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for any action he may consider necessary.

LOCOMOTIVE REQUIREMENTS OF RAILWAYS.

290. **Mr. V. V. Giri:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Raven Committee in paragraph 205 of their Report laid down a formula for assessing the locomotive requirements of Railways?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of locomotives in excess of requirements on the basis of Raven Committee's formula on State-owned Railways in each gauge respectively?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the number of average men-days per heavy locomotive repair in each railway workshop?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the present percentage of supervision on numbers and wages in every State-owned Railway workshop on the lines contained in paragraphs 195 and 196 of the Raven Committee Report?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The figures are as follows:

Eastern Bengal Railway	*Nil.*
North Western Railway	15 Broad Gauge.
Burma Railways	39 Metre Gauge.
Great Indian Peninsula Railway	108 Broad Gauge.
East Indian Railway	50 Broad Gauge.

(c) The information is not available as "Men-day" statements are not maintained in the State Railway Locomotive Workshops.

(d) The information is not readily available and the labour involved in compilation would be incommensurate with its value.

BUILDING OF STEEL COACHES FOR RAILWAYS.

291. **Mr. V. V. Giri:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that certain Railways have opined against building steel coaches and if so, which Railways?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is intended to indent any steel coaches for 1935-36 and if so, will Government be pleased to state whether thereby carriage building programme in railway workshops will be affected and if so, to what extent?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) Government are not aware of any proposals to indent for all steel coaches in 1935-36.

OPERATIONS AND REPAIRS IN THE STATE RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

292. **Mr. V. V. Giri:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the volume and nature of manufacturing operations undertaken in each State-owned Railway workshop and the corresponding number of men-days of work in 1934-35 and provided for 1935-36?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state similar information in regard to repair work in each Locomotive Carriage and Wagon Shop of each State-owned Railway for the same periods?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). The information is not readily available and the labour involved in its compilation would be incommensurate with its value.

CAPITAL OUTLAY AND RECURRING NON-LABOUR CHARGES ON EACH RAILWAY WORKSHOP.

293. **Mr. V. V. Giri:** Will Government be pleased to state the amount of capital outlay and recurring non-labour charges incurred on each Railway workshop in 1934-35 and provided for 1935-36?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The information is not readily available and the labour involved in its compilation would be incommensurate with its value.

PROVISION IN THE BUDGET FOR DONATION TO EUROPEAN VAGRANTS.

294. **Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

(a) whether they are aware of a provision of Rs. 8,500 non-voted and Rs. 6,700 voted for donations for charitable purposes and charges on account of European vagrants (in Demand No. 76);

(b) which are the charitable purposes for which these provisions are intended;

(c) for which charitable purposes the amount was spent in the year 1933-34;

(d) how much of these provisions was spent for charitable purposes and how much on account of European vagrants;

(e) who gives these donations for charitable purposes; and

(f) what is the nature of expenses under this head for European vagrants?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Yes.

(b) The charitable purposes for which the provision is made are:

(1) the repatriation of destitute Indians from abroad who are, in the great majority of cases, pilgrims; also repatriation from India of European insanes.

(2) subsistence allowance to distressed seamen.

(3) European vagrants, and

(4) burial charges of paupers and charges on account of crews of vessels sailing under British Colours ship-wrecked while trading between Indian ports.

(c) and (d). The provision was distributed between the Governments of India, Madras, Bombay, Bengal and Burma. The details of expenditure by the Provincial Governments are not available. The expenditure of the Government of India in 1933-34 on charitable purposes was:

Non-voted		
Rs. 9,441	. .	On account of repatriation of British Indian subjects from Iraq and Persia.
Voted		
Rs. 5,373		
Rs. 5,021	. .	Repatriation charges.
Rs. 321	. .	Funeral expenses.
Rs. 31	. .	European Vagrants.

(e) The expenditure is sanctioned by the Departments of the Government of India concerned and by Local Governments as the case may be.

(f) Pecuniary help.

SUBSCRIPTION TO NEWS AGENCIES FOR SUPPLY OF TELEGRAMS.

295. **Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

(a) whether they have an item of expenditure of Rs. 61,200 in the Budget estimate 1935-36 for subscription to news agencies for supply of telegrams under Demand No. 76;

(b) what are the details of this expenditure;

(c) who are the agencies to whom it is disbursed;

(d) whether these news charges were paid to the news agencies as a monopoly price, or whether tender is invited for the supply of these news and then an arrangement was come to;

(e) whether the companies, that are now supplying news to the Government are Indian or European; and

(f) whether Government are prepared to consider the advisability of encouraging Indian news agencies?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) to (c) and (e). The sum of Rs. 61,200 provided in Demand No. 76-Miscellaneous to meet the cost of subscriptions to news agencies for supply of news telegrams is made up of (1) Rs. 49,200 which is the annual subscription to be paid under contract to Messrs. Reuters, Ltd., a *European* concern, and (2) Rs. 12,000 which represents the provision required to meet the cost of subscriptions to the Indian News Agency, an *Indian* concern, for the supply of its news telegrams.

(d) and (f). The arrangements made with Messrs. Reuters, Ltd., are of long standing dating as far back as 1873, when the Government of India entered into an agreement with this agency for the supply of their news services to Government officials on payment of a fixed annual subscription. The existing arrangement under which the Indian News Agency supply their news service to Government officials on ordinary commercial terms is also of long standing, dating from 1911.

SEATS IN THE THIRD CLASS CARRIAGES ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

296. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Are Government aware that third class carriages on the South Indian Railway have two seats on either side of the compartment with a long corridor passage in the middle?

(b) Are Government aware that these seats are neither broad enough nor long enough for one passenger to lie down even when there is accommodation? If not, are they prepared to at least make enquiries?

(c) Are Government prepared to order a reconditioning of the same when the reconditioning of the third class compartments is taken up in other lines of Railways?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). Yes, on the Metre Gauge section.

(c) Government are enquiring from the South Indian Railway, the services on which this particular design of carriage, is in use.

CLOSING OF LEVEL CROSSINGS ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY BETWEEN ARKANAM AMTATTUR.

297. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Are Government aware that the level crossings on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway between Arkanam Amtattur are invariably closed and locked up even when there is no train in prospect?

(b) Are Government prepared to make enquiries?

(c) Are Government prepared to order the construction of over-bridges or under-ground passages, as in Delhi, so that motor and country carts may pass unhindered?

(d) If not, are Government prepared to take steps to see that the level-crossing gates are kept open when there are no trains in sight?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am making enquiries from the Railway Administration and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

ACCIDENTS ON THE ELECTRIC LINE BETWEEN MADRAS AND TAMBARAM.

298. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Are Government aware that accidents occur very frequently on the electric line between Madras and Tambaram?

(b) Are Government prepared to take steps to prevent such accidents by constructing either over-bridges or under-ground passages, as is done in Delhi, so that pedastrains or vehicles may be saved from accident?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). Government are not aware that the number of accidents on this section is abnormal compared to those on other sections, or calls for special measures as suggested by the Honourable Member. The question of overbridges necessary over the South Indian Railway line in the Madras area was very fully discussed in 1929 with the Madras Government and the Madras Corporation and three overbridges were added as a result of the agreement arrived at after this discussion.

CONTRACTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF BALLAST STONES TO THE BURMA RAILWAYS.

299. **U Thein Maung:** Will Government please state what percentage in number and value of contracts for the supply of ballast stones to the Burma Railways has been given to Burmese contractors during the last three years?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am making enquiries from the Railway Administration and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 146 asked by Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan on the 19th July, 1934.

PILGRIMS TO HEDJAZ FROM EACH PROVINCE OF INDIA.

(a) The number of pilgrims, who proceeded to the Hedjaz by the direct sea route from the various Provinces of India, during the pilgrim season of 1933-34 is as follows:—

Province.	No. of pilgrim.
Madras	189
Bombay Presidency (excluding Sind)	1,128
Sind	465
Bengal and Assam	667
United Provinces	1,015
Punjab	1,811
Burma	47
Bihar and Orissa	109
Central Provinces	511
North-West Frontier Province	294
Baluchista	197
Delhi	175
Hyderabad (Deccan)	481
	7,089

In addition to the above, 754 Indian pilgrims proceeded to the Hedjaz by other routes, but information as to the provinces to which they belonged, is not available.

(b) The information is not available.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 63 asked by Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh Bhutto on the 6th February, 1935.

TRANSFER OF SINDHIS WORKING IN THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY WORKSHOP AT SUKKUR TO LAHORE AND OTHER PLACES.

The Agent, North Western Railway, reports as follows:

(a) Yes. 113 were transferred.

(b) 50 Sindhis.

63 Non-Sindhis.

(c) The principle of detaining Sindhis in Sind was observed when arranging these transfers of staff from Sukkur as far as practicable. Out of 274 Sindhis originally employed only 50 were so transferred.

(d) Sindhi Muslims 50.

Muslims in general 89 (including Sindhi Muslims).

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 60 asked by Mr. Suryya Kumar Som, on the 22nd February, 1935.

SPANS OF THE BRIDGES OVER THE BRAHMAPUTRA ON THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY NEAR MYMENSINGH.

(a) Soundings taken at the bridge site show that there is scarcely any alteration in the bed of the river since 1918. The flooding of the land on the eastern side during the rains is a normal occurrence and is in no way attributable to the bridge. The Railway Administration has no record of any complaints having been received from the local inhabitants either as regards the alleged silting of the river or the damage to cultivation by the flooding of the country to the east of the bridge.

(b) The bridge was designed originally with one central span of 250 feet and 8 spans of 100 feet. The headway allowed was 23 feet above High Flood Level. Subsequently the design was modified to two central spans of 200 feet, two spans of 150 feet and two spans of 100 feet, the headway remaining the same. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining girders of these spans during the War, representations were made to the Government of Bengal with a view to reducing the size of the spans. After protracted correspondence the Government of Bengal agreed to the bridge being constructed with 9 spans of 100 feet and a headway of 16 feet above High Flood Level on the condition that they could later on demand the substitution of two spans of 200 feet in place of four central spans together with a headway of 23 feet.

(c) No request has been received from the Government of Bengal to give effect to the condition mentioned in the concluding portion of the reply to (b).

(d) No complaints have been received by the Railway Administration from the Local Government or the business houses engaged in the Jute trade regarding the insufficiency of headway.

(e) The Railway Administration does not contemplate increasing the headway.

(f) A pontage charge is made by taking the distance for charge over the bridge as 10 miles. In the case of third class fares however the charge of Rs. 0-3-4 on a 10 mile basis was reduced to Re. 0-1-7 in 1932. The bridge proper is 996 feet long.

(g) About Rs. 9½ lakhs. The earnings from the additional charge are not allocated separately to the bridge and it is not possible to say without a detailed analysis of all traffic carried over this section, what the earnings from this addition to the mileage has been.

(h) and (i). The justification lies in the fact that the earnings of the Mymensingh Bhairab Bazar Railway, of which the bridge form a part, have not been such as to justify the Managing Agents agreeing to forego the pontage charge which is provided for under their contract.

Information promised in reply to parts (c) and (d) of starred question No. 505 asked by Mr. S. K. Hosmani on the 23rd February, 1935.

ABSENCE OF AN UNDERGROUND OR OVERHEAD PASSAGE FOR TRAFFIC AT GADAG STATION ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

(c) and (d). The Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, estimates roughly that the cost of an overbridge at Gadag Station will be Rs. 3½ lakhs, of which Rs. 75,000 will be the cost of the bridge and Rs. 2,75,000 the cost of the approaches which would have to be met by the Gadag-Betgeri Municipality, were the suggestion of the Advisory Committee carried out. The Railway is addressing the Gadag Betgeri Municipality to enquire whether they will be prepared to bear a portion of the charges for making out a detailed estimate. This would cost Rs. 5,500.

Information promised in reply to unstarred questions Nos. 184 and 185 asked by Mr. B. B. Varma on the 9th March, 1935.

REFUSAL OF CERTAIN PRIVILEGES TO STATION MASTERS ON THE DELHI-UMBALA-KALKA SECTION.

No. 184. The Agent North Western Railway, reports :

"Last year Sonepat was the only station on the D. U. K. section at which the Station Master was not supplied with a *Punkha* coolie. This is being remedied during the current year.

Station Masters at Sonepat and Karnal did not receive supply of coal last year as they did not requisition for any."

NON-SUPPLY OF WINTER UNIFORM TO THE STATION MASTERS, ETC., IN THE DELHI DIVISION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

No. 185. The Agent, North Western Railway, reports :

"According to the revised Dress Regulations of the North Western Railway now in force Yard Foremen are allowed uniform every year and Station Masters, Assistant Station Masters and Signallers every second year. This is due to the fact that the nature of the duties of a Yard Foreman involves greater wear and tear of uniform."

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 208 asked by Mr. N. M. Joshi on the 9th March, 1935.

STAFF QUARTERS AND HOUSE ALLOWANCES, ETC., AT HOWRAH.

(i) There are 178 European type staff quarters at Howrah, 751 Indian type staff quarters (out of which 82 quarters are for Indian subordinates and 669 for inferior staff).

(ii) 14 units are occupied by ministerial staff.

(iii) 915 units are occupied by station staff (out of which 246 are occupied by subordinates, and 669 are occupied by inferior staff).

(iv) Rs. 1,014-8-0 per mensem.

(v) Rs. 846 per mensem.

(vi) 333 subordinate staff under Claim I are without quarters.
88 subordinate staff under Claim II are without quarters.
181 subordinate staff under Claim III are without quarters.

NOTE :—The allocation of quarters is on the following lines :

First Claim.—Those who are eligible for rent free quarters or house rent allowance in lieu.

Second Claim.—Those who are required to live near the work and are liable to be called at any time for duty. Such as running staff—(this includes staff who in the ordinary course of their work are required to perform turns of right duty).

Third Claim.—Those who may be given quarters free of rent when available without admitting their claim for house rent allowance in lieu such as Train Examiner staff.

Fourth Claim.—To others at the discretion of Divisional Superintendent.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move*:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the first and second entries under the head *'Letters'* the following be substituted :

'For a weight not exceeding one tola	One anna.
For a weight exceeding a tola but not exceeding two and a half tolas	One anna and three pies'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the first and second entries under the head *'Letters'* the following be substituted :

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Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move†:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the second and third entries under the head *'Letters'* the following be substituted :

'For every additional tola or fraction thereof in excess of one tola	Half an anna'."

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The discussion will now proceed on all the amendments.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Sir, before I speak on the subject proper, I should like, with your permission, to pay a tribute to the Postal Department of the Government of India. It is perhaps the only department that is a popular department. It is the only department that seeks to serve the poor and the rich alike. No official of Government, so far as I know, is a welcome visitor anywhere in the country, but the postman is always welcome. He brings a message of hope and of cheer from distant friends and distant relatives; and while we are anxious that no official of Government should come anywhere near us, we are always waiting at the door for the postman to appear. He brings an occasional postcard and he sometimes even brings a little money. But the trouble arises when he brings a bearing letter; and I am going to propose to Government some method so that even this stigma may be removed from the post office.

*No. 60 on the list of amendments.

†No. 66 on the list of amendments

With all the virtues of the post office, there has recently crept in a vice. It seems to me that like the King and Queen in the story, the parents of the Indian Post Office forgot to invite the Home Member at the time of jubilation at its birth; and that is why, acting the part of the evil fairy, he has touched the post office with a particular section, under which the letters of most of us on this side of the House are censored, intercepted and even devoured. I hope that it may be possible for the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, in whom I discover a very old friend of our days at Cambridge,—to induce the Home Member to withdraw that section and give some much-needed relief to this side of the House. I am supporting this motion enabling the one anna envelope to carry a weight of one tola, on three grounds: one of propriety, the other of convenience and the third of meeting the interests of the poor. At present we have a system of carrying half a tola in an envelope stamped with an anna stamp, and then an additional pice carries an additional two tolas. I do not understand the logic of the situation. Half a tola only to be carried for one anna, and then two tolas more for an additional pice! Two and a half tolas for an anna and a quarter! Unless they wanted to adjust their weights to the English standards—I understand that an ounce is equal to $2\frac{1}{2}$ tolas—I do not know how they discovered this particular figure. I think that this half tola is a very dangerous weight. One does not know where the half tola ends and more than half tola begins. I can give many illustrations where even the post office has been at a loss to know as to what to do. I take a letter to a post office to be weighed. The postal clerk is usually an over-worked individual and has a multitude of miscellaneous work to do. He throws the letter roughly on the weighing machine; the needle shakes itself to a little further than half a tola and before the needle comes to a standstill he says it is more than half a tola. I say to myself I shall try another post office, and I go to another post office and there the postmaster accepts that very letter for one anna. Then, Sir, if you are careless in making sure from the postmaster beforehand he franks the letter as bearing, and the addressee has to pay two more pice. Nowadays the post office has got the rule that even if you have to complain against them, you must stamp your letter. Formerly, people could complain against the post office by letters that were posted without stamps, and so complaints could be made. Nowadays we have to stamp a letter of complaint as well.

An Honourable Member: And still you have paid a compliment to the post office.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: So, if you have to complain that you have been overcharged half an anna, you have to spend five pice. Who is so generous as to spend five pice and take all the additional trouble of writing a letter to the post office to recover only two pice?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): The Honourable Member should be aware that he can make a complaint in a letter which can be carried for an anna.

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The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): The Honourable Member should be aware that he can make a complaint in a letter which can be carried for an anna.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I know there are many people in India who, having had this bad experience, have given up the anna stamp completely, and even if the letters are very light, they invariably use five pice stamps saying that it is better to tax oneself than to tax one's friends. I think that it is time that some relief were given. I am particularly thinking of the man in the village. He has not got such nice, well cut letter papers that you find lying in profuse abandon in the various rooms of the Council House meant for the anna post. The people in the villages usually stuff a yellow sheet in an envelope. That yellow sheet is more often than not a little heavier than half a tola, but not as heavy as one tola, and so their addressees have to pay an extra two pice. I, therefore, suggest that if we increase the weight that an anna post can carry, we shall be giving much relief to our ignorant and innocent brethren in the countryside. Therefore, Sir, on grounds of propriety which, I am sure, my Honourable friends opposite will accept, it is best to have one tola as the maximum weight for an anna envelope.

My second ground was that of convenience. In fact, I have covered that ground also when I was talking about propriety. It will be convenient both to the hard-worked employees of the post office as well as to the correspondents themselves. I am sure Government will be able to increase its revenue also if it increases the weight for the anna post. A postcard, for instance, is a very small thing. You cannot write very much on a postcard, and it costs nowadays three pice. I am hoping that the Assembly will reduce it to half anna. At present a postcard wants a three pice stamp and a half tola letter requires an anna stamp. I think this arrangement is very inconvenient, and I am sure that those who are in charge of the post office in this country must have realised by now that this arrangement has not been conducive either to their own convenience or to the convenience of the public at large.

My third ground was that we should be serving the interests of the poor very much if we made this change. Those of us,—and I am unfortunately also of that number,—who write large numbers of letters do not count the annas or the rupees that go to the post office from our pockets week after week; but for the poor man even a pice or two is a serious consideration; and if you are anxious that you should give some relief to the poor, it is best that you give him a chance of writing a letter from time to time to friends and relatives in distant places. They are not great letter writers; they do not spend an hour or two every day in writing letters to friends accepting or rejecting invitations to dinners and teas, but they do want an occasional letter from their friends and relatives. Sir, you are going to have Broadcasting. They will probably get detailed news through this Broadcasting apparatus of what is happening to bigwigs in England and other countries, but the poor man who listens to the Broadcasting and is informed of what is happening in Moscow or Berlin is more anxious to have some piece of information about his own relatives or friends than any news concerning Stalin or Hitler or other persons unknown to him. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, when the opposite Benches wax eloquent on the cultural and other aspects of Broadcasting, I hope they will also admit that broadcasting of postcards and envelopes will be a real blessing to the countryside. (Cheers.) There is a story, Sir, that once a number of merry-making motorists were held up on the road in the dark at the point of a revolver. The leader of the motorists called out: "Who are you?" And the leader of those on the road replied "We are

brigands, we rob the rich". And in a merry mood the man inside the motor called back and said: "That is all right, we are gentlemen, we rob the poor". The world seems to be divided between brigands and gentlemen. One tries to rob the rich, the other tries to rob the poor. I plead guilty to the charge of brigandage, because I do want to rob the rich, and that may be No. 58 on the list with which the Honourable the Law Member will begin his speech at Simla. (Laughter.) I hope the Honourable gentlemen opposite will not be eager to plead guilty to the charge of being gentlemen, if a gentleman means what this story says. With these few words, I hope I have been able to convince all sides of the House that from every point of view, it will be to the interests of everybody, the Government and the people alike, to allow the envelopes with an anna stamp to carry a whole tola of contents. Those who want to write heavier letters, whether the letters are love letters or business letters can, I feel, afford to pay more but let us enable the poor to send one tola of matter in one anna. The poor man will be satisfied, and most of us will be saved from cursing our postman who wants to charge an extra two pice on the letters he brings. I may tell you, Sir, that the postmen themselves are not very happy over this. I remember an incident when a postman delivered a letter and, while asking for two pice, said to the receiver: "Sir, you are mistaken if you think that the postage has been reduced from five to four pice; really it has been increased to six pice, and you better pay up two pice before you can have this letter". Postcards in the very nature of things cannot be made bearing, and even if they were bearing, one could read the card and hand it back to the postman with the willing consent of the postman himself. (Laughter.) But a letter has to be torn open, unless, of course, one knows the intricate device which the Honourable the Home Member evidently has by which he can open letters with steam and then regum them badly. (Laughter.) If the Government insist on having this heavy postage, I believe we brigands will have to find out some methods by which we can open letters and read them and give them back to the postmen. If you want to avoid any of these difficulties and if you want to have a contented and honest public using the post office, I hope the Government and every section of this House will accept the proposal that I have placed before them. (Cheers.)

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): May I know what will be the financial effect of this proposal?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I hope in the course of my remarks to give a reply to the question which my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, has just put.

Sir, it has been the practice, in recent years, in dealing with the first amendment to the Finance Bill which relates to postal charges, for the Member in charge of the Posts and Telegraphs Department to review the position of the Department in order to enable the House better to discuss the various amendments brought forward for its consideration. I trust, Sir, that you will allow me to adopt the past procedure on this occasion also. It seems specially desirable that I should do so in view of the fact that all the amendments in regard to the various branches of the department, letters, postcards, book packets, and newspapers, are being taken in separate groups, not individually, I trust that the House will bear with me if my exposition is a somewhat lengthy one. After all, the Posts and

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

Telegraphs Department is the most important department of the Government of India after the Railway Department. The Railway Department gets four days for its budget, and the Posts and Telegraphs Department, if it is lucky gets one. It is, therefore, I think, desirable that I should give the House a brief review of the financial position of the department as it stands today.

The important point which I would impress upon the House at the outset, for it is the background of the picture I am placing before it, is that it is the accepted policy—a policy which I think it is correct to say has never seriously been questioned by this House,—that, whilst the Posts and Telegraphs Department should be looked upon as a public utility service, it should, in the same way as Railways and any other organisations which are for the benefit of the general public and are looked upon as public utility services, be expected to pay its own way. As Sir Atul Chatterjee said in this House on March 12th, 1924, it has a valuable monopoly, and that monopoly should be so worked as to be a source of benefit to the general taxpayer without being a burden to him. It was in order to see how far this was the case that the accounts of the department were organised on a commercial basis with effect from 1925-26. It is also the accepted policy that any surpluses in the working of the department should normally be used for the extension of postal facilities, for reorganisation which may be necessary in order to ensure the highest efficiency, and also for revision of rates which may be possible and reasonable.

That, Sir, is our policy, and it is in the light of that policy, as I have stated it, that I hope the House will consider the position I shall now proceed to place before it.

Briefly, the position is that we have not yet got a surplus at all according to our estimates for next year, much less one that has come to stay, and it is for that reason that we have been unable to propose any revision of rates. I need hardly assure the House that it is a matter of keen personal disappointment to me that that should be the case. I can only here and now make an appeal to the House to exercise patience a little longer, and to enable us uninterruptedly to continue our efforts to place the department in such a sound financial position that we can go ahead confidently with any revision of rates in a downward direction.

It will, I think, be convenient if I start my review of the financial position of the department with the year 1925-26, for it was in that year, that, as I have said, the accounts of the department were placed on a commercial basis, and it is only since then that we can be sure that we are comparing like with like. I do not propose to weary the House with the figures for each year separately, but I shall deal with them by quinquenniums. During the quinquennium, 1925-26 to 1929-30, revenue increased at an annual rate of something like Rs. 27 lakhs per annum and reached a figure of Rs. 1129·49 lakhs in 1929-30. During the same period, however, expenditure increased by Rs. 52 lakhs per annum, about double the rate at which revenue increased, and in 1929-30 amounted to just under Rs. 1192 lakhs. The last year of the quinqennium, therefore, closed with a loss of nearly 62½ lakhs, the only branch to show a profit, and that a very modest one, being the telephone branch which yielded a surplus of just over a lakh of rupees. In 1930-31, that disastrous year of which we all have such poignant memories, the economic blizzard swept over us and revenue decreased by Rs. 51½ lakhs. Expenditure went up by

Rs. 19½ lakhs and the year ended with the colossal deficit of Rs. 133½ lakhs, in spite of the introduction of such economies as could be brought into force immediately. It was this situation which had to be faced by the increase in rates which came into effect in 1931. Those enhancements arrested the decline in revenue but did not stop it. In 1932-33, revenue had still further fallen by Rs. 22½ lakhs. The campaign of drastic retrenchment on which we embarked effected economies to the extent of about Rs. 114 lakhs, but none the less, the loss on the departmental working was still a heavy one, amounting as it did to Rs. 41·89 lakhs.

The accounts for 1933-34 showed a slight turning of the tide, so slight, however, as to be almost imperceptible. Revenue improved by some Rs. 17¼ lakhs, but of this, Rs. 15½ lakhs represented an adjustment relating to the Depreciation Fund and was more than offset by a countervailing entry on the expenditure side. The real improvement was thus only Rs. 1·68 lakhs, but, small as it was, it was a very welcome one after the prolonged and unbroken decline in receipts. Expenditure, however, increased by Rs. 27¼ lakhs, and the loss for the year amounted to nearly Rs. 52 lakhs, Rs. 10 lakhs more than in the previous year: of this Rs. 5·35 lakhs were accounted for by the accounts adjustment consequent on the conversion of the Sinking Fund into a Straight Line Depreciation Fund of which I shall have more to say in a moment.

I now turn to the year which has just closed. The trend of receipts towards the end of 1933-34 appeared to us to justify a more cheerful outlook in framing our estimates for 1934-35. As Sir George Schuster said when he introduced his budget last year, the only thing that we could be sure of was that, as the result of the efforts in the past, the department was slowly moving to an equilibrium between revenue and expenditure. It was in that belief that Government decided, with the approval of this House, to lower the initial weight on inland letters from 2½ tolas to ½ tola coupled with a reduction in the charge from 1¼ annas to one anna, to remit the extra pie charged for five pice embossed envelopes and to introduce a minimum charge for ordinary telegrams of eight words of nine annas, with double that rate for express telegrams. A small change was made in the contrary direction and the initial charge on book packets not exceeding five tolas in weight was raised from six to nine pies. Together with these changes it was announced that Government had ordered a further enquiry into the working of the departmental depreciation fund. Pending the results of that enquiry, the contribution to the fund which, under the normal operation of the rules, would have amounted to over Rs. 36 lakhs was cut down arbitrarily to Rs. 9 lakhs, the estimated amount of the actual expenditure required for the renewal and reconstruction of the assets of the department during 1934-35. I should perhaps mention in passing a reform of some importance which has been introduced during the current year, namely, the discontinuance, except in Burma, of the use of postage stamps for revenue purposes. As the House is aware, the retrenchment campaign continued during the current year, retrenchment concessions being extended until March 31st next in order to enable the department to complete its retrenchment plans. The result of these measures combined, as they have undoubtedly been with that turn of the tide which became visible last year, has been that the loss of Rs. 14·47 lakhs budgeted for has been converted into a profit of Rs. 13·81 lakhs. That is for the year that has just closed. Comparing the revised estimates for 1934-35, with the actuals for 1933-34, revenue has increased by about

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Rs. 32 lakhs while expenditure has decreased by Rs. 33 lakhs. It must, however, be remembered that the decrease in expenditure is accounted for to the extent of about Rs. 27 lakhs by the arbitrary reduction of the contribution to the depreciation fund. The result, though by no means all that we could wish, cannot, I venture to think, be regarded as unsatisfactory, when it is remembered that it has been achieved, after restoring, in 1933-34, half the cut in pay at a cost of Rs. 28 lakhs and providing for the inevitable increments of pay which will be a burden to the department for several years to come.

The House is entitled to ask at this stage why, when for the first time for many years past the department has a small surplus to show, no alteration in rates is proposed. I have already given an indication of the correct reply to that question. It is not so much that we have no guarantee that the surplus has come to stay but that it is, in point of fact, a fictitious one as it has been secured by an arbitrary deduction for one year in the contribution to the depreciation fund, a process which it is not desirable to repeat. That brings me to the budget estimates for 1935-36. We have placed the figures for revenue at Rs. 1132·57 lakhs, which show an improvement of Rs. 27·22 lakhs over the revised estimates for the current year. It is interesting to note that this Rs. 27 lakhs is practically the same figure as the annual improvement from 1925-26 to 1929-30, that is in the years before the effects of the economic depression became apparent. Unfortunately and also by a curious coincidence, the estimated expenditure for 1935-36, Rs. 1145·58 lakhs, shows an increase of almost exactly double the estimated increase in revenue, as it did in the 1925—1930 quinquennium. The main items which have contributed to worsen the position are the restoration of the remainder of the cut in pay, costing Rs. 27 lakhs, the increments in the pay of the staff, costing Rs. 15 lakhs and the restoration of the provision for depreciation not at its old rate but still at a rate which is Rs. 19 lakhs higher than it was in 1934-35.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Why is it so?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Because we are not repeating the raid on the depreciation fund. I shall have more to say about that in a moment. As I said just now, we do not think it advisable to raid the depreciation fund for more than one year. Against these increases has to be set a decrease in the expenditure which we can control of Rs. 7 lakhs. This leaves, as I have said, a net increase of Rs. 54 lakhs and turns last year's profit into a deficit of Rs. 13 lakhs.

Whilst it is a matter for great regret that the department has not yet balanced its revenue and expenditure, it is only fair to the department to remember that this loss is partly due to the fact that a number of the services which it renders are definitely unremunerative. I refer to the loss on Press telegrams, the loss on newspaper traffic and the much smaller loss on the non-commercial portions of the wireless systems of the country. If these losses were eliminated, the department would have a balanced budget.

Here, Sir, I may perhaps be permitted to digress for a few moments to make a comparison between our estimates for 1935-36, and those for 1929-30, the year immediately preceding the economic depression. It should, I think, be a sufficient reply to those who complain that the Posts and Telegraphs Department suffers from a top-heavy administration to say that the expenditure on the pay of the officers in 1929-30 was Rs. 52 36 lakhs, whereas, in 1935-36, it will be only Rs. 45·65 lakhs, a decrease of over 12 per cent. In 1929-30, the pay of the establishment was Rs. 707 lakhs. In 1935-36, it will be Rs. 727 lakhs, an increase of nearly three per cent. There are only three other heads which show an increase, one is subsidies and payments to Railway Companies which show the small increase of Rs. 55,000. This is due to the fact that the State Railways have put forward a claim for increased charges for the haulage of mails. The claim is still under discussion but provision has had to be made against the possibility of its validity being admitted. I need hardly point out that payments for the carriage of mails are in the nature of contractual payments and that transportation services have to be maintained in spite of the decrease in the volume of the mails carried.

The second head under which charges have increased as compared with 1929-30 is Interest on Capital Outlay. The increase here is Rs. 17¾ lakhs and it is partly explained by the increase in the accumulated loss on the working of the department on which it has to pay interest to General Revenues. That accumulated loss would be far greater than it is had it not been for the recommendations of the Posts and Telegraphs Accounts Enquiry Committee so ably presided over by my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, as the result of which the deficit, which has accumulated up to the end of the year 1930-31, was reduced by Rs. 161·34 lakhs. The interest to be paid to general revenues during 1935-36 on account of the deficit amounts to nearly Rs. 7 lakhs. This, of course, is recurring expenditure of an entirely unremunerative character and its elimination at an early date is one of the objects the department has to set before itself, in addition to those I have already mentioned.

The two items I have just mentioned are on the debit side. There is an interesting one on the credit side and that is the increase of Rs. 18 lakhs in the credits to working expenses. This is mainly due to the great increase in the volume of Postal Savings Bank work and in Cash Certificate transactions. This increase has brought with it that increase in the audit and accounts charges of the department which was criticised by my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Gidney, and which amounts to Rs. 3¼ lakhs as compared with 1929-30. Since that year, the number of Savings Bank accounts has increased by 784,000, the average number of depositors per bank has gone up from 181 to 244 and the average balance at the credit of each depositor has increased from Rs. 161 to Rs. 169. The total annual number of transactions increased from 7½ millions in 1929-30 to 10 millions in 1933-34. The increase in cash certificate business has been even more striking. The number of transactions in 1929-30 was 582,000 and in 1933-34 it was 816,000. The figures under both heads are remarkable for a period of severe depression. They afford ground for the confidence embodied in our estimates that 1935-36 will show a further increase in savings bank business.

The House would probably like to have at this stage an indication, however brief, of the financial vicissitudes of the constituent branches of the department. In 1929-30, the total revenue of the Postal Branch amounted to Rs. 789·77 lakhs. The lowest level reached since then was Rs. 732·44 lakhs in 1932-33. For 1935-36 we estimate a revenue of Rs. 770·86 lakhs—still 19 lakhs below that for 1929-30. On the expenditure side, the highest figure reached was Rs. 813 lakhs in 1930-31—some two

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lakhs higher than in the previous year. The lowest level here was Rs. 738.51 lakhs in 1932-33. Our estimate for next year is Rs. 778·28 lakhs,—35 lakhs below the figure for 1930-31.

Our revenue from the Telegraph Branch in 1929-30 amounted to Rs. 282·22 lakhs. It fell to Rs. 258·02 lakhs in 1932-33. Our estimate for next year is Rs. 273·49 lakhs. Expenditure in 1929-30 was Rs. 317·43 lakhs, which rose to Rs. 328·94 lakhs the following year. For 1935-36, we estimate Rs. 292·95 lakhs. Our revenue estimates for 1935-36 are thus roughly only Rs. 9 lakhs below the receipts of 1929-30, whilst estimated expenditure is some Rs. 36 lakhs below the high figure of 1930-31.

The only bright spot in the last few years has been the telephone branch which has shown a profit every year with the exception of 1930-31. Revenue has increased steadily from the Rs. 54·39 lakhs of 1929-30 to the Rs. 80·49 lakhs which we hope to get next year. As this is a branch the activities of which are rapidly expanding, expenditure has also increased, though not to the same extent as revenue. In 1929-30, it amounted to Rs. 53·30 lakhs and in 1933-34 to Rs. 64·76 lakhs but in 1935-36 we are only providing Rs. 61·74 lakhs. In 1929-30, the profit on this branch was a little over one lakh, but we estimate that next year it will amount to Rs. 18¾ lakhs. This very satisfactory result has been secured by a careful selection of projects both those for the establishment of local systems and those for the opening of new trunk lines.

The only other branch which remains to be mentioned is the Radio Telegraph Branch. The main revenue of this branch consists of recoveries from other departments, such as the Civil Aviation Department. The loss on this branch in 1929-30 was Rs. 6·86 lakhs. For 1935-36 it is estimated at Rs. 4·88 lakhs. As this is a branch of activity which is rapidly developing, the net improvement of Rs. 2 lakhs is not unsatisfactory.

I am glad that it is unnecessary for me to say much about retrenchment today for, as I have recently informed the House, the retrenchment campaign in the department ended on March, 31st, and the retrenchment concessions have been withdrawn. The ban on confirmation which has been in force since the retrenchment campaign started has also been withdrawn from April 1st and revised rates of pay for new entrants, which, as time goes on, should materially reduce expenditure in a department which has such a large personnel as the Posts and Telegraphs Department, came into force on the same date. In these circumstances, this should be the last occasion on which it should be necessary to refer to the contention that retrenchment has been lop-sided and that superior posts have been treated with special consideration. The answer to this criticism has already been furnished by my Honourable friend, Mr. Bewoor, the Director General, and I need not repeat it today. All I would say is that, if there has been any lop-sidedness, it has worked to the detriment of the gazetted staff. Another complaint which has been made in this connection is that retrenchment has been heavier on the postal side than in the Telegraph and Telephone Branches. There is this much truth in this and no more, namely, that the number of postal employees is far greater than the number of telegraph and telephone employees and that the application of the same principles to all branches—which is all that the department has done—has naturally brought about a greater reduction of staff in the branch whose numbers afforded more scope for it.

I think it was my Honourable friend, Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury, who the other day repeated the accusation of extravagant expenditure in the Telegraph Engineering Branch. In point of fact, the investigations to which this branch, in common with others, is subjected from time to time show that very substantial reductions in expenditure have been secured in recent years. If the estimates for 1935-36 are compared with the actuals for 1930-31, expenditure under pay of officers has fallen by 13·9 per cent., allowances and honoraria by 21·3 per cent., contingencies by 13·8 per cent., repairs to telegraph and telephone lines by 15·4 per cent., and repairs to apparatus and plant by 3·9 per cent. The cost of the subordinate staff such as engineering supervisors, inspectors and linesmen has increased, since, with the rapid development of telephones, the mileage of wires they have to look after has increased by 20,000 miles, but the direct engineering expenditure per mile of wire has decreased from Rs. 13·09 per annum in 1929-30 to Rs. 11·26 in 1933-34. The average direct expenditure on each local telephone exchange has fallen considerably in the same period.

I have dealt at some length with the financial position of the department as a whole, for the amendments to the Finance Bill regarding postal rates should obviously be discussed in relation to that position. I have also dealt much more briefly with the financial position of the constituent branches of the department. I now turn to a point which has in the past invariably cropped up in the course of these discussions and will doubtless do so this year. It is the allocation of revenue and expenditure between the postal and telegraph branches. It has been frequently alleged in the past that the way in which the allocation is made is unfair to the Postal Branch on which the Telegraph and Wireless Branches are allowed to batten. I explained last year that the method of allocation of expenditure and receipts between the different branches of the department which we follow is the best that our audit and administrative officers have been able to devise. That method was overhauled a few years ago by an eminent British firm of Chartered Accountants and the few minor changes in it which they suggested were readily adopted. I promised, however, last year when the question was again raised, that a complete and authoritative description of the methods in use would be submitted to the Public Accounts Committee for its verdict on their suitability and fairness and for any suggestions regarding possible improvement that it felt in a position to make. We are awaiting the views of the Committee and I need hardly say that, when we get them, they will receive our most careful consideration. Another promise I made last year which has been duly fulfilled, was that the method of allocating to the Telegraph Branch its share of the revenue derived from the sale of stamps, which, as the House knows, can be used both for postage and telegraph purposes, should again be subjected to examination. This has been done and the investigation has shown that it should be possible to make a direct computation of the value of stamps used for telegraph purposes. The results of this computation will not be available for another year. When they are received, they should throw further light on the position. I can only hope that as the result of the action we have taken in these two directions it will not be long before a controversy which is already showing signs of age is laid to the rest it has well earned

My Honourable friend, Sir Leslie Hudson, asked the other day for further information regarding the Depreciation Fund of the
1 P.M. Posts and Telegraphs Department. This fund was instituted when the accounts of the department were first placed on a commercial

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basis. From the 1st of April, 1925 to 31st March, 1933, it was run on a Sinking Fund basis, the estimated lives of the various assets being those approved by Government in 1925 on the advice of their technical advisers who were, it must be admitted, working without any direct experience of a Depreciation Fund. The accumulations in the fund increased very rapidly and by 31st March, 1930, had reached a figure of over Rs. 165 lakhs. Experience showed that the amounts credited to the fund every year were very much greater than the amounts spent on the renewal and replacement of assets. This was, therefore, one of the questions on which Government sought the advice of the Posts and Telegraphs Accounts Enquiry Committee. That Committee recommended a revision of the lives of assets which, broadly speaking, amounted to a lengthening of those lives by from 25 to 50 per cent. of the original estimates. Government adopted this recommendation, but, unfortunately, the resulting reduction in the annual contribution from revenue to the Depreciation Fund was almost entirely absorbed by the rectification of an error in the method which had been followed in the earlier years and which was brought to light during the Committee's investigations. The Committee on grounds of simplicity also recommended that the Depreciation Fund should be operated on the straight-line basis. This recommendation was also accepted and the change was made in the accounts for 1933-34. For the benefit of Honourable Members who have not been initiated into the mysteries of a Depreciation Fund, as was my own position until recently, it may be explained that the difference between the two systems of operating a Depreciation Fund is more a difference in book-keeping than in financial results. With a Sinking Fund the interest earned on the balance of the fund is credited to the fund itself, and the result of this is that the annual contribution to the fund from the revenues is smaller than in the case of a straight-line Depreciation Fund, in working which the interest on the balance is treated as an addition to the revenue of the department which has consequently to make a larger contribution to the fund. The change that was made led to a small net increase in the annual debit to the department in the neighbourhood of Rs. 5½ lakhs. In spite of the changes sanctioned in the accounts of 1933-34, the disparity between the amounts contributed from the annual receipts to the fund and those actually spent on renewing assets continued to be very marked. In these circumstances, Government, last year, ordered a fresh inquiry into the whole subject and in view of the saving in the annual contribution that they had every reason to expect, it was decided to reduce the contribution during the year 1934-35 to an amount that would maintain the balance found to exist on the 31st March, 1934. As was explained in Sir George Schuster's budget speech last year, this saving in the expenditure of the department for 1934-35 was utilized to reorganise the postal and telegraph tariffs at an estimated cost of Rs. 27½ lakhs. The detailed investigations have been completed but it has not yet been found possible to collate the results and to obtain the final orders of Government. In anticipation of these orders, however,—and this is a point which will interest my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir,—Government have decided to reduce the contribution to the fund during 1935-36 by a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs as compared with the amount that would have been contributed on the basis of the lives adopted in the Report of the Committee over which he presided.

There is one other matter affecting the Posts and Telegraphs budget which will be of interest to Honourable Members. As a preliminary step

to the placing of the accounts of the department on a commercial basis, it was decided that, with effect from the accounts for 1923-24, the amount of pensions paid to the retired employees of the department should be charged against its budget. With effect from the 1st of April, 1925, it was tentatively decided that the amount to be charged in the Posts and Telegraphs accounts of each year should not be the actual payment during the year but should constitute a contribution payable to general revenues and based on actuarial calculations of pensionary liability. The question was also investigated by the Posts and Telegraphs Accounts Inquiry Committee which endorsed the principle but suggested various improvements in the method of determining the actuarial formula. Investigations which have been carried out since 1925 have, however, shown that the benefits that had been hoped for from the actuarial liability system, namely, simplicity in accounting and stability in budgeting have not been secured in practice. It has, therefore, been decided to abandon the system and to revert to the old method of limiting the charge on account of pensions to the actual payments made in the year. This change will be made effective in the accounts for 1935-36 and, it is expected, that it will result in an immediate benefit of Rs. 5 lakhs in the budget of the department for the current year. The details of the change are still being worked out but, from April 1st, pensions of employees retiring from the Posts and Telegraphs Department will be disbursed by that department through Post Offices and not by Civil Treasury Offices. It follows from this that the annual contribution which the department has hitherto been making to General Revenues, to meet this liability in respect of pensions, will cease and that the benefit of Rs. 5 lakhs in the departmental budget will be really secured by an equivalent increase in the general revenue budget. In other words, the decrease under one head and the increase under another cancel out each other and the revenue budget of the Government of India, as a whole, is not affected by the change, the object of which is to ensure that the accounts of the Posts and Telegraphs Department are a perfectly fair statement of the financial position of the department.

There is only one other point I need mention in passing for it is high time that I came to the issue immediately before the House and dealt with the specific amendments before it. It has been contended that our foreign postage rates are excessive and that they should be brought down to the level of the rates charged by foreign countries on the letters addressed to this country. All I need say about that is that the rates on letters addressed to this country from other countries are not uniform and that under the International Postal Convention there is no need that they should be. If we were to vary our postage to foreign countries to equalise it with that charged by each foreign country on its mails to India, it would involve us in inextricable confusion and would also involve us in an unnecessary sacrifice of revenue. Our postage rates to foreign countries are by no means high as compared with theirs to India.

To give a few examples: The amounts charged by France, Germany, Italy and the United States of America on letters and postcards to India are higher than those charged by India on letters to those countries.

Now, Sir, I have endeavoured to give the House the background of our proposals for this year or it would perhaps be more correct to say, our absence of proposals. I have noticed that the appetite of some of its Members for statistics is inexhaustible and I venture to hope, therefore, that I have not wearied it too greatly with the mass of figures which I

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have placed at its disposal. I would remind it once again that the changes in rates we made last year were of an experimental nature, the loss of revenue anticipated being met from an arbitrary reduction in the contribution to the Depreciation Fund. I would also remind it that although, contrary to expectations, the revised estimates for the current year show a net improvement in the financial position, the surplus is unfortunately a short-lived one and the budget estimates for next year show a substantial loss.

Now, Sir, I come at last—the House will, I fear, think at very long last—to the amendments before it. I have no doubt whatever that in the course of the discussion on them, frequent reference will be made to the law of diminishing returns as it was in the course of the general discussion on the budget and on the Finance Bill. It is, I venture to think, unsafe to apply a so-called law which has a very definite meaning in the sphere for which it was originally laid down to a totally different sphere. In the agricultural and industrial sphere, the law of diminishing returns means that there comes a time when the application of additional labour or capital yields no return and may involve a dead loss. In its application to the Posts and Telegraphs Department, it means that an increase in rates means either no increase in revenue or even a diminished revenue. That such an increase in rates must at the outset and perhaps for such time as it lasts affect the *volume* of traffic is a proposition I am not concerned to deny. But that the increases in rates we have been compelled with the agreement of this House to sanction from time to time have in themselves meant a fall in revenue, I do most emphatically deny. The difficulty in establishing this proposition is of course that it is impossible to disentangle the effects of the economic depression or of the slight revival there was last year from the effects of the increased rates. We cannot unfortunately observe the results of the two cases separately and *in vacuo*. I maintain, however, that the figures I have already quoted bear out the soundness of my contention. The first full year of the depression in 1930-31 brought about a fall in our revenues by Rs. 52 lakhs. They continued to fall during the first part of 1931-32. Is there any one who would seriously contend that if we had not taken drastic action in 1931, the fall would not have placed the financial position of the department in a position from which it would have been difficult if not impossible to extricate it? As it was, the fall in 1931-32 was only Rs. 14 lakhs and in 1932-33, another Rs. 9 lakhs. In 1933-34, we were only five lakhs short of the figures for 1930-31 and in 1935-36, we hope to be some three lakhs ahead of those for 1929-30. I submit to the House that, in these circumstances, it cannot be maintained that the law of diminishing returns has operated in the Posts and Telegraphs sphere.

But, Sir, it will doubtless be argued that if we were to reduce our rates, the resulting increase in traffic would far more than compensate for the amount lost on each individual letter or postcard. That if we reduce the rates there *will* be an increase in traffic is a proposition which again I cannot deny but that that increase will, for some time to come, bring in sufficient to counterbalance the loss due to the reduced rates is not a proposition to which I can assent.

That brings me, Sir, to the specific amendments before the House. Four of these amendments have been moved, Nos. 56, 58, 60 and 66. I may here point out the cost of accepting the various amendments. The cost of accepting amendment No. 56 would be 29 lakhs, the cost of accepting No. 58, would be 85 lakhs, the cost of accepting amendment No. 60, would be 16 lakhs and the cost of accepting amendment No. 66 would be 14 lakhs.

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Was it not expected last year that on account of the reduction in envelope rate, there would be a loss of 27 lakhs, but as a matter of fact there was no loss at all?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That is not the case. The loss on the one anna letter has been 20 lakhs. According to our enumeration of the number of letters carried for one anna, the loss that is the sacrifice of revenue involved has been 20 lakhs. Obviously if there had been no reduction last year, every letter bearing a one anna stamp would have gone for one anna and three pies.

Seth Govind Das: Here is a reply which the Honourable Mr. D. G. Mitchell gave in the Council of State on the 13th March, 1935, in reply to a question according to which there was no loss at all on one anna envelopes. The answer runs thus:

"(a) As no separate account of the sale proceeds of envelopes or of stamps used on letters is maintained, it is impossible to give accurately the information required by the Honourable Member. Enumeration taken in August, 1933 and in August, 1934, would point to an increase of about nine per cent in the total traffic, much of which probably occurred in the half tola letter. Part of the increase was probably due to the lower rate, but part must be ascribed to the general economic recovery. When the reduction in postal rates was announced last March it was expected to produce a loss of about Rs. 27 lakhs, as it was assumed that about 80 per cent of letters would come within the initial half tola weight. Special enumerations taken last July and November showed that, up till then at least, this figure was much too high. The best answer I can give to the Honourable Member is that the introduction of the half tola letter for one anna has not caused any substantial loss or gain in the postal revenue of the current financial year."

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: There are two ways of looking at the question: the one is to look at the number of letters that were carried for one anna. Had it not been for the reduction of rates last year, those letters would obviously have had to pay one anna and three pies. Looking at it from that point of view, there has been a loss to the department of about 20 lakhs. That is one way of looking at it. The other way of looking at it is that given in the reply to the question which my Honourable friend has quoted. As was said last year, when the reduction in postal rates was announced last March, it was expected to produce a loss of 27 lakhs as it was estimated that eighty per cent. of the letters would come within the initial half tola weight. Experience has shown that the public has not yet got accustomed to the use of half tola letters for one anna as we anticipated; our estimate of 80 per cent. of letters has proved much too high and it is for that reason that the loss has not been as high as we anticipated. Perhaps it would be more correct if I stated that the gain to the public by the one anna rate has been 20 lakhs.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member will take some time, he might resume his speech after lunch.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I think I can finish in a few minutes. As I already said, it is impossible to disentangle the two costs, the increase due to the lower rate and the increase due to the general economic recovery.

I am aware that our estimates will be challenged. It is no easy matter to frame estimates when you are dealing with hundreds of millions of articles. That is a point to which I would ask the House to pay special attention. However small the change on an individual article, the cost of that change runs into a colossal sum when it has to be multiplied by hundreds of millions as it has in the case of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department. I admit, Sir, that the experts who have framed them are the last persons who would claim infallibility for them but they have at any rate been framed by experts who have a far greater knowledge of the subject than any one else can lay claim to possess. That, Sir, completes the statement of my case. There is not a single one of the amendments before the House which would not involve the department in loss, a loss which the Government do not consider they should ask the department to face until it is in a position to present a balanced budget as we hope that the economy campaign and the economic recovery it is steadily pursuing and the rifts in the cloud of depression will enable it shortly to do.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa, in proposing his amendment talked about the benefit which would accrue to the poor. I admit very frankly that his amendment is a logical one and the one which, had the outlook been brighter than it is, we should naturally have been the most ready to accept as it involves only a loss of 14 lakhs as against the much heavier losses involved in some of the other amendments. What I wish to impress upon the House in conclusion is that the Postal and Telegraphs Department is a department which is expected to pay its way, and to keep an even keel in the matter of expenditure and revenue. If, Sir, it is urged that a reduction in postal rates is a benefit to the poor, I am not prepared to deny it. I quite agree. But why should that benefit to the poor come at the expense of this particular department? If you are going to reduce your rates, if you are going to have a half anna postcard rate, costing as I shall show later on 54 lakhs, where are you going to stop? Why should the Posts and Telegraphs Department be the only sufferer? Why not the Railway Department? Why not cheapen railway fares because that would benefit the poor? Why not go on to the irrigation department? Why not reduce their rates . . . .

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): We are making a beginning here.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Because if you reduce their rates, it would be of real benefit to the poorer agriculturists. Once you depart from the safe moorings of commercial accounting, there is no end to what may come. You may think that in accepting such a small change as is involved in this amendment of Mr. Sri Prakasa, you are only making a very minute breach in the wall, a breach that will not matter. But once that breach is made it will go on extending; and, if as I have said, you consider that it does not matter whether the department balances its budget or not and a few lakhs here or there to give amenities to the poorer classes are of no account, is not that a line that may be taken by the

employees of the department? Will not they also say that it does not matter if they get increased amenities as the department can afford a few lakhs here or a few lakhs there without any harm? That, Sir, is our defence for not making any reduction in our rates this year. We wish to see the department in a sound financial position before we do so, and I think there is every sign that we shall be able to show such a position in the near future.

Sir, let me, in conclusion, draw attention to what has happened in a country which is held up to us in this House as an example that we should follow. The last report of the United State's Postal Department, that is for the year ending 30th June, 1934, states that the decline in postal revenues was arrested by the increase in the rates on letter mail from two to three cents which came into force on July 1st, 1932. The Postmaster General urges very strongly that the three cent rate should be continued as a reduction to two cents would mean a loss of at least 75 millons dollars, somewhere about 22 crores of rupees, in the revenues of the Post Office. Let me point to an example there, a very definite example. He adds that the restoration of the two-cent rate on local delivery letter mail from July 1st, 1933, did not mean any increase, either in the volume of letter mail or the revenue derived from it, but had the effect of reducing revenue, in 1934, by over 21 million dollars, or about six crores. The United States figures are astronomical compared with ours but our position is the same. Like that country, we cannot at the moment afford to reduce our rates.

Sir, I have detained the House long enough, and I must apologise for having done so. I am compelled to oppose all these amendments. (Applause.)

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Sir, may I ask the Honourable Member one question? The Honourable Member said that in No. 56 the loss was 29 lakhs and in No. 60 the loss was 16 lakhs. The only difference between the two amendments is that in No. 56 for every additional tola after 2½ tolas half an anna is provided, and this has been left out in No. 60. Am I to understand that this difference of 13 lakhs between the two amendments is due to this provision in No. 56 for only half an anna for an additional tola over 2½ tolas?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor (Director General, Posts and Telegraphs): That is correct; it is the loss on the heavier letters.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The Honourable Member's assumption is correct.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Twenty Minutes to Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty Minutes to Three of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, in asking the House to support our amendment, No. 56, I wish to place a few facts for the consideration of Honourable Members.

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

It is said by the Honourable Member for Industries that in 1925 and 1926 the policy on which the postal department should be conducted was laid down. According to that he said that it should be maintained as a public utility service and also that it should be expected to pay its own way. I am certainly in agreement with the Honourable Member when he said that this department should be carried on really as a public utility service. But my complaint is that it is not being carried on adequately as a public utility service.

Secondly, as regards the question of its paying its own way, I would like to confess that the Government has placed us in a very paradoxical position. If this department is to be self-dependent, then it means one of these three things, that in order to enable it to pay its own way, we should either allow it to cut down the pay and pension permissible to its employees or to raise the cost of its own service, or to cut down the total amount of the services that it renders to this country and to different sections of the people. I refuse to walk into this trap: I refuse to accept this paradoxical position. I consider that since this particular department really ought to be carried on essentially as a public utility service, it ought not to be expected to pay its own way in every direction and for the whole year. It may be, as was admitted by the Retrenchment Committee also, that in certain aspects of its work it may be found that Government has to incur certain losses. At the same time the Retrenchment Committee also admitted that this department should be allowed to carry on those sections of its work on which the Government loses heavily or even lightly every year. But even as a whole, the whole department cannot be expected to pay its own way throughout the year if really it is to be carried on as an adequate public utility service. If you take for instance, even according to the Honourable Member in charge, Press telegrams and newspaper services and telegraphic lines cause considerable losses every year: yet the Government of India is maintaining those sections and is incurring all those losses generously. These losses are very heavy, yet I do not grudge them: I am prepared to allow the pressmen and the newspaper men and all those who use the telegraphs to derive this particular benefit from the losses sustained by the Government of India; but, at the same time, there is another section of this particular department on which the Government of India is very particular that it should not lose very much, that it should not spend very much, and yet that is the particular section of their department which ought to be developed to a very much greater extent than has been made possible till now by this department or by this Government.

If we come to the rural aspect of their work, we find, that whereas there are two post offices for every town served by the postal service, there is only one post office for every 30 villages in this country: whereas there are as many as seven post boxes for every town served by this department, there is only one post box for every 16 villages; and yet we are told, and we find from the last year's annual report, that the number of village post offices has been decreasing, the number of village postal runners has been decreasing, the number of post boxes also has been decreasing. All along the line there has been a decrease in the services rendered by the postal department to the village folk. Take, for instance, the Press telegrams: certainly the villagers in this country

are not deriving one-tenth advantage from it as the townsmen. Taking all the telegraph services, it is established that it is being run more for the advantage of the towns than for the advantage of the villages. Yet Government are losing lakhs and lakhs every year; but they grudge to spend a few more lakhs per annum upon the rural aspect of their own work. Then, take, again, the villages and the towns. You have 2,575 towns in all in this country, and for them you have nearly 5,000 post offices. On the other hand for all these villages—nearly 7,00,000 of them, you have only 18,740 post offices. Is that rendering any service at all to the villages? Is that really the way in which the money that is being derived by this Government mostly from the villagers should be spent? Is it the purpose of this Government that it should go on spending money in establishing these departments and running them more for the advantage of the towns, than for the advantage of the villagers? I would like the Honourable Member in charge to give me an answer later on. Then, again, the extension of village postal services also has been going down. At one time a village post office was allowed to remain until the loss on it came to be a little more than Rs. 500 per annum. But somehow, in 1931, a new policy was adopted, according to which a village post office stands to be abolished if the loss on it came to be a little more than Rs. 120 per annum. It is really a heartless policy to say the least: Rs. 120 per annum on one village post office, the Government is not prepared to lose; but Government is prepared to lose lakhs and lakhs on Press telegrams, on newspapers and on telegraph lines and in so many other directions.

Coming again to the opening of experimental post offices, between 1925 and 1929, a liberal policy was followed: for, in 1925, as many as 692 new post offices were established, and, in 1929, 1,117 experimental post offices were opened; but, since 1930, a new policy of reducing the number of these new post offices has been followed, with the result that during the last year, 1933-34, there was actually a reduction in the total number of village post offices.

Coming to the postal runners, who have to carry these postal articles from one post office to branch offices, and from one branch office to the nearest village, the number of miles that they have covered has also come down by 2,109 during the year 1933-34 . . . . .

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: May I explain, Sir, that that reduction is frequently due to the introduction of motor services which replace runner services.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: At the same time, I do not know how my Honourable friend will explain the reduction in the number of post offices by 121, the reduction of the village postmen by 453 and the reduction in letter boxes by 1,239? And, Sir, what is the service that we are getting in this country? I find that there is only one post office for every 75 square miles; if you exclude the post office services rendered to the towns, and if you take into account only the villages, you will find that this particular area will be doubled. Then, Sir, for over 14,225 persons you have got only one post office. Are we to be satisfied with this? No. But what are we to do? We must have more and more post offices; we must have more and more post boxes, but the answer which the Honourable Member in charge gives us is that he has not got enough

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

money. If his department is to be self-dependent, if it is to pay its own way, then how can we expect this particular department to extend the postal services rendered to our country, and especially to our villagers?

Then, Sir, I come to the question of extra-departmental agents. After all, the department is not paying full salaries to all its employees. There are as many as 17,328 post offices managed by extra-departmental agents, who are only paid part time allowance and whose services are naturally secured at a price very much less than the market price. Therefore, the full price is paid only to those who run 6,348 post offices, and not to all the post offices, and yet the department is unable to establish more post offices, or even to instal more post boxes. The other day, I asked a question whether there was any objection at all to providing a post box to, at least, every village which is being visited by a postman, and the answer was that the cost that would be incurred was going to be so enormous that Government could not possibly consider that proposition; but, Sir, I would like to know how the Director General will explain some of these facts. Why is it, Sir, that special deliveries for distribution of foreign mails are being maintained in this country? Who are the people who are expected to be benefited by these special deliveries? Is it not a fact that Government is really losing a considerable amount of money because of these special deliveries? Secondly, there are special trains to carry foreign mails also. I do realise the advantage of running these special trains. I was abroad several times and for several years, and I know how anxious sometimes we were to receive letters from Home, but, at the same time, the satisfaction which the people abroad get by quickening the service is nothing compared to the satisfaction which the millions and millions of people would get if you opened more post offices and extended all kinds of postal facilities to the villages. Sir, my friends opposite may say that we are always exaggerating when we speak of millions and millions of people, but, it is a fact that millions and millions of people are still suffering for lack of postal facilities, and the satisfaction which these people would derive would certainly be much greater than the foreign traders and merchants or even our own people in this country or abroad would get.

Then, Sir, I should like to make a suggestion to the Honourable Member in charge for his consideration. It is a pity that when I was giving notice of an amendment to this particular Bill, I did not think of it, or at least I did not muster sufficient courage to allude to this. Now, five pice are charged for 2½ tolas extra, and this does not benefit the ordinary masses. This benefits the business people, merchants and townsmen who generally send heavy articles through the post but if the Government is sincere in its professions of sympathy and generosity towards the villagers, I feel that they should charge one anna for every tola for the first and then two annas for every 2½ tolas in addition . . . .

An Honourable Member: Government will accept it straightaway.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I don't think so.

An Honourable Member: What about love letters?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am sure, every one of us has had a share of receiving love letters, but, at the same time, if a man is so generous towards his own beloved as to write such long letters in order to pay two annas, I don't think he will grudge it.

Then, Sir, I would like to suggest for the consideration of Government that every year the Honourable Member in charge should do his best to pay a certain amount of subsidy to the postal department in order to enable it to open more post offices and put in more post boxes in the villages, so that the villagers in remote corners of India may derive a certain amount of benefit from this useful and necessary department.

Lastly, Sir, I should like to pay a compliment to this particular department. Sir, I have derived inspiration from the activities of this department to this extent that whenever an Anglo-Indian told me in England that the habit of taking bribes is ingrained in Indians and that such a habit cannot be readily eradicated at all, I was always able to tell them to look at the activities of our own telegraph and postal department. I found that is the one department in which this wretched evil of bribery is least found, and, therefore, I am glad this department is being carried on very efficiently. Therefore, I want that its activities should be extended to the villagers so that they may also derive benefit from it. If there was to be a post office in a village even though only five or six letters are posted in a day, even then it will not be a loss to the Government, because the existence of a post office will first of all stimulate the commercial instincts of every person and also social instincts of every person, and the villagers will take to letter-writing to a greater and greater extent. Secondly, if savings banks are also established along with the branch post offices, the villagers will be encouraged in their habits of thrift, and they can keep their few rupees or their small savings in the savings banks. It is a common experience that every year there is a conflagration in every village, and the small sums of money, which the poor villagers have with them, either in the shape of rupees or currency notes, are practically lost, because of this conflagration. But if, on the other hand, these savings banks are established, if every village post office will have a savings bank attached to it, then certainly the villagers will put their little savings in those savings banks.

Lastly, I would like to support this particular reduction in postal rates. The Honourable Member in charge may say—how can you ask for a reduction in postal charges when you are asking for the extension of the services of the postal department? I am perfectly consistent about this particular motion. I am asking for a subsidy of ten lakhs every year from the Finance Member. This year he has got Rs. 120 lakhs. Let him give Rs. 10 lakhs out of it. Let the postal department spend this amount on the extension of rural postal services.

We are nearing the Silver Jubilee. There was another Jubilee in England, and that was the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, the late Queen of England and the Empress of this unhappy country. During that Jubilee, that is, about 50 years ago, a very useful policy was followed in England and I want that policy to be followed again now in this country, at least at the time of the next Jubilee, which, of course, many of us are not anxious to welcome. I want them to do this:

"As part of the postal improvements made to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897 the Government decided to give a regular free delivery of letters to every house in the country. The extension took two years of strenuous work to complete, and at the end it was found that a free delivery had been given for the first time to some 55 million letters a year."

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

If that policy were followed in this country, not 55 million letters, but 5,500 million letters would certainly be given a chance of free delivery for the first time.

3 P. M.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): Support the Jubilee Fund!

Prof. N. G. Ranga:

"The principle of the regular delivery is still maintained, though it is not of course in all cases a daily one. The rural delivery is probably one of the least remunerative parts of Post Office work—(*I want the Honourable Member to remember the words 'one of the least remunerative parts of Post Office work'*)— and the cost of giving a delivery every day at isolated cottages receiving two or three letters a week would be prohibitive. Indeed, in the remote districts it not infrequently costs the Post Office sixpence or a shilling to deliver a halfpenny circular."

It costs them six pence or a shilling to deliver a halfpenny circular, and still they carry on that particular kind of service. But here, our civilised Government pleads poverty and says it cannot extend rural postal service because it has not got money and we cannot have it because it has got to pay its own way:

"So complete, however, has the system of postal delivery now become that even the most remote farmhouse on Dartmoor or in the Highlands and every inhabited islet in the Orkneys or Shetlands is regularly visited by the postman. The rural delivery work employs a small army of postmen on foot, on bicycles . ."

I want our Government also to supply bicycles to our postmen.

". . . with horses and carts, and in some districts on motor bicycles."

Unfortunately, in this country we supply motor bicycles only to those telegraph sergeants who are to serve the Viceregal Lodge:

"The rural postman has a special character of his own. He is not only a deliverer of letters but he is also a walking post office."

And I want our postmen to be walking post offices:

"He sells stamps, he accepts parcels or registered letters from any one on his walk; he blows his whistle."

I want our postmen also to blow their whistle whenever they come to the village:

". . he blows his whistle to announce to the waiting village that he is ready to collect their letters, and he will obtain postal orders for anyone who cannot visit a post office. He is, in fact, probably in closer contact with the public in his district than any other employee of the Post Office, and he is one of its most popular representatives."

Therefore, I expect the Government of India to pay more and more attention to the rural aspect of post office work and to establish more and more post offices and more and more post boxes, and at the same time, reduce the rates that it charges for its own services, especially this anna for every tola of weight for envelopes.

Some Honourable Members: Let the question be now put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the first and second entries under the head '*Letters*' the following be substituted:

'For a weight not exceeding one tola	One anna
For a weight exceeding a tola but not exceeding two and a half tolas	One anna and three pies'."

The Assembly divided.

AYES—80.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.
Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
Banerjea, Dr. P. N.
Baqui, Mr. M. A.
Bardaloi, Srijut N. C.
Bhagavan Das, Dr.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.
Chhattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
Das, Mr B.
Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fakir Chand, Mr.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Sahib Shaikh.
Fuzlul Huq, Mr. A. K.
Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
Gauba, Mr. K. L.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Syed.
Giri, Mr. V. V.
Govind Das, Seth.
Gupta, Mr. Ghanshiam Singh.
Hidayatallah, Sir Ghulam Hussain.
Hockenhull, Mr. F W.
Hosamani, Mr S K
Hudson, Sir Leslie.
James, Mr. F E.
Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar
Khan Sahib, Dr.
Khare, Dr. N. B.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Milligan, Mr. J. A.
Morgan, Mr. G.
Mudaliar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.
Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, Qazi.
Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nageswara Rao, Mr. K
Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta.
Pant, Pandit Govind Ballabh.
Parma Nand, Bhai.
Raghubir Narayan Singh, Choudhri.
Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
Rajan, Dr. T. S. S.
Raju, Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Saksena, Mr. Mohan Lal.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
Shafi Daudi, Maulvi Muhammad.
Sham Lal, Mr.
Sheodass Daga, Seth.
Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Nawab.
Singh, Mr. Deep Narayan.
Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Anugrah Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sinha Mr. Shri Krishna.
Som, Mr. Suryya Kumar.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Thein Maung, Dr.
Thein, Maung, U.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Vissanji, Mr. Mathuradas.
Yakub, Sir Muhammad.

NOES—35.

Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.	Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.	Kirpalani, Mr. Hiranand Khushiram.
Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.	Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama.	Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.
Bajpai, Mr. G. S.	Mukerje, Mr. N. R.
Bewoor, Mr. G. V.	Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.	Nayar, Mr. C. Govindan.
Chatarji, Mr. J. M.	Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
Clow, Mr. A. G.	Owen, Mr. L.
Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.	Rau, Mr. P. R.
Dalal, Dr. R. D	Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
De'Souza, Dr. F. X.	Scott, Mr. W. L.
Drake, Mr. D. H. C	Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar.
Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kumar Vijaya Ananda.	Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
Graham, Sir Lancelot.	Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.	Sloan, Mr. T.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.	Swithinbank, Mr. B. W.
	Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.

The motion was adopted.

Amendments Nos. 56, 58 and 66 were, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will take up the postcard now.

Mr. Basanta Kumar Das (Surma Valley *cum* Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to move:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head '*Postcards*' the following be substituted:

'Single.	Six pies
Reply	One anna'."

Although justice requires that the price of a postcard should be three pies and that of a reply postcard six pies, yet circumstanced as we are, I have thought that it would be a practical principle of conduct for the present to fix the price of the single card at six pies and that of the reply postcard at one anna. Sir, I shall place this case and examine the Government proposal from two standpoints—first, from the standpoint of the principle of taxation and secondly, from the standpoint of the utility of the Department of Post and Telegraphs as a public utility service. Sir, a postcard is generally used by a poor man for writing letters. We know, Sir, that there are some amongst us who might think that the use of a postcard by them for writing letters would demonstrate a niggardly habit on their part. But, Sir, that cannot be the case with poorman who will always use postcards for writing to their friends, relatives, and for business communication, because their means would not permit them to purchase envelopes for the purpose of writing letters. Sir, we heard the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour quote from a speech of Sir Atul Chatterji in the Lgislative Assembly in 1924

wherein the policy of Government was laid down, but from that speech we find the policy recognised also that the Postal and Telegraph Department should be so worked as to be a source of benefit to the general taxpayer instead of it being a burden on him. If the price of the postcard be fixed at six pies and that of the reply postcard at double that rate, that would not really add so much to the burden of taxation as the prices proposed by Government would do. Sir, if we go to the villages, we can very well realise that really the poor man is finding the cost of the postcard very high and too prohibitive for his means.

Now, if I may narrate my experience during the last elections, I may tell this House that I was really approached by a number of villagers to raise this question of the high price of the postcard and press for its reduction. Villagers gathered round me, during my visits to villages, and they were putting questions to me as to why this Government, even at this time when the economic depression is prevailing in such an acute form in the country and when really the poor man was finding it difficult even to earn his livelihood, was adhering to those high rates and thus adding to their burdens. They asked: "How is it that while we cannot now earn a pice so easily, the Government would ask us to pay up their taxes at the same rates as were prevailing in years when this economic depression did not set in and would even now raise the price of postcards and postage stamps?" Now, Sir, that is the way the villager is feeling the burden of taxation; and as a burdensome taxation cannot be supported on principle, the increasing of postal rates cannot find favour in this House, and, Sir, if really this taxation policy of the Government with regard to these postal rates be pursued, then I submit, Sir, that the poor man will really feel that he is being deprived of the only means of communicating with the friends and relations who might be living at a distance. Now, Sir, in the midst of the rank poverty prevailing in the land, we do not understand the policy of the Government as to why they should not take this fact into consideration and fix lower rates for the postcard. If we take into consideration, Sir, the one principle that was laid down by Armitage Smith in his book called "The Principal Methods of Taxation", then we shall find how injurious this policy of the Government is. Now, he said, that "high rates of postage, telegrams or telephone messages are of the nature of a transit duty and are both impolitic and uneconomic, since it tends to restrain communication and to reduce business".

Now, this Postal and Telegraph Department is really a utility service department just like the Railways, and these two utility service departments really help the growth of industry, agriculture and commerce in the land;—they help and stimulate the activities of the people in the direction of trade, commerce and industry which bring opulence to the country. Now, Sir, I remember once Sir Samuel Hoare described these two departments as being "the nervous system of the body politic", when replying to the deputation that waited on him on behalf of the Anglo-Indians, in England. In view of the fact that a large number of Anglo-Indians are employed in the two departments, he said that "this community represents the nervous system of India". (Hear, hear.) Now, the House will agree that the description was really true, because, we find that it is really these departments which would really increase the happiness of the people if they are conducted on such lines as would go to stimulate commerce, trade, industry and agriculture. So, if we look at this question from this standpoint, then we shall find that there is no

justification for fixing the price of the postcard at 9 pies and that of the reply postcard at double that which will certainly tend to impair the nervous system of the body politic, so to say. Then, Sir, if we take into consideration the effect of these rates on the utility of the postal services, then we shall find that these rates are gradually diminishing the utility of the service, its main function being affording of facility of communication. We find from the reports that have been prepared by the Government that practically, on account of these rates, there has been a downward march of the postal traffic. I shall not trouble the House with the figures contained in the report, but I shall show that really, by this increase of the price of the postcard and the reply postcard, the postal traffic so far as the postcard is concerned came down to 435 millions in 1933-34 from 590 millions in 1928-29. Now, Sir, we find, that even the overhead charges of the department are being maintained. There has been no retrenchment in that direction, and on account of this the high price of the postcard is to be maintained making it difficult for the poor man to purchase a postcard easily, for the purpose of writing his letter. Thus he is sometimes practically prevented from writing his letters to his near relations or to any person with whom he wants to communicate for business purposes. That is a position which cannot be tolerated and agreed to. Then, you will find, Sir, that on account of this rise of the rates of postcards and postage stamps, causing a fall in the postal traffic, the department has been compelled also to reduce the number of post offices and also to reduce the number of letter-boxes. You will find from the figures given in the report that in the year 1933 there were 18,889 post offices and in the year 1934 there were 18,740 post offices, that is, a reduction of 149. We find that in the year 1933 there were 60,611 letter-boxes and these were reduced to 59,732 in the year 1934. That would show how the rise in the price of postcards and postage stamps has tended to diminish as I contend, Sir, the utility of the department. Again, if other statistics given by the Government in their reports be taken into consideration, it will undoubtedly establish the fact that the utility of this department is diminishing. Its main function is the affording of facility of communication and that function it cannot perform as effectively as is desirable, because of the fact that the price of postcards and postage stamps has increased. With these few words, I beg to support my motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head '*Postcards*' the following be substituted:

'Single	Six pies
Reply	One anna'."

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Sir, the basic policy of the Government has been fully explained in the speech which was made this morning by the Honourable Member in charge of this Department. So far as I am concerned, I should merely like to deal with some of the points which were raised during the course of the debate and to tell the House what would be the economic effect of the reduction in the postcard rate. My friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa, for whose very friendly speech I am most grateful, made a reference to the fact that people have now to pay for complaining against the post office. Now, Sir, I do not see any reason why you should

not pay anything when you complain against the post office when you have to pay postage charges when you complain against any other department of Government. He also mentioned that people have to pay five pice for getting a refund of two pice. May I point out to him that it is not necessary for him always to post his complaint. If he will visit the post office on his way to his office or place of business and hand over the complaint to the postmaster, the latter will accept it without asking for any postage on that letter. A great deal of complaint has also been made regarding the restriction of postal facilities in rural areas especially in recent years. We fully admit this fact and we regret it as much as Members opposite. We have mentioned before that this policy of severe retrenchment was forced upon the department on account of the very serious fall in the traffic that was taking place. Honourable Members frequently say that the fall in traffic was due to the increase in the rates. This is not a fact. The fall in traffic had started before we revised our rates. The revision in rates took place on the 15th December, 1931, but the postcard traffic which had reached a maximum of 590 millions in the year 1928-29 fell down to 586 millions in 1929-30 and to 540 millions in 1930-31. The new rate only came into operation from the 15th December, 1931. In 1931-32 the traffic fell to 493 millions and again next year to 450 millions and in 1933-34 it fell to 439 millions. The point that I wish to make out is that this fall in traffic was not due to the increase in rates alone but the depression in trade was greatly responsible for this fall. Then, again, we find a similar fall in the number of letters and of other postal traffic.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): May I ask the Honourable Member if in giving these figures for the traffic he is also including the articles of Posts and Telegraphs service?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I am excluding them.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): How does he apportion this fall . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order: It would be better if the question is asked after the Honourable Member has finished his speech.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Honourable Members opposite must not misunderstand me when I am telling all these figures that I wish to argue against what they are saying. I am merely trying to explain to them that their assumption that the fall in traffic is due to the increase in rates is not borne out by the facts. I admit that the rise in rates has had some effect on the traffic but the economic depression is mainly responsible for the very large fall in this traffic and we can only look forward to an improvement in the economic conditions of the country and in its trade and commerce for a recovery of the postal traffic. Now, Sir, the Retrenchment Committee, which dealt with the finances of this department, went thoroughly into all items of expenditure and we accepted all their recommendations. Professor Ranga dealt with the question of special deliveries for foreign mails and special trains and said that if these were abolished we should be able to reduce the postage rates. I may assure him that both these questions have been thoroughly examined. Special deliveries are issued only in those places where the postmen would find it

[Mr. G. V. Bewoor.]

impossible to take the foreign mail which comes once a week along with the ordinary mail. In certain post offices the volume of mails received is four or five times that of the daily inland delivery mail. Therefore, unless we issue a special delivery by postmen that mail could not be carried to the addressee's names. Except in a few places in India, we have no longer got special deliveries of foreign mails. In regard to the special trains, there are really only two special trains, one goes from Calcutta to Bombay and the other goes once a fortnight from Bombay to Madras. We have found that if we did not have a special train, we would have to pay very nearly the same amount while causing a great deal of delay. I am mentioning these two instances in order to show to Honourable Members opposite that every avenue of economy has been examined and we have done all that we could to reduce the expenditure of the department, so much so that Honourable Members opposite frequently ask questions and criticise us adversely for having done so much retrenchment. The position of the department at present is that our revenues are still unable to cover the expenditure. In such a state of the finances of the department it is impossible for us to accept a change in the rate which is likely to involve such a big loss. Now, the postcard rate, if it is reduced to half an anna, is anticipated to involve a loss of 68 lakhs. That is to say, if there is no increase in the postcard traffic, the revenues of the department would suffer to the extent of 68 lakhs. But we are perfectly prepared to assume, though this would be a very generous assumption that there would be an increase of ten per cent. in the total postcard traffic during the coming year. I know many Honourable Members opposite think that a reduction in the rate from three pice to two pice would bring in such a rush of postcards that we shall get all that we lose by a reduction of the rate. I might mention, in this connection, that our estimates are based on a very careful examination of the course of traffic during the last many years. I am sure Honourable Members opposite will accept my figure for the reasons that I shall give them. In 1918-19, the total number of postcards was 565 millions, this was in the year when the postcard was one pice. By 1921-22, we had reached the figure of 648 millions, that is to say, in three years the postcard traffic had increased by 83 millions or an average of 28 millions per year. I hope Honourable Members will remember that these were the years of the boom period immediately after the War. In 1922, we revised the postcard rate and doubled it. The postcard traffic did not fall by fifty per cent. It fell from 648 millions to 523 millions, that is to say, in one year it fell by 125 millions or roughly by 20 per cent. In the next six years the traffic began slowly to increase as the public got accustomed to the higher rate and, by the end of 1928-29, when we reached the highest figure, we had recovered 67 millions of the traffic or roughly an average of 11 millions postcards per year. In 1929-30, the traffic remained almost steady at 586 millions. Then came the economic depression and the increase in the postcard rate so that by 1933-34, the traffic had fallen to 439 millions or at an average of 37 millions per annum. It will be seen that the traffic went up by 28 millions per year in the boom years, it went up by 11 millions per year during what may be called more or less normal years and it fell at the rate of 37 millions each year in the period during which there was economic depression as well as increase in rate. We are prepared to assume that if this postcard rate is reduced from three pice to two pice, the traffic will go up by ten per cent. next year.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Why not more?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: That is to say by 43 million postcards. As I have already pointed out, in the after-war boom years, when the postcard was one pice the average rate of increase was 28 millions, the rate of fall in the economic depression period was 37 millions and we really cannot possibly assume under the existing circumstances of the economic situation that a reduction of the postcard rate from three pice to two pice will result in any increase beyond 43 millions. To do so would be to go from the region of fair estimation to that of pure imagination. Honourable Members have already been told what happens to imaginative financiers. We anticipate, therefore, that allowing for an increase of 43 million postcards roughly in the next year, the loss would be reduced from 68 lakhs to 54 lakhs. Our Budget for 1935-36 shows a loss of 13 lakhs. We cannot possibly face a budget with a loss of another 54 lakhs added. The postcard rates in India are by no means heavy. I know Honourable Members opposite will contest that statement, but I want to say this; when I say they are not high, I mean they are not comparatively high, considering first, the area that is covered and secondly, the rates which are charged in various other countries.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq (Bakargunj *cum* Faridpur: Muhammadan Rural): What about the poverty of the people; that is the most important consideration.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: We are dealing here with a department which is required to fix its rates in such a way that its expenditure is covered by its income.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: That is the accepted policy of Government. The rate for postcards is higher in fourteen of the leading countries of the world, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Austria Hungary, Norway, Canada and Australia.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is their wealth?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: In all these countries the postcard rates are higher. It is not a question of whether the people can afford it or not. If that is the principle on which the rates are to be fixed, then the whole policy on which the working of this department is based goes by the board. It means that the services will have to be subsidised by the general taxpayer for the benefit of the users of the post office. The Honourable Member in charge of the Department has already explained fully this morning that the policy of the department is that the rates should pay for the cost involved. We cannot run the department as a subsidised department. Once you do that, the limit up to which you can go in subsidising the department will be never certain. If you are going to subsidise the department for the sake of the poor man in the case of the postcard, then why not give him a pice postcard, or why not a free postcard?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: We are willing.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: If Honourable Members are prepared to tax to the extent of making up the loss of the Post and Telegraph Department, it is not a matter for me. I wish merely to point out that considering the extent of area served by the Postal Department . . . . .

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: What is the pay of the Director General?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I am merely concerned in pointing out that considering the long distances which are to be covered in this country and the small volume of traffic which we have to deal with, the rates that are existing in India are by no means heavy in themselves. The letter rate of India is one of the cheapest in the world and the postcard rate in India, even at nine pies rate, is one of the cheapest in the world. It is all very well for Honourable Members, as Prof. Ranga did, to point to the example of Great Britain.

An Honourable Member: What is the rate in Japan?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: In Japan, it is five pies *i.e.*, less than half an anna. There again I would like to impress upon Honourable Members the extent of the country across which the articles are carried. What is the percentage of literacy? These countries have the great advantage of handling large quantities of mails across short distances and are, therefore, able to utilise machinery to a much larger extent. We, in this country, have to carry letters and postcards across distances of 1,800 miles across jungles and by hand, by camels, by elephants and naturally our cost is higher.

An Honourable Member: What about China?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: If it will satisfy my Honourable friend, I will tell him; it is 5½ pies. China is in such a disturbed state that we do not know exactly what China means now, what is the extent of the territory. I can give Honourable Members many reasons as to the comparatively high cost of the service in this country or rather the great profits made in countries where literacy is very high and where the distances are small compared with us. In the case of Great Britain, their example is always held to us. I can point out that, whereas we handle over a thousand million articles per annum, they handle over 6,000 million articles, and, therefore, their margin of profit is very much more. It is as much a matter of regret to the Government as to Honourable Members on the Opposite Benches that we are not able this year to give a lower rate either for the letter or for the postcard. But we have already assured the House that when there are surpluses and surpluses have come to stay we shall certainly take into consideration the question of the reduction of rates. Honourable Members opposite always want us to give better facilities to our staff, better pensions to our inferior staff, pensions for staff like telephone operators who are not getting pensions. They want more post offices in rural area and more frequent deliveries. All these things need money. If the rates are going to be cut down, and the department which is already working at a loss of 13 lakhs is going to be made to work with further loss, it is obvious that these concessions to the staff will have to be postponed for many years to come. And the extension of the postal facilities in rural areas will also have to be greatly restricted. The whole difference between us is this: Do you or do you not accept the principle that the post office should pay its way? If it is to pay its way you must accept our rates for the current year; if it is to be subsidised, there is no limit to the extent to which you can go in reducing the rates.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Reduce your expenditure.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I have already dealt with that question of the reduction of expenditure. We have retrenched so much,—I could give figures to the House but it is no use going into that point now,—we have retrenched so much that Honourable Members of the House have themselves been protesting against this retrenchment. And we have as a result of questions here, and advice, stopped the compulsory retrenchments in the postal department which was the only department which carried on this retrenchment for an extra year. For these reasons, I am very sorry that on behalf of Government I must oppose this amendment.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Sir, I had no intention of taking part in this debate but some questions of principle have been raised by the Honourable Member in charge and by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs which I should like to speak about only for a few minutes. I realise how precious the time is at this late hour of the day and late period of the Session. Sir, we have always agreed to consider the Posts and Telegraphs Department as a commercial department; we mean thereby that they should so manage their affairs that they should make both ends meet. It has been strictly laid down that this department should make no profit; at the same time it should so adjust its rates as to make no loss. Now, Sir, if that principle is agreed to, I fully realise that the fixing of the rates plays a most important part and that the Honourable Member in charge and the Director General have some justification when they complain of our insisting upon putting down the rates. But, Sir, there is a limit at which we must stop. The Director General just now mentioned post offices in rural areas. Well, Sir, as he very well knows, the Retrenchment Committee went into that question fairly carefully, and we did find that post offices in rural areas cost the taxpayer a good deal. They can never be self-supporting. I do not believe they are self-supporting in any part of the world. We did suggest that up to a certain limit such post offices should be discouraged. But in the budget we find that the Finance Member has given one crore and 13 lakhs for village uplift, this large sum is provided for the advantage of the agricultural classes. It is for this House to consider whether the expansion of postal facilities in rural areas is of such importance as to insist that the Posts and Telegraphs Department should receive a subsidy out of the bounty allowed by the Finance Department.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: How is the recurring loss going to be met if postal facilities in rural areas are extended?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I assume that this bounty is going to be continued and . . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): One year at a time. The bounty, as the Honourable Member calls it, has been allocated out of last year's surplus. It is no longer available for any purpose whatever except the one for which it has been allocated.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I am being led by the Honourable Member's statement into a controversy into which I did not desire or expect to be led into this afternoon. This surplus is not a windfall that the Honourable Member has got. It is money that his predecessor took out of our pockets by a miscalculation, and I contend, as I have always done, that that money should be returned to our pockets. My Honourable friend can go on underestimating his revenue from year to year and when he gets these surpluses my Honourable friend can afford to be liberal at our expense. I do not accept his contention. I only agree to one principle and that is that if you have a surplus due to your underestimating, that money is ours and should come back to our pockets, *i.e.*, the taxpayer's pockets. If you get a windfall such as you got a year or two ago by being let off from war debt interest, that is a windfall. It is a true and a proper windfall for which you can justifiably say that it must go for debt redemption or any other non-recurring purpose. But a windfall such as my Honourable friend has got is no windfall at all. It is the result of a miscalculation and of having overtaxed us last year, and I am afraid the Honourable Member may find that he is making the same mistake. It may be that we are wrong. If we are wrong and the surplus is as the Honourable Member expects, or is even smaller, we shall take off our hats to him and allow ourselves to be taxed. But if we find that that surplus is more than he expects, we shall not allow him next year to appropriate that surplus as he likes and for whatever bounties he chooses to give. It is our money and must be returned to us by a reduction of taxation or by such other grants as we approve of. That is the policy which I trust this House will insist upon being followed next year. So much for this non-recurring surplus. I contend that perhaps the Honourable Member and his Government will be forced into setting aside a certain sum for rural uplift from year to year from revenue which will come to them. What does it mean? It means that you are returning to the provinces some portion of the taxation which the provinces raise and which you under the Constitution take for your own use at the Centre.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta).]

You can return it in more than one way. In this case you will be returning it to the provinces earmarked for the use of the agricultural classes. That will continue. But my point was that if you desire to extend postal facilities, into rural areas, and if you consider that such facilities are—shall I say—necessities of life, then I contend that you will be justified in insisting that those facilities should be financed from subsidies from the centre and should not be considered as a part of the postal budget. Telephones,—self-supporting; Broadcasting, if it is in your department,—self-supporting; other facilities,—self-supporting; telegraphs,—self-supporting; but if you come to such services that you render to the country which you consider for the poorer classes are a

necessity of life just as much as wheat or rice, I think this House will be justified in saying that the loss which the post office department incurs should be made good from subsidies. Therefore this loss to post offices, even perhaps the loss on the one-anna one tola letter I consider as a subsidy from central revenues to the department of Posts and Telegraphs. You frame your budget to make both ends meet. If in that process you find that you are compelled to charge for your postcard 9 pies, that you are compelled to charge for your half tola letter one anna, then I consider that the balance should be made good from subsidies: but I will go no further than that. I will not allow telephone to be subsidised, or telegrams to be subsidised: I will not allow anything else to be subsidised from general revenues. I will make an exception only in the case of postcards. (Opposition Cheers.) I am very doubtful whether I would even make an exception in the case of letters: we have cut the revenue down by 16 lakhs and I think that the postal department ought to take the risk of budgeting for that deficit this year; but, with regard to postcards, I am definite in my opinion that there should be a subsidy from Central revenues . . . . .

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): If necessary.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: If necessary; and if literacy amongst the masses increases as my friend, the Director General, said, and it is bound to go on increasing, and if we can get a self-supporting three pie postcard why, nobody will be more pleased than ourselves, but until that time comes at least the six pie postcard may be given to us, and you may take for that purpose monies from the central revenues. As one who has always supported a commercial department for the posts and telegraphs, I would like now to make this one exception and, therefore to be consistent with all I have said in the past in regard to this department, I have been forced to make these remarks.

4 P.M.

There is just one more point that I would like to mention, which I think is due to the department. Some Honourable Member jumped up and asked "What is the Director General's salary?" And somebody else said that the department was top-heavy. Now, I have been in the fortunate or perhaps unfortunate position of having had to examine very carefully the accounts of this department and also how far we can retrench; and I have come to the conclusion that this department is not top-heavy and that the services rendered by the officers of this department are services for which we should be grateful and I venture to suggest that if my Honourable friend the Director General had not been a member of the Civil Service, who was forced to take the pay of that service, in any other part of the world he would have demanded a higher salary for the service he is rendering. That is my opinion. If you get a head of a department with crores of revenue and crores of expenditure, in any part of the world you must expect to pay him a salary like the Rs. 4,000 that the Director General gets. (Interruption.) There we are in the land of imagination; and if my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, was made Director General of Posts and Telegraphs I would not be surprised if he demanded Rs. 10,000 a month (Laughter), and it may be quite possible that Mr. Satyamurti may deserve that Rs. 10,000. Now, there has been a fallacy in this country, a fallacy that has been emphasised over and over again by my Honourable friends, that we over-pay our highest officers. I know from experience that men doing the same kind

[Sir Cowasji Jehangir.]

of work, with the same responsibility, often get much more in other parts of the world. I will give you just one example of that fallacy: the other day one of my Honourable friends talked about the £1,700 a year the Minister of Transport gets as compared with the pay of the Commissioner for Railways. But the comparison is not a good one. For in England, the men who do the same work or less responsible work than the Commissioner of Railways does get sometimes between £7,000 to £10,000 a year: the heads of these railways in England draw £7,000 to £10,000 a year.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Therefore to compare the salary of the Minister for Transport in England with the executive head of a great railway system is not a fair comparison. I only point that out to show that sometimes we may be misled; and I feel confident that when it comes to the turn of my Honourable friends to sit on the Government Benches, they will in years to come congratulate themselves if they will be able to get officers to do the same work on the same salary. I trust I have not led the debate into lines of controversy, and that my Honourable friends will not try to give a reply to me today, but will reserve it for another occasion. I was forced into these remarks by some remarks made: we shall have our controversy on this question which is a side issue at a later date. On the present occasion, for the reasons that I have given, I beg to support the amendment placed before the House. (Opposition Cheers.)

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Sir, I did not intend to add anything to the exposition of the case against this amendment which has already been placed before the House by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs: but I am compelled to do so by what has just fallen from the lips of my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir. If there is one man in this House or outside it who has done more for the Posts and Telegraphs Department in an unofficial capacity than Sir Cowasji Jehangir, I shall be glad to meet him. The Department is under a very deep debt of gratitude to him for all that he did for it both on the Posts and Telegraphs Accounts Enquiry Committee and the Posts and Telegraphs Retrenchment Committee. But there is no one who has done more than he has to keep it in the straight path of financial orthodoxy; and, therefore, it is with the very deepest regret that I have heard him this afternoon getting up to give a push to the department to send it down the slope which will eventually land it in financial damnation . . .

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I have stated clearly that the department should get a subsidy to the extent to which it loses on postcards; but the department's accounts should be kept straight.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: But that is the danger. I know that my Honourable friend says "Give it a subvention: keep its accounts exactly as before: pursue the same policy but get a subvention from general revenues". But I contend that that is a dangerous path, that the danger will still be there and I will show the reason why I think so. It

is all very well for my Honourable friend to say, "Give the Department a subsidy for a cheap postcard". But, as he admitted himself, at the start of his speech, he thought for a minute—at any rate I gathered that he did—of giving a subsidy for the one-tola letter for one anna . . . .

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I am doubtful about that, I admit.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: He is doubtful about it, he says: there are going to be a lot of other doubtful cases: there are always going to be doubtful cases. Once you start on this evil policy of subsidising cheap postcards from general revenues, you will never be able to stop: my Honourable friend, Professor Ranga, wants a subsidy for an expansion in the number of village post offices and so it will go on. How are you going to decide which activities are to come within the financial canons of propriety, which activities are to be legitimately charged to the post offices, and for which activities you have to go to general revenues? That, Sir, is a point that I tried to make this morning, and I should like to lay further emphasis on it now. Where is the money to come from? From general revenues? My friend says that this year the cost of giving half anna postcards which amounts to about 54 lakhs can be found from the surplus. But, on the most liberal estimate, if there is a ten per cent. increase in the traffic in postcards, the nett loss of the following year will be 40 lakhs, the nett loss the year after that will be 26 lakhs, and the nett loss in the following year will be 12 lakhs, so there will be a total loss of 132 lakhs if my Honourable friend's suggestion is accepted before postcards pay for themselves. Are we certain that we are going to have a sufficient surplus next year to be in a position to give 40 lakhs as a subsidy next year, 26 lakhs the year after and 12 lakhs in the following year? I am quite sure my Honourable colleague the Finance Member will be quite unable to give us any guarantee . . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: There will be a demand for reduction of surcharge.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: As my Honourable colleague reminds me, if there is any surplus, the first demand will be for the redemption of the pledge for the reduction of surcharge on income-tax . . .

An Honourable Member: We will come to that just now.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Another subsidy?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That makes my position stronger, because where is the money to come from? You cannot have subsidies from general revenues for all purposes.

Again, Sir, as regards village post offices. I entirely sympathise with my friends opposite in their desire that postal facilities should be extended in rural areas, and, as I said the other day, we are devoting half a lakh in the current year for that purpose, but if you are going to increase postal facilities in rural areas, you have got to find the money to keep them going. The House recognises that there is a definite loss on a large number of these post offices. It is all very well to say that we will pay for that loss this year out of the surplus, but the loss will go on increasing like a snowball until you come to a stage when there will be so many rural post offices on which loss is incurred that they will become a very serious burden on the department. Sir, whatever decision this House may come to, I would

[Sir Cowasji Jehangir.]

of work, with the same responsibility, often get much more in other parts of the world. I will give you just one example of that fallacy: the other day one of my Honourable friends talked about the £1,700 a year the Minister of Transport gets as compared with the pay of the Commissioner for Railways. But the comparison is not a good one. For in England, the men who do the same work or less responsible work than he Commissioner of Railways does get sometimes between £7,000 to £10,000 a year: the heads of these railways in England draw £7,000 to £10,000 a year.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Therefore to compare the salary of the Minister for Transport in England with the executive head of a great railway system is not a fair comparison. I only point that out to show that sometimes we may be misled; and I feel confident that when it comes to the turn of my Honourable friends to sit on the Government Benches, they will in years to come congratulate themselves if they will be able to get officers to do the same work on the same salary. I trust I have not led the debate into lines of controversy, and that my Honourable friends will not try to give a reply to me today, but will reserve it for another occasion. I was forced into these remarks by some remarks made: we shall have our controversy on this question which is a side issue at a later date. On the present occasion, for the reasons that I have given, I beg to support the amendment placed before the House. (Opposition Cheers.)

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Sir, I did not intend to add anything to the exposition of the case against this amendment which has already been placed before the House by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs: but I am compelled to do so by what has just fallen from the lips of my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir. If there is one man in this House or outside it who has done more for the Posts and Telegraphs Department in an unofficial capacity than Sir Cowasji Jehangir, I shall be glad to meet him. The Department is under a very deep debt of gratitude to him for all that he did for it both on the Posts and Telegraphs Accounts Enquiry Committee and the Posts and Telegraphs Retrenchment Committee. But there is no one who has done more than he has to keep it in the straight path of financial orthodoxy; and, therefore, it is with the very deepest regret that I have heard him this afternoon getting up to give a push to the department to send it down the slope which will eventually land it in financial damnation . . . .

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I have stated clearly that the department should get a subsidy to the extent to which it loses on postcards; but the department's accounts should be kept straight.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: But that is the danger. I know that my Honourable friend says "Give it a subvention: keep its accounts exactly as before: pursue the same policy but get a subvention from general revenues". But I contend that that is a dangerous path, that the danger will still be there and I will show the reason why I think so. I

is all very well for my Honourable friend to say, "Give the Department a subsidy for a cheap postcard". But, as he admitted himself, at the start of his speech, he thought for a minute—at any rate I gathered that he did—of giving a subsidy for the one-tola letter for one anna . . . .

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I am doubtful about that, I admit.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: He is doubtful about it, he says: there are going to be a lot of other doubtful cases: there are always going to be doubtful cases. Once you start on this evil policy of subsidising cheap postcards from general revenues, you will never be able to stop: my Honourable friend, Professor Ranga, wants a subsidy for an expansion in the number of village post offices and so it will go on. How are you going to decide which activities are to come within the financial canons of propriety, which activities are to be legitimately charged to the post offices, and for which activities you have to go to general revenues? That, Sir, is a point that I tried to make this morning, and I should like to lay further emphasis on it now. Where is the money to come from? From general revenues? My friend says that this year the cost of giving half anna postcards which amounts to about 54 lakhs can be found from the surplus. But, on the most liberal estimate, if there is a ten per cent. increase in the traffic in postcards, the nett loss of the following year will be 40 lakhs, the nett loss the year after that will be 26 lakhs, and the nett loss in the following year will be 12 lakhs, so there will be a total loss of 132 lakhs if my Honourable friend's suggestion is accepted before postcards pay for themselves. Are we certain that we are going to have a sufficient surplus next year to be in a position to give 40 lakhs as a subsidy next year, 26 lakhs the year after and 12 lakhs in the following year? I am quite sure my Honourable colleague the Finance Member will be quite unable to give us any guarantee . . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: There will be a demand for reduction of surcharge.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: As my Honourable colleague reminds me, if there is any surplus, the first demand will be for the redemption of the pledge for the reduction of surcharge on income-tax . . .

An Honourable Member: We will come to that just now.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Another subsidy?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That makes my position stronger, because where is the money to come from? You cannot have subsidies from general revenues for all purposes.

Again, Sir, as regards village post offices. I entirely sympathise with my friends opposite in their desire that postal facilities should be extended in rural areas, and, as I said the other day, we are devoting half a lakh in the current year for that purpose, but if you are going to increase postal facilities in rural areas, you have got to find the money to keep them going. The House recognises that there is a definite loss on a large number of these post offices. It is all very well to say that we will pay for that loss this year out of the surplus, but the loss will go on increasing like a snowball until you come to a stage when there will be so many rural post offices on which loss is incurred that they will become a very serious burden on the department. Sir, whatever decision this House may come to, I would

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

earnestly appeal to it to let the Posts and Telegraphs Department go on as at present. I, as the Member in charge of that department, have no desire to come to this House hat in hand asking for subsidies from general revenues. Let us proceed as we are proceeding on the straight and narrow path of financial propriety in the endeavour to pay our way as an honest department should do.

Several Honourable Members: Sir, the question be now put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head '*Postcards*' the following be substituted:

'Single	Six pies.
Reply	One anna'."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—79.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.
Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
Banerjea, Dr. P. N.
Baqui, Mr. M. A.
Bardaloi, Srijut N. C.
Bhagavan Das, Dr.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.
Chhattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
Das, Mr. B.
Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fakir Chand, Mr.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Sahib Shaikh.
Fuzlul Huq, Mr. A. K.
Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
Gauba, Mr. K. L.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Syed.
Giri, Mr. V. V.
Govind Das, Seth.
Gupta, Mr. Ghanshiam Singh.
Hidayatallah, Sir Ghulam Hussain.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
Khan Sahib, Dr.
Khare, Dr. N. B.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad.
Mudaliar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.
Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, Qazi.
Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nageswara Rao, Mr. K.
Panwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta.
Pant, Pandit Govind Ballabh.
Parma Nand, Bhai.
Raghubir Narayan Singh, Choudhri.
Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
Rajan, Dr. T. S. S.
Raju, Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Saksena, Mr. Mohan Lal.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Shafi Daudi, Maulvi Muhammad.
Sham Lal, Mr.
Shaukat Ali, Maulana.
Sheodass Daga, Seth.
Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Nawab.
Singh, Mr. Deep Narayan.
Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Anugrah Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Shri Krishna.
Sinha, Raja Bahadur Harihar Prosad Narayan.
Som, Mr. Suryya Kumar.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Thein Maung, Dr.
Thein, Maung, U.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Vissanji, Mr. Mathuradas.
Yakub, Sir Muhammad
Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

NOES—44.

Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama.
Bajpai, Mr. G. S.
Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.
Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
Clow, Mr. A. G.
Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
Dalal, Dr. R. D.
DeSouza, Dr. F. X.
Drake, Mr. D. H. C.
Graham, Sir Lancelot.
Grigg, The Honourable Sir James
Hockenhull, Mr. F. W.
Hudson, Sir Leslie.
James, Mr. F. E.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Kirpalani, Mr. Hiranand Khushiram.
Lal Chand, Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.
Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.
Milligan, Mr. J. A.
Morgan, Mr. G.
Mukerje, Mr. N. R.
Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
Nayar, Mr. C. Govindan.
Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
Owen, Mr. L.
Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
Rau, Mr. P. R.
Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
Sarma, Mr. R. S.
Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
Scott, Mr. W. L.
Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar.
Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
Sloan, Mr. T.
Swithinbank, Mr. B. W.
Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next item in the Schedule,—Book, Pattern and Sample Packets,—will now be taken up. The motions* relating to these are Nos. 72 to 77. Nos. 72, 74 and 77 appear to be practically to the same effect.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Nos. 74 and 77 are exactly the same, but No. 72 is slightly different.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: No. 72 excludes sample packets. It only relates to book packets

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): I do not move my motion No. 72

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*72. "That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, after the existing entries under the head '*Postcards*' the following heading and entries be inserted and the word 'Book' occurring under the head '*Book, Pattern and Sample Packets*' be omitted:

'Book packets including matter for press:	
For the first five tolas or fraction thereof . . .	Six pies.
For every additional five tolas or fraction thereof in excess of five tolas	Six pies'."

Mr. F. E. James (Madras: European): I beg to move No. 73·

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head *'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets'* the following be substituted:

'For a weight not exceeding two and a half tolas	Six pies.
For a weight exceeding two and a half tolas, but not exceeding five tolas	Nine pies.
For every additional five tolas, or fraction thereof in excess of five tolas	Six pies'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved·

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head *'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets'* the following be substituted:

'For a weight not exceeding two and a half tolas	Six pies.
For a weight exceeding two and a half tolas, but not exceeding five tolas	Nine pies.
For every additional five tolas, or fraction thereof in excess of five tolas	Six pies'."

Mr. F. E. James: I do not move No. 74.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I do not move No. 75, but I support No. 73 moved by Mr. James.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Sir, I move No. 76:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head *'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets'* the following be substituted:

'For the first five tolas or fraction thereof	Six pies.
For every additional five tolas or fraction thereof in excess of five tolas	Three pies'."

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73. "That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head *'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets'* the following be substituted:

'For a weight not exceeding two and a half tolas	Six pies
For a weight exceeding two and a half tolas, but not exceeding five tolas	Nine pies.
For every additional five tolas, or fraction thereof in excess of five tolas	Six pies'."

74. "That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head *'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets'* the following be substituted:

'For every five tolas or fraction thereof	Six pies'."

75. "That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head *'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets'* the following be substituted:

'For the first five tolas or fraction thereof	Six pies.
For every additional five tolas or fraction thereof in excess of five tolas	One anna.'"

76. "That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head *'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets'* the following be substituted:

For the first five tolas or fraction thereof	Six pies.
For every additional five tolas or fraction thereof in excess of five tolas	Three pies'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved·

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head *'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets'* the following be substituted:

'For the first five tolas or fraction thereof	Six pies.
For every additional five tolas or fraction thereof in excess of five tolas	Three pies'."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I do not move No. 77.

Sir Darcy Lindsay (Bengal: European): Before I speak on this amendment, I would venture to suggest to the Honourable Member in charge, Sir Frank Noyce, that next year when he delivers to this House a very valuable speech of the kind we had this morning, full of details and full of figures, he should have the speech printed and given to Members who wish to read the same, after he has delivered his speech, this, I am quite sure, would meet with appreciation. This time last year we were told by the Finance Member that the increase of one pice in the rate for book covers was necessary to stop the diversion of the post card traffic. He stated:

"The book packet method of transmission is undoubtedly being abused, and a change is urgently necessary to stop the diversion, with consequent loss of revenue, that is occurring of post card traffic to the book packet category. We estimate a gain of a little over five lakhs in revenue from this change."

Coupled with a subsequent statement made by the Honourable Member in charge, it could certainly be inferred that the loss from diversion was in the region of five lakhs and it also stands out that the raid on the book post packets was not so much for revenue purposes but to recover the loss on the diversion of traffic. I have been studying the charts given in the valuable report issued annually by the Posts and Telegraphs Department and I find that, if all the increased traffic in the year 1932-33 in book packets was due to diversion of post card traffic, the amount of loss could not be more than 1,25,000. It would indeed be a tall order to assume that such was the case and I doubt there having been any appreciable diversion to avoid the higher rate. It may be, however, that former users of post cards for advertising now use the envelope instead. I only quote this to show how very misleading guesswork figures can be. There can be no doubt that traders in particular, who use the book post as a medium of advertising, have been hard hit by this quite needless increase in rate which, as I have before mentioned, was not imposed for revenue purposes, and, under all the circumstances of the case, my Group urge that the former rate of six pies be restored. Our amendment is that the initial weight be reduced to 2½ tolas and for every additional five tolas or fraction thereof six pies. We base our demand on the undoubted fact that the increased rate is a hardship upon genuine traders and also on the fact

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77. "That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head *'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets'* the following be substituted:

'For the first five tolas or fraction thereof	Six pies.'"

[Sir Darcy Lindsay.]

that there has been evident misunderstanding in reference to the necessity for the increase while the estimate of revenue gain has been very wide of the mark. I believe that our proposal will entail a diminution of 6½ lakhs in revenue and I plead that this small sum be given up for the reasons as stated. It would reduce to ten lakhs the estimated gain in revenue which is double of what the Honourable the Finance Member expected to receive. Members have doubtless received a memorial issued by the Bombay Booksellers Association giving certain facts and figures and, it is further pointed out that the volume of daily correspondence has decreased to an alarming extent. I have heard from other sources that advertising has had to be curtailed and my Honourable friend, Mr. James, tells me that he has had many complaints from the Madras Presidency. Sir, I have had letters from tea planters in the Darjeeling District who make very large use of this book packet postage in order to sell locally their tea. One of the planters issued as many as 100 thousand of these envelopes and owing to the increase in postage this has had to be largely reduced.

Our enterprising Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, Mr. Bewoor, is a great believer in the fact that it pays to advertise. Recently we have had many examples of this in the circulars that he has issued and I am quite sure that he will appreciate the soundness of our argument that the half anna rate be restored.

Sir, I am very sorry that I did not have an opportunity of speaking on the post card reduction, as I had hoped to suggest to the Honourable Member in charge that something might be done in that direction to commemorate the Silver Jubilee. What could be a finer move than to reduce the post card to half an anna with a Silver Jubilee stamp to commemorate the event. (Hear, hear.) I hope the Government will consider the proposal. I do not know in what direction the Post office proposes to commemorate the Silver Jubilee—by the issue of special stamps or otherwise—but I do think that the issue of half anna Silver Jubilee post card would keep the Silver Jubilee of their Majesties in our minds for all time. (Hear, hear.) We have discussed ways and means and how difficult it is to find the money to meet the reductions that the House has voted for. Now, Sir, it was only I think in the year 1919-20 that the first contribution was demanded by the Central Government from the Postal Department for interest on capital account. I think the amount was about 54 lakhs. It has since grown to something like 80 lakhs. I have always argued that much of the block was provided by the surpluses earned by the Telegraph and the Postal Department. I took out figures some years ago, I think from 1915-16 to 1921-22, and the surplus shown in the annual postal reports was over 8 crores. I remember Sir Charles Innes in 1921 told the House that the Telegraph Department had made a surplus of one crore and 71 lakhs and for many years past it had been earning very substantial surpluses. I contend that those surpluses must have been devoted to building post offices and the extension of the telegraph lines. It seems a little hard that we should now be called upon to pay interest on our own money. I just offer that as one suggestion to the Finance Department as a means of assisting the Posts and Telegraphs. Another matter relates to the Press rates. I

have been studying that valuable compilation, the Report of Post and Telegraphs Accounts Enquiry Committee prepared by my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir . . . .

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I did not prepare it. I was only Chairman of the Committee.

Sir Darcy Lindsay: . . . . showing that the loss to the Telegraph Department was something like Rs. 20 lakhs a year. It seems very unjust to me that the Postal Department should have to meet this charge. (Hear, hear.) It surely is a charge which a Publicity Department should meet; and on these grounds, I think the Government might very well return to the Post Office or rather pay to the Post Office the 15 lakhs or 20 lakhs that they lose every year. Now, Sir, to return to the book-packet. I sincerely hope that the House will support me in this very mild request for a return to the half an anna postage for 2½ tolas in weight. It will be much appreciated by all parties in India and traders in particular. (Applause.) With these remarks, Sir, I commend the amendment to the House. (Loud Applause.)

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Sir, before I deal with the particular question of the book-packet rates, I think I must not let Sir Darcy Lindsay's criticism on the capital accounts of the Department and the interest charge on it to go unchallenged. I believe that my friend, Sir Darcy Lindsay, has not read the Report of the Postal Accounts Enquiry Committee.

Sir Darcy Lindsay: He has.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: This very question was referred to and fully discussed by them. Sir, in paragraph 80, they say:

"The decision to charge interest on the entire capital outlay of the Department has been the subject of criticism in various quarters on the ground that in the past capital expenditure was found out of the revenue surpluses of the Government of India and that these surpluses of Government were partly built up by large surpluses surrendered by the Posts and Telegraphs Department."

That is exactly the criticism which Sir Darcy Lindsay has brought up to-day. I do not wish to deal with all the arguments for and against which the Committee went into and which will be found in Chapter IX of the Report. The conclusion they came to was that:

"As no undertaking can obtain the use of capital without paying for such use either by way of dividends or of interest, it is necessary, in order to obtain a true account of the financial position of the Department and a true test of the correctness of the rates charged for its services, that interest should be included in the accounts of the Department."

There are many other arguments which were for and against this particular proposition which have been dealt with in the report, and I would recommend a very careful study of that somewhat complicated problem. The next point of Sir Darcy Lindsay's which I would like to deal with is the question of this estimate of Rs. 5 lakhs to which he referred. The point we made last year was this. The postcard rate was three pice

[Mr. G. V. Bewoor.]

and the book-packet rate was two pice. We stated that, owing to this, there was a large amount of post-card traffic, that is to say, "communications", which would go on post-cards or postcards themselves which were diverted legitimately or illegitimately to the book-packet traffic because the sender saved one pice. Now in our post offices, we deal with thousands, literally thousands, of articles which are received for delivery and which have to be issued for delivery as soon as possible. We cannot possibly provide the large amount of staff that would be required to examine every one of these book-packet articles. We do our best. What we meant was that, as there was this difference between the two rates, there was a great deal of illicit sending of postcards as book-packets, and we wanted to stop that. We did not mean that the value of this misuse was equal to Rs. 5 lakhs. That of course cannot possibly be estimated, but what was meant was that the result of revising the book-packet rate would be that, on the assumptions we made at that time, we would receive Rs. 5 lakhs of additional revenue.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: How much has your postcard traffic gone up by the stopping of this illegal traffic?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: It is impossible to say, because the year 1934-35 has only just ended; but I have here some few figures which show that in the area served by the Calcutta G. P. O., where there are a large number of commercial firms, the number of postcards went up from 94,000 to 98,000 during one week in August, whereas the number of book-packets at the same time fell from 48,000 to 45,000. But, however, that may be, the actual result of the increase in the book-packet rate has not been that enormous fall with which we were threatened during the discussion last year. We were told that the raising of the book-packet rate would be a great blow to the business concerns. We actually allowed in our estimates for a reduction in the traffic of 20 per cent. We said we were putting up the rate by 50 per cent. from two pice to three pice, but we anticipated a fall of 20 per cent in the total traffic and we anticipated an additional revenue of 5 lakhs only. Actually, the book-packet traffic has refused to be depressed. Of course Sir Darcy Lindsay should naturally know better; probably he has certain sources of information which tell him that business houses have ceased or reduced advertising by way of book-packets a great deal, but our statistics show that the traffic has only fallen by about one per cent.

Sir Darcy Lindsay: How does the Honourable Member arrive at those figures?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The method of arriving at these figures is after all and must necessarily be a very rough one. (Hear, hear.) In the course of every year, all over the country and in every postal department in the world the method followed is to take account of the number of articles received for delivery during the period of one week in every post office, —during one week in August and one week in February, one being a slack period and the other being a busy period. The total number of articles received for delivery multiplied by 26 is taken as equal to the number of articles posted during the first half-year and similarly the figures for February multiplied by 26 are taken to represent number of articles during second half-year, the total of both being a rough estimate of the total number of articles: and all I can tell the House is that for comparative purposes these figures must be reliable, even though they may not be reliable in themselves; for example, we took the enumeration exactly under the same circumstances in August, 1933, and I compare the figures with the figures taken in the enumeration in August, 1934. It is seen that the book-packet traffic has refused to be depressed, and, therefore, it would appear that the traders are able to bear the charge of three pice on the first five tolas. The other argument which we advanced last year, namely, that the difference in the book-packet rate and the postcard rate should not be allowed to continue I cannot advance just now, because the postcard rate has been reduced to two pice. We are unable to accept that reduction and I must, therefore, oppose the reduction in the book-packet rate as well. I fully recognise the advantages of advertising and I would like to see more business houses utilising the post office for advertising by approaching the individual through the post office rather than by approaching him by means of broadcast advertisements in newspapers or on hustings and so on. I entirely agree that this is desirable and we should like to encourage them to send advertisements by book-packet but we have to consider what it costs us and what we can afford. It is all very well to say: Let them send more advertisements by book-packets. But we cannot possibly sell below the cost price and as I have said our cost price is not covered until the post office income covers its total expenditure.

Mr. F. E. James: That argument was advanced last year and my Honourable friend has just now advanced it. The real difficulty has been the question of smuggling and not the question of revenue. It is the question of smuggling to which he should direct his attention.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I have already pointed out that if the postcard rate is reduced to two pice, that argument can no longer be used. But we find that we cannot possibly bear the loss on the postcard rate and we merely want to say as an argument that we cannot afford to reduce the book-packet rate from three pice to two pice. As Sir Darcy Lindsay has already stated, we estimate that as a result of the revision of the rates, there will be a loss to the department of 6½ lakhs of revenue. In the present state of the finances of the department we cannot accept this loss to be added on to the loss that already exists.

5 P. M.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head *'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets'* the following be substituted :

'For a weight not exceeding two and a half tolas . .	Six pies.
For a weight exceeding two and a half tolas, but not exceeding five tolas	Nine pies.
For every additional five tolas, or fraction thereof in excess of five tolas	Six pies'."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—84.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.
Abdoola Haroon, Seth Haji.
Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
Banerjea, Dr. P. N.
Baqui, Mr. M. A.
Bardoloi, Srijut N. C.
Bhagavan Das, Dr.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.
Chhattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachalam.
Das, Mr. B.
Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fakir Chand, Mr.
Fuzlul Huq, Mr. A. K.
Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
Ganba, Mr. K. L.
Ghiasuddin, Mr M.
Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Syed.
Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.
Giri, Mr V. V.
Govind Das, Seth.
Gupta, Mr. Ghanshiam Singh.
Hidayatallah, Sir Ghulam Hussain.
Hockenhull, Mr. F. W.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Hudson, Sir Leslie.
James, Mr. F. E.
Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
Khan Sahib, Dr.
Khare, Dr. N. B.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr
Lindsay, Sir Darcy
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Milligan, Mr. J. A.
Morgan, Mr. G.
Mudaliar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.
Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, Qazi.
Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur Maulvi Syed.
Nageswara Rao, Mr. K.
Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta.
Pant, Pandit Govind Ballabh.
Parma Nand, Bhai.
Raghubir Narayan Singh, Choudhri.
Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
Rajan, Dr. T. S. S.
Raju, Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Saksena, Mr. Mohan Lal.
Sant Singh Sardar.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay
Shafi Daudi, Maulvi Muhammad.
Sham Lal, Mr.
Shaukat Ali, Maulana
Sheodass Daga, Seth.
Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Nawab.
Singh, Mr. Deep Narayan.
Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Anugrah Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Shri Krishna.
Som, Mr. Suryya Kumar.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Thein Maung, Dr.
Thein, Maung, U.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B
Vissanji, Mr. Mathuradas.
Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

NOES—39.

Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama.
Bajpai, Mr. G. S
Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.
Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
Clow, Mr. A. G.
Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
Dalal, Dr. R. D.
DeSouza, Dr. F. X.
Drake, Mr. D. H. C.
Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kumar Vijaya Ananda.
Graham, Sir Lancelot.
Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Kirpalani, Mr. Hiranand Khushiram.
Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad.
Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.
Mukerje, Mr. N. R.
Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
Nayar, Mr. C. Govindan.
Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
Owen, Mr. L.
Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
Rau, Mr. P. R.
Row, Mr K. Sanjiva.
Sarma, Mr. R. S.
Scott, Mr. W. L.
Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar.
Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
Sinha, Raja Bahadur Harihar Prosad Narayan.
Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra
Sloan, Mr. T.
Swithinbank, Mr. B. W.
Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is another amendment which has been moved,—No. 76. That is disposed of by the vote on the last amendment.

... There are some other items, but the Chair does not know whether the House would like to sit for some time and dispose of those items. The Chair is prepared to sit longer to dispose of those items.

Some Honourable Members: We shall finish Posts and Telegraphs today.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If that is the desire, the Chair will continue the proceedings. The next item relates to newspapers.

There are two identical motions,—Nos. 78 and 79.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: I do not move my motion No. 78*.

*78. "That in Schedule I to the Bill, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, for the entries under the head *'Registered Newspapers'* the following be substituted :

'For a weight not exceeding twenty tolas	Quarter of an anna.
For every twenty tolas, or fraction thereof, exceeding twenty tolas	Quarter of an anna'."

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 4th April, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

TRIPLE MONETARY PUNISHMENTS INFLICTED ON THE SUBORDINATES OF THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

1431. *Mr. V. V. Giri: Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that triple monetary punishments, for exceeding the amount of compensation actually paid by the Department to the complainant, are not inflicted on the subordinates of the Postal Department for one and the same offence or loss;

(b) whether any instructions in this connection and to this effect have been on record in the Postal Department; and

(c) whether cases, in which such triple punishments are actually inflicted on the poor subordinates, have ever been reconsidered by the Postal Authorities?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) If by triple monetary punishments the Honourable Member means recovery of three times the amount of compensation paid by the Department to the complainant, then the reply is that such punishments are not inflicted.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government are not aware of any such cases.

MEMORANDUM OF CHARGES ISSUED TO SUBORDINATES TO STATE WHETHER THEY DESIRE TO BE HEARD IN PERSON.

1432. ***Mr. V. V. Giri:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rule 55 of the Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules laid down an obligation on the part of an officer issuing a memorandum of charges to require the subordinate to whom the memorandum is issued to state whether he desires to be heard in person;

(b) whether it also lays down that the person charged shall be heard as to such of the allegations as are not admitted and that he shall be entitled to cross-examine the witnesses; and

(c) whether the omission in the memorandum of charges of this provision will entitle the person charged to go in appeal to the higher authorities against any decision that may be arrived at by the lower authority, if the person concerned feels aggrieved by such decision?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, if an oral enquiry is held.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to rules 56 and 58 of the Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules which lay down the cases in which statutory appeals may be filed.

NUMBER OF CLERKS AND SUPERVISORS WORKING IN THE SAVINGS BANK DEPARTMENT OF THE BOMBAY, CALCUTTA AND MADRAS GENERAL POST OFFICES.

1433. ***Mr. V. V. Giri:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the following particulars:

(i) number of clerks, and (ii) Supervisors (excluding Assistant Postmasters) working in the Savings Bank Department of the Bombay, Calcutta and Madras General Post Offices, separately?

(b) Is it a fact that there are only two Supervisors in the Savings Bank Department of the Calcutta General Post Office?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why additional Supervisors have not been sanctioned?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: With your permission, Sir, I will reply to questions Nos. 1433 and 1434 together.

Government regret that the information required is not readily available. As the Head of the Circle concerned is fully competent to deal with the points raised, copies of the questions are being sent to him for such action as he may consider suitable.

STATISTICS OF WORK OF ALL DELIVERY TOWN SUB-POST OFFICES OF CALCUTTA AS WELL AS OF SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS OF THE CALCUTTA GENERAL POST OFFICE.

†1434. ***Mr. V. V. Giri:** (a) Is it a fact that statistics have been taken from all delivery town sub-offices of Calcutta as well as from the several departments of the Calcutta General Post Office, excluding Money Order and Savings Bank Department of the Calcutta General Post Office?

(b) Is it also a fact that due to shortage of staff, clerks of the Money Order Issue Department, Calcutta General Post Office, are required to work up to 7-30 P.M. daily?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the negative, are Government prepared to keep a statement of the time of arrival and departure of the clerks of the above branch from the 1st to 10th March, 1935?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state how many Supervisors are justified in the Money Order Department at Calcutta General Post Office according to the standard?

†For answer to this question, *see* answer to question No. 1433.

(e) Is it a fact that in offices, where the work does not justify, staff have been reduced, and if so, are Government prepared to increase the staff in the Money Order Department in case statistics show increase of work? If not, why not?

SELECTION GRADE POSTS IN THE BOMBAY GENERAL POST OFFICE.

1435. ***Mr. V. V. Giri:** (a) Is it a fact that selection grade posts of Rs. 250—350 are confined to the Foreign Post, Bombay?

(b) Is it a fact that on this ground several clerks of the Bombay General Post Office submitted a representation to the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs to confine selection grade posts of Rs. 250—350 to Bombay General Post Office?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether they have since arrived at any decision? If so, what?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Assuming that the Honourable Member wishes to know whether the selection grade posts on Rs. 250—350 in the Foreign Post, Bombay, are reserved exclusively for the officials employed in that office, the reply is in the affirmative.

(b) It is a fact that a representation protesting against the reservation of these posts, as described in my reply to part (a) above, was submitted by the All-India Postal and Railway Mail Service Union.

(c) Government have decided that there are no grounds for making any change in the existing arrangement.

QUALIFYING TEST FOR APPOINTMENT AS READERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

1436. ***Mr. V. V. Giri:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether candidates who are examined by the Public Service Commission and other departments for competitive examination or qualifying tests, are given one and the same examination papers, or are they given different examination papers to answer?

(b) Are the candidates referred to in part (a) examined in one paper at the same time and date or at different times and dates in separate batches?

(c) Are Government aware that the qualifying test for appointment as Readers was held in the Government of India Press, New Delhi, in November last in which all the candidates who offered themselves, were not examined on the same date, in spite of repeated protests of the candidates? If so, why?

(d) Is it a fact that one batch of candidates consisting of copyholders was examined on the 10th November, 1934 and another batch was examined two days later?

(e) Why were different papers set and candidates examined on separate dates for one and the same examination?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 3rd April, 1935, to part (f) of Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury's starred question No. 1408.

(c) to (e). I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 11th March, 1935, to parts (a) to (d) of Bhai Parma Nand's starred question No. 821.

QUALIFYING TEST FOR APPOINTMENT AS READERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, NEW DELHI.

1437. *Mr. V. V. Giri: (a) Is it a fact that the Controller of Printing and Stationery has declared only the examination of the second batch held on the 12th November, 1934 as null and void and not the examination of the first batch held on the 10th November, 1934 by the Government of India Press, New Delhi?

(b) Is it a fact that the papers leaked out and printed copies were given to the candidates of the first batch two days before? If so, why was not the examination of the first batch declared as null and void?

(c) Why has the examination been declared null and void for some candidates and quite in order for others?

(d) Who is the officer responsible for holding the examination and what are his university qualifications? Has he any experience of holding examinations, and if so, what?

(e) Do Government propose to hold an enquiry into the matter and stop promoting candidates who have been declared qualified by unlawful means owing to leakage of papers? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) No.

(b) There was no leakage of printed question papers before the examination was held. The second part does not arise.

(c) and (e). Do not arise in view of the reply to part (a).

(d) The examination was held by the Manager, Government of India Press, New Delhi. He has no University qualifications, but is a practical printer and is competent to hold such examinations.

TEA GARDENS IN ASSAM GRANTED THE HARDSHIP QUOTA.

1438. *Srijut N. C. Bardaloi: (a) Will Government be pleased to state which of the tea gardens in Assam have been granted the *Hardship* quota, for the year 1934-35?

(b) Will Government state the method according to which special quotas are assessed?

(c) Are Government prepared to ascertain the method of calculating the district average in the matter of ascertaining the export quota?

(d) Is it a fact that district averages have been granted only to European gardens and not to Indian gardens?

(e) Will Government state the names of the gardens owned both by Indians and Europeans where quotas have been fixed according to the district averages?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) I lay a statement on the table.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me to part (c) of Mr. S. C. Mitra's starred question No. 641 in this House on the 20th August, 1934.

(c) to (e). The "district average" is the average annual production of manufactured tea per acre of land under tea plucked in the recognised tea Districts in India. Details are published annually by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, in a publication entitled "Indian Tea Statistics", copies of which are in the Library. Export quotas are not based on district averages but are determined in accordance with the instructions contained in the Statutory Rules made under section 23 of the Indian Tea Control Act, 1933.

Statement of Tea Estates in Assam which have been granted export quotas for 1934-35 under the special hardship rules.

District Lakhimpur.

Ananda Tea Estate.
Bahadur Tea Estate.
Dirai Tea Estate.
Kathalguri Tea Estate.
Korangani Tea Estate.
Segunbaree Tea Estate.
Tongannagaon Tea Estate.
Sarojini Tea Estate.

District Sibsagar.

Birinajam Tea Estate.
Bosabari Tea Estate.
Bukhial Tea Estate.
Durgabari Tea Estate.
Gobindapore and Bijlijan Tea Estate.
Hingarajan Tea Estate.
Hirajan Tea Estate.
Kamalpur Tea Estate.
Mahora Tea Estate.
Monmoy Tea Estate.
Muktabari Tea Estate.
Ouphelia Tea Estate.
Radhabari Tea Estate.
Sarumathura Tea Estate.
Sundarpur Tea Estate.
Timon Tea Estate.
Kuhiabari Tea Estate.

District Kamrup.

Basista Tea Estate.
Ramgaon Tea Estate.

District Darrang.

Bhergaon Tea Estate.

District Tezpur.

Alimabad Tea Estate.
Chandana Tea Estate.

District Sylhet.

Durganagar Tea Estate.
Holicherra Tea Estate.
Kakracherra Tea Estate.
Kalikabari Tea Estate.

District Cachar.

Manipur Tea Estate.
Saraswati Tea Estate.
Roopacherra Tea Company Limited.

INDIAN AND EUROPEAN TEA GARDENS INSPECTED DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS.

1439. ***Srijut N. C. Bardaloi:** (a) Will Government state how many European tea gardens have been inspected during the last two years and how many Indian gardens have been inspected during that period?

(b) Are Government prepared to allow European gardens to be inspected by Indian planters?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) Tea gardens are inspected only when the estates can produce no records to support their claim for export quotas. 226 gardens have been inspected in North India, all of which are Indian-owned. Without such inspections most, if not all, of these estates would not have been able to substantiate their claim for quotas.

(b) Many of the District Advisory Officers are Indian planters and there is no reason why their services should not be utilised, if and when the inspection of European-owned gardens is found to be necessary.

REPRESENTATION OF INDIAN TEA GARDENS ON THE TEA CESS COMMITTEE.

1440. ***Srijut N. C. Bardaloi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state who represents Indian tea gardens on the Tea Cess Committee?

(b) How long has the Indian member (if any) been on that Committee? Is he one of the big planters?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of changing the personnel of the Tea Cess Committee now?

(d) Are Government prepared to appoint a representative of the smaller interests both on the Tea Licensing Committee as well as on the Tea Cess Committee?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) I lay on the table a statement showing the personnel of the Indian Tea Cess Committee and the Bodies by which the nominations to it are made. There are three Indian members on the Committee, two of whom have been nominated by the Indian Tea Association and one by the Indian Tea Planters' Association, Jalpaiguri.

(b) The dates from which the Indian members have been serving on the Committee are as follows:

Rai Bahadur Siba Prosad Barooah	...	26th January, 1924.
Mr. Biraj Kumar Banerjee	...	11th August, 1928.
Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, M.L.A.	...	19th May, 1934.

The Government of India have no information as to the tea plantation holdings of the members.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. Nominations to the Indian Tea Cess Committee are made in accordance with the procedure laid down in section 4 and the rules made under section 7 of the Indian Tea Cess Act, 1903. The Government of India have received no representations from the Indian Tea Association or other interests concerned that the rules require modification. As regards the Tea Licensing Committee, the attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to my reply to part (g) of his unstarred question No. 42 on the 21st February, 1935.

Statement showing the personnel of the Indian Tea Cess Committee.

	Nominated by
1. Mr. J. Jones, Chairman	Indian Tea Association.
2. Mr. J. S. Graham, Vice-Chairman	
3. Mr. E. G. Abbot	
4. Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, M.L.A.	
5. Mr. T. Lamb	
6. Rai Bahadur Siba Prosad Barooah	
7. Mr. E. J. Nicholls	
8. Mr. T. T. K. Allan	Bengal Chamber of Commerce.
9. Mr. T. H. L. Brown	
10. Mr. J. A. Milligan	
11. Mr. J. C. Surrey	Madras Chamber of Commerce.
12. Mr. J. M. Kilburn	Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association.
13. Mr. R. G. Boyle	Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association.
14. Mr. F. J. Heathcote	
15. Mr. S. A. Pearson	
16. Mr. F. J. Durnford	Darjeeling Planters' Association and the Terai Planters' Association jointly.
17. Mr. D. H. Barnes	Dooars Planters' Association.
18. Mr. J. Edmond	
19. Mr. Biraj Kumar Banerjee	Indian Tea Planters' Association, Jalpaiguri.
20. Mr. A. W. F. Mills	United Planters' Association of Southern India.

SELECTION BOARDS CONVENED TO FILL SELECTION POSTS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1441. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) With reference to Government's reply (statement laid on the table of the House on the 21st January, 1935) to starred questions Nos. 363 and 364 of the 6th April, 1934, will Government please state whether Selection Boards were convened to fill the following selection posts on the East Indian Railway:

(i) Office Superintendent, Divisional Superintendent's Office, Howrah, grade Rs. 450, about September, 1934;

(ii) Transportation Inspector, Burdwan, grade Rs. 500, *vice* Mr. L. V. L'Estrange in December, 1934;

(iii) Chief Goods Clerk, Howrah, grade Rs. 480, in December, 1934;

(iv) Station Master, Burdwan, grade Rs. 530, in January, 1935;

(v) Office Superintendent, Chief Commercial Manager's Office, grade Rs. 500, *vice* the late Rai Sahib M. N. Singh about August, 1934;

(vi) Chief Claims Clerk, Chief Commercial Manager's Office, grade Rs. 500, about March, 1934;

(vii) Special Inspector (special grade), Chief Commercial Manager's Office in 1934;

(viii) Transportation Inspector, grade Rs. 500, *vice* Mr. F. B. Sedgley.

(ix) Personal Assistant to the Chief Operating Superintendent, grade Rs. 500, *vice* Mr. F. Whaley, in 1934; and

(x) seven posts of Transportation Inspectors (old sanctions) revised grade Rs. 500, about July, 1934?

(b) If the answer to any of the cases cited in part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state when the Selection Boards were convened and the names of those subordinates who were summoned to appear before the Board?

(c) Were these appointments made after Government had called on the Agent of the East Indian Railway for information relating to the questions under reference?

(d) Will Government please state what disciplinary action will be taken against those officers who have disregarded orders by filling selection posts without convening Selection Boards?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The Agent, East Indian Railway, reports:

(a) (i), (ii), (iv), (vi), (ix) and (x). Yes. Selection Boards were convened to fill these posts.

(iii) No, the present holder of the post of the Goods Supervisor, Howrah Goods Shed, in the grade of Rs. 400—20—500 was holding an appointment prior to December, 1934, in Howrah Goods Shed in the same grade, in an officiating capacity, but was designated as Goods Clerk. The change in designation did not affect his emoluments and the question of his selection did not arise.

(v) and (viii). These posts were abolished as a measure of economy.

(vii) No, this post is in the grade of Rs. 160—10—260 and is not treated as a selection post

(b) The Selection Boards were held before orders giving effect to the arrangements were issued. Under note (2) to rule 61 of the "Rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff on State-managed Railways", a Selection Board may or may not summon employees for interview at its discretion.

(c) The appointments were made in conformity with the rules and were not affected by references made by the Railway Board to the Agent.

(d) In view of the reply to part (a) this does not arise.

CENSURE RECORDED ON THE SERVICE SHEET AGAINST UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES OF THE RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

1442. *Mr. Sham Lal: (a) Is it the policy of Government in the Railway Department to take disciplinary action, by way of a censure recorded on the service sheet, against unsuccessful candidates who appear before Selection Boards?

(b) Is an unsuccessful candidate, who has once appeared before a Selection Board for a selection post debarred from aspiring for that selection post for the rest of his career? If not, will he be permitted to appear

before a Selection Board for that particular post when it happens to fall vacant again?

(c) Have Selection Boards any syllabus to which their questions must be confined?

(d) Are the same questions to be put to every candidate who appear for that particular vacancy?

(e) Are the questions and answers of each candidate recorded in the proceedings of the Selection Board?

(f) Are officers, who have relatives among the candidates appearing before the Selection Board, permitted to sit on that particular Selection Board?

(g) Are Government prepared to advise the Agents of State-managed railways of their policy in regard to the questions asked above?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) I am not aware of any such policy.

(b) to (e). These are detailed matters of internal administration which have been left to the Agents of railways to decide.

(f) Government have no reason to doubt that in selecting officers to form Selection Boards, Railway Administrations insure that the Boards are impartial.

(g) Government do not propose to issue any general rules in this matter.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is the Honourable Member aware whether the Selection Board give any written papers or whether it is only an oral examination taken by simply looking at them?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I suppose they would ask them questions to find out whether they were conversant with their duties. I am not aware whether any written papers are issued.

WATCH AND WARD DEPARTMENTS ON CERTAIN RAILWAYS.

1443. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that the Watch and Ward Department on the Eastern Bengal, Great Indian Peninsula and North Western Railways are under the control of the Traffic Manager?

(b) Is it also a fact that on the East Indian Railway, the Watch and Ward Department is treated as a separate department?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider the advisability of having an uniform system of management on the State-managed railways?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government will examine this question.

PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS.

1444. *Mr. Sham Lal: (a) Is it a fact that Government have times without number declared that the question regarding the pay and allowances of Travelling Ticket Examiners is within the competence of an Agent of an individual Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that the remarks of the Agents of the East Indian and North Western Railways were held necessary while considering the memorials of the Travelling Ticket Inspectors, and Examiners of those Railways?

(c) Is it a fact that the Agents of the East Indian and North Western Railways abolished the mileage allowance of the Travelling Ticket Inspectors and Examiners of those Railways without the sanction or approval of the Railway Board?

(d) Is it a fact that the Agent of the Burma Railways did not join hands with the Agents of the East Indian and North Western Railways in respect of abolition of mileage allowance of his staff of Travelling Ticket Collectors?

(e) Is it a fact that the Agent, Burma Railways, did not think it constitutional to abolish the mileage allowance of his Travelling Ticket Collector and so the Travelling Ticket Collectors on Burma Railways continue to draw mileage allowance till now?

(f) Is it a fact that the Railway Board have now taken the lead and interfered with the competence of the Agent, Burma Railways by ordering that the mileage allowance should not be paid to the Travelling Ticket Collectors on that Railway as well?

(g) Is the interference by the Railway Board likely to entail 75 per cent. reduction in the emoluments of the Travelling Ticket Collectors on Burma Railways?

(h) Is it a fact that there will be 75 per cent. reduction in respect of leave salary, provident fund deduction and retiring gratuity of the Travelling Ticket Collectors on Burma Railways?

(i) Has the interference by the Railway Board with the competence of the Agent, Burma Railways been approved of by the Governor General in Council?

(j) Have Government kept in view Fundamental Rule 15 under which the pay of an employee cannot be reduced because mileage allowance to the extent of 75 per cent., is treated as pay under Fundamental Rule 9 (21) (a) (iii)?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes, but this did not imply that Government are not entitled to issue instructions in any case.

(b) and (c). Yes.

(d) to (f). On the Burma Railways mileage allowance was paid to Travelling Ticket Inspectors on some Districts in order to obtain uniformity on all State-managed Railways. The Railway Board have asked the Agent to stop this practice.

(g) No.

(h) No. The reduction is much less than 75 per cent.

(i) Yes.

(j) Mileage allowance is not pay within the meaning of the Fundamental Rules.

LOCOMOTIVES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

1445. *Mr. Sham Lal: (a) Is it a fact that locomotives on State Railways are used under pooling system?

(b) Is it a fact that the locomotive pooling system was twice tried on the North Western Railway? If so, with what result?

(c) Is it a fact that before the introduction of the pooling system the Engine Drivers were required to look after the engine and to keep it in good running orders? If not, will Government please state:

(i) the average cost of maintenance on an engine before the pooling system;

(ii) the average cost of maintenance on an engine during the pooling system; and

(iii) the reasons for the difference between the costs as referred to in sub-parts (i) and (ii)?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Only certain locomotives working particular services are at present pooled. The scheme is being gradually extended.

(b) Yes. The results were not satisfactory at the time due to lack of servicing facilities in the sheds. These are now being provided.

(c) (i), (ii) and (iii). Statistics of the cost of engine maintenance under the individual driver system and the pooling system are not available but Government have no reason to think there is any material difference between the two.

ARREST AND CONVICTION OF FOUR PERSONS DAILY FOUND TRAVELLING WITHOUT TICKETS AT JUBBULPORE.

1446. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that of late a new practice of arresting and convicting four persons found travelling without ticket is started in Jubbulpore?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state under whose order these arrests and prosecutions are made?

(c) Is it a fact that the number of the men who are daily arrested and prosecuted by the Railway authorities at Jubbulpore is only four? If so, why?

(d) Is there any man appointed and authorised by the Railway station, Jubbulpore, to pick up four daily and let others go scot free?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) to (d). I would refer my Honourable friend to sections 112, 113 and 132 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890, under which a person found travelling without a ticket may, in certain circumstances, be arrested. Government have no information as regards the practice at Jubbulpore but have called for information from the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Does the Honourable Member know that, in spite of this rule, they are invariably arrested?

Mr. P. R. Rau: In spite of what rule?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member said that there are certain special circumstances in which he can be arrested. I say that it is not in special circumstances only, but they do it invariably. Does the Honourable Member know that?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No, Sir; I should think it most unlikely. If they are arrested unjustly, I have no doubt the Courts will give them the necessary redress.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Courts only come in afterwards, but, before that, they are handed over to the police and arrested. That is not the stage where the Courts come in. Will the Honourable Member inquire into it and give some relief, as this is very hard upon the people?

Mr. P. R. Rau: If my Honourable friend will give me specific instances in support of his allegation, I will take the necessary steps.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member will find many instances from the station staff, and I do not think I can go about collecting that information. Will the Honourable Member, therefore, make an investigation into this matter?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Does my Honourable friend expect me to advertise in the papers asking for complaints?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether he has not got station masters under him? The station masters will say that they have actually been getting them arrested. Will the Honourable Member inquire?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No, Sir; not unless I get some specific instances confirming the allegations made.

Seth Govind Das: When will the Honourable Member be able to tell us whether it is a fact or not that four persons are being arrested in Jubbulpore every day in this connection? Is it not a scandalous thing that four persons should be arrested, neither more nor less?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have called for the information from the Agent of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, and, as soon as I get it, I will lay it on the table.

Seth Govind Das: How long will the Honourable Member take to get it and let four people be arrested every day?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I cannot say how long it will take. The Agent must make inquiries from the Divisional Superintendent of the Jubbulpore Division or the station master concerned. I can only say that, as soon as I get it, I shall place it on the table.

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member think it proper that so long as he does not get the information, four persons should continue to be arrested every day?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I take it they are arrested under the Act. My Honourable friend's complaint seems to be that more persons are not arrested. Is that so?

Seth Govind Das: No, Sir; my complaint is that only four persons are arrested, and neither more nor less. It is a very strange thing which is happening there.

Mr. P. R. Rau: So far as I can see, my Honourable friend's complaint is that more persons should be arrested under the Act, and the number should not be limited to four.

Seth Govind Das: No, Sir; my complaint is that only four are arrested, neither more nor less.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has promised to find out.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if he is prepared to send these questions to the Agent of the North Western Railway and find out what happens there, in addition to Jubbulpore?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That really does not arise out of this question.

PROSECUTIONS LAUNCHED UNDER SECTION 112 OF THE INDIAN RAILWAYS ACT.

1447. ***Seth Govind Das:** Will Government kindly state the number of the prosecutions so far launched under section 112 of the Indian Railway Act and the amount of the fines imposed and recovered by the Court from the beginning of February 1934 to the end of February 1935?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The information for the period asked for is not readily available. During 1933-34, however, the number of prosecutions, under section 112 on Class I Railways, was 26,777. Convictions were secured in 13,245 cases and 3,425 cases were pending at the close of the year.

EXPENSES INCURRED ON MAINTENANCE OF PERSONS CONVICTED FOR TRAVELLING WITHOUT TICKETS.

1448. ***Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will Government please state whether the expenses incurred on the maintenance of the person convicted for travelling without ticket are borne by the Central or Provincial Governments or the Railway Department?

(b) If the expenses incurred on the maintenance of such prisoners are borne by the Provincial Government, are Government prepared to discontinue the practice of sending these men to jail?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) The question of maintenance only arises when the person so convicted fails to pay the fine imposed under section 112 or the amount due from him under section 113 of the Indian

Railways Act. If he is sent to jail in default of payment, the cost of his maintenance in jail is a charge on provincial revenues.

(b) No.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not unfair, when the railways are under the Government of India, that the Provincial Governments should bear the cost of keeping such convicts in their jails?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I agree there is a certain inequity in the situation. But the jails are under the Local Government. Therefore, the cost of maintenance of prisoners in the jails falls on the Local Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The Central Government could make a contribution?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: When I was a Member of a Local Government I did make some suggestion to that effect: as a Member of the Government of India, I am not sure that I would consider such a suggestion quite so favourably.

SHIFTING OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE F. I. SECTION OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE FROM ALLAHABAD TO JUBBULPORE.

1449. ***Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Headquarters of the F. I. Section of the Railway Mail Service have been shifted from Allahabad to Jubbulpore?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state the reasons for making this change, and also the savings which they have estimated in making this new arrangement?

(c) Will Government please state whether they are aware of the difficulties and the hardships of the members of the staff of the said section, which they are made to undergo on account of this change?

(d) Have Government received any representation from the staff of either section F.-2 or P.-17 of the Railway Mail Service regarding their grievances?

(e) If the answer to part (d) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what steps were taken to redress their grievances?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an alternative scheme, showing a net saving of about Rs. 5,000 per annum in the expenses of the Postal Department, was submitted by the aggrieved members of the P.-17 and F.-2 sections of the Railway Mail Service?

(g) If the answer to part (f) be in the affirmative, will Government please state how far these suggestions were brought into action?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) No.

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

(d) and (e). A representation was received from the staff of F-2 section but not from that of P-17 section. The representation was very carefully examined and it was found that there were no reasonable grounds for any complaint.

(f) and (g). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the statement laid on the table of this House on the 21st January, 1935, in reply to part (c) of starred question No. 350 put by Seth Liladhar Chowdhury on the 6th August, 1934.

ENQUIRY COMMITTEE SET UP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR. PASRICHA TO ENQUIRE INTO THE AFFAIRS OF THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

1450. ***Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will Government please state whether it is a fact that an enquiry committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Mr. Pasricha to enquire into the affairs of the Postal Department?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether the Committee has completed its work?

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative will Government be pleased to place on the table of the House the report of the Committee, and also state the amount incurred by Government on this Committee?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon's starred questions Nos. 1018 and 1020 on the 26th March, 1935. It is hoped that printed copies of the Report will be available shortly.

IMPERIAL MAILS (FOREIGN MAILS) RUN ON THURSDAYS AND FRIDAYS TO DIFFERENT PARTS OF INDIA FROM AND TO BOMBAY.

1451. ***Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will Government please state:

(i) the number of the Imperial Mails (Foreign Mails) which run on Thursdays and Fridays to different parts of India from and to Bombay;

(ii) the total amount spent annually in maintaining this special service;

(iii) the other part of the world where similar special service to convey the foreign mails is maintained;

(iv) the average number of the passengers carried by each train;

(v) the annual income derived from the fares of the passengers travelling by these special trains; and

(vi) the proportion of the expenses borne by the Railway and the Postal Departments?

(b) Are Government aware that the maintenance of the Imperial Mail Service is a costly affair to India and is proving hard to the tax-payer of the country? Will Government be pleased to state whether they are prepared to discontinue the running of these special trains?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the negative will Government please state their reasons for doing so?

(d) Have Government considered whether they cannot arrange the railway timings in such a way that the passengers bound for and landing from the continent may catch the trains or boats for their respective destinations without the least difficulty and loss of time?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Information has been called for and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not unfair that the tax-payers should pay this extra amount for running these mails, while, in other parts of the world, such a system does not exist?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I explained this position yesterday: the foreign mail which comes in requires at least three full bogie mail vans to be conveyed from Bombay to places up to and beyond Calcutta. We cannot possibly attach three bogie mail vans to any existing mail train. Therefore, we have to have one special train and we have joined with the railways in having a special train which conveys both passengers and mails. As I explained yesterday, there is not much extra expenditure involved in having this special train.

Seth Govind Das: How much expense does it involve? Will the Honourable Member inquire?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor. As I stated, that information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member.

RETRENCHED STAFF IN THE RAILWAY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

1452. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** With reference to my starred question No. 667, dated the 5th March, 1935, will Government please state the replies to parts (a), (d) and (g) of that question, in regard to retrenched staff in the Railway **Accounts Department?**

Mr. P. R. Rau: The replies, in so far as the Railway Department is concerned, are as follows:

(a) The reply is in the affirmative, subject to certain conditions. For details, I would refer my Honourable friend to Railway Board's letters No. 1635-E. G., dated the 30th December, 1932, and No. 807-E. G.-II, dated the 31st August, 1934, copies of which will be found in the Library of the House.

(d) and (g). Retrenched staff who are re-employed are really new entrants to service and the fact that certain concessions have been granted in the matter of pay, etc., does not necessarily involve the grant of further concessions in the matter of leave. The question will, however, be considered.

CONTRACTS OF MUHAMMADAN REFRESHMENT ROOMS AND TEA STALLS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1453. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Is it a fact that contracts of Muhammadan refreshment rooms and tea stalls on the North Western Railway are given to private persons and the Railway do not charge any fee from such contractors?

(b) Is it a fact that at certain important Railway stations, like Delhi, Ambala, and Saharanpore, these contracts are given year after year to the same contractors and that the same person has held the contract at Ambala and Saharanpore for the last 15 years?

(c) Is it a fact that applications for these contracts have been made by other persons who are willing to satisfy, in every way, the Railway authority concerned as to the fitness for the job?

(d) Is it a fact that amongst the applicants are members of families who rendered meritorious services to Government during the Sikh Wars and the Indian Mutiny?

(e) Are Government prepared to allow other equally deserving and competent persons to take their turn after intervals?

P. R. Rau: (a) Yes. There is no discrimination in this respect between Muhammadan and Hindu Refreshment Rooms and tea-stalls.

(b) The licenses given for vending do not specify the period for which they are available. The license is terminated if the licensee fails either to maintain the standard required by the Administration or to satisfy the public demand.

(c) Yes, applications are considered when vacancies arise.

(d) Possibly.

(e) The Agent does not consider it desirable to change the licensees periodically so long as they run the business satisfactorily.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it not a fact that the same contractor has been getting the contract for supplies every year during the last 15 years?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Is there any necessity to change the contractor when the service is satisfactory?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: My point is, do Government accept it as a policy that there should be a monopoly of receiving contracts for certain purposes?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No: it is not the policy of Government but I would remind my Honourable friend of the saying that you can go farther and fare worse. When a man is giving the required service quite satisfactorily, what is the use of changing him?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member aware that, in the East Indian Railway in the Dinapore and Mughalsarai Divisions, the old contractors have all been changed and the whole system of contract has been placed in the hands of two Hindus and two Muhammadans, and that that matter has been engaging the attention of the Honourable Member? In view of that fact, how does the Honourable Member defend this?

Mr. P. R. Rau: This question relates to the North Western Railway. I am aware that the change in the East Indian Railway is undergoing considerable criticism. As I have informed the House already, Government have called for reports from all railways on this point and will consider them as soon as the replies are all received.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know, in order to give satisfaction, why the Advisory Committees are not consulted in giving these contracts in order to remove disputes?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I replied to that question some days ago.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Why it is not being done?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The answer is that the reply has already been given.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: In that reply, the Honourable Member never gave the reason as to why they should not be consulted.

Mr. P. R. Rau: I explained in reply to a supplementary question of the Honourable Member that these Advisory Committees are advisory and not executive.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member take advise at least from these Advisory Committees?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Yes, but not with regard to purely executive matters like the selection of contractors from among a particular group of tenderers.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do I understand that these matters never go to the Central Advisory Council?

Mr. P. R. Rau: As I told the House, the general question will be placed before the Central Advisory Council in some form or other.

CONTRACTS FOR MESSING, TAILORING AND SUPPLIES OF BOOTS, SHOES, ETC., IN THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY AND PRINCE OF WALES' COLLEGE, DEHRA DUN.

1454. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Is it a fact that contracts for messing, tailoring, and supplies of boots, shoes, etc., in the Indian Military Academy and Prince of Wales' College, Dehra Dun, are given to private persons without any tenders being invited for such contracts?

(b) Are Government aware that rates charged for such contracts from gentlemen cadets at these institutions for such necessaries as blazors, neckties, boots, shoes, etc., have been much higher than the ordinary market rates prevalent at Dehra Dun?

(c) Is it a fact that messing at these institutions was under the supervision of the Principal of the Military College from the year 1925 to 1932?

(d) Is it a fact that the annual messing charge of the year 1934, paid to the present contractors, appreciably differs from the above charges of the years 1925—32? If so, is the charge of 1934 higher or lower?

(e) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the rates charged by the contractors for articles mentioned in part (b) of this question, and also a statement of the annual messing charges for the years 1925 to 1932 and 1934?

(f) Is it a fact that applications for these contracts have been made by the descendants of some contractors who were on the list in 1857 and who supplied rations, etc., to Government in those troublesome times under very trying conditions?

(g) Are Government prepared to effect any change in the system of contracts and supplies for these institutions by open competition?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) The contracts at the Prince of Wales' College were put out to tender. When the Indian Military Academy was opened in 1932 in the buildings previously belonging to the Railway Staff College, it was decided that it would be in the interests of all concerned to continue to employ the contractor who served that College.

(b) No.

(c) Yes, at the Prince of Wales' College. The Indian Military Academy only opened in October, 1932.

(d) Messing charges at the Prince of Wales' College during the years 1925 to 1932 varied from Rs. 2 per diem per cadet to Rs. 1-11-0. In 1934, the rate was Rs. 1-12-0.

(e) I lay a statement on the table.

(f) There was one such applicant for the Indian Military Academy contract.

(g) Government are continually watching the interests of the students and if they find they can improve upon the present system they will certainly do so.

Rates charged by contractors for articles mentioned in (b) of starred question No. 1454.

	Indian Military Academy.	Prince of Wales' College.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Blazers	55 0 0	26 8 0
Neckties	5 12 0	1 6 0
Neckties, khaki	1 0 0	0 4 6
Mess shoes (complete with trees)	8 0 0	..
Shoes, brown	..	7 0 0
Shoes, indoor	..	3 6 0
Boots	(a)	..

(a) Obtained from Indian Army Ordnance Corps at stock book rates.

Statement of annual messing charges at the Prince of Wales' College for years 1925—32 and 1934.

Year.	Maximum number of cadets.	Total amount.	Amount per cadet p. a. (approx.)
		Rs.	
1925	70	35,162	500
1926	77	37,914	490
1927	84	40,018	480
1928	91	43,294	480
1930	99	46,228	470
1931	108	45,077	420
1932	115	47,137	410
1934	121	43,324	360
	130	53,264	410

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government be pleased to take the initiative in organising a co-operative store for the supply of these services to the students?

Mr. Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do Government consider it desirable to adopt the policy of giving every body a fair chance in these matters? If not, why?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: That seems to me to be a very admirable sentiment.

Mr. Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is that a question of sentiment only?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I said that seems to be an admirable sentiment?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do Government propose to respect the sentiment?

CLERKS AND POSTMEN APPOINTED IN CALCUTTA DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

1455. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of clerks and postmen appointed in Calcutta during the last five years?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many of the clerks and postmen, separately, were inhabitants of Calcutta, Burdwan, or Presidency Divisions, and how many of them came from outside those areas?

(c) Will Government please state under what authority people working outside the above area were taken in Calcutta?

(d) Is it a fact that there is an order of the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, to that effect?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) and (b). Government have no information and do not propose to collect it as to do so would involve an undue amount of labour and expense.

(c) and (d). I lay on the table copies of the relevant orders.

Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department.

Director-General's General Circular No. 43.

Monday, 23rd January, 1933.

Local recruitment for subordinate services in the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

It is hereby ordered that the instructions contained in Part I of the Director-General's (Post Office) Circular No. 29, dated the 2nd September 1926 (reproduced below) regarding local recruitment for subordinate postal services should apply to recruitment for subordinate services in all the branches of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. The instructions should, however, be considered as laying down a general principle for observance and may be departed from at the discretion of the Head of a Circle if local conditions make this necessary, but in no case should a candidate be recruited in a Circle, who has not his domicile in that Circle.

[Es. B. 1B-61/32.]

T. RYAN,

Offg. *Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.*

Extract (Part I) from the Director-General's (Post Office) Circular No. 29, dated the 2nd September, 1926.

Local recruitment for subordinate postal appointments.

On the recommendation of the Postal Conference of 1926 it has been decided by the Director-General that with effect from the 1st September 1926 future candidates joining the subordinate postal service must belong to the Revenue Division in which they enlist. In the cases of cities like Bombay and Calcutta candidates belonging to the adjacent Revenue Divisions will also be eligible for appointment in such cities.

2. Any exception to the instruction given in paragraph 1 above must be referred to the Head of the Circle—Postal or Railway Mail Service—for orders.

Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department.

Director-General's General Circular No. 12.

Wednesday, 16th August, 1933.

Local recruitment for subordinate services in the entire Posts and Telegraphs Department.

It was decided by the Director-General in 1926 that candidates joining the subordinate postal service must as a rule belong to the Revenue Division in which they enlist. It was, however, decided shortly afterwards that the expression 'subordinate postal service' included the 'clerical cadre' only.

2. In the Director-General's General Circular No. 43, dated 23rd January, 1933, the orders that recruits for the subordinate services must as a rule belong to the revenue division which had been confined to the Postal branch only were extended and made applicable to all the branches of the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

3. The Director-General now desires to make it clear that the expression 'subordinate services' used in this connexion is intended to include not only the 'clerical cadre' but all the *subordinate services* in the various branches of the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

[Es. B. 2-139/33.]

T. RYAN,

Offg. Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS TO THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL, BENGAL AND ASSAM CIRCLE, No. Es. B. 20-4/34, DATED NEW DELHI, THE 23RD MARCH, 1934.

SUBJECT :—*Local recruitment for subordinate services in Circle Offices.*

With reference to your letter No. S.-7, dated the 13th February, 1934, enquiring whether a Circle Office should be free to recruit its candidates from any revenue division within the Circle, I am directed to say that the reply is in the affirmative.

Copy forwarded to other Postmasters-General and the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Sind and Baluchistan Circle, Karachi.

MEMORANDUM FROM THE SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, No. Es. B. 214-1/33, DATED NEW DELHI, THE 31ST OCTOBER, 1933.

SUBJECT :—*Local recruitment to subordinate services in the Posts and Telegraphs Department.*

The Director-General desires that the discretion vested in Heads of Circles in Part II of his General Circular No. 43, dated the 23rd January, 1933, should be exercised by them with considerable liberality in the case of applications for employment in the Department from dependants of departmental officials in the same place in which the officials themselves are or were employed. For example, dependants of officials employed in cities like Bombay and Calcutta may be freely appointed in such cities even if they belong to remote revenue divisions within the circle subject, of course, to the conditions of rule 14 of the Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volume IV.

To

All Postmasters-General,
The Director of Posts and Telegraphs, S. & B. Circle,
The Director of Wireless,
The Electrical Engineer-in-Chief, Alipore,
The Controller of Telegraph Stores, Alipore,
The Superintendent of Telegraph Workshops, Alipore,
The Accounts Officer, Telephone Revenue, Stores and Workshops, Alipore,
The Superintendent, Postal Seals, Aligarh.

DEMI-OFFICIAL LETTER FROM MR. G. V. BEWOOR TO RAI BAHADUR P. N. MUKERJI, C.B.E., POSTMASTER-GENERAL, CALCUTTA, No. Es. B. 20-4/34/COLL. 2, DATED NEW DELHI, THE 17TH DECEMBER, 1934.

Will you please refer to the correspondence ending with your demi-official letter No. S./7, dated the 26th November, 1934.

I agree with you that the Rajshahi and Dacca Divisions should never have been recognised as adjacent divisions so far as Calcutta is concerned. The orders passed by your predecessor on the 14th October, 1933, should, therefore, be rvised by you and in future recruitment to the subordinate service to post and telegraph offices in Calcutta, with the exception of the Circle Office, should be confined to residents of the Presidency Division and Burdwan Division.

Mr. Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Can the Honourable Member give us an idea of the amount of labour and expense involved in this matter? We find recently to almost every important question we ask this stereotype reply is given.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: May I ask the Honourable Member to read his own question again? He asks "Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of clerks and postmen appointed in Calcutta during the last five years"?

Mr. Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do Government maintain any statistics for that? Don't they have any list?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: No, Sir. He further asks how many of the clerks and postmen, separately, were inhabitants of Calcutta, Burdwan or Presidency Divisions, and how many of them came from outside those areas? I submit, Sir, that the collection of this information from old cases, of looking up the domicile of every individual, would involve a very great deal of labour.

UNIFORM SUPPLIED TO THE POSTMEN OF THE BENGAL AND ASSAM POSTAL CIRCLE.

1456. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Is it a fact that the uniform supplied to the postmen of the Bengal and Assam Circle is not the proper dress of the Bengalis?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether one pattern of uniform is supplied to the postmen of all provinces, or there is difference?

(c) Is it a fact that some years ago, probably in the year 1927, Government proposed to reconsider the mode of supply of uniform of the postmen and other inferior staff of the Post Offices?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the negative, are Government prepared to reconsider the question now? If not, why not?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) and (b). Government are not in a position to say what exactly is the proper dress of the Bengalis. The uniform prescribed for postmen consists of a headdress, a shirt or tunic, a pair of shorts, knickers or trousers and a pair of cotton putties. The Postmaster-General has a certain amount of discretion to vary the individual items in order to comply so far as possible with local tastes or prejudices.

(c) Yes. The question was fully considered and suitable orders were issued.

(d) Does not arise.

Mr. Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do I understand the Honourable Member to say that it is so very difficult for any Government to know the manners and dress of a particular class of people whom that Government governs?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: May I say, Sir, that we have only to look round the Bengali Members who come from that Province in this House, and you will find it very difficult to decide what is the proper dress for Bengalis.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if all this dress is of Indian manufacture, that is Swadeshi?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Yes, Sir.

DELIVERY AND COLLECTION OF LETTERS.

1457. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that according to section 4 of the Post Office Act, exclusive privilege of conveying letters is reserved to the Governor General in Council?

(b) Are Government aware that in spite of this, the Railways, several Provincial Governments and merchants have made their own arrangement to convey letters?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the negative, are Government prepared to undertake a thorough enquiry into the matter to ascertain whether the fact is true or not?

(d) Is it a fact that on each railway, letters issued by the Divisional, District, or other offices, are conveyed by trains and delivered at every railway station by their own men, who also collect letters for the offices from the Stations?

(e) Is it also a fact that the Government of Bengal have opened a central despatching office in Calcutta, from where all letters intended for delivery in Calcutta are delivered through servants, and letters issued by the District Officers or Judges intended for delivery in Calcutta are also forwarded to the central despatching office, wherefrom they are delivered in the same way?

(f) Are Government aware that many big merchants separately, or small traders jointly, engage servants to collect and deliver letters to their constituencies within the town?

(g) Are Government prepared to allow other private bodies to make their own arrangements to deliver or collect letters in this way? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Under section 4 of the Post Office Act, wherever within British India, posts or postal communications are established by the Governor General in Council, the Governor General in Council has the exclusive privilege of conveying by post, from one place to another, all letters and postcards and also the exclusive privilege of performing all the incidental services of receiving, collecting, sending, despatching and delivering all letters and postcards with certain stated exceptions.

(b) Certain instances of unauthorised arrangements for the collection, conveyance and distribution of letters by Local Governments and Administrations came to the notice of Government and orders have been issued for the discontinuance of such arrangements. No instances of merchants having made such arrangements have recently come to the notice of Government. As regards Railways, the Honourable Member is referred to the reply to part (d).

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes; this matter is now under consideration.

(e) Yes, but the Government of Bengal have already issued orders that these arrangements should be discontinued.

(f) Government have no information

(g) No. On the contrary, Government will take suitable action whenever evidence is forthcoming, in order to protect its postal revenues. It is essential to a flat-rate postal system, especially in such a large country as India, that the Post Office should secure all the revenues to which it is legally entitled from remunerative forms of traffic in order to cover its losses on unremunerative forms.

CAUSE OF INCREASE UNDER THE HEAD "PAYMENTS TO AIR MAIL CARRIERS" IN THE BUDGET.

1458. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the cause of increase from Rs. 2,54,000 to Rs. 5,82,000, under the head Payments to Air Mail Carriers in the Budget for the year 1935-36 (Demand No. 23)?

(b) Did Government invite competitive tenders for carrying mails?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) The increase in the amount budgeted for 1935-36 under the head "payments to air mail carriers" (Demand No. 23) is due to the following reasons:

(i) Introduction of the Lahore-Karachi air mail service with effect from the 4th December, 1934.

(ii) Utilisation of the Singapore-Australia air mail service for the despatch of air mail articles from India to Australia with effect from the middle of December, 1934, and

(iii) Duplication of the following internal air mail services in India from January, 1935:

(1) Lahore-Karachi.

(2) Karachi-Madras.

(3) Karachi-Calcutta.

(iv) Natural growth of air mail traffic.

(b) No.

INCREASE OF THE NUMBER OF TELEGRAPH MASTERS.

1459. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that during the coming year Government contemplate increasing the number of Telegraph Masters from 227 to 257?

(b) Is it a fact that for this purpose they have made a provision in the Budget under the head Telegraph Traffic Branch (in Demand No. 23)?

(c) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the cause of the increase?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) No. The number of Telegraph Masters actually employed varies from year to year according to the volume of traffic and is based on a prescribed formula. There is no intention to increase the number of Telegraph Masters unless it is justified according to the accepted standard. The staff sanctioned for 1934-35 was 255. The figure of 227 shown in the budget estimates for 1934-35 had subsequently to be revised in the formal sanction owing to an omission to take certain posts into account. The provision of funds required was, however, made correctly.

(b) and (c). In view of the reply to part (a), the questions do not arise.

ATTENDANCE HOURS OF COUNTER CLERKS OF THE BARA BAZAR POST OFFICE, CALCUTTA.

1460. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Is it a fact that some of the counter clerks of the Bara Bazar Post Office (Calcutta) are required to attend office at 9-30 A.M.?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state when these clerks get leave to go home and when they get leave for their tiffin?

(c) Is it a fact that the clerks working in the Post Office counters cannot leave the counter unless and until the mails are closed?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state when the last mails are closed in that office?

(e) Is it a fact that an order has been issued to the effect that counters will be kept open after the scheduled closing hours to receive articles from the public who will bring articles to the Post Office up to the closing hour?

(f) What is the latest hour of posting of articles of the Barabazar Post Office, and up to what hour the counters are actually kept open?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes.

(b) The hours of duty of these clerks are from 9-30 A.M. to 5-30 P.M. with an interval of half an hour for tiffin.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, but only for those persons who are actually waiting at the counter from before the scheduled closing time.

(f) The latest hour of posting for unregistered articles is 6-15 P.M. The counters are open up to the following hours:

Registration and Parcel	4-30 p. m. on weekdays and 3 p. m. on Saturdays.
Money Orders and Savings Bank	3 p. m. on weekdays and 1 p. m. on Saturdays.
Telegraph Money Orders	6 p. m. on all weekdays including Saturdays.

Subject generally to the conditions referred to in my reply to part (e) above.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF THE INDIAN STAFF IN THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

1461. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that most of the Indians who have been appointed by the late and the present High Commissioners for India, Sir A. C. Chatterjee and Sir B. N. Mitra, in the various offices under the control of the High Commissioner for India, are Bengali Hindus;

(b) the number of Indians appointed by these two gentlemen, and how many of them are Bengali Hindus;

(c) how many of these Indians are Muslims; and

(d) how many appointments have been made by the present High Commissioner for India since the issue of the Government of India Resolution, dated the 4th July, 1934, fixing a certain percentage of all appointments for the Muslim community, and how many of them have been filled by Muslims and Hindus?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: Information is being collected and will be furnished to the House in due course.

COMMUNAL COMPOISTION OF THE INDIAN STAFF IN THE SECRETARIAT OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

1462. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Will Government please state:

(a) the number of Indians appointed in the Secretariat of the League of Nations since the time Sir A. C. Chatterjee took charge of the office of the High Commissioner for India;

(b) how many of these Indians are Bengali Hindus; and

(c) whether there are any Muslims in the League of Nations Secretariat, and if so, what is their number?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) The number is nine. The High Commissioner is not the appointing authority and the significance of the Honourable Member's reference to Sir A. C. Chatterjee is not understood.

(b) The Government of India have no official information, but from the names of the persons in question, some of whom are no longer employed in the League Secretariat, it would appear that they included three Bengali Hindus.

(c) The Government of India have no official information, but from the names of the six Indians now in permanent service in the League Secretariat, including the International Labour Office, it would appear that none of them are Muslims.

RELATIONSHIP WITH SIR ATUL CHATTERJEE AND SIR BHUPENDRA MITRA OF THE STAFF OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA AND IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS SECRETARIAT.

1463. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Will Government please state the number of persons related to Sir A. C. Chatterjee and Sir B. N. Mitra who are employed in various capacities in the different offices under the control of the High Commissioner for India and in the League of Nations Secretariat?

(b) If the information asked for in part (a) above be not readily available, are Government prepared to make an inquiry into the matter and let this House know the result in due course?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) The Government of India have no information.

(b) No, Sir.

WIRELESS LICENCES ISSUED IN THE YEAR 1934-35.

1464. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** Will Government be pleased to state how many wireless licences were issued in the year 1934-35, and what amount was credited to the post office for the work?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: As the figures for the financial year 1934-35 are not yet available, it is not possible to supply the information required by the Honourable Member. I may, however, inform him that during the calendar year 1934, approximately 17,280 wireless licences of all kinds were issued and a sum of Rs. 23,344 will accrue to the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

PROVISION IN THE BUDGET UNDER THE HEAD "CAPITAL OUTLAY" AS "ARMY MOBILISATION STORES".

1465. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reason for provision of Rs. 20,01,033 in the Budget (page 113) under the head Capital Outlay as 'Army Mobilisation Stores'?

(b) Will Government please also state whether the military department pay the amount, or the amount is paid by the Posts and Telegraphs Department?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) and (b). The amount of Rs. 20,01,033 represents the value of Stores held in stock at the end of 1934-35 by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department on behalf of the Army Department. The cost of these stores is recovered from the Army Department when they are issued to that Department. The Army Department pays to Posts and Telegraphs Department every year all the incidental expenditure incurred in the custody and maintenance of this stock. The latter Department does not, therefore, bear any expense on this account. I may add that the amount of Rs. 20,01,033 does not represent any expenditure proposed to be incurred or recoveries contemplated during 1935-36 and the question of payment either to or by the Posts and Telegraphs Department does not, therefore, arise. The Honourable Member will observe that at page 117 of the Budget the same figure is repeated as the closing balance for 1935-36.

ABNORMAL INCREASE IN THE COST OF PURCHASE OF STORES IN INDIA.

1466. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what is the cause of the abnormal increase in the cost of purchase of stores in India according to provision of Rs. 43,68,000 against Rs. 18,86,042 under the head Capital Outlay on page 113 of the Budget?

(b) What kind of stores will be purchased?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) The increase in the provision under "Purchase" for 1935-36 over that for 1933-34 is due partly to the heavier programme of works for the development of telephone systems and partly to the fact that in the year 1933-34 the demands were met to a certain extent from existing stocks and not by purchase.

(b) The main classes of stores to be purchased are:

(i) Materials for the manufacture of posts, masts and fittings, *e.g.*, iron sheets, pig iron, etc.

(ii) Wires, insulator and cables.

(iii) Telegraph, Telephone and Radio apparatus and Power Plant.

(iv) Batteries and wiring materials.

TELEGRAPH ENGINEERING BRANCH.

1467. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what are the duties of the following officers:

(i) the Financial Advisor;

(ii) the Deputy Director General, Finance; and

(iii) the Director, Telegraph Engineering?

(b) Who looks into the working of the Telegraph Engineering Branch in the Bihar and Orissa and the Central Circles?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state how many Divisional and Sub-Divisional Engineers are in the Telegraph Engineering Branch, and what are their duties?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) (i) and (ii). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to his starred question No. 277 on the 26th February, 1934.

(iii) Directors of Telegraph Engineering, whose present designation is Directors of Telegraphs, are officers working under the Postmaster-General of the larger Circles and are in charge of all telegraph work in the Circle both engineering and traffic.

(b) The Postmasters General of the Circles with the assistance of the Divisional Engineer, Telegraphs, Patna, and Nagpur, respectively.

(c) There are 19 Divisional Engineers and 59 Sub-Divisional Officers As regards their duties, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given on the 26th February, 1934, to part (c) of his question No. 281.

POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES MAINTAINED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES.

1468. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the Posts and Telegraph Offices which are maintained for military purposes?

(b) Will Government please state whether the military or political department make any contribution to compensate the loss on running those Posts and Telegraph Offices?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) and (b). Information has been called for and a reply will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

EUROPEAN OFFICERS OF THE FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT SERVING IN INDIAN STATES.

1469. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the number of European officers who are now serving in the Indian States and who belong to the Foreign and Political Department of the Government of India;

(b) the number of European officers, so serving, who have retired from service in the Foreign and Political Department; and

(c) the increase in the number of such European officers from 1929?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: (a) Seven.

(b) Six.

(c) As compared with the figures of April there is a decrease of one in the number of serving European officers of the Political Department now employed in Indian States and an increase of four in the number of retired officers of the same kind so employed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the reason for the increase in the latter class?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: Presumably because the States concerned asked for their services.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are these retired officers expected to take the consent of the Foreign and Political Department, before they accept such appointments or can they accept such posts without the consent or approval of the Foreign and Political Department?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: The position is that they have to obtain sanction, I think, of the Governor General before they accept these appointments.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the average age of these European officers, who have retired, and who are now in the service of Indian States? Are they superannuated, and are, therefore, employed in Indian States, or are they within any reasonable age?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: It depends on what you consider a reasonable age. They mostly retire at the age of 55.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: They won't be eligible, I take it, for employment in British service.

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: That would depend on the class of service.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In the particular services, in which they were employed before?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: No, the ordinary rule is that military officers of the Political Department retire at the age of 55.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is the advice of the Foreign and Political Department taken before consent is given to the employment of these superannuated men in the Indian States?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: I have already said, Sir, that it is taken.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And do Government consider the advisability, Sir, of employing aged men for this important work? Have they refused consent in any case, or it is given in every case they are asked, and if so, why?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: I could not answer that question without notice. There must be many cases, and some of them may have been refused, but I cannot say without notice.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do Indian States always act in this matter, without reference to the Foreign and Political Department, or are they advised by the Political Department to ask for European officers?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: I have already said the Department do not advise the States; the States act entirely on their own in these matters.

Mr. S. Satyamuri: What is the reason, then, Sir, for the preference for European officers, resulting in the increase of 4?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: Presumably because the Indian States prefer to ask for them.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Does the Political Department encourage the employment of European officers in Indian States?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: I am not aware that any encouragement is needed.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that confidentially some influence is brought to bear on the Indian States . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. Next question, please.

SUBJECTS OF INDIAN STATES AGAINST WHOM PROCEEDINGS HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS UNDER THE FOREIGNERS' ACT.

1470. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who are subjects of Indian States, against whom proceedings have been taken by the Local Governments under the Foreigner's Act during the last five years;

(b) the number of those who were convicted in connection with the civil disobedience movement; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to withdraw or modify those orders?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Bombay Government have used the Foreigners' Act to deport certain subjects of Indian States who were convicted of offences during the Civil Disobedience Movement. The number of such orders in force in the Bombay Presidency is 233. I understand that the policy of the Bombay Government is to consider on their merits applications from such persons for permission to return to British India and generally to deal favourably with such applications if it appears that those concerned have long been resident in British India or have a means of livelihood there.

I have no information regarding the use of the Act against subjects of Indian States by other Local Governments during the last five years but if the Honourable Member so desires I will call for it.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is it a fact that Mr. Manilal Kothari, a resident of British India for many years, applied for permission to return to British India, who had been externed under this Act, and that the permission was refused, and, if so, why?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: My information is that Mr. Manilal Kothari has not applied for permission to return to British India.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How many persons have applied for permission to return to British India, how many have been permitted, and how many have been refused?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have no information on that point, but I know that some have been permitted to return.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there any change of policy, in view of the suspension of the Civil Disobedience Movement, in respect of this matter, that is to say, a change of policy in regard to those who were externed because of their participation in the Civil Disobedience Movement?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have said that the policy of the Local Government is to consider favourably such applications if the people who apply for permission have long been resident in British India.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How does it happen that there are 233 yet left,—I think that is the figure that the Home Member mentioned if I am right—how does it happen that, in spite of the favourable attitude of the Bombay Government, there are as many as 233 yet left, against whom such orders are subsisting?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I suppose because people have not put in applications for permission to return.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it that the Honourable the Home Member will call for information from other Local Governments in respect of this important matter?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes. I said I will do so if the Honourable Member desires.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Yes, I do desire.

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member consider favourably the application of Mr. Manilal Kothari if he puts in one?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That is a matter for the Government of Bombay.

NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MARITIME STATES OF KATHIAWAR, COCHIN AND TRAVANCORE IN RESPECT OF SEA CUSTOMS.

1471. *Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to Sir Samuel Hoare's answer to Mr. P. W. Donner's question in the House of Commons on the 8th of March, 1935, that discussions are taking place with the Maritime States of Kathiawar, Cochin and Travancore in respect of Sea Customs;

(b) whether the Government of India are taking part in those negotiations; and

(c) whether attempts are being made to protect the interests of British India in those negotiations?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India are conducting these negotiations

(c) Yes.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the attempts being made to protect the interests of British India in these negotiations?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The best attempts we can.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be good enough to consider whether he will take the assistance of this House in this matter?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I do not think that will be practicable.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is it because he considers that we shall be of no value at all?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No.

DEFENCE OF BURMA.

1472. *Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to Sir Samuel Hoare's answer, in the House of Commons, to Mr. A. E. G. Fuller

on the 8th March, 1935, that the question of the Defence of Burma is being discussed on materials supplied by the authorities of Burma and India supplemented by consultation with officers having first class experience of local conditions;

(b) whether the Government of India have been consulted in the course of the discussions and who are the officers being consulted; and

(c) what are the materials which have been supplied by the authorities in Burma and India?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a), (b) and (c). The Secretary of State was no doubt referring to the report of a Committee which was appointed by the Government of Burma to examine the question of the defence of Burma after separation. The Government of India have expressed their views on this report after consulting the Military Authorities at Army Headquarters, but both the report itself and their views on it are confidential.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I ask for a definite answer with regard to clauses (b) and (c) of the question? Who are the officers being consulted?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Officers of the General Staff Branch at Army Headquarters.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With regard to (c), what are the materials which have been supplied?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I take it that the materials are those contained in this report of the Committee appointed by the Burma Government.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Which is confidential?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Yes.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if the financial implications of this subject have been considered by the Government, and pressed on the Secretary of State?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: No doubt the financial implications have been considered along with all the other implications.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will a decision be made in this matter, without reference to this House?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I do not quite understand the Honourable Member's point.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am asking whether the ultimate decision with regard to the allocation of the responsibility, financial and otherwise, for the defence of Burma after separation from India, will be made without reference to this House.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I do not think the question of the defence of Burma has, as such, anything to do with this House. But I would certainly require notice of that question before I could give a definite reply.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it, therefore, that India after separation will be entirely free from any responsibility, financial or otherwise, for the defence of Burma?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I cannot possibly answer that question now.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know, then, why the Honourable Member said just now that it has nothing to do with this House? If I have to pay the piper, I have a right to call the tune, according to my Honourable friend, Mr. P. R. Rau.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

CONSTITUTION OF RAILWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

1473. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) when the policy for the constituting of Railway Advisory Committees was formulated;

(ii) what are all the interests proposed to be represented on such committees;

(iii) whether there are any committees on which Railway Passengers' Associations or Peasants Associations, or those expected to represent either passengers or peasants or both, are represented;

(iv) whether it is not a fact that on the Committee for the South Indian Railway, representative of Passengers' Associations and on that for the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, a representative of Peasants, are now provided places; and

(v) whether Government are prepared to reconsider their policy of constituting the Railway Advisory Committees, so as to make place for the representatives of agriculturists and passengers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (i) The formation of Railway Advisory Committees was recommended by the Acworth Committee, and the general principles for the constitution and working of these Committees were settled after consultation with the Central Advisory Council for Railways in 1922.

(ii) These Committees are generally constituted as follows, the Agent, being the *ex-officio* Chairman:

2 members nominated by the Local Government,

3 representatives of the Legislative Council to represent rural interests and the travelling public,

1 representative of the local Municipality,

5 members representing industries, commerce and trade.

(iii) and (iv). I understand that on the Madras Committee of the Madras and Southern Maharatta Railway and the South Indian Railway's

Committee, there is a representative of a Passengers Association, but I am not aware that the Madras and Southern Maharatta Railway have a representative of peasants on their Committee.

(v) Government have no reason to think that the existing instructions for the constitution of these Committees do not ensure that the interests of agriculturists and passengers generally are adequately represented, but will take an early opportunity of discussing the question generally with the Central Advisory Council for Railways again.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are there any representatives at all of peasants on these Committees?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have said that I am not aware that the M. and S. M. Railway Committee have a representative of peasants on the Committee.

QUALIFICATIONS LAID DOWN FOR FILLING THE POSTS OF FLOOD-LIGHT OPERATORS.

1474. ***Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) what are the qualifications laid down for filling the posts of flood-light operators;

(b) the number of vacancies filled during the course of the past twelve months;

(c) the qualifications of the candidates selected at the last two selections;

(d) whether the candidates taken possessed the requisite qualifications as prescribed by the rules;

(e) whether the last two selections were from men who had undergone training in the Karachi Aerodrome;

(f) whether better qualified candidates were available or not;

(g) who is the appointing authority and what procedure is laid down for filling these posts; and

(h) whether any selection board is formed to fill these vacancies or not, and whether the Director of Civil Aviation is on this Board?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Candidates for the posts of Flood-light Operator are required to have served an apprenticeship in automobile and electrical engineering, and to have had further practical experience in the maintenance of automobile engines and electrical generators. They are also required to be men of intelligence with a good knowledge of English.

(b) Three vacancies were filled during the course of the past 12 months —one of Flood-light Operator and two of Flood-light Operator Trainees.

(c) A statement showing the qualifications of the three candidates selected on the last two occasions is laid on the table.

(d) Yes.

(e) No.

(f) No.

(g) The Director of Civil Aviation in India is the appointing authority. Applications are normally invited through the medium of newspapers. If, however, a large number of suitably qualified candidates is available the vacancy is not advertised.

(h) There is no formally constituted Selection Board but in connection with the recruitment of the two Flood-light Operator Trainees the selection was made on the instructions of the Director of Civil Aviation by the Chief Aerodrome Officer and Engineer Officer on the staff of the Director of Civil Aviation in India.

Statement.

Name of applicant.	Qualifications.	Experience.
Mr. A. M. Baptist, Floodlight Operator, (appointed with effect from 1st June 1934).		(1) Worked as Apprentice Fitter with B. R. Herman and Mohatta, Ltd. Karachi, for about 5 years. (2) Worked as fitter mistry with Messrs. Babcock and Wilcock for a period of 9 months. (3) Worked as Head Mechanic at Royal Airship Base, Drigh Road, Karachi, for about 4 years.
Mr. Hem Singh, Floodlight Operator Trainee (appointed from 1st March, 1935).	Passed the course of Practical Electrician from the Service Electrical Engineering College, Rawalpindi, in February 1933. Holds certificate of competency Class II in Electrical Wiring (1934).	(1) Worked in Tata Iron and Steel Co Ltd., Jamshedpur and Tin Plate Co. of India Ltd., Tatanagar, for about 3 years. (2) Attended evening classes at Jamshedpur Technical School. (3) Worked in Sind Electrical Co. and Eastern Electricity Trading Co., Karachi, as Electrician for about 3 years.
Mr. M. J. Merchant, Floodlight Operator Trainee (appointed from 1st March, 1935).	Passed 1st grade examination of Wiremen's classes of Victoria Institute of Bombay and second class of Government Wiremen Competency classes and has appeared for 1st class of Electrical Supervisors examination.	(1) Worked in Bharat Electric Works for 18 months as an apprentice wireman and wireman. (2) Worked as Wireman-in-Charge, Sub-station Lloyd Barrage and Canals Construction Works for 8 months. (3) Worked with Greaves Cotton and Co. and Emchshah and Co., Bombay, for about a year as armature winder. (4) Worked under Polsons Butter Manufacturing Co., Anand, for 8 months as Acting Electrical Engineer. (5) Worked for I. C. S. S. and Co., Karachi, for 1½ years as an Electrical Foreman. (6) Worked as Lighting Inspector for about 15 months in the Municipal Corporation, Karachi.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: May I ask the Honourable Member whether a knowledge of English is an essential qualification for a flood-light operator?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Yes, I think it is, in view of the number of aeroplanes from other countries which fly across the country.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Is there any flood-light operator who does not possess that qualification at Karachi?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I cannot answer, that question offhand. I should imagine it is very doubtful, because, as I have stated, a knowledge of English is an essential qualification of a flood-light operator.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Will Government please lay on the table of the House a statement showing all the qualifications of all the flood-light operators?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I hardly think that is necessary.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Questions Nos. 1475 to 1497 standing in my name relate to one and the same subject. Therefore, may I put them together?

Mr. P. R. Rau: May I be allowed to place all the replies on the table of the House?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Will the Honourable Member be satisfied with that?

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Yes, I shall be satisfied.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1475. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Is it a fact, that Travelling Ticket Examiners on the East Indian Railway came under Traffic *i.e.*, Operating control in June 1931?

(b) Is it a fact that previous to that they were under the Chief Accounts Officer, Calcutta?

(c) Is it a fact that now they are under the Divisional Superintendents like all other Transportation and Commercial staff?

(d) Is it a fact that while under Accounts the Travelling Ticket Inspectors now Examiners had different conditions of service regarding pay and allowances as compared with other Transportation and Commercial staff working in Divisions?

(e) Is it a fact that under Accounts they used to get mileage allowance like guards of the Operating Department?

(f) Is it a fact that on transfer to Operating the Travelling Ticket Examiners' mileage allowance was stopped and they were offered less remunerative consolidated allowance?

(g) Is it a fact that while under Accounts the Travelling Ticket Inspectors now Examiners were provided with a peon who used to weigh unbooked luggage in trains and also look after ticketless travellers detected by a Travelling Ticket Inspector?

(h) Is it a fact that now under Operating the Travelling Ticket Examiners have not been provided with peons and they are required to carry a scale in addition to heavy and unweildy Haymen Punch and weigh luggage with their own hands and also look after ticketless travellers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). The Travelling Ticket Checking staff were under the control of the Accounts Department till the introduction of the Crew system in August, 1926.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes.

(f) The posts of Travelling Ticket Inspectors were abolished. Persons holding these posts offered and accepted posts of Travelling Ticket Examiners, which did not entitle them to mileage allowance. Government, however, sanctioned purely as an *ex gratia* measure an enhanced consolidated allowance to persons who had originally held posts of Travelling Ticket Inspectors.

(g) Yes.

(h) Yes, but the Administration considers that the punch is not heavy nor unweildy.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1476. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Is it a fact that while under Accounts the Travelling Ticket Inspectors on the East Indian Railway were allowed to fix any place as their Headquarters on their section which could be convenient to them?

(b) Is it a fact that now they are required to remain at a particular station allotted by the administration?

(c) Is it a fact that the Travelling Ticket Inspectors under Accounts were given choice of Headquarters because they were not provided with Railway quarters either on rent or free, specially the Indians?

(d) Is it a fact that even now the Travelling Ticket Examiners under Operating are not provided with railway quarters?

(e) How many Indian Travelling Ticket Inspectors under Accounts were provided with railway quarters and what was their strength?

(f) How many Travelling Ticket Examiners under Operating are provided with railway quarters and what is their total strength?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) Travelling Ticket Examiners are not entitled to rent-free quarters under the rules but are allowed railway quarters if available on payment of rent.

(e) and (f). The information is not readily available. Government do not consider that the time and labour involved in its compilation will be commensurate with the results to be obtained.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1477. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Is it a fact that Travelling Ticket Inspectors on the East Indian Railway under Accounts were permitted to stay in Inspectors' rest rooms at an out-station?

(b) Is it a fact that in the absence of Inspectors' rest room they could take rest in the second class waiting room?

(c) Is it a fact that now they are neither allowed to step into Inspectors' rest room nor even an intermediate class waiting room even though the guards' rest room be not available for them?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is in the interests of the travelling public that they are not allowed to use the waiting rooms. They are allowed to use Guard's rest rooms and at all places where it has been considered necessary, Travelling Ticket Examiner's rest rooms have been provided.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1478. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Is it a fact that while under Accounts the Travelling Ticket Inspectors on the East Indian Railway used to get communal gazetted holidays and now under Operating the Travelling Ticket Examiners do not get a holiday even on an important occasion?

(b) Is it a fact that according to the recommendations of the Moody-Ward Committee each train must be manned with a Travelling Ticket Examiner, and that communal holidays are not given to them?

(c) Is it a fact that when a Travelling Ticket Examiner is sick and relief not available the train may go without a Travelling Ticket Examiner?

(d) Is it a fact that during important *melas* Travelling Ticket Examiners are withdrawn from trains and posted on *mela* areas to work at stations and thus trains go without Travelling Ticket Examiners?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) The conditions of their service do not permit of "our-door" staff being given communal holidays.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes, sometimes.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1479. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Is it a fact that guards appointed on the East Indian Railway before 1927 are given double pay for working on Sundays and on gazetted holidays?

(b) Is it a fact that the Travelling Ticket Examiners appointed before 1927 are neither given these holidays nor double pay in lieu thereof?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Guards under the old East Indian Railway Company Rules only get an extra day's pay on Sundays, Christmas Day, Good Friday and the King's Birthday.

(b) Yes.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1480. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Is it a fact that while under Accounts the Travelling Ticket Inspectors on the East Indian Railway used to get 36 hours rest after six days working?

(b) Is it a fact that now under Operating they get only 24 hours rest after six days?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) No.

(b) They are given a weekly rest of not less than 24 hours.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1481. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Is it a fact that under Accounts the Travelling Ticket Inspectors on the East Indian Railway could not be forced to work for more than eight hours a day?

(b) Is it a fact that under Operating the Travelling Ticket Examiners have to put in ten hours work per day?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) No.

(b) Government are informed that the maximum hours of work do not exceed 60 hours per week on an average per mensem.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1482. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Is it a fact that under Accounts the Travelling Ticket Inspectors on the East Indian Railway used to get a second class duty pass irrespective of pay?

(b) Is it a fact that now under Operating they are not given this consideration and even those who are entitled to a second class duty pass by virtue of their pay and under the rules are given intermediate class duty passes?

(c) Is it a fact that Travelling Ticket Inspectors on the East Indian Railway under Accounts used to get a separate servant pass for their convenience and the Travelling Ticket Examiners under Operating do not get this privilege?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) Passes are generally given, so far as I am aware, according to the pay of the individual concerned, but I am making enquiries as to the exact position on the East Indian Railway and will place a reply on the table later.

(c) Yes.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1483. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway even though a guard's programme be a fixed one like the Travelling Ticket Examiners a Call Boy goes to wake the former up during night?

(b) Is it a fact that this is done both at Headquarters and at an outstation?

(c) Is it a fact that a Travelling Ticket Examiner is denied this privilege and is ordered to make his own arrangements even when out of Headquarters?

(d) Is it a fact that the Travelling Ticket Examiners have usually to work trains starting at midnight and at late hours of night and if they over-sleep and miss the train they are punished?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) It depends on the timings of the trains service, which varies on different runs. If they miss the train disciplinary action is taken.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1484. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway when the guard finishes his run his equipment box containing his private requirements is carried to the running room by a box porter provided by the Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that a Travelling Ticket Examiner has to engage porters on payment for the purpose?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Agent, East Indian Railway, reports as follows:

(a) The equipment box is carried by a Box Porter only at outstations. At headquarters, guards arrange their own box coolies.

(b) Yes, there is no necessity as he is not required to have with him the amount of equipment that guards have to carry.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1485. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway guards are exempted from the operation of Hours of Employment Rules to save them from the loss of mileage allowance as

declared by Government in this House in reply to starred question No. 145 on the 16th February, 1934?

(b) Is it a fact that the Travelling Ticket Examiners are also exempted from the operation of Hours of Employment Rules as declared by Government in this House in reply to starred question No. 821 on the 13th September, 1933?

(c) Is it a fact that Travelling Ticket Examiners are booked with the trains like guards and discharge their duties when the train is moving?

(d) Is it a fact that guards programme is prepared by the Railway administration and they are usually allowed 60 hours or less duty per week and 24 hours rest after every six days?

(e) Is it a fact that the Travelling Ticket Examiners' programme is also worked out on the same basis?

(f) Is it a fact that guards are allowed 12 hours rest at Headquarters and eight hours at an outstation after putting in more than eight hours duty

(g) Is it a fact that a Travelling Ticket Examiner is denied this privilege of rest?

(h) Is it a fact that if a guard is booked before 12 and eight hours rest he is granted half a day's pay extra as compensation for this under-rest?

(i) Is it a fact that a Travelling Ticket Examiner is said to be neither entitled to any fixed period of rest nor compensation allowance in lieu of inadequate rest?

(j) Do the guards need more consideration regarding rest as compared with Travelling Ticket Examiners? If so, why?

Mr. P. R. Rau: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 1485, 1487 and 1491 together.

Information is being collected and replies will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1486. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway the Travelling Ticket Examiners have to stay much longer at an outstation than the guards and so they cannot look after their domestic affairs?

(b) Is it a fact that Labour Department is of no relief to them because they are said to be exempted from the operation of Hours of Employment Rules?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) No.

(b) Although Travelling Ticket Examiners are exempted from the operation of Hours of Employment Regulations, their maximum hours of work do not exceed 60 hours per week on an average per mensem, and they get a weekly rest of 24 hours.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†1487. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway if a train runs late and a guard has to start again according to programme before getting 12 or eight hours rest at Headquarters or outstation he gets half a day's pay extra as compensation?

(b) Is it a fact that this privilege is denied to a Travelling Ticket Examiner and he is required to work his programme whether he gets rest or not?

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1488. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway, Travelling Ticket Examiners are not allowed to exchange duties with their colleagues and other railway employees can do it?

(b) Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway when a Travelling Ticket Examiner feels unwell and goes to a Railway Doctor with a proper sick memorandum obtained from the Station Master and the Railway Doctor gives him medicine and returns for duty the Travelling Ticket Examiner is punished for this offence of not going with his booked train?

(c) How many such cases have happened individually in the six Divisions of the East Indian Railway during 1933 and 1934?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). Information is being collected and a reply will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

(c) Information is not readily available and Government do not consider that the time and labour involved in its collection will be commensurate with the results to be obtained.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1489. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway Travelling Ticket Examiners are often posted at stations to check trains and they get consolidated allowance for such days?

(b) Is it a fact that when a guard is posted on station duty he gets average mileage for the days?

(c) Is it a fact that if due to ill health a Travelling Ticket Examiner is posted for station duty for a short period on the recommendations of the medical authorities he is not paid consolidated allowance?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The Agent, East Indian Railway, reports as follows:

"(a) Yes.

(b) He continues to be paid running allowance according to the guards allowance rules applicable to him.

(c) For periods below 21 days on stationary duty consolidated allowance may be allowed."

† For answer to this question, *see* answer to question No. 1485.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1490. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway Grade I Travelling Ticket Examiners are often placed to work as Ticket Collectors on gates and work of a III grade Ticket Collectors is taken from them during important *melas* and Ticket Collectors are temporarily recruited from outside in addition?

(b) How did the Traffic Department manage this work during *melas* when the Travelling Ticket Examiners were under the Accounts control and could not be utilised by them?

(c) Is it a fact that Travelling Ticket Examiner is utilised for taking census of passengers and has to suspend his legitimate work for such days?

(d) Is it a fact that before the transfer of this branch to Operating control census work was managed by Station Masters with the available staff?

(e) Is it a fact that Travelling Ticket Examiners are also utilised for passenger canvassing duties?

(f) Is it a fact that when a guard is posted to work during *melas* due regard is paid to his status and grade as a guard in allotting duties to him and if a Travelling Ticket Examiner is posted no such consideration is made and he is forced to work in much lower capacities where Ticket Collectors of grade III are usually posted?

(g) Are Government prepared to look into this and see that due regard of a Travelling Ticket Examiner's position and status is made like the guards while allotting him duties during *melas*?

(h) Do Government propose to see that Travelling Ticket Examiners are not utilised for other than their own duties?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) By seconding other staff for *mela* duty.

(c) To take a census of passengers cannot be considered to be not a legitimate part of his work.

(d) This could only be done at stations where tickets were checked.

(e) Only when on *mela* duty.

(f) and (g). The reply to the first portion of the question is in the negative. As regards the second part, Travelling Ticket Examiners when placed to work as ticket collectors on gates, are required to perform the duties with which they are charged.

(h) It is within the competence of a Railway Administration to utilise staff in emergencies or at times of pressure as and when required. Government are not prepared to interfere.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†1491. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway a period of less than three hours between two trains on the main line is treated as rest in respect of guards and in the case of Travelling Ticket Examiners over one hour is reckoned as rest?

†For answer to this question, *see* answer to question No. 1485.

(b) In what respects are the duties of a Travelling Ticket Examiner less arduous than those of the guards to justify this differential treatment?

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1492. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway when the train is on the move the guard has practically nothing to do which requires mental or physical exertion?

(b) Is it a fact that a Travelling Ticket Examiner has to move about the compartment in a running train, check tickets, estimate the weight of the luggage, attend to various queries put by passengers and knock out money from defaulters much against their wishes and remain polite at the same time?

(c) Is it a fact that despite a vast difference in the duties performed in a running train by the guards and the Travelling Ticket Examiners the latter are denied the consideration of being treated as running staff?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) No. I would refer the Honourable Member to rules 121 and 124 to 129 of the General Rules for all Open Lines of Railways in British India, which detail the duties of a guard when a train is running between stations. Apart from these, the guard has other duties in connection with the maintenance of the records of packages in his charge and the preparation of his train papers.

(b) A Travelling Ticket Examiner is charged with duty of checking passenger's tickets in running trains.

(c) It is just because the duties of Travelling Ticket Examiners are different and are not connected with the charge of a moving train that they are not granted mileage allowance.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1493. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway employees including officers stationed at Howrah are paid presidency allowance which is double the ordinary rate of daily allowance?

(b) Is it a fact that the Travelling Ticket Examiners are denied this presidency allowance?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The information wanted is being called for from the Railway Administration and it will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1494. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway consolidated allowance is paid to the Travelling Ticket Examiners for their normal duties according to a fixed roster?

(b) Is it a fact that when they are booked out of course and required to stay out of their Headquarters for weeks and months they are not given any extra allowance like outstation allowance paid to several classes of employees?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). Travelling Ticket Examiners are granted consolidated allowance as their duties require them to travel extensively. This allowance is not dependent on the allotment of duties according to a fixed roster or otherwise.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1495. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway if a guard is held up at a certain station away from his Headquarters due to some accident he gets extra wages in addition to his usual average mileage?

(b) Is it a fact that if under similar circumstances a Travelling Ticket Examiner has to stay he gets his usual consolidated allowance only?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Under the old East Indian Railway Company rules governing guards allowances detention allowance in such cases is permissible if the detention exceeds 15 hours. This is not permissible under the present rules.

(b) Yes.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1496. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that on the East Indian Railway due to the T. T. E. Branch having been taken over by the Operating only about four years back, they have no separate rules governing them regarding allowances, rest, duty hours, etc. etc.?

(b) Is it a fact that they are neither allowed the privileges and facilities of the Old Travelling Ticket Inspectors of the Accounts nor can they claim those enjoyed by the guards?

(c) Is it a fact that Commercial Officers of all the Divisions (who directly hold charge of Travelling Ticket Examiners) often hold meetings where they discuss various matters concerning this branch?

(d) Is it a fact that never till now any of the questions concerning staff welfare has been discussed by them?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Government are informed that Travelling Ticket Examiners are governed by rules suitable to the nature of their employment.

(b) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to the mileage allowance. If so, the reply is in the affirmative.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government are informed that meetings are for discussion of technical matters with a view to co-ordination, etc., Welfare Committees exist in each Division and if Travelling Ticket Examiners have anything to represent regarding their welfare they can do so through these Committees.

GRIEVANCES OF TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1497. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Are Government prepared to see that either separate rules are framed for Travelling Ticket Inspectors or they

are allowed the privileges enjoyed by the old Travelling Ticket Inspectors of the Accounts Department or they are treated like guards?

Mr. P. R. Rau: So far as Government are aware, rules exist at present governing the conditions of service of Travelling Ticket Inspectors in the same way as other staff.

APPLICATIONS FROM PEASANTS IN THE NELLORE DISTRICT FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE RIGHT FOR FREE MANUFACTURE OF SALT.

1498. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) if any applications have been received from peasants in Nellore District by the authorities concerned for the restoration of the right for free manufacture of salt;

(ii) if so, from which places in that district;

(iii) whether Government are aware of the reference made in the budget speech of the Finance Member of Madras Government that there has been a wide spread failure of crops in Nellore District; and

(iv) if so, whether they are prepared to consider the advisibility of informing the authorities concerned that the right to freely manufacture salt be restored temporarily at least to help the distressed peasants?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: With your permission, I shall answer this question.

(i) and (ii). No such applications have been reported to the Government of India. Applications for the restoration of the concession are disposed of by the local authorities in consultation with the Local Government.

(iii) Yes.

(iv) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which the Honourable the Finance Member gave to question No. 1121 on the 28th March, 1935.

PENSIONERS DEBARRED FROM PENSIONS EITHER FOR THEIR OWN ACTIVITIES OR FOR THE ACTIVITIES OF THEIR RELATIVES AGAINST GOVERNMENT.

1499. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** (a) Will Government state whether they have debarred from pensions any pensioners of the Government of India, either for their own activities or for the activities of their relatives against Government since 1930?

(b) If so, how many?

(c) What is the nature of those activities against Government?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) to (c). There have been only two cases in which civil pensioners who formerly served under the Government of India have been deprived of their pensions. In one case action was taken on account of the objectionable political activities of the pensioner culminating in his conviction for an offence under the Emergency Powers Ordinance. In the other case the pensioner was deprived of his pension for failure to control the activities of his son, who, though resident in his father's house, was engaged in revolutionary activities and also for failure to give information and assistance to the police engaged in investigating the son's offence. The son was sentenced to transportation for life for attempting to murder a Superintendent of Police in Bengal. This pensioner has been granted a subsistence allowance.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the objectionable activity in the first case?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It culminated in his conviction and sentence for an offence under the Emergency Powers Ordinance.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it under the Civil Disobedience Movement?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Arising out of that.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Was this son, for whose offence the father was deprived of his pension, a major or a minor?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I cannot say offhand. He was living in his father's house.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: That does not answer my point. I want to know whether he had attained the majority or was a minor?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I will have to look up the papers.

Seth Govind Das: Are fathers responsible.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I cannot say without notice what the age of the son was.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do Government consider it part of their policy to penalise also the parents or guardians of boys or young men who are convicted for political crimes, irrespective of whether the fathers or the guardians are responsible or not for the activities of their sons or wards?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, Sir. The rule is that if the son is dependent and under the control of his father and the father is a pensioner, the father is bound to do his best to control the activities of his son. In this case the pensioner did not do his best to control the activities of his son and he further attempted to mislead the police by making false statements to them in the course of the investigation. The son was convicted of very serious offence.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know whether the gentleman wh was deprived of his pension for the activities of his son was a Hindu c a Muhammadan?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Hindu.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: If he is a Hindu, is the Honourab Member aware that according to the Hindu system of joint family, the are many persons living in a joint mess? Is it the policy of the Gover ment to penalise the manager of the family for the political activities of ar member of the joint household?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Then, may I know how the Honourat Member justifies this particular case having regard to the fact that it

the declared policy of Government not to penalise the guardian for the activities of the son?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I think the action of the Government is fully justified. The son was living in his father's house and under the father's control. The father not only failed to prevent him from joining a revolutionary conspiracy to murder, but actually gave misleading statements to the police when they were investigating the offence.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: All sorts of people are living in a joint mess.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is a matter of argument.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the criterion for judging whether a major son is under the control of his father?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Commonsense.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do Government have it?

RESEARCH DEPARTMENTS UNDER THE INDIAN RESEARCH FUND ASSOCIATION.

1500. ***Mr. Basanta Kumar Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many Research Departments there are in India under the Indian Research Fund Association?

(b) How many of the Heads of these departments are Indian Medical Service officers and how many are non-Indian Medical Service men?

(c) Is it a fact that Government always give preference to Indian Medical Service officers for appointments to these posts? If so, will Government please state the reason why?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the enquiries which are being conducted under the Indian Research Fund Association. The number of such enquiries is at present 28, 18 of which are under the supervision of 13 Indian Medical Service officers and 10 under 9 non-Indian Medical Service officers.

(c) No.

POST OF THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NUTRITIONAL RESEARCH, COONOOR, IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY, UNDER THE RESEARCH FUND ASSOCIATION.

1501. ***Mr. Basanta Kumar Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any appointments have been made to the post of the Head of the Department of Nutritional Research, Coonoor, in the Madras Presidency, under the Research Fund Association, as advertised in the journal of the Indian Research Fund Association, September 1934 issue?

(b) If so, who has been appointed? What are his qualifications? Is he an Indian?

(c) If any non-Indian has been appointed, what are the grounds on which preference was given to him?

(d) Did any Indian candidates apply for the post? If so, what were their respective qualifications?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) Dr. W. R. Aykroyd. A statement showing his qualifications is laid on the table. He is not an Indian.

(c) On the basis of merit he was the most suitable candidate.

(d) Yes, two. A statement showing their qualifications is laid on the table.

Statement regarding the appointment of an officer to the post of Director, Nutritional Research, under the Indian Research Fund Association.

STATEMENT SHOWING QUALIFICATIONS OF DR. W. R. AYKROYD REFERRED TO IN PART (*b*) OF QUESTION.

Dr. W. R. Aykroyd was educated at the Leys School, Cambridge, 1914—1918, and took the Medical course at Trinity College, Dublin, 1919—1924. He graduated as B.A. in 1923 (after a course in Arts) and secured the degrees of M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. in 1924, and M.D. of Dublin University in 1928. He was House Surgeon and Physician, Adelaide Hospital, Dublin, in 1925, and Resident Medical Officer, Government General Hospital, St. Johns, Newfoundland, in 1926-27. While in the latter appointment he undertook an investigation of beriberi and other food deficiency diseases, the results of which were embodied in the thesis submitted by him for the degree of Doctor in Medicine. He was granted a Beit Memorial Research Fellowship in 1928-1931 for combined field and laboratory work on nutrition; the field work which lasted for six months was performed in Newfoundland and Labrador, and the laboratory work at the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine under Sir Charles Martin and Dr. H. Chick. In 1931 he secured appointment as member of the Health Section, League of Nations, Geneva, which he still holds. His work has involved the preparation of reports on dietary problems created by unemployment, the nutritive value of wheat (for the Wheat Advisory Committee), physical standards of nutrition, family budget enquiries, various aspects of the pellagra problem and a variety of other subjects related to nutrition. In connection with a report he prepared in 1933 on 'Nutrition in Relation to Public Health', he visited a number of European countries, the United States of America and Canada, establishing personal contact with public health workers interested in the problems of nutrition, and studying methods employed in each country. Dr. Aykroyd has published the following works:

1928. Vitamin A. Deficiency in Nowfoundland. Irish Journ. Med. Science 26-1-61.

1929. (with M. H. *Roscoe*). The Vitamin B 2 content of certain foods. Biochem. J.-23-483.

1930. The Etiology of Pellagra, N. M. J. April 5th.

Famine Gedema. B. H. J. August 16th.

The Vitamin B 2 content of cereals and the supposed connection between human pellagra and deficiency of this vitamin. Biochem. J.-24-1479.

Beriberi and other food deficiency diseases in Newfoundland and Labrador, J. Hyg. 30-357.

1931. Chapters on Pellagra and Vitamin B 2 in Medical Research Council's report "Vitamins, a Survey of Recent Knowledge".

1932. The effect of parboiling and milling on the antineuritic content of rice. Journ. Hyg. 32-184. The effect of the economic crisis on public health. (Chapter on nutrition). Memorandum by Health Section, League of Nations. Quart. Bull. Hth. Organ. 1-443.

1933. Diet in relation to small incomes. Quart. Bull. Hth. Organ. 2-130.

Vitamins and other dietary essentials. Book published by Neinemann

International vitamin Standards and Units.

Ergebaisse der Hygiene 14-376.

Pellagra. Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews 3-337-344.

Statement showing the qualifications of two Indian candidates for the post of Director, Nutritional Research, under the Indian Research Fund Association referred to in part (d) of question No. 1501.

Serial No.	Name.	Age.	Academic qualifications.	Experience in the		Original contributions to nutrition.	Special qualifications.	Languages known.
				Field.	Laboratory.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Major R. C. Wats, I.M.S.	44	M. B. (Liv.) with distinction in Forensic Medicine and Toxicology, M. D. (Liv.), D. T. M. & D. P. H. (Liv.).	..	Has worked in military laboratories in addition to his experience of laboratory work at the University of Cambridge mentioned under "special qualifications".	One.	Held research fellowships in bacteriology (Garret International Fellowship, University of Liverpool, for 1½ years in 1917-18). Attended advanced course in biochemistry at the University of Cambridge from January to July, 1925. Worked at Kinderklinik, Vienna, from August to October, 1925, on various scientific methods. Attended the senior officers' course at the R. A. M. College, London, from May—September, 1929 and passed with distinction. Attended the malaria class at the Ross Field experimental station, Karnal, in March-April, 1934, and passed.	Can read, write and talk.—English, Hindi.—(a fair knowledge of Sanskrit). Urdu—Pushto — German — can read and understand scientific German by help of a dictionary. Can speak hill dailects of Northern India and Bengali.
2	Dr. R. K. Pal .	32	B. Sc. (Cal.) 1925 with distinction, M. B. (Cal.) 1927, M. Sc. (Cal.) 1927, with distinction L. R. C. P. & S., L. R. F. P. & S., (Ed.and Glas.) April 1930. M. R. C. P. (Ed.) October 1930. D. Sc. (Ed.) March 1931 (in Physiology). F R. S. E., February, 1934.	..	See under special qualifications.	Four.	Did research on effects of vitamins on the endocrine organs under Sir Edward Sharpy—Schafer at the Physiology Laboratory of the Edinburgh University for the degree of Doctorate in Science in 1929-30. Has considerable experience of teaching Physiology and Biochemistry.	English—Can read, write and talk. Bengali—Can read, write and talk Hindi—Can read, write and talk. French—Can read the scientific language.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Is it a fact that four seats are reserved for the I. M. S. men in the Research Department?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I gave the information on another question yesterday. The department consists of 30 people. 18 are reserved for the I. M. S. and 12 are not reserved.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: In the last election to the Indian Medical Council of Research, out of the six vacancies for which candidates were recruited, were not four reserved for the I. M. S. men?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I believe that, on the last occasion, four persons were recruited, but it was against this cadre of 18.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Then, four seats are reserved for the I. M. S.?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: As I have already stated, out of a strength of 30, 18 are reserved for the I. M. S., and 12 for non-I. M. S. In this cadre of 18, there were four vacancies, and, therefore, four people were selected.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Are all the four I. M. S. men?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Four are I. M. S. and two non-I. M. S.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Altogether six vacancies?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Yes.

DELIVERY OF MONEY ORDERS FROM THE DINAPORE CANTONMENT SUB-POST OFFICE.

1502. ***Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Is it a fact that the money orders received in the early morning by mail every day by the Sub-Postmaster, Dinapore Cantonment, are not delivered on the very day to payees?

(b) Is it not a fact that the system adopted by the late Sub-Postmaster of Dinapore Cantonment causes a great loss to public?

(c) Is it not a fact that this was done to show economy by retrenching one postal clerk by the said Sub-Postmaster?

(d) If the answer to preceding parts be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state who is responsible for the loss caused to the public?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state if there is any order for not delivering money orders every day?

(f) Are Government prepared to redress the grievances of the merchants and public? If not, why not?

Mr G. V. Bewoor: Government have no information. As the matter is within the competence of the Postmaster-General, Bihar and Orissa Circle, a copy of the question is being sent to him for such action as he may consider suitable.

INDIANS HOLDING MINISTERIAL APPOINTMENTS IN RESIDENCIES, AGENCIES AND EMBASSIES BORNE ON THE CADRE OF THE FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT SECRETARIAT.

1503. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state in which of the Residencies, Agencies and Embassies, such of the ministerial appointments—both gazetted and otherwise—as are borne on the cadre of the Foreign and Political Department Secretariat, have, since their creation, been never manned by Indians as distinct from Anglo-Indians?

(b) How long has this state of affairs been in vogue in the case of each such appointment, and when is it going to be abandoned?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: (a) and (b). There are two Ministerial posts, *viz.*, Extra Assistant to the Resident in Kashmir and Superintendent of the Office of His Majesty's Minister, Nepal, which have not hitherto been filled by Indians. There is, however, no bar to Indians being appointed to these posts which are filled by selection and to suit the local conditions.

CERTAIN APPOINTMENTS IN THE KABUL LEGATION OFFICE AND WAZIRISTAN RESIDENCY OFFICE.

1504. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the appointments of (i) Superintendent, first clerk, second clerk and the third clerk in the Kabul Legation Office, and (ii) Superintendent, Waziristan Residency Office have since their creation been the monopoly of Europeans or Anglo-Indians? If so, when are these appointments going to be thrown open to Indians? If not, why not?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: The appointments referred to have not hitherto been filled by Indians. There is, however, no bar to the appointment of Indians provided suitable candidates are available.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why is it that till now not even one Indian has been appointed to this post?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: Presumably no suitable Indian was available.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: What is the standard of suitability?

MONOPOLY OF ANGLO-INDIANS IN THE APPOINTMENT OF REGISTRAR, PUNJAB STATES AGENCY OFFICE.

1505. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Since when has the appointment of Registrar, Punjab States Agency Office, been made a monopoly of Anglo-Indians and why?

(b) Do Government propose to throw this appointment open to Indians? If not, why not?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: The post of Registrar, Punjab States Agency, has been filled by Anglo-Indians since its creation. There is no bar to the appointment of an Indian to this post which is filled by selection and to suit the local conditions.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Does the Honourable Member say that no suitable Indian has been available for this post, ever since its creation? Is that his contention?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: I said that no Indian had been appointed but there was no objection to his being appointed if a suitable candidate was available.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No Indian has been appointed so far. Is it my Honourable friend's contention that no suitable Indian has been found available all these years, since the time this appointment was created?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: That is what I have stated.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the qualifications for this post, which Indians do not possess?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: That is an impossible question to answer.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the qualification that an Indian does not possess?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: That again is an impossible question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are not any qualifications prescribed at all for this appointment?

An Honourable Member: White colour.

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: I must have notice of that question.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Is colour also taken into consideration when considering the question of suitability?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: Not as far as I am aware.

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERMEDIATE COLLEGE AT NEW DELHI.

1506. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of students who are going up for the next Matriculation or S. L. C. examinations of the Punjab Universities from the various high schools (including the Butler High School) in New Delhi?

(b) Are Government aware that most of the students that pass the Matriculation examination from New Delhi go up for higher education in colleges?

(c) Are Government aware that there is no Arts or Science college for boys in New Delhi and the nearest one in Delhi being about four miles away, the college students of New Delhi are put to great inconvenience?

(d) Do Government propose to start an Intermediate College in New Delhi? If not, why not?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Government have no information on the point but will call for it, if so desired by the Honourable Member.

(b) Government have no definite information.

(c) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. Students resident in New Delhi are more fortunate in this respect than those resident in very many other parts of India.

(d) The policy of University education in Delhi and that of school reconstruction are now under consideration. The Government of India are awaiting the opinion of the Delhi University.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPECIAL DELHI TIME.

1507. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Will Government please state what was the object of introducing a special time (half an hour advance) in Delhi and New Delhi from 16th October, 1934 to 16th February, 1935?

(b) Do Government propose to repeat it next year also?

(c) Are Government aware that Indian clerks, etc., who have to take their full meals in the morning before going to offices were put to great inconvenience by the introduction of this special time, which had the effect of changing the office hours also?

(d) Are Government also aware that the Railway, Posts and Telegraphs and certain others (*e.g.*, cinemas) did not follow the 'Delhi' time and the people were therefore put to great inconvenience on account of two different times being followed in one city?

(e) Is it a fact that Government did not consult any public bodies or office associations before introducing the special Delhi Time in October 1934? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave to Mr. Azhar Ali's question No. 870 on the 12th March, 1935.

(b) Government have not yet considered the matter.

(c) Government have received no such complaints.

(d) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, and, to the second part, in the negative.

(e) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative, and, to the second part, that the actual effects of a change of this kind can best be tested by actual practice.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Were you consulted, Sir, when you became President of this House, as regards this time? I am putting this question because we, Sir, find it very inconvenient to come here half an hour before the usual time. I would beg of you to consider this point.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I was not in existence then. (Laughter).

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am suggesting, Sir, that you should be consulted, and that you would be good enough to consult us before you agree to this change for Assembly purposes.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: You were here, Sir, at the proper time when this hour was again changed, and I am sure you were not consulted on that?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the question arises again I will see if I can be of any use to Honourable Members.

FURNITURE PROVIDED IN CLERKS' QUARTERS AT NEW DELHI.

1508. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that the clerks of the Government of India offices who are allotted Government quarters in New Delhi are charged rent for the furniture provided in those quarters?

(b) Is it a fact that in most of the quarters the furniture is more than ten years old and that it has thereby suffered a good deal of depreciation in its present value?

(c) Is it a fact that if any article of furniture is lost or broken by a tenant, its full price, and not its depreciated value, is charged? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) Most of the furniture is more than ten years old, but is kept in serviceable condition, being repaired and replaced when necessary.

(c) Yes; Government cannot assume responsibility for loss or damage not due to fair wear and tear.

HARASSMENT BY POLICE AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES OF STREET HAWKERS AND PEDLARS IN NEW DELHI.

1509. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Are Government aware that vendors, cobblers, fruit and vegetable sellers who come in New Delhi between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. to render useful services to the residents of the quarters by supplying the needs at cheap rates, are unnecessarily harassed by the police and municipal authorities without complaint from the residents?

(b) Is it a fact that these honest and poor people of the working class who earn their living by manual labour, etc., are treated like vagabonds? If so, why?

(c) Are Government aware that in no other city such vendors, etc., are treated in the way in which they are in this city? If so, why?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) and (b). No.

(c) Government have no information as to how vendors are treated in other cities.

VALUE PAYABLE CHARGES FOR BOOK PACKETS.

1510. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that the minimum charges payable on sending a book packet by V. P. Post are: postage (packet) 0-0-9; registration 0-5-0 and money order commission 0-2-0?

(b) Is it also a fact that at the above rates, a book of which the price is two annas only, costs Re. 0-5-9 on account of postal charges, in addition to its price, if obtained by V. P. Post?

(c) Do Government propose to introduce a system of unregistered V. P.'s like unregistered parcels? If not, why not?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) As Value Payable articles had for all practical purposes to be treated like registered articles both in the office of posting and in the office of delivery, the system of unregistered Value Payable articles was abolished in 1920 and Government do not propose to re-introduce it.

VERIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE IN THE CASE OF RETIRING GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

1511. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that under the present rules, verification of service is made after a Government servant retires or is about to retire from service?

(b) Is it also a fact that this procedure causes great delay in sanction of pension in the case of those Government servants, who in the early days of their service have served in various offices, some of which cease to exist by the time they retire?

(c) Do Government propose to change this procedure and to treat the service entered in the Service Book as duly verified for the purpose of pension? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a), (b) and (c). Formal verification of service is necessary only in the case of service rendered by a Government servant in a non-gazetted capacity. The Civil Service Regulations already permit a Government servant to submit a statement of his service and have it verified within six months of the date from which he definitely retires. Similarly, he can submit an application for pension prior to his actual retirement. The Government of India have also issued instructions that formal applications for pensions may be submitted by officers when they proceed on leave preparatory to retirement, and in cases where the date of retirement is definitely known, Audit officers have been instructed to verify the services, wherever necessary, and forward their report to the authority competent to sanction the pension. These rules and orders have been framed with the object of minimising, as far as possible, delay in the issue of pensions and Government do not consider that any change in the existing procedure is necessary.

FREE SUPPLY OF BUTTER-MILK BY A LOCAL MERCHANT THROUGH THE RAILWAY WATERMAN AT CHIRALA STATION ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

1512. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) if they are aware of the fact that the Assistant Traffic Superintendent of Bezwada objected in April 1934 to the free supply of butter-milk by a local merchant through the Railway waterman at Chirala Station on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway;

(ii) if so, why he objected to that free supply of butter-milk;

(iii) whether it is not a fact that in the South, many passengers prefer to drink butter-milk instead of water and that butter-milk is considered to be more cooling than water; and

(iv) whether Government are prepared to consider the advisability o publishing through the Railway authorities that such offers of free supply of butter-milk or water to passengers will be welcomed by the Railway authorities?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (i), (ii) and (iii). Government have no information.

(iv) Government consider that it is preferable that Railway Administration should make their own arrangements for the supply of water to passengers as they can be held responsible for ensuring that the supply is good. I do not think Railways can be expected to agree to accept responsibility for distributing butter-milk to passengers in trains in view of the impracticability of satisfying themselves that the quality is good and its purity above suspicion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If the railway is not prepared, for financial considerations, to supply butter-milk to passengers, will Government at least consider the advisibility of allowing local gentlemen who are philanthropic enough to supply butter-milk?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have already explained the reason why railways cannot be expected to agree to this.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware that on certain stations butter-milk is freely sold?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Without payment?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With license.

Mr. P. R. Rau: Does the Honourable Member mean that butter-milk is sold free of payment?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Free from any restrictions.

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am not aware of that, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that butter-milk is sold at other stations through the generosity of philanthropic gentlemen who are good enough to supply butter-milk freely, will Government consider the advisibility of allowing such people to supply such butter-milk to passengers, provided, of course, the local officials do not take any objection on considerations of hygiene?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The local officials on the M. and S. M. Railway did take objection to this practice.

Mr. R. S. Sarma: If they are so generous these philanthropic gentlemen can buy a platform ticket for one anna.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: They will take no objection to purchasing platform tickets in view of the fact that Government themselves are not prepared to supply butter-milk freely. In view of the fact that Government are not prepared to allow philanthropic gentlemen to supply butter-milk

freely, do Government realise the extreme necessity for the supply of butter-milk during the hot months for passengers on the railways, and, therefore, will Government consider the advisibility of setting apart a certain proportion of their funds for supplying butter-milk to passengers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I cannot admit the "extreme necessity" of supplying butter-milk to passengers.

OFFERS OF SINKING OR CONSTRUCTING WELLS OR MAYORS' PUMPS ON RAILWAY PLATFORMS OR WITHIN RAILWAY COMPOUNDS.

1513. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether they have received any offers from the public to sink and construct at their own cost wells or sink a Mayors' Pump on Railway platforms or within the Railway compounds;

(ii) if so, how many such offers were made;

(iii) how many of them were accepted by the Railway authorities;

(iv) whether they are aware that the villagers of Indupalli made such an offer on the 7th February, 1934, to supply a Mayors' Pump for Indupalli Railway Station on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway;

(v) whether they are aware that the C. T. T. M. of the Railway refused to accept that offer on the 3rd April, 1934;

(vi) whether several representations made subsequently by the Andhra Railway Passengers' Association about this offer have been fruitless; and

(vii) whether Government are prepared to consider the advisability of accepting all such offers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am making enquiries and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

SUPPLY OF WATER INTO THE TANKS OF THIRD CLASS LAVATORIES ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

1514. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Are Government aware:

(i) that in reply to the request made by the Andhra Railway Passengers' Association on the 18th November, 1933, that water-tanks in the third class carriages ought to be filled or refilled, as the case may be, at Tenali, Gudivada, Ongole, Nidadavde, Samalkot, Gudur, the C. T. T. M. Railway authority concerned replied that it was not proposed to do any such thing;

(ii) that these stations are very important halting stations for meals; and

(iii) that these stations are situated far from the stations at which at present water is supplied into the tanks?

(b) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of supplying water into the tanks of third class lavatories?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) (i) and (iii). Government understand that the request was for the supply of water in the lavatories at the stations referred to and not for water tanks for latrines in third class carriages. The Administration explain that they did not consider it necessary to comply with the request as water was available on each platform for the use of passengers.

(a) (ii). Halts for meals are provided at these stations.

(b) Government believe that instructions already exist for the filling up of the tanks serving latrines in all carriages at suitable halting stations; but they will ask Railway administration to issue fresh instructions if necessary.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisibility of keeping complaint books at all these junction stations, so that, if there were to be no water in the tanks or in the lavatories, passengers might note down their complaints?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I will consider that, Sir.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Are Government aware that a lot of coal dust is being blown into all these water tanks, and, when taps are opened, you get a good mixture of coal-dust and water?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I think that was the complaint made by my Honourable friend in regard to the Grand Trunk Express the other day.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Will Government take measures to see that all this coal-dust is not being blown into water tanks?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government will convey that suggestion to the Railway Administrations.

REVISION OF THE PENSION RULES APPLICABLE TO INFERIOR SERVANTS.

1515. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** Have Government received any representation from the Secretary of the Government Peons' Union, Bombay, regarding revision of the pension rules applicable to inferior servants? If so, what action do Government propose to take on it?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Government have received the representation referred to by the Honourable Member. With regard to the action that they proposed to take, I would refer the Honourable Member to the speech made by the Honourable the Finance Member in this House on 9th March, 1935, in which he promised that the Government would take up this question and consider it very carefully and sympathetically and with every desire to do something to meet the grievance which has been admitted for some time.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: In view of the speech that was made by the Honourable Member and the reply given by the Honourable Member, will he kindly inform this House whether he would expedite this matter, in view of the urgency of it?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Yes, Sir, if the House will release me from pressing duties here.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: If we promise that we will release the Honourable Member in other ways, will he do so?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: If the promises are observed.

FIXATION OF A MINIMUM LIMIT FOR PENSIONS OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

1516. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** Is it a fact that there is a maximum limit above which Government servants cannot draw pensions notwithstanding their high salaries? If so, are Government prepared to consider the feasibility of similarly fixing a minimum amount which the Government employees must receive as pension, irrespective of their pay if they are otherwise entitled to receive pension?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative while that to the latter part is in the negative. Articles 474 and 474-A of the Civil Service Regulations and rule 13 of the Superior Civil Services Rules provide suitably and adequately for Superior Government servants who have retired or will retire. Government do not see any justification for liberalising those rules in the direction suggested by the Honourable Member.

AMALGAMATION OF THE LUCKNOW DIVISION WITH THE ALLAHABAD DIVISION OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1517. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** Are Government aware of the news published in the *Pioneer* of the 21st February, 1935, that the Railway Board contemplated amalgamating the Lucknow Division with the Allahabad Division? If so, will Government be pleased to make a full statement about the same?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Yes. Government have seen the article referred to. They understand that a rearrangement of the three upper divi-
12 NOON. sions of the East Indian Railway is under consideration.

STAMP REQUIRED TO BE AFFIXED ON APPLICATIONS FOR LICENCE OF FIRE ARMS.

1518. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Is it a fact that in the province of Delhi no stamp is required to be affixed on applications for license of fire-arms?

(b) Is it also a fact that in certain provinces applications for licenses of fire-arms, are required to bear stamps? If so, will Government state the names of these provinces and the value of the stamp required to be affixed in each case?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the feasibility of laying down a uniform rule in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Government have no information. The levy of Court-fees under the Court-fees Act, 1870, is within the discretion of Local Governments and the Government of India are not prepared to interfere in the matter, nor do they consider it necessary to obtain information about the orders passed by Local Government in the matter.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEDJAZ.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that upto 12 Noon on Wednesday, the 3rd April, 1935, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. T. A. K. Sherwani on the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz, only one nomination has been received. I, therefore, declare Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur to be duly elected to the Committee.

THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (NOTE REFUND) RULES.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the Reserve Bank of India (Note Refund) Rules, 1935.

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA.

NOTIFICATION.

New Delhi, the 16th March 1935.

No. 1.—In exercise of the power conferred by the proviso to section 28 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (II of 1934), the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India by virtue of the power conferred by section 7 of the said Act, and with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council makes the following rules prescribing the circumstances in, and the conditions and limitations subject to, which the value of any lost, stolen, mutilated or imperfect currency note of the Government of India or bank note may be refunded as of grace.

1. *Short title.*—These rules may be called the Reserve Bank of India (Note Refund) Rules, 1935.

2. *Definitions.*—In these rules, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context—

(*a*) 'altered note' means a note in which an alteration has been made in the number, date, signature or value or in any other respect;

(*b*) 'the Bank' means the Reserve Bank of India constituted by the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934;

(*c*) 'half note' means a half of a note which has been divided vertically through or near the centre;

(*d*) 'mismatched note' means an imperfect note formed by joining a half note of one note to a half note of another note;

(*e*) 'mutilated note' means a note of which a portion is missing.

Provided that the portion presented is clearly more than a half note and that if the portion presented consists of parts of a note joined together each part of such portion is identifiable as part of the same note;

(*f*) 'note' means a note of the Reserve Bank of India, including a currency note of the Government of India issued either by the Governor General in Council or by the Bank;

(*g*) 'number' includes the letters of the series to which the note belongs;

(*h*) 'obliterated note' means a note, not being a mutilated or altered note, of which a portion has become or has been rendered undecipherable;

(*i*) 'office of issue' means the office of the Issue Department of the Bank at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras or Rangoon or the Branch of the Issue Department of the Bank at Cawnpore, Karachi or Lahore;

(*j*) 'prescribed officer' means the officer in charge of an office of issue.

3. *Presentation of claims.*—(1) A claim in respect of a note of which the denomination does not exceed ten rupees may be presented at any office of issue and may be dealt with by the prescribed officer at any such office.

(2) A claim in respect of a note of which the denomination exceeds ten rupees shall be presented to the prescribed officer in charge of the office of issue to which such note appears to belong, and such prescribed officer shall alone be authorised to entertain it.

(3) When a claim has been presented to a prescribed officer who is not authorised to entertain it under sub-rule (2), such officer shall return the note to the presenter and refer him to the officer to whom it should be presented under sub-rule (2).

4. *Time limit to claims.*—If it appears to the prescribed officer authorised to entertain the claim that any claim was not made by the claimant within 12 months of the time when it might first have been made by him, the prescribed officer shall not entertain the claim.

5. *Value limit to claims.*—(1) No claim in respect of a note alleged to have been lost, stolen or wholly destroyed, or of which the portion presented is neither a half note nor a mutilated note, shall be entertained unless the denomination of the note exceeds ten rupees.

(2) No claim in respect of a half note or a mismatched note shall be entertained unless such half note or one of the half notes comprising the mismatched note is part of a note of which the denomination exceeds ten rupees.

6. *Enquiry into claims.*—(1) Where any claim is made under these rules the prescribed officer authorised to entertain the claim shall hold an inquiry unless the claim relates to a note alleged to have been stolen, in which case he may reject the claim without holding any inquiry.

(2) If in the course of the inquiry referred to in sub-rule (1) the claimant fails without reasonable cause in the opinion of the prescribed officer to furnish within three months any information called for by the prescribed officer, the prescribed officer may reject the claim.

7. *Rejection of claim concerning half note.*—A claim for the value of a half note shall be rejected unless the number of the note is identified by the prescribed officer on the half note and the half note is entire and has not been divided and rejoined.

8. *Rejection of claim concerning mutilated note of less than ten rupees.*—A claim for the value of a mutilated note of a denomination not exceeding ten rupees shall be rejected unless in the opinion of the prescribed officer, the portion presented clearly forms part of a genuine note and the missing portion is too small to be used in support of any other claim under these rules.

9. *Rejection of claim concerning mutilated note of more than ten rupees.*—(1) A claim for the value of a mutilated note of a denomination exceeding ten rupees shall be rejected unless the number of the note on examination is identified with certainty by the prescribed officer as one of not more than six *numbers*.

Provided that, if the number of the note though not capable of such identification is declared by the claimant, the claim shall be dealt with under rules 13 and 15 as a claim to the value of a wholly destroyed note:

Provided further that, where the claimant is unable to declare the number, if the prescribed officer is of opinion that the number may be identified with certainty within a reasonable period he may permit the claimant to leave the note in deposit with a view to future identification.

(2) Where a claim is rejected under sub-rule (1) the note shall be stamped by the prescribed officer and returned to the claimant.

(3) If a mutilated note of a denomination exceeding ten rupees has been identified with certainty by the prescribed officer as one of not more than six *numbers* he may order the claim to be paid at once.

10. *Deposit of mutilated notes.*—(1) The prescribed officer shall enter the particulars of any mutilated note placed in deposit under the second proviso to sub-rule (1) of rule 9 in a register to be maintained in this behalf and shall give a receipt to the claimant for such note.

(2) Where the number of a note so placed in deposit is not identified within a period of three years to the extent specified in sub-rule (1) of rule 9 the claim shall be rejected and the note shall be stamped and returned to the claimant or, if the claimant cannot be found. shall be destroyed.

11. *Disposal of claims concerning half notes.*—(1) A claim for half the value of a note of which a half note only is prescribed by the claimant shall be dealt with as follows :—

(*a*) If a counter-claim for the full value of the note has not been received at the office of issue before the presentation of the claim or within a period of fourteen working days thereafter, half the value of the note may be paid to the claimant on the expiration of such period.

(*b*) If the full value of the note has already been paid on a claim under rule 14, the claim shall be rejected.

(*c*) If a counter-claim for the full value of the note has been received before the presentation of the claim or is received before payment of half the value of the note is made under clause (*a*), the prescribed Officer may order that one claimant be paid forthwith the full value of the note or that one or both claimants be paid forthwith half the value of the note or that both claims be rejected.

(2) Claims in respect of a mismatched note shall be deemed to be separate claims in respect of each half note thereof and shall be dealt with as provided in sub-rule (1).

12. *Obliterated and altered notes.*—A claim in respect of an obliterated or altered note or half note shall be rejected unless the prescribed officer is satisfied as to the identity of such note or half note and that the note or half note has not been fraudulently altered so as to appear to be of a higher denomination.

13. *Method of presenting certain claims.*—(1) A claim for the full value of a note—

(*a*) where a half note only is presented by the claimant, or

(*b*) where the note is alleged to have been lost or wholly destroyed, or where the portion of the note presented is neither a half note nor a mutilated note,

shall be accompanied by a signed statement (or if the prescribed officer so requires, an affidavit) asserting that the claimant was the last lawful holder of the entire note and detaining the circumstances attending the loss or destruction of the missing half note or note as the case may be, and by a statement obtained from the police or postal authorities of the result of the enquiry, if any, held by them.

(2) The prescribed officer shall consider the statements furnished and the affidavit, if any, and shall make such further enquiry, if any, as he may consider necessary.

14. *Disposal of claims under rule 13 (1) (a).*—(1) Where a claim is made under clause (*a*) of sub-rule (1) of rule 13 and a counter-claim has been presented in respect of the counterpart of the half note—

(*a*) if the full value of the note has been paid, the claim shall be rejected;

(*b*) if half the value of the note has been paid, the prescribed officer may order half the value of the note to be paid to the claimant forthwith;

(*c*) if the counter-claim is pending, the prescribed officer may order that one claimant be paid forthwith the full value of the note or that each claimant be paid forthwith half the value of the note or that both claims be rejected.

(2) Where a claim is made under clause (*a*) of sub-rule (1) of rule 13 and the counterpart of the half note has not been presented—

(*a*) if the prescribed officer is not satisfied that the counterpart of the half note has been lost or destroyed in such circumstances that there is no probability of its being presented at some future date, he may order payment of half the value of the note forthwith;

(*b*) if he is so satisfied and is also satisfied that the claimant was the last lawful holder of the whole note he shall cause to be published in the *Gazette of India* and in three successive issues of the local Official Gazette a notification setting forth the particulars of the note of which one half is alleged to have been lost or destroyed and the name of the claimant and calling upon any person having any claim in respect of such note to submit the claim forthwith;

(*c*) if on the expiration of two years from the date of the first publication under clause (*b*) the counterpart of the half note has not been presented, he may invest in Government securities or deposit in the Post Office Savings Bank an amount equivalent to the full value of the note:

(*d*) if on the expiration of a period which shall be determined by him but which unless the Central Board otherwise directs shall not be less than five years from the date of the first publication referred to in clause (*b*) the counterpart of the half note has not been presented, he shall deliver the securities or deposit referred to in clause (*c*) with any interest which has in the meantime accumulated thereon to the claimant, or if the claimant is dead, to his legal representative, on such claimant or representative executing a bond with or without sureties in the form set forth in Schedule I or II:

(*e*) if before the expiration of such period the counterpart is presented with a claim for the full value or for half the value of the note, the proceedings under clauses (*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) shall be cancelled and the two claims shall be dealt with under sub-rule (1).

15. *Disposal of claims under rule 13 (1) (b).*—Where a claim is made under clause (*b*) of sub-rule (1) of rule 13—

(*a*) if the prescribed officer is not satisfied that the note or the unpresented portion of the note has been wholly destroyed or lost in such circumstances that there is no probability of its being presented at some future date, he shall reject the claim:

(*b*) if he is so satisfied and is also satisfied that the claimant was the last lawful holder of the note, he shall cause to be published in the *Gazette of India* and in three successive issues of the local Official Gazette a notification setting forth the particulars of the note alleged to have been lost or destroyed and the name of the claimant and calling upon any person having any claim in respect of such note to submit the claim forthwith:

(*c*) if on the expiration of two years from the date of the first publication under clause (*b*) the note has not been presented, he may invest in Government securities or deposit in the Post Office Savings Bank an amount equivalent to the value of the note;

(*d*) if on the expiration of a period which shall be determined by him but which unless the Central Board otherwise directs shall be not less than five years from the first publication referred to in clause (*b*) the note has not been presented and no subsequent claim in respect thereto has been substantiated, he shall deliver the securities or deposit referred to in clause (*c*) with any interest which has in the meantime accumulated thereon to the claimant, or if the claimant is dead to his legal representative, on such claimant or representative executing a bond with or without sureties in the form set forth in Schedule III or IV:

(*e*) if before the expiration of such period a subsequent claim in respect of the note is substantiated, the securities or deposit referred to in clause (*d*) shall be delivered in the manner provided in that clause to the person making such subsequent claim, or if such person is dead, to his legal representative;

(*f*) if before the expiration of such period the note alleged to have been lost or destroyed is produced by the claimant or any other person, the proceedings under this rule in respect of such note shall be cancelled.

16. *Bonds.*—Printed forms, to be supplied by the Bank, shall be used in the execution of any bond required in pursuance of clause (*d*) of rule 14 or clause (*d*) of rule 15 and the value of the stamp on any such bond shall be recovered from the person executing the bond.

17. *Retention of notes by Bank.*—Save as otherwise provided in rule 9 and rule 10, any note represented in prosecution of a claim shall be retained by the Bank whatever be the decision on the claim.

18. *Procedure when payee is untraced.*—Where as the result of a claim under these rules the value or part of the value of a note is payable to a claimant, and such claimant, or if he is dead his legal representative, cannot be found or fails within a period of three months from the communication to him of the decision to take steps to receive payment; the amount payable shall be paid by the Issue Department of the Bank in the case of a currency note of the Government of India to the Governor General in Council and in the case of a Bank note to the Banking Department of the Bank.

OSBORNE A. SMITH,

Governor.

REGULATIONS *RE* POWERS OF COMMAND OF INDIAN COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham (Army Secretary): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the Regulations which have been framed by His Majesty's Government in respect of the powers of command of Indian Commissioned Officers.

KING'S REGULATIONS 1928—AMENDMENTS.

Insert New Paragraphs:

177-A. Indian commissioned officers (as defined by section 7(2) of the Indian Army Act) will have power of command in relation to personnel of the British Army in India, and such power will be exercised on such occasions as may be appointed by the officer commanding the station, brigade, brigade area, district or command, or by the Commander-in-Chief in India, as regards such personnel serving together under their command. The power of command will be the power of command vested in officers of corresponding rank and status holding commissions in the Land Forces, but will be exclusive of powers of punishment.

177-B. The power of command to be exercised by Indian commissioned officers (as defined by section 7(2) of the Indian Army Act) in relation to personnel belonging to His Majesty's Indian Forces will be the power of command vested in officers of corresponding rank and status holding commissions in the Land Forces.

THE PAYMENT OF WAGES BILL.

APPOINTMENT OF CERTAIN MEMBERS TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, my motion in the form in which it appears on the order paper suggests that I am proposing to enlarge the original Select Committee on the Bill to regulate the payment of wages to certain classes of persons employed in industry. I should like to make it quite clear that my motion has no such intention. We originally hoped that the Committee would be meeting during this Session, but, at an informal meeting I had with the Members, I found that this was not convenient to the majority of them, and it was agreed to meet during the last week of May. That date, however, made it impossible for some Members to serve, and my proposal, therefore, is to substitute Mr. J. A. Milligan for Mr. L. C. Buss and Dr. R. D. Dalal for Dr. F. X. DeSouza, Khan Bahadur Mian Abdul Aziz takes the place of Mr. Monteath, who is no longer a Member of the Assembly, and Mr. Clow who was originally appointed to the Committee, has ceased to be a Member owing to his temporary absence from the Assembly. With your permission, Sir, I would, therefore, make the following motion in the amended form which will be more satisfactory as it mentions the Members retiring from the Committee. I move:

"That Khan Bahadur Mian Abdul Aziz and Mr. A. G. Clow be added to the Select Committee on the Bill to regulate the payment of wages to certain classes of persons employed in industry and that Mr. J. A. Milligan and Dr. R. D. Dalal, be appointed to that Committee in place of Mr. L. C. Buss and Dr. F. X. DeSouza"

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That Khan Bahadur Mian Abdul Aziz and Mr. A. G. Clow be added to the Select Committee on the Bill to regulate the payment of wages to certain classes of persons employed in industry and that Mr. J. A. Milligan and Dr. R. D. Dalal, be appointed to that Committee in place of Mr. L. C. Buss and Dr. F. X. DeSouza."

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—*contd.*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Further consideration of the Indian Finance Bill will now be resumed. Clause 4 has been disposed of. Clause 5, therefore, which relates to income-tax and super-tax, and Schedule II, Parts I and II, will now be taken up. Amendments to this clause begin with amendment No. 40. Will the Honourable Member (Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi) move the motion formally.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move amendment No. 40:

"That in sub-clause (*1*) of clause 5 of the Bill, after the words 'shall be charged' the words 'only on incomes of Rs. 2,000 or more' be inserted and the words 'except in the case of total incomes of less than two thousand rupees falling under heading A in the said Part' be omitted."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in sub-clause (*1*) of clause 5 of the Bill, after the words 'shall be charged' the words 'only on incomes of Rs. 2,000 or more' be inserted and the words 'except in the case of total incomes of less than two thousand rupees falling under heading A in the said Part' be omitted."

Mr. F. E. James (Madras: European): Has the original clause been moved?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair mentioned that clause 5 is now under consideration. It does not require to be moved.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): May I point out, Sir, that amendments Nos. 40, 41 and 42* are exactly the same.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No. The Chair would now ask if any Honourable Member wants to move amendment No. 41.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir, my amendment No. 41 is:

"That in sub-clause (*1*) of clause 5 of the Bill, all the words occurring after the words 'rates specified in Part I of the Second Schedule' be omitted."

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, it will be taken up later on as it relates to surcharge

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: May I point out that there are two issues in clause 5 and that each issue should be taken up separately, otherwise we shall have considerable confusion.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd (Government of India: Nominated Official): May I just say one word? Amendment No. 82† is a straightforward amendment, but it is not exactly the same as No. 40. Amendment No. 82, if I may respectfully say so, is a properly drafted amendment to get rid of the tax on incomes below Rs. 2,000. Amendment No. 40 was probably intended to have the same effect, but it has the effect also of relieving from taxation incomes of companies and registered firms that happen to fall below Rs. 2,000. Amendment No. 42 is, I think, intended to be a consequential one if amendment No. 82 is carried.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair thinks amendment No. 82 ought to be moved first. Mr. Basanta Kumar Das.

Mr. Basanta Kumar Das (Surma Valley *cum* Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I do not wish to move amendment No. 82. Mr. Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi would move it.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in Part I-A of Schedule II to the Bill, entries (1) and (2) be omitted and the subsequent entries be re-numbered accordingly."

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): Has the Honourable Member withdrawn the amendment which he moved previously?

*"That in sub-clause (*1*) of clause 5 of the Bill, the words 'except in the case of total incomes of less than two thousand rupees falling under heading A in the said Part' be omitted."

†"That in Part I-A of Schedule II to the Bill, entries (1) and (2) be omitted and the subsequent entries be re-numbered accordingly."

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: It is the same as a matter of fact.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: It is not the same.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Then, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the amendment which I moved before (Amendment No. 40).

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Sir, I have placed the amendment before the House for the simple reason that this provision in law in itself was only introduced as an emergency measure. In 1931, the Government introduced this provision when they were faced with deficits. According to the Government's own showing that emergency is over and they have restored to the full the salary cut of their employees, which cut was introduced in 1931 along with the introduction of the provision about income-tax. When the Government themselves admit that the emergency is over, there can be no reason for them now to insist that this particular provision of the law should remain on the Statute-book. Now, Sir, as a matter of fact, so far as people who have got very little representation or voice in the country or before the House are concerned, their case is often neglected by the Treasury Benches and by the Government. Though this particular provision in the Income-tax law was originally introduced as an emergency measure, yet we remember in 1933, while Sir George Schuster, the late Finance Member, was discussing this very particular item, he said that as a matter of fact the Government had found out a new avenue of revenue in the shape of tax on incomes below Rs. 2,000, and that, therefore, it would be better in the future to make it a permanent feature of the Income-tax Act. I submit, Sir, that when once the Government find a way to exploit the ordinary people and the ordinary masses of the country because they have got no voice or representation in this House or whatever repesentation they have got is not listened to by the Government, the result is that often these Acts which are passed only as temporary measures are made permanent while in the case of people who have got a greater voice and who have got greater influence with the Government any measures taken against them are withdrawn as soon as time permits. Now, Sir, the amendment proposed by me will bring about exemption of incomes between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 from income-tax. These are the only incomes which are now carned by the poor man or the middle classes of this country. In support of my proposition, I might bring to the notice of the House that it was in 1919 after full consideration of the whole problem that the income-tax level was raised from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000. Then again in 1926, there was the Taxation Enquiry Committee which, after a thorough enquiry, came to the conclusion that the minimum level of taxation should not be less than Rs. 2,000. The Government are very fond of quoting experts, and I think it will be better for them to consider the decisions of their own Committee that was appointed by themselves to be experts on this matter and it is better that Government give due weight to those decisions in this particular matter. Again, when this measure was brought before this

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House in 1931, this House opposed it and it was only by force of certification that it was brought on the Statute-book. A further continuance of a measure which was admittedly called an emergency measure at that time and which was brought even at that time by force of certification, I say its further continuance now, at a time when the Government themselves admit that the emergency is over, is against all canons of justice and common sense.

Now, Sir, what is this income-tax after all? I submit that the whole basis of income-tax, as we have got it today in India, is merely a copy, I say copy in the sense that it keeps only the points in favour of the Government and not in favour of the taxpayer, of the English law of Income-tax. It has been imported into this country and imposed upon the people with all the rigour and all the severity of the English law while it has been deprived of the exemptions and provisions that were in favour of the taxpayer. The English law provides certain exemptions which, looking to the condition of India, would have been much more necessary than even in the English law. There we have got exemption for families: a person with a wife and children can get exemption to a greater extent than a person who is a bachelor and living by himself. Here, in India, as a matter of fact, as is well-known, the conception of a family is perhaps much different from the English conception. There only a husband and wife make the family but here in India a family consists of parents, sisters, brothers, cousins and cousin's children, and I sumbit that, on an average, if we take a particular family, we will find that one earning member has got to support as many as eight to ten persons. So a family in India is absolutely different from that in England, and here it consists of a much greater number of people than in England and still there is no exemption in the Indian Income-tax Act for families. There are also certain provisions in the English law which allow the loss of the previous year to be carried over to the next two years. If a person earns one thousand rupees in one year and if he has lost Rs. 500 in the previous year, that Rs. 500 is to be carried over for deduction of the profits of the next two years and the result is that he would be exempted from income-tax. But here in India there is absolutely no exemption of that type in the Income-tax Act. Such a provision for carrying over losses in income to subsequent years is very necessary for people with whatever incomes, but specially, when we consider cases of those who are getting less than Rs. 2,000, such a provision becomes all the more necessary and the absence of such a provision acts as a great hardship indeed. Persons with a family of ten people, with an income of Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 5 a day, find it difficult to pull on; then where comes the question of paying any taxes?

Then, Sir, though in name this tax is only on incomes of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000, as a matter of practice, it falls upon people who earn much less than that. The very way in which the Legislature has provided for the assessment of this income shows that to the knowledge of the Legislators themselves this tax is an absolutely arbitrary one. The general procedure of taxing people is by a summary method which only means that whatever the Income-tax Officer thinks to be proper he assesses the

income, and then the assessee has got a right of putting in an application before the assessing officer to get it set aside, produce his accounts to satisfy him and to get the assessment revised. That, Sir, is a very long procedure, but this has been rightly adopted because, as a matter of fact, no accounts are ever to be expected from people earning these sums of money. I personally think that people with much larger incomes do not keep such regular accounts as to satisfy the income-tax authorities. In my personal experience I know many cases of men who are earning Rs. 6,000 or Rs. 7,000 a year, but who always get the assessment of tax by summary methods because they have got no regular accounts. So to expect an illiterate or a half-educated person to keep regular accounts which will satisfy the income-tax authority is a thing which is impossible. We know very well what sort of account books are considered to be regular account books to be relied upon, and a book of three or four pages, written in a slipshod manner, can never be called a regular account book so as to satisfy the assessing authority and to get the assessment altered. Then comes the question of appeal. When the original authority could not be satisfied with that account book where is the question of appeal? The question of revision or reference to the High Court is a matter which is beyond the contemplation of an ordinary person whose income is between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000. The result of all this is that the income-tax authorities rope in as many persons as they possibly can to exact as much amount as they can possibly do, and the assessment is accepted by the assessee because he cannot do anything to the contrary.

Then comes another question. A point which the Honourable the Finance Member or other Government Members will be pressing is that the proof that they are able to pay is in the fact that they paid the previous year and they are paying even now. My submission is that instead of this being quoted as a proof I will say that the previous payments have still more incapacitated the people of India to pay any further taxes. Then, Sir, how can the payment be deferred? The methods of realisation are such that if the person himself is not prepared to pay some of his relatives and neighbours would be prepared to get off the evil of this realisation by paying or contributing towards the release of the man who is embarrassed by these officials.

Only the other day, one of our Honourable Members from Bihar, Maulvi Shafi Daudi, complained that in the earthquake area of Bihar there was severity in the realisation of taxation, and the Honourable the Finance Member very kindly said at the time that he was prepared to make inquiries into those specific instances and see what he can do. My submission is that as a matter of fact no proof can be given. If the words of the Honourable Members of this House are not to be believed, they cannot prove facts which are not tangible and cannot be proved. What is the severity in collection which my Honourable friend can prove? There will be no cases of imprisonment, there will be no cases of whipping, there will be no cases of maltreatment. Then what is Maulvi Shafi Daudi going to prove and what is the Honourable the Finance Member going to investigate? These are only platitudes which cannot satisfy the people as they are. We know very well that the realising officer, the person who realises the tax, is not a man who is alone; he has got the whole machinery of the police, the whole machinery of the

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army, the whole power of the mighty British Empire behind him in the realisation of taxes. If we go to a steel factory we find sheets of steel bored which are very thick but which look as if they are made of wax. So I submit that we should not judge it as if the realising officer has no power behind him. It is the power of the British Government that forces the people to pay. The appearance of the peon, and of the person who goes to realise the tax is a sufficient guarantee that if it is not paid the whole of the British power and the British army is prepared to bring its pressure on the man, ruin him and his house, his neighbour or even the city in which that man is living. There will probably be martial law in the end if the person does not pay properly. So I will just give you an instance from my own province the truth of which Honourable Members can find out for themselves. The irrigation charges are realised by Government. A certain amount of fees is paid to the *lambardar* for the realisation, and always the *lambardars* take *jamabandis* and realise money. But ever since this depression began those persons were prepared to leave the commission that they were getting and refused to take *jamabandis*. Now we have got double or treble the staff,—temporary staff,—that is employed in all the districts for the realisation of the irrigation dues, and Government can today assure us that the talk of depression, the talk of poverty that we are making is absolutely baseless because they are realising the irrigation charges just as they were doing before. But what is the fact? The fact is that the Government itself, with its mighty power, could not find it possible to realise these taxes without the aid of an additional staff, without the aid of the full force that was to be brought to bear on the people to make them pay.

There are instances, which I will just quote, and you will be convinced that they are instances of hardship, but still nobody will be prepared to say that any legal hardship is proved. I know thousands of instances that are daily occurring around us. There was a person who was in arrears to the extent of Rs. 72, but had, in the payment of land revenue and rent, finished almost all his things and was only left with a pair of bullocks. The irrigation demand of Rs. 72 was made; the attaching officer attached the two bullocks which were sent to the cattle pound. They were retained there for about a month. They were originally estimated to be worth about Rs. 100, but when the auction took place they were sold for Rs. 70. He was in arrears to the extent of Rs. 72: the bullocks were sold for Rs. 70; the cattle pound authorities wanted Rs. 18 for feeding charges of the animals while in the pound; and the result was that Rs. 52 was credited to the account of the agriculturist and he was still left in arrears for Rs. 20. These are the conditions. I leave it to the Honourable the Finance Member to say what can be proved as legally wrong from these facts. Nobody was wrong: they acted perfectly legally in accordance with the provisions of law. But can anybody with common sense dispute the fact that it has caused the greatest possible hardship? There may be no instance of whipping or imprisonment or maltreatment; but hardship can be inflicted in a thousand other ways—by attachment, by threats of imprisonment, etc. If the authorities want to convince themselves of the real hardship of the people, let them make a little change in their dress and, if possible, in their colour and place themselves in the position of Indians; and in a day they will probably learn what is the true condition of the people who are living in this land.

And, then, if they come and tell us they have been harshly treated and then if we ask them for proofs, they will be able to give no proof and we will have to take their word for it. They always want instances of the harshness of this Government. But if they exercise a little imagination they will find out the harshness of the Government when they daily see before them a solid block of opposition to all their propositions. This solid block of the Congress has not come here to do any propaganda for the people who wanted them to carry on any mischievous work against the Government. As a matter of fact it is the work of the Government itself that has made the people send these men here to voice the sentiments of the suffering masses.

Now, what is the defence of the Government about this particular taxation? Their one plea is that this taxation was in existence before 1919, and, in 1919, the level of taxation was raised to Rs. 2,000 because prices had gone up by two and three hundred per cent. of the original prices: and now that the prices have come down it is only in the fitness of things that the Government should lower the taxable income limit. To that argument my answer is that as a matter of fact 1919 was a time when there was a rising tide of prosperity: people with smaller incomes were getting more profit; and now we have got a depression and people are losing money: those who now make Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 used to make double or four times that amount before. By the decrease in their income they cannot possibly at once regulate their expenditure in a way so as to bring it within that income. I say Government cannot, therefore, argue that because of lower prices they must reduce the taxable minimum, when they themselves are not prepared to leave the Lee Concessions which they are enjoying even today. I was rather afraid that this surplus—about which there was some dispute as to whether it was a windfall or merely money got owing to an under-estimate or a wrong estimate—might be utilised by the Government—thinking a little more leniently of Government officials—towards making good the losses they had suffered for the last three years owing to the cut in pay; but it is fortunate they have not done so. Still I ask them why they are not prepared to forego these concessions in spite of the decrease in the prices of produce and in spite of the fact that they retain the same old salaries which they had before this depression came.

The second point is that the incidence of this taxation does not fall on people who are really unable to bear it. I learn from the debate in 1933 that it is the *bania* class which pays more than 50 per cent. of this taxation. Then they say that Government cannot make up the loss of 75 lakhs—now it will be 50 lakhs—that will be caused by this amendment. My submission is that this is not correct to say that it only falls upon the *bania* class. I will just give a calculation before concluding. According to their calculation there are about 1,000 persons who are employed in realising this tax. The amount of money that they would be realising would be Rs. 50 lakhs; and the average amount that a particular individual may be paying would be about Rs. 10 per head per year: Rs. 7 for an income of Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 10 for an income of Rs. 1,500 per year; so I take the average at Rs. 10. Now, Rs. 50 lakhs has to be collected from five lakhs of persons. Before they get these five lakhs of persons, they will have to issue notices at least to ten lakhs of persons. What is the staff which is issuing all these notices? It is 1,000 in number and we may take it that out of this 1,000, there will be three officers attached

[Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi.]

to one office and so there would be about 300 officers to assess this income-tax, and the number of cases per officer would be about 3,000 to 4,000 a year. This number of cases per officer is so large that in the absence of accounts, in the absence of any definite information, which is impossible to obtain, the taxation cannot but be arbitrary and the number of persons who are collected and gathered together cannot but be indiscriminately got up for the purposes of this tax. With these words, I move my amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in Part I-A of Schedule II to the Bill, entries (1) and (2) be omitted and the subsequent entries be re-numbered accordingly."

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I would like to say only a few words on this amendment. I am speaking on this amendment specially because I have two amendments standing in my own name which are in the opposite direction, namely, that the reduction of the rate proposed by the Government should not be approved by this Legislature. This House, by its vote in favour of the reduction of the salt tax, has cut down the budgeted revenue of the Government of India by three crores of rupees, and, in my view, we should not increase the loss to revenue any further. I think the Budget may not be able to stand the loss of more than three crores. My argument against this amendment is that there is not to be more than three crores reduction in the budgeted revenue, we should not do anything by which that reduction will be increased. There are already rumours that the Government of India proposes to certify the reduction of this salt tax. I said the other day that the Government of India would not be justified in doing so, but I feel that if we go on adding to the reduction of the revenue. . . . .

An Honourable Member: They have not made up their mind now.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: . . . . If the Government of India have not made up their minds now, they may think of doing so hereafter, at least we should not do anything by which we may give them any excuse . . . . .

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: You are against it on merits, are you not?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Yes, and I shall say something about the merits too.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: You have reduced the revenue by 76 lakhs yesterday.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The Finance Member says that we have reduced the revenue by 76 lakhs yesterday. Sir, my view of the reduction of the revenue in the postal department is somewhat different from the view of the Finance Member. I feel that the losses in the postal department, as we have now commercialised the accounts, should be borne by the postal department itself, and not by the general revenues of the Government of India, but, Sir, I shall not deal with that subject. My own view on the point is, if the postal department is run as a commercialised

department, the right course for the Government of India to adopt, is to carry forward those losses as all industrialists and traders would do, and not pay the money for the losses out of the general revenues of the country. Mr. President, my argument against this amendment is this, that if there is to be relief to the tax-payer, which tax-payer deserves it first? I am not suggesting for a moment that people whose income does not exceed Rs. 2,000 a year do not deserve relief before relief is given to those people whose income exceeds Rs. 2,000. But do the people whose income is from Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 deserve relief before those people who pay a tax on salt, on cloth, on kerosene oil, on matches? If, Sir, any taxation is to be reduced, let that taxation on the poorest class of people be reduced first. Let the whole salt tax be first wiped out of the Statute-book; let the tax on matches, on kerosene oil, on cloth be wiped out of the Statute-book first, and then let us think of reducing the income-tax. I am quite prepared to admit, Sir, that people whose income is between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 are poorer than the people whose income is a hundred thousand, but certainly people whose income is between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 are not poorer than the people in the villages whose income does not exceed Rs. 20 a year. I, therefore, feel that if there is to be precedence in the matter of relief of taxation, then precedence should be given to those people whose income is much less than Rs. 1,000 a year. It is on that account I oppose this amendment.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah (Sind Jagirdars and Zamindars: Landholders): Sir, I was very much amused to hear the last speaker who always advocates the cause of the poor. . . .

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Which poor?

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah: Well, he himself admits that those who pay tax and earn between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 are poor people and they deserve relief. . . .

Mr. N. M. Joshi: They are certainly poor in comparison to those people whose income is much higher.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah: That is merely by comparison. And don't these people whose income is from Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 and for whom he is not anxious, pay the salt duty? I would have agreed to his proposition if this Government had agreed not to restore the cut. Then I would have asked Honourable Members not to reduce the revenues of this Government.

An Honourable Member: They have not yet announced anything.

Another Honourable Member: They are not going to announce anything, I might tell my friend, they will issue an Ordinance.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah: As my friend has made out that this was an emergency taxation, when the Finance Member had a surplus budget, he ought to have utilised the surplus in the first instance to give relief to the poor. I do not know, looking to the policy of the Finance Member, whether we are going to have hereafter any surpluses at all. What is his policy? *Laissez faire*. He does not believe . . . . .

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): He does not believe in anything.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah: He does not believe in economic planning, he does not believe in retrenchment, he does not believe in anything. He wants to leave everything to the chapter of accidents. Now, as he has not used his surplus for removing the emergency taxation, I think all sections of the House should combine to force his hands. I know he is in a happy position, because he knows that if we make any cuts, he can get them restored; but I may remind the Treasury Benches that Government by certification is no Government at all. (Hear, hear.)

An Honourable Member: Was there no certification in Bombay in your time?

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah: No, never.

Now, Sir, coming to the merits of the question, the first question one would naturally ask himself is who are affected by this income-tax? I might reply, clerks, then some lawyers, doctors, or engineers. Pardon me, I am referring only to junior struggling lawyers, doctors and engineers, also schoolmasters and small shopkeepers. What are their needs? All these men require a house to live in, they have to pay house rent. Then, as the Honourable the Mover said, they have a family consisting of four or five people. That family has to be maintained and educated. Again, they have to make provision for sickness and old age. Moreover, the curse of this country is that from birth to death there are some ceremonies to be performed. I do not find my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, here, but he will say, that every one of us has to pay invisible income-tax, that is, we have to maintain some of our poor relations. If all these things are taken together, I do not think any money will be left for those who earn between Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000, to pay income-tax. With these remarks, I support the motion.

Mr. B. Das: A drowning man catches at the last straw, and this has been the case with the last four Finance Members. Sir, the first Finance Member I will refer to is Sir Malcolm Hailey, who, owing to his ill-fated frenzied financial policy, sold away reverse councils and frittered away 50 crores from the gold reserve. He thought, at one time, that the salt tax should be doubled. He did it, but he knew what was the public opinion in the country, and he had to give it up the next year. The third Finance Member I will refer to, and that was Sir George Schuster. Owing to the mismanagement of Indian public finances by the 18*d*. ratio policy, he withdrew from the Paper Currency Reserve and partly also from the Sterling Reserves another fifty crores, and when the economic depression supervened, he devised an irksome system of taxation whereby he asked the income-tax payers to pay more than they were paying—in many cases two to four pies more per rupee, plus 25 per cent. surcharge. Not only that, but who was that ingenious adviser in the Finance Department—I hope my Honourable friend, Mr. Lloyd, was not the adviser—who advised him to tax the poor struggling middle classes whose income lies between Rs. 1,000 to 2,000? What are the number of assessees in this 1,000 to 2,000 limit? It is about 2,20,000 . . . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): More than three lakhs.

Mr. B. Das: More than three lakhs, and how much has my friend collected from them? Rs. 73 lakhs. And what money does the extra establishment cost my Honourable friend, Mr. Lloyd?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Rs. 7 lakhs.

Mr. B. Das: I thought it was much more than that, because the establishment has been increased very much since 1931-32 after the emergency Finance Bill was passed, and I would ask my Honourable friend, Mr. Lloyd, or the Honourable the Finance Member, to point out why the establishment has been so much enlarged in various directions. The task of surcharge collection and the higher income-tax collection did not warrant any additional establishment, particularly when the Retrenchment Committee recommended a reduction in the staff of the Income-tax Department. My own view is that the Income-tax Department is spending between 12 to 13 lakhs of rupees for the collection of this Rs. 73 lakhs. Is it worth while, is it worth the candle for this country to spend so much money to collect such a small return? But then what can the poor Sir James Grigg do? He has inherited from his predecessors and from his masters six thousand miles away certain commitments which he has to carry out. He has to link the rupee to sterling and not to gold. He might shout at me, as he did the other day, that the Government of India are not going to de-link the rupee. That is not sound financial policy, that is a policy not based on economic principles. In 1930-31, when Sir George Schuster devised this ingenious method of collecting income-tax, he was collecting Rs. 17 crores, and he expected that by a sudden turn of the handle he would get another four crores. But what happened? The income-tax which the Finance Member of the Government of India gets is somewhat stationary between Rs. 16 and 17 crores. What happened to this surtax, what happened to the two or three pies increase in certain categories of income-tax payers? Is it because the income of the people is going down and people cannot pay? My own estimation is that under the 1929-30 level and system of computation the Finance Member gets something like ten crores, because, in his own budget speech, he has said he has somewhere Rs. 4 crores towards which 334 lakhs come in as surcharges and 73 lakhs from the low level of income-tax. But what about the increment of income-tax rates? Therefore—I speak subject to correction—today the Finance Member is getting Rs. 10 to 11 crores on the basis of the old level of taxation in 1929-30. Does that not alarm the Finance Member? Does it not make him think as to how to get at this wrong system of income-tax taxation?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What is the wrong system?

Mr. B. Das: The wrong system of income-tax which has led to the low economic vitality of trade and industry in this country. Here I must finish with Mr. Joshi before I proceed further. My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, has well-known socialist views which are known to us on this side, and he always advocates capital levy. And today he advocated that the income-tax should be raised and not lowered. If Mr. Joshi had followed me, I have just explained,—and I hope he has appreciated—that, where the Government of India was getting Rs. 16 crores, today they are getting only Rs. 11 crores from the people of India. Is that a nice condition for trade and industry in this country?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: But what has income-tax to do with that?

Mr. B. Das: Income-tax reflects the condition of trade prosperity in the country. I will quote Mr. Lloyd. Paragraph 9 of the Income-tax Report issued by the Central Board of Revenue for 1932-33 says:

"As income-tax is levied on the income, profits or gains of the 'previous year', the assessment made during the year under report reflected the trade conditions of the year 1931-32 which are discussed in the following paragraphs based on the reports received from the Commissioners of Income-tax."

Income-tax reflects the conditions of trade and industry.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: That is true.

Mr. B. Das: A wrong basis of income-tax does affect the trade and industry of the country. I have shown from the analysis of the income-tax that the present system of taxation should be changed and that it does not help trade and industry. The Honourable Member has made half a dozen new deals. I listened to them with great delight because I thought it was a university union that I was attending and I thought I was listening to the expositon of different theories on the New Deal. Today we will also have a new deal on the income-tax assessees.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Are you coming to income-tax now?

Mr. B. Das: My advice to him is that he should abolish all the surcharges on the high rate of income-tax that was put in 1931-32 and also abolish this low level of income-tax. The question that he will ask is where will he get the money from. He has other ways of getting money. What he has to do is to improve the trade conditions of the country. He himself talked of economic recovery and, as has been stated by his predecessor in a lecture delivered in London, economic recoveries can take place in India.

1 P.M.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better confine himself to the amendment.

Mr. B. Das: I am explaining how, if the Honourable the Finance Member changes his taxation policy, he can relieve the income-tax payers of this heavy burden from which they are suffering and at the same time he can improve his finances by bringing forward a scientific policy of taxation. The Finance Member may laugh at it but I would ask him to put a five per cent. duty on the export of gold. I do not ask him to put an embargo on gold.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is not relevant. He must confine himself to the amendment.

Mr. B. Das: I am simply telling the Finance Member as to where he should get his additional revenue from. If he equalises the kerosene duty with the excise duty, he will get somewhere about one crore and 25 lakhs. I have suggested already how he can secure 2½ crores, and if he consults me privately I can give him some more suggestions.

Though not a direct representative, yet as one of the representatives of the mercantile community, I would like to point out that the Finance Member's own policy is so stifling trade and industry that he does not get sufficient income from the income-tax. I believe he has read the resolution that we passed in the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and which pointed out this great defect in the policy of the Finance Member:

"The Federation believes that the industrial and commercial community is entitled to full relief in respect of the surcharge of income-tax and super-tax and by continuing the surcharge to the extent of two thirds, Government have shown little consideration for relieving the depression in trade and industry from which this country is suffering."

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Are you talking of the small income-tax payers or the big ones?

Mr. B. Das: I am talking about both. The Indian mercantile community are very much affected. They feel that the policy of the present Finance Member is not bringing him the necessary income-tax return and also is killing trade in India. The Finance Member's policy . . . .

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): He has got no policy yet.

An Honourable Member: That itself is a policy.

Mr. B. Das: The policy of carrying Rs. 10 crores to the silver reserve fund without the assent of this House or without the assent of the commercial community in India, which causes a contraction in the currency . . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Those arrangements were approved generally by the last Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. B. Das: May I point out from the report of the Standing Finance Committee that they did not say that ten crores will be earmarked immediately and is it not also a fact that the Finance Member has taken five crores for the reserve of the Reserve Bank this year? I was a party to it, and I sanctioned it, but this additional ten crores the Standing Finance Committee did not sanction. Rather the Standing Finance Committee recommended that it will be built up slowly from sale of silver. The Government of India memoranda . . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is irrelevant to this discussion.

Mr. B. Das: According to my Honourable friend, everything is irrelevant. I am pointing out the defects of his present policy by which the poor middle classes who cannot get even one full meal are heavily taxed because taxes from contracted trade return less.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it not possible for the Honourable Member to concentrate on the amendment?

Mr. B. Das: Therefore, I say that the minimum taxable limit should be raised to 2,000. There is nobody in this House, barring of course my

[Mr. B. Das.]

socialist friend, Mr. Joshi, who can support the idea that the level should not be raised. Already my Honourable friends, Mr. Kazmi and Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah, have described the miserable condition of the lower middle classes that are affected by it. The lower middle class are having the same standard of life as the upper middle class. They keep up the same standard of life, though in a lesser scale and naturally this lowering of the limit has come as a hard blow on them. Therefore, I want it abolished. I know my Honourable friend, Mr. Lloyd, is familiar with the speeches made last year on the floor of the House about the harassment in the collection of this income-tax from the poor villagers and the residents in the towns. I will refer to one aspect particularly which has come into play. Suppose a man in a town has got two or three houses and the income-tax officers assess him on the rent of those houses based on the municipal assessments. He does not care to know whether the houses were tenanted for the 12 months or whether the houses realised the rent on the basis of which the municipality assessed their municipal tax. This has caused a great hardship in India to low level income-tax payers and to those even who pay higher income-tax in the towns. This is one aspect of the thing. Another point I would like to refer to is the hardship caused to petty zamindars. In the mofussil they are now paying taxes on fishery and other incomes from which they were formerly exempted. The fishery is not worth 100 rupees per annum but the income-tax officer takes it into his head that there is a large amount of fish and, compels these poor landholders,—who are not permanently settled landholders or big landholders like my friend, Maharaj Kumar of Vijiyanagaram, and like my friend, Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury, but other small zamindars who pay to Government revenues of Rs. 500 or Rs. 1,000,—and they are compelled to pay income-tax on fisheries on the ground that fisheries are not a part of the agricultural income. Sir, as I am referring to some of the hardships which income-tax payers suffer from under the cruel treatment of the income-tax officers, I was very happy to hear yesterday of such boquets which were presented to the posts and telegraphs people, and yesterday, both Mr. Bewoor and Sir Frank Noyce, felt very happy. Now I wish the Honourable the Finance Member and Mr. Lloyd both could say the same thing—that their income-tax officials or income-tax inspectors were welcome guests (Laughter) in the houses of assessees. Sir, if honest opinion is collected throughout India, there will be very few people, barring perhaps my socialist friends, like my friend, Mr. Joshi, who will say that an income-tax officer behaves like a gentleman and does not doubt the honesty of assessees and is prepared to alter the whole basis of assessment when facts do justify this. Sir, I ask—how is it that when one becomes an income-tax officer, he doubts the *bona fides* of an assessee and begins to disbelieve his statements?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Because they sometimes keep two sets of books.

Dr. N. B. Khare: Perhaps you are more familiar with it. (Laughter.)

Mr. B. Das: Yes, as is kept by the Bombay millionaires. Sir, although I was living in Bombay, I was accustomed to knowing—and I have forgotten it since I began to live in Orissa—how that was done by the Bombay millowners there, but a poor grocer or a poor shop-keeper does not know such subterfuges as to how to keep two sets of books . . . . .

Mr. M. S. Aney: He has no books at all.

Mr. B. Das: And I do not think that that evil practice has yet travelled from the Bombay side to my Orissa side. So, Sir, I do hope that as my Honourable friend, Sir James Grigg, has come out with a freshness of mind, he would inquire as to why is it that these income-tax subordinates are not at all popular . . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I have some experience of that. I have yet to find a popular income-tax officer. (Laughter.)

Mr. B. Das: Sir, such charges of oppression used no doubt to be heard during those repressive measures days, but I would much wish that a system should be devised whereby income-tax officers should not doubt the honesty of assessees but should accept their word. (Laughter.) Sir, as I have the misfortune that I won't be able to talk now on prohibitive higher income-tax or surcharges and to give the Honourable the Finance Member certain advice as to how to change the system of income-tax, I reserve by further observations to the next stage.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch Till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, perhaps this will be a convenient time for me to intervene in this debate to take up one or two of the points which have been made during the course of it. The Mover of the amendment said that the emergency had disappeared. I should prefer to say that I hope the emergency is in process of disappearing. Obviously it won't have disappeared completely until all the emergency measures have disappeared. But as regards the emergency measures, we have fulfilled the first pledge relating to the order of priority of restoration, and I think you may put it shortly that we have fulfilled one-third of the second pledge. In the budget speech I placed the income-tax on incomes below Rs. 2,000 in the category of emergency taxation and I did thereby more or less—in fact rather more than less—commit myself to the principle of removing the taxation on incomes below Rs. 2,000 a year *pari passu* with the income-tax surcharge. But, although I have rather more than less committed myself to that principle, I do not think all the argument is on one side in that matter. First of all, we know that the agriculturists who pay land revenue and do not pay in the form of income-tax are always very bitter about the amount of taxation they have to pay in relation to urban classes who are much better off than they are. An agriculturist who pays land revenue regards the man with a thousand rupees a year or even up to Rs. 2,000 a year as in a much more fortunate category than himself. That point of view is voiced very strongly by Mr. Joshi . . . .

An Honourable Member: He is a renegade.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Not this time. That is a point of view which, I am bound to say, in so far as my limited experience can judge, is one which is very widely held. Among the villagers a man with Rs. 2,000 a year is regarded as a fortunate person and not one of the poorest of the poor. Now, if you look at the amounts of taxation paid under the revised scale provided in the Finance Bill, colour is lent to that idea. Take a man with an income of Rs. 120 a month. Under the proposals in the Finance Bill he pays less than one rupee a month out of Rs. 120. That in itself is evidence that the urban population with incomes between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 are not being very heavily burdened by the proposals in the Finance Bill. Then, there is a second fact which has been brought to my notice and which is very striking. That is that people with incomes just above Rs. 2,000 a year relatively bear a very much higher rate of taxation than those with incomes just below Rs. 2,000 a year. I will give the House two comparative figures to show what I mean. The man with Rs. 150 a month pays under our new scale just a fraction over Rs. 2 a month in income-tax. The man with Rs. 180 a month, which is just above Rs. 2,000, pays under the proposals in the Finance Bill Rs. 6½ a month. So that you will see that the present income-tax scale does provide for a very steep and rapid increase at Rs. 2,000. As I said, although I have committed myself to the theory that the emergency taxation on lower incomes is in the same category as the surcharge for purposes of removal, a pretty powerful argument can be made out and is being made out against any such theory. But in a matter like this I feel that it is not very much good discussing the merits of this proposal because it has got to be considered in relation to its cost and in relation to the budget as a whole. The cost of it is Rs. 50 lakhs a year net. That is Rs. 57 lakhs a year actual reduction of taxation and Rs. 7 lakhs saving in the first year on staff. In order to clear up that little inconsistency between the two voices on the Government Benches I may say that, when the whole work of assessing and the arrears of the work of assessing these people with less than Rs. 2,000 a year disappears, the saving will be Rs. 10 lakhs. In the first year there is bound to be a certain amount of lag and carry over and the saving in the first year will be about Rs. 7 lakhs, so that the net cost to the revenue, in the first year, is Rs. 50 lakhs and that is a sum which the budget cannot stand.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Rs. 50 lakhs after deducting the concession you have already made.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: It is the cost of the amendment now under discussion over and above what has already been given. That is Rs. 50 lakhs net and, as I said, the budget simply won't stand that and, therefore, the Government are bound to oppose it.

So much for the Government position in regard to the amendment. A certain number of speakers dealt with general grievances under the income-tax administration and general grievances under the structure, if I may so call it, of our income-tax system. I have heard a good deal about that. I have heard all about the demands for an allowance for wife and children as in England and a minimum rebate for everybody and all the elements in the English income-tax structure. I have also heard about the harassing methods of assessment. I do not want in any way to prejudge these matters for, as the House knows, it is in contemplation that, at the beginning of the next cold weather, one or two experts from the Board of Inland Revenue in England will come out to India and they will be associated with a member of the present Income-tax staff in India, and between them, I hope, in fact I contemplate, that they shall conduct a comprehensive review of the income-tax system to see what improvements might be suggested, to see where the procedure operates harshly and to see where the procedure operates inefficiently and to recommend in short to what extent the income-tax system should be revised both in structure and in procedure. I have no doubt that all these questions, both as to the unfairness of the actual scales and as to the acerbity of the methods of collecting and assessing tax will be brought to their notice and fully considered by them. I hope that as regards the grievances in that respect the Honourable Members who have raised this matter will be reassured. I do not know whether this satisfies my Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das, in his new role of the capitalist's friend (Hear, hear), and, if I may say so, it is rather interesting to observe him in this new Assembly. In the old Assembly, as far as I remember, he was continually proclaiming himself as the representative of the masses, but now this morning he comes in the new role of representing the commercial classes.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Can he not represent both?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: At the same time? As regards his old friends in particular, I hope that my promise that there shall be undertaken an exhaustive review of the income-tax law and procedure will reassure them. As regards the grievances of some of his new friends, the commercial classes, who by the way have not been backward in speaking for themselves, as regards them, most of their grievances relate to concessions which will cost a great deal of money, and, for my part, I think those reforms that they want can only be undertaken at a very much later period than any administrative reform. To come back to the substance of the amendment as opposed to the incidental propositions which have been put forward, the simple fact is that it would cost 50 lakhs revenue in this year and this we cannot afford, and the Government must oppose it.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Sir, may I be permitted to congratulate my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, on having, late in the day, become a supporter of Government, but I regret that he has chosen the wrong time. I deeply regret it and I will say no more about Mr. Joshi. Luckily for him he has to answer no constituency, but if he had to answer one, I think he would have sung a different song.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: That is the reason why you are advocating their cause.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Let me deal in a few words with the speech of my Honourable friend the Finance Member. He has described to us the pledges that were given by his predecessor with regard to the surchages on income-tax and super-tax. He has also explained how far he has acted in order to fulfill those pledges. But there is one major factor which he did not remind the House about but which has already been mentioned and that is that when these surcharges were placed before this House along with the proposals to tax incomes between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 the latter proposal was rejected by this House and it only became law by certification. I contend that any taxation that has become law by certification falls within the scope of those pledges to a greater extent than other taxation. Therefore, Sir, I support this amendment that incomes between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 should be free from income-tax. That is not the only reason. My Honourable friend, the Finance Member, although he has been a very short time in this country has grasped fairly quickly the different interests represented in this House and he does not fail whenever an opportunity arises to place those differences before us hoping, may I say, and rightly it is his duty to do so, that there would be a split amongst us.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Not rightly.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: He is quite justified in doing so, but sometimes he carries the point too far. Sir, in this particular case when he talks of the class of people we are discussing, namely, people having incomes between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000, he forgets the conditions under which these people live, as compared with the conditions under which people with smaller incomes live in this country. The majority of people who pay this income-tax are salaried servants either of Government or of firms and some who work even in domestic service or in factories. Now, Sir, we have talked a great deal in this House and outside about the standard of life in this country and how we desire that the standard of life should improve. I contend that the standard of life amongst this class of people is definitely higher than it was before, a thing of which we ought to be proud, a thing which we ought to encourage; but considering the standard of life under which they live they lead a very hard life indeed. As I have had occasion to say before in this House in this very Session my sympathy goes out completely and absolutely to this class of people who earn between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 and who have to maintain a standard of life which we have taught them to maintain, whom we have taught to believe that it is their duty to educate their children, whom we have taught to believe that they should clothe and feed their children in a certain way. This class of people have learnt that lesson and therefore their lot is all the more pitiable as compared with the lot of others who may earn much less and whose standard of life today, I say it with regret, is lower or whose expenditure is lower; and therefore to compare the two classes in India today is not fair. Besides that the cost of living in cities is higher than in the agricultural areas. Considering all this, I do believe and sincerely believe that this class of people is the hardest hit today in India. (Hear, hear.) What with unemployment, what with reduction of wages, this class of people is suffering most. The Honourable the Finance Member has only got to cast his eye around and he will find more distress amongst this class of people than amongst any other in India.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Then they do not pay any income-tax on their salary. The man who is unemployed does not pay any income-tax.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Quite true. But his expenditure is the same and on account of your taxation, you have driven him to unemployment.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: He does not pay any income-tax all the same.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I quite agree when you say that those who are not employed do not pay this tax, but still I do maintain that amongst this class of people there is a large amount of unemployment and as your attention has been drawn on more than one occasion to the fact that in India there is the joint family system, that our custom is that a man who is earning a living wage considers it his duty to support those of his family who do not earn. And, therefore, unemployment does affect those who are employed, and that is a consideration which Government do not seem to keep in mind. A clerk may be employed but his brother may not be employed, and in a case like this I contend that those who are employed in the class of wage earners are worse off than others. Sir, under the circumstances, and expressing the views that I have expressed, I would strongly urge this House to exempt these people from taxation. My Honourable friend, the Finance Member, has pointed out by a few figures that a man earning Rs. 120 pays only Re. 1 a month, or Rs. 12 a year, and it is a small sum. I admit that, but Rs. 12 may enable him to buy his children three pairs of shoes. Perhaps they may have to go without those pairs of shoes on account of this taxation. It is a class of people,—I will again remind my Honourable friend, Mr. Lloyd,—whom we have taught to wear shoes, whom we have taught to clothe themselves better. It is the result of our own work, of our own encouragement. It is this class, with the education we have given them, which have more readily picked up our ideas than the agricultural classes, and that is why I plead for them. I have, living in a big city, seen many examples of great hardship. I have seen with my own eyes the standard of diet with this particular class of people going down from year to year due to their lowered wages and due perhaps to this income-tax that has been levied quite lately. Sir, under these circumstances my Honourable friend need not be surprised that there are many in this House who will support this amendment honestly believing that they will be doing some good to a very deserving class.

Now, my Honourable friend the Finance Member by his figures showed that the man who has an income of more than Rs. 2,000 is much worse off than the man who earns just under Rs. 2,000.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I am sorry, I did not say that. I said that the taxation increases steeply after Rs. 2,000 and that the man just over Rs. 2,000 was relatively taxed more heavily than the man who is just under Rs. 2,000. He was worse off not absolutely but relatively.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I accept that; that is exactly what I understood my Honourable friend to say and I am sorry if I misinterpreted him. Therefore, if a man earning more than Rs. 2,000 is worse off under this tax than the man earning under Rs. 2,000, is not that a strong argument for

[Sir Cowasji Jehangir.]

reducing the income tax between Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000? That is a very strong argument. If the taxation increases so steeply, get rid of the tax between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 and lower the tax on those who earn between Rs. 2,000 and Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000. Nobody wants to tax any one particular class more heavily than any other class, but because those earning more than Rs. 2,000 under your system pay more than perhaps you think they ought to, is no argument that those earning between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 should continue to pay the tax. If the Honourable Member will next year bring in any proposals to give relief to those earning, say, from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000—I would not go much beyond that,—I am certain the House would welcome such a suggestion.

Sir, I do not wish to take more time of the House. I trust the House will accept this amendment, for several reasons; but especially because this is certified legislation, certified by a House in which some of my Honourable friends were not pleased to be present but which still definitely came to the conclusion that this was not fair taxation.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Sir, I had no idea of intervening in this debate and there is also no reason for me to speak at any length. Much of what I would have liked to say has been said by my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir. One point to which I wanted to draw the attention of the House was in connection with a specific suggestion which has been made at the end of his speech by the Honourable the Finance Member. He promised that he is going to have an exhaustive review of the income-tax system. He also pointed out to us that in that review he is going to have the assistance of one or two experts who are coming out from England and a local expert he has got in his own office. I would like to know from him whether in that exhaustive inquiry he is going to have the association of some Members of this House or not. That is one point which I want him to elucidate if he can.

As regards the other point I can say this much, that so far as taxation between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 is concerned, I have no doubt that its recovery is being made at the cost of much that is necessary for those who pay the tax. They have to dispense with their necessaries whenever they have to make a payment of their tax; and any tax that is to be paid out of the necessaries of life and not out of what they can really lay by as surplus is nothing but a coercive tax and not a tax which can reasonably be levied upon them. On that point, I do not want to say much because almost all the arguments dealing with the conditions of these people who earn incomes of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 have been exhaustively placed before the House. I only give my support to those who have advocated the cause of these people, and I am sorry that my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, who is very seldom wrong unless he smells something of capitalism in any suggestion that is made in this House, has gone wrong in this case. Unfortunately, income-tax is one which, he thinks, falls upon somebody, who, by a remote stretch of his imagination, can be brought under the category of a capitalist according to him. And, I believe it is for that reason and for nothing else that he is opposing it. I want him to make a clear distinction between a capitalist and a man who has to live on his income and has nothing to lay by but has to pay his tax out of his own necessaries of life even. I believe persons who earn between Rs. 1,000 and

Rs. 2,000 do not deserve to be called capitalists even in the remotest sense of the term. He must disabuse his mind of that wrong notion and vote for the poor under which category I am sure these persons can be properly classed. With these observations, I give my strong support to the amendment.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That in Part I-A of Schedule II to the Bill, entries (1) and (2) be omitted and the subsequent entries be re-numbered accordingly."

3 P.M.

The Assembly divided:

AYES—73.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.
Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
Banerjea, Dr. P. N.
Baqui, Mr. M. A.
Bardaloi, Srijut N. C.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.
Chhattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Venkatachelam.
Das, Mr. B.
Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
DeSouza, Dr. F. X.
Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fakir Chand, Mr.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Sahib Shaikh.
Fuzlul Huq, Mr. A. K.
Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
Gauba, Mr. K. L.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Syed.
Giri, Mr. V. V.
Govind Das, Seth.
Gupta, Mr. Ghanshiam Singh.
Hidayatallah, Sir Ghulam Hussain
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
Khan Sahib, Dr.
Khare, Dr. N. B.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Mudaliar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.
Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, Qazi.
Muhammad Nauman, Mr
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nageswara Rao, Mr. K.
Panwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta.
Pant, Pandit Govind Ballabh.
Parma Nand, Bhai.
Raghubir Narayan Singh, Choudhri.
Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
Rajan, Dr. T. S. S.
Raju, Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Saksena, Mr. Mohan Lal.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Shafi Daudi, Maulvi Muhammad.
Sham Lal, Mr.
Shaukat Ali, Maulana
Sheodass Daga, Seth.
Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Nawab.
Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan
Sinha, Mr. Anugrah Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Shri Krishna.
Som, Mr. Surya Kumar.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Thein Maung, Dr.
Thein Maung, U
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Vissanji, Mr. Mathuradas.
Yakub, Sir Muhammad.

NOES—42.

Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama.
Bajpai, Mr. G. S.
Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.
Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
Clow, Mr. A. G.
Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
Dalal, Dr. R. D.
Drake, Mr. D. H. C.
Graham, Sir Lancelot.
Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
Hockenhull, Mr. F. W.
Hudson, Sir Leslie.
James, Mr. F. E.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Kirpalani, Mr. Hiranand Khushiram.
Lal Chand, Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.
Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.
Milligan, Mr. J. A.
Morgan, Mr. G.
Mukerje, Mr. N. R.
Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
Nayar, Mr. C. Govindan.
Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
Owen, Mr. L.
Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
Rau, Mr. P. R.
Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
Sarma, Mr. R. S.
Scott, Mr. W. L.
Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar.
Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra
Sloan, Mr. T.
Swithinbank, Mr. B. W.
Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That disposes of 80, 33, 84, 85, 88 and 89. Then, there is one in the name of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai. Does he wish to move it?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): No, Sir; I have reserved it for next year. (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No. 42 is consequential. It has to be put as a matter of form.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair will come to that later on.

No. 87 proposes to double the rates of income-tax. That is out of order. The Chair supposes, the Honourable Member has not got the sanction of the Governor General? Has the Honourable Member got the sanction?

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): No, Sir

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is another amendment, No. 92, in the name of Mr. Ram Narayan Singh. That also goes. Then, there is No. 90 in the name of Pandit Nilakantha Das. Does the Honourable Member wish to move it?

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): I don't wish to move any of these, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then, we come to 40 and 41 which are barred.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: 41 is for complete removal of the surcharge.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That has to be moved as a matter of form

Dr. P. N. Banerjea (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I move, Sir:

"That in sub-clause (*i*) of clause 5 of the Bill, the words 'except in the case of total incomes of less than two thousand rupees falling under heading A in the said Part' be omitted."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is.

"That in sub-clause (*i*) of clause 5 of the Bill, the words 'except in the case of total incomes of less than two thousand rupees falling under heading A in the said Part' be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then, there is the question of summary procedure. That relates only to incomes under Rs. 2,000.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Yes. Then, there is No. 98.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Sir, I beg to move:

"That Part III of Schedule II to the Bill be omitted."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That Part III of Schedule II to the Bill be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair takes it it is consequential?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then, we come to No. 49, which is also in the name of Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Sir, I beg to move:

"That sub-clause (*4*) of clause 5 of the Bill be omitted and the subsequent sub-clause be re-numbered accordingly."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That sub-clause (*4*) of clause 5 of the Bill be omitted and the subsequent sub-clause be re-numbered accordingly."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That Schedule II, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Schedule II, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then we come to the question of surcharge.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: What about No. 41, Sir?

Babu Baijnath Bajoria (Marwari Association: Indian Commerce): I don't wish to move it, Sir.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I also don't wish to move it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No. 46, Mr. Chetty.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: I don't wish to move it.

Mr. F. E. James (Madras: European): Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (*1*) of clause 5 of the Bill, for the word 'one-sixth' the word 'one-eighth' be substituted."

This amendment deals with the surcharge on income-tax, and I must trouble the House for a few moments when I refer to the history of this emergency tax. It will be remembered that in the emergency budget of 1931. . . .

An Honourable Member: We cannot hear.

Mr. F. E. James: . . . in the emergency budget of 1931, the plan of Sir George Schuster, the predecessor of the present Finance Member, included the imposition of surcharges on all income-tax and customs rates, and also the imposition of a cut of 10 per cent. in the salary of all Government servants. That cut of 10 per cent. was tempered, however, by exemption, as far as Government servants were concerned, from the operation of the surcharge on income-tax. Now, in the budget of 1933-34, half the cut in the pay of Government servants was restored, but they were made liable to the surcharge on income-tax, that is to say, the exemption which was given to them when the cut was first made was taken away. At that time there was no relief given to the general income-tax payer. In the year 1934-35, there was no change either in respect of the cut in pay, or in respect of the general level of surcharges on income-tax or customs. But in the present year the salary cut has been restored in full and there is a remission in the surcharges, so far as income-tax is concerned, of one-third, or 33 1/3 per cent. Now, I want to contrast that history with the history of the position in the United Kingdom where also the country was faced with a necessity for emergency taxation and other emergency measures. There in the emergency budget of 1931 there was an increase of 6*d.* in the income-tax rate, that is to say, from 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.*, together with a cut in the salaries of all the services and an increase of 10 per cent. in the surtax.

An Honourable Member: What is the percentage of the cut?

Mr. F. E. James: I think it varied, but basically it was 10 per cent.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The lower paid civil servants had a cut in accordance with a sliding scale, the higher paid civil servant had a cut of 10 per cent., and Cabinet Ministers had a cut of 20 per cent.

Mr. F. E. James: For the purposes of my argument it matters little what the exact incidence of the cut was. But in the last budget, that is to say, the budget of 1934-35, when the Chancellor of the Exchequer found himself with a reasonable surplus, what did he do? He restored the cut in pay, generally speaking, to the extent of 50 per cent., and at the same time, he removed the emergency 6*d.* on the income-tax as far as taxation was concerned. And it had been laid down by Lord Snowden and re-affirmed by Mr. Neville Chamberlain and by practically every member of the House of Commons in a leading position, with the exception of Labour members, that the whole principle of the emergency taxation should be on the basis of equitable distribution of sacrifice, and that the British Government would not give any promise that any one of the burdens imposed on the public or on the services at any time as a matter of emergency should have precedence over any other. Now, Sir, I would ask the House to compare the treatment in the United Kingdom with the treatment of the situation in this country. In the first place, the salary cut on the services was imposed, but, at any rate, for the first one and a half years the services did not have to pay surcharges on income-tax. At the same time, they were given a categorical promise or pledge that the first charge on any improved revenues of the country would be the restoration of the cut in pay. Then came the restoration of five per cent. of the cut in pay, but no corresponding alleviation of the emergency taxation as far as the general public was concerned. This year we are faced with the position that there is an entire restoration of the cut and a remission of one-third of the surcharge on income-tax, but no remission in regard to customs duties. I am quite well aware, and I think the House is also well aware, that, as far as the pledges of the past are concerned the Honourable the Finance Member is not responsible. He has inherited that position, he has inherited a condition of affairs from his predecessor and he has inherited a pledge given by his predecessor—a pledge which many of us feel should never have been given. But there it is, and as far as the cut in the salaries of the services is concerned, the House must recognise the fact that his hands are tied.

Now, what is our proposed amendment? We seek, in this amendment and in two other amendments of which we gave notice, to increase the remission in the surcharges from 33⅓ per cent. proposed by the Honourable the Finance Member, to 50 per cent., and assuming for the moment that the last amendment had not been carried by this House we estimate that the total cost of this amendment would be in the region of Rs. 68 lakhs. I think that figure is correct. We may be charged with proposing something which would result in a deficit budget, and as this Group has always stood as far as possible for a balanced budget as the basis of all credit, it becomes necessary that we should indicate in some way where we believe that this provision might have been found. In the first place, I have already referred to the fact that one hand of the Finance Member has been tied behind his back. He is bound by the pledges of his predecessor in regard to the restoration of the cut. There are a very large number of my constituents who feel that the balance of the

[Mr. F. E. James.]

cut should not have been restored until, at any rate, more relief had been given in the matter of emergency taxation. But we recognise the difficulty of the Finance Member in that respect. In the second place, we have criticised what we believe to be a doubtful theory in connection with the disposal of non-recurrent surpluses the proceeds of which are obtained by emergency taxation, among other ways. And we have criticised what we believe to be the somewhat questionable expediency of charging to this surplus revenue items of expenditure of a remunerative character which we claim should have been charged to capital,—I refer now to the question of civil aviation in part and also to some aspects of the programme in regard to broadcasting. In the third place, Sir Leslie Hudson, in his budget speech, criticised what he believed to be, and we believe to be, the excessive conservatism of the Finance Member in regard to his revenue anticipations for the year 1935-36. The outstanding example of this is, in our view, this matter of sugar. I will not go into that in detail, because this has already been dealt with. But the other day when the Honourable the Finance Member was referring to a criticism under this head, he claimed that he had to go upon the figures that were supplied to him by the experts. I would remind him that that reply was given to some of us who criticised the figures for the year 1934-35 and we then claimed that the Honourable the Finance Member was under-estimating his revenue. What is the result. The actuals for this year show that he had under-estimated to the extent of 100 per cent. and we are not quite so sure that the guidance which the Honourable the Finance Member is receiving from his experts is very good. However, I am quite prepared to admit that he may prove to be right. If he is, then his reputation as e Finance Member will stand very high.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Only as a prophet.

Mr. F. E. James: If he is wrong, then our own position is greatly strengthened thereby. We feel that on these questions there is some justification for the claim which we are now making that there should be a greater distribution of relief in the matter of this emergency taxation. I am well aware that there are some in this House and in the country who look at this matter from a different point of view. They say that as far as those who are in the higher categories of income-tax payers are concerned, they can very well afford to continue to pay the surcharges. But I should like to make it clear that we approach this matter on a point of principle. On the last division we voted against the proposal to abolish the tax completely—on incomes below Rs. 2,000. That is not because we had no sympathy with the tax-payers in that category. In fact I may remind Members that—I think it was two years ago—the burden of the tax-payers with incomes between Rs. 1,000 and 1,500 was alleviated to the extent of 50 per cent. with the aid of our own votes, an alleviation which was accepted by the Honourable the Finance Member of the day. But as far as emergency taxation is concerned, we stand on the principle that it should be regarded as a whole and that no one section should be entitled to regard itself as standing in the position of precedence to any other section of the community in regard to alleviation. That, Sir, is a matter of general principle on which we have approached this question. Then, Sir, there is another point which I should like to

submit to the House in regard to those who feel that the payers of surcharge in the higher category can well afford to continue to pay this emergency tax. I am quite prepared to admit that there may be a strong case for a general redistribution of taxation but I do also submit to the House that it is not fair under the guise of continuing a piece of emergency taxation to secure that object—any more than it is fair under the guise of the continuance of the emergency surcharges on customs duties to secure a re-orientation of the fiscal policy of this country and a substitution of the principle of discriminating protection for one of indiscriminate protection. We believe that in both these cases before any revision is made there should be an adequate inquiry and I am prepared to claim in any inquiry that is made in regard to the question of the basis of taxation in regard to incomes that the middle and upper classes of this country do bear a very heavy burden in regard to the central revenues. It is of course difficult to dogmatise on the actual proportion that is paid but I am prepared to go before any committee of inquiry and submit definite facts to show that the middle and upper classes of this country pay as far as the central revenues are concerned anything from 50 per cent. to 66⅔ per cent. of the entire revenue. Therefore, Sir, I claim that now is not the occasion on which this attempted redistribution should be made. If you want redistribution it should be made the subject of a careful expert inquiry. I am prepared to admit that conditions have changed considerably in the country since the last Taxation Inquiry Committee was held in 1924-25 and that there may be a justification for a further inquiry. In parenthesis I should like to welcome the statement of the Honourable the Finance Member in regard to the inquiry which he has promised into the structure and administration of the income-tax. I should like to ask him two questions in amplification of the information he has given us. The first question is, will that inquiry be related in any way to the incidence of the tax, that is to say, will it be an inquiry into the actual incidence of the tax with a view to the possible revision of the grade? The second question is—will the committee be prepared to receive representations on income-tax problems from public bodies, particularly those representing trade and commerce and industry?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Will it take evidence?

Mr. F. E. James: Now, Sir, I have put the case as fairly as possible I admit that there may be two schools of thought in regard to the incidence of the particular tax which I am discussing. I do not want to raise that problem because that is a problem which is quite beside the point at the moment. Our object in pressing these is to use every opportunity in our power to ensure that the first charge upon any accruing surplus in the revenues of this country shall be the removal of as large a proportion of the surcharge on taxes as possible and certainly, by the end of next year the removal of the remaining surcharge on income-tax. Sir, I move,

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendmen moved:

"That in sub-clause (*1*) of clause 5 of the Bill, for the word 'one-sixth' the wor 'one-eighth' be substituted."

Mr. Fakir Chand (Jullundur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I ris to support the very moderate amendment moved by Mr. James. My chie

[Mr. Fakir Chand.]

ground for this step rests on the fact that this surcharge was imposed as an emergency measure by virtue of the Supplementary Finance Act passed in 1931 in order to maintain budgetary equilibrium. Now that the budget is not only balanced, but there is a surplus, there is no justification for retaining the surcharge. Of course, my friend, Mr. James, came up with a very moderate proposal for reducing it to one-eighth instead of its entire removal, but my submission is that an emergency measure should cease to exist with the cessation of that emergency. We know, in the budget of this year, there is a net surplus which is available to the Honourable the Finance Member, but unfortunately we have a different way of thinking. Instead of reducing the taxes which were imposed as an emergency measure, he proceeded, first of all, to restore the cut in salaries. Secondly, he took a lot of money for civil aviation, and again for broadcasting, and, thirdly, for the construction of unwanted roads on the frontier. All these works are, in my humble opinion, not essential. If we do not allow this surcharge to be removed this year when there is a surplus, and when there was an implied promise in 1931 that this surcharge and the other attendant conditions would all be removed when the emergency ceased to exist—if we cannot get this surcharge to be removed this year, we shall never be able to get it removed at all, because, next year, it is quite possible that, when there is another surplus, the Honourable the Finance Member may come up with a proposal to finance, say, the cinema industry or any other pet project. Then, we will be left in the lurch. Sir, I do not know where to draw the line. I do not know when we shall be able to remove these emergency taxes, which were imposed in special circumstances. Of course I have to invite the sympathy of my Congress friends some of whom do not see eye to eye with me, though they think that you can take any amount of money from those people whose income exceeds Rs. 2,000.

An Honourable Member: "Who can pay, who possesses the ability to pay".

Mr. Fakir Chand: Now, so far as ability to pay is concerned, several Honourable Members have spoken on the way in which we the middle classes have not only to maintain families of our own, but also the families of other relations who are unemployed—and for every one earning member there are lots of others unemployed, so far as our society is concerned—and I do not think there is any Member in this House belonging to the middle classes who has not got to support, in addition to his own family, that of some other unemployed relations. (Hear, hear.) We, Indians, Sir, have not only to maintain ourselves, but also to support our relations, who, by reason of the trade depression or lack of employment or to other causes, cannot find employment; and you will sympathise with me, Sir, that, in so far as the surcharge is concerned, I speak from a broad principle, *viz.*, that inasmuch as this surcharge was imposed in the budget of the year 1931, there is no justification for continuing it at this day, years after: and let us remember that, more especially so far as this surcharge is concerned, there is no justification for demanding as much as 25 per cent. As it is we are paying 25 per cent. in addition to the usual tax since 1931. Now, of course, we shall have to pay one-sixth instead of one-fourth, but my learned friend, Mr. James, only wants a reduction of one-fourth to one-eighth. Of course, I could have asked for the entire removal

of the surcharge even as the amendment stands and that would have been perfectly justified in view of the circumstances in which his surcharge was imposed. I pray of Honourable Members to vote for the removal of this surcharge.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Sir, I rise to speak on this motion, which deals with a subject affecting most adversely the traders, the commercial community and the industrialists, irrespective of caste, creed or colour to which each of them may belong. (Hear, hear.) Sir, the high rates of income-tax and super-tax and their sur-charges are having the most baneful effects on the flow of capital in the field of industrial development of the country. Sir, I would like to read a few lines from the latest available official income-tax report for the year 1932-33 which will show that the condition of trade and industry in that year was much worse than in the preceding year. I will read what they say about Bengal:

"The year 1931-32 was even worse than the year 1930-31. Foreign trade was disorganised by the abandonment of the Gold Standard and resulting uncertainties of Exchange. The sea-borne trad of Bengal, both exports and imports, slumped to a point below even the pre-war level. Jute which largely contributed in former years to the income-tax revenue in Bengal passed through another year of depression. The export of tea, another important trade of this Province, marked a sharp decline. Prices of all primary produce fell, as throughout the world, but the boycott of foreign piece-goods relaxed somewhat and the tobacco trade improved. Income from brokerage, dividends, managing agency commissions and salaries likewise showed no improvement as compared with the previous year. Collieries, ironworks, potteries, etc., all suffered. In the Mufassil the money-lenders as a class were severely hit as the agriculturists had no cash to repay—land became almost unsaleable and collections of the Mahajans dwindled seriously. The disastrous effect on the revenue would have been much more apparent but for the enhanced rates of taxation."

Sir, the same tale goes for the other provinces, but I will not take the time of the House by reading them. I have no hesitation in saying that this further depression was, to a large extent, due to the great increase in the rates of income-tax and super-tax and especially the imposition of surcharges in the year 1931. Sir, everyone knows that India is mainly an agricultural country and has got an abundant supply of raw resources which may be utilised for the production of finished articles provided sufficient capital flows into the field of industry. If, today, capital is wanting in the field of industrial development, it is solely due to this heavy income-tax and super-tax, and especially the surcharge on those taxes, which are nothing but mainly a tax on trade and industry. There is not the least doubt that the surcharge is driving out capital from industrial fields to the gilt-edged Government loans and other debentures. (Hear, hear.) We are talking of a tax the burden of which is borne by about three lakhs of assessees, who contribute a revenue of about Rs. 16½ crores annually. This figure does not include about Rs. 70 lakhs collected from assessees whose income ranges between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000. In connection with the income-tax, I would draw the attention of this House to the fact that the revenue from this source is gradually falling and has come down from about Rs. 21,89,00,000 in 1921-22 to about Rs. 16,40,00,000 which has been budgeted for 1935-36, whereas, on the contrary, the rates of this tax have been raised by about 50 per cent. in the case of smaller incomes, and by about 100 per cent. in the case of higher incomes during these years, and the minimum taxable income has also been lowered considerably to the figure of Rs. 1,000.

[Babu Baijnath Bajoria.]

In order to elucidate the point further, I may state that in 1922, the income-tax was raised by one pie per rupee in the case of incomes above Rs. 30,000 and by 2 pies per rupee in the case of incomes above Rs. 40,000. In 1930, again, the income-tax was raised by one pie per rupee for all incomes above Rs. 15,000. In March 1931, the tax was again considerably increased as follows:

	In 1930-31.	In March 1931.
Rs.		
1,000 to 1,500	Nil	2 pies
1,500 to 2,000	Nil	4 pies
2,000 to 5,000	5 pies	6 pies
5,000 to 10,000	6 pies	9 pies
10,000 to 15,000	9 pies	1 anna
15,000 to 20,000	10 pies	1 anna 4 pies
20,000 to 30,000	1 anna 1 pie	1 anna 7 pies
30,000 to 40,000	1 anna 4 pies	1 anna 11 pies
40,000 to 100,000	1 anna 7 pies	2 annas 1 pie
100,000 upwards		2 annas 2 pies
Every company and registered firm—whatever its total income	1 anna 7 pies	2 annas 2 pies

Again, in September of the same year, the surcharge of 25 per cent. was levied, which has brought the highest rate of tax from one anna seven pies in the financial year 1930-31 to two annas and 8½ pies per rupee including the surcharge. It shows an increase of about 70 per cent of the tax as compared with the rate in the financial year 1930-31 and if we compare the present rate with that in vogue in 1921 it shows an increase of more than 100 per cent. The only inference that can be drawn from the figures given above of income-tax realised during 1921 and 1934 is that the income of the people paying this particular tax is gradually going down. It is not a good sign that in spite of the lowering of the minimum taxable income from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 1,000 the total collection should fall off as well as the total number of assessees of income of over Rs. 2,000 should be decreased. It also shows that either the volume of trade and commerce is decreasing in the country or that they are undergoing a very unfair competition from the outside and for which the profits that used to accrue to the traders and industrialists before are not being realised by them now. The result is that there is a considerable decrease in the number of traders and industrialists earning any profit. I ask, Sir, is there anybody here who would deny that the prosperity of a country can only be gauged by the development and progress of trade and industry therein as well as from the revenue

derived from the source of income-tax? This decrease in revenue derived from the head income-tax proves only one thing, namely, that the rates of income-tax are very high in the country and that the surcharge was the last straw on the camel's back to break it. This surcharge has brought in the universal law of diminishing returns into play on this particular source of revenue. It is therefore high time that the surcharge should be abolished altogether. If not, at least it should be brought down to half of its original rate. In discussing this question I should ask my friends to compare the English income-tax administration with that in vogue in India. If we do so, we find the two systems of administration of this tax are wholly different. The English law allows rebates for married men, for children's maintenance and education and for several other purposes. There the levy of such a tax is based on some rational grounds and basis.

I will now quote from the English Income-tax Act. Section 12 (1) runs thus:

"Where the income, although exceeding one hundred and thirty pounds, does not exceed eight hundred pounds, and the claimant proves that he has a child or children living and under the age of sixteen years at the commencement of the year of assessment, he shall be entitled, in respect of every such child, to relief from tax upon twenty-five pounds."

Section 13 (1) says:

"Where the income although exceeding one hundred and thirty pounds does not exceed eight hundred pounds, and the claimant proves that for the year of assessment he has a wife living with him, or in the case of a claimant being a widower that a person being a female relative of his or of his deceased wife is resident with him for the purpose of having the charge and care of any child of relative of his, or that he maintains at his own expense any person being a relative of his or of his wife, who is incapacitated by old age or infirmity from maintaining himself and whose income from all sources does not exceed twenty-five pounds a year, he shall be entitled in respect of his wife or any such female relative and in respect of each person whom he so maintains, to relief from tax upon twenty-five pounds."

But we do not get any such reduction here.

On the other hand, not only no such allowances are allowed in the Indian Income-tax Act to the assessees but rather insufficient allowances are made for the actual working expenses in a firm. I can quote concrete examples. A firm having a fairly big income requires the help of motor cars for handling the business properly but the autocratic powers allowed to the Indian income-tax officers gives them a free hand to decide whether the maintenance of such cars for the business should be included in the working expenses of the firm or not, and the orders passed by them are final as no appeals lie in a judicial Court against income-tax assessment. Then, Sir, in a firm, if one of the partners works as the manager of the firm, no remuneration for him is allowed to be included in the working expenses of the firm. There cannot be any more absurdity than this. The partner of the firm is giving his time, energy and intellect for the betterment of the firm and but for whose labours no income-tax will be forthcoming to the Government from that firm, but under the Indian Income-tax Act he shall not be allowed to draw any allowance or pay from the business merely because he happens to be one of the partners of the firm. In other words, it means that a firm cannot take one of the best business enterprisers as its partner but may retain him as a paid servant of the firm. So, I think provision should be made for allowing a fair remuneration to a working partner and to allow deduction for maintenance of wife, children and dependants as provided in the English Act.

The next point that I wish to bring before the House is the demand of the facilities to the income-tax assessees to carry over the losses of one year to the incomes of the next year or succeeding years for the purposes of assessing income-tax. In business income is uncertain as there may be profits in one year and loss in another. After investing big capital, energy, labour and time in a business it may not yield any income but, on the contrary, may produce a loss of thousands of rupees. Next year the business may yield a profit of several thousands of rupees. Equity and justice demands that out of this income, the previous year's loss should be allowed to be reimbursed and the sum so reimbursed should not be assessed to income-tax. Here I would like to illustrate my point by a concrete example which will make it more intelligible. Sir, in a year a firm loses say about Rs. 30,000. But let us take it for granted that the firm somehow or other manages to earn a profit of Rs. 20,000 in the succeeding year, which is not even sufficient to allow the firm to recoup its previous year's loss. But in spite of this strain on the firm, Government will levy a heavy burden of income-tax on that profit of Rs. 20,000 and it must be admitted by all to be most inequitable and unjust and unfair to the firm. Sir, not only justice demands such a modification but the whole business world in India, both European and Indian, demands it with one voice. This principle is not a new one but has been indirectly admitted in the English Income-tax Act. There under Schedule "D" a firm is allowed to be taxed on an average income of past three years.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The average of 3 years does not apply under Schedule "D" any longer.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: I accept that correction. Let us carefully examine the result of this inequitous treatment on Indian trade and industry. A capitalist will feel shy to allow his capital to be invested in an industry as he will think that in spite of taking so much risk of losing his all he is not allowed to reimburse his losses in coming to a fair assessment of income-tax. This is not all. We the income-tax payers are doubly taxed. The indirect taxes levied on the people of India fall on us as much as on any other man. Do we not pay all the import and export revenue duties that are levied by the Indian Tariff Act? Do we not pay stamp duties? Do we not pay Court fees? Not only do we pay such taxes but the bulk of those taxes also come from the pockets of these 3 lakhs of income-tax assessees. Over and above that, we pay direct taxes like income-tax and supertax. If the incidence of taxation is enquired into thoroughly, it will be found that especially in India the incidence of taxation *per capita* is the heaviest on the income-tax assessees. Therefore, Sir, I plead that this surcharge of income-tax should be reduced by at least 50 per cent. and not 33⅓ as proposed by the Honourable the Finance Member.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Yours is a different amendment.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: The amendment is for 50 per cent. I am not a whole-hogger. I am not asking a big concession. It is only a small mercy that I demand, not only in the name of equity and justice but also in the name of further industrial progress in this country. I think that all non-official Members of this House will agree with me when I say that there

was no justification for Government to restore the cut in salary of Government servants in full before this 50 per cent. relief was granted to the income-tax assessees. Sir, as I said before, this surcharge is having a depressing effect on trade and industry in the country but whereas the cut in salary of Government servants did not affect the body-politic of the whole of India in the least. It is the policy of self-preservation which urged the Government to restore the cut in salary. As I said on another occasion, the restoration of 5 per cent cut in salaries of all Government servants in the whole of India has cost the Government of India and the Provincial Governments to the tune of about 3 crores. Even if half of this sum would have been made available, it would have, I think, been sufficient to wipe off half of the surcharges on income-tax and super-tax. I, therefore, hope and trust, Sir, that this House will fully endorse the view for the reduction of this surcharge on income-tax which was also levied as an emergency measure to balance the budget. Now, when the budgets have not only been balanced but are also showing big surpluses there seems to be no justification for the Government to continue this surcharge when they could not continue the cut in salary of Government servants.

Lastly, I especially appeal to my Congress friends in this House to support this motion for reduction of surcharge on income-tax as they often say that they are always eager to help trade and industries in this country and in my opinion the reduction in income-tax rates will greatly help the trade and industries of this country. With these words, I whole-heartedly support the amendment.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, a good deal of the very interesting speech of my Honourable friend who has just sat down was concerned with matters which must come under examination by the expert enquiry which I propose. Perhaps I might answer the two questions which were raised.

4 P M.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: That enquiry is not going to cost us another tax, I suppose?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That will save you money in the long run. My Honourable friend Mr. James asked two questions in connection with that enquiry. I should straightaway say that I do not propose in any sense to have a formal committee but rather an administrative expert examination. I have, however, every intention that responsible commercial bodies should have every opportunity of putting forward their views both in writing and where it is practicable by oral discussion. But it will not be a formal committee taking evidence in any formal way, but, as I said before, rather an expert examination who will have every opportunity of consulting and considering the opinion of responsible commercial bodies. As regards the incidence, by all means I intend that the experts should examine the present structure of the income-tax and its incidence in particular directions, but if this means that one of the things they will consider will be the possibility of the introduction of the extremely scientific and highly organised system of income-tax which is in force in the United Kingdom, I am bound to give a preliminary word of warning that my own examination so far—it has naturally not been very thorough—rather discourages me from holding any confident belief that the English system is immediately or in any very close form adaptable to the Indian circumstances. So much for the expert enquiry.

[Sir James Grigg.]

I now come to the speech of the Honourable the Mover on the actual amendment under discussion. He provided or proffered three sources from which the cost of this amendment could be met. The first one was the pay cut, but the Mover immediately ruled that out himself on the ground that he recognised the categorical character and the inviolable nature of the speech of my predecessor in the matter of the pay cut. The second one was that we should bring forward surpluses from last year and the third was by taking a more optimistic view of the estimates. As there has been a good deal of argument on this question of the admissibility of surplus of a year just closed to be brought forward in aid of the revenue of a year which is just beginning, perhaps I can say a few words on that. There is no doubt whatever that the true straight-laced theory in this matter is that taxation ought not to be reduced unless you can actually see, in the year which you are dealing with, with a fair prospect of its being continued for years to come, a surplus of revenue over expenditure which is sufficient to provide for the reduction of taxation that you have in mind. That is the straight-laced theory, that non-recurrent or fortuitous surpluses or windfalls are not available for recurrent reductions of taxation. Sometimes this straight-laced theory has been departed from and departed from with a certain show of legitimacy. I remember that it was done, I think, in 1927, by Mr. Churchill when he was the Chancellor of the Exchequer. In that case there was a shortage of revenue in a particular year due to a special cause and he brought in a special non-recurring asset in order to avoid the necessity for increasing taxation. But that is only legitimate if in the years following the year in which this special device is adopted, you can see a recovery of revenue and a permanent recovery of revenue, which is at least sufficient to fill the hole which in that particular year has been filled by your non-recurrent assets. Outside that second rule, which is an exception rather than the rule, I do not think anybody has ever held that it is legitimate to use a non-recurrent surplus or assets for the permanent reduction of taxation. Therefore, the only possibility we can look at is that we are in the position of having a temporary falling off of revenue but that we have in future years an assurance of such an increase of revenue that the reductions of taxation which would be made possible by bringing into account a non-recurrent surplus could be maintained and fully maintained for the years to come. Is that the case here? Quite apart from the fact that under certain heads of protective duties, the revenue is bound to continue to decline for the revenue from those sources are in the nature of wasting assets and in some of them rapidly wasting assets, you have sometime in the next two years certain very definite liabilities. One is the loss to India proper resulting from the separation of Burma and the second is the series of initial subventions to the Provinces. The first has been variously estimated from two to three crores and the second also from two to three crores. Then, over and above that, you have got the necessity, rather further off, but within a measurable distance of time, of assigning a share of the income-tax and a very substantial share of the income-tax to Provinces. Quite clearly from the central point of view, we have not got the certitude of a rising and a developing revenue, but the certainty of having to face very large liabilities in the near future: so that there is no such assurance as is necesary to justify the bringing forward of surpluses in order to provide resources for the reduction of taxation, and this quite apart from the fact that the House has now allocated the surplus beyond recovery. So much for the bringing forward of surpluses.

I now come to the third point of Mr. James that a little more optimism in estimating would do the trick. As a good deal has been said in one place and another on this question of under-estimating, perhaps I might be allowed to deal with that rather more fully than I have done his previous suggestions for providing revenue for tax reduction. First of all let us freely admit that the revenue receipts of 1934-35, the year which has just closed, are likely to be several crores above the budget estimates of my predecessor. That is an established fact. (Hear, hear.) It is necessary to bear in mind that this increase is very largely due to two items, the import duties on textiles and sugar. Both of them are likely to be declining sources of revenue as indigenous industries which are protected supply a larger and more complete share of the home market. Textiles were responsible for an increase over the estimate of nearly 2 crores, and sugar for something under 1½ crores. Now the increase in revenue from the textile duties was quite clearly the consequence of the very definite trade improvement which set in towards the middle of last year. We have hitherto assumed for the purposes of our estimates,—and there was nothing to show that that assumption was incorrect when the estimates were made,—that in 1935-36, this improvement will be not only maintained but enhanced. Now, are you quite sure now in the light of the present day that we are right? Does it look as if the situation in the world at present is conducive to a further improvement in trade? Can we for one thing,—leaving out of account all the wars and rumours of wars,—ignore the fact that the mills in Bombay and Ahmedabad are complaining that the stocks of cotton piece-goods are dangerously high and are demanding that steps should be taken to restrict the output? Does this look like a situation where we are justified in estimating for an enhancement of the improvement which took place last year?

Then, let us turn from cotton piece-goods or textiles to customs generally. Still leaving out of account sugar, we are assuming this year, 1935-36, taking customs generally, an increase of 2½ crores over the revised estimates for last year; that is, the revised estimates which are themselves several crores above the original estimates of last year. Does that look like undue caution in the light of the world as it is today? I personally do not think so; and having gone through the estimates item by item in the last few days I am bound to confess that if I were making estimates now I would write them down appreciably from their present level.

Now, let us turn and deal with sugar. Last year my predecessor originally estimated for 3·52 crores. Our revised estimate under that head is 4·90 crores, that is an increase of 1·38. This year we have put the figure at 3·25 crores or a decline of 1·65 crores from the revised figure of last year. I am told from all quarters that this is all wrong and that there will in fact be little or no decline. Well, sugar is a chancy thing about which to prophesy, and I for one am not going to be dogmatic about it. But even supposing there are special reasons why the decline in sugar should be less than is estimated, and supposing that our estimates may be as much as a crore on the pessimistic side,—I suppose all that, I do not admit it at all,—is it not at least possible that our estimates for the rest of the field are optimistic to at least the same extent? And reviewing the whole field sugar and the rest of the customs revenue together, I am not for one moment prepared to admit that any sufficient reasons exist now for revising our estimates substantially in an upward direction. As regards the rest of the revenue, salt and income-tax, we have provided for an increase on the

[Sir James Grigg.]

revised estimates of this year under both heads. In any case those heads were heads on which the revised estimates for last year do not show an increase over the original estimates and on which there can be no possible accusation of under-estimating in any way. So that, in none of the three ways that Mr. James mentioned is there money available to meet the 56 lakhs which would be required to meet his two proposals taken together, which are that the surcharge both on income-tax and super-tax should be reduced from one-sixth to one-eighth. However, Sir, the pledge of my predecessor in this matter remains on record, and we may perhaps hope that next year it will be possible to satisfy Mr. James more fully. And I can give him another promise, though I do not know if he will get much satisfaction from it; I will promise him that if this year a larger surplus emerges again, I will regard it as establishing a *prima facie* case for a little more boldness in estimating in the following year. (Laughter.) But at present in action at any rate caution is and must be my watchword and so I regret to say that I oppose his motion.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That in sub-clause (*1*) of clause 5 of the Bill, for the word 'one-sixth' the word 'one-eighth' be substituted."

The Assembly divided:

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair understands one Honourable Member, Captain Lal Chand, paired off with another Honourable Member but forgot it and voted: now he wants that vote to be cancelled. The Chair allows it.

AYES—31.

Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Bajoria, Babu Bajnath.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fakir Chand, Mr.
Gauba, Mr. K. L.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Syed.
Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.
Hidayatallah, Sir Ghulam Hussain.
Hockenhull, Mr. F. W.
Hudson, Sir Leslie.
James, Mr. F. E.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
Milligan, Mr. J. A.
Morgan, Mr. G.
Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, **Maulvi** Syed.
Parma Nand, Bhai.
Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
Shafi Daudi, Maulvi Muhammad.
Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Nawab.
Som, Mr. Suryya Kumar.
Thein Maung, U.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Vissanji Mr. Mathuradas.
Yakub, Sir Muhammad.

NOES—43.

Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama.
Bajpai, Mr. G. S.
Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.
Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
Clow, Mr. A. G.
Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
Dalal, Dr. R. D.
De Souza, Dr. F. X.
Drake, Mr. D. H. C.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha Khan Sahib Shaikh.
Fuzlul Huq, Mr. A. K.
Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kumar Vijaya Ananda.
Graham, Sir Lancelot.
Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Kirpalani, Mr. Hiranand Khushiram.
Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada, Sir Sayad Muhammad.
Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.
Mukerje, Mr. N. R.
Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
Nayar, Mr. C. Govindan.
Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
Owen, Mr. L.
Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
Rajan Bakhsh Shah, Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed.
Rau, Mr. P. R.
Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
Sarma, Mr. R. S.
Scott, Mr. W. L.
Shaukat Ali, Maulana.
Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar.
Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
Sinha, Raja Bahadur Harihar Prosad Narayan.
Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
Sloan, Mr. T.
Swithinbank, Mr. B. W.
Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.

The motion was negatived.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: I move, Sir:

"That in sub-clause (*1*) of clause 5 of the Bill, for the word 'one-sixth' the word 'one-fourth' be substituted".

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: On a point of order, Mr. President: this raises the taxation.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It restores the present rate of taxation, and the Chair thinks it has been ruled that such a motion is in order.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Sir, much has been said about the reduction of surcharge and also in favour of abolishing income-tax on incomes up to Rs. 2,000. That support of abolition was perhaps right under the circumstances, but this reduction of surcharge is a thing which cannot be countenanced in any way. The day before yesterday the Honourable Sir James Grigg made a significant statement in course of his speech saying that only on two items, sugar and textile, our people are paying rupees 34 crores in form of indirect tax—that is, 20 crores and 14 crores respectively, 34 crores in all,—and out of this sum only 7 crores goes to the State Treasury, and 27 crores goes to the pockets of the industrialists and trades people. Granting that even 60 per cent. of this 34 crores goes to the labourer, the producer of cotton, of sugar-cane and to other agriculturists and common people, we have a margin of at least 7 crores, if not more, which the tax-payer pays to our industrialists, businessmen and traders. Here arguments are adduced that the trade is going down, the industries are being killed, you cannot put a direct income-tax, there

[Pandit Nilakantha Das.]

is no money in the pockets of our industrialists. Where can you get the money from? How can you tax them? Of course, the standing calamity is there,—the expenditure of the State cannot be reduced. That is a misfortune. I am not going into that question now, but I take it as a necessary evil for the present, but taking it as it is, where is the money to come from if it is to come at all. I could not understand the calculation that was made, namely, from 17 crores the income-tax has come to 11 crores. I know from 22 crores it has come down to 16. This may be due to fall of income, which should be ascribed greatly to World Depression, but mostly to the policy of our taxation. You are bleeding the people, the consumers white by heavy indirect tax. But whatever that be, if our industrialists and tradesmen who pay this surcharge have not got money in their pockets, who else has got money in this land? Perhaps you will have another excise on sugar, you will have another export duty on rice. These are only levied by the State to make money, and there is no other reason for putting an excise tax on sugar which you are protecting by a heavy import duty. It is only for making money that the States put an excise tax, and an equal import duty. On a previous occasion, I explained how our people are indirectly paying. I also showed that each man on the average pays Rs. 2 to the State in the form of indirect tax. It is so in spite of the specious argument put forth by our Honourable friend, Mr Lloyd, that he and men like him help a good deal in reducing this average of the common man by paying heavy indirect tax. After all how many Lloyds are there? Thus in a small family of five members, they are paying at the rate of Rs. 2 per head, at least Rs. 10 a year. Besides this sum, they are also paying an amount of money to the industrialists in the ratio of 27 to 7 or thereabout. Here I deduct from what the common agriculturist or villager pays that sum which comes back to the labourer and the man who grows cotton or sugar. Then it is further Rs. 2 per head. Thus, assuming that each man is paying at least Rs. 4, a family of five is paying Rs. 20 a year to the State, and I am sure in this land, be he Sir James Grigg or any greater man than himself, even some emissary of God himself (Laughter) will not be able to make our people pay this for long. How long will you tax our people like this? There is no margin left for the ryot and the agriculturist in the land. They are simply vegetating, so to say, on the verge of starvation, you don't think of it, and you are taxing people for protecting your industry or for finding a market for other people somewhere else. But you must take a warning now that in a few years there will be no money in the land, and all this standard of living, all this purchasing power and other things will collapse, and India will revert to the position where she was a thousand years ago, and you will either meet with famine or you will have to drastically and directly tax sources where there is money, be it in this country or in England, or even be it any other country. Sir, no proposal which seeks to tax the pockets of our poorest people and that indirectly should be countenanced in this House. The way in which this Government is following its policy of taxation is against all canons of reasonable taxation. In fact you rob our people without letting them know of it. But when the question of taxing highly paid servants and other rich people comes, you speak of pledges and give them promises for the future to pacify them. This process cannot go on long. The country won't stand it. Hence I appeal to my friends to support me in this. Let Government face direct tax and let people understand that they pay. Let people pay that can. If you reduce the tax of the rich people, then how can you save my people whom I represent here? I don't represent the industrialists alone. Of course, I may not discard them, I want reasonable adjustment. Sir, I move my amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in sub-clause (*1*) of clause 5 of the Bill, for the word 'one-sixth' the word 'one-fourth' be substituted."

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I shall say only a few words in support of this amendment. After the reduction of the salt duty, I hope the Government of India will support this amendment. I heard the Finance Member saying that he believes in the orthodox principles of finance, and let me tell him that generally I also believe in the orthodox principles of finance. Inasmuch as the Government of India's budgeted revenue is now reduced by 35 crores, they will not mind having a sum of Rs. 50 or 60 lakhs less. The original proposal of the Finance Member was based upon the pledge of his predecessor. I agree with my Honourable friend, Mr. James, that his predecessor had absolutely no business to give a pledge in this matter. Reduction or increase of taxation is a matter within the power of the Legislature only, and no Finance Member has a right to give any pledge that he will reduce any item of taxation. I, therefore, say that the Finance Member need not feel himself bound by the pledge given by his predecessor inasmuch as the pledge itself was a wrong one.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: No pledges given to Mr. Joshi should be kept.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I do not say that at all. Government can give a pledge on matters which are within the reach of Government. They cannot give pledges in matters which are within the power of the Legislature alone. It has been said that this surcharge deserves to be reduced at this time because it was an emergency tax. I do not know whether there is any tax in the statute-book of the Government of India which was not, at the beginning, an emergency tax. History records that salt tax was an emergency, it was first put on as an emergency. Therefore, if any tax levied for the sake of emergency is to be removed, I think it is the salt tax which must be first removed or reduced. I shall not go into the old history, but even within my own memory, taxation was increased in the year 1921 or 1922, almost every tax was increased, practically, to its double extent. That was an emergency, a very grave emergency. I want to know which of those taxes have been reduced. If the taxes levied in the year 1921 for the sake of meeting an emergency have not been reduced, I want to know why a tax levied to meet a recent emergency should be reduced. I do not wish to speak at length on the other aspects of the question. But it was said by my Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das, who places one of his feet in the Congress Party and another in the Federation and his statement was repeated by my Honourable friend, Mr. Bajoria,—that income-tax has ruined trade. Nothing of the kind. If trade has suffered, it has suffered on account of the general depression. On that subject, I shall read one small quotation from a well known economist. . . .

Mr. F. E. James: What is that book?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: This is from Professor Pigou. I think you have heard his name. The name of the book is Taxation: Yesterday and Tomorrow; it will be very useful to you. Professor Pigou says:

"Though current opinion regards a high income-tax as injurious to production, there is no real proof that it is so. Some people will work less hard if they know that a quarter of their earnings will be taken away by the State, but other people. . . . will work harder, while yet others. . . . .will not be affected at all. It is not clear that the first of these groups will necessarily be larger than the second."

The opinion of another Professor is given here, namely, that of Professor Marshall, but you might say he has become rather old and that he is entirely orthodox. He too holds that income-tax does not. . . . . .

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: If the industry is ruined, what will the labourers do?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: That question I shall reply on some other occasion, but I maintain that income-tax does not reduce production.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: May I know whether Professor Pigou is as good an authority as Professor Joshi who is now speaking? (Laughter.)

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am not very modest, and I am prepared to agree with Professor Pigou that income-tax does not reduce production. Again, it was said that income-tax presses heavily on the people here. Is there any country in the whole world where income-tax is lighter than in India? Let us see our figures. This is the report of the Central Board of Revenue. I will give you some figures for 1932-33. In that year the income-tax was about Rs. 13,93 lakhs on an income of Rs. 217 crores, that is, 6 or 7 per cent. of the income.

There is no other country in the world where the income-tax is lighter than in India. There is one country in the world where income-tax is not light, but is not as high as in England or some other countries. That is Japan, but I want to tell you one thing. What happened in Japan? The result of having a smaller income-tax and the larger portion of the taxation being in the shape of indirect taxes which fell more heavily on the people at large—the result is—I would like the people here sitting in what are called the popular benches to note—the result is there is so much discontent that the Government of Japan has put in jail as communists not less than 10,000 people today. If India does not want discontent to reach the poorest classes in India, let India not go on piling up indirect taxes. If you want the poor people in this country to remain contented, then your method of taxation must be properly adjusted. You must tax those people who are able to pay, and it is for that reason that my proposal is that this surcharge should not be reduced

One word more before I sit down. Let me assure the Honourable the Finance Member that when we reduced the salt tax it was not in our mind at all that there should be a deficit in the budget. Our view is that our taxation scheme should be readjusted and that indirect taxes should be reduced. Let the direct taxes be increased. If I could under the standing orders, I should have moved an amendment that income-tax and super-tax should be increased. But I cannot do so, and therefore what I could I have done. My intention is that the Government of India should raise their revenue by increasing the income-tax and by reducing the indirect taxation. Sir, I support this motion.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I think I can answer my Honourable friends best by making the following Latin quotation, *Timeo Danaos et dona ferentes*, "I fear the Greeks especially when they bring gifts in their hands." (Laughter.) I fear Mr. Joshi's gift of revenue to repair the hole in the budget which he has been partly responsible for making. I fear his gift of advice that I may safely ignore inconvenient pledges made by myself or anybody else on the ground that they ought not to have been given. But I will accept one gift which he makes by implication—he was not aware that he was making it—and that is, I will accept his implied advice not to make pledges if I can possibly help it. Quite obviously, Government must oppose so radical a departure from the policy, which they have proposed to the House, and I have no doubt that the majority of the House will do so too.

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Sir, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then, there is a motion in the name of Sir Leslie Hudson, No. 47.

Mr. F. E. James: I formally move that motion, No. 47, namely:

"That in sub-clause (*2*) of clause 5 of the Bill, for the word 'one-sixth' the word 'one-eighth' be substituted."

This is merely a corollary to my previous amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in sub-clause (*2*) of clause 5 of the Bill, for the word 'one-sixth' the word 'one-eighth' be substituted."

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I oppose this for the same reason as I did the other motion.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I desire to support this for all the reasons given by Mr. James on the last occasion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That in sub-clause (*2*) of clause 5 of the Bill, for the word 'one-sixth' the word 'one-eighth' be substituted."

The motion was negatived.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in sub-clause (*2*) of clause 5 of the Bill, for the word 'one-sixth' the word 'one-fourth' be substituted."

The purport of my amendment is that the surcharge on the super-tax should not be removed at the present moment. I am not unfriendly towards capitalists or other rich people, but I would urge them to consider whether this is the proper time to remove the surcharge on the super-tax. So long as surcharges remain on the taxes which affect poorer classes of

[Dr. P. N. Banerjea.]

the people it is only right and proper that the surcharges on taxes affecting the rich people should continue to be levied. There is no tax which is more equitable than the super-tax, because it falls on shoulders which are best able to bear the burden. And who are the persons who pay the super-tax? They are persons having incomes above Rs. 30,000. Is it not right and proper for us to demand that the taxes on the poor, namely, the tax on salt, the tax on kerosine, and the tax on matches should be reduced first before the burden on the shoulders of the rich are removed? This is an amendment which is intended to benefit the Government, and I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will see his way to accept it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 5 of the Bill, for the word 'one-sixth' the word 'one-fourth' be substituted."

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I am afraid I must oppose this amendment for the same reasons that I opposed the gift that Mr. Joshi was offering me. I am very sorry, but I cannot accept this amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 5 of the Bill, for the word 'one-sixth' the word 'one-fourth' be substituted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the position of the Government with regard to the Bill at this stage?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The next motion on the paper is a motion in my name that the Bill be passed. The scheme placed before the House by the Government has been mutilated in a great many respects, and obviously the Government must consider the position which has been created by these amendments. Therefore, I give notice that I do not intend to move that the Bill be passed, and the first business on the paper after questions tomorrow will be the motion of my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, that the Bill to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, for certain purposes, be taken into consideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I should like to get this matter straight. It is now four minutes to five, and I want to know whether the Honourable the Finance Member proposes to make his next motion or not now.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I have already said that I do not intend to move that motion either now or tomorrow morning.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 5th April, 1935.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 5th April, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CERTAIN PARTICULARS IN CONNECTION WITH STATE PRISONERS AT PRESENT CONFINED IN INDIA.

1519. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of State Prisoners at present confined in India, with their respective allowances and the dates on which and the authority by which, their cases were examined last and the grounds on which they were detained?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many detenus and State Prisoners have been released during the last six months?

(c) Do the Government of India propose to consider the feasibility of releasing all detenus and State Prisoners on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty the King?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the conditions on the fulfilment of which the various prisoners and detenus can be released?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the replies I have given to the following questions:

No. 86 on the 6th February, 1935.

No. 738 on the 8th March, 1935.

No. 1053 on the 26th March, 1935.

(b) No State Prisoners have been released during the last six months. I regret I have no information as to the number of detenus released during this period, as action is taken by the Government of Bengal.

(c) As I stated in answer to the Honourable Member's question No. 1141, which was answered on the 29th March, it is not intended that the grant of clemency to prisoners should form part of the celebrations in connection with the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty the King Emperor. This decision also applies to State Prisoners and detenus.

(d) As I have already explained on several occasions, they will be released when their detention is considered no longer necessary in the interests of the public peace.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are any foreigners kept as State Prisoners in this land?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, there are some.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: How many foreigners?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I laid a complete list of all State Prisoners on the table in answer to a previous question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why are foreigners kept as State Prisoners in this land?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Because, if they were not detained, their being at liberty might constitute a danger to the safety of the realm.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: They could be deported out of this land?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, Sir—not in all cases.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government considered, or will they consider, the possibility or desirability of releasing these two thousand and odd detenus in view of the definite improvement in the situation in Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That is a matter for the Government of Bengal.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do not the Government of India advise Local Governments, or lay down a policy in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The decision rests primarily with the Government of Bengal. No doubt, the Government of Bengal consult the Government of India and keep them informed of the state of affairs and of the policy they propose to follow.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Government of India advise them to release all these detenus, in view of the fact that they have been detained without any trial whatsoever? Will Government consider the desirability of taking some such action?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I do not think the improvement in the state of affairs would justify the release of all detenus.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government convinced that all these detenus should be detained indefinitely, in the present state of affairs in Bengal, and all over the country?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Not all will be detained indefinitely. As it is considered safe to release, they *are* being released, and will be released.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why, then, was nobody released all these six months?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have not said none have been released.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government call for information, and find out how many were released during the last six months among the detenus?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I shall.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Is any subject of an Indian State kept as a detenu?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Under the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act?

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That I cannot say.

As regards State Prisoners, I would again refer the Honourable Member to the list which I laid on the table.

PROPERTY AND CASH MONEY TAKEN POSSESSION OF BY GOVERNMENT UNDER THE VARIOUS ORDINANCES AND ORDINANCE ACTS DURING THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT.

1520. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the list of property, its value and cash money which Government took possession of, under the various Ordinances and Ordinance Acts during the civil disobedience movement, as well as that of property and money which has been returned since the withdrawal of the civil disobedience movement by the Indian National Congress?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The funds of unlawful associations forfeited to His Majesty amounted to Rs. 1,40,431-9-0. No question of returning these funds arises. Information regarding the other matters mentioned by the Honourable Member is not available with me, and I am not prepared to impose on Local Governments the labour of collecting it, particularly as the valuation of both moveable and immoveable property cannot be carried out without detailed enquiries. I should add that the immoveable property, such as the buildings of an association, which has been declared unlawful, is not liable to forfeiture but is returned when the notification declaring the association to which the building belongs to be unlawful is cancelled. As regards the disposal of moveable property found in notified places, *i.e.*, buildings of unlawful associations, I would refer the Honourable Member to the relevant provisions of Ordinance No. IV of 1932, Ordinance No. X of 1932 and the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1932.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have all the immoveable properties of Associations, on whom the ban has been removed, been returned to the Associations concerned?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, Sir, they are returned as soon as the ban is removed.

Sardar Mangal Singh: How do Government propose to spend all this money of an unlawful association which is confiscated?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That I cannot say; the amounts are credited to provincial revenues.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government no power to return these moveable properties to the associations concerned?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Other than funds? Well, when the ban is removed, that is returned.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: As regards funds, will Government consider the desirability, where these funds are forfeited, of returning these funds to the associations concerned?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I cannot give any such undertaking.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know what are the reasons?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Statute says that these funds are forfeited to His Majesty. There is no question of returning them.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: May I ask why the buildings of the Bardoli Ashram have not yet been returned?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Presumably because the ban has not yet been removed from the Association to which these buildings belong.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Are Government aware that the Bardoli Ashram formed part of the Congress Association?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have said that that is presumably because the ban has not yet been removed from the Association.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Are Government not aware that the ban has been removed from the Congress organisations in Guzerat and Bombay of which the Bardoli Ashram forms a part?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, Sir, I am not aware.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Will Government make inquiries into the matter?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The question is one which should be addressed to the Local Government.

Some Honourable Members: A little louder, please, we can't hear you.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik That is a question which should be addressed to the Government of Bombay.

CONCESSION TO ZAMINDARS AND TENANTS TO REMIT LAND REVENUE AND RENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS BY MONEY ORDER.

1521. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Are Government aware that the zemindars and tenants desiring to remit land revenue and rent to the Government officials by money order have got to pay the usual fees?

(b) In view of the present agricultural distress, are Government prepared to consider the feasibility of granting them substantial concessions?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes.

(b) If the Honourable Member's suggestion is that Government should charge commission on rent and revenue money orders at concessional rates, the reply is in the negative.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES INSURED IN POSTAL INSURANCE.

1522. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of Government employees insured in Postal Insurance and the total amount for which lives are insured?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The number of Government employees insured with the Postal Insurance Fund on the 31st March, 1934, was 85,450 and the total amount for which their lives were insured was Rs. 16,13,00,000.

PERCENTAGE OF EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN MAINTAINING THE POSTAL INSURANCE.

1523. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will Government be pleased to state the percentage of expenditure incurred in maintaining the Postal Insurance?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The percentage of expenses to premium income was 4,42 during the year ending the 31st March, 1933. The figures for the year ending the 31st March, 1934, are not yet available.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether this branch of the Post Office is a paying branch or not?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: It is not a branch of the Post Office. The Post Office works the Post Office Insurance Fund on behalf of the Fund and is paid the actual expenses.

FEASIBILITY OF EXTENDING THE BENEFIT OF POSTAL INSURANCE TO FACTORY WORKERS AND COMPANY RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

1524. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** Are Government prepared to consider the feasibility of extending the benefit of Postal Insurance to factory workers and company railway employees as well?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The permanent employees of the State-owned but Company-managed Railways are eligible for insurance in the Postal Life Insurance and Endowment Assurance scheme. Government are not prepared to extend the benefits of the scheme to factory workers.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask what objection do Government have to extending the benefits of this scheme to factory hands?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: There are two objections. One is that the matter is one for private enterprise, and the second is the administrative difficulties that would be involved.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether Government do not consider that it is their duty to afford these facilities to the factory workers?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I ask, if factory workers themselves wish to take advantage of the postal insurance, why the postal authorities refuse to extend these benefits to them?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: My Honourable friend has, I think, asked the question whether, if these people go to the postal authorities for insurance, the postal authorities would refuse their request, and why that is so? If it is so, it is obviously because this scheme only applies to Government employees.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask, what the reply was as regards the railway workers?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have said that the permanent employees of the State-owned but Company-managed Railways are eligible for insurance.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask, what is the provision as regards the Government-owned factories?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: To the best of my recollection this scheme applies to all Government employees.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Have Government any objection to extending these facilities to the employees of the local boards?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: They are already open to employees in *quasi*-Government service of whom the local boards' employees are part.

GAUGE POLICY OF INDIAN RAILWAYS.

1525. ***Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** (a) Are Government aware of a book entitled "Gauge Policy of Indian Railways" written by Mr. R. N. Kitchlew?

(b) Have Government considered that the existence of several gauges is a serious evil and that uniformity will have to be effected some day?

(c) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, what steps have Government taken to check the evil?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of appointing a small committee to go into the question?

(e) Are Government prepared to stop further construction on different gauges till the question is finally decided?

(f) Are Government aware that as long ago as 1901, Government contemplated converting the entire mileage to the broad gauge and issued orders accordingly?

(g) Are Government aware that if construction on all gauges continues at the present rate, Mr. Kitchlew estimates that each year's delay in conversion will mean an additional expense of Rs. 80 lacs?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) Government are aware of the objections to having several. On the other hand they cannot overlook difficulties such as the very heavy expenditure involved in any scheme of wholesale conversion.

(c) The question of the gauge of all new lines is carefully considered when the projects are received.

(d) It has not been thought necessary to appoint a Technical Commission to go into the question as Government consider that the work of improvement and development, which has been retarded by the financial crisis, is of prior importance to a possibly academic examination which might set up a competing demand for heavy expenditure on work of less pressing urgency.

(e) No.

(f) I have not been able to trace any such orders.

(g) Government have not been able to find any passage in Mr. Kitchlew's book which makes such a definite statement, but my Honourable friend has been good enough to explain to me how he has arrived at the figure of 80 lakhs. The loss that he refers to is on the assumption that 200 miles of metre gauge lines are being constructed yearly which will have later to be converted to broad gauge and that the cost of conversion is Rs. 40,000 per mile. This method of calculation obviously overlooks entirely the saving in constructing to metre gauge in the first instance and assume that conversion at a later date is essential.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With regard to part (a), may I know what are the difficulties in not stopping the friends of railway officers to travel in the saloon?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am afraid the Honourable Member is a bit premature.

Mr. B. Das: May I inquire who is this Mr. Kitchlew and how is he an authority on railway construction?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I think that question should be put to my Honourable friend who has put this question.

Mr. B. Das: Has the Honourable the Financial Commissioner for Railways read his book?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have read the book, and I have also seen the author.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, I did not quite definitely catch the answer to part (e). Are Government prepared to stop further construction of different gauges, till the question is finally decided?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No, Sir.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know the reason why they allow different gauges to be constructed, if ultimately all of them have got to be of one gauge?

Mr. P. R. Rau: That is begging the question. It may not ultimately be necessary to have all the metre gauge construction converted into broad gauge. But, at the present moment, it very often happens that a line which will not pay, when constructed on the broad gauge, may pay if it is constructed on the metre gauge and the traffic would justify only the metre gauge construction. If there are no other objections to metre gauge being brought into that area, Government consider that it is sometimes useful to construct the line as a metre gauge line.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if the policy of the Government then is to construct broad gauge wherever possible, and metre gauge only when there are special circumstances rendering it necessary?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Yes, Sir. The policy of the Government is to construct broad gauge wherever possible.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: With regard to part (e), I have already explained how the figure is arrived at, and I am prepared to explain it further if I am assured that Government will convert metre gauge into broad gauge. Will they consider the advisability of converting broad gauge into metre gauge as this will mean a saving of Rs. 80 lakhs a year?

Mr. P. R. Rau: My Honourable friend's arithmetic is quite satisfactory, and I am willing to accept that the calculation he has made by multiplying 200 miles by Rs. 40,000 and thus arriving at the sum of Rs. 80 lakhs is correct.

RELATIONS AND FRIENDS OF RAILWAY OFFICERS ENTITLED TO THE FREE USE OF OFFICERS' CARRIAGES (RAILWAY SALOONS).

1526. ***Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether the relations and friends of Railway officers are entitled to the free use of officers' carriages (Railway saloons);

(b) whether Railway officers occasionally lend their officers' carriages to their friends and relations;

(c) whether it is a fact that at the suggestion of the Chief Operating Superintendent, East Indian Railway, the then Divisional Superintendent of Lucknow, Mr. Young, lent his saloon to the newly married daughter and son-in-law of the Deputy Chief Operating Superintendent, East Indian Railway, Mr. D. H. Keelan, for their honeymoon trip to Agra?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, will Government please state what action they propose to take against the officers concerned?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) No.

(b) The only such case which has been brought to Government's notice is that referred to in part (c) of the Honourable Member's question.

(c) and (d). The Railway Board have been advised that no record is available of the particular case mentioned. Mr. Keelan, the officer referred to, has since retired from the service. The Administration has, however, been advised that the use of a saloon in such a case is not justifiable.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know, Sir, whether the fare for this particular use of the saloon was charged to that man?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Sir, I have already said that the Railway Board have been advised by the Railway that no record is available of the particular case mentioned.

Srijut N. C. Bardaloi: Are Government aware that, in second and intermediate class carriages, mostly railway officials with their families and friends travel to the inconvenience of other passengers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I do not think that arises out of this question.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Supposing I give the exact date of the time when the saloon was used, will Government recover the fare from this man and credit it to the Government treasury?

Mr. P. R. Rau: So far as I can see this was authorised by Mr. Keelan, the Chief Operating Superintendent of the East Indian Railway, who has since retired.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: You can recover it from his pension?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Railway servants do not have a pension.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Why not recover it from his gratuity?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The gratuity has probably already been paid.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Has he not got any other property?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

COST OF CONSTRUCTING THE BOMBAY CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION.

1527. ***Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total cost to the Indian exchequer of constructing the Bombay Central Railway Station?

(b) Will Government please place on the table an audited statement showing all the items of expenditure in connection therewith?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Rs. 1,47,97,855-9-2.

(b) The amount given by me is the total cost as shown in the completion report certified by the Chief Auditor of the Railway and the Government Examiner of Accounts.

DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENTS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

1528. ***Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** (a) Is it a fact that with one or two exceptions all the Divisional Superintendents on all State Railways are Europeans?

(b) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative, will Government please state the reason therefor?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The Divisional system is in force only on the East Indian, North Western and Great Indian Peninsula Railways. At present one post of Divisional Superintendent on the East Indian Railway is held by an Indian Officer, others are Europeans.

(b) Appointments to these posts are made by selection with due regard to seniority irrespective of race and creed.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it not a fact that in the Agent's office of the North Western Railway, all are Europeans at the head?

Mr. P. R. Rau: There are no Divisional Superintendents in the office of the Agent of the North Western Railway.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: In the Agent's office, are there not officers who are working for the whole of the Circle?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That question does not arise.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it that no Indian has been overlooked, and all appointments have been made on strict consideration of seniority?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Seniority combined with selection.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Has any Indian been overlooked in favour of a European on the ground that, although he is senior, he is not otherwise fit?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I should like to have notice of that question, but, so far as I can recollect, I am not aware that there is any such instance.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do Government accept the policy of expediting the Indianisation of this department of Government service also?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Indianisation depends on the number of officers suited for the job who are available.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I ask, therefore, if Government will take any steps in that direction, in order to give opportunities to Indians to get qualified for these places, and appoint them, as and when they become available?

Mr. P. R. Rau: There is no question of special training for these posts. It depends upon an officer of sufficient seniority who is otherwise qualified.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is there no Indian Divisional Superintendent on the North Western Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: That is correct.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the Honourable Member himself said on behalf of the Railway Board that whenever any senior man will be passed over on account of the fact that the next man is more efficient, the case will be personally examined by the Railway Board?

Mr. P. R. Rau: All these questions come up to the Railway Board for sanction. The Agent cannot promote anybody to a Divisional Superintendentship without the approval of the Railway Board.

FREQUENT VISITS OF THE DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT, ALLAHABAD, TO PHAPHUND.

1529. ***Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if there is any limit to the number of days in the month which a Divisional Superintendent might spend on any single station other than the Headquarters?

(b) Will Government please state whether the present Divisional Superintendent, Allahabad, Mr. Rutherford spends many days in the month at a road-side station called Phaphund?

(c) Will Government please state whether there is an excellent fishing pond at Phaphund?

(d) If the reply to parts (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, will Government please state if the frequent visits of the Divisional Superintendent to Phaphund have any connection with the fishing pond there?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) No.

(b) No. Government are informed that the Divisional Superintendent, Allahabad, has visited Phaphund station only twice during the last official year.

(c) Possibly, Sir, but it has not been brought to the notice of Government.

(d) Does not arise.

STATE *VERSUS* COMPANY MANAGEMENT OF RAILWAYS IN INDIA.

1530. ***Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a controversy of State *versus* Company management of Railways in India has been finally decided in favour of State management?

(b) Will Government please state whether Mr. Williamson, President of the Indian Railway Conference Association, in his speech at the last session of the Association opened the controversy?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state publicly whether they have any intention of going back to company management?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) and (c). So far as I am aware, no definite decision to that effect has been reached. The position of Government was explained on various occasions on the floor of this House in 1923 and 1924. The question whether, when the contract with a Company managing a State-owned railway expires, it should be taken over for management by the State is one for consideration on its merits at the time a decision is necessary. Government are not prepared to lay down in advance any definite indication of the steps they may take in a future contingency.

(b) Sir James Williamson expressed his own personal views.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that as long ago as 1922, the Acworth Committee recommended that the management of the railways should be taken over by the State?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: There was, I believe, a division of opinion in that Committee on that point.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the majority of the Committee recommended that particular policy?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: My Honourable friend is quite correct.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it then that the Government of India have not seen the advisability of accepting that recommendation even after the lapse of so many years?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: Because the Government of India do not always accept every recommendation of every Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that, within the last 13 years, even though several contracts given to several companies which were managing several railways had come to an end, the Government of India do not take over the management of those railways?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I do not know what my Honourable friend is referring to; if he will kindly refer to any specific case, I shall be glad to give him the answer.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am referring to B. N. W. Railway.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: In that particular case, surely my Honourable friend knows that the matter was put to a Committee of this House for its consideration, and Government acted in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee of this House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That was done in 1930?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I cannot give my Honourable friend the exact date. I can give him the facts of the case, and those facts are unassailable. I think it was in 1931.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to part (c), may I know whether Government have not given up the idea of going back to Company management? Is there still a mental reservation in that matter?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I told my Honourable friend that every case, when it comes up, will be considered on its merits. I have no doubt, speaking for myself, that the House will have an opportunity of expressing its opinion on every such case before a final decision is taken.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Does it mean cases in which the State has taken over the management, there will be a contingency when the House will be asked to go back to Company management?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I am merely referring to fresh cases.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In these fresh cases, may I know why Government have not laid down their policy in favour of State management especially in view of the authoritative opinion being in favour of it, throughout the civilised world?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I have made my position perfectly clear, that is that Government are prepared to lay down no general policy in this matter. They will consider every case on its own merits, and, as far as I can see, this House will have an opportunity of expressing its views on every case before action is finally taken.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have not Government come to the final conclusion that State management is better than Company management?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I am not prepared to express any general opinion on that.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS ON THE STAFF OF THE INDIAN TEA CESS COMMITTEE.

1531. ***Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** (a) How many divisions of the Indian Tea Cess Committee are there in India? What are the headquarters of each division?

(b) How many men have been taken on the executive and ministerial staff in each division since January, 1934, and of those, how many are Muslims?

(c) What steps have Government taken to remove the paucity of Muslims on the staff of the Indian Tea Cess Committee?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given in the Council of State to the Honourable Mr. Jagadish Chandra Banerji's question No. 180 on the 3rd September, 1934.

Srijut N. C. Bardaloi: How many Indian members are there on the Executive Committee?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I am afraid my Honourable friend will have to put down a question to that effect.

RECRUITMENT OF EXECUTIVE AND MINISTERIAL STAFF IN THE INDIAN SOFT COKE CESS COMMITTEE.

1532. ***Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer:** (a) What is the procedure adopted for the recruitment of executive and ministerial staff in the Indian Soft Coke Cess Committee?

(b) Is it a fact that Indian Soft Coke Cess Committee was constituted in 1929, and if so, how many men were taken on the staff of the Committee initially?

(c) What was the percentage of Muslims to the total strength of the staff recruited initially?

(d) How many men have been taken on the staff of the Committee, referred to subsequent to the initial recruitment?

(e) What is the total strength of the Staff of the Committee now and what is the percentage of Muslims?

(f) Is it a fact that the applications of Muslim candidates are set aside with the usual reply that "there is no vacancy"?

(g) Do Government propose to issue orders for the recruitment of Muslims in the Indian Soft Coke Cess Committee in order to remove the paucity of Muslims on the staff of the Committee?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to Maulvi Badi-uz-Zaman's starred question No. 999 on the 25th March, 1935. I may add with reference to part (b) of the question that the Indian Soft Coke Cess Act was passed in 1929, but was brought into force with effect from the 21st June, 1930.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: What is the reply to which the Honourable Member refers?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: To an answer given this Session.

Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer: Can it not be read out, so that I can put supplementary questions?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: The Honourable Member should have been present on the day when the reply was given.

CONFIDENTIAL INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING LEE CONCESSIONS TO RAILWAY OFFICERS.

1533. ***Mr. V. V. Giri:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any confidential instructions regarding Lee Concessions were issued by the Government of India about 18th August, 1934, giving railway officers benefit of certain rebates allowed by shipping companies, and if so, will Government be pleased to state what gain in cash to Railway officers and loss to Railway Administrations is likely to accrue on account of the confidential instructions issued?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the instructions issued in this connection?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government are unable to discuss the contents of confidential instructions or to lay them on the table.

LEGISLATION AMENDING THE TRADE DISPUTES ACT.

1534. ***Mr. V. V. Giri:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to introduce legislation amending the Trade Disputes Act before the next Session of the Legislative Assembly, in the light of the recommendations made by the Whitley Commission?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No.

Mr. V. V. Giri: Why not, Sir?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: For one obvious reason which is that Government cannot introduce legislation before the Assembly meets.

SHIFTING OF THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF ARCHÆOLOGY, SOUTHERN CIRCLE, FROM MADRAS TO KOTAGIRI, NILGIRI HILLS.

1535. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state when the office of the Superintendent of Archæology, Southern Circle, was shifted from Madras to Kotagiri (Nilgiri hills)?

(b) How long was the office located in Madras before it was removed to Kotagiri?

(c) What were the circumstances and purpose that necessitated the transfer?

(d) What was the cost of the office when it was located at Madras and what is its present cost at Kotagiri?

(e) What special facilities are available at Kotagiri, which are not obtainable at Madras?

(f) Are Government aware that facilities are far better at the University headquarters at Madras than at Kotagiri?

(g) Are Government aware that the Madras Government, as a measure of economy, has transferred the office of the Inspector General of Prisons from Ootacamund to Madras?

(h) Will Government state the reasons why the archæological work which was hitherto being done at Madras could no longer be done there but only at Kotagiri?

(i) Are Government prepared to consider the whole question and take necessary steps to have the office retransferred to Madras or any of its suburbs near by?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) to (i). The office of the Superintendent of the Archæological Survey, Southern Circle, was shifted from Madras, where it had been for 20 years, to Kotagiri in 1921. The accommodation in Madras was unsatisfactory and it was thought, at that time, that it would make for economy and efficiency to locate the office in a place where the Superintendent could remain throughout the year. The rent of the building in Madras was Rs. 250 and the rent now being paid at Kotagiri is Rs. 80 a month. Government are reconsidering the matter and are in correspondence with the Local Government about securing accommodation for the office in Madras City.

LOCATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE EPIGRAPHIST TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

1586. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Is it a fact that the office of the Epigraphist to the Government of India is located at Ootacamund?

(b) What are the ancient inscriptions that are available in and around Ootacamund?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of shifting the office to a place which will be easily accessible from all parts of India?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the location of the office at Delhi, or failing that, at Madras?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b)—(d). Ootacamund was chosen as the headquarters of this officer primarily because it has an equable climate throughout the year. There may be advantages in removing them to a more central place like Delhi but until sufficient accommodation can be secured and the expenditure involved in moving the staff and records met without imposing a financial strain on the departmental budget which has been considerably reduced as a measure of retrenchment, the question of a change cannot be usefully considered.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: Will it not be possible to transfer the office of the Epigraphist to Madras along with the office of the Superintendent of Archæology for the purpose of effecting economy in expenditure?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: We have gone into that matter and come to the conclusion that inasmuch as the Epigraphical Department deals with epigraphical work throughout India, if it is to be shifted at all, it should be shifted to the headquarters of the Government of India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why not transfer the office to the headquarters of the Government of India?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I think my Honourable friend lacks a sense of proportion in that he suggests that the headquarters of the Government of India should be transferred to Madras in order that the office of Epigraphist should be with the Government of India.

TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF ARCHÆOLOGY, SOUTHERN CIRCLE.

1537. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) What are the academic and technical qualifications of the Superintendent of Archæology, Southern Circle?

(b) Is it a fact that the present incumbent is qualified in architecture and not in archæology?

(c) Are Government aware that a majority of the monuments in the Southern Circle are either Hindu or Buddhistic monuments and that to deal with them a thorough knowledge of archæology is required?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) and (b). He is an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects, London, and was appointed because of his qualifications as an architect.

(c) The Honourable Member is correctly informed as to the character of the majority of the monuments in the Circle. Government consider that in a Superintendent both architectural and archæological abilities are desirable.

SCRUTINY OF PERSONAL FILES OF OFFICERS SUPERSEDED ON THE GROUND OF INEFFICIENCY.

1538. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** Does the Railway Board scrutinize the personal files of all the officers who are superseded on the ground of inefficiency by persons who are junior in service?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Yes, Sir.

SELECTION OF THE SPOT IN FRONT OF THE ANGLO-ARABIC SCHOOL, DELHI, FOR A LORRY STAND.

1539. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why the spot in front of Anglo-Arabic School Delhi, was selected for a lorry stand?

(b) Was the selection of this spot made by the Municipality or by the District Officer?

(c) Was any objection raised by the educational authorities to such selection?

(d) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence that passed between the educational authorities and the Government realised that, [illegible] Governments may [illegible] the authority or authorities responsible for selecting [illegible] conclusions, and it may be [illegible]

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) and (b). The present site of the lorry stand in front of the Anglo-Arabic School, Delhi, was not selected either by the Delhi Municipality or the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi. Its use as such has been permitted by the authorities concerned as no other suitable site in the vicinity is available at present.

(c) Yes.

(d) The question of removing the lorry stand to some other site is at present under consideration. It is regretted that the correspondence on the subject cannot be laid on the table at present.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Is it against public interest if you lay the correspondence on the table?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The correspondence is not yet complete, and that is the reason why we cannot lay it on the table.

(Mr. Sham Lal put his question No. 1540 while he was being seated in a seat not assigned to him.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must put his question from his seat.

ELIGIBILITY OF CLERKS IN THE SELECTION GRADE OF THE LOWER DIVISION OF AN ATTACHED OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA FOR PROMOTION TO THE FIRST DIVISION.

1540. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** Will Government please state whether clerks in the selection grade of the lower division of an attached office of the Government of India are eligible for promotion to the First Division of that office, and if not, why not?

Mr. T. Sloan: The reply is in the affirmative.

MEMORIAL FROM THE WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE ALL-INDIA HINDU DEPRESSED CLASSES CONFERENCE TO H. E. THE VICEROY REGARDING FORMATION OF NEW CONSTITUENCIES.

1541. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** (a) Will Government state whether it is true that the Working Committee of the All-India Hindu Depressed Classes Conference has sent a memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy, regarding formation of new constituencies?

(b) What are the main contents of the memorial?

(c) What reply have Government sent to the memorial?

(d) Have Government decided how the constituencies are to be re-casted? If not, are Government prepared to consult the non-official opinion of this Legislature and of the public in this matter before coming to a decision?

The Honourable Ranga: Why not the Government of India?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) and (b). A copy of this memorial has been placed in the Library of the House.

(c) The memorial has been acknowledged and is at present under consideration.

(d) The delimitation of constituencies has yet to be determined. It may be necessary to consult public opinion before constituencies are finally delimited, but I am unable to say anything definite in the matter at this stage.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In what way do they propose to consult public opinion?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: In answer to a part of the question, I said it may be necessary to consult public opinion at the proper time. If that is found necessary, then we shall have also to determine in what way that public opinion has got to be ascertained.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will they consult this House in that matter?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: If the need arises for consulting the House, we will, but the situation may never arise.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I take it that, if they find it necessary to consult public opinion, they will consult public opinion through this House?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: If they find it necessary to consult this House, they will

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware that several Local Governments, the Frontier Province, Bihar and Orissa and Madras, are already appointing committees for taking steps for the delimitation of constituencies? Is it done with the cognisance of the Government of India, or without their cognisance?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I cannot speak for the Frontier Province, but I know that in one province to my knowledge certain informal committees have been set up. I am not sure whether that was done with the consent of the Government of India, and, if my Honourable friend wants to know the details, I shall require notice. But I have personal knowledge that in one province at least something is being done.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Government of India be good enough to issue instructions to Local Governments, not to take any decision on this matter of an irrevocable kind, till the Government of India have decided whether to consult public opinion or not in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I cannot undertake to do that but I shall certainly place it before Government for consideration.

PAMPHLET ENTITLED "PUNISHMENT AS THE REWARD FOR EXPOSING OF FRAUDS COMMITTED BY HIGH RAILWAY OFFICIALS IN SIND."

1564. ***Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to a pamphlet entitled "Punishment as the Reward for Exposing of Frauds committed by High Railway Officials in Sind";

(b) if so, what action they have taken or propose to take in the matter;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to make any enquiry or to take any action in regard to the subject matter of the pamphlet?

Mr. P. R. Rau: As stated by me the other day in reply to unstarred question No. 102, asked by Mr. Nabi Baksh Illahi Baksh Bhutto, a copy of this pamphlet was forwarded by Government to the Agent, North Western Railway, to consider what action should be taken in this matter. I have been informed by the Agent that the allegations in the pamphlet have been the subject of three inquiries and the conclusion of all these was that the accusations made against the sub-divisional officer were malicious and false. I am also informed that one of the persons against whom accusations were made has brought an action of libel and the case is *sub judice* at present.

Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji: I do not put this question as the information has already been given.

†1565.*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards this question which stands in the name of Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji, it has been brought to the Chair's notice that, before any order was passed on this question, it was published in one of the newspapers and discussed in a leading article. The Chair thinks Honourable Members know that this is against the convention that has been sought to be established, namely, that no questions ought to be published or allowed to be published before the orders have been obtained from the President. Honourable Members will perhaps agree with the Chair that it is a very desirable convention and ought to be observed. At present, there is no means at the disposal of the Chair to take action if a convention like this is violated; but it is left to the Honourable Members themselves to see that the convention is properly observed. This is the practice, the Chair may mention, in all parliaments; and it will be obvious to Honourable Members that it ought to be observed in this House also.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: On a point of information, Sir: these notices are generally given in the Notice Office, and it is after that they are published in the papers: may I know from the Chair whether they can do it then or after the order has actually been passed on it by the President admitting the questions?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Are they put up on the notice board before orders are passed?

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† This question was not put by the questioner.

Secretary of the Assembly: No, Sir.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I mean that: after the questions are sent to the Notice Office, can they be printed in the papers?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is exactly what ought not to be allowed; and President after President has pointed this out to the House, and the House has always agreed that this convention ought to be observed, that no question should be published in the papers until they have passed the hands of the President.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I say, Sir, that, unless these questions are disallowed or any suggestions made with regard to amending them, the first notice we get formally of any question having been admitted is when they are printed and circulated to us? Long before that, Mr. President passes his orders, I expect: but they wait till the 10 days' period has passed, and then they print them. I do not question the soundness of the convention, I am only asking you to clear up the matter.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair thinks the questions are put up as soon as they are passed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am only asking that, as soon as your orders are passed, they may be communicated to us. If they are, I think it will be easy to work this convention.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Yes: the Chair thinks that ought to be done.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: If we do anything outside this House, what has the President got to do with it, Sir? I think he should have nothing to do with it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But the Honourable Member is a Member of this House, and I am the President of this House.

PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO BURMA OIL.

1566. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** (a) Will Government state whether kerosine oil from Burma is taxed at the rate of two annas, nine and three-quarter pies per gallon and foreign oil is taxed three annas and nine pies per gallon?

(b) What is the reason for this preferential treatment to the Burma oil?

(c) Is it true that Burma oil is insufficient for Indian consumption?

(d) Is it a fact that B. O. C. & I. P. B. Co., who have the monopoly of the Burmese kerosene trade have combined with S. O. C. who import the foreign oil?

(e) Is it a fact that as a result of this combine, Government are losing revenue and consumers are made to pay more?

(f) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of equalising the duty on both?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) Yes.

(b) Originally there was an import duty on kerosene but no excise. In 1922, an excise of one anna per gallon was introduced and the customs duty was raised by that amount to two annas six pies. In 1930, the customs duty was reduced to two annas three pies and the excise raised to one anna six pies. Both rates were increased by nine pies in March, 1931, and further increased in September, 1931, by 25 per cent. to their present levels. The 'treatment' is similar to that which is accorded to a large number of commodities produced in India on imports of which a revenue duty is levied.

(c) It is true that the consumption of kerosene oil in India exceeds the total imports from Burma.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the information furnished in reply to part (b) of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's starred question No. 34 printed on page 3381 of the Legislative Assembly Debates of the 7th April, 1934.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer to starred question No. 1058 asked by Mr. Satyamurti on the 26th March, 1935.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know the answer to part (d)?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The answer is—attention is invited to the information furnished in reply to part (b) of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's starred question No. 34 printed on page 3381 of the Legislative Assembly Debates of the 7th April, 1934.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the answer to clause (f)?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The answer referred to a question put by the Honourable Member himself which I answered on the 26th March, 1935.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No, I take it?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The operative part says that this year's Finance Bill contains no proposals for equalising the excise and import duties.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In view of the fact that Burma is going to be separated, will the Finance Member consider the question of getting more revenue out of this source?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I think there was a supplementary question on this, and I said that all this will be taken into account in connection with the Indo-Burma Trade Agreement.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it true that this preference is due to the fact that the Burma Oil Company is purely a British company?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: There is no preference. There is a difference between the excise and customs duty. Burma is still part of India to the best of my knowledge.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The company which derives the benefit is a British company?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Burma is still part of India.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What stage have the Indo-Burma negotiations reached, may I know?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I must ask my friend to address the question to my Honourable colleague, the Commerce Member.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Has he not considered the matter at all? Are the negotiations being carried on over his head?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Certainly not, Sir.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know, therefore, at what stage the Indo-Burma negotiations stand, with regard to this matter?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I think my Honourable colleague gave an answer to this question, and I have nothing to add to the information which he has given to the House already.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Has no further progress been made at all, since that answer was given?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I think the Honourable Member had better address that question to my Honourable colleague, the Commerce Member.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member inquire whether there is such a combine?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I have already said that there is no such combine.

DEBIT OF CAPITATION CHARGES RAISED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATIONS.

1567. ***Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** Is there a convention established by the Standing Finance Committee to the effect that the Government of India and the Local Governments and Administrations should not raise small debits

of, say, one or two thousand rupees against one another? If so, why is the Government of the Punjab allowed to raise against the Delhi Administration, the debit of capitation charges on account of students who pass the intermediate examination of the Delhi University in Science (Medical Group) and are admitted to the King Edward Medical College through the Delhi Administration?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The Honourable Member possibly alludes to the principle followed in settling claims between Central and Provincial Governments on account of services rendered, which provides that, as a general rule, neither side should raise claims unless the amount involved is substantial. The debit referred to by him cannot, however, be governed by that principle as the payment involved is substantial varying from about Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 17,000 per annum.

APPLICATIONS FROM DELHI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE KING EDWARD MEDICAL COLLEGE, LAHORE.

1568. ***Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** What is the procedure followed by the Chief Commissioner of Delhi in dealing with applications for admission to the King Edward Medical College, Lahore, from students who pass the Intermediate examination of the Delhi University in Science (Medical Group)?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The Chief Commissioner makes the selection on the advice of the Executive Council of the University of Delhi.

CLOSING OF THE ROAD LEADING TO THE MATA SUNDRI GURDWARA AT THE BACK OF THE IRWIN HOSPITAL, DELHI.

1569. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Are Government aware that there is a Gurdwara, named Mata Sundri, at the back of Irwin Hospital?

(b) Is it a fact that there was a road leading to the Gurdwara from Turkman Gate?

(c) Is it a fact that the road is now closed on account of the quarters constructed on it?

(d) Are Government aware that traffic cannot go right up to the Gurdwara and the pilgrims feel trouble?

(e) Are Government aware that an annual Diwan is held in this Gurdwara and people gather from far and near?

(f) If the answer to parts (c) and (d) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to construct a pucca road or make a way right up to the Gurdwara?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A disused road existed but did not go as far as the Gurdwara. Owing to the development of the area, this old road has been realigned and metalled and there has been no interference with access to the Gurdwara

(d) No.

(e) I understand that this is the case.

(f) Does not arise.

EXTENSION OF SERVICE GIVEN TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AFTER ACQUIRING THE AGE OF SUPERANNUATION.

1570. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) What is the age of superannuation for a Government servant?

(b) What is the usual period of extension of service given to Government servants after acquiring the age of superannuation and under what circumstances is it granted?

(c) Will Government please state the names of those who were granted extensions of service beyond the age of superannuation in:

(i) the Department of Industries and Labour;

(ii) all the branches of the Central Public Works Department;

(iii) the Indian Stores Department; and

(iv) the Legislative Department;

and what were the reasons in each case and for how long was each extension granted?

(d) Is there any idea of giving further extensions to any of these officials? If so, why and for what period?

(e) Will Government please state if any of such official is a civil or military retired man? If so, what are their names?

(f) Are Government aware of the facts that such grants of extensions, are prejudicial to the interests of young men who are either seeking employment or already in service?

(g) Are Government also aware that this stands in the way of further promotion of some of the employees as well?

(h) Are Government prepared to stop the grant of such sort of extensions of service to their employees and thus afford relief to the unemployed as well as to the tax-payers? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the provisions of Fundamental Rule 56 which deals with the age of superannuation, and the periods of extension of service which may be given to Government servants after attaining the age of superannuation.

(c), (d) and (e). A statement giving the required information is laid on the table of the House.

(f), (g) and (h). Extensions of service are granted on public grounds and are not so numerous as to affect either recruitment or prospects to any appreciable extent. No change in the existing arrangements is proposed.

Statement.

Name.	Designation.	Period of extension granted beyond the age of superannuation.	Reason for the grant of extension.	Whether it is proposed to give further extension to any of these officials and if so, for what period.	Whether any of the officials is a civil or military retired man.
(i) *Department of Industries and Labour.*	Nil				
(iii) *Central Public Works Department.*					
Mr. W. C. S. deKnock	Caretaker, Simla Central Division.	1 year (13.7.34 to 12.7.35).	(a) He was quite efficient and was performing his duties satisfactorily (b) It was not considered to be in the general public interest to make a change in the post of Caretaker, Simla, last year.	The matter will be considered in due course.	He is a Military retired man.
Mr. N. M. Chatterji	Draftsman, Indore Central Division.	1 year and 6 months (in two instalments), (14-4-34 to 11-10-35).	Two experienced draftsmen of the Indore Central Division attained the age of superannuation in 1934. As both of them could not be spared at the same time, the man who was the more efficient was granted extension.	Do.	No.
Mr. Raghunandan Pershad.	Store Clerk, "B" Division.	3 months (10-2-35 to 9-5-35).	He has been retained in service for 3 months only in the interest of work on which he is employed.	No.	No.
Mr. G. Roberts	Works Assistant, Central Office.	1 year, 11 months and 11 days. (8-11-33 to 18-10-35).	He will retire in May 1935. He is a contractor. Mr. Roberts has been closely connected with the Sanitary Works in the New Capital for the last 11 years and when the New Capital Project was reopened the retention of his services was considered essential.	No.	No.

Name.	Designation.	Period of extension granted beyond the age of superannuation.	Reason for the grant of extension.	Whether it is proposed to give further extension to any of these officials and if so, for what period.	Whether any of the officials is a civil or military retired man.
(iii) *Indian Stores Department.*					
Rai Sahib J. K. Banerji	Physical Assistant Government Test House, Alipore, Calcutta.	4 years in 4 instalments of one year each. (15-2-32 to 14-2-36).	He is one of the most experienced Assistants at the Government Test House, Alipore, and it is considered necessary in the interests of the public service to retain his service as long as possible, more especially as it is difficult to replace him effectively	The matter will be considered in due course.	No.
Mr. E. A. Wraight	Metallurgical Inspector, Tatanagar.	2 years in 2 instalments of one year each, (5-3-34 to 4-3-36).	He has been closely associated with the Tata Iron and Steel Works at Jamshedpur for the last ten years. The steel industry in India has been passing through most difficult times, and it is considered most desirable to avoid making any change in the appointment of the Metallurgical Inspector for some time.	Do.	Do.
(iv) *Legislative Department.*					
Rai Bahadur A. L. Banerji.	Asstt. Secy. to the Govt. of India.	1 year (20-1-35 to 19-1-36).	He was granted an extension on public grounds.	The question of his further retention has not yet been taken up.	No.

INCONVENIENCE FELT BY THE HINDU AND SIKH RESIDENTS OF THE MINTO ROAD AREA FOR WANT OF A *Jhatka* MEAT SHOP.

1571. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Are Government aware that the Hindu and Sikh residents of the Minto Road area, as well as the neighbouring localities of New Delhi, are experiencing great difficulty for want of a *jhatka* meat shop in that vicinity?

(b) When do Government propose to build a meat market and particularly a *jhatka* meat shop in that locality?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur's question No. 1182 on the 29th March, 1935.

PURCHASE OF PETROL BY THE NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE.

1572. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that in spite of several questions in this House, the New Delhi Municipal Committee still purchases its supply of petrol for Health Department lorries, etc., from a shop of a Municipal Commissioner on the Baird Road?

(b) Did the New Delhi Municipal Committee call for tenders before giving the contract to this Municipal Commissioner for the current year? If so, in what manner was it notified?

(c) Whose tender was the lowest and why was that not accepted?

(d) What steps do Government propose to take in future to avoid favouritism of this kind in the Municipal Committee?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Petrol is purchased from the pump licensed to Haji Mohammad Ashfaquddin who is not a member of the New Delhi Municipal Committee.

(b) The question of calling tenders does not arise as the retail price of petrol is uniform at all petrol pumps.

(c) and (d). In view of the answers given to the two previous parts these questions do not arise.

AYURVEDIC AND UNANI DISPENSARIES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE MINTO ROAD QUARTERS.

1573. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Are Government aware of the great difficulty experienced by the residents of the Minto Road quarters, Press quarters, Barakhamba Road and of other buildings nearby in obtaining Ayurvedic and Unani medicines from the dispensaries opened by the New Delhi Municipal Committee, before the office hours as they are not easily accessible?

(b) Are Government prepared to move the New Delhi Municipal Committee to open Ayurvedic and Unani dispensaries in those localities also and thus provide one of the most important and urgent amenities which are generally afforded by the Municipal Committees to the public? If not, what are the difficulties and when is it likely to grant this facility to the residents of these localities?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) and (b). A Unani Dispensary is located on Panchkuin Road and an Ayurvedic Dispensary in Doctors' Lane near Gole Market. I am informed that these two places are easily accessible from the residential quarters in the New City Extension Area. The question of opening additional dispensaries does not, therefore, arise.

TRANSFER OF CLERKS IN THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS TO CIVIL OFFICES.

1574. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Are Government aware that the clerks in the Army Headquarters experience difficulty in getting themselves transferred to civil offices?

(b) If so, are Government prepared to issue orders to the effect that:

(i) clerks in the Army Headquarters requiring transfer to civil offices are treated as outsiders and not departmental candidates, and

(ii) their applications for such transfers should not be withheld?

If not, what are the difficulties?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) No, but I may add that according to the rules departmental candidates must ordinarily look to the Department in which they are employed for promotion and cannot, as a matter of right, claim transfer to another department, although such transfers are permitted on certain conditions and by arrangement between the Departments concerned.

(b) Government see no necessity to issue orders in the manner suggested.

EXPANSION OF THE CENTRAL STANDARDS OFFICE OF THE RAILWAY BOARD.

1575. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that the Central Standards (Railway Board) Office is being enlarged from 1st April 1935? If so, what percentage of these new appointments is going to be reserved for Muhammadans, Anglo-Indians and Sikhs, respectively?

(b) Are Government aware that under the Home Department Resolution, 33 per cent. of these new appointments are to go to the minorities, out of which 25 per cent. are meant only for Muhammadans? If not, what is the underlying idea of that Resolution?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes. The orders of Government regarding communal representation will be followed in filling the new posts.

(b) Yes.

SALE OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS, STATIONERY AND STAMPS.

1576. ***Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** Will Government please state:

(a) the offices under their administrative control which carry on trade of selling Government publications, stationery and stamps;

(b) the conditions on which such sales are conducted;

(c) whether the commercial traders who are agents for sale of Government publications are paid commissions, trade discounts or likewise, or are authorized to charge prices over and above those fixed by the publishers; and

(d) whether the offices under Government are also paid commission, trade discounts or likewise in the same manner as commercial traders; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The offices under the administrative control of the Government of India which sell Government publications to the public are the Central Publication Branch, Delhi, and the Book Shop at Calcutta. A few heads of Departments have also been permitted to sell their own publications. Government stationery is not sold to the general public. I cannot give a list of post offices or other offices selling stamps within the limits of a question, but a list of post offices selling postage stamps will be found in the Post and Telegraph Guide.

(b) I am not clear what the Honourable Member means by conditions of sales. Sales to the public are made on cash payment, but in the case of publications, payment may also be made by the V. P. P. system, by depositing the cost in a local treasury, and in the case of small amounts by non-service postage stamps.

(c) Agents for the sale of Government of India publications receive a discount on their sales. They are not entitled to charge prices exceeding those fixed for the publications.

(d) No; because there would be no object in Government paying a commission to themselves.

APPLICATIONS MADE UNDER SECTION 30 OF THE INDIAN INCOME-TAX ACT.

1577. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications made under section 30 of the Indian Income-tax Act during the Income-tax years 1933-34 and 1934-35, separately for each of the districts of Bihar and Orissa Province;

(b) the number of cases that were decided in favour of the applicants of each of the districts; and

(c) the total amount so refunded in each district?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) and (b). The information for the year 1934-35 is not readily available, but it is being collected and will be laid on the table in due course. As regards the year 1933-34, a statement giving the necessary information is laid on the table. The figures include also cases in which slight reductions were made in the assessment. The cases decided were, however, not all in respect of applications of the year in question.

(c) The information cannot be furnished as its compilation would involve an expense of time and labour that would not be justified by the value of the results.

Statement.

District or Circle.	Number of applications made under section 30.	Number of cases in which modifications were made in favour of the applicants.
Patna	269	175
Bhagalpur (South) Santhal Parganas (East)	392	299
Gaya	229	94
Monghyr-Santhal Parganas (West)	328	201
Shahabad	153	37
Muzaffarpur (Sadar)-Champaran	215	153
Darbhanga-Sitamarhi	198	87
Saran-Hajipur	298	98
Purnea-North Bhagalpur	259	165
Ranchi	85	35
Manbhum (Sadar)	62	49
Dhanbad	69	52
Singhbhum	89	59
Sambalpur	84	53
Hazaribagh	104	75
Palamau	29	18
Cuttack	125	97
Puri	61	34
Balasore	64	42
Salaries Circle	35	22

RETIREMENT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INCOME-TAX, BIHAR AND ORISSA.

1578. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) when the retirement of the present Commissioner of Income-tax for Bihar and Orissa is due; and

(b) whether he will be given an extension of service thereafter? If so, for what reasons?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The present Commissioner of Income-tax, Bihar and Orissa, was due to retire on the 8th August, 1935, but has been granted an extension of service for one year in the interest of the public service.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the public interests? Is there no other man to take his place? What are the reasons to justify his extension?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: There are strong reasons for retaining the present Commissioner's services.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there no body else available to take his place?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: It is not convenient to find any one else to take his place.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am asking, apart from the authority who thinks his services are necessary, what are the public interests which are sought to be served, by extending this gentleman's services?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The carrying on of the efficient administration of the department.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: So, year after year, there will be nobody to carry on the efficient administration of the department; and, if he dies, what happens?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Some other arrangement will have to be made.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi: Have not a large number of complaints been made against the present Commissioner?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I have investigated a large number of those complaints, and most of them were entirely malicious and unfounded.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Some of them were well founded, I suppose?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I can assure my friend that the complaints were malicious and unfounded.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi: Is it not a fact that no public inquiry has been made?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Unless there is a *primâ facie* case, no inquiry is made, and in my opinion there is no *primâ facie* case for an inquiry in this case.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi: Don't the Government think that public opinion is swinging that way?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Mere public opinion does not establish a *primâ facie* case.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Whose favourite is this officer? Is he the favourite of the Government of India or of the Local Government?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: He is nobody's favourite; he is a very efficient officer.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is it because of the numerous complaints made against him, that his services have been extended for another year?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: In spite of them.

APPLICATIONS REJECTED IN BIHAR AND ORISSA FOR COPIES FROM ORDER SHEETS, DEPOSITIONS, SERVICE RETURNS, ETC.

1579. *__Mr. Ram Narayan Singh__: Are Government aware that the practice of granting copies from order sheets, depositions, service returns and such other papers that find place in the assessment file and relate to proceedings taken under the Income-tax Act, directly concerning the assessees has been abruptly stopped and all applications rejected of late in Bihar and Orissa? If so, why?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: It appears that copies of order sheets were refused by one Income-tax Officer in Bihar and Orissa due to some misunderstanding. This has been set right. Copies of order sheets indicating the course of assessment proceedings and of depositions taken in the presence of the parties as well as of service returns are being granted.

IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES UNDER SECTION 28 OF THE INCOME-TAX ACT IN CUTTACK, PURI AND BALASORE CIRCLE.

1580. *__Mr. Ram Narayan Singh__: Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases in which penalties were imposed under section 28 of the Income-tax Act for Income-tax year 1934-35 in Cuttack, Puri and Balasore Circle;

(b) whether there have been any cases in which penalties have been imposed to such amount as that of the assessment of the preceding years; and

(c) If so, what were the special reasons?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) The information required for the year 1934-35 will not be available until the annual returns for that year have been compiled; but the corresponding figures for 1933-34 were:

Cuttack	3
Puri	5
Balasore	2

(b) The information is being collected, and will be laid on the table in due course.

(c) In view of the provisions of section 54 of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, I am afraid that details of assessment proceedings cannot be disclosed.

Mr. P. R. Rau: My Honourable friend is in the habit of sending almost daily complaints of some sort or other to me, to which I give all possible attention.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Another supplementary question, Sir. Will he inform this House whether it is a fact or not that there is a difference in the treatment of appeals and punishments in the procedure between officials and subordinates?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The difference that I know of is that no definite rules have been laid down in case of appeals from subordinates as has been done in the case of gazetted officers. I have already said that the framing of similar rules for the subordinate staff is under consideration, and they will be issued very shortly.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: In view of the fact that this House has three times defeated the Government on this matter, is it not astounding that the Government should now say that they have no rules on this subject? Will the Honourable Member state whether the Railway Board is prepared to immediately issue those rules?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have said, Sir, that the rules are being drafted and will be issued shortly.

MESSAGE FROM H. E. THE VICEROY AND GOVERNOR GENERAL.

RECOMMENDATION TO PASS THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. I have a Message from His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General.

12 NOON.

"The Finance Bill as introduced contained provisions designed to reduce taxation to the maximum extent possible within our existing resources and incidentally to provide some benefit to the agriculturist by removing a bar on the profitable sale of one of his products. The Bill was the counterpart of the policy represented in the allocation of a non-recurrent surplus for the development of roads, broadcasting, civil aviation and above all for the improvement of the economic position of the villages in this country. So far as the Finance Bill is concerned, the Amendments made by the Legislative Assembly would, if accepted, amount to a serious mutilation of the Bill. They entail a loss of revenue of from 4 to 5 crores and so involve budgeting for a heavy deficit and all the deleterious results to India's credit which have invariably followed an unsound procedure of this character. The Amendments cannot therefore be accepted.

After the anxious consideration I have decided to recommend to the Assembly that the Bill be restored to the form in which it was originally introduced. I have considered whether it is possible to accept some of the financially less important amendments made but one of these is definitely opposed to the interests of the agriculturist and the others are minor postal concessions which, though affording little or no benefit to the poor, would more than double the estimated deficit on the Posts and Telegraphs Departments and postpone the restoration of solvency in that service. Every one of the remaining amendments involves a loss of at least half a crore of revenue and so must be ruled out so far as the current year is concerned.

(Sd.) WILLINGDON.

Viceroy and Governor General."

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[Mr. President.]
The text of the Recommendation is as follows:

"In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 67B of the Government of India Act, I, Freeman, Earl of Willingdon, do recommend to the Legislative Assembly that it do pass the Bill to fix the duty on salt manufactured in, or imported by land into, certain parts of British India, to vary certain duties leviable under the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, to fix maximum rates of postage under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, to fix rates of income-tax and super-tax, and to vary the excise duty on silver leviable under the Silver (Excise Duty) Act, 1930, in the form hereto annexed.

(Sd.) WILLINGDON,
Viceroy and Governor General."

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): May I know if it contains the removal of export duty on skins also?

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Does it contain the removal of export duty on skins also?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Yes. Sir, in pursuance of the recommendation which you have just read to the House, I hand in a notice of the amendments necessary to bring the Bill now before the House into the form recommended by the Governor General.

THE INDIAN TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, for certain purposes, be taken into consideration."

Sir, it is unnecessary, I think, for me to enter into any elaborate justification of the continuance of the import duty on wheat for another year. The House has had this matter before it year after year for a number of years and certain basic facts and conclusions may now be taken for granted. These can be stated quite briefly in the following terms. Firstly, it is necessary to keep the Indian market for the Indian producer having regard to the fact that India produces sufficient for her own requirements in normal years and in some years may also have a surplus for export. Secondly, in view of the fact that there are still large, though steadily diminishing, net exportable surpluses in the world available at prices below the Indian prices of wheat, without a tariff barrier, foreign importations of wheat would swamp the Indian market. In these circumstances, I think the House will agree that the continuance of the import duty is inevitable. The only question is what the level of that duty should be. Honourable Members will see that we are proposing to reduce the duty from Rs. 2 to Rs. 1-8-0 per cwt, and the two questions which I propose to set myself and to answer are, firstly, is the rate of duty we propose sufficient to secure the object we are aiming at, and secondly, why is it necessary to avoid an unnecessarily high rate of duty? I will first deal with the question whether the rate now proposed is sufficient to secure the contemplated object.

I would ask the House to remember that the most important adverse factor in the situation is the availability of large exportable surpluses of wheat in the world since 1928-29, which have had the effect of unduly depressing prices. These surpluses reached the record figure of 692 million bushels in the year 1932-33. There was a comparatively negligible reduction in that surplus to 652 million bushels in 1933-34. The position has, however, altered very considerably so far as the year 1934-35 is concerned. The forecast of world stocks places the surplus for this year at 400 million bushels. This would indicate that the position is approaching or beginning to approach normality with a consequential hardening of world prices, both factors tending to reduce the measure of the menace to Indian wheat. In these circumstances, it becomes essential for us to reconsider the rate of duty which we propose to impose. Now, Sir, there are three lines of approach to the question what is the appropriate rate of duty. In the first place we may consider the factors, if any, which make it necessary for us to alter the rate of duty which we imposed in the past. Honourable Members are aware that we are proposing to reduce the duty by eight annas a cwt. The existing rate was fixed, having regard to two, among other important, factors. Firstly, it was based upon an ex-duty Calcutta Price of Australian wheat of Rs. 2-7-0 a maund and it was also based upon a freight charge from the Punjab to Calcutta of Rs. 1-3-6 a maund. Today the freight has been reduced to Rs. 1-0-8 a maund which amounts to a reduction of almost four annas a cwt. and the ex-duty Australian price of wheat at Calcutta has never, since the beginning of this year, been lower than Rs. 2-15-8 a maund as against Rs. 2-7-0 a maund upon which the original rate was based. Honourable Members can make the calculation themselves and they will realise that these factors alone would justify an even larger decrease than eight annas a maund. There is a second line of approach which we may adopt to test the adequacy of the rate of duty now proposed. It is admitted generally that the danger to Indian wheat is largely during the earlier months of the year, so that figures for these months will afford us a safe guide for the rest of the year. Now, Sir, in January, 1935, the average price of Lyallpur wheat excluding all charges was Rs. 3-8-1 a maund at Calcutta. The price of Australian wheat, its chief competitor at Calcutta, in the same period is calculated at Rs. 3-4-0 a maund. Australian wheat would thus be cheaper by about 10 annas and 7 pies a cwt. whereas the duty we propose is Rs. 1-8-0 a cwt. Even if we make an allowance at the rate of about four annas a maund for the premium which, I understand, Australian wheat sells at, a figure which I think may possibly be on the high side, the duty of Rs. 1-8-0 allows for a very reasonable margin. The averages for the month of February show that the duty of Rs. 1-8-0 would afford an even larger margin of safety. Sir, there is yet another method of approach to this question. It may be suggested that the method of averages is open to a certain amount of criticism and this third method would be to take individual Australian prices ex-duty prices in Calcutta since the beginning of the year, compare them with the prices of Punjab wheat in Calcutta on the same dates and see whether, with reference to the difference between these two prices, the import duty we now propose is sufficient or not. I have had a comparison of prices instituted on these lines since the beginning of the year, and I find that the largest disparity between Australian and Indian prices was in the week ending January 23rd. It amounted to 14 annas a cwt. Even making the allowance I have just now referred to, there is a sufficient difference between 14 annas and Rs. 1-8-0 a cwt,, the duty pro-

[Sir Joseph Bhore.]

posed, to afford a safe margin. But the difference in price between Australian wheat and Indian wheat without the duty is growing steadily less. The ex-duty price of Australian wheat in Calcutta was Rs. 2-15-8 a maund on January 9th. On February 13th, it had risen to Rs. 3-2-8 a maund, the difference between the prices of Indian and Australian wheat on that day being only 0-2-3 a cwt. without duty. A duty of Rs. 1-8-0 would thus appear to be a reasonably safe margin. I may say that the latest information reached me a few minutes before I came to the Assembly this morning and that shows that Australian wheat today in Calcutta is actually without the duty higher in price than Indian wheat landed in Calcutta. The other question which I have to answer is why is it necessary for us to avoid an unnecessarily high rate of duty. That question I can answer quite briefly. Firstly, too high a rate of duty would make it possible for the retailer to put his prices up unnecessarily high to the consumer without any guarantee that the benefit will go to the producer. In fact, we may take it almost as certain that such benefit as accrues will go to the middleman and not to the producer. Secondly, as Honourable Members are aware, there has been a shrinkage of about three per cent in the area under wheat this season. Seasonal conditions have also not been very favourable. If, therefore, it happens, as it has happened before, that the wheat produced in this country is not sufficient for the requirements of the country and that importation has to be resorted to to supply the deficiency, then, obviously, an unnecessarily high rate of duty will put up the price to the consumer. Thirdly, if on the other hand we have an exportable surplus, then clearly an unnecessarily high rate of duty is inadvisable because the larger the difference between Indian prices and world parity, the less chance there is of Indian wheat being exported to markets outside India. Lastly, let me point out, that we are now placing this duty in the protective class, which means, that if occasion should arise, Government have the power by executive action to raise the duty in order to secure the result which it is their object to achieve.

I now turn to the case of rice. The case of rice is not free from difficulty. We have to view it against a somewhat sombre background, the background of a picture which shows considerable scarcity in many districts of the Madras Presidency, which of course is the presidency which is chiefly concerned in this matter. It is true that the scarcity is largely in districts accustomed to a diet of millets or grains other than rice, but we have to bear two facts in mind, firstly, that a hungry man will eat any grain, even grain to which he is not accustomed if he is able to get it at a favourable price, and, secondly, that there is a large marginal population which consumes either millet or rice, as the case may be, according to the price of the moment. Any rise in rice prices is bound to be reflected in the prices of millets, and, in fact, the report of the special officer appointed by the Government of Madras to inquire into this question makes it abundantly clear that the prices of imported broken rice do affect the price of millets. I would like to say quite definitely that the scarcity conditions prevailing in parts of the Madras Presidency and the interests of the poorer consumers make it absolutely essential that if we are to impose an import duty on rice, it must be circumscribed within narrow limits. Now, in view of the large importations of rice into the Madras Presidency, I think it must be admitted

that a case exists for a certain amount of protection. The figures of imports from foreign countries rose from 31,000 tons in 1932 to 39,000 tons in 1933 and to the very high figure of 395,000 tons in 1934. As I have said, we are under a special necessity to see that the duty is imposed with the utmost circumspection, and that it should do no more than meet the requirements of the case. The special officer appointed by the Madras Government to investigate the rice question reported, "that the dominant factor in the dislocation of price levels of local rice which has been so detrimental to the interests of the local rice-grower, is the increasing, uncontrolled import of cheap, inferior rice from overseas, in particular the recent rapid increase in the imports almost entirely of broken rice from Siam". It seems clear, Sir, that the enemy, so far as Madras is concerned, is foreign broken rice, and it is quite understandable that it should be so. Broken rice is a bye-product of the milling industry and it consists of rice broken in the process of milling. While the prices of whole rice and paddy are, in the main, regulated by world parity, this is not the case with a bye-product which can sell very cheaply. We have thus, Sir, a perfectly clear case for differentiating against broken rice, which forms—and I would ask the House to remember this—over 75 per cent. of the total imports of rice and paddy into the Madras Presidency. Again, Sir, let me bring it to the notice of the House that the report of the special officer, appointed by the Madras Government, leaves no possible shadow of a doubt that it is the competition of foreign broken rice that is the chief adverse factor in the situation. Now the only remaining question is—what is an appropriate rate of duty? Different methods of calculating this give practically the same result,—which is that about eight annas a maund should be reasonably sufficient. We have taken Rangoon rice as the measuring standard, because Rangoon rice has always had to be imported into Madras in large quantities in order to provide for its full requirements. We have very complete statistics at the port of Cochin showing the prices of Rangoon rice and of broken foreign rice over a considerable period, and those statistics show that there is an average difference of about eight annas a maund between Rangoon rice and this imported broken rice. Then, again, Sir, at the Crop Planning Conference which was held in June, 1934, a special inquiry was conducted at the request of the Council of Agricultural Research as to what minimum duty would be required to afford reasonable protection to Rangoon rice as against foreign broken rice, and the result of that inquiry was to show that a duty of eight annas would be sufficient. We have, therefore, taken 8 annas as the standard. We have added another four annas in order to allow for possible fluctuations, and we have thus arrived at our figure of 12 annas a maund. Now, Sir, obviously it is not possible to arrive by any mathematical process at a figure which can be demonstrated as exactly sufficient, and no more, to serve the purpose which we have in mind. I venture to think, however, that, with the margin which we have allowed, the rate we are providing should secure a reasonable measure of defence against the competition of a bye-product which is dangerous, for the reason that it is a bye-product. I ought again to emphasise the fact that in respect of both wheat and rice these duties are entered as protective duties, and hence they are liable to enhancement by Government if they find at any time that the purpose which they have in view is not being served. Sir, I move my motion. (Applause.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, for certain purposes, be taken into consideration."

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I recollect four years ago this day the predecessor of the present Commerce Member, Sir George Rainy, discussed his Bill for the protection of the sugar industry. So I am glad that, although my Honourable friend, Sir Joseph Bhore, will soon leave us, he has brought forward on the floor of this House a Bill to give protection to two agricultural industries,—which for the first time have been accepted by the Government as industries. Sir, with much of what fell from the Honourable the Commerce Member about the lowering of the tariff on wheat I generally concur. Regarding the protection for rice, Sir, I am not satisfied nor do I understand the real situation, because they say the Government of India is run by "Parsis, Madrassis and *Chaprasis*". Now the Parsis have had their very full quota of protection, and now Madrassis have come up for their own protection; and I do hope the new Commerce Member will give protection next to the *Chaprasis*. (Laughter.) So, Sir, this protection demand which has come from my friends from Madras does not satisfy me . . . .

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What about wheat? Where does the protection go to?

Mr. B. Das: That goes to the United Provinces and the Punjab.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Well, they are not "*Chaprasis*, they are not Madrasis, and they are not Parsis". (Laughter.)

Mr. B. Das: Sir, we who belong to the eastern region of India, namely, Bengal and Orissa, would like protection for rice, for the greatest menace that comes to Bengal and Orissa comes from Burma. Unfortunately, Burma is still part of India, and even if Burma is separated, what I have understood outside this House is that the Honourable the Commerce Member has not taken us into his confidence—there is a certain Indo-Burma Trade Convention which has been hatched behind the back of this House and for two or five years Burma rice will have free entry into Bengal and Orissa. So, Sir, this protection of broken rice does not interest me in any way and the proper time will come when the successor of my Honourable friend will take up the consideration and will repudiate the so-called Indo-Burma Convention and will put sufficient tax on the Burma rice so that the price level of rice will rise in Bengal, Assam and Orissa.

Sir, I wish to conclude my speech by saying that in a day or two I will part company with my Honourable friend, Sir Joseph Bhore, whom I have known on the floor of this House for the last 11 years. At times we have crossed swords and we have gone at each other hammer and tongs but at the same time he has been a dear friend of mine both on the floor of the House and outside. It is very sad to part with friends but I do hope that his great talents and his great knowledge of the Indian administration and of Indian public life and Indian life he will be able to utilise in the service of Mother India and I do hope that I will get the opportunity a year or two hence of welcoming him into the Congress fold when he will be one of our valuable colleagues and co-workers

Mr. K. L. Gauba (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Mr. President, I am neither a zamindar, nor a flour mill-owner, nor a grower of rice. Therefore, I can claim to speak not with any special interest which I represent on the floor of the House. Mr. President, the persons for whom I would speak today are the zamindars of the Punjab and the zamindars of the United Provinces. Yesterday, I was very sorry to see that when the question of income-tax came up, certain zamindar friends walked into the Government lobby and said that they were not interested in income-tax. (*A Voice*: "They generally do.") That apart, though I am a small payer of income-tax, I think on the floor of the House I can voice some of the interests of that large number of growers of wheat and growers of rice who are affected by this Bill. Mr. President, one heard with considerable emotion Mr. Das' reference to the Commerce Member. One agrees with that. But we have come to know about his solicitude for the various interests in this country and the various interests that are represented in his Department. We have had examples in the Indo-British Trade Pact, the Indo-Burma Trade Pact and today we have an example of his interest for the agriculturists of this country in the Bill which he has brought forward. I hope he will excuse me when I say that this is a parting kick to the agriculturists of India. After all what are the arguments that the learned Commerce Member has put forward. He said that, at the time of the introduction of this duty, Australian wheat was being sold at the rate of Rs. 2-4-0 a maund at Calcutta, today the price is Rs. 2-15-0. He said that the railway freight at that time was Rs. 1-3-6 or something like that, and now it is Rs. 1-6-0. If the railway freight was reduced at that time, it was only for the purpose of allowing large accumulations of wheat in the Punjab and the United Provinces in order to move it to Calcutta. In order that Government might realise their revenue from the zamindars, and in order that a small element of justice might be shown to the zamindars of the Punjab and the zamindars of the United Provinces, this railway rate was reduced. The mere fact that there is four annas off in the railway rate or that the price of the Australian wheat is seven annas more at Calcutta today, is that any reason why you should take eight annas off of the Punjab and the United Provinces wheat? Is that any reason to take eight annas a maund out of the pockets of the agriculturists of the Punjab and the United Provinces? After all, if the Commerce Member thought more of the agriculturist who pays the revenue and maintains the Government than he did of Australia, and if he thought more of Indian interests than of Lancashire, I think we would have a better justice in this country. This Bill is purely in the interests of the Australian wheat. This Bill is introduced in order that the Australian wheat might enter Calcutta, in order that it might be milled by the Calcutta mills and in order that the Punjab and the United Provinces wheat might be kept out of the Bengal markets. This Bill is not in the interests of the Indian agriculturist at all. With these words, I strongly oppose the consideration of this Bill and I hope this House will throw it out.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): Sir, first of all, I would like to correct my Honourable friend that yesterday, when the question of income-tax was considered, I walked into his lobby and supported the motion that the income-tax should be reduced and it should be removed altogether from those persons who earn less than Rs. 2,000 a year. This Bill deeply touches the interests of the Punjab and the United Provinces agriculturists.

An Honourable Member: Do not forget Sind.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Sind I include in the Punjab.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: How did you vote on the sur-tax?

Sardar Mangal Singh: I was neutral. Sir, I am glad that the Government of India have in principle admitted this proposition that the Indian market should be preserved for the Indian wheat. For that and for the protection of the wheat which they have been giving for the last three years, we deeply appreciate this action of the Government. What I cannot understand is why the Government of India have thought fit to reduce the duty from Rs. 2 a cwt. to Rs. 1-8-0 a cwt. They admit that foreign wheat should not be allowed to come into this country. Now, let us plainly understand it. If the position of the Government is that they want to allow some foreign wheat to come into this country, and, with that object, they have reduced the duty, we can understand it. But if the Government of India take the position that the Indian market should be preserved for the Indian wheat, then, in that case, I do not see any reason why the Government of India should reduce the duty from Rs. 2 to Rs. 1-8-0. When we are boycotting foreign cloth and other foreign things, there is no reason why we should not boycott foreign wheat. India is a predominantly agricultural country, and, in connection with wheat, we are an exporting country. Up to 1928, India was an exporting country. We are producing about ten million tons of wheat, out of which we consume from eight to ten millions of wheat in India, and there is a surplus generally of more than one million tons every year. For this surplus of wheat, we must have an outlet outside this country. I do not know whether the Government of India have done anything under the Ottawa Pact or any other Pact, to find a market outside the country for the surplus. But that is another question. At this time we are mainly concerned with the Indian market for the Indian wheat. The introduction of scientific methods in other countries in agriculture has resulted in enormous production of wheat, and there is a very large surplus in the world market. Therefore, we are finding it difficult to export our wheat. At the present time, the Honourable the Commerce Member has given only a small reason that he has reduced it because the middleman takes advantage of the position. He has also tried to show that at the present time the January and February price of Australian wheat in Calcutta and the price of Indian wheat are almost the same. I may submit for his consideration that it is in April and May that the Indian wheat crop will be ready, and, at that time, that is May and June, the price of wheat is bound to come down. At that time, it would be difficult for us to compete with the Australian wheat.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: Why?

Sardar Mangal Singh: Because there is already a surplus in this country, and this year the wheat crop is also very good and we hope to produce more wheat, and this will bring down the wheat price in Calcutta, and it is probably to meet that contingency that the Government of India have taken the right to enhance the duty if they think it necessary to do so. I submit, why should you reduce that duty? If they feel

that they will be required by circumstances to enhance the duty, at the same time why reduce the duty at all now? They say that it is a protective duty, and when they admit it, I submit the duty should be a prohibitive duty and an effective duty. Either they should give protection to Indian wheat or they should not give protection to Indian wheat or they should not give inefficient protection to Indian wheat. If the Government of India stand committed to this proposition that they are prepared to give protection to Indian wheat, I would submit that it should be effective and it should be done by a prohibitive duty and not by a duty in this half-hearted manner. The Government of India can help the wheat producer in three ways, first by reducing the railway freight. In that case, the Railway Board are always very unsympathetic towards wheat producers.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I must definitely repudiate that suggestion.

Sardar Mangal Singh: About the Railway Board, I would submit this. About two years ago, the Punjab Government found it very difficult to persuade the Railway Board to reduce the freight from the Punjab to Calcutta for wheat, and the Railway Board eventually agreed only when the Punjab Government guaranteed to reimburse the loss in revenue due to the decrease in railway freight from the Punjab to Calcutta. The Railway Board have never come forward to lower the freight in the interests of the agriculturists of this country. It was the Punjab Government who did it.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: That is a mis-statement, if I may say so, of the facts. At the present moment, the Railway Board have offered to give a rebate of 25 per cent on all wheat which may be exported out of India in order to help the agriculturists to export their surplus.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I am talking of 1931.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I am talking of the present time.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Then, both may be right. Another important thing which the Government of India could do is to reduce the exchange ratio from one shilling six pence to one shilling four pence. I know that it is not relevant to this discussion, but you are giving protection to the wheat producers, and, at the same time, you are putting a duty of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the wheat producers in comparison with other countries. I fail to understand how the Government of India are anxious to help the agriculturists.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can resume his speech after Lunch. Today being Friday, the House will adjourn now till Quarter Past Two.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Sir, when the House rose for Lunch, I was discussing what measures the Government of India should take for the protection of the wheat growers. The import duty was one of them, the reduction of railway freights is another; and I was speaking on the reduction of the exchange ratio. There is another method by which the Government of India can help the wheat producers, and that is by finding more markets outside the country for the wheat surplus in this country. I am not asking for this protection as a mere matter of favour. The Government of India stand committed and the whole nation stands committed to the policy of protection for Indian industries. You have given protection to other industries, why not give adequate protection to the agricultural industry also? And who are the people who are asking for protection at your hands? The peasantry of the Punjab. And I want the House to understand the significance of the word "zamindar" correctly. Outside the Punjab, a "zamindar" is understood to mean a big landlord like our friend, Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury. But, in the Punjab, by the word "zamindar" we mean peasant proprietors, small landholders who till the land by their own hands; and those are the people who produce wheat. I want to remind the Government of India that these are the people who contribute very largely to the defence of the country as well as to the Exchequer; and, if this fine peasantry is destroyed or weakened, I maintain that the efficiency of the Indian army will also be weakened. Therefore, Sir, I would ask the Government of India to consider this point very seriously. I do not want to say anything by way of a threat, but, at the same time, I wish to point out that the situation is very serious in my part of the country. The peasants have had to meet demands of revenue and water rates by pawning their ornaments and by selling their belongings during the last two years. We have sent so much gold out of the country, and that gold came from the villages of the Punjab and the U. P. mostly. And we have not only sold our ornaments and our belongings, but in some cases, I am ashamed to admit, some of the peasants have to sell their daughters in order to meet the demands of Government. The dissatisfaction amongst the villages is very great; do not be misled by the fact that there is peace and law and order all over the country. I want to warn the Government of India that behind this lull, behind this peace and order, there is a storm brewing, and we are sitting on an economic volcano which may burst at any moment. If there is any meeting to be addressed by the Socialists, you suspect the hand of Russia, but I maintain that there is nothing of that sort. If there is any hand of Russia, it is your hand, it is the hand of hunger and starvation which is stalking the country and which will lead to revolution if things are not remedied in time. In this matter, the Congress and Government stand almost on an equal footing. The Congress, at its Bombay session, started the Village Industries Association and Government also have provided one crore for the uplift of the villages. I am very glad that this healthy rivalry has come in, and I want the Government of India to take the wind out of the sails of Mahatma Gandhi and show the country that they are really anxious to serve the agricultural masses. The Honourable the Finance Member in his speeches made frequent references

to his solicitude for the agriculturists. But I want him to come out and show real sympathy and do something substantial for their improvement. I want to know from the Government of India,—who demanded the reduction of this wheat import duty? I have not come across any public meeting or any public association in any part of the country which has demanded the reduction of the wheat import duty, and still the Government of India come forward and reduce this duty by eight annas. Again, Sir, I submit that in this matter at least there is no question of the mutilation of the Finance Bill. We are not reducing; on the other hand, it may increase the income of the Government of India. We are not reducing the duty, but we are asking the Government of India to increase it. Government sometimes plead that they cannot do this thing for financial stringency. Here in this matter at least, there is no such excuse. Government can assure us that they are very anxious to help us and without spending a single pice.

Sir, I do not want to detain this Honourable House for a long time as Members are anxious to finish the work. Before sitting down, I wish to say that I do not agree with my Honourable friend from the Punjab who said that this is the parting kick of Sir Joseph Bhore to the agriculturists. I said in the beginning that we agriculturists do realise that, in the matter of wheat, Government have done their duty during the last three years. I want the Government of India to continue that measure for such time as it is necessary. I wish to associate myself with Mr. B. Das in paying my humble tribute to the Honourable the Commerce Member. We may have differed with him, we may have fought with him, but, at the same time, I admit that, as a private gentleman, he is a gentleman.

Maharaj Kumar Vijaya Ananda Gajapatiraj (United Provinces: Landholders): Mr. President, here is an occasion when the Honourable the Commerce Member has extended his hand of co-operation in deference to the opinion of both the Houses. My Honourable friend, Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha, raised a timely warning that effective steps should be taken by the Government to prevent and control the importation of foreign rice into India. I am not going to tire this House with figures and details of this sudden import. Really it is a wonder of wonders why, of all things, rice from other lands should come to India—the mother, who is, in the words of Poet Tagore, distributing food at home and abroad. In addition to the figures that my Honourable friend has given to this House, I beg to remind you that, during the last eleven months, ending with February, the quantity of imported rice not in the husk has come up to nearly 250 thousand tons valued at more than 1,61 lakhs. I need not go into the question whether or how much it will affect our price level. But when our cultivators, the real producers of our wealth, are leading a bare existence, unable to pay even for their two meals, this big amount of money going elsewhere out of our country indicates an alarming situation. Our Elders in the other House adopted a Resolution in the interests of the agriculturist recommending this Government to take steps to prevent the import of foreign rice into this country and to adopt other substantial measures to improve the present low prices of rice. I take it that the Government, in addition to the protective duty, will take other substantial measures.

Dr. F. X. DeSouza (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, representing as I do a constituency, the bulk of whom are engaged in the cultivation of rice in Southern India, I feel it my duty to intervene in this debate for a few brief moments. It has been admitted by Government that the wholesale importation of rice into this country, during the last year or two, constitutes a serious menace to the agricultural industry and especially to the growers of rice. It is stated in the statement of objects and reasons that in the last year particularly, these imports have reached very considerable proportions and detailed investigations have shown that broken rice, which constitutes the major portion of these imports from abroad, is a very serious competitor with certain of the better grades of rice produced in Madras. To any one acquainted with conditions in Southern India, this proposition comes as a startling statement. To say that broken rice constitutes a very serious menace to the growers of the better grades of rice, to my mind, cannot possibly be true. Broken rice is the food of the lower classes, whereas the better grades of rice is the food of the higher classes; and if the officer appointed by the Government of Madras has reported to the Government of India that broken rice is a very serious competitor with superior rice, it only illustrates the truth of the proverb that one half of the world does not know how the other half lives. It only shows that town-bred officials are ignorant of how the village labourer lives. Every Member from Madras, who is a rice eater, will bear me out when I say that broken rice is never eaten by the higher classes except in the form of light refreshments like *idli*, *dosai* and *appam*. But no man belonging to the higher classes will eat broken rice as a substantial portion of his diet. I appeal to the experience of every Member of this House and more especially to friends like Rao Bahadur Rajah, who corroborates me in what I say, and ask how can you say that broken rice is a serious competitor with whole rice and how can you say that a protective measure against broken rice will help the producer of rice in the superior grades? You might as well say that a protective duty on oats—which they say is the food of horses in England and of men in Scotland—will help the grower of wheat. The two positions are absolutely different, and I maintain most strongly that the protection against broken rice will not help the grower of the better classes of rice. On the contrary it will make his position much worse. Why? For this reason: that in future the importers of broken rice will not import broken rice at all but will go on importing whole rice, and, therefore, the competition with the grower of the better grades of rice will grow keener and more distressing. On the other hand, what is the position? By imposing a protective duty on broken rice, you make the poor man's food dearer, without in any way improving the position of the grower of the better grades of rice in Madras: and the last state of that grower of rice would be worse than his first. That is my first point.

My second point is this: the broken rice that is imported into the Madras Presidency is imported not at its economic value, but is dumped into the Presidency; because, so far as I understand, broken rice is never consumed in Siam, is a by-product which hitherto was exported to Germany to make starch and other preparations useful for chemical purposes: but the German market being closed, it is dumped into the Indian market because our people are the only poor population that can eat broken rice. All the rice that is imported into this country comes from Indo-China and Siam. I shall show presently how the rice grown in Siam and Indo-China is bounty-fed, that the Governments of these countries, in order to make themselves self-sufficient, grant a very heavy subsidy to their rice growers and, therefore, it is that this bounty-fed rice is being imported into this country. Therefore, all this rice that is imported into India is imported not at its economic value, but it is dumped to be got rid of. I remember my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, some time ago—I think it was a year ago,—rushed in hot haste to this Honourable House and introduced his Bill imposing what he called safeguarding duties on a number of articles—30 or 40 so far as I remember—which he asked the House to pass off-hand on the ground that the trade of India was being seriously menaced. Can I not ask him to have the same kind of consideration for the agriculturist, the poor rice grower of India, as he had for the industrialist last time? The real reason why the broken rice is selected as the object of the protective duty was mentioned in the Madras Legislative Council by the European planting member, Mr. Langley. Mr. Langley said that this measure of the Government of India looked to him very much in the nature of a cowardly act, because, they say, whole rice or paddy is imported from Indo-China, while broken rice is largely imported from Siam; and Indo-China has a powerful patron and is a colony of France, whereas Siam is helpless and powerless. I shall not, therefore, call it a measure of cowardice, but I shall call it a measure of discretion which is the better part of valour. That is my second point.

The niggardly protection which this Bill gives to rice and the partial withdrawal of the protection from wheat makes me ask the Government of India, in all humility, what is your policy with regard to agriculture in its international aspects? If so, please disclose it to the House. All other civilized countries are adopting a policy of economic nationalism with regard both to their industries and agriculture. Countries like the Netherlands, East Indies, the Federated Malay States, Indo-China, Siam, China and Japan, have become nationally self-sufficient so far as rice is concerned and do not import our rice any more. Even England, which is a free trade country, has become a protective country even with regard to agriculture. We are all familiar with the subsidies which have been given recently in favour of sugar and milk, and recently the cattle industry has assumed such importance in England that the Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Elliot, has played pranks with orthodox economics that will make our Finance Member gasp and stare. Nevertheless his measures have been so popular that Elliottism has become a household word. Meanwhile, what is the position of our country? Our position is as follows: It will be seen from the Census Report that our country is progressively being ruralised unlike other industrial countries. From 59.8 per cent. in 1891—it was the percentage dependent on agriculture—it rose to 71.3 in 1911; and 73 per cent. in 1931. Meanwhile, has there been a proportionate increase in our food supply? Not a bit of it. The Tariff Commission in 1898 estimated that 51.5 million tons was the annual food production all over the country and, at that time, 47 million tons were the minimum requirements of the population. That refers to the population which was then 231.26 millions. Since then there has been an increase of 40.27 million. Now, has there been an increase in the food supply? No, Sir, there has actually been a shortage. I find from the statistics that the area under rice, since 1930, has been steadily decreasing and so has the outturn been decreasing. In 1931-32, the area under rice was 84 million

[Dr. F. X. DeSouza.]

acres and the outturn was 32,988,000 tons. In 1932-33, the area under rice was 82 millions and the outturn of rice was 30,655,000 tons. In the year 1933-34, the outturn of rice was 29,830,000 tons. This shows, Sir, that there has been a steady decline in the food production of this country. What will the Government do if they find a shortage of food production in tunes of famine and scarcity? The boast of the British Government is, whatever famine conditions may prevail, there may be a shortage of money but there will never be a shortage of food; but the figures that I have just quoted are very startling and show that there is a growing shortage of food. I would, therefore, respectfully ask the Government to institute an inquiry into the requirements of food in this country and whether the production falls short of our needs or whether we should have to depend on foreign countries for our food supplies. Sir, a policy of *laissez faire* is no good in this matter. Sir, in my minute of dissent on the Ottawa Report, written in July last, I made the following statement:

"The combined effect of tariff in the foreign markets and of dumping in the home market added to the general world depression has lowered the price of rice in India below the cost of production. It was Rs. 6-13-0 per maund in 1930 and Rs. 3-4-0 per maund in 1934. The position of the rice grower is growing more and more desperate day by day while the Government of India is looking helplessly on."

Then I go on:

"But the worst blow to the trade of the West Coast has been inflicted by Ceylon She enjoys a preference of ten per cent. in her cocoanut and 7½ per cent. on her betelnut. As a result of the former preference, she has flooded the Indian market with copra, cocoanut products and cocoanut oil, the prices of which have had a catastrophic fall. The cocoanut industry of Malabar is threatened with ruin and the entire countryside is demoralised by the crash in price of the staple products,—rice, coffee, cocoanut and pepper."

And I asked:

"What prevents the Government of India from denouncing the preference to Ceylon or placing an embargo on the importation of bounty fed rice from Siam and Indo China? Is it because the industrialist has obtained such an overwhelming influence on their Councils that the interests of agriculture have to be sacrificed; or was Lord Curzon a true prophet when he opposed Imperial Preference for India on the ground that in negotiations for implementing it, India would not be given fiscal freedom."

I do not wish to develop this point, Sir. What I have said so far certainly shows a serious state of affairs which, I hope in all humility, the Government of India will take into serious consideration and do all they can to see that agriculture is not further ruined.

Now, Sir, I wish to say a few words about the Honourable Commerce Member who will shortly retire and whose melodious voice and persuasive speeches in this Chamber we shall miss.

An Honourable Member: He is being promoted.

Dr. F. X. DeSouza: This Bill is his swan song. Sir, he was the first Indian to be appointed to the exalted office which he will relinquish shortly, and, in his time, the status of India as a high contracting party, contracting with foreign powers on equal terms, has been established. It was in his time that India, as a high contracting party, negotiated the treaty with Japan; it was in his time that India as a high contracting party negotiated the Indo-British Pact. Sir, opinions may differ as to his policy, but as one who has had the honour and privilege to come in direct contact with him and to serve with him on many Committees, I can say with my hand on my heart that he always worked for the best interests of India. Sir, this is his parting gift to agriculture. Unfortunately this is the only gift, but, all the same, it is not right to look a gift horse in the mouth, and although I have criticised his Bill, I shall certainly support it.

Some Honourable Members: Let the question be now put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, for certain purposes, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): The Bill before us says that a certain item 10 (1) of the Indian Tariff Board Act be amended. That is really the substantial proposition before us.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: What does my Honourable friend mean by Indian Tariff Board Act? (Laughter.)

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: It is Indian Tariff Act, 1934. The Bill says that, in a particular clause, instead of Rs. 2, Rs. 1-8-0 be substituted, and there is some amendment about time also. So, really speaking, the proposition before the House is that Item 10 (1) of the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, be amended. The Government propose that that item should be amended in a certain form and I propose that the same thing should be amended in another form. Government propose that Rs. 2 be reduced to Rs. 1-8-0, and my amendment says that the *status quo* should remain and the amendment of the Government should not be allowed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's amendment goes further. He wants to perpetuate the Act.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: May I just mention there are two distinct amendments of mine. One is that we should maintain the *status quo* as regards the rate, namely, we should keep the Rs. 2. The second is, I wanted to omit the figure 1935. My idea is that the matter should not come before the Assembly, year after year, but that it should remain as a permanent measure till the Assembly modifies it or repeals it. My amendment reads as follows:

"That for part (1) of clause 2 of the Bill the following be substituted:
'(1) the entry 'March 31st, 1935' in column 7 against Item 10(1) shall be omitted'."

I move that amendment.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I object to the amendment being moved. I contend that my Honourable friend's amendment enlarges the scope of the Bill in two respects, first, in regard to the time. The effect of his amendment would be to perpetuate the duty for all time, and secondly, it has the effect of enlarging the duty. The old Act has expired. There is at the moment no duty, and, therefore, the Bill now before the House

[Sir Joseph Bhore.]

is seeking for the first time to impose a duty and my Honourable friend is seeking to enlarge it. In both cases the previous sanction of the Governor General is required and I submit that he has not got it.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): A private Member in the House of Commons is forbidden to increase a tax. The general principle has been laid down here, but, I submit, in this case, the tax is not increased. The Government come forward with a proposal to levy a tax. Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad wants the period to be extended from 1935 indefinitely, until they come forward with a Bill to amend it. Therefore, my Honourable friend's amendment does not amount to a proposal to increase a tax imposed for the first time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He proposes to levy the tax in 1937, 1938, and so on.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Government come forward with a proposal to levy a tax for 1935-36, but my Honourable friend wants to persuade the House that the same tax should be levied beyond that period.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Can any Honourable Member bring in a measure imposing a tax?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No. But if the Government come forward with a measure imposing a tax for a particular period, I submit, so far as the rulings go, we may not increase the tax, but we may extend the period. Otherwise, it will unnecessarily restrict the scope.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is there any ruling to that effect?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: There is no ruling either against me or in favour of me. The only ruling is 333, which specifically mentions the Parliamentary practice and says that *no* proposal to increase a tax can be put forward before the House. I entirely agree. As regards the first part of the amendment, you ruled yesterday that a proposal to restore the *status quo* is perfectly in order. So far as the first part is concerned, it is perfectly in order, because my Honourable friend wants to restore the *status quo*. It is not the case that he is proposing a new tax. The tax is there. . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The tax is not there. The Act has expired.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It is a very technical point. The Bill was introduced in this House, before the Act expired. There is no point in the Government taking advantage of the delay that has occurred in taking it up. I beg of you to consider that the *status quo* rule should be interpreted in its largest sense. What it means is this, that the taxpayer ought not to be compelled to pay taxes which he has not already paid, except on the initiative of Government. In substance, till the 31st March, 1935, this tax was being levied at Rs. 2, and the Government introduced the Bill reducing it to Rs. 1-8-0, before the Act expired. Owing to exigencies of the business of this House, for which nobody is particularly responsible, the Act has expired, and, although the Government have passed Ordinances in respect of certain things, they have not introduced an Ordinance in respect of this. Except for the last three or four days, the *status quo* was

that the tax was being levied till the 31st March, 1935, at Rs. 2. It will be interpreting it too nicely to say that because for three or four days there has been an interregnum as it were, when there was no tax levied, you cannot really ask for the *status quo*. I submit that both parts of the amendment are perfectly in order. It is restoring the *status quo* as it existed on the 31st March, 1935, and secondly, it is not a proposal to increase the tax, but to extend the period. So far as the taxpayer is concerned, he is not asked to pay a new tax which the Government have not initiated. They have initiated the tax. We are now asking the House, and you, for permission to persuade the House, to extend the time beyond that period. I submit that both parts are in order.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): I have only to say a word or two. The thing does not depend upon the *status quo*. It depends on section 67 (2) of the Government of India Act whether it "affects the public revenues of India" in any way. If that is so, it is not lawful for the amendment to be moved without the previous sanction of the Governor General. That is the point.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the interpretation of the word "affects"?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: At one time, it was said that "affected" meant "prejudicially affected". You may remember the trouble about the Calcutta Improvement Trust. The Calcutta Court held that "affecting" had the meaning of prejudicially affecting. When it went up to the Judicial Committee, it said it was nothing of the kind. Whether it will affect prejudicially or beneficially it is affecting all the same, if any change is going to be made. The position is, the Act has now expired. There is no tax now. You are increasing it from zero to Rs. 2 or Rs. 1-8-0.

An Honourable Member: It cannot be called an amending Bill then.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: At the present moment there is no tax. We must look at the substance of the amendment. If this amendment is carried, it introduces a tax from today for all times. My Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, says that the Act has expired only three days ago. His is a greater technicality than ours. From the point of substance, it is clear they require assent of the Governor-General, as the result of this amendment will be to increase the taxation, both as regards rate and the duration of time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's point is that it affects the revenue?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Yes. There is no present tax, and our proposal is for a shorter time and at a lower rate. That is the point. My Honourable friend is meeting one technicality with another. We have got to consider that there is no tax today. By using the words "*status quo*" my friend ought not to gain advantage.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): When did the Act expire?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: On the 31st March.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: May I explain? The whole thing depends upon the way in which the Bill is framed. This particular clause expired on the 31st March. Had the Government brought a Bill in the form in which the amendment of my Honourable friend, Sir Lancelot Graham, stands, or in the form "substitute a new Item as 10 (1) or 10 (2)", then, in that case, we could not propose to increase the taxation without the permission of the Governor General in Council. The position is different in the Bill as it stands. They say that, out of the seven columns, 5 of these columns should remain intact, and the Bill proposes to modify two columns in this particular line. Now, the question is whether that particular column should be changed, and, if so, to what form. The first column, 10 (1), the Government do not object. The second column is "Wheat". The Government do not object. The third column is "Protective". That remains as it is. The Government do not change that. In the fourth column, they say, "instead of Rs. 2 per cwt., substitute 1-8-0". It is open to us to allow that change to be made or not. Columns 5 and 6 remain intact. The seventh column they also want to change.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's argument apparently is that the entry "31st March" has ceased to have any effect at all.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: My point is that the Bill is not introducing a new clause.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: May I read out the phraseology of this Bill? The Bill in clause 2 (*1*) says:

"For the entry 'Rs. 2 per cwt.' in column 4 against Item 10(*1*) the entry 'Re. 1-8-0 per cwt.' shall be substituted and for the entry 'March 31st, 1935', in column 7, against the same item, the entry 'March 31st, 1936' shall be substituted."

If my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House's contention now is that this is a new Act, the old Act having lapsed on the 31st March, then this Bill is out of order. I contend that it ought to be a Bill in which it ought to have been provided that such and such a figure shall be inserted in such and such a column of the schedule. Instead of that, it says "substitute" Now, the whole position is this. If my Honourable friend had been able to move this Bill before the 31st March, which he evidently intended to do from the wording of the Bill, this point of order could never have been raised. It happens by accident that the Act lapsed before the Bill could be considered and my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, contends that there is no Act in existence and no duty is in existence. Will he then explain the wording of his own Bill? Why did he not word it in the proper way if it is a new Act. That is one point. The second point is this. According to your ruling of yesterday, if the amendment maintains the *status quo* it is in order.

3 P.M.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair did not use the word "*status quo*". It said "restoring the present rate of tax".

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: That is *status quo*.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not think that proposition is disputed.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Which proposition?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the amendment seeks to restore the present rate, then no sanction is required.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Therefore, I contend that according to the wording of the Bill, you ought to hold that no sanction is required so far as the substitution of Rs. 2 for Rs. 1-8-0 is concerned. With regard to the date, I realise the position is different. The Government desire to extend the Bill for one year. My Honourable friend behind me desires to extend it for an unlimited period of time. It may be contended by Government that this is imposing taxation for a period which was not contemplated by Government and that, therefore, it affects the finances of this country after the period mentioned in the Bill, and, therefore, the sanction of the Governor General is required. That may be contended but I would ask you to consider this point. Since the Honourable the Mover has put in a date, it is open to this House to amend that date.

An Honourable Member: There are other amendments also.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Supposing the Honourable Member raised the figure to 2-8-0 or 3?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: That will be out of order without the sanction of the Governor General. That will not be the *status quo*. My point is that the Government want to take advantage of the position that they have to move this Bill at a later date than they anticipated and my contention is that the wording of the Bill does not permit it. As the Bill says 'substituted' I contend that my friend behind me is in order when he moves to change 1-8-0 into Rs. 2. With regard to the date, it is for you, Mr. President, to consider our point of view.

Sir Lancelot Graham (Secretary, Legislative Department): On the first point, my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, says that the Bill is wrongly drafted. It was correctly drafted when we produced the Bill, because we produced the Bill before 31st of March. Now, Sir Cowasji Jehangir is perfectly right, and we also have observed that,—and we have given notice of an amendment, Sir, which will make the necessary change. The amendment of which I have given notice, and which is, or should be, in my Honourable friend's hands, has the effect of cleaning up what I may call the dead matter of our Statute-book—matter which died on the 31st of March—and of putting something in its place—a new entry. . .

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: The Honourable Member has no right to speak on an amendment which has not yet been moved, but is merely an amendment on the order paper.

Sir Lancelot Graham: I am now replying to the point of order, and so long as I am not ruled out of order by you, Sir, I shall not give way. As I have said, I have put down a notice of an amendment on the paper. It

[Sir Lancelot Graham.]

is for you to decide; you may rule it out of order or not; to me, it seems to be an amendment of form and not of substance, designed to alter the Bill to the extent to which alteration is necessary—because we are proposing to pass the Bill after the 1st of April. If the Honourable Member reads my amendment, he will see that I meet his point exactly. Then, there is the second point, which is that he is allowed to alter the date—that if we say that we propose a tax to go on to the 31st March, 1936, he can say that that tax shall continue to be imposed up to the 31st March, 1937. I say, Sir, that amounts to imposing fresh taxation for a whole year: and, consequently, a proposal to that effect would require sanction; and I still maintain that we are correct: that there is no tax in existence at present; there can be no question of maintaining a tax; it is a new proposal to impose a tax of Rs. 1/8; and that an amendment to raise that tax to Rs. 2 is an amendment which requires sanction.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Why did not the Honourable Member (Sir Lancelot Graham) get up and move his amendment first?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: He had no opportunity to move that amendment. The amendment is not before the House, yet, my friend is talking on an amendment that he has got on the order paper. It is not before the House. How can he talk on an amendment that the House is not possessed of? The House, Sir, is not possessed of that amendment. He has only given notice of it, and here he is trying to rectify a mistake, the mistake having occurred due to the delay in the proceedings of the House. . .

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, I was once hauled up, because I had spoken twice on a point of order. I think my friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, should be dealt with in the same way.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are two objections raised. It is, however, argued that the amendment in the name of Dr. Ziauddin, No. 3, is in order and that the objection that no sanction had been obtained of the Governor General is not valid. The first question is whether an attempt to restore a rate of duty existing in an Act which has expired is one which affects the revenue in a way that the sanction of the Governor General must be obtained. The other point is, whether this amendment, in proposing, by omitting the words "31st March, 1935" to extend the Act indefinitely, is not a proposal which requires the sanction of the Governor General. As regards the second point, it is obvious that the amendment is open to objection, because, by proposing that this tax should operate for an indefinite period, the Honourable Member is proposing that the tax should be levied for periods for which no sanction has been obtained. The Chair has also given a ruling on a similar amendment moved on another occasion by Dr. Ziauddin himself. (Laughter.) Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad then wanted to move his amendment to a certain clause 2 to the effect that in clause 2, for the figure "1933" the figure "1934" be substituted, and then it was ruled that "the sanction of the Governor General is necessary if the proposed taxation is to be extended to another year". As regards the other point, as the amendment is, on the ground the Chair has just mentioned, out of order, the Chair need not give any ruling.

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, there is another amendment which stands in my name, and that fixes the period till 1936 only.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That has exactly the same effect,—to restore the present tax which expired on the 31st March, 1935, till 1936. As regards that point, the Chair feels it is a matter not entirely free perhaps from difficulties and is rather technical. The Act, so far as this present rate of duty is concerned, expired on the 31st March, 1935, and, therefore, there is an amendment on behalf of the Government that, having regard to that, a new clause should be inserted, that is to say, that the duty is to be Rs. 1-8-0 per hundredweight and not Rs. 2 as in the Act which has just expired. That amendment has not yet been moved, but it is on the order paper. It is argued that, if the amendment which stands in the name of Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad is moved, the only effect would be to restore the duty which prevailed until the 31st March, 1935. If the duty does not exist at present, and, if the Honourable Member, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad's motion comes first, it would mean this, there being no duty at present, he proposes to levy a certain duty without sanction being obtained of the Governor General. Therefore, in any view, that motion is also out of order. The Honourable Member, Seth Govind Das's motion also is out of order.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: You have not yet moved that clause, Sir, that clause 2 may form part of the Bill?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair said yesterday that it is not necessary, according to the rules, to make any formal motion. The Chair has mentioned it as being before the House for consideration, that is quite enough.

Sir Lancelot Graham: I think it would clear up the position, Sir, if I say that this is not an amendment of substance at all. It is an amendment which is necessitated. . . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti: On a point of order, Sir,—this notice is dated the 4th April. Now, if my Honourable friends on the other side had not been so technical, I would not have raised the point—I wanted also the matter to go on smoothly—but if the Government wants to take advantage of a technical point, I would beg of you not to suspend the Standing Order—you can suspend the Standing Order, of course, if you like—because the House has been deprived of the opportunity of ventilating its own position, for which it stands, *viz.*, this tax to be Rs. 2, by a technical point raised by the other side of the House, that is, the technical point was raised that the Act expired on the 31st March, 1935.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards the suspending of the Standing Order, the Chair would like to know exactly what is the inconvenience that has been caused by the Government.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The inconvenience is this that they are taking advantage of an amendment of which they gave notice only yesterday night, in order to block us.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member satisfies the Chair that it will be inconvenient to the Honourable Members, the Chair will consider the matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The inconvenience is this. It raises a subtle point of order. My Honourable friend, Sir Lancelot Graham, with his long experience, has written some amendments and thrown them at our heads, last night. We have not had time to examine them. Some of us have seen the amendments only today.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Member say that he is not able to grasp the effect of the amendments?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: We have had no time to look at them; otherwise, we would have given notice of amendments ourselves. It is not right for the Government to give notice of amendments at the last moment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is merely a formal amendment.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: We would have given notice also. We have also got legal brains left on this side of the House. If my Honourable friend thinks that he can block us successfully by bringing forward an amendment in order to regularise an irregular Bill, we might also have given notice of fresh amendments.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member satisfies the Chair that, by suspending the Standing Order, he will be prejudiced in any way, the Chair will certainly not do so. At least one of the points is substantial. The Chair simply wants to know from the Honourable Member how it prejudices him.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The prejudice is this. This is a new Bill really. If you will kindly look at the amendment, you will find that it is not a mere amendment. Sir Lancelot Graham has drafted a new Bill for the Government. You will see that he says that for sub-clause (*2*) the following sub-clause be substituted, and for sub-clause (*3*) the following sub-clause be substituted. So, it is really introducing a new Bill before the House. If that Bill had been before us at the proper time, we could have applied our brains to it, and framed certain amendments in order, if possible, to get our viewpoint in. That is the prejudice I complain of. It is not a verbal amendment, nor is it a technical amendment. It is really the re-drafting of the whole Bill. I do not think he ought to be allowed to redraft a Government Bill on the 4th April, which was introduced on the 8th March. If there was need for such a thing, he should have done it earlier. It is not right that, at the last moment, it should be brought before us and we should be asked to consider the whole matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Has he got the Governor General's consent for this amendment?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, we ought to make our position perfectly clear as you want to hear me. I say that this is really not a matter of substance; it is a matter of form. The objection is for obstruction. The other thing which I want to make clear to the House is this that we have no objection to the Bill standing over till the Simla Session or, alternatively, if it is held that my amendment is out of order, we propose not to proceed with the Bill further.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: May I just say a word? We are in a very difficult corner at present. After all, the duty has expired on the 31st March. If we now say that the Bill be postponed till the Simla Session, then it would mean that there would be no duty for the next four or five months. So, whether we say 'yes' or 'no' we are handicapped. Really speaking, the new amendment ought to have been the proper amendment. But it is difficult for us to support this particular amendment as an amendment to the Bill when really speaking it ought to have been brought a fortnight ago. We have no objection to its coming up tomorrow.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: We have no objection to its coming up tomorrow provided it is taken up after the Finance Bill. I think Members are anxious to get on with the Finance Bill. If it comes after the Finance Bill, we are prepared to do so.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Will that suit the convenience of Honourable Members?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Sir, I do not see any object in postponing it now. The position, as I see it, is that this Bill is out of order. It is a Bill that this House wants but it would prefer to have it amended. Since the amendment has been ruled out of order, so far as I can see, the House wants the original Bill. Therefore, to cut a long matter short, even if the Honourable Member is out of order, even if he ought to give longer notice, no useful purpose will be served by postponing the matter. My Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad's amendment is not going to become in order. I really do believe, the whole Bill is out of order. It does not suit our purpose, and it does not suit the purpose of Government to have it ruled out of order. That is the long and short of it. As far as I am concerned, I withdraw all points of order and allow the Honourable Member to go on, because it serves our purpose best. I am now not asking you to rule it out of order.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the Government have no regard for agricultural interests in this country and they only refer to them when it suits their political *coup d'etat*. But, so far as we are concerned, we have to bear in mind the intersets of our poor brethren in spite of the callous disregard shown by the Government. I request my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, to withdraw his objection.

Sir Lancelot Graham: Do I understand, Sir, that the objection is withdrawn?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Yes.

Sir Lancelot Graham: I thank my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir. I want to say in the beginning that I have not drafted this amendment with the intention of blocking anybody's amendment on the other side of the House. I could not have drafted this amendment before the 31st of March because it would have been quite improper. This amendment could only have been drafted after the 31st March. I could have drafted it on the 1st of April; I could have drafted it on the 2nd, but I actually drafted it on the 3rd and to the extent to which I have incommoded Mr. Satyamurti I regret it. But I did not do so intentionally. I would ask him to understand that there was no evil intention or malice in my action

[Prof. N. G. Ranga made an interruption.]

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order: The Honourable Member must not go on interrupting. The Chair has asked him a number of times not to do so

Sir Lancelot Graham: We were busy with other matters, and it is not surprising that the re-drafting of this clause slipped my notice. The amendment which I am to move arises from the fact that Item 10(1), which the Bill in its original form sought to amend, has become so much dead matter on our Statute-book. The object of my amendment is, in the first instance, to remove that dead matter which is done by the repealing of Item 10(1), and, then, to move the insertion after Item 10 of an Item to be numbered as Item 10(1) which runs as follows:

"10 (1).	WHEAT	Protective.	Re. 1-8 per cwt.	March 31st, 1936."

I think, Sir, that, as the Bill then goes on in claust (2) to make the entry after Item 10(1) in respect of broken rice and that the entry in respect of wheat flour is to be numbered 11(1), it will be proper that in spite of the new Item 10(1) this should be put first. Then, the item in respect of broken rice should be put in respect of which I have not got an amendment.

My second amendment in respect of item 11(1) should be put subsequently. The new item 11(1) is in respect of wheat flour. What I would ask you to put now is that item 10(1) be repealed, that is the old item 10(1) which is now extinct and the insertion of the new item 10(1) which is the item relating to wheat be made.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member wants the two to be put separately.

Sir Lancelot Graham: First I want to strike out the dead matter, that is repeal 10(1).

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill,

(1) for sub-clause (1) the following sub-clause be substituted, namely:

'(1) (a) Item 10(1) is repealed;

(b) after Item 10 the following Item shall be inserted, namely:

'10 (1)	WHEAT	Protective.	Re. 1-8 per cwt.	March 31st, 1936' ."

Mr. G. Morgan (Bengal: European): Sir, I rise to support the amendment moved by my Honourable friend, Sir Lancelot Graham. On the discussion of the motion for consideration of the Bill, the Honourable the Commerce Member has explained the position very clearly and has anticipated some of my remarks. He has informed the House that the duty is a protective duty and that power is retained by Government to increase the rate of duty if, at any time, it is considered necessary to do so.

Sir, referring to some of the remarks which were made during the debate on the consideration of the Bill my Honourable friend, Mr. Gauba, evidently does not know the subject very well. I hope he will excuse me for making that remark, but that was the impression I got. He said that the reduction would take eight annas out of the cultivator. I will prove to him that that is not so. He also said that this reduction has been made in the interests of the Calcutta flour mills. Now, Sir, in so far as these mills cater for the consumers of flour, I accept that statement. We do not want the consumers to be exploited by the middleman. But, Sir, before I proceed with my speech I would like to say one thing. I would like to repudiate Mr. Gauba's contention that the Honourable the Commerce Member has only sympathy for Australia and Lancashire and complete want of sympathy for the Indian agriculturists. My impression is exactly the opposite.

With regard to the remarks of my Honourable friend, Sardar Mangal Singh, he stated that India had one million tons of surplus wheat to export. Now, accepting his figure, how does he expect to export this surplus so long as the prices in India are above world parity. I will leave him to give an answer to that himself.

Now, I will preface what I am going to say by repeating what I said on 12th February, 1932, when moving my amendment which sought to reduce the rate of duty to one rupee per cwt. I said at that time that my amendment was not aimed at such a reduction as to enable imported wheat to compete with Indian wheat and that is the position I take up today. Sir, Sir George Rainy, the Commerce Member at that time, in the course of his speech said:

"In fixing the amount of duty at Rs. 2 per cwt. last year, the Government proceeded on the basis that it must be at such a level that there could be no doubt that so far as securing the market for the Indian producer was concerned, it would be fully effective."

Then, Sir George Rainy goes on:

"It has fulfilled that object and I am not prepared to say that conditions may not be such during the coming year that a smaller duty, a duty of one rupee per cwt. for example, as recommended by my Honourable friend (*that is myself*), would not be fully effective."

Again, my Honourable friend, the Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore, on the **21st March, 1933,** said that the Government would propose to remove or lower the duty if they found that it is essential in the consumer's interest. Sir, it has all along been recognised as an important factor that the wheat duty might become a burden on the consumer. It is this position which I consider necessitates a reduction in the rate of duty today.

Sir, the effect of the wheat duty at the rate of Rs. 2 per cwt. has been in fact mainly to strengthen the hands of the wheat speculators, as an examination of prices ruling each week at Lyallpur will show. Speculators successfully depress the market at a time when agriculturists are

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forced to realise cash. As regards the speculative element in the wheat situation, I would draw the attention of the House to what the Honourable Mr. D. J. Boyd is reported to have said, during the discussion at the Wheat Conference held in Simla, on the 10th May, 1934, with regard to the Amritsar Wheat Exchanges. At the end of his remarks Mr. Boyd said:

"But a bad crash is bound to come sooner or later. We expected it last December and a few crashes did come, but not on the scale we expected. On the other hand we found one peculiarity; that wheat was travelling backwards and forwards between Lahore and Amritsar."

Sir, it is obvious that a searching examination into the marketing of wheat is called for, and I trust this is now being undertaken by the new Marketing departments set up by the Government of India and the Provincial Governments.

With the increased production of wheat, which is expected in India, it will be necessary for India to recapture, if possible, her export markets. As this House is aware a preference of two shillings a quarter (480 lbs. or say about six maunds) has been granted on imports into the United Kingdom from the Empire countries and, therefore, with increased production, it may be possible that India will be in a position to export and take advantage of this preference, provided her prices fall into line with world parity.

Now, Sir, what will be the effect of this reduction in the rate of duty? I would like to draw the attention of the House to a Resolution of which notice was given by the late Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan and quoted by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad on the 21st March, 1933. With your permission, Sir, I should like to quote that as it is very important. There was only notice given, it was never moved. The Resolution runs thus:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to appoint a Committee to investigate and report on:

(a) the measures to be adopted to raise the price level of wheat in harvest time so that agriculturists may be benefited by it;

(b) the manner of maintaining fair proportion between the price of wheat at harvest time and the price of wheat at other times of the year;

(c) the method to be adopted for lowering the cost of production;

(d) the facilities of movement of wheat from Upper India to ports and to non-wheat growing regions."

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to that second item. This is the point I wish to stress. If you look at the prices ruling at different times of the year you will find, Sir, that the prices at harvest time are the lowest of the year. Now if the import duty is higher and it is necessary to definitely prevent the import of foreign wheat I maintain that the rate of Rs. 2 per cwt. is more than sufficient for that purpose, the benefit does not go to the agriculturist, the producer of the wheat, but it enables the speculator to maintain prices within the limit imposed by the rate of duty, and, by raising prices for the benefit of the middleman, imposes a burden on the consumers. That is my point and the figures of prices were given by the Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore this morning and so I do not want to repeat them. He gave figures for January and February and I may tell the House that the figures for Australian wheat, landed in Calcutta a few days ago, was Rs. 3-2-3. Since then, I understand my Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, has got later information, because he said that the price was equal to the price of Indian wheat. If you add Rs. 1-2-0 a maund, that is Rs. 1-8-0 per cwt. you get Rs. 4-4-3 as against Calcutta price of something like Rs. 3-6-0.

Surely this is a sufficient margin for speculators to be allowed to operate on

I do not believe, Sir, that the duty benefits the agriculturist to the extent that Honourable Members imagine it does. I do believe that the present duty is too high and gives speculators far too wide a margin for manipulation of prices after the harvest time, to the detriment of the consumers of flour and flour products.

Sir, two years ago, we were concerned about the excess stocks in the world. Things have changed since then and there need be no fear today. My Honourable friend, the Commerce Member, has explained that position. With the recent introduction of restriction of wheat crop, in the chief producing countries of the world, there is little danger of large supplies of foreign wheat being dumped into India, if the danger ever seriously existed, and the consuming interests can rightly claim that Government should implement the undertaking given at the introduction of the Wheat (Duty) Act, 1931, by Sir George Rainy, to reduce the duty to the extent warranted by the changed conditions since it came into operation. But I would again, as I did last year, draw the attention of Government to the fact that in the importing countries under the Wheat Agreement, there is one clause which stipulates that they, the importing countries, will do their utmost to stimulate the consumption of flour and wheat products. Wheat products, as every one knows, is one of the best foods in the world and I would press upon Government not only the desirability but the necessity of doing all that is in their power to stimulate the consumption of wheat and wheat products in this country.

Finally, Sir, I would point out that although the Government of India introduced a drawback of a proportion of the import duty on wheat, to encourage the export of flour milled from that wheat, with a view to assisting the flour mills at the ports, the effect of this assistance has been negligible. Exports have failed to be stimulated under these artificial conditions and the mills submit that no increase in exports of either wheat or flour can be expected unless and until the present duty is substantially modified to admit of a stimulus being given to exports of flour from this country.

I, therefore, support this amendment before the House, believing, as I do, that there will be no harm done to the agriculturist, in spite of what my Honourable friend, Mr. Gauba, thinks, but that speculation after the harvest time, when the wheat is being marketed, will be kept within narrower limits, and, therefore, will be beneficial to the consumers.

Sir, I support the amendment.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Sir, the problem of all problems in the economic life of this country is to raise the prices of agricultural products. We from this side of the House have pressed it repeatedly and Government also admitted our claim that the prices of agricultural products ought to be raised. Last year I asked Government what they have done to raise

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the price level of agricultural products, and the reply was, "The Wheat Act of 1931". I asked if they have done anything else, and they said, "The Wheat Act of 1932". I said, "Anything else?" and they said, "The Wheat Act of 1933" and "The Act of 1934". The one and the same thing repeated. I am reminded of a story. A person lost one rupee and he said that he had lost three rupees. How? He said, "I lost one rupee which was in my pocket; I borrowed it from one man and that I also lost; and now I will have to provide another rupee to pay him back. That is how, I have lost three rupees". So, now we are having this Wheat Act several times over, and that is why I move this amendment. Let us finish it for ever; let it be one Act which we may continue till circumstances change and let them not repeat the same thing over and over again, as they have been doing for the last five or six years. Coming back to my problem now, I said that we have got two problems and I will put them in a simple manner and expect to get a simple reply. One problem is that we want to raise the price of our wheat. Wheat is really the standard article in this country. It regulates the prices of all the other foodstuffs in Upper India, in the same manner as rice does in Southern India. This is an important article, and I wish to put this question. Will you please tell me whether the price of wheat will go up or will come down by lowering this duty? If this import duty is reduced from Rs. 2 to Rs. 1-8, will the price of wheat go up or come down? This is really my simple question and I want a simple answer. If my friend says that by a reduction of this duty the price of wheat will go up, then my reply is that we should have no duty. We understand the A, B, C of this argument and we will be able to decide for ourselves. If my friend's argument is that the price level of wheat will come down, then I think it is not a very good proposition. We have been demanding all the time that the Government should help us in raising the price level. They also assured us of their sympathies and said that they would do all that they can, but in practice they take action by means of which the price level instead of going up practically goes down. So really this is one question and I want the Commerce Member to give me a straight reply. What would be the effect on the price level of wheat of this Bill?

The second point on which also I want a straight answer is that we produce in this country about nine million tons of wheat and I think it is easy for us to increase this production, if there is a demand for it, to ten or even 10½ million tons. We have now restricted the production of wheat, because there is no market for us outside India. We have ceased to be an exporting country for wheat. At one time we were an exporting country and we could compete with every other country. Now that competition has ceased to exist, have we or have we not got claims that at least the Indian market should be left to us and should not be opened to the outside world? These are the two questions which I should like the Commerce Member to reply to. As regards figures, my Honourable friend quoted figures in which he compared the prices of wheat in India *plus* cartage and the price of wheat from Australia *plus* cartage. But there is one fundamental mistake which he committed in comparing the figures and the fundamental mistake is the same which was pointed out by Mr. Morgan; that is, he compared the prices which were prevalent in January and February. My Honourable friend, Sardar Mangal Singh,

pointed out that the prices in January and February are not the lowest prices here, and Mr. Morgan said the same thing, but his conclusion is different from that of Mr. Morgan. I have before me the prices at different times of the year. In the month of January the price, in this particular year, was Rs. 3-3-0; in February, it was Rs. 3-5-9; and it came down to Rs. 2-13-6 in the month of June when the Punjab wheat is in the market. So, if you take up in your calculation the price of Rs. 2-13-6 and not the price of Rs. 3-5-9 which is prevalent in February, then you will not be able to draw an inference that the eight annas additional duty which he proposes to remit is justifiable. If the February, prices are taken, then his figures are correct; but I challenge him that he is wrong in taking February and January figures: he ought to have taken the June figures: that would really be in the interests of the producer: and, if he takes the June figures, he cannot draw any other inference except that which his predecessor drew in 1931, that an import duty of Rs. 2 is absolutely necessary and essential. The Honourable the Commerce Member quoted something about surplus stock: I quite agree that the surplus stock has been reduced from 700 million to about 400 million tons and that will probably reduce world parity: but world parity is not an important question to us now, because we have ceased to be an exporting country for some years now: if we were an exporting country then it would have been important for us, but since we produce for our own country and we do not export at all, this question of the world surplus, though important from one point of view, is not of paramount importance to us at present.

One other thing has been entirely forgotten, which the Honourable Member, as Member for Railways, ought to have considered. If he closes our Calcutta market for Lyallpur wheat and allows wheat to be imported altogether from Australia in Calcutta, then the railways will lose their income from the transport of wheat from the Punjab to Bengal: there will be a loss of revenue to the railways. This is a point which he at least as a Railway Member ought not to have ignored. He ought to have brought forward this particular point as well. As I have repeatedly said, our problem in this country is to raise the prices of our agricultural products: any government which does not sympathise with the agriculturists of the country is certainly not beneficial to the country as a whole. My friend, the Commerce Member, as Sardar Mangal Singh said, is a very good gentleman in private: I am not, however, concerned whether a particular gentleman is or is not good in his private capacity: we can only judge him as Government: if we find that the Government have repeatedly done things, by means of which, they have disregarded the interests of the consumers and of the agriculturists, it means that they have sacrificed the poorer people for the capitalists. Have we not seen it in the Steel Protection Bill? Have we not seen it in the Textile Protection Bill? Have we not seen it in the new form of taxation in which the Honourable Member tried to maintain or restore the level, the artificial level of the articles to the level of 1931—a kind of taxation which no country ever heard of, which no economist ever dreamt of, which no one ever thought of? We do not want our capitalists to disappear: if they disappear then all industries will disappear. But, at the same time, there ought to be some kind of balance between the interests of different classes, and the maximum good to the maximum number ought to be the criterion which ought to govern the policy of the Government in this country. I am sorry to say that the Honourable the Commerce Member utterly disregarded this principle.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I had no desire to take part in this debate: but as Mr. Morgan has made certain remarks, I feel it my duty to oppose his points as an Indian as far as possible. I think my friend, Mr. K. L. Gauba, was absolutely right in saying that if the existing protection is taken away from wheat, it will be, totally against the interests of the agriculturists in India. The proposed decrease in duty is simply anti-national and inequitable, and I agree with Mr. Gauba that it is against the interests of agriculturists and wheatgrowers in every part of India, including the Punjab, Bihar and the United Provinces which are the chief areas growing wheat in this country. Mr. Morgan, a practical tradesman in Calcutta, deserves all the appreciation for putting his case in well-couched phrases, but facts absolutely differ. Mr. Morgan says that he does not want exploitation of the consumers by the flour mills; but he wants us to be exploited by the foreign wheat from Australia and other parts of the world.

Mr. G. Morgan: On a point of personal explanation. I said at once that that was not my object.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: That is what it amounts to.

Mr. G. Morgan: No; it does not.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Mr. Morgan has asked Sardar Mangal Singh what India proposes to do with her surplus of over a million maunds of wheat. But he forgets this fact that, in a country like India, where people only take one meal a day on the average, as a result of exploitation from foreign merchants, there will accumulate no surplus as soon as we develop our industries and art in this country. We have a surplus only because we cannot afford to use our own products as yet. As soon as India is able to develop her national industries, there will be no question of surplus. Mr. Morgan forgets one more fact, that the Indian agriculturist does not apply agricultural scientific methods to produce crops: the average production is, therefore, far less than the average production of foreign countries like Australia and Canada. Probably he knows that the average production in India of wheat is round about six to seven maunds per acre: it does not come to more than that. I know Australia very well—having had my own agency office in Melbourne—that the average production of wheat in Australia is about eight bushels per acre which exceeds probably about five times more than the average production in India. We have got to be safeguarded against all such things: we were one of the important exporting countries of wheat only a few years ago: but now we find that, on account of the scientific methods, which other countries are employing, we are being defeated, and unless some such protection is given by the Government, we will not be able to maintain our agriculture even at our cost value of production. Another important fact Mr. Morgan ignored is the question of railway freight between the Punjab and Bengal and Steamship freight between Australian ports and Calcutta. Railway freight is ten times more expensive. With these few words, I resume my seat, Sir.

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That in clause 2 of the Bill:

(*1*) for sub-clause (*1*) the following sub-clause be substituted, namely:

'(*1*) (*a*) Item 10(1) is repealed;

(*b*) after Item 10 the following Item shall be inserted, namely:

'10 (1) WHEAT	Protective.	Re. 1-8 per cwt.	. .	March 31st, 1936'."

The motion was adopted.

Sir Lancelot Graham: Sir, the second amendment which stands in my name is moved for precisely the same reason as the first amendment: I, therefore, think it will be sufficient if I read it out:

"(*2*) for sub-clause (*3*) the following sub-clause be substituted, namely:

'(*3*) (*a*) Item 11(1) is repealed;

(*b*) after Item 11 the following Item shall be inserted, namely:

11 (1) WHEAT FLOUR	Protective.	Re. 1-8 per cwt.	. .	March 31st, 1936'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"(*2*) for sub-clause (*3*) the following sub-clause be substituted, namely:

'(*3*) (*a*) Item 11 (1) is repealed;

(*b*) after Item 11 the following Item shall be inserted, namely:

11 (1) WHEAT FLOUR	Protective.	Re. 1-8 per cwt.	. .	March 31st, 1936'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then, there is No. 11. Perhaps the Honourable the Commerce Member will explain it.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: Sir, the effect of this amendment will be to enlarge the scope of the Bill. The Bill only provides for a protective duty on broken rice. The removal of the word "broken" would bring all kinds of rice within the purview of the Bill, and thus it would enlarge the scope of the Bill.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: To enlarge the scope is not ruled out by the Government of India Act.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): An amendment must be within the scope of Bill. That is a well-established rule. Amendments Nos. 11 and 12 appear to be out of order. No. 13, by Mr. Morgan, is also out of order. Then, No. 14 by Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal, what does the Honourable the Commerce Member say to that?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I venture to submit, Sir, that also is out of order, because it is outside the scope and intention of the Bill.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I think that my amendment is perfectly in order. It does not in any way widen the scope of the Bill, it only asks that the income derived from that duty be ear-marked for a certain purpose. The question of appropriation of monies also does not arise, because it can arise only in the case of demands.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair has got to rule this also out of order, because obviously it raises a much larger question regarding the development of agriculture which is beyond the scope of a Bill like this.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I have listened with a certain amount of care to the statements made by the Honourable the Commerce Member that broken rice forms 75 per cent. of the imported rice, and the Report of the Marketing Officer of the Madras Government also says so. I take it for granted that we do get a large amount of broken rice, or say 75 per cent. of the rice that is imported into this country, but I would like to know what is the effect of this tax on broken rice only, that if once a by-product of a commodity is taxed the next result that will follow is that the other products will be imported in larger quantities to make up this deficiency. For this I can quote the example of wheat and wheat flour. With regard to wheat the Government have found it necessary to levy a duty, and wheat flour is also a by-product of wheat. Now, what happens with regard to rice is this. Broken rice is now taxed. The result will be that rice or paddy will be imported into this country to make up this deficit, and so the tax will defeat the very purpose which it is now intended to serve.

Secondly, Sir, the price of broken Siam rice last year was varying from Rs. 5-14-0 to Rs. 6-8-0 for a weight of 240 lbs. and today the production of rice in Siam and Indo-China seems to be very good, in fact there seems to be every prospect that there will be much larger imports from these countries than last year, and if broken rice, as a by-product of rice, is taxed and if the others are left free, it is perfectly certain that rice and paddy will take their place, and the very tax which is intended to help the agricultural population of this country will defeat the purpose for which it is intended. Then again the proposed duty of twelve annas per maund on broken rice works out to Rs. 2-4-0 per bag of 240 lbs, but a bag of rice originally costs Rs. 5-14-0 and the price will now work up to Rs. 8-12-0. The present price of Burmese broken rice of A. I. quality is Rs. 9-4-0, but we can see there is still a margin of a rupee for the Siamese rice and they could import it with impunity. The effect of taxing one product of a commodity will be to surely raise the inflow of

the others as is clear from the imports from Saigaon even last month. As soon as the Siam and Saigaon Governments came to know that a protective duty on broken rice was going to be imposed, the imports of rice from Siam increased. Therefore, the effect of this will be that rice and paddy will begin to sell even cheaper than broken rice or in other words, I expect that rice and paddy will sell at Rs. 7 or Rs. 7-8-0 per bag of 220 lbs. The Crop Conference to which the Honourable Member referred recommended a duty of Rs. 1-4-0, and for broken rice 15 annas duty. But today the proposal for taxing rice is completely given up. So really the effect of the tax is nil.

There is the argument mentioned by the Honourable Member that there are famine conditions prevailing in certain parts of the Madras Presidency. In fairness he has also stated that those areas in which famine prevails are not rice consuming areas but they are areas in which millet forms the staple food. One proposition in which the poor people of this country, particularly the agriculturists are interested, is this. In Tanjore district, which is perhaps the large single rice producing district, the prices of paddy, although they have increased slightly perhaps on account of the famine conditions that are prevailing today, have not anywhere come to the level prevailing three or four years ago. The Tanjore agriculturist is greatly handicapped in that he cannot employ the enormous amount of agricultural labour that is demanding work today. The net result has been that most of the labourers have become emigrants. I must also bring to the notice of the Government that large areas for rice cultivation have been opened up by the Mettur Dam, under which more than three lakhs of acres are being brought under cultivation under rice in the Trichinopoly and Tanjore districts. So, the production of rice will certainly go on increasing and the necessity for the import of rice may not arise if all the data that have been provided for as the result of the Mettur Dam really fructify. And for the development of this scheme of three lakhs of acres, agricultural labour is a prime necessity. If on account of the drop in prices the agricultural labourers emigrate in large numbers to overseas dominions or to Ceylon, you would find that the agricultural development of over three lakhs of acres will be in abeyance or will become impossible. In fact, I know that the Collectors of Trichinopoly and Tanjore have sent in a strongly worded communication to the Government of Madras that emigration must, at all events, be stopped at least from these two districts, if for no other reason, at least for the development of those three lakhs of acres on which revenue is expected as a result of the Mettur Dam and that the Government must prevent emigration from those two districts. But if the slump in the prices of paddy remains as it is, it absolutely stands to reason that agricultural labour is bound to emigrate, for the landlord cannot employ,—today his economic condition is so bad that he can neither pay the tax, nor, when he attempts to pay it, can he avoid becoming an insolvent.

4 P.M.

Again, I would like to bring to the notice of this House the adjournment motion that was moved in the Madras Legislative Council saying that the Central Government's proposal is absolutely inadequate. The Madras Government have accepted that adjournment motion and they have sent in their recommendation to the Government of India to the effect that the duty on broken rice is inadequate and will not serve the

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan.]

purpose. I state all these facts for this reason, that when you do make provision—and you have granted that there is a large amount of dumping of broken rice into this country according to your own satistics—the duty that you levy for preventing it does not effectively stop the importation of rice or of paddy, because, what does it matter, if a man does not get broken rice, he gets rice, and if rice is taxed, he gets paddy. After all, there is very little difference between broken rice, rice and paddy. One could be easily converted into the other, and in the process of converting paddy into rice you do get a large amount of broken rice as well. It is not in our power, and it is not also right to oppose this motion, for this reason that the twelve annas duty would certainly go to a little extent, but its effect would be neutralised by the enormous amount of paddy and rice that will flow in. Therefore I contend, and I believe I am right in saying that for this tax to be effective it must be put on all the commodities that relate to rice, that is, rice, paddy and broken rice. This is the only condition that will give the relief required, because, after all is said and done, what is the object of this import duty itself but to raise the level of price of rice and paddy? That is really the object and because the price of paddy has gone down to such an extent that the agriculturist finds himself unable to pay the revenues to Government. If you consider the statistics of agricultural investment and the produce that the man gets, it is proved beyond a shadow of doubt that the agriculturist does not get enough to pay the revenue demand, and if this import duty is meant to relieve the agriculturist, it must relieve him in such a way that he would get a proper price for the commodity that he has to sell in the market. If that is not assured, the import duty does not benefit anybody because, I am sure, the Government do not expect much of financial assistance by this tax. It is really meant to relieve the agriculturist by raising the price of paddy and rice. If that is conceded, you will be defeating the very purpose for which you are enacting this measure if you do not make the duty adequate. I have got the support of the Madras Legislative Council. I have got with me long printed communications and telegrams from the various *mirasdars'* associations in Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts who are vitally concerned in this, and also from the Grain Merchants' Association of Madras City. All these go to prove that this protection offered does not fundamentally help the agriculturist or the landlord; it does not effectively prevent emigration of labour to other countries, though those labourers are needed in the two districts, in view of the fact that there is an enormous field for agriculture being thrown open on account of the Mettur Dam. And also, if the landlord does not get on prosperously, the labourer *ipso facto* does not get on prosperously and he is forced to emigrate. On these grounds, I hope the Government will see their way to adopt a more comprehensive scheme, or if they could not do it, they must extend the scope of the duty to whole rice and paddy also. I know it has been ruled out of order. In the circumstances, we cannot do anything but to accept the decision of Government, because, as I told you at the beginning, we dare not object to it. We have been cornered into this position, "Here you are, twelve annas duty on broken rice. If you like it, take it, otherwise if you reject it you do it at your risk". That is exactly what the Government have done, and we cannot do anything else but to point out to the Government that it is utterly useless and does not serve the purpose for which it was intended.

Some Honourable Members: Let the question be now put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I beg to move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

(Prof. N. G. Ranga rose to speak.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair understands that a number of Honourable Members want the House to be adjourned early—before half past four.

Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhuri (Assam: Muhammadan): It is the general desire of most of the Members of the House that they want to attend the funeral of the wife of our colleague, Mr. Umar Aly Shah. She expired this morning and many of us want to attend the funeral. Therefore, it will be very convenient if you could adjourn the House now.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: If the Honourable the President wants to adjourn the House now, so far as we are concerned, we have no objection.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 6th April, 1935.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, 6th April, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Recruitment of Nurses from England and from the Minto Nurses Association for the Irwin Hospital.

1583. *__Mr. G. Morgan__ (on behalf of Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney): (a) Is it a fact that Government propose to recruit the nursing staff (matron and sisters) necessary for the Irwin Hospital, now under construction, from England and from the Minto Nurses Association? If so, why?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, will Government state whether they are prepared to recruit the entire nursing staff from all communities in India?

__Mr. G. S. Bajpai:__ (a) and (b). The question of the composition and strength of the nursing staff for the Irwin Hospital is being examined and no decision has yet been reached. The Honourable Member's suggestion will receive most careful consideration.

Cost of building the "India Gate" in New Delhi.

1584. *__Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq:__ (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total cost of building the "India Gate" in New Delhi?

(b) How long did it take to build it?

(c) Who was the contractor?

(d) Were any tenders called for? If so, who are the persons or firms which submitted tenders? What were the various estimates quoted?

(e) Who passed the final orders accepting the approved tender?

(f) What purpose is this 'India Gate' intended to serve?

__The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce:__ On the assumption that the Honourable Member refers to the All-India War Memorial Arch, the information required is as follows:

(a) Rs. 6,18,913.

(b) Eight years.

(c) Messrs. Sujan Singh and Sons, and Messrs. the Stone Dressing Co., were the Contractors employed on the work.

(d) Yes. The information asked for in the latter part of the question is not now available.

(e) The tender of Messrs. Sujan Singh and Sons was accepted by the then Superintending Engineer, II Circle, and that of the Stone Dressing Co., by the Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department.

A

(f) It is a memorial to the officers and other ranks of the Indian Army who lost their lives in the Great War.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: As regards the answer to clause (d) of the question, have any attempts been made to find out the names of the persons who submitted tenders?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir. As I have said, the information asked for in the latter part of the question is not now available.

CONTRACTORS ENTRUSTED WITH CERTAIN WORKS IN BUILDING NEW DELHI.

1585. ***Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the various contractors who were entrusted with the work of constructing structures, roads, avenues, gates and other architectural or connected works involved in building New Delhi?

(b) Were tenders invited? If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the names of the persons or firms who submitted tenders? What were the respective quotations?

(c) If tenders were not invited, will Government please state the reason for not doing so?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The Honourable Member's question covers every activity undertaken in connection with the building of New Delhi, and any attempt to answer it would involve an expenditure of time and labour out of all proportion to the results likely to be attained.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: Was any attempt made to collect the information?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No attempt will be made.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I ask,—as a general practice, were tenders invited? I am not asking for details, but I am asking, generally, in the matter of the construction of all these works, were tenders invited?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I think, Sir, that in all cases that is the practice.

RESOLUTIONS ADMITTED FOR DISCUSSION BY THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DURING THE DELHI SESSION, 1935.

1586. ***Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of Resolutions admitted for discussion by the Honourable the President of the Legislative Assembly during the Delhi Session, 1935?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to Admitted Lists Nos. 13-A, 18-A and 23-A, dated the 29th January, 1935, the 2nd February, 1935, and the 11th February, 1935, respectively, which contain the information asked for and which were circulated to all the Honourable Members. It will appear therefrom that so far 59 Resolutions have been admitted by the Honourable the President during the current Session.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Can the Honourable Member say how many were not admitted?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: If my Honourable friend will put down a question, I will make a calculation.

APPOINTMENTS IN THE MINING DEPARTMENT GIVEN TO STUDENTS PASSING FROM THE DHANBAD SCHOOL OF MINES.

1587. ***Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Are Government aware that in the colliery of the East Indian Railway at Beniadih two vacancies are going to be advertised in the near future?

(b) Will Government please state whether the students who obtained degrees from the Mining School at Dhanbad in Bihar are eligible for the posts to be advertised?

(c) Is it a fact that only one Biharee student has obtained the degree from the said school?

(d) Will Government please state how many people have secured appointments in the Mining Department, who have passed from the Dhanbad School?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information, but have forwarded parts (a) and (b) of the question to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for consideration.

(c) No, the correct number is nine, including five diploma holders and four certificate holders.

(d) Three.

PAYMENT OF LOCAL TAXES BY NON-GAZETTED EMPLOYEES ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

1588. ***Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq:** (a) Will Government please state the reasons and circumstances under which a non-gazetted employee on State-managed Railways is required to pay local taxes, such as, *haisiyat* tax, circumstances and property tax, etc., when he has no personal property except the legal remuneration (pay and allowances) on which he under the rules pays Income and Super-taxes?

(b) Do Government propose to protect their employees from the local (Municipal or District Board) taxes? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Liability to pay these taxes is governed by the terms of the relevant local legislation.

(b) Government do not propose to take any action.

DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT METED OUT TO WORKSHOP EMPLOYEES ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

1589. ***Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq:** (a) Will Government please state the reasons and circumstances under which the Workshop Employees on State-managed Railways are treated differentially as compared with other employees in respect of leave, passes, residential quarters, hours of employment, medical treatment, etc.?

(b) Do Government propose to rectify the anomaly? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Conditions of service for the different classes of non-gazetted employees are generally based on the nature of the work required to be done by them. Government are not aware that workshop employees are treated differently from other non-gazetted employees in respect of passes and medical treatment.

There are differences in the conditions of service of workshop and other employees in the matter of leave, residential quarters, and to some extent in the hours of employment. Under the new State Railway Leave Rules, workshop staff have been allowed more leave than what they were previously entitled to. The difference in leave for the workshop and other non-gazetted staff is that the Government consider that for persons employed by way of manual labour an annual holiday should be sufficient. The policy in the matter of provision of quarters is laid down in Chapter II of the State Railway Code (Revised) a copy of which is in the Library of the House. Workshop staff have never been provided with rent free quarters nor do Government see any reason to exempt them from payment when railway quarters are allotted to them.

As regards hours of employment, the difference is due to the fact that some staff are governed by the Factories Act while others are governed by the provisions of the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act of 1930.

Government do not consider that there is any justification or necessity for absolute uniformity in respect of conditions of service of the different categories of non-gazetted staff.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: As regards (b), do Government admit that there is an apparent anomaly?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I have said, Sir, that Government do not consider that there is any justification or necessity for an absolute uniformity in these respects.

OFFICERS HOLDING EXECUTIVE CONTROL ON CERTAIN WORKSHOP STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1590. ***Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq:** Will Government please state the designation of the officer who holds the executive control on the staff (Operating Medical, Engineering, Mechanical, Accounts, Way and Works, Watch and Ward, Commercial, Locomotive, etc.), employed at Jamalpur, Lillooah, Lucknow and Tatanagar Workshops on the East Indian Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineers at Jamalpur and Lillooah and the Work Manager at Lucknow and Tatanagar, under the general administrative control of the Chief Mechanical Engineer of the East Indian Railway, exercise executive control over the Mechanical and Operating (Power) staff employed in their respective workshops. The Medical, Workshop Accounts, Engineering and Way and Works staff are under the control of the Chief Medical Officer, the Chief Accounts Officer and the Chief Engineer, East Indian Railway, respectively. There is no Traffic (Commercial) staff employed in these workshops.

PAY OF STAFF EMPLOYED AT TATANAGAR WORKSHOP ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1591. ***Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq:** Will Government please state the pay (present and previous) of the staff employed at Tatanagar Workshop on the East Indian Railway, with the reasons for increments and degree of relationship, if any, amongst them?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The number of staff concerned is so large that any attempt to get the information required will be impracticable.

EMPLOYMENT OF NEW ENTRANTS AT TATANAGAR WORKSHOP ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1592. ***Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq:** Will Government please state the reasons for employing new entrants at Tatanagar Workshop on the East Indian Railway in preference to those who are on the waiting list resulting from the economy campaign of 1931?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The Agent, East Indian Railway, reports as follows:

"Recruitment from outsiders was confined principally to unskilled local labour. No outsider has been appointed to clerical posts. In regard to skilled and semi-skilled staff preference was given to staff on the local waiting list but a few outsiders were engaged as men on the waiting list were not available to meet urgent work on reopening of shops. The shops are at present only partially open, and it is anticipated that the majority of staff on the local waiting list will be absorbed in due course. If further staff is required retrenched staff from other workshops will be offered employment."

CERTAIN PARTICULARS CONCERNING THE STAFF OF THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT AND THE RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

1593. ***Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq:** Is it a fact that the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Railway Department are reckoned as Commercial Departments of the Government of India? If so, will Government please state:

(a) the scales of pay of the ministerial staff of both the said Departments;

(b) the rules for the recruitment and training of the said staff in the said Departments;

(c) the rules for the discharges and dismissals of the said staff in the said Departments;

(d) the leave rules for the said staff; and

(e) the circumstances of the differences in the same class of posts in these two departments of the same Government; if not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Railway Department are treated as commercial departments.

(a) The rates of pay of Posts and Telegraphs officials, who have been in continuous employ from before the 16th July, 1931, are contained in the 'Manual of Appointments and Allowances of officers of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department'. Those applicable to new entrants are contained in the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour

memorandum No. Es.A.-130/33 (2), dated the 11th March, 1935. Copies of both are in the Library of the House. As for Railways the scales of pay vary from railway to railway and in different departments of the same railway.

(b) 'The Posts and Telegraphs recruitment and training rules' will be found in the Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Vol. IV, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. I also place on the table a memorandum on recruitment to posts in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department.

In regard to railway staff rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff on State-managed Railways are in the Library of the House.

(c) The rules applicable to the Posts and Telegraphs staff are given in the Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Vol. II, copy of which is in the Library of the House. As regards the Railway Department the rules regulating the discharge and dismissal of State Railway non-gazetted Government servants are in the Library of the House.

(d) The leave rules applicable to Posts and Telegraphs officials, who have been in continuous employ from before the 16th July, 1931, are those in the Fundamental and the Supplementary Rules; those for new entrants are contained in Government of India, Finance Department Notification No. F.-12(2)-R.I/32, dated the 14th December, 1933, published in Part I of the Gazette of India, dated the 16th December 1933. A copy of the leave rules applicable to railway staff is in the Library of the House.

(e) The circumstances of the two Departments are quite different. The only similarity is that in a sense both are commercial departments.

Memorandum on recruitment to posts in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department.

Note.—Posts mentioned below are filled partly by direct recruitment from outside the Department. All other posts in the superior pensionable establishment are ordinarily filled entirely by promotion.

(1) *Director General's Office.*

Ministerial posts.—Direct recruitment is confined to posts of clerks and assistants and is made solely through the Public Service Commission from whom all information can be obtained.

(2) *Circle Offices at Headquarters of Heads of Circles.*

Clerical posts.—Direct recruitment is made by Heads of Circles. Applications must be made to the Head of the Circle in whose office appointment is desired. Applicants must be natives of or domiciled in the Circle; they must have passed at least the Matriculation or equivalent examination and must not have completed 25 years of age. All applicants are subject to a test. Appointments are made as vacancies occur and with due regard to communal considerations and priority of application, and the names of a limited number of candidates are kept on a waiting list. The scale of pay varies and may be ascertained from Heads of Circles concerned.

(3) *Post Offices and Railway Mail Service.*

(a) *Superintendents of Post Offices and Railway Mail Service.*—Fifty per cent. of the vacancies in the cadre are filled by direct recruitment through the Public Service Commission which holds an open competitive examination for the purpose. Details may be obtained from the Commission.

(b) *Clerical (including sorters) posts.*—Direct recruitment is made by Superintendents of Post Offices and first class postmasters to whom all applications must be submitted. Applicants must be below 25 years of age, must have passed the Matriculation or equivalent examination and must be natives of or domiciled in the Revenue Division in which the Superintendent's Division or first class post office is situated. Applicants

are subjected to a test which includes a test in a local vernacular. In allowing candidates to appear at the test preference is given to sons and dependents of employees of the Department. Appointments are made as vacancies become available and are strictly subject to communal considerations and priority of application. All applications for such posts sent to higher authorities are merely forwarded to the appointing authority for disposal. Scales of pay vary and may be ascertained from the appointing authority.

(4) *Telegraphs (including Wireless).*

A-Telegraph Traffic.

(a) *Telegraphists and Wireless Operators.*—Direct recruitment is made as the result of an open competitive examination which is held whenever there are vacancies to be filled. Due notice with full details is given through the public press when the examination is decided to be held.

(b) *Clerks in Telegraph Offices.*—Direct recruitment is made by the heads of Telegraph offices to whom applications must be made. The conditions are similar to those in the case of clerks for post offices.

B-Telegraph Engineering.

(c) *Superior Telegraph Engineering and Wireless Service.*—Seventy five per cent of the vacancies in this service are filled by direct recruitment on the result of the competitive examination held by the Public Service Commission. Details may be obtained from the Commission.

(d) *Engineering Supervisors (General, Phones and Electrical).*—Direct recruitment is made as the result of an open competitive examination which is held whenever there are vacancies to be filled. Due notice with full details is given through the public press when such examination is to be held.

(e) *Clerical posts.*—Direct recruitment is made by the Heads of Offices concerned (Divisional Engineers, Superintendent Telegraph Workshops, Controller of Telegraph Stores etc.,) to whom applications must be submitted. The conditions are similar to those in the case of clerks for post offices.

(f) *Assistant Foremen, Examiners and Instrument Tasters.*—Direct recruitment to these posts is made by the Superintendent of Telegraph Workshops to whom application should be made.

(g) Further particulars as to the conditions of recruitment to any particular post may be obtained direct from the officers responsible for such recruitment as detailed above. Applications addressed to the Director-General direct are merely forwarded to such authorities for disposal, and it is in the interests of candidates that their applications should be addressed to the proper recruiting authorities and not to the Director-General or any higher authority.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: No. 1594. Sir, I would request the Honourable Member to be pleased to read out his answer a little more slowly and in a louder voice. (Hear, hear.)

REPRESENTATION OF NON-GAZETTED RAILWAY STAFF ON THE INDIAN RAILWAY CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION.

1594. ***Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq:** Is it a fact that the establishment matters concerning the staff on the Railways in India are referred to and decided by the Personal Branch of the Indian Railway Conference Association.

Is it a fact that it is an unregistered body not incorporated under any law? If so, will Government please state:

(a) whether non-gazetted staff is represented on the said association; if so, by whom; if not, why not;

(b) whether unregistered Trade Unions of Railway Staff are recognised in the same manner and channel as the said association by the Railway administrations; if not, the reason for this distinction;

(c) the number and nature of proposals made by the said association rejected by the Railway administrations;

(d) the number and nature of proposals made by the Trade Unions of the staff on Railways rejected by the Railway administrations;

(e) whether they are prepared to place on the table of the House a copy of the Statutory authority authorizing the use of the rules and regulations framed by the said association; if not, why not; and

(f) whether Government propose that the non-gazetted staff be represented on the said Association by election amongst themselves; if not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Establishment matters are sometimes referred by Railway members who are of the Association, to the Indian Railway Conference Association, for consideration and advice. The conclusions of the Association on these matters are in the form of opinions and recommendations only and do not bind either the Government or any Company without assent of the Government or of the Board of Directors of the Company affected as the case may be. The Association is an Association of Railway Administrations and not of the staff, and, consequently, no representation of individual interests is possible.

OFFICERS OF THE COMMISSIONED RANKS IN THE INDIAN ARMY VETERINARY CORPS.

1595. *Mr. Fakir Chand: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of officers of the commissioned ranks in the Indian Army Veterinary Corps?

(b) How many of such officers are Indians?

(c) Did Government in the last Assembly promise to recruit qualified Indians to the Commissioned ranks of the Indian Army Veterinary Corps in future?

(d) Did Government hold an examination for Indians to be recruited to the Indian Army Veterinary Corps at Lahore in January 1935?

(e) How many Indians passed in that examination, and how many have been employed by Government?

(f) Do Government propose to employ all the qualified and such passed Indians immediately to the Indian Army Veterinary Corps?

(g) Are Government prepared to see that non-Indians are not employed till such qualified and passed Indians are absorbed in the Indian Army Veterinary Corps?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a), (b) and (d) to (g). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer I gave on the 1st April, 1935, to Mr K. L. Gauba's starred question No. 1286.

(c) Yes.

FLYING CLUBS IN INDIA AND BURMA.

1596. *Mr. Fakir Chand: (a) How many flying clubs are established in India and Burma?

(b) In what clubs are there Indian Ground Engineers?

(c) What is the pay of Ground Engineers of Indian nationality and that of non-nationals?

(d) How many Indian Ground Engineers with A and C Licences are available in India and why could they not be appointed in the flying clubs?

(e) Are Government prepared to consider the advisibility of appointing in every flying club an Indian Assistant Engineer with A and C Licenses and at the same time giving him opportunities for B and D training?

(f) Are Government prepared to consider the question of immediate employment of Indian Ground Engineers with A and C Licenses in all Flying Clubs where R. A. F. Engineers can be obtained to supplement the B. and D. work?

(g) Are Government prepared to appoint immediately Indian Ground Engineers with A and C Licenses in all Flying Clubs and employ two English Ground Engineers with A and B and C and D Licenses, to be requisitioned whenever B and D work is to be done?

(h) Are Government prepared to insist on Imperial Airways, Indian Trans-Continental Airways, Indian National Airways, Tata, and other airways employing only Indian Ground Engineers, and if necessary, train Indians for such jobs and to employ foreigners only if Indians are not available?

(i) What is the number of Indian and non-Indian Ground Engineers in the Companies mentioned in part (i) and what is their pay?

(j) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of sending more Indian young men on a scholarship basis for training abroad for Ground Engineering?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) A list of the eight Flying Clubs now operating in India and Burma, including one in Indian States, is placed on the table.

(b) Indian Ground Engineers are employed in the Karachi Aero Club and the Delhi, Bombay, United Provinces, Northern India and Madras Flying Clubs.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) According to the information available, there are 21 Indian Ground Engineers in India holding both A and C licences. Of these five are at present unemployed. One of these was only given his licence some few days ago; another was, till recently, employed with the Northern

India Flying Club. The third was employed for a time with the Imperial Airways, Ltd., and the remaining two have only recently arrived in India.

(e) Government are not directly concerned with the appointment of personnel in flying clubs. Actually, as I have shown in reply to part (b), there are Indian Ground Engineers employed in all but one of the seven flying clubs in British India. As regards the training of candidates for B and D licences this can only be effectively done at present in a country with an aircraft manufacturing industry.

(f) and (g). As I have said before, Government are not directly concerned with the appointment of personnel in flying clubs who already for the most part employ Indian Ground Engineers, but they have brought to the notice of flying clubs that preference should be given to Indian Ground Engineers for employment when suitably qualified candidates are forthcoming. In this connection, I would invite attention to the reply given on the 30th November, 1932, to parts (a) and (b) of the Honourable Mr. Jagannath Aggarwal's question No. 1523. It is not practicable for R. A. F. engineers to be employed on civil work, nor is it practicable for two engineers with B and D licences to carry out all the appropriate work in the flying clubs in India.

(h) No. The agreements with the companies mentioned provide that they should employ the largest percentage of Indian personnel, reasonably possible, as soon as suitably qualified Indians are available, and so far as Indian Trans-Continental Airways, Ltd., is concerned, the agreement further provides for the training of Indians in all its branches, that is, as pilots, ground engineers, etc. Indian Ground Engineers are, in fact, already employed in all the companies mentioned and, in addition, also by the Himalaya Air Transport and Survey Ltd. So far as is known none of these companies employs foreigners.

(i) A statement giving the information required is laid on the table. Government have no information in regard to the salaries paid.

(j) Government have granted scholarships to certain Indian engineers who already possessed A or C licences and had proved their worth as assistant Ground Engineers in flying clubs. Five such Indians were sent to England for training in 1933 with a view to obtaining specialist experience or qualifying for the B or D licences. Four are still undergoing training. One is employed in India. Government propose to continue the policy they have always followed, as funds and suitable candidates for training become available.

Statement showing the Flying Clubs in existence in India, Burma and the Indian States.

British India.

The Northern India Flying Club, Lahore.
The Karachi Aero Club, Karachi.
The Delhi Flying Club, Delhi.
The United Provinces Flying Club, Lucknow and Cawnpore.
The Bengal Flying Club, Dum Dum.
The Bombay Flying Club, Bombay.
The Madras Flying Club, Madras.

Indian States.

The Jodhpur Flying Club, Jodhpur.

Statement showing the number of Indian and non-Indian licensed ground engineers employed by Indian Trans-Continental Airways, Ltd., Tata Sons, Ltd., and Indian National Airways, Ltd.

—	Indians.	Non-Indians.
Indian Trans-Continental Airways, Ltd., and Imperial Airways, Ltd.	2	40
Tata Sons, Ltd.	1	1
Indian National Airways, Ltd.	1	3

RECRUITMENT OF STENOGRAPHERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT AND ITS ATTACHED OFFICES.

1597. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Will Government please state when they held the last examination for recruitment of outsiders as stenographers in the Government of India Secretariat and its attached offices?

(b) Why has no examination been held since then? How have the vacancies occurring in the meantime been filled?

(c) Is it a fact that Government are now contemplating the stoppage of all recruitment by means of a competitive examination for stenographers in the Imperial Secretariat and its attached offices?

(d) If the reply to part (c) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state:

(i) the reasons therefor; and

(ii) the method that they propose to follow in future for the recruitment of stenographers, and whether they have considered that there is not the danger of any method of selection leading to nepotism?

(e) Is it a fact that Government have adopted recruitment by an open examination in the case of recruitment to other branches of the ministerial staff?

(f) Will Government please state whether a proposal to stop recruitment by examination to ministerial staff was considered and dropped?

(g) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of not stopping the introduction of fresh blood into this branch (Stenographers) of the service too?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) In 1932.

(b) The examination was a qualifying one, and all candidates who were declared qualified had to be provided with appointments. As all of them have not yet been permanently absorbed it has not been necessary to hold a fresh examination.

(c) The method of recruiting stenographers in future is under consideration, and no final decision has yet been arrived at.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes.

(f) Yes: but the proposal was only in respect of external recruitment to the First Division.

(g) Government have no intention of stopping the introduction of fresh blood into the stenographers' grade.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Regarding the method of recruitment, may I ask what is the need for a change in that direction?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I presume that the old method was not found altogether satisfactory. The question is still under consideration.

ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST TWO RAILWAY POLICE CONSTABLES AT GHAZIABAD.

1598. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: (a) Is it a fact that Ch. Vijaypal Singh, Advocate of Meerut made a report at the Railway Police Station, Ghaziabad, on the 17th February, 1935, to the effect that two police constables, Hardutt Prasad (No. 566) and Sarajul Hasan (No. 551) did not allow him to enter a compartment of the Bombay Express, alleging that it was reserved for the Government Railway Police?

(b) Is it a fact that no compartment was reserved for the Government Railway Police on the Bombay Express on the 27th instant from Lahore to Delhi or between Meerut and Ghaziabad?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the register in which that reservation was entered, and state the number on which that reservation was made?

(d) Is it also a fact that the Assistant Station Master of Ghaziabad told Ch. Vijaypal Singh that no compartment on the Bombay Express was reserved for the Government Railway Police?

(e) If so, will Government please state what action, if any, they propose to take against the said constables?

(f) Is it also a fact that Ch. Vijaypal Singh complained to the D. S. against these police constables?

(g) If the answer to part (f) be in the affirmative, will Government please state what action the D. S. took against the said constables?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) A report to this effect was made on the 27th February, 1935.

(b) A compartment was reserved but, through an oversight, it would appear that the "reserved" label was not affixed to it.

(c) No entry is made in any register for accommodation reserved for the Police train guard.

(d) The Assistant Station Master on duty at Ghaziabad, not finding labels, indicating that the compartment was reserved for the Train police guard on duty, believed that the compartment had not been reserved.

(e) and (g). Government are informed that the Police authorities of the United Provinces are enquiring into the matter.

(f) Yes.

PERMISSION SOUGHT BY RAJA MAHENDRA PRATAP SINGH FOR RETURN TO INDIA.

1599. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: (a) Will Government please state if it is a fact that Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh is trying to return to his country and that he has written to the Secretary of State for India to seek the permission of Government for the same?

(b) Are Government prepared to permit him to come back to his country? If so, when? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have no information beyond the fact that he wrote an "open letter" to the Prime Minister, about a year ago, saying he wished to visit the country of his birth. In view of his activities abroad the Government of India are not prepared to extend to him any facilities to visit India.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What is the nature of these activities to which the Honourable the Home Member has referred? Could he give some specific details about those activities which prevent the Government of India from considering this case?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It is notorious that during the War he openly sided against the British Empire and spent most of his time in Berlin plotting against the British Empire.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that during the War, Germany actually fought against England and that now England is making peace with Germany? Is the activity of an individual, who unfortunately happens to belong to India, to go against him all along while the premier country that was responsible for the War is at peace with England?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The person in question was, at the time he was plotting against the British Empire, a British subject. His case is utterly different from those of Germans who were our enemies.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: How long has he been out?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: He has not been in India since the beginning of the War, so far as I am aware.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Have not many plotters since then been pardoned? Why is a special case being made against Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: His own record is sufficient answer to that.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What are his present activities?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Bitterly anti-British.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Are we to understand that he will never be allowed to return to India so long as the present Government is here?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What proof has the Honourable Member against Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh that he is bitterly anti-British?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: There is ample proof.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Can we have at least one of those here?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Not at the moment.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that he has changed his views during the last three years?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: He has changed his nationality, but not his views.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do Government propose to extern all people with anti-British views from this country? If they do so, they will have to extern most of us from this country. (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: He has never been externed: he left of his own accord

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why is he not allowed to return to India?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It is not certainly the intention of Government to allow any traitors to return to India.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How is he a traitor?

Dr. Bhagawan Das: Will the Honourable Member please inform this House what is his nationality now?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: He is now a subject of Afghanistan.

Dr. Bhagavan Das: Are the subjects of Afghanistan liable to the same rules as to externment as apply to British subjects?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I cannot catch the Honourable Member's question.

Dr. Bhagavan Das: Are the subjects of Afghanistan liable to be treated under the same rules of externment as apply to British subjects?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: If they were previous British nationals and behaved as traitors, yes. (Hear, hear.)

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Has he made any declaration to the effect that he has changed his nationality or is it a mere inference of the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: He has openly stated that he has renounced his British nationality and that he has been accepted as a national of Afghanistan

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do I understand that he is being punished for his views?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: He is not being punished

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question.

OPTICAL GLASS FACTORIES IN INDIA.

1600. ***Mr. S. K. Hosmani:** (a) Will Government please state if they are aware of any optical glass factories in India which manufacture optical lenses, binoculars, microscopes, etc.?

(b) Will Government please state the value of similar lenses imported from Japan, England, the United States, France and Germany, separately?

(c) Will Government please state whether there is a flat or differential rate of tariff on the lenses imported from these countries?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) So far as the Government of India are aware optical glass is not manufactured in India.

(b) Imports of optical lenses are not recorded separately.

(c) Optical lenses are assessed to duty at a flat rate of 25 per cent. *ad valorem*.

JAPANESE SPECTACLES AND SUN-GLASS LENSES SOLD IN INDIA.

1601. *Mr. S. K. Hosmani: (a) Are Government aware that most of the Japanese spectacle and sun-glass lenses, sold on Indian markets, are made of unoptical glass (window or green glass)?

(b) Are Government aware that this type of lenses is liable to cause cataract and other eye inflammations? If so, are Government prepared to take steps, fiscal or otherwise, to prevent the import of such injurious lenses?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Government have no information.

(b) Government are advised, that while unoptical glass would afford no protection against infra-red and ultra-violet rays, it is very unlikely that it would cause cataract or other damage. The action suggested in the second part of the question does not, therefore, appear to be called for.

REFUSAL BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO GIVE PERMISSION TO AN INDIAN INSURANCE COMPANY TO DO BUSINESS IN ITALY.

1602. *Mr. S. K. Hosmani: (a) Are Government aware that an Indian Insurance Company was refused permission by the Italian Government to open a branch in that country?

(b) Are Government aware that the refusal is stated to be that the existing Companies are adequate to meet the requirements of the Italian people?

(c) Is it a fact that several Italian Insurance Companies have been permitted to open their branches in India even after the refusal to the Indian concern?

(d) If so, are Government prepared to take steps either to stop the working of these Italian Insurance concerns, or to see that the Indian Company is permitted to open its branch in Italy?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) Government have been informed that one Indian insurance company has experienced difficulty in setting up business in Italy.

(b) No.

(c) So far as Government are aware, there is only one Italian company transacting insurance business in this country.

(d) Government have already made enquiries as to the restrictions, if any, which are placed on the entrance of foreign insurance companies into Italy. On receipt of the information asked for, Government will consider what action can usefully be taken.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When do they hope to get that information?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I cannot say: that is not in my hands.

Mr. R. S. Sarma: Is it a fact that at this very moment a high official of the Italian Government representing the Commerce Department of Italy is in Delhi and is in constant touch with the Commerce Member regarding the reception by the Government of India of the Italian Trade Delegation in this country?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: Not that I know of, Sir.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Are Government making any effort to ascertain this information from the Company concerned?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: No, Sir. We are making endeavours to obtain information from our own representative in Italy.

Mr. R. S. Sarma: Has there been any communication at all between the Italian Government and the Government of India regarding the reception of the Italian Delegation?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I do not quite see how that arises out of this question.

Mr. R. S. Sarma: If there was anything like that, opportunity can be taken advantage of for the purpose of representing to the Italian Government what they are doing to prohibit Indian Insurance Companies in Italy?

(No answer.)

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Has not the Indian Trade Commissioner sent any particulars about this to the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: That is the information we are getting from that quarter.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: When was the letter addressed?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I cannot say when the letter was addressed.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it more than a month?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: May be.

PENSION RULES FOR INFERIOR SERVANTS OF THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

1603. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the minimum scale of pension for inferior servants of the Postal Department was fixed at rupees four irrespective of salaries they received seventy-five years ago?

(b) Is it a fact that the inferior servants are not allowed to draw pension equivalent to half their average salary according to pension rules framed seventy-five years ago?

(c) Do Government propose to revise the pension rules so that the inferior servants may get half their salary as pension?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce to Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar's starred question No. 1388, on the 3rd April, 1935.

IMPORT DUTIES LEVIED ON RAW CINEMA FILMS AND EQUIPMENT.

1604. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the existing rates of import duties levied on raw cinema films and equipment used in film production?

(b) What are the recommendations of the Indian Cinematograph Committee on the import duties on raw films?

(c) Are Government prepared to remove the import duty on raw films in accordance with the recommendation of the Indian Cinematograph Committee?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) With regard to duty on raw cinema films, I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to item 29 in the First Schedule to the Indian Tariff Act, 1934. The term 'equipment' is very wide and, since the Honourable Member has not stated what particular items he had in mind, I regret it is not possible for me to give an answer to this part of the question.

(b) From part (c) of the question it is apparent that the Honourable Member is aware of the recommendations of the Indian Cinematograph Committee in this respect. His attention is, however, invited to paragraph 156 of their report.

(c) No. In this connection I would invite the attention of my Honourable friend to the Debates in this House on Mr. Jadhav's Resolution on the subject on the 14th of February, 1934. As was stated by me during the Debate, Government are prepared to consider a reduction in the import duty on raw films after they are in possession of information showing the saving in revenue effected by the restrictions on the grant of

drawback, rules in regard to which are being framed. I am afraid it has taken longer to frame these rules than I thought it would, but I hope that they will soon be ready.

CONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD OF FILM CENSORS IN INDIA.

1605. *Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: (a) Will Government be pleased to state how the board of film censors, established in India, is constituted?

(b) What interests are represented?

(c) Are any representatives of the motion picture industry of India appointed? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) and (b). I lay on the table a statement showing the composition, so far as I am aware, of the Boards of Censors that have been established at Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, Lahore and Rangoon for the purpose of examining and certifying cinematograph films intended for public exhibition in British India.

(c) The constitution of the Censorship Boards is a matter for the Local Governments concerned. I understand that no representative of the Motion Picture Industry has been appointed to the Boards.

Constitution of the Boards of Film Censors in India.

Madras.

(1) The Commissioner of Police, Madras (*ex-officio*).
(2) The Station Staff Officer (*ex-officio*).
(3) Khan Bahadur Mahammad Sadukh Ali Sahib Bahadur.
(4) Mrs. Alamelumangathayarammal, M.L.C.
(5) Mr. G. Solomon.
(6) The Rev. V. J. R. Asirvatham.
(7) Mrs. H. M. Dadhabhoy.
(8) M. R. Ry. Diwan Bahadur P. Ranganatham Chetti Garu.
(9) Mr. E. L. Ayyar, Bar.-at-law.
(10) Khan Bahadur G. S. A. Karim Sahib Bahadur, M.B.E.
(11) M. R. Ry. S. Selvaraja Reddiyar Avargal.
(12) S. A. Shafi Muhammad Sahib Bahadur.
(13) M. R. Ry. P. M. Balasubrahmanyam Mudaliyar Avargal.

Bengal.

(1) The Commissioner of Police, Calcutta (*ex-officio*).
(2) The Station Staff Officer (*ex-officio*).
(3) & (4) Representatives of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Calcutta Trades Association.
(5) A Jewish merchant.
(6) A Muslim Principal (representing the Education Dept.).
(7) A Hindu Lawyer (representing the Calcutta Corporation).
(8) A European lady.

Bombay.

(1) The Commissioner of Police, Bombay (*ex-officio*).
(2) The Collector of Customs, Bombay (*ex-officio*).
(3) A Member of the Indian Educational Service.
(4) A Hindu representative.
(5) A Muslim representative.
(6) A Parsi representative.

Burma.

(1) The Commissioner of Police, Rangoon (*ex-officio*).
(2) The Assistant Commissioner of Police, Rangoon (*ex-officio*).
(3) A Military representative.
(4) A European Medical man.
(5) Three Burmese gentlemen.
(6) One Burmese lady.

Punjab.

(1) The Commissioner, Lahore Division.
(2) The Principal, Central Training College, Lahore.
(3) A European representative.
(4) A Muslim representative.
(5) A Hindu representative.
(6) A Hindu lady representative.
(7) A Muslim lady representative.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What interests are represented on this Board of Censor?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Honourable Member will see from the statement the composition of the Board, and he can judge as well as I can what interests are represented.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Government of India suggest to the Local Governments the inclusion of the representatives of the motion picture industry of India on these Boards?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I am not sure that I am convinced that there is a case for representation of the motion picture industry on the Board of Film Censors.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FILM PRODUCERS IN INDIA OR OUTSIDE.

1606. *Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have offered any financial assistance to producers of films in India or outside?

(b) If so, to whom and for what films?

(c) Do Government contemplate offering any advisory assistance to producers of educational films of a political nature?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) No such assistance has been offered by the Government of India during the last ten years

(b) Does not arise.

(c) I have no information as to whether any assistance for the production of educationed films is contemplated by Local Governments who are primarily concerned with the subject. No such proposal is being considered by the Government of India.

POSTAL VOTING IN THE CASE OF COMMERCE AND LANDHOLDERS CONSTITUENCIES.

1607. *Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: (a) With reference to the answer to question No. 792, asked on the 9th March, 1935, will Government please state in which provinces the regulations do not provide for postal voting in the case of (i) the commerce constituency, and (ii) the landholders constituency?

(b) What is the method of voting adopted in those provinces, so far as it relates to the abovementioned two constituencies?

(c) Are Government prepared to issue instructions to such of the provinces, in which postal voting for any constituency is prescribed, to follow a uniform practice of sending the ballot papers by registered post to the respective voters?

(d) Do Government propose to adopt the procedure of sending ballot papers by registered post in the case of elections to the Council of State constituencies and the landholders' constituencies to Provincial Councils in future?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) (i) Bombay.

(ii) Bombay, the United Provinces and the Central Provinces.

(b) Voting in person as prescribed in the Regulations of the respective Provinces.

(c) and (d). Government are prepared to ask Local Governments to consider whether where the Regulations applicable to constituencies in which postal voting is in force do not already require use of the registered post, they should be amended so as to introduce this requirement.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: Why not the practice adopted in these Provinces be adopted in other Provinces also?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: That is a matter in which attention may have to be given.

SEATS PROPOSED TO BE GIVEN TO THE ZAMINDARS IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY IN THE PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY.

1608. *Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: (a) Will Government please state whether the zamindars in the Madras presidency are proposed to be given six seats in the Provincial Assembly under the Joint Parliamentary Committee Scheme?

(b) Are Government aware that the qualifications for voters of the landholders constituency are very high as compared with the qualifications of voters for general constituencies?

(c) Is it a fact that the Lothian Committee have greatly reduced the franchise qualifications for the general constituencies? If so, are Government prepared to consider the advisability of similarly lowering the franchise for the zamindars constituency also?

(d) Are any seats reserved for zamindars in Madras for the Provincial Upper House? If so, are Government prepared to lower the franchise in the case of voters to the Upper House also?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) Yes.

(b) The existing qualifications for landholders' constituencies are higher than those for general constituencies.

(c) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The point raised in the latter part of the question will be borne in mind and taken into consideration when Orders-in-Council, prescribing these qualifications, are under consideration.

(d) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise

HARASSMENT BY POLICE AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES OF STREET HAWKERS AND PEDLARS IN NEW DELHI.

1609. ***Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Are Government aware, that vendors, cobblers, fruit and vegetable sellers who come in New Delhi between 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. to render useful services to the residents of the quarters by supplying their needs, at their doors, at cheap rates, are harassed by the police and municipal authorities without complaint from the residents?

(b) Has there been any instance in which a hawker has been prosecuted or convicted of any crime in New Delhi? If so, how many such cases were registered during the year 1934?

(c) Will Government please state if there is any other city in India in which hawkers are prohibited during the day time? If not, what is the justification for imposing such restrictions in New Delhi without any specific complaints from the residents of the city?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) No.

(b) There are no separate statistics kept of hawkers convicted of crimes.

(c) There are no restrictions on hawkers apart from those prescribed by section 173(1) and the bye-laws framed under section 197(a) of the Punjab Municipal Act.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if these hawkers are allowed to come near these quarters?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: That is my information.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if on account of the thefts taking place in these quarters, the police have stopped them from coming near these quarters?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: If there has been an epidemic of thefts in a particular neighbourhood and some hawkers are suspected of being mixed up with thieves, it is only natural that they should be stopped from coming near these quarters.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: That is quite right. I only want information if the police have done that on that account. I am not against it.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I am very glad to hear that we have the Honourable Member's approval. I merely gave a general answer to a general question.

REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO WINTER RESIDENTS OF "D" CLASS QUARTERS TO STORE THEIR HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS.

1610. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Is it a fact that the winter tenants of all quarters in New Delhi (except those of 'D' class) are granted permission to store their immovable and surplus household effects in the godown of the quarters for the period of their stay in Simla during the summer season?

(b) If the reply to the above be in the affirmative, will Government please state the reasons and justification for differential treatment accorded to the winter residents of 'D' class quarters?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me on the 21st March, 1935, to Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah's starred question No. 928.

Dr. N. B. Khare: May I have the answer to the previous question referred to?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The question was answered so recently as 21st March, 1935. I am sorry I have not got the reply here.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then, he need not give it.

Dr. N. B. Khare: The other day, Sir, when I referred to a question which was recently answered, I was asked to read out the reply.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This question was answered only in March.

Dr. N. B. Khare: I want the Honourable Member to repeat the reply to the last part of the question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That was not answered?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I can answer that. There is no differential treatment between the residents in the different quarters in respect of the storage of their household effects during the summer months.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if there are store rooms for that purpose in the "D" type quarters also?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The position is that the occupants of quarters are allowed to store their effects in their quarters during the summer months if those quarters are not required by anybody else, and that that rule applies to everybody. If the quarters are required by others, then they have to make arrangements for storing their effects elsewhere. That seems to me to be perfectly reasonable. As no rent is paid for the quarters during the summer months, the Government are obviously entitled to let them to others if they can do so.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will Government consider the advisability of leaving a small room in a quarter for the convenience of those people who want to store their effects. I say such a convenience should be allowed to them.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir. It is obviously most inconvenient for the occupant of the quarters during the summer months to have other people's effects in a part of his house.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will Government kindly consider the advisibility of giving permission for the storage of the effects in case the occupant during the summer months has no objection to that course?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That is a matter for private arrangement.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are not fifty per cent. of the quarters left vacant during the summer months?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why, 50 per cent.; the whole of them?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I cannot state the exact percentage

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: At any rate, a large portion of the houses are vacant. In that case, why not give them a portion to be reserved for giving accommodation to these people who want to store their effects?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I do not consider it is a matter for Government to provide storage for private effects.

ARRANGEMENTS IN DELHI OR SIMLA FOR HOLDING THE CAMBRIDGE EXAMINATIONS.

1611. ***Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Is it a fact that there is no arrangement in Delhi or Simla for holding the Cambridge examinations?

(b) Is it a fact that the Anglo-Indian and other candidates who wish to pass the examinations have to go either to Lahore or to Allahabad for the purpose and are thereby put to great inconvenience and expense?

(c) Do Government propose to take action to have a centre for the examinations at Delhi for the December examinations and at Simla for the July examinations? If not, why not?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The question of holding the Cambridge examinations in Delhi is being considered in communication with the Cambridge authorities. So far as Government are aware, candidates taking these examinations from Delhi at present appear at the Ajmere centre. There is a centre in Simla for the Cambridge examinations held in December. The question of holding July examinations in Simla is one for the consideration of the persons or bodies concerned and for the Cambridge authorities. I understand, however, that correspondence on the subject is proceeding.

TRANSFER OF ATTACHED OFFICE CLERKS TO SECRETARIAT OFFICES.

1612. ***Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Is it a fact that since the introduction of the revised rates of pay for the clerical establishments of the Secretariat and attached offices in 1934, new appointments are being made in both the offices on common revised rates of pay and that these rates have also been applied to all those who have entered Government service since 15th July, 1931?

(b) Is it a fact that a "new entrant" clerk (junior) in an attached office can, by the mutual consent of his own office and of a Secretariat office, be transferred to a Secretariat office?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether similar transfer is also permissible in the case of an "old entrant" (comparatively senior man) of an attached office? If so, will he be entitled to the old secretariat scale of pay in the Secretariat office to which he is transferred? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The reply is also in the affirmative provided that in the First and Second Divisions, the vacancy to be filled in this way is one which would otherwise have been filled by promotion and not by direct recruitment.

(c) Yes, if the person is eligible for the Division to which he seeks transfer. All persons who have been in Government service before the 15th July, 1931, are entitled to the old rates of pay.

VALUE PAYABLE CHARGES FOR BOOK PACKETS.

1613. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Is it a fact that, as a result of the increase in postage rates during the last few years, the minimum charges now payable on sending a book packet of the smallest size and weight per V. P. P. are—postage 0-0-9, registration 0-3-0 and money order commission 0-2-0?

(b) What were the charges prior to the increase of rates?

(c) Do Government propose either to reduce these charges or to introduce a system of un-registered V. P. P.'s for articles of small value? If not, why not?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes.

(b) The corresponding charges prior to the introduction of the existing rates were:

	Rs.	A.	P.
Postage	0	0	6
Registration	0	2	0
Money order commission	0	1	0

(c) Government do not propose to reduce these charges at present. As regards the latter part of the question, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to starred question No. 1510 by Mr. Sham Lal on the 4th April, 1935.

RE-PAINTING OF TIME DISCS OF POSTAL LETTER BOXES IN SIMLA.

1614. *Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Is it a fact that the clearance time disks on most of the postal letter boxes in the suburbs of Simla are faded and show no time at all?

(b) Is it also a fact that during the last Simla season the letter box at Bharari remained uncleared for two days, and the default could not be detected by anyone for two days?

(c) Do Government propose to have all the time discs of letter boxes in Simla examined and re-painted, if necessary?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Government have no information. The matter is within the competence of the Postmaster General, Punjab, and North-West Frontier Circle and a copy of the question has been sent to him for suitable action.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF EMPLOYEES IN THE CENTRAL STATIONERY STORES, CALCUTTA.

1615. ***Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of employees, excluding menials, in the Central Stationery Stores, Calcutta?

(b) How many of these are Muslims?

(c) What pay was each of them drawing on the 1st January, 1935?

(d) What are their respective dates of appointment?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) 79.

(b) None.

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

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF CERTAIN NON-MUSLIMS OF THE CENTRAL STATIONERY STORES, CALCUTTA.

1616. ***Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq:** Will Government be pleased to state if, amongst the employees of the Central Stationery Stores in Calcutta, there are non-Muslims who (a) have not passed the Matriculation Examination of any University, (b) who have passed only the Matriculation? If there are non-Muslims, will Government be pleased to state the number under sub-heads (a) and (b)?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: There are 41 non-matriculate and 26 matriculate non-Muslims.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF THE STAFF IN THE LOWER DIVISION OF THE CENTRAL STATIONERY OFFICE, CALCUTTA.

1617. ***Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of employees in Lower Division, Central Stationery Office?

(b) How many of these are Muslims?

(c) When was the last Muslim appointment made?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: There is no lower division in the Central Stationery Office. On the assumption that the Honourable Member refers to "clerks", "typists" and "junior clerks" of the Stationery Office proper, as distinct from the Stationery Stores, I give the following information:

(a) Total number of clerks, typists and junior clerks——116

(b) Number of Muslims——20

(c) The last Muslim was appointed on the 23rd February, 1932.

TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN RAJA MAHIPNARAIN AND THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

1618. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** (a) Is it a fact that in accordance with the terms of the agreement between Raja Mahipnarain and the Governor General in Council, dated October 27, 1794, the 'remaining surplus' from the income from the tracts of land then known as the Zamindari of Benares, and which the Governor General in Council took over under the terms of that agreement, after deducting the sum of Rs. 41 lakhs (Rs. 1

lakh for the Maharaja and Rs. 40 lakhs for the East India Company), was to be annually expended in this district (of Benares) for *pathshalas*, roads, bridges and agricultural improvements?

(b) What is the annual income from such tract now as forms part of British India?

(c) How much is specifically spent out of that locally for purposes mentioned in the agreement?

(d) Do Government propose to see that the terms of the agreement are strictly adhered to in the future?

(e) Are Government prepared to wipe off the debts of the Benares Municipality and other local boards in the area and give substantial grants to them for local purposes as mentioned in the agreement?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: Enquiries are being made and the result will be intimated in due course.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: When was this question received in the office of the Honourable Member?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: I cannot give the exact date.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know why Government could not have got the reply in these ten days? They had at least 10 days to get it.

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: I may point out that it is an extremely complicated question which requires inquiries to be made from other places than Delhi.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: My misfortune is that I did not hear the original answer to the question: may I have it again?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: Enquiries are being made and the result will be intimated in due course.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the result be placed on the table of the House?

Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe: The reply will be placed on the table of the House: that is what is intended.

SCALES OF PAY OF CERTAIN POSTAL EMPLOYEES.

1619. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state (i) the scales of pay of the Postmasters of Sub-Post offices, and Branch Post Offices, and (ii) the scales of pay of the mail-runners, postal peons and postmen?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: A statement giving the information required by the Honourable Member is laid on the table.

The existing scales of pay of the departmental officials concerned vary according to locality as they were fixed in consideration of the cost of living prevailing at the respective places. The highest and the lowest scales of pay in respect of each of the classes of officials mentioned by the Honourable Member are as follows:

Classes of officials.	Highest scale of pay.	Lowest scale of pay.
	Rs	Rs.
Sub-Postmasters	70—5—170	35—5—135
Branch Postmasters . . .	70—4—110	35—4—75
Mail Runners	17-1/4—22	13—1/4—18
Postal Peons	25—1/2—30	14—1/2—19
Postmen	30—1—40	18—1—38

Revised rates of pay have been sanctioned with effect from the 1st April, 1935, for new entrants to all non-gazetted posts. A copy of the orders of Government on the subject has been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair passes over the next question, No. 1620, which will be put later.

WANT OF A SUITABLE MARKET IN NEW DELHI.

1621. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Are Government aware that the Members of the Assembly, the Government servants and other people residing in New Delhi have been experiencing great inconvenience for want of a market in New Delhi, and if so, are they prepared to arrange for one in a central place where fruits, vegetables and other edibles and also other materials of common use may be purchased at the same rate as in Old Delhi?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: There is a municipal market at the junction of the Market Road and Lady Hardinge Road in New Delhi at which a wide range of commodities, both edible and otherwise, is for sale. I understand that the Municipal Committee are considering proposals to improve and remodel this market. Other municipal shops exist at the following centres in New Delhi:

(1) Baird Road	10 shops.
(2) Hastings Lane	5 shops.
(3) Near Western Court	5 shops.

In addition 20 new municipal shops have been sanctioned and will be completed during the next summer at the following places:

(a) Near Prithvi Raj Road.

(b) In the New City Extension Area.

Vendors in the municipal markets and shops are already subject to municipal bye-laws which impose upon them the obligation to sell at or below the rates published in the municipal Commodity Price Lists. These are prepared on the basis of the prevailing market rates.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable Member kindly repeat his reply? I could not hear him.

(Mr. G. S. Bajpai repeated the reply given.)

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: I give the Honourable Member a prize for the way he has given the reply.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Sir, I lay a copy of the price-list on the table. (Laughter.)

Prices current in the New Delhi Market for the period ending 15th March 1935.

Articles.	Rates. Per Rupee. Seer	Ch.
Miscellaneous.		
Flour (Atta) Sup.	11	8
Flour (Atta) Inf.	12	0
Suji	10	0
Maida	10	8
Besun	13	0
Gram flour	16	0
Sagu	3	4
Crushed Gram	16	0
Barley	20	0
Chhokar	20	0
Rice (best)	4	0
Rice (ordinary)	8	0
Oats	10	0
Dal Mash	8	0
Dal Moong	12	0
Dal Gram	13	0
Dal Masoor	6	0
Dal Arhar	7	0
Salt	11	0
	a.	p.
Pepper	0	12 0 Sr.
Chillies	0	6 0 ,,
Sugar (Crystal)	0	3 4 Ch.
Sugar (country)	0	3 6 ,,
Khand (best)	0	3 6 ,,
Khand (ordinary)	0	3 8 ,,
Gur	0	7 0
Milk (Cow)	0	7 0
Milk (Buffalo)	0	6 0
Ghee	0	0 14 Ch.
Ghee	0	0 14 Sr.
Curd	0	4 0
Cream	1	0 0 lb.
Bread	0	1 0
Butter	1	0 0 lb.
Pastery	0	11 0 doz.
Vegetables.		
Potatoes	0	1 0
Arwies	0	1 0

Articles.	Rates. Per Seer. Rs.	A.	P.	
Tomatoes	0	6	0	
Cabbages	0	1	0	
Cauliflowers	0	4	0	
Ginger	0	4	0	
Lemons	0	8	0	
Turnips	0	0	9	
Carrots	0	1	0	
Sag Palak	0	0	6	
Raddishes	0	1	0	
Beats	0	2	0	
Pumpkins	0	1	6	
Brinjals	0	4	0	
Beans	..			
Kachaloos	0	2	0	
Ladies fingers	..			
Tindas	..			
Tories	0	8	0	
Fresh Fruits.				
Coconuts	0	2	0	each.
Walnuts	..			
Monkey Nuts	0	4	0	
Grapes	..			
Grapes (large)	..			
Guavas	0	4	0	
Apples (Kulu)	0	10	0	
Apples (Kashmeri)	0	8	0	
Pears	..			
Oranges (local)	0	6	0	
Oranges (Nagpur)	0	9	0	
Melons	0	6	0	
Water Melons	..			
Musk Melons	0	8	0	
Pineapple	..			
Aroo	..			
Aloochas	..			
Lichies	..			

Article.	Rates. Per Seer. Rs.	A.	P.
Fresh Fruit.			
alsas	..		
amans	..		
pricots	0	4	0
hirnies	..		
air	0	2	0
asiroos	..		
angoes	..		
aisins	0	8	0
istas	2	8	0
lmonds	0	12	0
ates	0	4	0
alnuts	0	8	0
hilgosas	0	10	0
oconuts dry	0	5	0
laintains (Country)	..		
laintains (Bombay)	..		
laintains (Calcutta)	..		
omegranates (Kan.)	0	8	0
omegranates (Local)	..		
omegranates (Peshawar)	0	12	0
utton	0	5	0
eef	0	6	0

Articles.	Rates. Per Seer. Rs.	A.	P.	
Meat, etc.				
Heart	0	1	6	each.
Tongues	0	5	0	
Ox tails	0	4	0	
Livers	0	2	0	
Goat's head	0	4	0	
Goats limbs	0	0	6	
Ox limbs	0	8	0	
Kidneys	0	1	0	
Local fish	0	8	0	
Sea fish	1	8	0	
Poultry, etc.				
Country fowl	0	14	0	
Chickens	0	8	0	
Ducks	1	4	0	
Quails	0	3	0	
Partridges	0	6	0	
Pigeons	0	3	0	
Guinea fowl	1	2	0	
Eggs	0	9	0	doz.

INDIA'S TRADE WITH ROUMANIA.

1620. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

(a) whether they are aware of Reuter's report of 13th March, published in the *Hindustan Times* of the 15th March, 1935, that 'India is among the countries which have been listed and wherefrom imports have been banned, as she does not import Roumanian goods';

(b) whether this is a fact;

(c) what is the amount of trade that will be affected by this action of the Roumanian Government; and

(d) what action Government have taken in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) Yes.

(b) and (d). Government have no official information but they have nade enquiries in the matter.

(c) India's export trade to Roumania in the year 1933-34 amounted to Rs. 5·65 lakhs.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have the Government of India ny Trade Commissioner in that part of the world?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: No: the Trade Commissioner at Hamburg looks after that part of the world.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have they taken any pains to know whether this is true or not?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: They have taken every pains.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the steps they have taken?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: The steps they have taken are to ascertain whether there is or is not any truth in this statement.

FILLING THE DITCHES NEAR THE HILLS ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF NEW DELHI WITH MUNICIPAL DIRT.

1622. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Are Government aware that the ditches near the hills on the western side of New Delhi, on the Rohtak Road and near the Tibia College, are being filled with municipal slum and dirt and that a terribly bad smell is spreading therefrom all round, and if so, are they prepared to stop this practice on the ground of public health?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I am not aware that it is possible to dump a slum into a ditch. So far as filling the ditches with dirt is concerned, I am informed by the Delhi Municipal Committee that neither the ditches on the Rohtak Road nor near the Tibbia College are being filled with dirt. The unpleasant smells to which the Honourable Member refers probably come from the tanneries of Basti Raghar when there is an easterly wind.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Has the Honourable Member ever travelled along the road, as I have, and has he never felt the very disagreeable smell, and has he not seen heaps of dirt heaped up just near that road?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I have not denied the existence of unpleasant smells: I have attributed them to a different cause.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Has the Honourable Member any information that accumulation of dirt will not cause bad smell on the Rohtak Road?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: It depends naturally on the nature of the dirt: if it were mere rubble or such like, it would not cause any smell.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Has the Honourable Member any information that dirt is not being accumulated there?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I have already stated that the Delhi Municipal Committee informed me that dirt is not being dumped in ditches either on the Rohtak Road or near the Tibbia College.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It is an awful smell, as I found the other day when I travelled that side.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The best course is to inform the Municipality.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable Member accompa me? I shall very kindly show it to him.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I shall be happy to accompany him on this tour inspection, but I hope he will bring something fragrant with him.

SHOWER BATHS IN THE QUARTERS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATI ASSEMBLY.

1623. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Are Government prepared to ma arrangements for a shower bath in the bath rooms of all Governme quarters allotted to Members of the Assembly?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No. Shower baths are not ordinari provided in Government residences, and I do not think that they can regarded as a necessity.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Are they provided in the houses of t Members of the Executive Council?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir; I have none in my house

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is it not a fact, Sir, that in some quarte there is provision for shower baths?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I think, Sir, if I may venture make suggestions that this is a matter which might much better be d cussed by the House Committee rather than on the floor of this House.

POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICES IN THE CHOTA NAGPUR DIVISION.

1624. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will Government be pleased to sta the number of post and telegraph offices in the Chota Nagpur Division, D trict by District?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Information has been called for and a reply w be placed on the table of the House in due course.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: In view of the fact that the reply is not read what useful purpose does it serve by putting the question in the questi list?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not t business of the Department. The Honourable Member put his questio and, therefore, it is there.

JORI POST OFFICE IN THE HAZARIBAGH DISTRICT.

1625. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Are Government aware that the are no postmen in some of the post offices, chiefly that at Joni, in t District of Hazaribagh?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how letters, money orders and other postal receipts are delivered to the addressees concerned by those post offices, specially that of Joni, mentioned in (a), where there is no postman?

(c) What is the pay of the Postmaster of Joni in the District of Hazaribagh?

(d) Are Government aware that a money order addressed to Babu Jageswar Dayal Singh, Village Kosumbha, Post Joni, in the District of Hazaribagh, was sent from the post office attached to the Assembly on the 5th February 1935, and delivered to the addressee at the end of the month of February 1935, and if so, will they explain the delay?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a)—(d). Government have no information. The Head of the Circle concerned is competent to deal with the matters referred to and a copy of this question is being sent to him for such action as he may consider suitable.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Before I put this question, Sir, I want to point out that there is . . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can only put a question.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: There is a mistake. The particular post office referred to is Jori and not Joni, as stated in the question

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) and (d). Government have no information. The Head of the Circle concerned is competent to deal with the matters referred to, and a copy of this question is being sent to him for such action as he may consider suitable. I have noted the correction, and I will send him the correction also.

REPRESENTATION FROM SUBORDINATE RAILWAY EMPLOYEES IN STATE RAILWAYS TO HIGHER ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS.

1626. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Is it a fact that all subordinates employed in State Railways are entitled to represent their grievances to the higher administrative officers?

(b) Is due notice taken of appeals against the decisions of junior administrative officers?

(c) Is it a fact that sometimes the junior administrative officer himself, against whose decision an appeal is made to some higher officer, deals with such appeals?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Subordinate employees are not debarred from making representations to higher authorities.

(b) and (c). The Railway Board have issued instructions to the Agents of State-managed Railways that it should be impressed upon all officers that extreme care should be taken in the exercise of the disciplinary powers so as to ensure that no unjustifiable penalties are adjudged and that the staff are invariably accorded their proper rights of appeal.

APPOINTMENT OF SUPERVISORS IN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS FROM AMONGST APPRENTICES.

1627. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Is it a fact that the practice in all railway workshops is to appoint supervisors from amongst their own apprentices?

(b) If so, is it a fact that the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, Electrical, of the Eastern Bengal Railway has recently departed from this practice and has recruited nine supervisors from outside?

(c) Is it a fact that recently several persons from outside with little or no practical training have been appointed while all first class apprentices have been thrown out on completion of their apprenticeship?

(d) Is it a fact that no notice is taken of the "Final Report" of the Principal of the technical school when appointments are made after completion of training?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, reports as follows:

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Outsiders were selected because of their experience and qualifications. One of the number recruited was an old apprentice.

(d) No.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS OFFICE, RAWALPINDI.

1628. *Bhai Parma Nand: (a) Will Government please state the policy followed by the Retrenchment Board of the Military Accounts Office, Rawalpindi in making retrenchment?

(b) Is it a fact that clerks who had passed S. A. S. tests and had done meritorious service, before and after passing that test, and who were strongly recommended by their superiors, were retrenched, while others who had not passed even the clerical tests, were retained?

(c) Are Government prepared to re-employ those who had done good service in the Military Accounts, just as other Departments are taking back their retrenched hands? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) In the lists submitted by the Retrenchment Board to the Military Accountant General in connection with the retrenchment of personnel in the office of the Controller of Military Accounts, Rawalpindi, the names of all accountants and clerks were shown in the order of their inefficiency, as determined after the most careful consideration of each individual case, so as to enable the cases of the least efficient to be considered first. In making his selection the Military Accountant General proceeded on the same principle.

(b) No.

(c) The Government servants compulsorily retired under the Retrenchment Scheme in the Military Accounts Offices had all been found inefficient. Government do not, therefore, propose to re-employ them.

REFUSAL BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO GIVE PERMISSION TO AN INDIAN INSURANCE COMPANY TO DO BUSINESS IN ITALY.

1629. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Are Government aware that Indian insurance companies are not permitted to be floated and to operate in Italy and that permission to an Indian company was recently refused?

(b) If so, are Government prepared to take the fact of the refusal of the Italian Government into consideration during the ensuing Indo-Italian trade talks?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of reciprocal treatment to Italian enterprise in this country, pending Indo-Italian trade talks?

(d) If the replies to parts (b) and (c) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state their reasons?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) Government have been informed that one Indian insurance company has experienced difficulty in setting up business in Italy. They are making enquiries into the matter.

(b), (c) and (d). Government are unable to express an opinion on these matters until the enquiries referred to have been completed.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Is it a fact that a Trade Agreement between the Italian and Indian Governments is going to be discussed shortly?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: It is not being discussed at the moment.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is anything being done in that direction?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: Yes, Sir; we are in communication with the Government of Italy on this subject.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have the Government of India addressed them recently on this matter, and have they included in their letter to the Italian Government the question of reciprocal facilities for insurance companies in either country?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: No, Sir, for the simple reason, as I explained the other day, in reply to a question in this House, that provision already exists for reciprocal treatment in respect of this and in all other trading and commercial matters.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the particular matters which are now being explored as the basis of an Indo-Italian Trade Agreement?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I cannot give my Honourable friend any information on that point beyond telling him that the negotiations contemplated will cover the trade relations generally between Italy and India

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: May I know the answer to part (d) of my question?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I said that the answer to parts (b), (c) and (d) is that Government are unable to express an opinion on these matters until the inquiries referred to have been completed.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Is it a matter for opinion? I want to know the reasons for it? It applies to parts (b) to (d).

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I have not replied to any part in the negative.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE LOCOMOTIVE FOREMAN OF THE LAHORE SHED.

1630. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn towards the serious allegations of forced bribery, undue fines, suspensions, dismissals, collection of funds under personal name and lotteries made against the Locomotive Foreman of Lahore Shed in the issues of the Urdu weekly *Union* of Lahore, dated June 30, July 15 and August 31, 1934?

(b) Have Government or the Agent, North Western Railway, or any other responsible officer, received any representations, memorials, telegrams, etc., against the Locomotive Foreman?

(c) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative what action have Government taken in the matter?

(d) Are Government prepared to institute an open enquiry into the serious allegations of corruption and malpractice against the officer concerned?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Government have not seen the issues of the Urdu Weekly referred to in the question.

(b) to (d). Government have no information but, as apparently the matter is entirely within the competence of the Agent, North Western Railway, to deal with, I am forwarding a copy of the question to him for any action he may consider necessary.

REPRESENTATION MADE BY SOME FIREMEN OF THE LAHORE SHED.

1631. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Will Government state if they have received recently any representation made by about thirty firemen of the Lahore Shed?

(b) Will Government lay this application on the table for the information of this House?

(c) What action do Government propose to take into the matter?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The representation has been forwarded to the Agent, North Western Railway, for enquiry.

HARDSHIPS OF SOME TEMPORARY CLERKS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

1632. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Is it a fact that there are about 40 clerks in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, who were originally recruited some time in 1928 but still continue to be temporary?

(b) Is it also a fact that there is no chance of these clerks being fully absorbed against permanent cadre in the near future?

(c) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to take steps to remove this hardship of these old temporary clerks?

(d) Is it a fact that most of these temporary clerks are employed against temporary posts created for terminal tax work of municipalities? If so, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of asking the municipalities to contribute for leave salary, provident fund, bonus and gratuity, and make these posts permanent instead of continuing them as temporary?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) There are 23 such clerks.

(b) No. I understand they are likely to be absorbed in the course of two years.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) These clerks are employed against temporary posts sanctioned, from time to time, for terminal tax work or for compilation of statistics by other Departments. The suggestion in the second part of the question will be considered.

RECONSTITUTION OF THE INDIAN LAC CESS COMMITTEE.

1633. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) With reference to Mr. Bajpai's answers to certain questions regarding the Lac Research Institute on the 3rd July, 1934, and again on the 20th August, 1934, that the question of reconstructing the Committee is under consideration, is the consideration still going on or come to an end, and if so, with what result?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that the lac cultivators of Bihar do not look upon a high Government official as their representative?

(c) Are Government prepared to direct the Government of Bihar and Orissa to nominate on the Committee a non-official representative of lac cultivators?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) The question is still under consideration.

(b) No.

(c) The choice of a representative of the lac cultivators' interest in Bihar and Orissa is within the discretion of the Local Government

INTERFERENCE OF THE BIHAR GOVERNMENT WITH THE DECISIONS OF THE INDIAN LAC CESS COMMITTEE.

1634. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that two non-official members of the Indian Lac Cess Committee addressed in the month of May, last a very long letter to the Government of India, protesting against the manner in which the business of the committee was conducted by the President, and also against the interference of the Bihar Government with the free decision of the Committee?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of Bihar and Orissa sent a letter of recommendation through Mr. Housefield, the Commissioner of Ranchi, to the Lac Cess Committee, for the re-appointment of Mrs. Norris as the Director of the Lac Research Institute?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state their policy regarding the reconstruction of the Indian Lac Cess Committee and the Indianisation of the higher appointments in the Lac Research Institute?

(d) Why did the Government of India sanction the re-appointment of Mrs. Norris as the Director of the Lac Research Institute against Indian public opinion and protest by some of the members of the Lac Cess Committee?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) The letters related to alleged interference by the Local Government. There was no complaint against the President.

(b) Mr. Horsfield was authorised to make a statement on behalf of the Local Government at the meeting of the Committee held on the 28th March, 1934, when the question of the renewal of Mrs. Norris's contract was under discussion.

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given by me today to part (a) of his question No. 1633 and to the reply given by me on the 14th February, 1935, to parts (d) to (g) and (j) of his question No. 254.

(d) For the reasons stated in reply to part (d) of the Honourable Member's question No. 255 on the 14th February, 1935.

DEPUTATION ON BEHALF OF THE CORDITE FACTORY LABOUR UNION.

1635. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** (a) Is it a fact that the Army Secretary received a deputation in Simla, during the summer of 1934, on behalf of the Cordite Factory Labour Union?

(b) Is it a fact that at that time the Master General of Ordnance was at Aruvankadu on a tour of inspection?

(c) Is it a fact that on hearing of the deputation interviewing the Army Secretary, the Superintendent of the Cordite Factory questioned, under threat of discharge, several of the workmen who lent their signatures to the statement of their grievances, as to why they had signed the document at all?

(d) Is it a fact that in reply the signatories stated that they were ignorant of the contents of the document and that they were forced to sign the memorial by some people?

(e) Is it a fact that the Master General of Ordnance (on the spot) endorsing the Superintendent's version, telegraphed to the Army Secretary not to receive the deputation on the ground that the men had no grievances but that some designing people were fomenting discontent among them?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The facts are as follows:

On hearing of the petition, the Superintendent of the Cordite Factory naturally desired to know what the grievances of the Union were. In reply to his enquiries the officers of the Factory Labour Union stated that they did not know the contents of the petition though they had put their signature to it. It is difficult to reconcile the suggestion of intimidation by the Superintendent with the fact that a little while previously he had

himself, offered the Labour Union officers an opportunity of seeing the Director of Ordnance Factories during his visit of inspection, an offer of which they did not avail themselves.

(e) No, Sir.

DETENTION ALLOWANCES DRAWN BY ARMY OFFICERS WHILE ON TOUR.

1636. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** (a) Will Government please state whether the Master General while stopping at Aruvankadu was staying as the guest of the Superintendent of the Cordite Factory? If so, what detention allowance did he claim from Government for his expenses at Aruvankadu?

(b) Is it a fact that Army officers generally draw detention allowances when on tour, even when they are provided by their hosts, including Government Houses, with free meals and lodging?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) and (b). Government have no information, but they have no doubt that detention allowances are not claimed by Army Officers otherwise than in accordance with the rules.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What I want to know is whether the rules contemplate that Army officers may draw detention allowance even when the contingencies mentioned in the question happen?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I imagine the rules contemplate that this is a matter that should be left to the conscience of officers both military and civil.

THE INDIAN TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member, Sir Joseph Bhore, moved yesterday:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, the peasants of this country have absolutely no cause to thank the Government for this mean-minded little mercy of theirs. The producers of the two most important staple commodities have been reduced to such a pitiable and helpless state by the callousness and faithlessness of their Government that they have been obliged to ask for protection against foreign competition. The sufferings of our peasants can only be imagined when I tell you that they have received only 534 crores of rupees in 1932-33 as against 1,018 crores in 1928-29, that is, a colossal loss of 483 crores per annum.

Thanks to the presence of a strong Punjabee, a real Punjabee and not a ready made one, on the Viceroy's Council, the wheat growers have received some protection in the last four years, with the result that the growth of losses had been arrested to some extent, as is evidenced by the fact that between 1928-29 and 1932-33, the fall in the value of this produce has been only round about 35 per cent. against the 50 per cent. fall in the case of rice-growers. But even this protection has not resulted in any rise

of prices, so the Crop Planning Conference has itself said. Yet the Government now propose to reduce even this little bit of protection to the wheat growers, thanks to the retirement of the Punjabee and the growing influence of the Finance Member in the Executive Council.

As for the rice-growers, the Madras Government, the Madras Legislative Council, the public and the peasants, the rice merchants and even the importers are all unanimous in saying that this duty on broken rice is not enough and that a higher duty on whole rice and broken rice is needed. The Honourable the Commerce Member's own admission that rice imports are increasing is against this proposal. The only result of this duty will be to increase the imports of rice from Siam and other countries. This partial, inadequate and wholly unsatisfactory proposal is placed before us because the Commerce Member has yielded completely to the bullying of the Finance Member and others on the Executive Council. I wonder why the Honourable the Commerce Members does not make a clean breast of it, like Sir Fazl-i-Husain . . . .

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Member for Commerce and Railways): Because he has got absolutely nothing to make a clean breast of.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is getting personally offensive.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am referring to the Commerce Member and not to Sir Joseph Bhore, and confess his failure to help the Indian producers, owing to the opposition of the Secretary of State and his favourite and latest agent, the Finance Member.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I must protest against that. The Secretary of State had absolutely nothing to do with this.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He is their senior, he is their principal. (Hear, hear from Congress Party Benches.) In conclusion, I have to protest vehemently against the failure of Government to afford adequate protection to our peasants and place it on record that the peasants reserve their right to open up this question at the earliest opportunity in this House as well as in the country. I would like to congratulate the Commerce Member also, before he lays down the seals of his office, on the fortunate position in which he finds himself that he need not have to stand for any election at all in this country, because, I can assure him that if he were to stand anywhere for election in this country, he is sure to be given a sound beating and he is sure to be met with the same fate that met Sir Shanmukham Chetty, not only for Ottawa, not only for the Indo-British Pact, but also for this unsatisfatory proposal . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is absolutely irrelevant.

Some Honourable Members: Let the question be now put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is that the question be now put.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): I would like to make a few observations . . . .

Some Honourable Members: No, no The Honourable Member cannot speak. Closure has been accepted. Is it a point of order?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What does the Honourable Member wish to say?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I felt that it was due in courtesy to what my Honourable friends said yesterday on rice—I felt it was due in courtesy to them that I should answer some of the points which they had urged. But if they do not want that I should reply, it is a matter for them.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The cry for closure also came from the Treasury Benches . . . .

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): May we hear what he has got to say?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If Honourable Members do not want closure, it lies with them. The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—*contd.*

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): I beg to move.

"That in clause 2 of the Finance Bill, as amended, for the words 'twelve annas' the words 'one rupee and four annas' be substituted."

Sir, this amendment is required in order to fill up a hole of more than three crores which has been made in the budget by the Assembly. Various Honourable Members have made suggestions for finding the sum of three crores in other directions . . . .

An Honourable Member: A little louder please.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Various Honourable Members have made suggestions for finding this sum of three crores in other directions, but none of these suggestions are immediately practicable and some of them are not practicable at all. As the Government cannot take the responsibility of coming before this House, and the world at large, with a budget which does not even pretend to balance, we have no alternative but to ask the House to reverse its previous decision. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That in clause 2 of the Finance Bill, as amended, for the words 'twelve annas' the words 'one rupee and four annas' be substituted."

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, it would have been the barest act of duty to those who voted for the several amendments to the Finance Bill, if only the Finance Member had considered and reconsidered the matter instead of merely adhering to his decision. The fact, however, remains that, in the exercise of the powers vested under the Government of India Act, within the four corners of which I must remind myself at the beginning of probably the last address that I shall deliver in this Session—within the four corners of that Act, there is such a thing as the present situation which has arisen by reason of the recommendation which you, Sir, read out to the House yesterday. The recommendation is that this House, notwithstanding the overwhelming vote which it gave on the several amendments amending the different provisions and clauses of the Finance Bill—this House is told that its opinion has neither any value nor any effect in the eyes of those who govern this country. To call it an insult is a hackneyed phrase, and so I won't use it. But the fact remains that we did our best not to throw out the Finance Bill at the consideration stage, and we did that advisedly, in order that it may not be said that we were—a matter which I propose to examine at a later stage—irresponsible men, not understanding either the business or the art of Government, and, it is with a view to repealing or preventing such an impression being created against us, that we thought it right to allow the next stage of the consideration of the Bill clause by clause to come before the House, so that we could give an opportunity to every Member of the House and every section of it to express its opinion as to whether it was satisfied with the provisions the initiation of which undoubtedly lies with those who are in charge of the Government.

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I should like, at the outset, to inform the House of the vast majority by which the amendments, which we are now asked to take back in the Bill in the form of a recommendation, were passed by the House. We are asked to swallow the opinion that we deliberately came to and every section of the House owes it to itself to think aloud, to put its hand on its conscience, its categorical imperative which is not awakened merely occasionally, but which, I hope and trust, will stand by every man during the time at all events that this Session lasts, that it shall not be a case of the conscience awakened once and laid at rest whenever a behest came from other quarters. Let conscience assert itself irrespective of the consequences, irrespective of cold steel glass, irrespective of cynical smiles, irrespective of assertions, irrespective of assumed frowns. Let me assure every Member of this House that none of those considerations have any value against the conscientious opinion which he has voluntarily and willingly given in support of the amendments to the Bill.

Sir, the amendment to the salt clause was carried by a majority of 63 against 55, the income-tax clause 73 against 42, the two pice postcards by 79 to 44, the one anna envelope 88 against 35, and a reduction of the pattern and sample and book post by 84 against 39, so that it cannot be said that it is only those whom I represent, the Communistic caucus as it is described, who have succeeded in turning the vote of the House against the proposals of Government. It is my duty indeed on this occasion at all events

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to justify and vindicate the position we stand for, not merely in terms of generalities, which sometimes is a charge levelled against us, but in such definite terms as I can command, in order that our position may be appreciated, and in order that those who supported us in the measures we took, notwithstanding the earlier measures in which they did not join, may continue their adherence first to their conscience and next at all events to the truth of what they have voted for. (Hear, hear.) The matter on which I wish to lay a few observations is not so much in the matter of the description that has been applied to my Party, because I am one of those who, during a somewhat long and arduous career at the Bar, have been accustomed to a considerable amount of strong language. It has never affected me in so far as my nerves are concerned, of which I wish to give an assurance to my Honourable friends opposite, but when the description is of a nature which may perhaps reflect on the quality of the men or the opinions which they represent, I think it is up to me to present such vindication, as I can, both before this House and the larger world to which it has gone forth in the name of the Government of India. With the present not merely coquetry, but almost wooing, of the only Communistic State in the world by the Britisher, it was a somewhat ungracious remark to make on the part of my learned and Honourable friend. I call him learned, because I respect his learning, and that is the phrase also to which I have been most accustomed than the phrase "Honourable". He has both learning and honour, and if he preserves them for the purpose of the consistent policy of the Government which he represents here, I have not the smallest doubt that he would have thought over several times before at all events he thought it fit to brand us with a mark which in the world we could not go out with. Let him consider and his principles consider that times arise always in the history of men, and it will soon arise in the history of this country as well as in others, when all these epithets will recoil in the manner of, what is called in the language of a certain type of sportsmen a boomerang by which they themselves are hit, and I hope and trust that, as a mere matter of description, the other side will consider carefully and weigh the words which they use, in order that there may be mutual respect for our respective positions. That is the least that I could expect of them. Their conduct, their attitude, all have shown where the caucus exists. I have heard of cabals, of juntas. I have also heard the word caucus, but let them remember that the use of that word applies in an infinitely greater measure to that irresponsible bureaucracy which they represent. (Hear, hear.)

It is not so much as a mere matter of returning word for word that I have used that expression, though even there I am justified by what my Honourable friend, Sir James Grigg, said—Am I not to hit out when I am criticised—Am I merely to speak in measured terms of cold logic, in order that you may understand? Let me remind him that sometimes a cold steel cuts different from a brand of the type that he is using, and he may remember, during the time that will lapse before we meet again, that there is a little better description that we deserve than that which he has attempted to give of us. Indeed Communistic we may be if the meaning of that is one for which Governments from time to time change their attitude. I know very well that a thing which is an offence one day becomes a friendly act in another and, therefore, these are things which, in the varying circumstances of time, have different values and different attributes. I would not be surprised if, after a time, the Honourable the

Home Member himself is obliged at the behest of his principles to release every man who has been accused of Communistic views, for they could not very well be allies of a Communistic Government of the world and yet punish those very principles in another light. If that is their attitude, all I can say is that they will have to answer not only to us, but to the rest of the world. Their petty power will last for a time, but that is not a matter which affects us, for ours is a case of conscience. Ours is not a case of expediency.

Therefore, it is, that I appeal to my friends on the opposite side that we claim to represent our countrymen a little better than they pretend or profess to represent them and pose as their trustees. We shall, therefore, never degrade ourselves to a position of vituperation, not of even of hitting back. Ours, at all events, will be a position of vindication as I said before, and that is how we shall part during this Session. I declare openly that even if the term has a punishable meaning, it would not terrorise me. If it means that I represent ideas, policies and principles for the more beneficial progress of the community to which I belong, then I am indeed proud of being branded a Communist. If Communism merely means that, we are proud to be Communists, for, after all, we stand not so much for words as for deeds, not so much for mere ideas punishable at convenience, but for ideas enforceable for the common weal of the greatest number of my people. It is that for which we stand; and if we stand for that, any designation, any description, is not only not humiliating, but it is a description, of which, I hope and trust, we shall ever be proud. As regards the caucus, if it means that we have maintained discipline, that we have had solidarity, that we have had strength, that we have had intelligent co-operation, and not only so, but, by reason of our sincere and honest and straightforward attitude, obtained the co-operation of all the other sections of the House as indeed I have shown by the votes I have recounted, I am glad to be able to say that, in so far as that is concerned, we also stand guilty of the charge. In no other sense are we a caucus. Generally speaking, caucus is a term which is related to people who use, and, in due course of time, abuse power. Power, Sir, creates fumes in the brains of those who possess it, and particularly where they are not accountable for it. Those fumes ultimately get into a toxæmia which is the situation that we have reached in which they are unable to see themselves as others see them, as they would themselves have liked in a little less unclouded situation to look at themselves. Then, perhaps, they may have appreciated that, out of a long budget of crores and crores and crores, a sum of some five crores could not, after all, be impossible to be reduced if the Finance Member were under our behest, if we had any power, if he had been our servant, if he had been utilising his knowledge, not for the purposes to which he has placed himself, but for the purposes for which we stand. After all, what did we do? Why should every single Department of Government have everything they want up to the last pie, but the poor man not even that? The army must have it; I take the description of my Honourable friend, and again apply it. He says it is an army of occupation, and they cannot do it with anything else. "The Commander-in-Chief", he says, "has told me that anything else will not be sufficient for quelling internal disorder and for external protection. So he must have it". The services,—they cannot stand a cut of five per cent. Poor devils,—and I am not using language in any sense which is not thoroughly parliamentary,—poor individuals that they are, they seem to imagine that a five per cent.

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cut out of their salary could not be maintained. It means two crores roughly speaking, combining the railway budget with the rest of the budget; two crores of rupees, when the standard of prices has fallen by 40 per cent.

The other day, I asked a question of my Honourable friend to which I have never received an answer. He was fond of the phrase that he used. He said that, by calling a penny tuppence, you do not create wealth. But indeed he calls our penny a ha'penny and takes it out of us. His salary represents 1½ times the quantity of raw material which the poor man has to pay in the shape of taxes in the name of the same denomination of money which he continues, or would not allow, as he said, to be manipulated, but which, according to me, requires a manipulation for the benefit of the poor man in this country. But the fact certainly remains,—and I am dealing with the assertion that is made for the purposes of recommending this matter to us,—that Government find themselves unable to balance their budget. Poor Government of India! It will lose its credit in the world; and, therefore, in your own name, for your own good, for your own advancement in other lands, who look up to you and lend you money and who are willing to lend you money, please preserve our credit there. And what credit? That you must touch a single pie of the rupee that we have voted to ourselves, because you know a part of the budget is non-votable. And it is my duty, therefore, at all events, as briefly as I can, to indicate that if there was the smallest desire, the very smallest desire, to meet the opinion represented by those of us who are here at all events elected by all classes and communities, I have not the smallest doubt that the Government of India would have reconsidered their position, would have accepted the amendments even at a certain amount of risk. But we are not to be met there.

I am using the words of one of the most honourable men and a prince among men who was my predecessor in this place and spoke some 11 years ago. He said we are always charged,—and I am afraid the same charge is levelled at us today,—we are always charged as being irresponsible men. He said: "I have learnt a little English",—so fortunately have I,—"and I understand the meaning of words. A man responsible for his words, for his acts and deeds,—that responsibility I possess. But it is you who initiate measures of taxation, it is you who vote yourself even if you do not wish it, it is you who raise the money, it is you who spend it; and yet even when we raise a little cry of difference, we are irresponsible. Our responsibility is that we must go and agree." We are invited here, Sir, to a prepared programme to which if we assent, we are responsible; if we dissent, we are irresponsible. If that is the meaning of the word "responsibility", I know only one responsibility, I recognise only one responsibility, both in the sense of fitness and otherwise. I am responsible to those who have sent me and responsible to my land; and, above all, I hope and trust, in fulness of time, I and they are responsible to Providence. And I trust they will bear that in mind. They cannot bear responsibility to us but they undoubtedly bear responsibility in the account they will give in fulness of time. Therefore, it is, Sir, that I am referring to the two crores of rupees which were restored on a pledge, if you please. And what sort of pledge? A person promises himself that he wishes to take a certain thing and he says, "Now I have given myself a pledge, and if I do not fulfil it this

year, what shall I do?" That is the meaning of the word "pledge". I wish to analyse every single word, every single name, every single formula, every single phrase, by which they have created this delusion and this deception. It says, "We are only fulfilling a pledge. We pledged ourselves that though it was unwillingly taken from us in the force of circumstances, as soon as circumstances permit, we will fulfil the pledge." This, Sir, is a kind of selfishness, another illustration of which it is difficult to find. It is the strongest instance of an unenlightened selfishness, particularly considering that, from the tax-payer's point of view, they were really getting 1½ times their salaries, and five per cent. out of that they could not and will not forgo. I am one of those who stand here and say that if the Government of India had the smallest sense of any decency, any honesty, any genuine desire for the good of the people, any respect for this House, they would have voluntarily produced five crores of rupees without the smallest difficulty by the very smallest cut in the salaries of their bloated administration. What is the difficulty? There is no difficulty in balancing the budget. Of course the difficulty is as is created. I first start it, then I say I have not got it. Of course, it is the easiest thing to argue. It is irrefutable logic, but it is the logic of selfishness which we cannot bear and will not tolerate. Why is it impossible to produce five crores of rupees? As we understood it, five per cent. represents two crores. So five crores would mean 12½ per cent. of salaries. Supposing it was cut down, the heavens would not have fallen. My friends would have been in the same comfort and luxury perhaps a wee bit less, but what does it matter? But it matters to them; what does not matter to them is the well-being of the people. And, therefore, it is that this deception comes in,—and it is in the purely legal sense that I use that expression. This deception that this situation is forced upon the Government of India by the irresponsible vote of this House is the very worst deception that I have ever heard spoken in any public assembly. (*Cries of* "Shame, shame.") For what is it that they say? "We cannot produce five crores of rupees to meet your demands." This is the substance, this is the gravamen of the complaint and the pitiable complaint with which they have come here: "Please restore the budget, but if you do not, we will call you irresponsible people." I would rather be irresponsible and take the responsibility for doing what I did, and call upon the Government in the name of their own conscience to produce five crores from all possible sources that they can, in order only that our respect and our vote may be vindicated and the people's relief to that extent may certainly be forthcoming. Of course, we shall have to tell so to the Government. It may be our misfortune to have to stand out, to be barred out, but we shall have to tell the Government that though they look powerful when it comes to a question of a small grant, yet, when we ask them to do a particular thing by a vote of this House, an overwhelming vote, in which every section of the House joins us, they are at least in such a measure so niggardly, so narrow and so cowardly as not to listen to the unanimous vote of this House. For what does the vote of "84" represent except this, and there I will not give any further description. That is the position in which they stand. Of course, you can stand, you can stand mute, you can look powerful, but your power will be a real power, only if you use it for the purposes for which you call yourselves trustees. It is no power, if you simply take advantage of the position in which you stand naked. In fact, I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member on the very short and

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brief statement he made. He realised the case he had. (Hear, hear.) He had no speech to make, he had nothing to offer; all that he had to say was: "If we take away everything you have voted down, then we have no money, and, therefore, as we have no money, you please go home and tell your constituencies, 'we have spent all their money and, therefore, we have nothing to give you by way of relief'." Is that what we can ever expect? Is that the manner in which this House can ever expect to be treated? Here I should like to call attention to the description that Lord Durham gave, so that my Honourable friends may remember the situation in which they stand here today as the situation was in Canada just about 100 years ago from today. This is the description that Lord Durham gave:

"It is difficult to conceive what could have been their theory of Government who imagined that in any colony of England a body invested with the name and character of a representative Assembly, could be deprived of any of those powers which, in the opinion of Englishmen, are inherent in a popular legislature. It was a vain delusion to imagine that by mere limitations in the Constitutional Act or an exclusive system of government, a body, strong in the consciousness of wielding the public opinion of the majority, could regard certain portions of the provincial revenues as sacred from its control, could confine itself to the mere business of making laws, and look on as a passive or indifferent spectator, while those laws were carried into effect or evaded, and the whole business of the country was conducted by men in whose intentions or capacity it had not the slightest confidence. Yet, such was the limitation placed on the authority of the Assembly of Lower Canada....."

—Precisely the constitution of which I was reminded both when I came, and I shall always remember it both when I go—

"It might refuse or pass laws, vote or with-hold supplies, but it could exercise no influence on the nomination of a single servant of the Crown. The Executive Council, the law officers, and whatever heads of departments are known to the administrative system of the Province, were placed in power, without any regard to the wishes of the people or their representatives; nor indeed are there wanting instances in which a mere hostility to the majority of the Assembly elevated the most incompetent persons to posts of honour and trust."

What a truth 100 years afterwards as applied across the Continents. The only qualification for the supporters of Government today and those honoured by them is the qualification of hostility to us who represent the vast majority of the people of this country. That is the only thing that stands as a mark of honour for those who get the honour from this Government: all honours to them. All our honour is the simplicity of our own names, our own private personal fame, names known to our men, known to our brethren, and that is the greatest honour we want to enjoy. Indeed it is here shown how it is that the same set of Government, the same set of ideas, the same set of circumstances governing the same set of narrow minds, but a time does come when individuals may pass, but the system will have to be altered, and the sooner it alters, the better for your honour and the better for our self-respect. Let me continue what Lord Durham says:

"However decidedly the Assembly might condemn the policy of the Government, the persons who had advised that policy retained their officers and their power of giving bad advice."

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Always.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: I say with a full sense of responsibility that the advice tendered on this occasion by the Cabinet to His Excellency the Governor General was positively a bad advice.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Mischievous advice.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Indeed the Government could have easily found five crores, indeed they could have allayed and pacified the people. It might not have been any measure of real advance, but certainly it would have prevented this Assembly over which they spent millions for the purpose of election, or at least made people do so, from being a mockery in every sense of the term. Why should the forms of law and the forms of Constitution be abused if they are going to frame like that? The Government of India Act does not say that, because we vote, therefore, like a shrew in the Taming of the Shrew they must refuse that. I have not a word in the Government of India Act to that effect. I think the Government of India Act was that if we voted, they would respectfully consider our vote and give effect to it. That is what I think was the intention of the Government of India Act, unless the Government of India Act is read in this way, that because we vote, they must refuse. (Laughter.) If that is their conception of the Government of India Act, that at least is not mine. (Hear, hear.) Then, the quotation from Lord Durham goes on:

"If a law was passed after repeated conflicts, it had to be carried into effect by those who had most strenuously opposed it."

I am presently going to state a few words as to what law means in your eyes and what law means in our eyes:

"The wisdom of adopting true principle of representative government and facilitating the management of public affairs, by entrusting it to the persons who have the confidence of the representative body, has never been recognised in the government of the North American colonies. All the officers of the Government were independent of the Assembly; and that body which had nothing to say to their appointment, was left to get on as it best might, with a set of public functionaries, whose paramount feeling may not unfairly be said to have been one of hostility to itself."

Sir, 101 years after the time this was written by Lord Durham in respect to Canada, it is only too true of this land, not only too true, but you may almost substitute the word "India" wherever the word "Canada" or "American Colonies" occur. You cannot have a truer picture of the situation. Undoubtedly there are those of us who, by reason of supposed loyalty to office, are undoubtedly bound to echo their sentiments, and I have nothing to say about them. I have all my sympathies to them, because they are my countrymen, and I give these sympathies to them whether they take them or repel them.

The position of law in these matters is this. If a law merely means this as I have understood in the definition of Austin, the command given by a Sovereign Authority who has sanction behind it, then you may be quite certain that everything that this Government does is law, for, indeed, it affects on what it gets. The more power it has, as soon as the smallest resistance occurs, it abuses what it calls "laws", because it has sanction behind it. For what purpose? In order only to enhance and strengthen the power and use or misuse of their powers. That is not how I understand law in the broader and the larger and the more judicial sense of the term. I understand law to be a course of conduct for the guidance of men—whether it be the Statute of an Assembly or even a law passed by a despot,—a course of conduct for the guidance of men, in order only that the best interests of society may be served. That is what I call "law",

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because, if I accepted their definition of law, I would always fall—which they wish me to do—into a vicious circle and have to obey anything in order only that their power may be preserved. It is in that sense that Lord Durham said that it has fallen to those to administer laws to people who oppose those laws. That happens, but once in a way in this Assembly. We rarely succeed in passing laws which they have to administer, by reason of the position which they have adopted. Sir, this is the culmination of the events of some eight or ten weeks of desperate effort on our part to do everything that we could do, everything that we wished to do, everything that we wished to assist, everything that we wished to produce, but I wish to state next as to what our position in this matter is, so that our vote may be clearly understood. We are of those who believe that, if we cannot do anything else, we will certainly prevent a preventible mischief. As to those preventible acts of mischief other than the amendment of the Act, we will leave them to their power. But I am glad to say that they will have to wait for Nemesis if they go on in the manner in which they are going on in the headlong exercise of power, without regard, without sympathy—I do not mean sympathy in the sense of pity,—but I mean sympathy in the sense of an intelligent understanding and conscientious effort to meet it. If even that is wanting, even then we shall not let them rule, at least by laws, as they pretend to do today in the name of the representatives of the people. (Hear, hear.) Sir, if we serve no other purpose, we shall serve a still higher and better purpose; we will make it clear to our countrymen, every time we are repelled, and almost ingloriously repelled, most humiliatingly repelled, that every time when we are so repelled, we shall go back to them and say: "Don't be deceived by the forms which they have invented from time to time. There is no reality of the devolution of power, neither in this Constitution nor in the next one to come, and only grasp it when the reality comes." Their attitude reminds one of people who, as was said by another British statesman, bury their head like ostriches in sand and bury themselves into the smiles of those who are their supporters—who never tell them the bitter, unpalatable truth that my countrymen desire. Why, so that they shall change their course and conduct. There are those who come and say to them—"Carry on, there is no strength in the country, you are perfectly free in the exercise of your will and power". I will make a present to you of those supporters of the Government.

Sir, in so far as this particular amendment which we are asked to restore is concerned, we do not do so, first on the ground that there is enough money to be found if they only look for it. Of course, if they say: "I have taken all that I have, and, therefore, there is nothing", the answer is: "You ought to have", secondly, on the ground that we all feel that, in the matter of the selection of the relief from taxation. I suppose it will be admitted, and I hope it will be admitted as a decent test, that we should begin at the lowest, the broadest foundation. (Hear, hear.)

Sir, it was admitted the other day by the Honourable Mr. Lloyd that salt, after all, must be admitted to be just that one commodity which is consumed by every man and every living animal and even every living tree in this country. Even the vegetable kingdom uses salt. And that is the reason why we feel that this particular commodity, this particular

article is one which we have made it as part of our creed, which we have made it as part of our programme to get freed at the earliest moment we can. Sir, I do not pretend to have all the arts of government which my friends on the other side possess, but, after all, I may remind them that there are few among even in the Heavenborn services who can say for years together, and there are others too who probably belong very much to the lay public as I do, that they yet have the prescience, at least that claim to govern the country and to cast their vote in their favour. May they not take a word of advice from us, that, if they are fit to advise on measures for the purposes of good government of this country, we at all events have a double right to do so,—first because we have the same and, I am prepared to recognise, greater abilities; I am not entering into any invidious distinctions, I am not trying to play the part of the deceitful oracle, because I am quite certain we will not live, and while this Government lasts, no knighthood is in store for me. (Laughter.) If my Honourable friend had called me an oracle, he should have expected, as he called me Sir Oracle, I am bound to protest, I am bound to point out to him that that honour is not likely to be conferred on me, and, if it is, it will be my respectful duty to have to refuse it with great thanks, of course appreciating the honour that is intended to be conferred, so that oracles we do not claim to be, but may you always be oracles all the time? If not, utilise us for once—you might have allowed us the self-satisfaction, the paltry little satisfaction of saying—"let these amendments stand". But you do not find it in your heart or in your reason to do so, and I protest, and I maintain, and I insist that it was possible for you, you could have done it, but you did not do it for a reason to which I shall presently come.

Some months ago, a gentleman, a highly influential member of the Conservative Party—and I call it a "Conservative Party" because I do not think they are entitled to the title of "National Government" Party given to it—came to me to discuss a matter which is not confidential in any sense—namely, my attitude in the matter of the policy of the Government of this country. I sincerely and honestly analysed the whole position, and I asked him whether there was any devolution of power, and it must be said to the credit of that Englishman that he had the honesty to say frankly that he thought there was none. Then, I asked "why?" He said: "I will tell you why. We resist it, because it shall not yet be known to the psychology of the Indian mind that we will yield to any demand of theirs, because, once we begin to do that, it is the beginning of the end; that is why we resist it". Sir, I know that psychology, I know that state of mind, but I also know, having read history for a good long time, that that state of mind is always the last failing of any Imperial Power that has had sway in this world, that feeling is the undoing of those who think that that is their assertion of strength, when, really, it is an assertion of growing weakness. (Hear, hear.) That self-consciousness is not yet present before them. But the fact remains that it is from that they suffer most in refusing what is quite feasible and quite possible.

Sir, about ten years ago, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and others said: "You have no right to collect any tax in this country." You may do so against our will, but our willing assent is required to any form of taxation. It shall be on the principle that those who pay taxes shall, through their representatives, have at all events a predominant voice in these matters, and indeed expressions have been used employing now hackneyed maxims which I do not propose to use now.

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I have heard an Englishman—a man whom they ought to respect for, what is virtue in them cannot be crime in us—that in England it is public opinion that counts. If the bulk of us assert one view, it must be respected, and, what is more, it must be respected on the ground that the voice of the public, the voice of the people, is the voice of God. Here the voice of the people is the voice of a beetle, I presume. That is quite true. In other words, when there is a public opinion in this country, that public opinion is the creation of the misguided agitators, whereas, in England, public opinion selects a National Government out of almost a deceptive feeling of insecurity, and it is still public opinion. Public opinion here is merely to be trampled upon; public opinion there is to be obeyed, respected and to make Governments. That is the public opinion, and that is the difference in the value of public opinion. I will not, therefore, detain the House any longer, but I will say this, in conclusion, that we oppose this motion, not in any sense of irresponsibility, for we understand what we are doing, and we know the consequence of what will follow, but because it will give me satisfaction that I have respected myself in not assenting to what I think was wrong. After all, if nothing more is given to a man than his conscience, the right of assertion of what he thinks to be true, and if, in the doing of that, Sir, we struggle and we die, we should not have died in vain. I oppose the motion. (Loud Applause from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq (Bakargunj *cum* Faridpur: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I came to this Assembly equipped, I believe, with a certain amount of self-respect, but my membership of two months of this House has knocked all self-respect out of me, and what little self-respect now remains in me makes it impossible for me to obey the mandate which has come from His Excellency the Viceroy and the Governor General. I realise, Sir, that the position is a very serious one. At the same time, the question is not whether the mandate has come from such a high authority or not, but the question is one between me and my own conscience. As the Leader of the Opposition has made it abundantly clear, I do not think there is any self-respecting Indian Member of this House, who voted on that occasion with the consequences fully before him, who can now go back upon his vote, especially because in the speech that has been delivered by the Honourable the Finance Member we do not find any justification for coming to this House and asking us to swallow our own votes. (Hear, hear.)

Now, Sir, I submit that the situation has been created by the Finance Member himself. Long before he placed his budget proposals without consulting the wishes of this House, and regardless of all consequences, he restored the salary cut. Although we have made it also abundantly clear that, in the case of salaries above Rs. 200 a month, this restoration was perfectly unjustified, no attempt was made by the Government to see that the finances are put on a proper footing by the restoration of these salary cuts.

Now, Sir, as has been pointed out by the Leader of the Opposition, the best way to have met the situation would have been not to restore the cuts, because, after all, it is a matter of a few crores which would have been affected if the vote of this House had been accepted. There are various ways by which the situation could have been met. In the

first place, the salary cuts could have been retained. Secondly, I refer to that allocation of a crore of rupees which the Government of India want to make over to the Provincial Governments for rural reconstruction and rural improvement schemes. In that matter also, we have made it abundantly clear that the chances are that that money will be absolutely misspent and will not be fully utilised for the purposes for which it is meant. That would have given the Government a crore of rupees. After all, there was no urgency in making over that money to the Provincial Governments. What improvement can there be in the condition of the village people when the Government of India and all the Local Governments in India are playing ducks and drakes with public money? This very morning, in answer to a question of mine, Government have admitted that they spent about 26 lakhs of rupees in building the "India Gate". I submit that I would not spend even 26 hundred rupees for a gate like that.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, Government have never admitted that 26 crores have been spent on New Delhi.

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: What was the amount?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have said several times in this House that the amount was 15 crores. (Laughter.)

Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Huq: I am talking of the "India Gate", and if it has cost 15 crores, so much the worse for it. (Laughter.) Whatever that may be, it shows the manner in which the public money is wasted according to the schemes of those who are in power. I submit that, instead of coming to this House and asking us to eat our own votes and go against our own conscience, there were various other methods by which the situation could have been met. The least that can be said is that the Government have been very ill-advised in taking the step they have taken. It shows, without the least manner of doubt, that all these reforms are a sham and a farce, and people, who have reposed some confidence in the future, can take a lesson from this as to the futility of the reforms that are coming. I submit that, considered from all points of view, the best that the Government can do is to respect our votes at least to some extent, and, as regards any balance that may remain, there are other ways of meeting the situation. I do not wish to take up the time of the House, but I may tell the Members on the other side that their speeches are not going to improve the situation in any way. It is no use telling us that the Bill should be restored. We are perfectly convinced that it should not be restored, and I do hope the House will once again vindicate itself and reject this motion by the same majority by which the former motions were passed. (Applause.)

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I rise on a point of personal explanation. I am afraid, I misheard my Honourable friend. (Laughter.) I now understand that he said that 26 lakhs have been spent on the War Memorial. That, Sir, was the reason I misheard him. He merely multiplied the correct figure over four times. The actual amount spent on the "War Memorial", as I explained in my reply to a question this morning, was six lakhs. I think, therefore, I had some justification for misunderstanding what he said.

Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq: Even then it was extravagant.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Mr. President, we are now discussing not merely the amendment that has been placed before this House by the Honourable the Finance Member. We are really discussing the constitutional powers of this House *vis-a-vis* the Government. Sir, I trust I will not be considered audacious when I say that I am in a particularly strong position to discuss this point. I was one of those who voted against the amendment of my Honourable friends to lower the salt tax and I had occasion to warn the House that it was in the power of the Government to take advantage of any very big and serious cut in the budget such as three crores. I warned them that it was in the power of the Government to do so. But I join my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, in expressing my sincere and honest regret that Government should have acted as they have done. If they believe that they cannot spare these three crores of rupees out of the salt tax, there were other amendments moved by Honourable Members in this House, passed by very large majorities, which they could have and should have, accepted; and, therefore, the constitutional position, as I understand it, is that where this side of the House passes Resolutions and amendments by large majorities—majorities which consist of the whole of the Opposition, including the European Group—such Resolutions should be treated with greater respect than they have been treated by the Government. Therefore, I join with my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, in stating openly in this House that I am one of those who believe that the Members of Government in advising the Governor General to do what he has done, have acted in a spirit of complete irresponsibility. (Opposition Cheers.) The Act under which we work was never intended to have been taken advantage of by Government, as has been done. I will give you one or two examples to bring it home to Honourable Members of Government. We expressed a definite opinion—it may be only by a majority of one—on skins: it may be that there was a great difference of opinion in this House: it was a question of policy, it was not a question of finance: that amendment put seven lakhs of rupees into the pockets of Government. How did they treat that opinion on policy expressed by this side of the House? Complete rejection. We may have disagreed with the Honourable the Finance Member on that question of policy. I will tell my Honourable friend what made me vote, as I did, on that proposition with the majority. It was the language he used in his speech in moving and asking this House to adopt his proposal. (Opposition Cheers.)

An Honourable Member: Habit.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: It was his language in that speech, and I would ask him to read that paragraph again; and may I tell him that the amendment was carried due to the language he used in his speech: for I know that more than one Member of this House voted against the Government on account of the few lines in that speech. We also moved an amendment, and carried it by a very large majority that a one anna stamp should carry one tola instead of half a tola as hitherto: it would have cost the Government 16 lakhs of rupees: it was supported by, shall I say, nearly every non-official elected Member of this House. With what respect was it treated? Rejection.

Then, we asked that incomes between 1,000 and 2,000 should not be taxed by way of income-tax. That was a measure that came into existence by certification: we asked Government to relieve that class of people of the burden which they placed upon them by certification. It would have cost about 36 to 40 lakhs. How did they respect that vote of the House? Complete rejection. There were other amendments we moved. Leaving aside this salt tax, the amendments moved and carried by this House would have cost Government according to my calculation, about 140 lakhs. Taking for the sake of argument that the Finance Member believed he could not afford 140 lakhs, can he contend that he could not have afforded 14 lakhs, or 30 lakhs, or 40 lakhs or 50 lakhs? He cannot contend that. He himself admits, and he has admitted, that there is scope for difference of opinion as to his estimates of revenue. . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I have not.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: No scope for difference of opinion at all?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I have said that you might have differences of opinion on some of the items but that, on the estimates as a whole, I say there is absolutely no reason for assuming that there is any substantial margin for pushing them up as the Honourable Member wants.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I thought the Honourable Member gave us an assurance that if he proved to be wrong he would learn the lesson next year. That is what he actually said: that if he proved to be wrong and we proved to be right, he would learn the lesson next year, and I, on my behalf, told him that if he proved to be right and we proved to be wrong, I would take off my hat to him and allow myself to be taxed; but, if I proved to be right, I asked him what his position was: I got no answer to that. Now, under these circumstances, I think this side of the House has got strong grounds for complaint and I think they ought to express their opinion in no indefinite terms, that the advice tendered by the opposite Benches to His Excellency the Governor General was the worst advice that they could have tendered (Opposition Cheers) at this present juncture. If ever they gave evidence, if ever they proved conclusively that a radical change is required in the present Constitution, that evidence has been supplied by the Benches opposite yesterday and confirmed today. (Opposition Cheers.) I will again repeat that when this Constitution was enacted, it was never intended that the powers that were given to the Government should be abused. Now, what about these safeguards that are coming in? Are they going to be used in the same way?

Some Honourable Members: "Of course", and "Worse".

Mr. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I think they will be used, not the Act!

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I have contended all along that these safeguards will prove to be the greatest hindrance to Government in the future; and I am more convinced than ever that these so-called safeguards can be taken advantage of, most unnecessarily taken advantage of, by an irresponsible Government; and the worst of it all is that we, who are moderates, we, who are really loyal to the British Government, are deprived

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of every argument that we can place before our constituents (Opposition Cheers) by the very Government whom we support. I will tell you that after the announcement made by you, Sir, yesterday, not one but two of my friends came to me and said: "What answer have we got to give to our constituents? Will not they say that they made a mistake in sending us to this House, and that they should rather have sent a Congressman?" The answer that Government have given to the country is that they were right in sending Congressmen: they were wrong in sending men like my humble self. No amount of pleading, no amount of argument,

1 P.M. seems to be of any use. Surely, Government could have accepted one small amendment, but they did not. With what heart can I go with the Government against this salt tax now, after they have defied the House including the European Group. (Hear, hear.) What did they ask? They asked for two or three things. They asked for a little relief in postal facilities, they voted for a one anna one tola letter. What did you give them? A big zero. (Loud Laughter.)

Now, Sir, the argument that Government have is the argument that I warned these Benches the Government would use, and that is, if we made a very big hole in the budget, they would be justified in certifying the whole. That is the argument, the only argument they can use. It is a poor argument, and it is an argument, if I may say so most frankly and sincerely, of a weak Government, of a Government that is not able to discriminate between the several amendments and make a choice. Under the Constitution under which we work, it is for us, by passing amendments, to tell Government how we believe the Finance Bill ought to be amended. It is then for Government to consider our amendments and tell us which one of those that we have passed, they will accept. The final discretion is in their hands. They have taken advantage of the fact that there were many amendments to state that they could not make any choice at all. Surely, they could have applied their minds a little more carefully to these amendments if they wanted to, and they could have openly said, as I would have said, if I had been one of them, that they could not accept just now the salt tax reduction as that would make a big hole in the Budget but they would certify it and would consider all the other amendments. I would again ask the Government Benches—what right had they to advise the Governor General to certify their proposal on skins? It is a question of policy—it is not a question of finance.

An Honourable Member: They are thick skinned.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: There are so many of my friends who voted with the Government and who believed that Government acted rightly—I am not talking of the question on merits,—I am talking on the constitutional aspect of the case,—what right had the Government to mislead the Governor General, what right had they to defy us in this small matter? Did the Constitution contemplate that the Government should defy us in this matter,—they can defy us on the question of big cuts, but in a matter like this, can they defy us? If I were on the Government Benches I would refuse at this stage to lower the salt tax, but on the other hand I would rather tender my resignation as a Member of Government (Hear, hear) than allow myself. . . .

An Honourable Member: Note Sir Nripendra Sircar!

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: . . . . . to be made an instrument to defy the whole of the Opposition at the present stage of our political position in this country. Sir, Honourable Members opposite have played into the hands of their enemies, they have played into the hands of our opponents, they have weakened our hands, they have weakened the hands of men who have come here to help the Government, to do what is right in the interests of India, to take advantage of the Constitution as it stands, both for the advantage of Government and the people. Sir, Government have weakend our hands, and let me tell them that they will realise their mistake, much more, in a short time to come than they are able to realise today. I say without hesitation that they have not grasped the real mischief they have done. Sir, they will rouse the country to a sense of indignation. There may be some Honourable Members on the opposite Benches who may not yet have gained sufficient experience of political life in India, but there cannot be any excuse for others who are well conversant with the political position in this country, and who ought to have been still better conversant than they have proved to be on the present occasion. Mr. President, although, under other circumstances, I would have gone into the lobby with the Government against a lowering of the salt tax, under present conditions, yet, on the present occasion, since every one of us has been defied, since the opinion of every one of us has been turned down . . . . .

An Honourable Member: Including the opinion of the European Group.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: . . . . I propose not to go into the Government Lobby (Hear, hear and Applause), but I will remain neutral (Laughter),—I will not go into the Government Lobby. This vote, I take it, Mr. President, is not on the narrower issue of whether the salt tax should be re-instated in the budget or not, it is a vote on our opinion on the conduct of Government and the advice they have tendered to His Excellency the Governor General. **(Cheers.)**

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): Sir, I was considerably surprised this morning when the Honourable the Finance Member came with a most unusual proposal, namely the present amendment without even a word in support of it. (Hear, hear.) I thought he had at least realised that he was coming with an uncommon proposal and he had to perform a most unpleasant and difficult duty, and, therefore, he had to make at least an apologetic speech in defence of that uncommon motion. That motion amounted to nothing short of defiance of the entire vote of this House, and, therefore, he should have been prepared to make some kind of defence, to show some plausible ground, which necessitated him to come with a proposal of that kind.

An Honourable Member: He has no defence.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Possibly that is true, he has no defence, and, if that is so, he should not have given that kind of advice to His Excellency the Viceroy. He did not care to think what impression, in adopting the defiant attitude he did, his motion was going to produce on this House, he did not mind the consequences it might have upon the attitude of this House, by putting a motion of that kind before the House, without even

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making a plausible defence about it. Now, Sir, what are the grounds on which the Government can come with a motion like this? The only ground to which reference was made by my friend, the Leader of the Opposition, was, not one of merits, but the ground that they have a technical right of doing a thing like that. That is all they can say. The Leader of the Opposition did not care to examine even this plea very carefully, because he probably thought beneath his dignity to get into the technical questions, but I myself doubt whether they have got even a technical plea in their favour in bringing forward a motion like this. Sir, the right to bring in a recommended Bill is clearly specified in Legislative Rule 36A. With your permission I would draw the attention of the House to the terms of that rule. It says:

"When a dilatory motion has been carried in either Chamber in respect of a Government Bill or either Chamber refuses to take into consideration or to refer to Select Committee or to pass any Government Bill, and, thereafter, the Governor General recommends that the Bill be passed in a particular form, a motion may be made in either Chamber for leave to introduce the Bill and . . . " and so on.

The motion for leave to introduce the recommended Bill in the Chamber can be made under certain conditions. I want to say that the Finance Bill was before this House. No dilatory motion regarding that Bill was passed. No motion to refer it to a Select Committee was made and no such motion was defeated, and, I say, the Finance Bill was not rejected also by this House. It cannot be said that it was not passed by this House. It was at that particular stage when the House could have expressed its final opinion, that the passage of the Bill has been intercepted by the Finance Member. So, none of the conditions under which the Governor General would have been justified in signing and sending a recommended Bill and asking the Member to ask for leave of this House to introduce it, has been fulfilled so far as the present Bill is concerned. It may be said that under Legislative Rule 36B (3):

"Where during the passage of a Bill, in either Chamber, the Governor General makes a recommendation in respect thereof, and any clause of the Bill has been agreed to, or any amendment has been made, in a form inconsistent with the form recommended, the Member in charge of the Bill may move any amendment etc."

I want to suggest that the words "during the passage of the Bill" in this rule are controlled by the conditions which are mentioned in Legislative Rule 36A, and those conditions lay down the specific procedure which the Governor General has to adopt or the Finance Member has to adopt for the initiation of the recommended Bill in either Chamber. The conditions which are laid down in Rule 36A have to be literally fulfilled. You cannot interpret them in any other way except most strictly to the very letter in which it is mentioned there. I want to know which of the above conditions has been fulfilled so far as the present Finance Bill recommended by H. E. the Viceroy is concerned. Was any dilatory motion regarding the Finance Bill carried in this House? Did either Chamber—the present Chamber where it was introduced—did this Chamber refuse to take it into consideration, or did it refuse to refer it to a Select Committee, or to pass it at all? A motion for consideration was before the House, it was carried and the Bill was being considered clause by clause. Whether the Bill would have been passed or not was a thing that could have been known by the Government only if the third reading of the Bill had been

moved. It was at the stage, *viz.*, if the motion for third reading had been rejected and the House had, therefore, failed to pass the Bill—it was at that stage alone that the Government could have constitutionally come forward with this recommendation. In that case the Governor General could have been possibly justified in using the powers that are given to him under this rule 36A. But, so long as none of these conditions are fulfilled, I say even the legal ground on which the motion is justified is taken off from below their feet. They are without any ground either on merits or on law. I wanted to raise a point of order at the very beginning on this point, but I did not want to waste the time of the House because I know what is going to be the ultimate fate of this Bill after all. I wanted the time of neither Honourable Members over there to be wasted nor of those on this side, which is more precious than the time of the Honourable Members on the Government Benches. For every minute they sit there they earn their wages, but for every minute we sit here we lose and do not get anything more than Rs. 20 per day. So far as the time of the House is concerned, we are more anxious to save it. My point is that even the legal and technical ground on which they could have brought a motion like this with some justification does not exist there in regard to the recommended Bill before the House. About the merits, Mr. Fuzlul Huq and Sir Cowasji Jehangir have analysed the position very clearly and shown that it could not reasonably be said that Government would have been unable to make up the amount that is deducted on account of the reduction of revenue which we have effected by virtue of the amendments we have carried. If the Government wanted to give relief to the taxpayer and if that idea had been present in their minds from the very beginning, as soon as they saw that they were going to have a surplus budget this year, I am sure they would have been more prudent and more cautious in arranging their measures and not plunged headlong into all those methods which made it impossible for the Government to save anything for giving any relief to the poor taxpayer. They were determined not to give relief to the taxpayer this year on the ground that this was only a temporary surplus in their hand. The plea of temporary surplus, the plea that the saving was of a non-recurrent nature was all the excuse on which the Finance Member harped all these days. He gave no other excuse. I heard his speeches very carefully, and all he was saying was that we could not give any relief to the taxpayer because the surplus was of a non-recurrent nature. On that point we join issue with him, but this is not the time to argue that question and enter into an examination of all the points that have been discussed before in this House. I only want to urge on the House that a Bill which can be defended neither on the ground of law nor on the ground of merits is one which, apart any question of prestige of the House, must be summarily rejected. And, so far as we are concerned, there is a third ground which is also a ground of extraordinary importance to us. We all of us have considered every proposal contained in the Finance Bill very carefully. After a great deal of cogitation and deliberation and long and anxious discussion we have recorded our votes. Now, the Government say, "your vote may be there, but we do not care for it". What is our reply to it? "We know what we have done and we do not care what you want to do. We refuse to sanction anything that you bring before us in defiance of our votes which we have already recorded." That is the only honourable course and I have no doubt that my non-official friends on this side also with whom I have now the privilege of sitting and coming

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

into close association, and whose co-operation I do value most—I plead most earnestly—only the other day on the floor of the House I appealed to them and my appeal did not go unheeded—I hope that they will also resent the rebuff that they have received and join with us in recording a joint, combined and consistent vote by rejecting this Bill. (Cheers.)

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): With your permission, Sir, I desire to make a statement with regard to the probable course of Government business during the remainder of the Session. So far, Sir, we have not asked you for any direction as to the days in next week on which the Assembly should sit, and I would suggest that your direction should be that the Assembly will sit on Monday, the 8th, and, thereafter, as the state of business may require. I venture, however, to express the hope that Members on all sides of the House will co-operate with Government to dispose of the outstanding business as expeditiously as may be.

On Monday, if the Finance Bill has been disposed of today, the first business will be the consideration of two Supplementary Demands,—one in connection with Pusa and the other in connection with the Jubilee celebrations. If the Finance Bill is not finished today, that Bill will naturally have precedence on Monday. After the disposal of the Supplementary Demands it may be expected that the remaining business already announced will be brought forward.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will sit on Monday.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—*contd.*

Sir Leslie Hudson (Bombay: European): Sir, the particular amendment now before the House relates to the salt duty and restores it to the level at which it stood in the original Finance Bill. When the amendment to the original Bill was carried by this House we voted against it and were this now the sole issue we should vote for the recommended amendment which is before us but the procedure on a recommended Bill is such that should this amendment be rejected there would not be, I believe, another opportunity of stating our general attitude to the position taken up by the Government. We are frankly disappointed that the Government have not seen their way to accept some at any rate of the amendments supported by this Group and accepted by this House and that, as

yet, the Honourable the Finance Member has given no explanation of the reasons which have led him finally, on review of all the amendments, to take this view. We believe that some at least of these amendments might have been accepted without detriment to the budgetary position and that such action would have been in the interests of this country. We recognise that Government are alone responsible for the consequences of their policy. We also are responsible to our constituents for the fullest expression of their views. Government cannot, therefore, expect us to shirk those responsibilities and share theirs when they have not heeded our representations. In these circumstances, and in order to express our disappointment, we propose to remain neutral on this side.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, I supported by speech, and voted in favour of, the reduction of the salt duty. It is true that as regards the reduction of the postal rates and of the income-tax on lower incomes, I was not in favour, but, Sir, today, on account of the threat which the Government of India are holding over our heads, I propose to enter my emphatic protest over the action of the Government of India in thwarting the will of the Legislature. The justification which the Government of India plead for their action is the deficit caused by the action of the Legislature amounting to four or five crores of rupees. I hold, Sir, that this justification is not sufficient. The main argument given by the Government of India is that this deficit will shake the credit of the country. I think that the investors who are likely to invest money in India know the fact very well that the budget of the previous year has closed with a surplus of three crores of rupees and, if they know this fact, I am quite sure the credit of the country is not likely to be shaken, when we are not reducing the taxation to a large amount. Moreover, the Government of India themselves, it is true, with the consent of the House, have disposed of this surplus instead of carrying it over to the current year. To carry over the surplus to the next year is not a financial practice unknown in the world. Moreover, I feel that when the Assembly reduced taxation, the vote of the Assembly cannot be construed as a denial to give money to Government by alternative sources of revenue. I construe the vote of the Assembly as a demand for readjustment of the scheme of taxation. If, after the salt duty was reduced, the Government of India had brought forward alternative proposals the Assembly might have accepted them. I think the Government of India failed in their duty to the Legislature in not giving it an opportunity to vote for an alternative scheme of taxation. I wonder, Sir, why the Government of India, instead of trying to give effect to the wishes of the Legislature and placing before them an alternative scheme of taxation, should have insisted upon an extrordinary course which is sure to lead to the powers of certification being used. It may be that the Government of India feel that the monopoly of financial knowledge is theirs. May I very humbly suggest that a little more modesty might do them some good and might save the country from a great deal of harm? Moreover, Sir, the implication of the statement issued in favour of the proposal which the Government of India is making—that they care for the peace, tranquillity and interests of British India much more than the Members of the Legislature—is unnecessarily offensive. I feel, Sir, that the attitude of the Government of India towards this Legislature is fast developing into an attitude of contempt. We have seen during this Session that our vote on the

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

Joint Parliamentary Committee Report was not heeded. Our vote on the Indo-British Treaty had no effect on them. Leaving aside these big issues, Sir, you have seen, and we have all seen, how the Government of India are trying even to prevent a discussion by raising points of order. Sir, to my mind, this is a tendency to preventing a proper form of constitutional and parliamentary government developing in this country. (Hear, hear.) I suspect, Sir, that the doctrines of Mussolini and Hitler are gradually taking possession of the Members of the Government of India.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): They do not raise points of order!

Mr. M. S. Aney: The point of the bayonet, I believe

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Yes, exactly.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, the action of the Government of India is irresponsible. Why should they place the Finance Bill before the Legislature if no consideration is to be shown to the views expressed by the Legislature? (Hear, hear.) I feel, Sir, this attitude of irresponsibility to the Legislature, this attitude of contempt for the Legislature, this attitude of contempt also for the parliamentary form of government is a crime in any system of responsible government. Mr. President, it is said that the Governor General has recommended this Bill in the interest of the peace, tranquillity and of safeguarding the interests of British India. May I say, Sir, that, if there is any danger to the peace, tranquillity and the interests of British India, there is a greater danger in the attitude which the Government of India have taken in ignoring the will of the Legislature than in the action taken by the Legislature itself. It is said, Sir, that the action of the Legislature has mutilated the Finance Bill. I hold that the course which the Government of India have taken today is an outrage on the Constitution. (Hear, hear.) I feel, Sir, that the course which the Government of India have taken does not augur well for the future of this country. I, therefore, propose to vote against the amendment moved by the Honourable the Finance Member. (Loud Applause.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Mr. President, it is impossible to speak with restraint on the situation which has been created in the House yesterday, and continues today. But my Leader, Sir, in his magnificent speech this morning, if I may say so respectfully, has set such a high standard of restraint and dignified resentment against this Government, that I propose humbly to follow his example and state our position. Before I do so, Mr. President, I should like to acknowledge, if I may, the partially friendly attitude of the European Group of this House, on this matter. I wish they had gone the whole hog, and gone into the Lobby with us against the Government, but I am willing to wait. They are beginning to learn that the colour of the Opposition in the House makes no difference to this Government. (Laughter.) The Government are so full of their own sense of power and authority, they are so full of the soundness of their financial doctrines recently imported from Whitehall, they are so full of the feeling

that, whatever they do not know in "financial wisdom" is not worth knowing, that they will turn down all our recommendations, without any hesitation whatever. But still, Sir, it is a good beginning for my Honourable friends to remain neutral. I hope by our friendly co-operation in this House and outside they will begin to see that we are the men who represent the people of this country, and that their future lies in friendly co-operation with us, and not in co-operation with a dying Government. (Laughter.)

As for the procedure, which has been followed in respect of this Bill, Mr. President, I had almost raised a point of order. (Laughter.) But, Sir, unfortunately for me, there is a ruling, and that by President Patel, and, therefore, I gave it up but I should like to point out to the House the extraordinary procedure followed in respect of this Finance Bill. Section 67B of the Government of India Act provides that, where either Chamber refuses leave to introduce a Bill or omits to pass a Bill in a recommended form, etc., I should have expected, Sir, that the Government of India, if they felt that the Finance Bill, as introduced by the Honourable the Finance Member, from A to Z, was sacrosanct, including the removal of the export duty on skins, causing a loss of about Rs. 7 or 8 lakhs to the Government,—that all the clauses of the Bill are essential for the purpose of the peace, tranquillity, safety and interests of the country, would have come to this House and said at the very beginning: "we give you this Finance Bill with a clear notice that we shall accept no amendment whatever, even if you present us with Rs. 7 or 8 lakhs, and we must stand by this Bill." They did not do so. I submit, Mr. President, that unless the Honourable the Finance Member convinces this House that within the twenty-four hours or less between the last vote on the amendments on this Bill in the House and the recommendation, some new facts emerged which made him change his views, he misrepresented the position to the House. When he presented the Bill, listened to our arguments, gave counter-arguments, voted against our amendments, the whole thing was a farce, because the Government had made up their mind that, whatever the vote here was going to be, they were going to recommend the Bill, exactly as they introduced it. Then, I ask, why in the name of common sense did they not come before this House and say: "We consider the Bill essential for the purposes of the Government of India Act? Therefore, you shall not touch the Bill in any single comma or semi-colon." That, Sir, made us feel that the Bill would take its normal course. What happens is this. The Finance Bill is introduced, amendments are moved, some are defeated, most are carried, and suddenly the Honourable the Finance Member gets up and says: "I will not move the third reading of the Bill." So, the Finance Bill hangs in mid-air, and next morning we hear that there is a new Finance Bill, that old Finance Bill in a new form, the recommended form.

Now, Sir, they have made a series of rules under the rule-making power. Rule 36B is the rule under which this Bill is sought to be placed before this House. Rule 36B, sub-rule (3) says:

"Where during the passage of a Bill in either Chamber the Governor General makes a recommendation in respect thereof, and any clause of the Bill has been agreed to, or any amendment has been made, in a form inconsistent with the form recommended, the Member in charge of the Bill may move any amendment which, if accepted would bring the Bill into the form recommended."

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

I ask, whether the Bill which was originally introduced by the Honourable the Finance Member is in the stage, which can be called accurately, "during the passage of the Bill". I submit not. The Bill can be said to be, "during the passage" either at the time of the first reading, that is the introduction stage, or the second reading, that is the discussion and voting on amendments, or when the third reading stage is in progress. In the case of this Bill, the first and second reading stages are over, and the third reading stage is not reached. The Bill, therefore, is in a state of suspended animation. Therefore, there is no Bill in respect of which it can be said that the Bill is in the course of passage.

But, Sir, I am not going to press that objection because we want to convince this House and the public outside that the vote against this procedure of Government is not on a technical matter but on a high moral issue, that is, whether the people of this country will have any voice in the Government of this country, or only naked autocracy shall rule in this country. It seems to me that, although I have no desire to speak for the other House, a bi-cameral Legislature cannot be more grossly insulted if, before you take it to the other House, you recommend it and certify it and tell the Council of State: "No, whatever we may do, we shall certify it here and now." I suggest that normal course would have been for the Bill to be placed before the other House, and for a joint meeting of both Houses being summoned to get the verdict of the people of the House, as represented in both Houses. But, ever since this Government of India Act was enacted, to the best of my recollection and information, no such joint sitting has ever been convened. It seems to me that it is a procedure which, besides being irregular, is also an insult to the other House.

Now, Sir, I also want to draw the attention of the House to the difference in the wording between section 67 and section 67B of the Government of India Act. Section 67 which deals with the general budget procedure gives the power to the Governor General if he is satisfied that any demand which has been refused by the Assembly is essential to the discharge of his responsibilities, to act, as if it has been assented to. This is a much more comprehensive phrase, which says that the Governor General can assent to any demand turned down by this House, if he considers that it is essential to the discharge of his responsibilities. Now, Sir, turn to section 67B of the Act. The only position in which the Governor General can recommend the Bill is that the passage of the Bill is essential for the safety, tranquillity, or interests of British India or any part thereof. My Honourable friend, the Finance Member, referred more than once in his speeches to the credit of India. On that matter, I want to draw the attention of the House to the fact that, in the Government of India Bill, which is now being passed by the House of Commons, for the first time the words "credit of India" have been introduced. They are not included in "the interests of India", for if they were, there was no need to introduce the new phrase "credit of India". In any case, my point is that the phrase "safety, tranquillity or interests of British India" is much more restrictive in its scope than the phrase "necessary for the discharge of his responsibilities". I, therefore, think and I ask the House to consider whether the Governor General's powers under section 67B are not very much more restrictive.

Now, Sir, there is one curious feature about this certificate or recommendation. I wonder if copies of the Oxford English Dictionary are available in sufficient number in Delhi. I do not know, because I find the Honourable the Finance Member began by saying that the Finance Bill is mutilated, and the Governor General ends by saying that the Finance Bill is mutilated. Unless it is a case of great wits jumping together and hitting at the same phrases, it seems to me that not even a fresh mind was brought to bear upon this question, let alone fresh consideration. It is the Griggian formula which has held the field. He said that the Finance Bill had been mutilated and here comes the recommendation that the Finance Bill has been mutilated. Secondly, he said that it is part of a policy to apply the surplus to non-recurring expenditure. Exactly the same words appear in the recommendation. Now, Sir, may I ask my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, to tell me and this House, if he be good enough, how the safety, tranquillity or the interests of British India are likely to be adversely affected by cutting down all the demands for taxes to the tune of about 4 or 5 crores? My Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, mentioned that, and I want merely to repeat it. There was a ten per cent. cut in salaries, not very long ago. Supposing the Government re-imposed the ten per cent. cut in salaries, they will be able to get, on the calculation they have placed before the House, roughly about 4 crores, almost the entire amount required to accept all the amendments practically unanimously carried by this House. May I ask my Honourable friend whether it is essential for the safety, tranquillity or interests of British India that every single vote of this House should be trampled down, and the services should not have a ten per cent. cut in their salaries? Did he apply his mind to it? Will he kindly tell this House how it is better for the safety, tranquillity or the interests of British India that the people's representatives in the House should be so grossly insulted, and the services should not have a single pice cut off? Is that a position which he can justify, if he has any knowledge of the procedure in the House of Commons? Will any responsible Chancellor of the Exchequer tell the House of Commons: I do not accept a single vote and I won't have a single pie reduced in the pay sheet of the services of the Government?

An Honourable Member: This is not the House of Commons.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I know this is not the House of Commons, but often times he reminds us of the House of Commons, of his hitting back when he is hit. I will come to that presently. I am merely putting it, because he says: "I am a responsible man and you are not." I am asking him whether his responsibility means the turning down of every demand of this House, which may be supported, as my Honourable friend, the Baronet from Bombay, said, by Europeans and by the independent vote of every Member of this House. And what is the explanation for saying: "I won't take seven lakhs of revenue"? Can any inconsistency go further? My Honourable friend says that his budget cannot be balanced, but he won't take seven or eight lakhs because it is not in the interests of the agriculturist. This shows the concern of the wolf for the sheep, so that they may fatten and live upon it. What became of these agricultural interests between the 1st April and yesterday? Why did they not pass an Ordinance, imposing the duty on wheat and rice, for the protection of those interests? They have got Ordinances galore for postal rates, income-tax and other things, but when it comes to agriculturists there is no Ordinance. It can wait for months.

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

Then, Sir, so far as last year's surplus is concerned, if I understood the Honourable the Finance Member aright, it seems to me that the vote of the House for a crore and odd for Civil Aviation and Broadcasting is a mere token vote. The Honourable the Finance Member is going to come here with further demands, either in the form of token demands or demands for schemes which have been completed, and he will come for further grants of money. Why should he not suspend them for the next year, and take that money also for this purpose, and ultimately why should not the Finance Member contemplate with equanimity a possible deficit in the next year? This is not the first time that the Governments have to face deficit budgets, nor even the first time for the Government of India; and after all, Sir, if his calculations prove to be wrong even on the side of excess estimates, I do not think, Sir, the country will come to a critical situation. On the other hand it seems to me, taking all relevant expert opinion on the matter into consideration, that there will be no deficit at all, even if the Government accept all these reductions which the House has made. So far as the salt tax is concerned, the Congress position is that we should abolish the tax altogether, but, out of deference to the opinion of non-Congress Members in this House, we agreed to concentrate on the reduction by eight annas of the salt duty. That, therefore, was a vote, not of the Congress Party alone, but of all the other independent Parties in this House, who are willing to work and vote with the Congress, wherever we can find points of agreement. It, therefore, seems to me that, in this matter of salt tax, the Government cannot long resist this demand. They will have to accept it sooner or later, and I suggest they accept it at once.

I do not want, Sir, to take more of the time of the House in suggesting more ways of making both ends meet, for, as my Honourable friend reminds me, if it is a case of accepting arguments, they should have yielded long ago. But, if I am giving a few more arguments, I am doing so in order to expose more and more thoroughly the real position of the bureaucracy, in the eyes of my people. I am quite content that they should know that these are autocrats who have no use for any kind of advice, and who are determined to rule this country with the naked sword.

I only want to say just one or two things about the Honourable the Finance Member's concluding speech on the first stage of the Bill, in disposing of our suggestions for making both ends meet in this country. He said referring to me:

> "Mr. Satyamurti's method is typical of the early stages of all extremist Left-Wing parties. Knowing that they will never have to undertake the responsibility of carrying out their promises or putting their wild cat schemes into effect, they, with bacchanalian abandon, promise everything to every-body."

Now, Sir, I put it to my Honourable friend that this is literally adding insult to injury.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: It was not intended to.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: You do so many things which you do not intend to. But you have never done one thing which you ought to have done. You have never done anything to listen to the views of this House. Whatever else you do is unintentional, and the one intention my Honourable friend has is not to listen to the views of this House. "Knowing that they will never have to undertake the responsibility of carrying out their promises or putting their wild cat schemes into effect" is saying, what he ought not to have said. He says, "we will not take responsibility". Will my Honourable friend oblige me by going out of that Bench? And I will oblige him by crossing over and taking his seat. Why does he often repeat that we do not want to take responsibility? We should govern this country from this very evening much better than he can ever hope to govern. Why does he say that we will not take responsibility? Will you walk out? Why do you stick on there? (Laughter.) That is not right. The other day my Honourable friend said, "if he is hit, he will have to hit back". I say, by all means hit back, but play the sportsman. What is the use of fighting, without conforming to the rules of the game? My victories are my defeats and your defeats are your victories. Is that not our position here? I win all the time against you, but yet every time you are defeated, you consider that you have won every time. Is that a sportsman's game? Why do you want to say that you want to fight? If you want to fight, come out. I will show you what fight is. (Laughter.) I make a sporting offer to my Honourable friend. Let him resign his seat and stand for any constituency anywhere in this country, in the Punjab or in Madras or in Sind, or even in any of the European constituencies. I will give him a thumping defeat, which he will not forget the rest of his life. Therefore, it seems to me, to say that we have no responsibility is nonsense. We have a full sense of responsibility. We speak with our people behind us. We speak with the knowledge that we have to govern this country sooner than my Honourable friend imagines. We know *Swaraj* is coming, we know we are going to govern this country, and we shall fulfill all the promises that have been put forward from this side of the House. There is no use saying that we are people who have no sense of responsibility. No, Sir, the boot is on the other leg. (Hear, hear.)

My Honourable friend, the Finance Member, has been quoting a lot of German and of French authors. I do not know any of those languages. But I know of one Indian language, Sanskrit, and I wonder if he has heard of it.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Yes, I have heard of it, but I do not know it.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I will give my Honourable friend a quotation in Sanskrit.

An Honourable Member: But do not translate it.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I will give the quotation in Sanskrit which is. *"Prajanameva Bhutyartham Sa Thabhyo Balimagrahit"*.

Let my Honourable friend learn its meaning and digest it, till we meet in Simla again. Let him get it translated by somebody. It is a quotation which will stand my Honourable friend in good stead, if he is to remain here for the next four years. That is the ancient Hindu principle of taxation, and your principles are all wrong.

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

Sir, there is one phrase which is often used about Government's action, that is, melancholy meanness. It is a hackneyed phrase, and so I will not use it; but the Government's action today in respect to the Finance Bill is a policy of petty vindictiveness. I am glad that they have become vindictive, for it denotes a consciousness of their weakness, and a consciousness of our growing strength. They have now realised that they must be vindictive, and that is why they cannot or will not accept any one of our suggestions.

Sir, my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, belongs to a Government, of which I believe the Honourable the Home Member is also a respected Member. The Honourable the Finance Member calls us a "communist caucus". The Leader of the Opposition replied to it, but may I quote what the Honourable the Home Member said about the relation of the Communist party to the Congress? This is what the Honourable the Home Member says:

"I may state that the Communist party in India hates the Congress and all its works even more bitterly than it hates the Government and its works."

May I ask who is right? Sir James Grigg or Sir Henry Craik. I leave it to them to solve this riddle. I do, however, suggest to my Honourable friend, not to make these statements without the book. (Interruption.)

I am so happy that my Honourable friends of the European Group are not going to vote with the Government. I am so happy that my Honourable friend, the Baronet from Bombay, is not going to vote with the Government. I am so happy that we are going to inflict a defeat on the Government again, and I am so happy, above all, that we shall not hear any more of the Honourable the Finance Member's gibes and cheap sneers.

In conclusion, I need not say very much more; but I do suggest to the House, most respectfully, that we, on this side of the House, are thoroughly satisfied with our work in this Session. We have inflicted not 13 but nearly 20 defeats on this Government; we have exposed them in their naked autocracy before our people. We want our people to feel that there is no chance of anything good being done for them by this Government, and the only remedy for that is Swaraj, that is to say, Government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Sir, my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, quoted Abraham Lincoln. If there is such a thing as a man turning in his grave, I am sure Abraham Lincoln must have turned in his grave many times, to hear Sir James Grigg quote him. You can fool some people all the time,—he cannot; you can fool all the people some of the time,—he cannot; but you cannot fool all the people all the time. I agree. We, on this side, know that this Government has been found out. Our people know that there is nothing doing with this Government; and this latest act of Government, in turning down every amendment, reasonable or unreasonable, according as Government looks at them, is proof positive to us, that we have no use for this Government, that we must replace it, as early as possible. And, I hope, Sir, that this House, by a significant vote, will make it clear that the remedy for our ills lies in *Purna* Swaraj, and nothing else.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, it is only by your permission and by the courtesy of the House that I may speak again on this amendment; and having been given this indulgence I do not intend to trespass long on the courtesy of the House and I will do my best to preserve a sense of moderation and high seriousness, even in the face of the somewhat provocative challenge of my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, to give him another dose of gibes and sneers before he gets to Simla. May I first try and place this constitutional question in proper perspective by reading a short passage from a speech by my predecessor on a precisely similar occasion five years ago:

"Sir, the other general line of argument to which we have listened is that by taking the action which we took we were denying to the Opposition any chance of feeling a real sense of responsibility."

I may say here that to the best of my recollection this was the certification of a Finance Bill to restore a cut of 65 lakhs on salt:

"I think, Sir, it must be admitted on all sides that the present stage of Government and of the constitution is a very difficult stage. We, here on our side, are responsible for carrying on the business of the country; and we cannot put that responsibility on other shoulders. We are all of us anxious to get such advantage as we can from Honourable Members on the other side, and, where we consider it consistent with the public interests, to give effect to their views. But my Honourable friend, Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar, has told us that we are not to expect help from the other side, that they are out to oppose the Government and to make things difficult for us; and, in that state, Sir, it is very difficult for us to share responsibility with the other side. Moreover, however, much we wish to put responsibility on the other side, we are at present confronted with this limitation, that whatever arguments are advanced from that side in the present stage of the constitution, there is no chance of Honourable Members opposite being called upon to come over here and make good their policy."

And now, Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, comes in:

"*Mr. Lalchand Navalrai*: But when is the better Constitution coming?"

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): That will be my question still.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Then, it goes on:

"That is the position today, and as I argued in an earlier speech in the course of this debate on the budget, it is our duty here to carry on the Government as best as we can under the present constitution; and in taking the action which we have done, in adopting an unusual course in dealing with the amendment and cut on the salt duty, we have done no more than that. Sir, I do not think that the Government could have taken a more straightforward and honest course than the course which they have taken. It was taken only after very careful consideration and I feel confident,—and we all of us feel confident,—that in taking that course the Government was acting in the best interests of the country."

Now, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition, in his speech, said,—he was, I think, playing a little on the word "responsibility",—that their responsibility was to their own conscience and that they should not be deterred from carrying out that responsibility and expressing their honest opinions. But, Sir, I do not read the word "responsibility" quite in that

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sense. No man can be obliged to swallow his own opinions; nobody wishes anybody to swallow his own opinions. But when you support your own opinions by a vote and if you wish effect to be given to your votes, it seems to me that the vote must be given and the opinion must be expressed in the light of the possibility of having to assume immediate responsibility for carrying on the business of the country; and no vote which is not given under that shadow, no opinion which is not expressed under that shadow can be said to be a fully responsible opinion. And I think that is the criterion under which we have got to examine the question under discussion.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Which question are you alluding to? Is it salt or everything put together?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Now, Sir, may I give, I hope, an unprejudiced resume of the debate as it has taken place? The Leader of the Opposition says: "We have made a cut of four to five crores in your budget; we will tell you one way by which you can replace that five crores. But if you do not like that way you can anyhow easily find others. There are lots of ways of finding five crores and, anyhow, you just go and find it." The Honourable the Baronet from Bombay took a fundamentally different view. He says, "We will express our opinions on a considerable number of things. Of course we do not expect you to take all of them, but you take your choice and come back to us and tell us which of them you like best." Well, Sir, there is, as I say, a fundamental cleavage there, but, in any case, these two points of view have one thing in common, that neither of them is actuated by any fear or hope of being called upon immediately,—it is not a question of in course of time,—immediately to come and take our place and to put their own policies to the test of immediate adoption. Is it really practicable for Government, at this stage of the Session, to go away and find ways and means of finding five crores of new revenue? The Honourable Member who represents labour in this House took very much the same line as the Leader of the Opposition; he generally does. (Laughter.)

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Perhaps you are questioning why he is nominated!

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: He said: "You ought not to raise revenue from salt: you can raise it by increasing the income-tax"; and he put this suggestion of getting money by increase of income-tax to the arbitrament of the Assembly and it was hopelessly rejected. What is the good of making all sorts of suggestions that you know perfectly well could not command a majority in this House and which you know perfectly well you do not have the slightest chance under the present Constitution of having to assume responsibility for? (Interruption.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order: let the Honourable Member go on without interruption.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The Leader of the Opposition says that if you make an all round cut on Government servants' salaries by

12½ per cent. you can find five crores. He realises, I have no doubt, that a measure of that sort would have an effect far beyond the comparatively narrow circle of well-paid people whom he dearly loves to bait and who, under the present Constitution, are fair game for him. But it covers a very large number of poorly-paid civil servants in the Railway Department, in the Posts and Telegraphs Department and in the administration generally, and I am quite certain that if he had the responsibility of carrying on the Government, however much he might go for the higher paid officials, I am absolutely certain he would not dare to come to a democratic assembly and propose a cut in pay of 12½ per cent. in the pay of every official from top to bottom.

Has the Honourable the Baronet from Bombay suggested anything more practical? What in effect he says is this: "We suggest to you a large number of things to choose from, we allow you to make a selection from this large number of amendments and to decide which of them you should adopt (a) considering what is in the interests of the country and (b) considering what is most likely to represent the general views of the House." As he admits it is a question of making a choice between these alternatives and we have already made our choice. Why should we determine upon another choice? But of course the Honourable the Baronet has slightly shifted his view-point. He says this morning, "You could select some of them, even if you cannot do all." But throughout the debates up till now he has been taking up a different point of view—one in which he is having it both ways: he says, "You have plenty of money there if you know your business how to estimate: you have plenty of money: but anyhow if there is not, what does a deficit matter?" He would not have done that if he were responsible for bringing forward the budget—I am absolutely certain he would not.

Mr. Satyamurti has taken the same line: he says: "There is plenty of money there: but if there is not, what is all this bugaboo about a deficit budget? Who cares anything about it?" Neither of them, if they were really responsible for the business of the country could come forward and proclaim to a democratic assembly: "We are not going to bother about balancing our budget: it does not really matter: no harm will ensue." With that principle you can carry a very long way. It was adopted in Germany in 1923, with the results which we saw. To come back to this theory of responsiveness, the only question that we have to act upon is whether the Opposition or the House has, during this Session, desired to put forward their suggestions, in the hope and belief, that they were practical and could be adopted: in other words, whether their intention and desire was to co-operate in the business of working for the welfare of the Indian people.

Let us look back a bit. Has there been no consistent plan of raising—I was going to say vexatious, but as we are all in a charitable mood, I will say, complicated points of order, which were debated for an hour at a time: and, incidentally, attempts were made to get round the vigilance of the President and to raise the same point of order over and over again. Has there not been a consistent policy of trying to move the adjournment of the House every day of the week, or very nearly every day—some of them on points of substance, I admit, and some of them which may be proper subjects for adjournment motions, but many of which are pure

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matters of caprice and of no substance whatever? Have we enjoyed the co-operation of the Party opposite in carrying out our financial business by the appointed time? Have they been willing to facilitate the disposal of public business by the due date? Is it not the case, again, that the disciplinary rules of the Party opposite are drawn with a view not to facilitate Government business? I seem to recollect having been told that one of the main objectives of the Party opposite was to throw out every motion, every vote or demand, financial or otherwise, which was intended to preserve the position of the present form of the Government.

An Honourable Member: Quite right.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Let me now come to Mr. Satyamurti's speech on the 7th March, 1935. He said:

"But there is a higher purpose in our being here. We believe that the strength of this Government today, in this country, is not in the British army or in the Britiish navy, but in the prestige that they still have in this country."—(*That is an admission.*) "We want to destroy that prestige. We want to show to the country that this Government is irresponsive. (Interruption by Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney.) I am glad to be assured of my Honourable friend's co-operation, and I hope with his co-operation we will destroy the prestige of this Government soon. Some of our people still believe that this Government is capable of giving good government to this country, that this Government is here with good intentions. We want to snatch away all these trappings from this Government and expose this Government in its naked autocracy to the people of this country. If we succeed in doing that, we have won our object. Positively we want to increase our prestige with the people. We want to solidify and strengthen our position in the hearts and affections of our people."

Now, Sir, what is the implication of that? That they were going to take a course of action which was to force the Government to use its emergency powers, and, therefore, to stand forth in the role of autocrats.

Let me give the House another instance. I took his words down this morning—I do not know whether he did it in the fulness of thought or not—but Mr. Satyamurti made an extraordinary statement this morning in the course of supplementary questions. If I have not got the exact form of his words, I am absolutely certain about the sense of them and I showed them to three of my colleagues at the time to verify them: "Do Government propose to extern all anti-British persons? If so, they will extern most of us." Well, Sir, there is the creed of co-operation. Can it really be seriously denied that the object of the Opposition has been to make the conduct of public business as difficult as possible? Is it then unreasonable to hold that so long as the policy of the Opposition is obstructive and destructive, so long must Government resort to the special powers conferred upon them by law, and in the absence of any clear indication of an alternative policy which is both generally acceptable and practicable. . . . .

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Then you have adopted this attitude because of political motives.

An Honourable Member: That is clear enough.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: The cat is out of the bag.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I am giving my account or my conception of the position under the present Constitution which, quite shortly, is this. When there is a clear evidence of a change of heart ("Oh, Oh," from the Opposition Benches), when we are satisfied that they are prepared to co-operate with us in promoting the true interests of the people, then, Sir, but only then, are we prepared to consider and meet their views to the maximum extent that is consistent with the faithful discharge of our own responsibilities. So much for the actual controversial part of the discussion.

But may I conclude on a rather different note? It is quite true that both the Opposition and the Government are inextricably bound in the trammels of the present Constitution and there is, for the present, no escaping from it. It is no good talking about irresponsible Government. If the Finance Member, under any other democratic constitution, brings forward financial proposals, he does so with a very fair assurance that by the use of the ordinary rules of party discipline he will be able to carry them through Parliament. But here he has no such assurance. We have no party of our own.

Some Congress Party Members: You are doing injustice to Nominated Members.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: We have no means of assuring ourselves of the support of the silent Members who tramp through the Lobbies, not even by nominating them. (Laughter.) And, Sir, if the Opposition are deprived of their full share of an ordinary Opposition in shaping the policy of a country, so are the Government deprived of a certain amount of the machinery which they normally have to carry their policy into effect. We can, therefore, all agree that the present Constitution is most unsatisfactory . . . . .

Several Honourable Members: The one that is coming is much worse.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: . . . . and if the Opposition find,—I am afraid what I am about to say will fall on deaf ears,—if you find the present Constitution so unsatisfactory, are you quite certain that you are doing a wise thing in rejecting the new one which is offered to you? . . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It is much worse.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Whatever shortcomings it may have, however much it may disappoint you, it is one which will ultimately relieve you of the necessity and pleasure of coming down here and making speeches as you have been able to make today. . . .

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will our finances be safe then?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The new Constitution will place a very large measure of responsibility. . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Question.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: . . . . on Ministers who are answerable to the Legislatures, and that is after all. . . .

(There were some interruptions at this stage.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is expressing his view and not of the other side.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: After all, that is the burden of complaint of the Opposition. In present circumstances you can neither make us do what you want nor can you turn us out. Well, under the new Constitution you will at least be able to do the second, and I suggest that the real moral of this discussion is that the Opposition instead of blindly rejecting a very definite advance on the present position should think again not once, but twice or three times, before they adhere to their present attitude. (Cheers.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That in clause 2 of the Finance Bill, as amended, for the words 'twelve annas' the words 'one rupee and four annas' be substituted."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—41

Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama.
Bajpai, Mr. G. S.
Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.
Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
Clow, Mr. A. G.
Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
Dalal, Dr. R. D.
DeSouza, Dr. F. X.
Drake, Mr. D. H. C.
Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kumar Vijaya Ananda.
Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.
Graham, Sir Lancelot.
Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Kirpalani, Mr. Hiranand Khushiram.
Lal Chand, Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.
Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
Mehr Sah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad.
Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.
Mukerje, Mr. N. R.
Mukherjee, Rai Baladur Sir Satya Charan.
Nayar, Mr. C. Govindan.
Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
Owen, Mr. L.
Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
Rau, Mr. P. R.
Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
Sarma, Mr. R. S.
Scott, Mr. W. I.
Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar.
Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
Sinha, Raja Bahadur Harihar Prosad Narayan.
Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra
Sloan, Mr. T.
Swithinbank, Mr. B. W.
Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.
Yakub, Sir Muhammad.

NOES—64.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.
Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Asaf Ali, Mr. M.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
Banerjea, Dr. P. N.
Baqui, Mr. M.
Bardaloi, Srijut N. C.
Bhagwan Das, Dr.
Chhattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Venkatachelam.
Das, Mr. B.
Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fuzlul Huq, Mr. A. K.
Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Syed.
Giri, Mr. V. V.
Govind Das, Seth.
Gupta, Mr. Ghanshiam Singh.
Hidayatallah, Sir Ghulam Hussain.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Khan Sahib, Dr.
Khare, Dr. N. B.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Mudaliar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.
Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, Qazi.
Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nageswara Rao, Mr K.
Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta.
Pant, Pandit Govind Ballabh.
Parma Nand, Bhai.
Raghubir Narayan Singh, Choudhri.
Rajan, Dr. T. S. S.
Raju, Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Saksena, Mr. Mohan Lal.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Sham Lal, Mr.
Shaukat Ali, Maulana.
Sheodass Daga, Seth.
Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Nawab.
Singh, Mr. Deep Narayan.
Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Anugrah Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Shri Krishna.
Som, Mr. Suryya Kumar.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Thein Maung, Dr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Vissanji, Mr. Mathuradas.

The motion was negatived.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I have to request, under Legislative Rule 36B (5), that you will be good enough to endorse on the Bill a certificate to the effect that "the Chamber has failed to pass the Bill in the form recommended."

Mr. S. Satyamurti: On a point of order, Sir. I submit that Rule 36B (5) is *ultra vires* of the Government of India Act. I invite your attention to section 67B of the Government of India Act, which is the governing section in this respect. That section really must control all rules made under the Government of India Act for this purpose. It says:

"Where either Chamber of the Indian Legislature refuses leave to introduce, or fails to pass in a form recommended by the Governor General, any Bill . . ... ".

The other words do not matter now. The governing words of the section of the Government of India Act are, "the Legislature fails to pass in a form recommended by the Governor General". The passing of a Bill is a well-known thing, and I need not detain you with stating the various processes which have been prescribed in the rules and standing orders, before a Bill can be said to be either passed or not passed by this House. Rule 36B (5) says in form that:

"When a Chamber.....makes any alteration therein which is inconsistent with the form recommended or refuses to agree to any alteration or amendment which, if accepted, would bring the Bill into the form recommended, the President shall, if so requested by the Member in charge of the Bill, endorse on the Bill a certificate to the effect that the Chamber has failed to pass the Bill in the form recommended."

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

It is really a rule asking you to say, what is not a fact, to be a fact. That is to say, you must now say under that rule that the Chamber has failed to pass the Bill in the form recommended. No rule-making power can alter a fact into an absence of fact, or an absence of fact into a fact. If you come to section 67 of the Act, which really lays down the power of the Government of India to make rules, sub-section (1) says:

"Provision may be made by rules under this Act for regulating the course of business and the preservation of order in the Chambers of the Indian Legislature, etc."

The other words do not matter. You will find no words in that sub-section making provision for rules to the effect that when a Bill is not passed, it shall be said that the Chamber has refused to pass the Bill. Now, sub-section (5) of section 67 is rather important as illustrating my point. Sub-section (5) says:

"Rules made for the purpose of this section may contain such general and supplemental provisions as appear necessary for the purpose of giving full effect to this section."

It does not refer to section 67B; it refers only to "this section", that is, section 67. The only power under which they can make rules, is in two sections, 67 (1) and 129A of the Government of India Act, which really is the general section prescribing the authority which shall make rules. Section 129A provides that:

"Where any matter is required to be prescribed or regulated by rules under this Act, and no special provision is made as to the authority by whom the rules are to be made, the rules shall be made by the Governor General in Council, with the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council, and shall not be subject to repeal or alteration by the Indian Legislature or by any Local Legislature."

My point is this. The rules made under sections 67 (1) and 129-A (1) contemplate the regulation of procedure in this House, the maintenance of order, the persons to preside and so on.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Regulating the course of business.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: But, Sir, this merely asks you to regulate the course of business and cannot, in the very nature of the words used, include a direction that you shall endorse on the Bill a certificate to the effect that the Chamber has failed to pass the Bill in the form recommended. I ask you, as a matter of fact, to decide here and now whether the Chamber can be said, at this stage, to have failed to pass the Bill in the form recommended.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Supposing the House passes the other recommended amendments, then what happens?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Then, there will be a motion, there should be a motion, by the Honourable the Finance Member that the Bill be passed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Supposing that motion is carried?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Then nothing happens. It goes to the other House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This amendment has been rejected, but if the other amendments are accepted by the House and the motion for third reading is also passed, then would it be a Bill in the form recommended?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It will not be a Bill in the form recommended; but, at that stage, you will be able to say that the Chamber has failed to pass the Bill in the form recommended, not before then.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Why not now? The vote is conclusive, so far as one amendment is concerned. It destroys the form recommended.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In one respect, I agree, but then this is a most extraordinary provision. It is a very difficult provision.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair finds no difficulty.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: There is no ruling on this matter.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The rule is clear.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The rule is *ultra vires*.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then, what happens to the Bill?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How are we concerned with it? What does it matter what happens? How are you concerned, Sir? You are the custodian of the rights of this House, and you will say that the Bill has not been passed in the form recommended, only when. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is the duty of the Chair to see that every business brought before the House is properly concluded and disposed of.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It can be finished in other ways also. My Honourable friend can withdraw the Bill, can accept our suggestions, and move that the Bill be passed. The Chair cannot state, as a fact, what is not a fact.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Supposing the other amendments are accepted and the motion to pass the Bill is carried, would the Bill be in the form recommended?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair is making all this supposition in the Honourable Member's favour. Even then the Bill cannot be a Bill in the form recommended. What has happened now is conclusive.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: My point is that, at this stage, no one can honestly say that the Chamber has failed to pass the Bill in the form recommended. My second point is that the extent to which this rule says that it shall be done by the President in a particular form is *ultra vires* of the rule-making power. They cannot make by a rule, what is not provided by the Statute, which says that the Chamber must fail to pass the Bill in the form recommended.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are two points of order, firstly that the rule 36 (*b*) (5) is *ultra vires*, because section 67 does not authorise the making of such a rule. The Chair holds that the words "regulating the course of business" are wide enough to cover a rule of this nature. Then, the second point of order has been raised that the Bill before the House cannot yet be said to be passed, because no motion has been made for passing the Bill, and, therefore, it is premature, at this stage, to ask the President to certify that the Bill has not been passed in the form recommended. But as the Honourable Member himself, who raised the point of order, had to admit, even if the other recommended amendments were carried by the House and also the motion that the Bill be passed, even then, as the recommended amendment, upon which the vote of the House has been taken, has not been adopted, the Bill, if passed, would not be a Bill in the form recommended. Therefore, the Chair is in a position to say now, and at this stage, that the Bill has not been passed in the form recommended. The President will give a certificate to that effect in due course.

THE INDIAN TEA CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tea Cess Act, 1903, for a certain purpose, be taken into consideration."

This, Sir, is a small Bill and it is unnecessary for me to make any lengthy explanation of its single operative provision. The Tea Cess Act was originally passed in the year 1903, for the purpose of creating a fund to promote the sale and increase the consumption of tea in India and elsewhere. This fund was administered by a committee appointed under the Act. In 1921, the Act was amended to permit of the levy of a cess up to a maximum of eight annas per hundred pounds, though it was not until 1933 that the cess was levied at the maximum rate. The cess is levied on tea exported by sea from British India and the levy of cess at the maximum rate was largely the result of the restriction of exports under the international control scheme. The Indian Tea Association have now approached Government with a request that they should put forward proposals to increase the maximum cess to be levied from 8 annas to 12 annas a hundred pounds. The reasons are that the restriction alone cannot help the industry in their difficulties. It is necessary to increase consumption and this can only be done by costly propaganda. It is intended that the additional proceeds of the cess should, in the first instance, be spent in India itself, where there is every prospect of enlarging

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the demand for Indian tea. It is noteworthy that India's rivals in the industry, *viz.*, Ceylon and Java, are taking, or have already taken, similar action to provide larger funds for propaganda purposes, and India, if she wishes to maintain or improve her position, cannot afford to lag behind these other competitors of hers. The proposal now put forward has the whole-hearted support of the industry itself. Ninety-five point five per cent. of the industry, in terms of acreage, are in favour of the increased maximum, and 4·5 per cent. have expressed no view one way or the other, but no section of the industry has declared itself as opposed to the proposal. The industry is proposing to tax itself for the improvement of its own markets, and that, I submit, is sufficient justification for the measure. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tea Cess Act, 1903, for a certain purpose, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury (Assam: Muhammadan): Sir, I want to say a few words in support of the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Sir Joseph Bhore. This Bill proposes to increase the Indian tea cess from eight annas per 100 lbs. to 12 annas, and I shall very briefly explain the reasons for which I support this motion. Some years ago, the Indian tea industry was passing through a heavy period of depression because of overproduction, and, because of the accumulation of stocks in the London markets, there was a tremendous fall in the price of the Indian tea. In the year 1930, the tea that used to be sold at nine annas per pound, came down in 1932 to four annas, and, in some cases, the tea was sold at below the cost of production. Then, Sir, the leaders of the Indian tea industry in all the tea-producing countries devised a scheme according to which they restricted the export to foreign countries, and, by mutual agreement, they assigned fixed quotas to different countries. It is by these means that they were able to restore the equilibrium between supply and demand and increase the prices, and the situation was partially saved in that way. But, Sir, the quota that was allotted to India for the current year amounts to about 311 million lbs. The capacity, however, for the production of tea in the Indian tea gardens is about 500 million lbs. Now, the problem with which the Indian tea industry is faced is how to find a market for this surplus over the export quota, because the maximum consumption in India is about 65 million lbs.; and if the Indian tea industry is to survive and flourish, there must be a considerable expansion of the market. And here comes the necessity for a vigorous propaganda by the Indian Tea Cess Committee for creating an enlarged market and for pushing the sale of tea in this country and in foreign countries. The Imperial Economic Committee on Tea found out that in India there is a considerable scope for expansion of the market for tea and the Indian Tea Cess Committee, of which I am a member, has adopted a very comprehensive scheme for pushing the sale of tea in India and outside. They want to carry on a very vigorous propaganda and a publicity campaign for pushing the sale of tea in India and in the United Kingdom and the main proceeds from this tea cess will be devoted to that purpose. As my Honourable friend, Sir Joseph Bhore, pointed out, the planters, both Indian and European, have agreed to the imposition of this increase. The only criticism that has, I think, been made by the Indian planters is with regard to the constitution of the Indian

[Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury.]

Tea Cess Committee. The Indian planters demand that on the Indian Tea Cess Committee their representation should be increased, and I think that is a very fair and legitimate demand,—because those who contribute to this fund can legitimately demand that they should be increasingly represented on that Committee. This Tea Cess Act was passed long, long ago, and it was based upon conditions which have considerably changed since then. Formerly Indians had not much interest in this tea industry, but in recent years they have acquired a considerable interest, and it is their demand that their representation on the Tea Cess Committee should be correspondingly increased. I hope, Sir, that Government will find it possible to amend the Indian Tea Cess Act to provide for increased representation of Indians on the Tea Cess Committee. Sir, I support this motion.

Srijut N. C. Bardaloi (Assam Valley: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, it is now admitted on all hands that the tea industry is a very important industry of India and that it supports large numbers of Indian labour, and, in a way, it contributes towards the general revenues also by way of railway freight, revenue on lands, and in many other ways.

Regarding this question of the tea cess, in order to come to a proper conclusion as to whether this should be increased to twelve annas or not, there are several factors to be taken into consideration. The first factor is whether this money is necessary for the intensification of the propaganda work, and secondly, in the light of past experiences, whether the money which will be so raised will be properly used or not. Sir, who will pay this money? Firstly, it is not only European planters who will pay, but the Indian planters also who are about ten per cent. of the European planters, as the Indian planters also pay on account of the tea cess. Sir, the system of realising the tea cess, up till now, is that on the tea that is exported, after being sold by auction in Calcutta, the agent collects the amount of cess from the sale proceeds, and that money is spent by a Committee called the Indian Tea Cess Committee. This Committee have got a general administrative committee and an executive committee. This Tea Cess Act came into operation in 1903. In 1903, the cess was one-fourth pie per pound of tea exported, and then propaganda work went on till 1916-17, and, in the meantime, the War broke out. The propaganda was carried on in America, in the United Kingdom and in France. From 1923-24, this cess was raised to six annas from four annas during 1921-22. From 1921-22 up to 1923-24, the Tea Cess Committee spent about Rs. 23,61,000 for propaganda in America. Up to 1916-17, this propaganda had been carried on, and then, after the War, the propaganda was restricted in America on account of the difficulty of transport in those days. Then, after the War, the propaganda began again in America, and, in that propaganda, much money was spent. Later on, it was found that much headway has not been made in that propaganda and much good result did not come out even by spending large amounts of money. Then the Tea Cess Committee placed the propaganda in the hands of an Advertising Committee in England who had their branches in London as well as in New York. From 1923-24 to 1929-30, Rs. 37,56,594 were spent on this propaganda. But we did not see much effect of that propaganda, in spite of the newspaper advertisements, lectures, and all that. In France they spent in 1922—27, Rs. 10,50,000 without achieving any good results. So,

they stopped all that propaganda. As a matter of fact, this money was not the money of European planters alone; it was also contributed by the Indian planters. The strangest part of the whole thing is that it is the closest preserve of the Europeans. There is an Executive Committee of which not a single Indian is a member. A huge amount is placed in their hands and we do not know how they spend it. So far as the different European Associations are concerned, they are all right because they can rely upon their fellow planters but so far as Indians are concerned they have nothing to do with them. There is a Tea Cess Committee of which my friend, Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, was made a member only a year ago. Before that, there was and still is another Indian member, Rai Bahadur Siba Prosad Barooah and another. In the General Administrative Committee, there were 20 members, and I will mention their names:

Indian Tea Association:

Mr. J. Jones,
Mr. J. S. Graham,
Mr. E. G. Abbot,
Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, M.L.A.
Mr. T. Lamb,
Rai Bahadur Siba Prosad Barooah,
Mr. E. J. Nicholls.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce:

Mr. T. T. K. Allan,
Mr. T. H. L. Brown,
Mr. J. A. Milligan,
Mr. J. C. Surrey.

Assam Branch, Indian Tea Association:

Mr. J. M. Kilburn,
Mr. R. G. Boyle,

Surma Valley Branch, Indian Tea Association:

Mr. F. J. Heathcote,
Mr. S. A. Pearson.

Darjeeling Planters' Association and the Terai Planters' Association jointly:

Mr. F. J. Durnford.

Dooars Planters' Association:

Mr. D. H. Barnes,
Mr. J. Edmond.

Indian Tea Planters' Association, Jalpaiguri:

Mr. Biraj Kumar Banerjee.

United Planters' Association of Southern India:

Mr. A. W. F. Mills.

[Srijut N. C. Bardaloi.]

All these gentlemen sit in the General Committee, but the Executive Committee does not consist of a single Indian member. For purposes of carrying out their propaganda they are employing the services of very highly paid Europeans, who are generally retired military or civilian men, and who travel in first class, draw allowances, and have a host of subordinates to really work. I have not seen much good work done by them. I understand that now my Honourable friend, Mr. Milligan, has taken up the work, it is being put in shape. He is quite welcome to put the whole thing in proper shape under his management, but let us also have a share of the management. Everybody knows here that Broken Orange Pekoe tea is now being sold in the Calcutta market for 8 annas, 9 annas and 10 annas, at the highest, but if you go to buy a tin of tea of the same quality in the market, you have to pay Rs. 2 to Rs. 2-8-0 per pound. The reason is that all the tea is exported to England, and the tea which is left here is put into packets labelled "Brookbonds", "Liptons", etc., and sold at a high price.

Now, what is the propaganda which this Tea Cess Committee is doing? They want more money and I do not object to it. Let them have more money so that they may get along with the propaganda and help the tea industry. But if the price of tea goes up like this, even in India, how can they sell it? May I ask what propaganda are they doing to sell good teas cheap? They have got only tea shops and experimental propaganda shops just as you have got one here in the Industrial Exhibition. They have got such tea shops in different places of Bengal and the United Provinces and in other parts of India where people are asked to have a cup of tea free. In that way lot of people take tea and get habituated and by that means more tea is expected to be sold. If that is the idea, this propaganda will not succeed. There must be other factors in it. In the first place, good tea must be obtained and it must be sold cheap. That should be one of the duties of the Tea Cess Committee. Tea, which is sold for eight or nine annas in Calcutta, should not fetch more than 14 annas when put in tins. Why should it cost Rs. 2 or Rs. 2-8-0? That is a point which is lost sight of. In this way the Tea Cess Committee is doing its propaganda which may not come up to the ideals of the Indian planters.

Now, Sir, it must be admitted that the tea market is in a very bad state at present and I am also one of those who are interested in tea. I want that tea should fetch good prices and more tea should be sold. But so far as propaganda goes, I should like to say that it should be carried on in the interests of those who pay the piper. It is not only the Europeans who pay towards the propaganda but Indians also pay. We do not know what principles they are following. So far as this four annas is concerned, it will not come from the ryots, but from tea producers. It is the tea producers who shall have to pay this four annas so that their tea propaganda may be carried on. In that way we are all interested in seeing that this propaganda work is done properly. So far as that goes, I do not object to increase this rate to 12 annas provided we get an assurance that we should also have some hand in the management inasmuch as we also pay something towards its maintenance. A coterie of planters Agents sitting at Calcutta are now on the Executive Committee and are managing all these affairs. They spend all the money which is raised from the tea growers. Why should they alone do it behind the *Purdah* as it were? That is what I object to. Nowadays I find that some of the big

tea planters seem to be more sympathetic towards the small tea growers of Assam. But, as a rule, small tea growers are almost smothered by the bigger ones whenever they get a chance. I will give only one example.

The other day, I put a question to the Honourable the Commerce Member and asked him how many Indian gardens have been inspected by the Tea Control Committee. The reply was that 226 gardens have been inspected by Agents of the Tea Control Committee. Now, Sir, what is this Tea Control Committee? The Tea Control Committee of Calcutta is composed entirely of Europeans except two Indians, one of whom represents Assam and the other represents Jalpaiguri. This Committee had 226 gardens inspected, and not a single one of them is a European garden. They have got about 3,000 gardens and they have inspected only 226 Indian-owned gardens. European gardens have not been inspected. Somebody goes to inspect these Indian gardens and generally a European tea planter or somebody belonging to his coterie who says, the figures are all wrong, and not properly kept and thus the small Indian gardens sometimes do not get their quota. I can give the instance of one of my most respected friends, one of the leaders in Assam, Mr. K. Chaliha, who suffered from this trouble, and he had to come all the way to Simla and to appeal to the Government of India so that he could have his grievances redressed. Why was it? There was a tea control committee. Some of the Members of the Tea Control Committee did not like him because he was one of the leaders of the country and he was a Congress man. He had to spend a lot of money and file an appeal and come to Simla and the Government heard his case and his grievance was redressed. I submit, Sir, that although some individual members of this Committee may have some sympathy but there are others. Generally the European planters who, whenever they can, smother the smaller Indian concerns. Because if the Indian concerns are killed, and many of them have been killed in the last depression, then the European planters will have better chances of cultivation and the growing of tea will be automatically restricted to the benefit of the Europeans only. That is their idea. But, in the present instance, I have to refer to my esteemed friends, Mr. Hockenhall and Mr. Milligan, both of them I know are very sympathetic towards Indians and they try their best to do justice by us. All I want from the Honourable the Commerce Member is an assurance that if this duty of eight annas is increased to twelve annas, Indians will have proper representation on the executive committee and they will have their proper share in the administrative committee as well and if such an assurance is forthcoming I have no objection to this Bill. In the absence of any such assurance this side of the House will oppose the Bill.

I wish to say a word about propaganda. The propaganda work in America has failed, but the propaganda work in the United Kingdom has succeeded, not because of the efficacy of the propaganda, but because the English nation is a tea-drinking nation. In France the propaganda has failed. But in India they are doing this propaganda now. Well and good. Is it not a fact that now-a-days Indians generally take to tea and no propaganda is necessary. If you go to Bengal, you will find every one of the gentleman class drinking tea. The poor classes imitate the gentleman class and drink tea but of a very inferior quality. The same is the case in Assam. The well-to-do class drink superior quality of tea and the poor people imitate them and drink tea, but of the inferior quality. If you go

[Srijut N. C. Bardaloi.]

and inspect the tea that is drunk by these poor class people, you will find that their tea is the most rotten and the most contaminated kind of tea which the Marwaris supply these poor people at a cheap cost, in fact the sweepings are sold to these poor classes. It is said that the Committee is trying to provide people with better class of tea. I submit if they provide the people with better class of tea and at a reasonable rate, then this propaganda will be successful. These are my suggestions and there may be a hundred and one suggestions. What I want to submit is that if the Honourable the Commerce Member gives us an assurance that this money which will be raised will be properly used and we will have a chance of examining the methods and we will have a hand in the composition of the executive committee and that some Indians will be taken on the executive committee as well as in the administrative committee, then we on this side have no objection to this Bill. Another suggestion is that in the propaganda work carried on in America and England, some Indians should be associated in that work also. With these assurances, if they are forthcoming, so far as I am concerned, I have no objection. Otherwise, I have got my objections to this measure.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill, and I do so both on personal and on social grounds. A great English writer has said that "the only necessities of modern life are superfluities", and tea is one of the most superfluous things which has become almost a necessity now. Unfortunately, Sir, I myself am a victim of the tea habit, and, therefore, I am in the best position to say that it is a harmful habit, and that it should be given up.

So far as I can see, this Bill seeks to make tea cheaper in India and seeks also to make it more difficult to export. Moreover, what I am most frightened at is that the Government intend to spend all the money that they can make out of this extra four annas of cess, on propaganda in favour of tea. Tea is one of those things which it is very difficult to give up when once you imbibe the habit. I have no objection to such habits which when they cannot be satisfied, do not give any trouble. When I was sent to jail and my obliging District Magistrate put me in "C" class, I was deprived of all tea, and, as long as I lived in that "C" class, it was a great torture not to have the usual supply of morning and afternoon tea to which I had been used for the last 25 years. I felt then that when I came out, I should give up tea habit, but unfortunately, now, after my release, that wretched habit has come back, and I look forward with the greatest amount of fear to the next movement which my Leader almost threatened to launch this morning, for I felt that once more I might be put to the test. I, therefore, feel that tea should be discouraged; that it should be made more expensive, as expensive as possible in India, and that export of tea should be made as easy as possible. Belonging to Benares, I must confess, I have a bias in favour of dear old drinks like *sharbat*, and *thandai*, or perhaps even *bhang*. If, instead of this new tea drinking habit, we go back to the old habits, I believe the Government also will be happier because if Members on this side of the House took *bhang*, they would not be able to give so much trouble to the Government. In fact, if one takes tea, the brain is stimulated and one gets into the mood to be troublesome to Government. On the other hand, if we took

bhang, we would be inclined to go to sleep; and I recommend that drink to the Honourable Members opposite.

Then, Sir, I have another objection to tea. The difficulty is that tea in itself is not such an important part of the afternoon tea functions. For all tea functions, cups and saucers, tables, table cloths and other accessories are necessary, and these are much more important than the tea itself. It is the misfortune of modern civilisation that the arrangements for a function are more important than the chief object of the function itself. Now, all that is an encouragement to foreign trade. Japan is flooding our markets with very nice, delicate, pleasant looking and attractive goods, pots, cups and saucers at very cheap rates. You say you propose to add to your income by levying a cess of four annas; but I am afraid this will be an inducement to send away for every four annas scores of rupees to Japan in order to import these extra cups and saucers. I, therefore, think that if we discourage this tea drinking, we will also be able to discourage this unnecessary influx of foreign crockery in our market.

Then, I have a medical objection to tea. Those who are well off can take tea costing Rs. 2 or Rs. 2-8-0 a lb. But as my Honourable friend, Mr. Bardaloi, said, most people in this country are poor and consequently they go in for very cheap tea which is often very bad in quality. If you go to Bombay or Calcutta, you will find everybody taking tea. In fact the hackney-carriage *wallahs* will stop for a couple of minutes before a tea shop and despite all your protests that they should proceed, straight to your destination, they would get down for their cup of tea. If you only look at the tea they drink, you will find that it is most dirty and really unfit for human consumption. Mahatma Gandhi has said that the only good parts of tea are the sugar and milk; but in this bad tea that these hackney-carriage *wallahs* and other poor people drink there is no milk or sugar worth speaking of. After all, these poor people are our brothers, and we want to save them from this bad habit. Instead of saving them from this bad habit, this Government is going to encourage tea drinking and they want to embark upon a widespread programme for the encouragement of tea. I think that should be avoided. I am also given to understand, Sir, that tea dust, that is very often passed for tea and which poor men take, is not really tea dust but saw dust.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): How can we have tea parties then?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: You can have *bhang* parties!

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: That will be worse.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: That cannot be worse; in the name of Benares, I must protest against that!

I, therefore, think, Sir, that for the sake of decency, of public health, and if my friend, the Home Member, were present, I would be almost inclined to say, even in the public interest, it would be best to discourage tea. I think we should reject this Bill, and we should also make up our minds, before we part this afternoon, not to take tea ourselves and to refuse all invitations to tea parties. Tea parties do no good at all; and I am sure this House will support my motion. And if no other ground

[Mr. Sri Prakasa.]

appeals to this House, at least this simple ground should appeal to them that the spread of tea means the spread of Japanese cups and saucers and other crockery which is draining the wealth of this country. For personal safety, for the safety of one's pockets and for the general well-being of our people, poor and rich alike, I oppose this Bill.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): The question may now be put.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: Sir, I do not think that any lengthy reply is required from me as a rejoinder to the speeches which have been delivered on this subject this afternoon. As regards my Honourable friend, Mr. Bardaloi, I gather that he has no objection either to the increase of the cess or to the Tea Cess Association embarking on a larger propaganda to popularise the consumption of tea in this country. I think the two points that he made were, firstly, that Government should give some assurance in regard to the manner in which this extra receipt from the enlarged cess would be spent, and secondly, that the Indian element on the Tea Cess Association Committee would be increased. Now, as my Honourable friend knows, the actual expenditure of this cess is not under the control of Government, but I understand that the Tea Cess Association are considering and hope to put forward comprehensive proposals to the Government of India. I can give him, my friend, a very definite assurance that the point that he and my Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, made in regard to the proper representation of Indian interests on that Committee will be most carefully borne in mind by the Government of India.

Mr. N. C. Bardaloi: Not only on that Committee, but on the Executive Committee also.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: That also will undoubtedly be borne in mind by the Government of India when these proposals are submitted to them for their consideration.

As for my friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa, he reminded me of Satan rebuking sin. If I may say so, physically he is an excellent advertisement of the virtues of tea (Laughter), and, in any case, I propose to leave him to the tender mercies of his fellow consumers of tea in this House. I do not think he really intended to suggest that because people in this country were attracted by the cheapness and by the appearance of Japanese chinaware, therefore tea should be penalised in any way. My suggestion to him is to utilise Indian earthenware, which, I understand, is very largely now being made in the country.

Sir, I do not think there is any other point that remains for me to answer and I would ask the House to accept my motion.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tea Cess Act, 1903, for a certain purpose, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I am surprised to find that because many of our friends here want a cup of tea, we are apt to forget that we do not represent ourselves here, but we represent the people in the villages whose interests are more important in this House than our own needs. My friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa, has made out a clear case that such a Bill should not be countenanced in this House. For obvious reasons, Government are planning as to how more and more tea could be sold in our villages, but there is no consideration as to whether it should be at all encouraged in this fashion. As a matte of fact, we do not know if there is any medical opinion in favour of this tea habit. The Honourable the Commerce Member ought to have quoted expert opinion to convince the House that our villagers ought to take tea and that it is for the good of their health, or at least that it is not bad for their health. So far as we know, laymen as we are, tea contains. . . .

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I will ask the Honourable Member to look at Mr. Sri Prakasa. (Laughter.)

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: That is because he takes *bhang*. (Laughter.)

Pandit Nilakantha Das: I know he did not touch on this aspect of the question, and I am not really putting it in any humorous sense. I am serious when I say that tea contains some of the worst poisons; and specially in our street corners the tea which our *tongawallas* and similar other people take, and which sometimes some of us, on account of our habit, may be compelled to take, is not tea at all but cups of decoction, and it is generally in that decoction state that our ordinary people take it. That decoction is nothing but poison so far as I have learnt from medical men; the habit is also a vice, mild may it be like smoking. My Honourable friend must convince the House that it is not so and that it is a necessity. I shall even be satisfied if it is a real necessity even for improving the standard of life or culture. Unless it is a necessity in any sense of the term it is not at all proper that this House should pass a measure like this by which we are giving sanction to a vast amount of money being spent in this country for propaganda, for practically pushing this tea habit into the very village corners. Of course, if today some Bill comes for making propaganda in favour of *bhang* or *thandai*, I know some of us may approve of it.

[At this stage Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta).]

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): What will you do?

Pandit Nilakantha Das: To speak the truth, I will not support it. Any intoxicant must not be made available so easily to our village folk. I come from a constituency where tea was unknown in my childhood. Even now our gentlemen folk in the villages do not have that bad habit: but I belong to an unfortunate land where many people go to the tea gardens of Assam and to other labour centres where they contract this bad habit: and, when they come back to their villages, they do not get the milk and sugar which you take with the tea to make it a pleasant drink—but they go to the ordinary village grocer's shop and buy some tea refuse for a pice a packet, or some infected dust which goes by the name of tea—they put in hot water and add some salt and they drink it: this is how our people are being gradually accustomed to drinking tea. . . .

An Honourable Member: Salted tea is better than sugarred tea.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: I do not know: I wish my friend would give some medical or expert opinion that that tea is better.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Tea is always good: I drink 12 cups a day, and my weight is 145 pounds!

Pandit Nilakantha Das: My point is that it is not a necessity: it is a luxury: at least it is a luxury to the people whom I represent here—60 lakhs of them: I speak for my constituency, and I think in India in the villages the conditions are the same everywhere: in the villages, the people have not been accustomed to tea yet, as we have been in our anglicised and Europeanised habits in the cities like Delhi and Calcutta. Our people have not yet come to this occidental urban state of civilisation; and, at a time like this, we are spending money—lakhs of money, to push tea into the very corners of the villages, and make the poor man spend money, not for his health, not for his necessities or sustenance, which he wants so badly, but for giving some impetus to the sale of some commodity, which is necessary for some people basking in the favour of Government and unconcerned patronage of a section of our representative people. What I say may not be liked by some of my friends—I see the temperament of the House: I do not go into the question of the tea labour or tea plantation. . . .

An Honourable Member: Why not?

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Whatever that be, plantation produce should not be considered first of all as agricultural produce as such in this country. Plantation has a good many drawbacks which my Honourable friend opposite knows better than I can describe. If they are to make any profits out of this inebriating material, this intoxicant, this poison, which is not a necessity, but which is at least a careless luxury, and, therefore, a vice; let them push the export of the commodity, or even the internal consumption if they can, but why should the Government or the House be a party to it? Suppose tomorrow a Bill comes for introducing tobacco in our villages. . . .

An Honourable Member: It is already there!

Pandit Nilakantha Das: It may be there already: but suppose the tobacco-growers want to sell their tobacco more and want that those that are not taking tobacco now should be made to do so—for example, children do not take it—but if Government likes that money should be spent like this in making children smoke tobacco. . . .

An Honourable Member: As if they have not taken to it!

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Suppose they have Then why Bills and measures for propaganda? Or are we here simply to pass measures in disgust and helplessness? Tobacco is a luxury, not a necessity: probably the next stage will be for the Provinces to propose taxing tobacco—it is in the air, on the horizon already—shall we then propose to collect a tobacco cess and introduce tobacco in the villages in every home for children and women and everybody? Our women do not smoke tobacco yet. . . .

An Honourable Member: Don't they?

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Generally our women do not. I am reminded here of my Bihar and Orissa Minister's Resolution, and he put it in practice, to give one pice toddy and liquor bottles to our people, making those bottles available at the door of each man: last year he did it, and, in his reply to criticism in the Council, he supported this measure as giving much needed relief and refreshment to the poor man at his door giving him some solace after his day's tiresome labour: and, in this way, by the by, excise money is being collected and the budget is being balanced in our Province of Bihar and Orissa.

That, apart, I consider this a similar measure and I appeal to my Honourable friend at least to postpone the third reading of the Bill, to the Simla Session by which time we may get some medical or expert opinion and some statistics, as to whether tea is good for the health or whether it is a luxury and how many people in the villages take tea and what kind of tea they are taking and whether it is good for their health. I see the temperament of the House (Laughter) and it really pains me. I am really serious on this question, and if I had any power I would never allow any such measure to be passed without the consideration it deserves. How can one think of it without getting statistics and without getting medical and expert opinion on the various aspects of the question. I should be the last person to support a Bill like this; and so, I again appeal that this third reading should be postponed till the Simla Session and this House should be supplied with all the material necessary. . . .

An Honourable Member: With tea?

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Yes: of course, my Honourable friend, Sir Joseph Bhore, might invite me to tea, but there are other considerations which I need not narrate here: I shall be very happy to accept it whether I take tea or not: invitation to tea does not actually mean taking tea: as my friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa, has described, there is some paraphernalia—some good table cloth, some bright saucers and cups—and perhaps much less is spent on tea than on the appendages and paraphernalia, so absurdly considered in a country like this, to be marks of civilised standard of life.

[Pandit Nilakantha Das.]

and of better cultural outlook; and we have been perpetual victims to imported fashion just as readily as to imported articles of daily use. So, whether I take tea or not, if I get an invitation from a fashionable and respectable gentlemen, who lives in a good house, who owns good motor cars and who commands all the modern luxuries, I shall very gladly accept an invitation to tea, but this measure, I say, in spite of all this, may not be for the good of our people. So far as I can say now, it is not for the good of our people. You must, therefore, first of all, try and collect enough statistics and obtain expert medical opinion to convince the House that this measure is for the good of the people. Sir, with this appeal, I oppose the motion.

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I only want two minutes. Sir, I must protest against the haste with which this measure is sought to be got through this House. There has been practically no discussion on this Bill. Sir, I am neither a tea taker, nor am I a *bhang* taker, but my humble submission is this. I object to this Bill on two grounds. My first ground is that it has not been proved that the habit of taking tea is not sufficiently spreading and that it, therefore, needs stimulation and help of the Legislature so as to induce people to go in for the tea habit. I know that no Honourable Member of this House is just now in a mood to listen to anything that I say against tea. . . .

Some Honourable Members: No, no.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: . . . . because I see that almost every Member in this House is addicted to tea taking. I never take tea and have never taken tea, almost never. (Laughter.) Not only have I not taken tea, but when it lay in my power to prevent the spread of tea I did everything possible to check the evil. Sir, when I was the President of the Municipal Committee of Drug, some gentleman of the Tea Cess Committee came to our place and painted all over the building "Take tea, Take tea" and all that sort of thing without my permission. I wrote to them asking them that it should not remain on the walls of the municipal building and that the building should have to be white-washed, and I recovered the entire cost of whitewashing from them, because I said I did not want this sort of advertisement of a thing which I considered to be an evil. Sir, doctors may differ, or we may differ here. Some may hold that the extent of the evil is not so great as to prevent its spread, some may say it is on a par with smoking, but there is no doubt that the habit of taking tea is admittedly an evil. It may not be an evil to those gentlemen who have enough money to pay for, but it is positively an evil to those who have very little income and who cannot get even a cup of milk or good water to drink. I would rather ask the Government and my friends here who support this measure that instead of this Bill they should bring forward a Bill by which we could give a cup of milk to the poor villagers. bring forward a measure by which we can give a cup of milk or even a *chatak* of milk to the poor babies in the villages. I do not understand why the Government is so anxious to push tea even in the farthest

villages particularly as it is admittedly not a virtue. It may not have been demonstrated to be a vice, but I consider it a vice, and there are many doctors who consider it to be a vice. I do not protest when I see gentlemen taking tea, but I protest against your attempt to push on tea to the villages. I ask my friends here—have you gone and seen the villages? Do you know that in the villages children do not get even a cup of milk which is so essential to them? It is unfortunate that you don't bring forward any measure which will benefit the poor children in the villages, but you bring on measures to push forward tea and such other intoxicants. Probably some of you may be interested in it, anyway I say that I oppose this measure on two grounds. The first ground is this, that it has not been proved that the use of tea is not sufficiently expanding even as it is and that it needs further inducement, and my second ground is that it is an evil, and we should see, therefore, that the use of tea is checked rather than encouraged.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: Sir, I am afraid I have very little to add to what I have already said. I am afraid that most of those who are opponents of the habit of tea drinking are in the same position as Mr. Casey Jones:

"Said Casey Jones, Before I die,
Two more drinks I should like to try,
Oh, Casey Jones what may they be,
A glass of water and a cup of tea."

Sir, being a partaker of what my friend called the intoxicating poison known as tea, I am afraid that any advocacy of the case for tea would be regarded as emanating from a partisan. I, therefore, Sir, prefer not to put forward the views of a partisan and leave the House to decide between my friend, Mr. Nilakantha Das, and myself, in this matter.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill be passed."

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, before you put the question, I would like Mr. Milligan to speak on the various points that have been raised. There is a lot of substance in those points and we cannot be a party to such indecent haste in passing whatever legislation it may be.

Mr. J. A. Milligan (Bengal: European): It was not my intention to take up the time of the House unless it should appear to be necessary. So many points were raised by various speakers that I thought perhaps it would take up a very great deal of time to answer them. I shall endeavour to deal with the principal points as quickly as possible. The principal point which my Honourable friend, Mr. Bardaloi, made relates to the composition of the Committees. In the first place, let me say, that the Executive Committee is not a statutory body at all. It was only formed for its own convenience by the General Committee and there are no rules or principles whatever which regulate its formation. It is formed annually at a meeting of the General Committee. Its powers are very strictly limited. It cannot sanction any expenditure above Rs. 2,000, and even the expenditure that it does sanction has to be referred to full Committee. There is no provision in the Act as it stands for making the Executive Committee a statutory body, but that can be considered when the Act comes before the House again. As the Honourable the Commerce Member told the House, it is the intention of the Indian Tea Cess Committee to bring this question up again. Last June, a general comprehensive proposal was sent up to the Government of India, but for various reasons that could not be proceeded with. It is, however, our intention to send that proposal up again as soon as the Government of India are willing to consider it. When that proposal is before the House, all these questions about the composition of the Committee and other matters that may interest Honourable Members will be open for discussion. There are one or two specific points about which I should like to give a definite opinion. Some Members seem to be under the impression that the money which is to be raised by this piece of legislation is public money. This is money raised from the growers of tea for their own purposes. These are not public funds. Though the Government of India are entitled to exercise a control over the operations of the Tea Cess Committee, the money is not public money. (Interruption.) This Bill is merely to permit the growers of tea to tax themselves by an extra four annas for every 100 lbs. of tea which they export. . . .

5 P.M.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: Is it merely permissive, or is it compulsory?

Mr. J. A. Milligan: It is compulsory, but it is raised only from the people who grow tea, and not from the public. Another important point raised was regarding the effect of tea drinking on health. Well, Sir, had I realised that that point was likely to be raised, I could have brought with me conclusive evidence that a vast majority of the medical profession is of opinion that the drinking of tea, particularly, in a country like India where water is very often of a bad quality—and the making of tea necessitates the boiling of water—that the drinking of tea is a very healthy beverage indeed.

An Honourable Member: What about hot climate?

Mr. J. A. Milligan: In a hot climate it has a very cooling effect on the body. (Laughter.) I may say there are various ways of drinking tea. Besides the way in which we see it drunk in the Assembly sector, it is drunk in America as iced tea. They make it into a very pleasant cold beverage indeed. The Tea Cess Committee in America have perfected—that is too strong a word, I may say they have brought to a high stage. . .

An Honourable Member: Is cold tea better than hot tea in India?

Mr. J. A. Milligan: The trouble about introducing cold tea in India is this. You have not got here the supply of ice everywhere as you have in America. In America ice can be got in unlimited quantities even in the smallest villages. Had we got that in India, all this period of the year, from now for the next six months, we would be trying to interest people in iced tea. But merely cool tea is not a particularly attractive beverage.

An Honourable Member: What about boiling water for making tea?

Mr. J. A. Milligan: Boiling water is an essential ingredient of a cup of tea.

An Honourable Member: Is it necessary to boil water in order to have cold tea?

Mr. J. A. Milligan: The tea is first made in the ordinary way with boiling water and then it is chilled and mixed with lemon and other things and then drunk as a cold beverage.

An Honourable Member: Give us a cup of tea. What is the use of talking? (Laughter.)

Mr. J. A. Milligan: I shall be only too pleased.

To continue what I was saying, in America, we have, after 12 years of experiment, discovered a way to make a really good tea syrup. That tea syrup can be used for making a carbonated drink which is exceedingly good and refreshing, and also for making a cup of tea by the mere addition of hot water or boiling water or whatever you like. We believe that there is a great future in that branch of the tea propaganda. I do not want to take up the time of the House any more. . . .

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: Is it not expanding of its own accord? Does it need any further inducement by the Legislature?

Mr. J. A. Milligan: Tea undoubtedly is expanding of its own accord, but not at a very rapid rate. In the last 20 years the expansion of tea consumption in India has been comparatively small. Even now, for the year which is just ending, we calculate that the consumption of tea in

[Mr. J. A. Milligan.]

India is only about 70 million lbs. About 10 or 15 years ago it was somewhere about 50 million lbs. That is a very slow rate of increase, and those of us who do not share the views of some Honourable Members who consider that tea drinking is a poisonous habit. . . .

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: Not poisonous but that it is bad.

Mr. J. A. Milligan: I think some Member used the word "poisonous". We think that the drinking of tea would be beneficial to the health of the rural population of India, in addition to which it is the cheapest possible drink next to water because for one pice you can get five cups of tea.

An Honourable Member: Is not milk necessary?

Mr. J. A. Milligan: No. Milk is quite unnecessary. If you want to appreciate the flavour of a cup of tea, you take no milk in it.

An Honourable Member: No sugar too? (Laughter.)

Mr. J. A. Milligan: No sugar if you like.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I am willing to support the Honourable Member if he introduces it in jails.

Mr. J. A. Milligan: I thank the Honourable Member for that suggestion. Also various other suggestions were made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Bardaloi, which I have carefully noted. I think there was one other point made by the Honourable Member from Drug. I am glad to hear that he recovered the money for the defacement of his municipal walls and I will only add to that my apologies for the discourtesy of my subordinates.

Some Honourable Members: Let the question be now put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 8th April, 1935.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 8th April, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN.

Mr. Arthur de Coetlogan Williams, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official), and

Mr. Shamnath Mushran, M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

HOME MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

1637. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the significance of the appellation of the term "Home Member"?

(b) What is the portfolio of the Honourable the Home Member?

(c) Has any Indian Member been appointed Home Member? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) and (b). I presume the Honourable Member's question refers only to the Home Member of the Government of India. "Home Member" is the designation ordinarily given to the Member in charge of the Home Department, and the Home Department deals with such internal affairs of British India as the maintenance of law and order, the administration of justice, the all-India services employed in these branches of the administration and certain other subsidiary matters.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to Mr. Ram Narayan Singh's question No. 933, on the 21st March, 1935.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I ask if there is any Statutory bar to an Indian being appointed to the office of the Home Member of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Then, may I ask why is it that so far not a single Indian has been appointed to that post?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This matter was discussed the other day.

BENGALIS IN THE FIGHTING FORCES OF THE ARMY.

1638. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Bengalis, both Hindus and Muhammadans, in the fighting forces of the army, both as officers and privates?

(b) Is it a fact that in the recruitment to the fighting forces of the army, claims of all the provinces of India are not given due recognition?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state their reasons for it?

(d) If the answer to part (b) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the respective percentage of the different provinces of India in the total fighting forces of the army, both as officers and privates?

(e) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of taking necessary steps for attracting a larger number of Bengali youths?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) to (d). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to Mr. Ram Narayan Singh's question No. 934, on the 21st March, 1935. Bengalis are not one of the classes enlisted at present in the ranks of the combatant units of the Indian Army. There are some Bengali officers in the Indian Army, but Government do not maintain statistics of the officers or men on a provincial basis.

(e) There is nothing to prevent Bengalis from obtaining commissions in the Indian Army through the Indian Military Academy. Government do not propose to make any change as regards their recruitment as sepoys.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: There is an error in the printing of this question. In (c), instead of "affirmative", it should be "negative", and, in (d), instead of "negative", it should be "affirmative".

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is there any list, in the Library, of the provinces which furnish recruits to the Indian Army?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I am not sure whether there is any separate list or not, but the Honourable Member will find the names of the classes in the Indian Army List, which is in the Library.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: How are these lists made out?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Enlistment is made as a result of experience as to which classes produce the best soldiers.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: When was the last list made?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: No particular list has been made at any particular time. There may be changes from time to time, but the actual classes enlisted in the various units are shown in the Indian Army List.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Has there been any change in the martial spirit of the people since the last list was made?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I do not think there has been any change.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What are the criteria which determine whether any particular province would be included in the so-called martial race or otherwise.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: There is no question of including a particular province as an area for recruitment. The criterion is which classes are likely to produce the best and most efficient soldiers.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Am I to understand that, in the fighting forces of the Government of India, there is no Bengali?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: That is what I have said.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member aware that during the last great European War, Bengali regiments and a Bengali Double Company had been sent to the fighting front and they gave a very admirable account of themselves there?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I cannot agree with the Honourable Member's account of their service. It is a fact that, during the War, a Bengali regiment was raised, but if the Honourable Member will read the statistics, which I believe were published in the Simon Commission Report, he will find that during the War, when recruitment was thrown open to all classes and peoples in India, the number of recruits from Bengal was very very small compared with the recruits from other parts of India. In fact, I believe that in Bengal about 7,000 men were recruited out of a population of 45 millions, whereas, in the Punjab, out of a population of 20 millions, no less than 350 thousand were recruited.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member aware that in this matter of recruitment, absolutely no encouragement has been given to Bengalis, rather a policy of distrust uniformly allowed?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: There are the Territorial Units and the University Training Corps in Bengal. The experience as regards enlistment in them has not been particularly encouraging.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Does the Honourable Member know, as a matter of history, that when Lord Clive fought in the battle of Plassey, the battle was fought on either side with Bengali Armies?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I am not aware of the actual composition of the army at that time, but I dare say that is true

Sir Muhammad Yakub: Even after the deeds of heroism of Bengalis given by the Leader of the House the other day, I mean in the direction of throwing bombs and shooting pistols, are not Government even now prepared to revise their opinion and consider that they are fit to be enlisted in the army?

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan: How many Bengalis have applied for admission to the Indian Military College?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I cannot give the exact figures, but it is a fact that the number of candidates from Bengal has been very much smaller than many other parts of India.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: Are the Mahrattas included in your list?

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan: Yes.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: In spite of the compliment paid to the Bengalis by Sir Muhammad Yakub, I want to know whether it is the opinion of Government that Bengalis are unfit to bear arms?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The point is that there are people more fit to bear arms than the Bengalis, and we must take the best.

PERCENTAGE OF BENGALIS AND ASSAMESE IN THE INDIAN NAVAL AND AIR FORCES.

1639. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Will Government be pleased to state the percentage of the (a) Bengalis and (b) Assamese in the Indian (i) Naval and (ii) Air Forces of India?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The percentage of Bengalis in the commissioned ranks of the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force is three per cent. and 28·6 per cent. respectively. There are no Bengalis in the non-commissioned ranks of the Royal Indian Navy but in the Indian Air Force their percentage is about ·5 per cent. There are no Assamese in either service at present.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Are Government prepared to give the reasons?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The reasons are the same as I have just given. After all, in the Indian Air Force, you will find that there are quite a large number, 28·6 per cent.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: In the naval forces also, the Bengalis have not been found fit?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I have said that three per cent. of the officers are Bengalis.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: In actual fighting work?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: There is no Bengali in the non-commissioned ranks.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: In view of the fact that the Sindhis are not terrorists, why are they not appointed?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I do not think that question arises.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do I understand that it is because of the terrorism in Bengal that the Government are shutting out Bengalis deliberately from any sort of military career?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: No, Sir.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Are they not doing this as a sort of vindictive measure against Bengal

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: No, Sir.

DISCONTINUANCE OF GUARDS' CERTIFICATES ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

1640. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Is the Honourable Member in charge of Railways and Commerce aware of a recent notification issued by the Eastern Bengal Railway in Gazette No. 3 of 1935, case No. 581-C. 1/99-C. R. D./1 No. 72, discontinuing the issue of guard's certificates?

(b) Has a similar notification been issued on other Railways?

(c) Is the notification referred to in part (a) issued with the sanction or approval of the Railway Board?

(d) If the answer to part (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for this measure?

(e) If the answer to part (c) be in the negative, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of rescinding the same?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes. The notification withdraws from the railway staff the authority they previously had to grant permission to passengers to travel without a ticket, but authorises the guard to issue a certificate for the purpose of extending a ticket beyond the station for which it was originally issued and making a ticket already issued as available for travelling in a higher or lower class.

(b) Government are not aware of similar notification on other Railways, but they believe, that the only other principal Railways which permitted a passenger to obtain a guard's certificate to travel without a ticket were the Burma, East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula Railways.

(c) No. The Railway Board's sanction was not necessary.

(d) and (e). The Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, states that the system of guards issuing certificates to passengers, travelling without tickets, was stopped in 1932 on the southern (suburban) section as an experimental measure, and in 1933, over the rest of the suburban section, as it was found that it was facilitating fraudulent travelling and interfering with the normal duties of guards. As the experiment proved successful, the Agent decided that the system should be discontinued over the entire Eastern Bengal Railway system. Government do not consider that there is any justification for their intervention.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Does the Honourable Member realise that there are generally many *bonâ fide* cases where people have to travel without tickets, not from any dishonest motive, but because of the fact that often they do not get any change at the railway station, and that, if the railway guard does not issue certificates, they are thus penalised for travelling without tickets? Does the Honourable Member realise that in many cases people who are *bonâ fide* passengers cannot get change from the railway stations and it is thus only that they cannot at the last moment buy tickets, and that it is because the guards are being deprived now-a-days of the power of issuing certificates that they have to travel without tickets?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I realise that there may be individual cases of inconvenience of that sort, but my Honourable friend must also realise that that system does lend itself to fraudulent practices and corruption.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Every system, Sir, in some measures does lend itself to fraud or corruption, and when this system does not prevail in any other railway, is it justified only in the case of the Eastern Bengal Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: It does prevail, Sir, on other railways also: as I have already said, the only railways on which this is permitted are the Burma, East Indian and the G. I. P. Railways.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member prepared to reconsider the position before introducing this measure of discontinuing the system of guards issuing certificates, which prevails, I believe, in every other railway system in India?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No, Sir, not "every railway system in India". I am quite prepared to ask the Agent of the E. B. Railway to consult his Advisory Council on this matter.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Thank you very much. And will the Honourable Member take a note that in many cases passengers have to go to the station at the last moment and thus also they cannot buy tickets (apart from there not often being available at the railway ticket office the necessary change), and that the hitherto prevailing procedure of informing the guard in such cases that they are going to such and such destination may be considered to be suitable in that matter, because there also they are penalised although they do not have any dishonest motive of travelling without tickets?

Sir Muhammad Yakub: That will lead to corruption.

ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO BE MADE IN CERTAIN CLERKS' QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

1641. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that:

(i) certain additions and alterations have been sanctioned in certain 'B' class officers' houses constructed in 1934-35, if so, what;

(ii) the design and arrangement of the rooms in the old type 'D' class orthodox clerks' quarters is proposed to be brought into line with the new type of quarters of that class;

(b) Are Government aware that in the 'B' type unorthodox quarters on Irwin Road:

(1) there are no separate compounds and entrances;

(2) kitchens are detached and situated at a distance from the main building;

(3) the flooring of the rooms is not cemented and consequently is uneven and damp; and

(4) double doors for ventilation and air are not provided to outer exits similar to those in newly constructed quarters of the type?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to take steps to bring these quarters into line with the newly built houses at an early date?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) (i). Yes. The addition of an office room is proposed.

(ii) Yes.

(b) The reply to points (1), (2) and (4) is in the affirmative. As regards point (3), the floors of some quarters are cemented, and Government are not aware that the floors which are not cemented are uneven and damp.

(c) No. The floors are being cemented gradually against the repair grant, but the other changes proposed would involve very considerable expenditure.

ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOLS FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF THE INDIAN EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1642. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Railways be pleased to state if any English high schools are maintained by the Eastern Bengal Railway for the education of the children of the Indian employees of the said Railway?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the number of such institutions and the places in which they are located?

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state why facilities for the education of their children are not given to the Indian employees?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the memorandum on the educational policy of railways, which was placed before the Central Advisory Council for Railways at its recent meeting, copies of which will be found in the Library of the House.

BOARDING HOUSES OR HOSTELS FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE INDIAN EMPLOYEES ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

1643. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Is the Honourable Member in charge of Railways aware that special allowance is granted by the Eastern Bengal Railway authorities to their European and Anglo-Indian employees for the education of their children, in proportion to their pay and the number of children of each, while no such allowance is granted to the Indian employees for the same purpose?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member state:

(i) the amount of money annually spent on this allowance; and

(ii) the reasons for this distinction between the employees of the same Railway system?

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, do Government propose starting educational institutions with boarding houses, or hostels, at different important centres by way of giving facilities for the education of the children of the Indian employees? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b). Educational assistance on the Eastern Bengal Railway is regulated by the Rules governing the grant of assistance from the railway funds to employees of State-managed Railways towards the education of their children, a copy of which will be found in the Library of the House. Under these rules there is no distinction made between Europeans, Anglo-Indians and other employees. Under the old rules, staff other than Anglo-Indian and European were not excluded from the benefit of the rules but the schools which were recognised for the purposes of school assistance did not admit Indians as boarders and the assistance was in effect restricted to parents of a European mode of life such as Anglo-Indians, Domiciled Europeans, Jews, Armenians and Parsis. Employees who elected to remain under the old educational assistance rules still continue to receive assistance under those rules. The expenditure on this account during the last three years was as follows:

Year.	Europeans and Anglo-Indians.	Indians.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1931-32	63,635	204	63,839
1932-33	51,381	468	51,849
1933-34	52,015	303	52,318

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I have just given to part (c) of his previous question.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do I understand the Honourable Member to say that the question of a grant to the employees of a railway depends on the mode of life they live in?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Not now, Sir.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member in a position to say how much amount, if any, at all, has been spent towards the payment of allowances to the Indian employees for the education of their children?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Sir, under the new rules, there is no distinction made between Anglo-Indians, Europeans and Indians, and the whole question is now under the consideration of the Central Advisory Council for Railways.

They were not able to take it up at their meeting on Saturday. The question will be considered in the meetings at the Simla Session. I suggest, Sir, that any discussion of these subjects had better be postponed till the Central Advisory Council have had their say in the matter.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Will the Honourable Member please see that this matter is placed before the Central Advisory Council for Railways in the light in which I have placed it?

Mr. P. R. Rau: My Honourable friend is surely aware of the names of the members of that Council and can take the necessary steps to make them aware of his point of view.

GOVERNMENT INSPECTORS TO LOOK TO INDIAN INSURANCE BUSINESS.

1644. ***Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) the number of Government Inspectors to look to the Indian Insurance business, their salaries and the nature of their work;

(ii) whether the Special Officer appointed by the Government of India for revision of Indian Insurance Law has called for suggestions from the companies concerned;

(iii) what were the companies or who were the persons consulted;

(iv) whether the Special Officer is calling for written memoranda or oral evidence from persons interested in this line of business; and

(v) when his report is likely to be published?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (i) No Inspectors have so far been appointed under section 37 of the Indian Life Assurance Companies Act, 1912.

(ii), (iii) and (iv). The Officer on Special Duty has been appointed to make a preliminary examination of the various suggestions which have from time to time been made regarding the amendment of insurance law in India. Further suggestions have been invited from the principal insurance associations† and commercial‡ bodies in India.

(v) The Report of the Officer on Special Duty will be a purely departmental Report and there is no intention at present of publishing it.

COLLECTIONS FOR THE SILVER JUBILEE FUND.

1645. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Are Government aware that in the collection of the Silver Jubilee Fund, undue pressure is being exercised by the District officers upon the people?

† The Indian Life Assurance Offices Association.
The Indian Insurance Companies Association.
The Association of Life Assurance Offices in India.
‡ The Associated Chambers of Commerce of India.
The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

(b) Are Government also aware that the collection of subscriptions for the above fund has been entrusted to the magistrates who call people and get subscriptions by holding out threats and in some cases by promising titles?

(c) Are Government prepared to issue directions that the District officers may hold meetings or issue appeals but in no case they should call people and exercise their executive influence for subscriptions?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a), (b) and (c). Government have no reason whatever to believe that district officers or others are exercising undue pressure or using improper methods in getting collections to the Silver Jubilee Fund. They have also no doubt that if any instance of officers using undue influence to collect funds comes to the notice of Local Governments, they will at once take such action as they may think necessary.

Mr. Sham Lal: With regard to part (c) of the question, are Government prepared to issue those directions referred to in that clause?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It is for the Local Government to issue such directions if they consider it necessary.

Mr. Sham Lal: Is it or is it not a fact that magistrates are collecting subscriptions—that the work of collecting subscriptions in aid of the Silver Jubilee Fund has been entrusted to magistrates in all the districts?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, Sir, that is not a fact so far as I am aware. I understand—though I have no precise information on the point—that in most districts at any rate a Committee has been appointed for the purpose of collecting subscriptions.

Mr. Sham Lal: May I ask if this fact is brought to the notice of the Government of India that practically in all the districts subscriptions are being collected by the magistrates? Are the Government of India prepared to issue a direction that the subscription should not be collected by magistrates?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, Sir, even in that case, it would be for the Local Governments to issue orders

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware that in the Kistna district of the Madras Presidency, one Deputy Collector is going about from village to village and demanding subscriptions from the village officers and village leaders? For instance, from one village Manikoda, he was demanding Rs. 165, from another village, Katuru, Rs. 50, and from another village, Kalavapamula, Rs. 40? In view of the fact that these magistrates have considerable amount of influence and also power over the village officers and villagers . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better ask for information: he need not give information

Prof. N. G. Ranga: . . . will Government consider the advisability of simply issuing a Viceroy's appeal for funds in the same way as an appeal was issued for the Bihar Earthquake Relief Fund and not delegate to the magistrates and village officers this duty of demanding subscriptions from the villagers at the butt-end of their guns and pistols?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have nothing to add to what I have already said, namely, that the issue of instructions, if they are required, is for the Local Governments. The Government of India have no doubt that Local Governments will issue any such instructions as they consider necessary or desirable.

REPORT OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT UPON THE TUNGABHADRA PROJECT.

1646. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether they have perused the report of the Madras Government upon the Tungabhadra Project;

(ii) if so, the main contents of that report;

(iii) whether it is true that Madras Government have asked for the appointment of a commission to arbitrate on the division of the rights of water of Tungabhadra between Madras, Mysore and Hyderabad Governments; and

(iv) what action Government propose to take upon this request?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (i) and (ii). No. The Government of Madras have not submitted any recent report upon the Tungabhadra project.

(iii) Yes. The Government of Bombay are also concerned.

(iv) The matter is under consideration.

CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAYS BETWEEN CERTAIN PLACES IN MADRAS.

1467. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government state:

(a) if ever the construction of the railways between (i) Yerragudipad and Proddutur, (ii) Yerragudipad and Nandyal, (iii) Kalikiri and Rayachoti, (iv) Cumbum and Kalahasti, (v) Madras and Tirupati, (vi) Nandyal and Koilkuntla and (vii) Nandyal and Atmakur, was contemplated;

(b) if so, when and what were the estimates;

(c) if it is a fact that surveys and estimates were prepared;

(d) why they have not been taken up till now; and

(e) whether Government have considered that any of them can be taken up as famine protection works?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) to (e). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the statement I laid on the table in reply to question No. 1091 asked by Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar on the 28th March, 1935.

RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION AS FAMINE PROTECTION WORK.

1648. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether at any time railway construction work was undertaken as famine protection work (a) in India and (b) in the Ceded Districts;

(ii) if so, when, what they are and how much was spent on them; and

(iii) what is the return now being derived from these works?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (i) to (iii). The only information readily available with regard to railway constructions, charged to famine relief and insurance, is contained in Account No. 25 of the Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India. Up to the end of the year 1933-34. the total expenditure on construction of railways charged to famine relief and insurance amounted to nearly eight crores. I regret that the detailed information the Honourable Member requires cannot be obtained without a considerable amount of research.

RECENT VISITATION OF FROST AND THE CONSEQUENT FAILURE OF CROPS IN GUZERAT.

1649. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) if they are aware of the extreme distress prevailing in Guzerat owing to the recent visitation of frost and the consequent failure of crops;

(ii) whether they have received any reports from the Bombay Government about the estimate of the damage caused and the relief measures taken or proposed to be taken;

(iii) if so, what is the help rendered by that Government to the peasants; and

(iv) whether the Bombay Government have asked for any assistance from the Government of India?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (i) to (iii). No reply has yet been received from the Government of Bombay who were asked for a report.

(iv) No.

PRINTING OF THE NAMES OF THE PRINTER AND THE PUBLISHER ON GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PUBLICATIONS.

1650. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** (a) Are Government aware that under section 3 of the Press and Registration of Books Act (No. XXV) of 1867, it is required that the actual names of the printer and the publisher should be printed legibly on every printed book or paper?

(b) Are they aware that on the Government of India publications, these names do not appear, and only designations of printers and publishers, such as 'Manager of Publications' or 'Manager, Government of India Press' are mentioned, and that in some cases even that is not done?

(c) Have Government taken legal advice that the Government of India Press fulfils the provisions of the law on the subject in this particular?

(d) If not, are Government prepared to issue instructions on the subject for the future, and call for an explanation for the past?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Yes, all books and papers printed or published under the orders of Government or for official purposes have been excluded from the operation of the whole of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 (XXV of 1867) by notification under section 21 of that Act.

(d) Does not arise.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Under what authority have Government issued that Notification?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I have already mentioned the authority—section 21 of the Act.

GUARDS OF III AND IV GRADES WORKING ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1651. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many guards of III and IV grades were working on the North Western Railway in 1926? How many vacancies occurred amongst them since then, and how many were filled up?

(b) Are Government aware that the majority of second grade guards have been waiting for promotion to grades III and IV for more than 12 years? Do Government propose to fill up these vacancies? If not, why not?

(c) Is it a fact that Government intend to amalgamate grades II and III? If so, when? If not, why not? Is it a fact that other staff of the North Western Railway is amalgamated?

(d) What attention has been paid to the memorials and telegrams, etc., sent by the second grade guards from time to time, and how many of them have been promoted?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state how many passenger trains have been increased or decreased on the North Western Railway? Is it a fact that the promotions of guards depend upon the number of passenger trains, and that the majority of the guards of grade II are working on passenger trains in all divisions in place of guards, grades III and IV, without being promoted to these grades?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether some outsiders have been directly recruited to grades III and IV depriving the old hands of grade II, having service of 20 years and above? If so, why?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information. All the questions raised are within the competence of the Agent, North Western Railway, to decide and a copy of the question has been sent to him for any action he may consider necessary.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: With regard to part (d) where it is said that memorials have been sent to the Railway Board, may I ask what the Honourable Member has done about them?

Mr. P. R. Rau: May I ask the Honourable Member who gave him the information that memorials have been sent to the Railway Board?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The question is:

"What attention has been paid to the memorials and telegrams, etc., sent by the second grade guards from time to time, and how many of them have been promoted"?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The question does not say that the memorials were sent to the Railway Board.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member, then, say to whom they were sent? Has the Honourable Member inquired from the Railway Board whether they have received them or not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No memorials were received by the Railway Board, so far as I am aware.

GUARDS ON PASSENGER AND MIXED TRAINS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1652. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Is it a fact that most of the passengers and mixed trains are worked on the North Western Railway by a single guard, and that he has to look after so many duties during short stoppage of passenger train (say about two minutes) at a station, for example, taking of cash bags and delivering of empty cash bags, and canvass bags, exchanging railway dâk, loading and unloading parcels and luggage and dealing with Railway free articles, etc.? Are Government aware that by performing these duties entrusted to him, he is naturally unable to look after the public safety and convenience of travelling public by that train?

(b) Are Government aware that on the North Western Railway, most of the passenger and mixed trains, previously worked by grade III guards, are now being worked by guards grade II, with the same amount of responsibilities and work as those of grade III guards, but with lesser pay? If so, do Government propose to put grade III guards only on passenger and mixed trains? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Passengers and mixed trains are ordinarily worked by one guard, but on express, mail and other important passenger trains, on which the work to be done warrants additional staff, luggage guards are also provided. On certain long distance mail trains, conductor guards are also employed; their duty being to accommodate passengers and to assist generally as may be found necessary.

(b) Passenger trains are worked by grade III and grade II guards according to their importance. Government see no reason for their intervention in a matter of this kind which must be left to the Railway Administration to deal with according to the conditions obtaining.

WANT OF LIGHT IN GOODS BRAKE VANS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1653. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** Are Government aware that on the North Western Railway, guards grade II have made repeated requests to the Railway administration to provide lights in goods Brake Vans, in the absence of which they have to work and prepare train papers with the help of hand signal lamps which give very dim light? Are Government also aware that this puts a heavy strain on their eyes and as a result they lose their eyesight prematurely and are declared unfit medically for the post of guard, as far as their standard of vision is concerned? If so, will Government be pleased to state why no action is taken to provide lights in goods Brake Vans?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The Agent, North Western Railway, states that a representation was made by one Area Council for the provision of lights in the brake vans of goods trains, but the additional expenditure which this would have involved was not considered to be justified.

EDUCATION CIRCULAR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, NO. 83- /34-E.

1654. ***Maharaj Kumar Vijaya Ananda Gajapatiraj:** With reference to the Education Circular of the Government of India No. 83-1/34-E., dated the 25th January, 1935, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the "Resolutions notice whereof has been given in the Indian Legislatures" referred to in the first paragraph of the said circular?

Mr. G S. Bajpai: A statement giving the Resolutions in question, has been laid on the table as desired by the Honourable Member.

Statement regarding resolutions, relating to the educational system of India, of which notice has been given in the Indian Legislature in recent years.

1. The system of education in India does not fulfil the present demand of the people and needs radical reform, this Assembly therefore recommends to the Governor General in Council to appoint in consultation with Provinces a Committee to suggest suitable modifications in policy, administration, general plan of studies and examinations, and the economic method of spending public funds.

(Notice given in January, 1932).

2. This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to appoint in consultation with the Provinces a Committee to suggest suitable modifications in the existing system of education in India in regard to policy, administration, general plan of studies and examinations and the most economic method of spending public funds for education.

(Notice given in January, 1932; moved in February, 1932).

3. This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to take immediate steps for changing the policy, system of education and courses of instruction in schools and colleges.

(Notice given in January, 1933, March, 1933, June, 1933, July, 1933, January 1934, June, 1934 and January, 1935).

4. In view of the large number of unemployment among the educated classes and in view of the system of education being primarily responsible on account of its being too literary, this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to take necessary steps in consultation with the local Governments to devise a useful system of education which may better equip the educated persons to earn their livelihood.

(Notice given in December, 1933 and January, 1934).

5. This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to take immediate steps to protect the workers in the country against increasing unemployment and reduction of wages.

(Notice given and moved in January, 1934; educational aspect discussed in February, 1934).

6. While regretting the indifference of the Government to the public demand about change in the policy of education with a view to making it more practical and useful, the Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to adopt suitable measures for giving effect to popular demand.

(Notice given in June and July, 1934).

7. This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to adopt suitable measures for giving effect to the popular demand for a change in the present policy of education, with a view a to making it more practical and useful to the public.

(Notice given in July, 1934).

NOTE.—In almost every case, notice was given by several members at a time.

EDUCATION CIRCULAR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, NO. 83-1/34-E.

1655. ***Maharaj Kumar Vijaya Ananda Gajapatiraj:** With reference to the fifth paragraph of the Education Circular of the Government of India No. 83-1/34-E., dated the 25th January, 1935, wherein mention has been made of "the clearing house of ideas and a reservoir of information", will Government please state:

(a) whether the Universities will be reconstructed to form such clearing houses and reservoirs, or the Central Advisory Board proposed to be revived in the next financial year; and

(b) whether the Central Advisory Board will supervise and control, or otherwise concern itself with the imported literature?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) The Central Advisory Board of Education will serve as a clearing house of ideas and a reservoir of information.

(b) No, the Board will be a purely advisory body.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: May I know from the Honourable Member what will be the co-ordinating link between these two bodies—the University and the Central Advisory Board?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The Inter-University Board is not a Government body. It is a private body and it concerns itself exclusively with matters dealing with university education. The proposed Central Advisory Board of Education will cover the whole field of education, that is to say, primary secondary, intermediate and university.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Am I to understand that this Board will guide and control the whole of the university in any way?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: No, Sir. There is no question of control at all. The universities will retain their autonomy.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Can this Board advise the universities to revise their syllabus?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I do not think that this body will concern itself ordinarily with syllabuses; it will concern itself with the larger questions of educational policy.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the composition of the proposed Central Advisory Board?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: No definite decision has been reached as regards this point so far. We have before us the recommendations of the Local Governments and we are considering them.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the proposed financial commitment?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The financial commitment in the first year, is Rs. 35,000 and the maximum expenditure is expected to be Rs. 43,000 a year.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What will be its main function, in a more concrete manner, than that contained in the phrase "the clearing house of ideas, and a reservoir of information"?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Its main function will be to enable the various educational authorities in India to meet from time to time to consider matters of common interest and in regard to matters which are of special interest to issue brochures or memoranda or special statements of information.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is it the intention of the Government of India to lay down any kind of All-India policy, with regard to elementary education, secondary education and higher education, in consultation with this Board?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Sir, as my Honourable friend is aware, education is a transferred provincial subject and it is not really competent for the Government of India to lay down a policy for India as a whole. If the Board after consultation and discussion amongst themselves make certain suggestions as to co-ordination or uniformity in regard to certain educational matters, the Government of India will bring their recommendations to the notice of the Local Governments concerned.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will this Board, *inter alia*, consider mistakes which have been made in the various provinces in the spread of elementary education, or secondary education, and try to get them rectified by giving their friendly views and suggestions?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: As a matter of fact, one of the reasons which has led us to insist upon the early creation of the Board is the question of the problem of wastage and other difficulties with which elementary or primary education in particular is beset in the provinces.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Provincial Legislatures or Provincial Governments be represented on this Central Advisory Board, so that there may be no complaint of provincial opinions having been ignored in laying down the policy or suggestions by this Board?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Sir, as I have already informed my Honourable friend, we have not yet definitely decided what the composition of this Board is going to be, but I think I can tell him that it will be predominantly provincial in its character.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Local Governments will be asked to contribute towards the expenditure of this Board?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: No, Sir. We do not think that it would be right to ask the Provincial Governments to contribute towards the cost of its staff and the publications which we might issue, but each Local Government will bear the cost of travelling of its own representatives.

EDUCATION CIRCULAR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA NO. 83-1/34-E.

1656. ***Maharaj Kumar Vijaya Ananda Gajapatiraj:** (a) With reference to the ninth paragraph of the Education Circular of the Government of India No. 83-1/34-E., dated the 25th January, 1935, wherein reference has been made to separate vocational institutions, will Government please state whether any survey has been made of the existing and possible vocations of the Indian people, where educational facilities could be adjusted to the aptitude of the students?

(b) If no such survey has been made, are Government prepared to make such a survey to effectually work the principle of adjusting educational facilities referred to?

(c) How many of the industrial pursuits existing from ages have been found suitable for vocational education, and what are they?

(d) Have Government enquired how many of the industrial organisations developed in India during recent years, such as cotton mills, jute mills, railway workshops, electric installations, water works, bridge construction, telephone and telegraph works, etc., are ready to co-ordinate and co-operate in giving facilities for vocational training; and what facilities will they give?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) to (d). The Government of India have asked the Local Governments and Administrations to express their opinions in the matter after consulting such persons and authorities as they may consider advisable. It is for those Governments and Administrations to make a survey of the position where necessary. The Central Advisory Board which is to be set up will, if asked, consider how best it can assist.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to part (b) of the question may I know what is the specific position of the Government of India?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Our position is that if any survey is required, it ought to be undertaken by the Local Governments and that such a survey is not our function.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Since this is an all-India problem, may I know the reasons why the Government of India will not or may not undertake the survey itself?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I submit it is not really an all-India problem because the system of vocational education in the different provinces are by no means uniform and I think it is really for the different Provinces to consider this question of a survey in relation to their own particular problems. Subsequently where any co-ordination is necessary, then that problem can be referred to the Advisory Board.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the last three lines of part (a) of the question: "whether any survey has been made of the existing and possible vocations of the Indian people where educational facilities could be adjusted to the aptitude of the students"? May I know whether this is not an all-India problem, and whether the Government of India may not usefully take up at least a preliminary survey leaving the details of the survey to the Provincial Governments concerned?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: Even though there may be the possibility of this problem having an all-India aspect, I submit that the best line of approach would only be appreciated after the all-India Advisory Board has considered the matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to part (d) of the question, may I know whether the Government of India will say that at least the industries which get any kind of help from the Government, either by way of protection or otherwise, will be compelled or persuaded to provide these facilities for the people contemplated in this question?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: As I have already stated, the Government of India on the broad question enunciated in part (b) have not come to any general conclusion. We think that this is a matter which can best and most suitably be considered by the Central Advisory Board when it has been set up. What decision the Government of India will take in the light of those recommendations, I am not in a position to say.

HAPUR REMOUNT DEPÔT AT BABUGARH IN THE MEERUT DISTRICT.

1657. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) When was the Hapur Remount Depôt established at Babugarh in the Meerut District?

(b) How much area, and from how many villages, was taken for the purpose, and was this land waste or under cultivation?

(c) What was the Government revenue and the zamindari rent of those lands at that time?

(d) Were the owners of the lands paid any compensation for these lands? If not, on what terms were the lands taken, and what rent or other charge is being paid to the original proprietors?

(e) Is it a fact that the Hapur Remount Depôt has been abolished? If so, what is being done with those lands?

(f) Have these lands been restored to the successors of the owners from whom the lands were taken? If not, why not?

(g) If the lands are given to any third party on any contract or lease, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of that agreement?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) In 1818.

(b) The area of the Remount Depôt is approximately 2,600 acres situated in five villages. It is not known whether the land was under cultivation or not when it was taken up.

(c) The Local Government have been asked if the information is available.

(d) Government took over the land from the owners at an annual payment of Rs. 258 which is still being paid.

(e) and (f). The Hapur Remount Depôt has been reorganised and most of the land is now being used for horse breeding operations under the Army Remount Department and for the production of fodder by the Military Farms Department.

About 120 acres, which are not required by the Army are being surrendered and arrangements are being made to restore it to the descendants of the original proprietors.

(g) Does not arise.

DIVISIONS UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, NEW DELHI.

1658. ***Mr. Umar Aly Shah:** Will Government please state the names and number of Divisions under the control of Central Public Works Department, New Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: There are ten permanent and seven temporary Divisions under the control of the Central Public Works Department. A statement showing their designations is laid on the table. In addition, there are two permanent Divisional posts (that is, posts ordinarily held by Executive Engineers) in the Viceregal Estates and the Civil Aviation Directorate, respectively.

Statement showing the designations of the permanent and temporary Divisions under the control of the Central Public Works Department.

Permanent.

1. New Delhi 'A' Division.
2. New Delhi 'B' Division.
3. Provincial Division.
4. Services Division.
5. Simla Central Division.
6. Ajmer Central Division.
7. Indore Central Division.
8. Dehra Dun Central Division.
9. Horticultural Division.
10. Electrical Division.

Temporary.

1. I Construction Division.
2. II Construction Division.
3. Delhi Aviation Division.
4. Karachi Aviation Division.
5. Rangoon Aviation Division.
6. Calcutta Aviation Division.
7. Bombay Aviation Division.

CERTAIN SUBORDINATES OF THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, NEW DELHI.

1659. ***Mr. Umar Aly Shah:** (a) Will Government please state the names of the subordinates of the Central Public Works Department, New Delhi, who have passed no recognised technical examination and have been brought into the permanent service of Government?

(b) Will Government please state the reasons for taking such persons in permanent Government service, who have not passed any recognised technical examination qualifying them for it?

(c) Will Government please state the names of the subordinates who have passed the Overseers' Examination from Roorkee College and are still temporary subordinates in the Central Public Works Department, New Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE.

1660. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the steps they have hitherto taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture?

(b) Is it a fact that one of the recommendations of the said Commission is that agricultural licences for guns should be granted with less strictness and on a more liberal basis in areas where wild animals are in abundance and cause destruction to cattle and cultivation?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether they have directed the Local Governments to act accordingly, and if so, are Government prepared to enquire and inform this House of the additional number of agricultural gun licences granted according to the recommendations referred to in part (b)?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reports showing the progress made in giving effect to the recommendations of the Commission, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

(b) The Commission were of the opinion that the grant of gun licenses on a more liberal scale appeared to be the more effective method of dealing with the damage.

(c) In November, 1923, the Government of India accepted the recommendation of the Arms Rules Committee about the freer issue of crop protection licenses and asked Local Governments to give effect to it. It was not, therefore, considered necessary to bring the matter specially to their notice again on the publication of the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. The action taken in different Provinces will be found in the remarks against item 12 in Part II of the reports referred to in the answer to part (a). There is no reason to think that crop protection licenses are not being issued in suitable cases and the Government of India do not, therefore, propose to enquire into the matter as suggested by the Honourable Member.

BAN OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ITALY ON INDIAN INSURANCE COMPANIES IN THAT COUNTRY.

1661. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will Government state:

(a) whether the Italian Government has put a ban on the Indian insurance companies in Italy:

(b) how many Italian companies are doing business in India; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action with regard to the action of the Italian Government; if so, what?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) and (c). Government have been informed that one Indian insurance company has experienced difficulty in setting up business in Italy, but as they have no precise information as to the nature of the difficulties experienced, they are making enquiries into the matter. On receipt of the information asked for, Government will consider what action can usefully be taken.

(b) So far as Government are aware, only one Italian company is transacting insurance business in this country.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 8 asked by Mr. V. V. Giri on the 5th February, 1935.

REPRESENTATIONS MADE BY THE ALL-INDIA RAILWAYMEN'S FEDERATION TO THE RAILWAY BOARD.

Statement showing the action taken by the Railway Board on the various important representations made by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation to the Railway Board since 1930.

Subject.	Important representations.	Action taken by Railway Board.
G. I. P. Railway Strike.	Ex-strikers offering themselves for duty in accordance with the Government of India communique, dated the 1st March 1930, were not taken back and were told that 95 per cent. of the vacancies had been filled up.	The Railway Board decided that if any individual employee could give proof that he had complied with the terms of the Government of India Communique of 1st March 1930, a copy of which is in the Library of the House, he would be placed on the waiting list. In accordance with this decision complaints from individual employees were examined by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway and the names of a few men who furnished the required proof were placed on the waiting list.
G. I. P. Railway Strike—*contd.*	Ex-strikers who had not complied with the terms of the Government of India Communique of the 1st March 1930 should be allowed to have their names registered for employment.	Railway Board decided that the names of such ex-strikers should be kept on a separate register and offered employment in preference to outsiders but after the men borne on the waiting list. This decision was communicated to the Agents of State-managed Railways in India and has been observed by those railway administrations.
	Ex-strikers who were borne on the waiting list or who might be placed on the waiting list should be treated as reinstated when taken back.	This suggestion was accepted by the Railway Board and Agents of State-managed Railways in India were instructed to act accordingly.
	The names of ex-strikers who had refused to accept an offer of employment on trial or on less pay or who could not accept an offer of employment owing to short notice should not be removed from the waiting list.	The Board decided that a person on the waiting list who might be offered a post on trial differing from that formerly held by him or a post carrying less than his former rate of pay should not be removed from the waiting list for declining such offer and necessary instructions were issued to the Agents of State-managed railways in India. These instructions were also made applicable to employees who on account of short notice could not accept offer of employment.
	Some of the ex-strikers eligible for reinstatement were reinstated on less pay.	The Railway Board decided that each such case should be examined by the Railway administration concerned and that the rate of pay should be fixed in each case in accordance with the Government of India communique of the 1st March 1930 and Agents of State-managed railways in India were instructed to act accordingly.
	The period during which an employee was borne on the waiting list and was out of employment should not be considered as an interruption of duty for purposes of passes.	The Railway Board agreed to this and issued the necessary instructions.
	The register for the re-employment of ex-strikers should be extended for a period of one year from 31st December 1931.	The Railway Board agreed to keep the register open for another year and instructed the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway accordingly.

Subject	Important representations.	Action taken by Railway Board.
G. I. P. Railway Strike *concld.*	Ex-strikers re-employed from the register were not given any credit for past service.	The Railway Board decided to re-affirm their previous decision that ex-strikers who had not complied with the terms of the Government of India communique of 1st March 1930, who were re-employed from the register could only be considered as new entrants to service and the Federation was informed accordingly.
	A joint committee consisting of equal number of Railway and Federation representatives with an independent Chairman should be appointed to enquire into the cases of victimised strikers and effect speedy reinstatement of all the strikers.	Not accepted as Government were satisfied that the Great Indian Peninsula Railway administration gave proper effect to the Government of India communique of 1st March 1930.
	All outside recruitment should be stopped in preference to ex-strikers pending their reinstatement.	Not accepted, but purely as an act of grace, instructions were issued to the Agents of State-managed Railways in India that in engaging men to fill vacancies, after dealing with the claims of men on the waiting lists, preference should be given to ex-strikers who had lost their jobs on account of their going on strike and of their failure to report to duty within the date specified by Government.
	The prosecutions launched in connection with the strike should be withdrawn.	Not accepted as Government of India saw no reason to interfere.
	The Federation representative should be associated in taking back the strikers.	Not accepted. Instructions were, however, issued to the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway that the Deputy Agent, Staff, of that railway, should look personally into all claims put forward by individuals that they had complied with the terms of the Government of India communique dated 1st March 1930.
Rules regulating the discharge and dismissal of State Railway Non-gazetted Government servants.	The Rules should make no distinction between permanent employees and others.	The suggestion of the Federation was considered by the Board and the rules extended to temporary non-gazetted employees borne on a non-pensionable establishment of a State Railway or in other offices under the Railway Board or the Financial Commissioner of Railways provided they had completed 3 years' continuous service.

Subject.	Important representations.	Action taken by Railway Board.
Rules regulating the discharge and dismissal of State Railway Non-gazetted Government servants—*contd.*	That Railway administrations who had recognised Unions should inform them at the earliest possible date of any intention to bring about retrenchment to an appreciable extent.	The Railway Board issued instructions to the Agents of State-managed Railways that when it was proposed to effect a comparatively large reduction of staff of 100 employees or more the recognised Union representing the interests of such staff, should be informed of the proposals with a general statement of the reasons for the intended reduction.
	That the period allowed for returning a charge sheet with a written explanation should be extended from 3 to 7 days.	The Railway Board agreed to this and the rules were subsequently amended accordingly.
	Rule 6 should expressly mention that there will be no block retrenchment of employees.	Not accepted.
	There should be no disadvantageous comparison of service conditions with other large concerns and service agreement enabling discharge or dismissal without proven reasons should not be required to be executed by the employees.	Not accepted.
	The benefit of Rule 6 (*ii*), *i.e.*, of giving charge sheet to employees with over 10 years service, charged with offences which may lead to discharge be extended to those who had not completed 10 years' continuous service.	Not accepted. But this point has since arisen and is under consideration in connection with certain proposals for amending the Discharge and Dismissal Rules for State Railway Non-gazetted Government servants.
	In cases of employees of ten or more years service (continuous or otherwise) on the Railway an alternative punishment of reduction in pay should be generally inflicted instead of discharge which may be deserving in case of employees of less service.	Not accepted.

Subject.	Important representations.	Action taken by Railway Board.
Educational Assistance Rules.	The rules should also apply to inferior service employees; and labourers especially those drawing more than Rs. 30 per mensem should not be excluded from the operation of the Rules.	Government have come to certain conclusions which are contained in the memorandum circulated for discussion at a recent meeting of the Central Advisory Councils for Railways, a copy of which will be found in the Library.
	Before extending the limit of assistance to higher paid officials or employees the claims of the lowest paid staff should receive prior consideration and by recognition of these claims, the extra cost would not be very considerable in the case of inferior service employees.	
	The recommendation that the rules should apply to permanent employees only should not be accepted.	
	The suggestion by Mr. Smith to add a note in regard to schools situated more than 5 miles by rail from a station may be modified to 3 miles limit as recommended by the Agents, A. B. and E. I. Railways to qualify for assistance.	
	The assistance should be given up to High School standard.	
	In regard to schools where instruction is not given in the employees' home language, assistance should be given as if schools of requisite standard did not exist.	
	In case of employees working at stations where educational assistance is available, at least, the school fees may be contributed by the railway.	The Federation were informed at the meeting that this could not be accepted.
	A limited number of scholarships for college education of children of railway employees may be offered for each Department.	The Federation were told at the meeting that under the existing policy of the Board they could not do anything in regard to this.

Subject.	Important representations.	Action taken by Railway Board.
Relations between railways and railway Unions and between the Federation and the Railway Board.	A few card passes for some of the executive officers of Unions to do Union work be given and also to Federation.	The deputation from the Federation are granted free passes for attending half-yearly meetings with the Railway Board the number of such passes being limited to 15 for each meeting. Members of such deputation who are railway employees are granted special passes and special casual leave at the discretion of the Railway Administrations for attending such meetings with the Railway Board while members of such deputation who are not railway employees are granted first class passes to place of meeting and back. The Railway Board have informed railway administrations that they have no objection to the grant of passes by them to Union representatives when called for meetings by the administrations concerned.
	There should be occasions for the representatives of trade Unions to meet the employers either at fixed intervals or as frequently as possible with a definite agenda to discuss general questions from time to time.	Recognised Unions have the right of access to officials of the railway administrations concerned for discussion of genuine cases and Government are aware that this is being followed in actual practice by some railway administrations.
	Railway administrations should provide some sort of housing for the union officers and office buildings for union purposes.	Railway Administrations were informed that the Board saw no objection to their letting out on rent to Unions if they had any spare accommodation.
	Subscriptions to Unions should be recovered through salary bills.	Federation were informed at the meeting that the Railway Board could not agree to this and that it was tried on the North Western Railway and that it had proved a failure.
	Railway administrations should discuss individual cases with railway labour Unions.	In issuing orders to the Agents of State-managed railways that the rules issued by the Government of India in the Industries and Labour Department for the recognition of associations of industrial employees would apply to unions of State-railway Non-Gazetted Government servants, those railway administrations have been informed that while Government do not desire that the representation of individual cases by recognised Unions be entirely debarred they leave it to the discretion of Agents to decide the extent to which such representations shall be admitted.

Subject.	Important representations.	Action taken by Railway Board.
Relations between railways and railway Unions and between the Federation and the Railway Board—*contd.*	Unless welfare committees are subsidiary to Unions theyshould not be constituted.	Not accepted. It was explained to the Federation that they were not rival organisations to the Unions but were parallel organisations, and were a regular channel for the Railway Administrations to maintain direct contact with their staff and discharge one of their important duties.
	If a Union was affiliated to the Federation that factor should be a point in favour of the recognition of that Union by the Agent of the railway concerned.	It was explained to the Federation at the meeting that the recognition of particular Unions would have to be decided on their merits. The policy of the Railway Board in the matter is explained in the information laid on the table of the House on 21st January 1935 in connection with starred question No. 480, asked by Lt.-Col. Sir Henry Gidney, on the 14th March 1934.
Recruitment rules for apprentice mechanics and Trade apprentices.	Rule 2 of the rules for the recruitment and training of apprentice mechanics and trade apprentices, regarding age restriction should not operate adversely against those holding qualifications higher than the prescribed minimum nor against those already in service.	This suggestion will be considered by the Railway Board in connection with the review of the working of the recruitment rules for apprentice mechanics and trade apprentices to the undertaken shortly.
	Rule 4 regarding the period of apprenticeship should not be more than the already recognised practice, *e.g.*, train examiners on East Indian Railway undergo only 3 years training and Mechanical apprentices on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway undergo only 4 years' training. The course of studies should be based on the most recent practice in the foreign countries to enable the apprentices to become most efficient.	Ditto ditto.
	The scale of allowances for Mechanical apprentices is in some respects worse than the prevailing scales on the Great Indian Peninsula, Eastern Bengal and North Western Railways. Stipends for Trade apprentices should not be less than their boarding and lodging expenses.	Ditto ditto.

Subject.	Important representations.	Action taken by Railway Board.
Recruitment rules for apprentice mechanics and Trade apprentices—*contd.*	The candidates should be eligible for membership to the Provident Fund Institution as is the case in certain respects on the Eastern Bengal and East Indian Railways.	Not agreed to by the Railway Board.
	Candidates should not be debarred permanently for failure to pass any of the prescribed tests.	The existing procedure in the rules is fairly elastic and the Railway Board are not prepared to make any amendment in the direction suggested by the Federation.
	Guarantee of employment in preference to outsiders should be given on completion of apprenticeship.	Not accepted as railways must retain freedom of selection of their skilled workmen.
	All vestiges of existing racial discrimination on State-owned railways should be removed.	Railway Board are not aware of any vestiges of racial discrimination as alleged.
Production of medical certificates from competent registered female practitioners in the case of female employees or candidates.	Regulation 4 of the Medical Examination rules should allow of the production of medical certificates from competent registered female medical practitioners in the case of female employees or candidates.	The suggestion was accepted by the Railway Board and necessary amendment has been made to the rules.
Visual tests prescribed in the medical examination rules.	The present standards of visual tests are severe and should be relaxed.	The suggestion was not accepted. The Federation were informed at the meeting that the suggestion could not be accepted in the interests of the safety of the travelling public.
Pay to be granted to an employee found medically unfit and retained in a lower post as an alternative to discharge.	Employees found medically unfit and retained in a lower post should be paid the wages drawn by them in their former higher posts.	Railway Board informed the Federation at the meeting tha the suggestion could not be accepted as an employee had to be paid for the work actually performed by him and that there was no justification for giving him the salary attached to his former higher post when performing the work of a lower post.
Medical examination of ex-employees on re-appointment.	Ex-employees on re-appointment should be subjected to the medical examination test prescribed for staff during service and not the test on first appointment.	The suggestion was accepted. Necessary orders have been issued to the State-managed railways.

Subject.	Important representations.	Action taken by Railway Board.
Appeals against medical opinion of Railway Medical officers.	Provision should be made in the regulations for reconsideration of adverse reports made by Railway Medical officers.	The suggestion was not accepted. The Federation were informed at the meeting that provision for appeal to the Chief Medical Officer already existed in the rules. The Board did not agree to admit certificates from outside practitioners in the matter of adverse reports made by Railway Medical officers.
Colour vision tests	The existing method of testing for colour vision should be dispensed with and the Bostron system of coloured signals should be introduced.	The suggestion was not accepted. The Railway Board pointed out to the Federation at the meeting that the adoption of the Bostron system, which was still in an experimental stage, would involve very heavy expenditure and that even that system did not do away with the necessity for colour vision tests.
Rules to regulate infliction of punishments.	Charge sheets followed by explanation of accused employees and an enquiry in which the latter are allowed to defend through their Unions with necessary facilities should be recognised before inflicting punishments.	The existing rules regulating the discharge and dismissal of State-railway non-gazetted Government servants provide for the giving of charge sheets to employees charged with an offence which may involve dismissal and under certain conditions also the cases of discharge, and the revision of these rules is under consideration at present The Railway Board are also examining the rules regarding disciplinary measures in force on Railways with a view to drafting general rules on the subject.
Disciplinary enquiries.	The right of being given an interview before a punishment was inflicted and to be accompanied by a representative if so desired which is recognised on English Railways and is supported by the Royal Commission on Labour should be allowed to staff on Indian Railways.	The Federation were informed at the meeting that the question of allowing an employee to be accompanied by a friend would be discussed with Agents, Class I Railways at the meeting held in October 1934. The subject was accordingly discussed by the Board with the Agents at the meeting held in October 1934 and the matter is at present under consideration.
Leave Rules .	No distinction should be made between monthly rated employees and daily rated employees.	Not accepted; Federation has been informed that for inferior and daily rated staff a reasonable annual holiday was sufficient.
	The rule that employees recruited after a certain date should be brought under the New Leave Rules should be abrogated.	Not accepted.
	Staff transferred to a post where the New Rules apply from a post where they do not, should be given the right to elect to remain under any rules.	Not accepted; Federation has been informed that under the rules the Board may in special cases permit them to remain under the former rules applicable to them.

Subject.	Important representations.	Action taken by Railway Board.
Leave Rules—*contd.*	A railway servant discharged on reduction of establishment or physical fitness should be permitted to count former service as continuous with his later service on re-employment without restriction.	Not accepted; Federation has been informed that note 1 to rule 4 of the Leave Rules is based on F. R. 65 (*a*) and embodies the substance in a more favourable form.
	An employee should not be penalised for overstayal on account of sickness or other reasonable grounds.	Federation has been informed that the competent authority may at its discretion commute absence into any leave admissible to employees.
	Distinction between persons of Asiatic and non-Asiatic domicile in respect of leave privileges should be abolished as it savours of racial discrimination.	Federation has been informed that it is not based on racial grounds but on consideration that officers serving in a foreign country require a longer amount of leave a part of which is spent on voyage.
	Average pay should include allowance drawn and the restriction of 75 per cent. in regard to running staff is unwarranted.	Not accepted; Federation has been informed that owing to the fluctuating nature of this allowance it was necessary to impose a limit.
	Limiting the maximum period of leave under the New Rules to practically nearly half the period recognised by C. S. R. and F. R. is severe.	Federation has been informed that the leave rules under the Fundamental Rules are unduly liberal.
	Six different sets of rules for (*i*) gazetted servants of non-Asiatic domicile (*ii*) non-gazetted servants of some domicile etc., are not necessary.	Not accepted.
	Casual leave and paid holidays granted to workshop inferior service and other employees should not be adversely affected by the new rules.	Accepted and orders issued accordingly.
	Persons in inferior service, daily rated staff and labourers with less than 20 years service should be granted leave on medical certificate.	Accepted partially and rules were amended so as to allow such employees of 10 years service and over but less than 20 years leave on medical certificate on half pay not exceeding 15 days in any year and 60 days in all.
		The matter is being considered further.

Subject.	Important representations.	Action taken by Railway Board.
Leave Rules—*concld.*	Commutation of full pay leave into half pay leave and *vice versa* should be allowed.	These representations which were made at the 8th half yearly meeting held in July 1934 are still under consideration.
	A commutation of unused leave by daily-rated and inferior staff should be allowed.	
	Overtime and mileage allowances should be granted to running staff absent on casual leave.	
	Rule requiring 3 years' service in the grant of leave to daily-rated and inferior staff should be revised.	
	Unpaid holidays in workshops should be stopped and the staff given the option to choose the monthly or daily-rate of payment of wages.	
	Sick leave to daily rated and inferior staff should be granted on a more liberal scale.	
	Journeymen should be classified as subordinates for the purpose of leave rules.	Accepted and orders issued to Railways.
Retrenchment of Staff.	A special meeting should be arranged for in February 1930 for the discussion of the subject of retrenchment with the Rly. Board.	Not agreed to by the Railway Board as they could not find time for such a meeting owing to their pre-occupations at that time connected with the preparation of the Railway Budget.
	Requested the Railway Board to join them in their application for the appointment of a Board of Conciliation under the Trade Disputes Act in connection with the settlement of the dispute arising from retrenchment of staff on railways.	Not agreed to by the Railway Board owing to difference of opinion between them and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation regarding the points on which application was to be made to the Government of India for the appointment of a Board of Conciliation under the Trade Disputes Act.
	Retrenchment of staff was not justified by the financial position of railways and that it should therefore be given up.	Not agreed to by the Railway Board. The All-India Railwaymen's Federation were informed that staff surplus to requirements could not be retained in service.

Subject.	Important representations.	Action taken by Railway Board.
Retrenchment of Staff—*contd.*	The principle of normal wastage should be utilised in avoiding compulsory discharge of staff.	Accepted. The Railway Board issued specific instructions to the Agents of State-managed railways that beginning from September 1931, no employee should be retrenched if within a period of 2 months from the date his post was deemed superfluous a vacancy would occur in his class. Agents of Company-managed railways were invited to follow a similar course.
	Requested in June 1931 that further retrenchment on Railways should be postponed.	After consideration of the question in consultation with the Agents of Railways the Railway Board issued orders in July 1931 postponing, with certain minor exceptions, retrenchment until the end of October 1931 when it was agreed to review the position again, in consultation with the Agents of Railways and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation.
	The instructions issued in Railway Board's letter No. 4080-E of 10th October, 1930 should be applied so as to ensure that Railway Unions are advised of proposals involving large reductions of staff in advance of actual retrenchment.	Accepted. The Railway Board issued instructions to the Agents of State-managed railways that they should inform recognised Unions representing the interests of the employees concerned of proposals of intended reductions on a large scale a month in advance and to take into consideration any representations submitted by such Unions within a fortnight of the supply of such information and to discuss with such recognised Unions if after the Agent's reply to a Unions' representation and before the retrenchment was ordered the Union concerned desired such a discussion.
	Where on a railway there is no recognised Unions representing the employees concerned the Agents of railways should be instructed to make suitable arrangements to apprise the staff of the proposals for retrenchment and also to notify the All-India Railwaymen's Federation of the proposals.	The Railway Board agreed that the Agents of State-managed Railways would be advised to communicate the proposals for retrenchment to the staff by means of notices hung in suitable places in workshops and through the railway gazette and that the Agents of Company-managed railways would be invited to adopt the same procedure. The Railway Board did not agree to the second request of the Federation that they should be advised by the Agents of intended reductions where no recognised Unions existed.

Subject.	Important representations.	Action taken by Railway Board.
Retrenchment of Staff—*concld.*	The Railway Board should arrange for the consideration of cases in which employees had by reason of demotion suffered a reduction in their emoluments to the extent of 40 per cent. or over.	The Railway Board agreed to do this and issued orders to Agents of State-managed Railways and invited the Company-managed Railways to follow a similar procedure.
	Suggested as an alternative to discharge that compulsory leave without pay or on half pay by rotation should be tried by railways.	The Railway Board agreed to bring prominently to the notice of railway administrations the special importance attached to it by the Federation and to commend it for adoption as far as practicable so far as the retrenchment contemplated in 1932 was concerned. Necessary action was taken by the Railway Board to give effect to this undertaking and the Federation were informed by the Railway Board of the results of their consideration in the matter, *vide* Railway Board's letter No. 381-L. of 2nd August 1932, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.
Indebtedness of railway employees.	(i) Effect should be given to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour regarding the salary and wages of workmen being exempted entirely from the possibility of attachment. (ii) Legislation should be enacted providing a summary procedure for the liquidation of workers unsecured debts. (iii) Besetting of industrial establishments for the purposes of recovery of debt by money lenders should be made a cognizable offence.	The Railway Board agreed to take into consideration the views of the Federation before coming to conclusions on these recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour. Recommendations (i) and (ii) are under consideration by the Government of India. Regarding recommendation (iii) necessary enactment has been made by the Bengal Government.
Recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour for the setting up of a Joint Standing Machinery for the settlement of disputes on railways.	These are given in detail in paras. 6 to 17 and 19 to 22 of the Amplified Report of the proceedings of the 6th half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.	After careful consideration the Railway Board have come to certain provisional conclusions which are under the consideration of the Government of India.

Subject.	Important representations.	Action taken by Railway Board.
Items 135, 137, 138 and 139 of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour.	Details of the representations made on these recommendations will be found in paras. 26 to 29 of the Amplified Report of the proceedings of the 6th half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.	The matter is still under consideration.
Amendments to the Trade Disputes Act.	The suggestions made by the Federation are contained in paras. 30 to 42 of the Amplified Report of the proceedings of the 7th half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.	The Board agreed to consider the points put forward by the Federation. After consideration the Railway Board duly forwarded the Federation's suggestions to the Government of India for consideration.
Pass Rules . .	(*a*) The scale regulating the number and class of passes permissible should be revised so as to make it more liberal, and the conditions governing their issue should be free from several restrictions that are now enforced. (*b*) Passes should be issued to all employees irrespective of pay and grade, including apprentices and probationers. (*c*) There should be no restriction in regard to the number of children and dependents to whom passes should be admissible. (*d*) A scale of passes should be prescribed for retired employees and to families of deceased employees. (*e*) Pass holders and privilege ticket holders should be allowed to travel in a higher class or by mail trains on payment of the additional fare due. (*f*) The definition of a "servant" should be made more liberal. (*g*) Privilege tickets may be issued by other than the direct route.	Under consideration.

Subject	Important representations.	Action taken by Railway Board.
Pass Rules—*contd.*	(*h*) Provision passes for employees at outstations should be allowed for each individual. (*i*) Break of journey for pass holders or privilege ticket holders should not be restricted. (*j*) Passes should be issued to Ministers or priests of all religion travelling for service of railway employees. (*k*) Employees compulsorily retrenched should be given passes to look elsewhere for employment.	Under consideration.
Emergency deductions from pay.	The rules regarding emergency deductions from the salaries of railway servants under which the pay of an employee if it exceeded Rs. 83-5-4 per mensem was subject to a 10 per cent. cut, as against a lower rate of cut applicable to persons drawing less pay, were being applied so as to enforce a 10 per cent. cut even when the actual wages of such an employee were reduced below the limit referred to by reason of short time or unpaid holidays.	The Railway Board agreed to examine the point. After due consideration it was decided that with effect from the 1st April 1933, the rate of cut for the daily rated workshop employees for the period during which the reduced cuts were in force should be calculated on the total amount of wages actually earned by a workman during the month ***plus*** the wages he would have received during any day or days on which he was absent of his own accord but during which days the shops were working it being explained that such absence from work of a daily rated workshop employee of his own accord should include period or periods of absence covered by leave on medical certificate on half pay to which such employee might be entitled to under the leave rules.
	Workshop staff on short time and others like the running staff and demoted staff who had already suffered considerable loss due to retrenchment should not be subjected to any wage cut especially when the loss exceeded or approximated the normal rate of the wage cut	The position was explained to the Federation at the 8th half yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, *vide* paragraph 12 of the Amplified Report of the proceedings of the meeting, a copy of which will be found in the library of the House.
	In view of the improvement in earnings on railways, wage cuts should be cancelled in the Railway Budget for 1935-36 so far as the staff drawing less than Rs. 250 per mensem were concerned.	The Railway Board agreed to consider the matter. It has since been decided not to reimpose the wage cut on salaries earned after 31st March 1935.

Subject.	Important representations.	Action taken by Railway Board.
Hours of Employment Regulations.	A small committee of 3 or 4 representatives of the Federation may be allowed to discuss the draft of the Hours of Employment Regulations.	Accepted. A meeting between Member, Railway Board, and a deputation of 4 representatives from the All-India Railwaymen's Federation was held in September 1934.
	The Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930 did not fully meet the requirements of the Washington Hours and Geneva Weekly Rest Conventions.	It was pointed out to the Federation at the meeting held in September 1930 that it was not within the competence of the Railway Board to discuss with the Federation their criticisms of the Act which had been passed by the Central Legislature.
	A Union representative should be allowed to go with the Special officer deputed to fix up rosters, etc.	The Federation was informed at the meeting that this was a question of relationship between a particular railway administration and the Unions recognised by it.
	No difference should be made between 'intermittent' and other workers so far as night duty is concerned, as such duty calls for 'sustained attention'.	Railway Board agreed to bring prominently to the notice of Agents of Railways that men should be called upon to do night duty continuously as little as possible. Necessary action has been taken *vide* rule 8 of subsidiary Instructions to Section 71A to 71H of the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930.
	Experimental measures adopted by the B., B. & C. I. Railway should be undertaken by other Company-managed rai ways.	The Federation were informed that the finances of railways being low at that time, it was not possible to extend forthwith the Hours of Employment Regulations to Company-managed railways.
Report of the Court of Enquiry.	Complained that while accepting the Court's recommendation for the reinstatement of certain persons the Government of India had reserved for further consideration cases of persons discharged or demoted otherwise than as a measure of retrenchment.	The Chief Commissioner of Railways informed the Federation at the meeting held in June 1932 that he was confident that so far as the State-managed railways were concerned such cases would be few but that each such case would receive personal attention and that with regard to Company-managed railways, the Agents of those railways would be invited to follow a similar procedure. Necessary action was taken accordingly.

Subject.	Important representations.	Action taken by Railway Board.
Report of the Court of Enquiry—*contd.*	The Court's recommendation regarding the amendment of the Trade Disputes Act should be given effect to by legislative enactment as early as possible.	The Railway Board asked the Federation at the meeting to submit their views to the Board for communication to the Government of India. The views of the Federation were received by the Board at a meeting held in November 1933 and these have been communicated to the Government of India.
Provident Fund and Gratuity Rules.	The State Railway Provident Fund and Gratuity Rules should be liberalised and every one should be enabled to secure the benefits of the Provident Fund Membership. The present restrictions regarding menials and the exclusion of those drawing less than Rs. 15 who were willing to join the Provident Fund should be withdrawn.	The Railway Board informed the Federation that an actuarial examination was in progress to find out whether Provident Fund and Gratuity were more beneficial than the pensionary benefits. The Federation agreed to take up the question again after the results of the actuarial examination had been communicated to them. It was pointed out to the Federation at the meeting that there were thousands of employees who were eligible to join the Provident Fund but had not joined and that there was no use in extending a privilege and forcing people who did not want to join. As regards the extension of the Provident Fund membership to lower paid staff, the Federation were informed, *vide* paragraph 31 of the Amplified Report of the proceedings of the 6th half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, a copy of which is in the Library of the House, that the proposal could not be accepted at that time as it involved additional expenditure amounting to about half a crore of rupees on State-managed railways alone which could not be countenanced under the financial stringency which existed at that time. The Board however agreed to consider the matter further when the financial position improved and the railways had a balanced budget.
Wages and Revision of scales of pay.	In the revision of scales of pay no scale should be reduced below what it was before the revision.	Not accepted.

Subject.	Important Representations.	Action taken by Railway Board.
Wages and Revision of scales of pay—*contd.*	The Federation should have an opportunity of making their submissions before any decision was reached regarding the revision o scales of pay.	The Federation were informed that if any general revision of the scales of pay for subordinate and inferior railway staff was decided upon the Federation would be advised of the orders in accordance with the undertaking given in the Government of India Communiqué dated the 1st March 1930, and that the Railway Board would also consider, before any such revision is finally decided upon, whether the Federation should be informed, before the issue of such orders, of the action which it is proposed to take. The Railway Board ultimately decided to furnish the Federation with copies of revised scales of pay of subordinate staff of State-managed railways. Accordingly copies of revised scales of pay issued on State-managed railways have been supplied to the Federation.
	Wages should be standardised amongst all classes of employees who belonged to the same category.	Not accepted. It was pointed out to the Federation at the meeting that standardisation was impossible owing to the cost and standard of living being different in different parts of India.
House rent for low paid staff.	No staff drawing less than Rs. 30 should be charged any rent for occupation of staff quarters.	The Chief Commissioner referred the Federation to the policy laid down in the matter which is contained in Chapter II of the State Railway Code (Revised) and explained to the Federation that workshop staff could not be given rent quarters as their presence was not essential at stations for the running of trains.

Information promised in reply to starred questions No. 363 and 364 asked by Sardar Mangal Singh on the 21st February, 1935.

The information, so far as it has been possible to collect it, is given below :

RESTORATION OF MILITARY PENSIONS OF SIKHS FORFEITED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE AKALI MOVEMENT.

363. (a) (i) 228.

(ii) 191.

(iii) 32 (excluding 5 who died).

(b) The military authorities are always prepared to consider any recommendations that the Local Government or Administration concerned may make in the matter. The initiative must rest with them.

PENSIONS OF MILITARY PENSIONERS FORFEITED FOR PARTICAPATION IN THE CONGRESS MOVEMENT.

364. 12.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 397 asked by Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena on the 21st February, 1935.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE USE OF RUNNING ROOMS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

(a) Government understand that the facts are not as stated.
(b) There is no racial discrimination.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 773 asked by Munshi Iswar Saran on the 9th March, 1935.

MEMBERS OF THE DEPRESSED CLASSES IN THE COMBATANT RANKS OF THE ARMY AND IN THE POLICE FORCE.

(i) About 1000. No accurate figures are available as the Army does not recognise any classes as depressed classes.
(ii) 150.

Information promised in reply to parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 799 asked by Mr. S. Satyamurti on the 11th March, 1935.

IMPORT OF JAPANESE TILES INTO INDIA.

(a) Imports of tiles from Japan into British India by sea during each month January 1934 to January 1935 were as under:

	No.	Rs.
January, 1934	1,046,703	54,159
February, 1934	863,022	45,422
March, 1934	806,692	42,808
April, 1934	475 021	25,526
May, 1934	589,971	32,508
June, 1934	490,652	28,661
July, 1934	700,854	41,062
August, 1934	879,579	54,300
September, 1934	1,123,939	62,193
October, 1934	678,669	41,609
November, 1934	825,986	50,845
December, 1934	723,386	40,176
January, 1935	1,338,407	78,940

(b) The imports from Japan consist mostly of white glazed tiles used for walling purposes. The price of the common varieties i.e., of size 6"×6"×3/5th" thickness is reported to be 14 to 15 annas per dozen. Similar tiles of Indian manufacture are reported to cost Rs. 1-3-0 or Rs. 1-4-0 per dozen approximately. Roofing tiles are not imported from Japan.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 976, asked by Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq on the 25th March, 1935.

ABOLITION OF THE GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH OFFICE, DELHI.

(a) The savings which are likely to be secured ultimately are estimated to amount to approximately Rs. 29,000 per annum,

(b) Six at a cost of Rs. 3,627.

(c) (i) Two slightly damaged.

(ii) None.

Expenditure on repairs, Rs. 23.

Expenditure on replacements, etc., Rs. 360.

(d) and (e) (i) 42 of which 24 were groundless and 18 well-grounded. Many of the delays complained of were due to an abnormal increase in telegraph traffic during January.

(ii) four of which one was well grounded and three groundless.

(iii) Nil.

(iv) eight all of which were groundless.

(v) one which was well grounded.

(f) No.

(g) 27.

(h) Does not arise in view of reply to part (f).

(i) The telegraph branch of the Old Delhi Post Office is open for public business throughout the 24 hours on week days. During those hours the telegraph branch of the office is supervised and public enquiries are attended to by the Telegraph Master in charge of the branch or by the senior signaller on duty.

(j) 0 to 11 and 16 to 19 hours. During those hours supervision is carried out by the Telegraph Master in charge or the senior signaller on duty.

(k) Government are aware that there has been some criticism by the general public and in the press regarding the conversion of the former departmental telegraph office in Old Delhi into a combined post and telegraph office. The telegraph service in Old Delhi is being carefully watched and such action as may be found necessary to ensure an efficient service will be taken.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 990, asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai on the 25th March, 1935

PERIODICAL TESTS FOR STATION AND ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

The Agent, North Western Railway, reports:

(a) and (b). Up to 1929, Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters were required to pass an oral test in train working conducted on the Divisions every three years. This was discontinued on the introduction of Refresher Courses at the Walton Training School which Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters were required to pass every five years. In 1931, however, these courses were held in abeyance as a temporary measure and it was finally decided in November 1934 not to introduce them again but to revert to the practice under which these employees were tested locally every three years at the time when they were required to undergo their periodic vision test.

(c) and (d). No other staff are required to undergo these periodic tests which are considered necessary in the case of Guards, Station Masters and Assistant Station Masters in view of their intimate connection with, and responsibilities regarding, running trains.

(e) and (f). Government understand that special provision with regard to leave reserve has been made to meet such contingencies. Government do not consider that these tests impose any hardship on the staff concerned. It is in the interests both of the travelling public and efficiency that these employees should undergo periodic examinations in these duties.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

PROHIBITION OF THE HOLDING OF THE SESSION OF THE ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS IN CALCUTTA.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair has received three notices of adjournment motions from Mr. Giri, Pandit Nilakantha Das and Prof. Ranga, all relating to certain orders passed by the Government of Bengal prohibiting the holding of the session of the All-India Trade Union Congress. The notice by Mr Giri is in these words:

"I hereby give notice that I intend making a motion for an adjournment of the business of the Assembly on Monday for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, the prohibition by the Government of Bengal of the holding of the session of the All-India Trade Union Congress at Calcutta."

When was this order passed?

Mr. V. V. Giri (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I received information on Saturday afternoon.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): When was the order passed?

Mr. V. V. Giri: Probably the previous evening.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): On Friday evening? Is there any objection to this motion?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): I take exception to this motion on the ground that it does not relate to a matter of urgent public importance. I may say at once that I have no information of any kind whatever on the subject. I am not aware that the Government of Bengal have passed any such order and I am not even aware that there was any intention of holding a session of this body in Calcutta. I have telegraphed to the Bengal Government but have received no reply. The Honourable Member states that he was informed on Saturday afternoon that such an order has been passed, but until I am aware of what authority he has for that information, I am not prepared to admit that such an order in fact has been passed.

Mr. V. V. Giri: I got a telegram from the Secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress at Calcutta that the meeting was prohibited and that the holding of the session of the All-India Trade Union Congress at Calcutta was prohibited by the Police Commissioner.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member got a copy of the order of the Local Government?

Mr. V. V. Giri: The only intimation that I received was from the Secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress at Calcutta, and I got this telegram.

(The telegram was handed over to the President.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The telegram says:

"Police Commissioner disallowed Calcutta Session of All-India Trade Union Congress. Move Adjournment."

(Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: May I say that I am certainly not prepared to accept that purely *ex parte* statement as conclusive proof that any such order has been passed. On the Honourable Member's own showing, the order is not that of the Bengal Government, but that of the Commissioner of Police.

Mr. V. V. Giri: The Commissioner of Police represents the Bengal Government. I gave notice of this motion for adjournment on Saturday, and surely the Government of India had enough time to communicate with the Government of Bengal and they could have found out the truth or otherwise of the matter.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Immediately I received notice, I sent a wire to the Government of Bengal, but I have so far received no reply.

Mr. V. V. Giri: The Government of India could have easily found out from the Government of Bengal whether my statement was correct.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The telegram that has been handed to the Chair is the only source of information so far, and, apparently, no such order has been passed by the Government of Bengal, but only the police have taken certain steps. Further, the Honourable the Home Member informs the House that he himself has not received any information though he telegraphed for information last Saturday. Under the circumstances, this motion is out of order. That disposes of the other two items.

PUBLICATION OF THE VIEWS OF SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE, SERVING IN BENGAL ON THE REFORMS.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is notice of another motion of adjournment sent by Mr. Satyamurti and others to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely:

"The situation created by the publication of the views of some of the members of the Indian Civil Service, serving in Bengal, on the reforms."

The Chair would like to know from Mr. Satyamurti what is the publication to which the Honourable Member refers, what are the views expressed, what is the situation created, and whether it can be said to be a definite matter of urgent public importance within the meaning of the Standing Order.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, the publication referred to is a publication in the *Morning Post*, which was republished here in the *Statesman* and the *Hindustan Times* of Saturday morning, of the views of some members of the Indian Civil Service, serving in Bengal. "It is", as Mr. Churchill said, "a covering memorandum prepared by the delegation of Civil Servants, including two Secretaries to Government, two Judges and one Indian Sub-Divisional Officer, on behalf of the Bengal Civil Service Association. It forms an introduction and foundation of a memorial on the matters the House was now discussing".

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member got a copy of the memorial?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No, Sir, no copy is available in India.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): Is the Honourable Member reading Mr. Winston Churchill's speech?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Yes; I trust Sir Henry Craik does not question Mr. Churchill's veracity.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I certainly do.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Oh! It is something good to know that an Englishman's veracity can be questioned by his own countryman.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, in this matter I should say that I question the accuracy of his information.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is better, Sir. But, although it is not binding on you, an adjournment motion on the alleged views of some Civil Service men in Bengal on the India Bill was moved yesterday in the House of Commons by Mr. Churchill, and the Speaker allowed it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Speaker must have had some information, and here the Chair also must have sufficient information.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The motion was based on a confidential note, prepared by the Bengal Civil Service Association, which according to Mr. Churchill showed that the service had been gagged, and it had been claimed to favour a measure to which it was opposed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): In the House of Commons that information was available to the Speaker and to the House.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The particular paragraph on which I base my motion is this:

"Mr. Churchill drew attention to the following quotation from the memorandum: 'It is probably our duty as Civil Servants to represent these things, especially as we are the only experts and, therefore, should not have been consulted, but rather gagged, the result of which was that Mr. Baldwin in a public speech claimed that, as we had expressed no dissent, we must agree to the whole scheme. In point of fact, we are admittedly not allowed to express an opinion. An honest authority would have removed the ban in the matter of this Bill of Imperial importance. Indiscretions in favour of the White Paper have been committed, and this breach of the rules of our service has not been without its improvements in the professional position of tactful officers'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is the expression of view referred to there?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The expression of view is this that this Government is punishing those Civil Servants who are against these reforms, but encouraging those who express their opinion in favour of the reforms. That is the passage; and the matter of urgent importance is this, that the position of permanent Civil Servants under any political Government is most important. I am sure you will readily concede that. But this betrays an alarming state of affairs that members of the Civil Service of high position are blaming Government, and saying that Government are trying to encourage pro-reform Civil Servants, and punishing anti-reform Civil Servants, and ask that they should be encouraged to state their opinion on the political aspect of the reforms. That is the position, and I submit that it is dangerous to the functioning of every democratic Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is it the Honourable Member's point that Government are encouraging canvassing by prominent Civil Servants of a certain class of opinion?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is their charge. My charge today is that, under the Government of India, there are Civil Servants who take up political attitudes, on first-class political issues and ventilate their views. And if they force their views on the political aspects of proposed constitutional reforms, no democracy can function effectively or honestly.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair wants to know what the facts are.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): Sir, I object to this motion. All that we know from the press is this that there was no publication here in India of the views of anybody. What happened there was that a memorandum signed by three or four persons was sent confidentially to some Members of the House of Commons. It was repudiated by the Association itself, and if I may read a passage from the *Statesman* of the 6th April last, it says . . . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair wants to hear the Honourable Member at present only on the point of order whether the motion comes within the Standing Orders.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: With regard to the point of order, the arguments are very briefly these: It was not published here or in England either. It was repudiated by the Association. Sir Samuel Hoare said that this is not the view of the Association at all and this was not before them in official capacity, and so on. And I submit to you, Sir, what is the situation which has been created? Supposing two members of the Civil Service express views which are not acceptable to this House. . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): How many members?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Three or four.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Six members.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: It is completely repudiated by the Association. What was before the House of Commons, as Sir Samuel Hoare explained, is not this document at all.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member means these are confidential communications?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Yes, Sir, and that is why I was going to read the *Statesman*:

"The Duchess of Atholl said in order to remove doubts she had been authorised to state that publication had been made without the knowledge and consent of the Bengal Civil Service Association or their representatives here. Sir Samuel Hoare asked how the document was obtained. The Duchess of Atholl replied that she had not the slightest idea and mentioned that a copy of the memorandum had been sent to her. Nothing the strong expressions she had inquired if it was for publication and had received a reply in the negative."

So it was not published at all but it was a confidential communication by three or four members to some selected Members of the House of Commons.

Further, I will read a few lines more, from the statement of Sir Samuel Hoare:

"It was drawn up by three or four individuals and not accepted either by the Bengal Branch or the Central Association. Sir Samuel Hoare said he received confidentially some days ago extracts from a document which immediately appeared to him not likely to be endorsed by the Bengal branch or the Central body. He immediately telegraphed to Sir John Anderson, whose information confirmed his views. Having pointed out that the document was not accepted, Sir Samuel Hoare said the only document which the Bengal branch had accepted was that put in the library. Members would see there was a difference between the document put in the library and this expression of individual opinion. 'I am not prepared to take account of individual views of three or four officials when those views are not accepted by their service organisation'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What happened to this motion?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: It was defeated by a large majority.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): On what material was this motion made in the House of Commons?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: It was made on the confidential communication, because some members had received confidentially this circular which was the opinion of three or four members and upon that material the motion was moved. Here we have not got that document: nothing has been published here: we can only guess the nature of its contents—we cannot even do that from the telegraphic extract which has come out. What is the situation created? It is not of any public importance.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: So far as the second point is concerned, the situation has been created by the action of the five members of the Civil Service Association.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Supposing a few members of the Civil Service Association or any other service association confidentially communicate certain views to their friends, does it become a matter of urgent public importance?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It does: the continuance in service of a Civil Servant, who holds these extreme political views on reforms, and who is willing to speak of the Government under whom he serves in such a manner, is a public danger. Of these five, two are secretaries, two are judges, and one is an Indian member of the Bengal Service.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Member suggest that this House should inquire into private communications even on political matters from members of the Civil Service to their friends?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It is not a private communication: I will read what the Duchess of Atholl said:

"The Duchess of Atholl, intervening in the Debate said she had just received additional information from an extremely well-informed source. She understood that the memorandum published in the *Morning Post* was circulated to all members of the Bengal Association, with the intimation that if it represented their views it was unnecessary to write and say so; and, therefore, replies had not been received from a great majority. The Duchess of Atholl said answers were received indicating assent and a few indicating dissent, but she was unable to give figures. She added that the document had been received by intelligent and experienced men who were informed that, if they did not reply, it would be taken that they approved."

If it was a private letter, from one member of the Civil Service to a friend in England, I am not concerned with it. But these are members of the Bengal Civil Service Association: in that capacity when they want to submit a memorandum on the reforms to the Government and the Secretary of State, and some of them circulate ***this*** memorandum representing, not their private views, but the views which they want the Association representing them and others to consider and press on the Government that is a public matter. That is not an expression of opinion of a private individual to a friend. I quite agree that, if anybody writes confidentially to a friend, we have nothing to do with it; but this was intended. . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But this memorandum itself is a confidential document.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That makes no difference: after all, some of the biggest coups in history have been made by confidential documents being found out. This was circulated to the Bengal Civil Service Association, and it was one of the bases, on which they adopted their final memorandum. . . .

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Yes, this was considered.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: It appears, as Sir Samuel Hoare pointed out, that the view of the Association is different from that published in this document: this is only the view of three or four members which have been confidentially sent

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: May I further point out that the confidential memorandum in question was not forwarded to the Government or to the Secretary of State?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I quite grant that: but that memorandum was considered, along with other documents, by the Bengal Civil Service Association. . . .

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: And rejected. . . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And, after considering this and other memoranda they sent their opinions to the Secretary of State.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): How are the Government of India concerned so far as these three members of the Civil Service Association are concerned?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: They are serving the Government of India: they belong to the Indian Civil Service, which is an all-India service, for whose rights, accruing and present, alarming safeguards are being imposed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Government of India cannot have control over the acts of every member of the Civil Service: there are many other services too.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Over their public views, yes.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Not publicly expressed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What the Chair wants to know is this: what have the Government of India to do with the circulation or forwarding of this memorandum? If any member of the Civil Services in this country adopted this in any way, that is another matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The Association is the Bengal Civil Service Association which the Government recognises, whose opinions the Government receives, and whose opinions the Government considers; and I submit that all the members are public servants paid out of the revenues of India, and subject to the control of the Government of India.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It might be relevant in Parliament where the India Bill is under discussion; but unless the Honourable Member can satisfy the Chair here that the Government of India have anything to do with the forwarding of this opinion, the Chair cannot hold that this motion is in order.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The Government of India have forwarded to the Secretary of State, and, through him, to the Parliament the views of the Bengal Civil Service Association.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That was on a publication made in the House of Commons there: that is public property.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The Bengal Civil Service Association had before it the memorandum prepared by five members of the association who are members of the Indian Civil Service. The Government of India are retaining their services yet. Such men ought to be in the public service no longer. (Opposition Cheers.) They have shown by their political views that they are a danger to any kind of government; they have attacked the Government of India in the most insulting terms: they bring the Government into contempt and hatred, more than all the sedition mongers: they say that this Government is punishing people who are against the reforms, and is encouraging people who are in favour of reforms; can anything more mean be suggested? I say the Government ought to dismiss these people.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Can the Honourable Member give the names of these people?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I know only their designations; but the Government of India can easily find out. This memorandum has been published in the *Morning Post* and certainly they can find out who these Civil servants are: the Bengal Civil Service Association can give their names. As regards the point, that we have not got the full text of the memorandum, I say it may be too late afterwards. It may be that the Government have not got the full text, but it may take weeks before I get a copy, and it may then be too late: therefore, I can only act on such material, as I have before me.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is apparent from the debate in Parliament that the Joint Parliamentary Committee and the Secretary of State were very strongly against any member of the Civil Service giving his opinion on any question of policy.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And, in spite of that, these five men have defied the Secretary of State; are they to be encouraged by this House?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): We do not know who these five are.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The Government can find out: they can telephone to Calcutta, and in two hours they can find out. I think this is a matter of urgent public importance.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, as a member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not want to hear any other Honourable Member. (Laughter.) Upon the facts that have transpired, the Chair holds that this is not a definite matter of urgent public importance within the meaning of the Standing Orders. Therefore, the Chair rules the motion out of order.

THE ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): Sir, will you allow me to make a statement about the Aligarh Bill? With your kind permission, I would like to make a statement as there has been some misunderstanding. On Saturday, about the end of the day, I was

[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

approached by some leading Members of the Opposition who asked me to help them to see that the Session does not drag on beyond Tuesday. I quite readily agreed to that, and my information was that as a matter of fact, the Aligarh Bill was not urgent; and the view of the Government is that it is not very urgent, and I thought that everybody wanted that Bill to be out of the way. Acting on that information I have taken the Aligarh Bill out of the agenda for today. But, yesterday, I was told that some section of the House would like to go on with this Bill. We, Sir, do not want to take up any partisan attitude on this. Our attitude is this. We ourselves do not consider this measure as a very urgent one, but if the House desires that it should be on the agenda, I am quite willing to take it up either today or the first thing tomorrow morning. We do not want to be obstructive if the House desires to discuss that Bill. Our personal view is that the matter is not very urgent, and we are entirely in the hands of the House in this matter, but we do not want to go on with it this Session, when a very large body of Members are opposed to that course.

Maulana Shaukat Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, after listening to the observations of the Honourable the Leader of the House, I feel it my duty to inform the House that it is a very urgent matter to Mussalmans and to all those who are connected with Muslim education, and we would very much like that this measure should be taken up this Session. Sir, our Court meeting is to be held on the 19th at Aligarh, and, before that, we should like to know where we stand, and the considered opinion of this House. Therefore, I submit, Sir, that this is an urgent measure so far as we are concerned, and it should be taken up before we disperse.

12 NOON.

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, as one of the members of the Court of the Aligarh Muslim University, I beg to state that the Bill which has come from the Council of State only empowers the Court to appoint or not to appoint a Pro-Vice-Chancellor. By the passing of the Bill today the position is not at all going to be changed. I am not opposed to the passing of the Bill today, but certainly I think that it is not a matter of very urgent importance. We are meeting on the 19th of April, no doubt, but the position is that we have already got one of the senior members of the staff acting as Pro-Vice-Chancellor without any remuneration, and, even if the Bill is passed, it will not in any way adversely affect the administration of the University. Therefore, I submit that I am not at all particular whether the Bill is passed today or whether it is passed at the Simla Session. In fact, it is for the Government to consider one point. This is the fag end of the Session, and some Members of the Assembly, and particularly some of those who are also members of the Court, have left Delhi, and would it be proper to take up this measure in their absence?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is a difference of opinion on this point. It must, therefore, be left to the Government to decide whether the House should or should not take up this Bill this Session.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 2,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1936, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 2,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1936, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I wish to state the position which I myself and my Party take up in reference to the supplementary grant which has just been moved. I may say at once that, so far as my Party and myself or even the Congress as a body are concerned, we have and can not but have feelings of infinite regard for the well-being of His Majesty and the members of his family, and, in so far as, therefore, Providence has granted them this happy event, we have nothing more to say except our regard. But, as regards our association in a matter of this kind, there are considerations which I am certain will be well appreciated by even those who may well legitimately differ from us. His Majesty's name is naturally and constitutionally associated with British rule in this country, and, with our definite views as regards the results of British rule in this country, it is not likely, nor could it be expected that if any such purpose is likely to be served either directly or indirectly by any such celebration, that we could offer any co-operation. That is all I have got to say.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 2,00,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1936, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

The motion was adopted.

CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SCHEMES OF AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT AND RESEARCH.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 27,65,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1936, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research'."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 27,65,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1936, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research'."

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, coming as I do from the Province of Bihar and Orissa, I feel that I shall be failing in my duty if I do not say a few words on this motion. The matter was very ably placed before the House on the last occasion by our Deputy Leader, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, and so very little has been left for me to say on the subject, but, Sir, I must confess, that I am under no illusion that, either our best speeches or cogent reasoning or invincible logic or overwhelming votes are going to make any impression on this Government, but since it is customary that on an occasion like this we have to say something, I wish to make a few observations. The attitude of the Government in this matter is very deplorable (Hear, hear.) Sir, pride goeth before a fall and the present Government of India is behaving in the manner in which some of the worse despotic Governments behaved in the past (Hear, hear), and I know they had a miserable fall also. Our respected Leader said the other day that each time the Government refuses to respect the opinion of the representatives of this House, it is digging its own grave, and I think, Sir, it has dug already a sufficiently big grave by its consistent and persistent refusals of the popular verdicts of this House, and that it requires a decent burial now which I hope and pray it is going to have sooner rather than later.

Sir, coming to the subject proper, I would merely say that the proposed expenditure over the transfer of the Agricultural Institute is a criminal waste of money. I am told that nearly 80 lakhs have already been invested on the Pusa Institute, and is there any justification to spend another equally large amount in order to shift the Institute to Delhi? The buildings at Pusa were damaged by the last earthquake and the estimate of repairs was first made at Rs. 5 lakhs, but later on, it was revised and it went up to Rs. 9 lakhs, for reasons best known to them. But, assuming that the repairs would cost Rs. 9 lakhs, is there any justification for spending five times as much over shifting that Institute to Delhi? Government also admit that if there had been no damage to the buildings they would not have decided to remove the Institute from Pusa. So, Sir, it was the question of expenditure over the repairs which was responsible for its shifting. I shall not take up the time of the House very much, but I would finish only by reading out to this House what the Royal Commission on Agriculture had to say on this Institute. The Royal Commission says in its report:

"Pusa has been in existence so long, is so well endowed with buildings and equipment and has accumulated such a fund of information and experience that it is impossible to contemplate a cessation of its activities. It should be mentioned that in putting forward this view, we have the practically unanimous support of a very large body of non-official opinion."

The same report goes to say:

"In this connection we should mention that we have given careful consideration to the question whether this handicap could not be removed by transferring the work now carried on at Pusa to some more eligible site. We are, however, of the opinion that so much has been spent on buildings and equipment and on the development of the estate that it would be impossible to justify such a proposal. Moreover, the climate is good and the soil fertile and well-suited to growing most of the important crops. A district chosen by men with a good eye for country such as the early Dutch and English planters is not lightly to be abandoned."

In the same connection I would read a few lines from the *Statesman* which is the oracle of the Government.

"Pusa has done fine work, admirable work, work that has enriched and dignified India, but it has not done all that was hoped of it."

One word more, and I have done. I take this opportunity of clearing the misunderstanding of some of my Honourable friends who have smacked provincialism in this matter. Nothing is further from our thought. I am one of those who believe that the Agricultural Institute at Pusa is a white elephant, but you have already invested a large amount on it, so why waste the taxpayer's money on another white elephant? I have nothing more to say. On the ground of economy I would oppose this motion and I hope that this House will join with us in defeating the Government and telling them that the poor taxpayer's money should not be wasted.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): I have always been guilty of two vices in this House. The first vice was that of talking too much, and the second one was that of telling too many stories. I have been cured of my first vice by my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, and though I am not now accused of telling stories, still I shall insist on telling one more story. That is the story of John Bull travelling with a child on a donkey on a country road.. Mr. John Bull started the journey by putting the child on the donkey and himself walking on the road. Some people came across them and said how merciless John Bull was in putting a small child on the donkey who might at any time fall down and he was not considerate to the child. As soon as he heard this, he reversed the position. He sat down on the donkey and the child was walking. Some others met them on the road and said how merciless the man was, he was making the child to walk and he was himself sitting on the donkey. On this, both himself and the child sat on the donkey. Seeing this certain people said how cruel he was that two persons were sitting on the donkey. It is cruelty to animal. Then both himself and the child got down from the donkey and walked on the road and the donkey was going its usual way without any load on its back. People said how foolish it was of the man to be walking and letting the donkey go without any load. Whatever John Bull did, he was always to blame, and I think the position of the Finance Member, with whom I sympathise more than I envy, is no better than the position of that John Bull whom I have just described. Whatever he does, he is always to blame. He reserved Rs. 113 lakhs for village uplift, and he was blamed for the smallness of the amount. The sum is so small that it practically means nothing. Then he was accused that the amount might be swallowed up in paying the salaries and travelling allowances of the officers. Then, again, one Group said, that this money ought to have been spent in the shape of giving some relief in the taxation of the coming year. Whatever the Finance Member does, he certainly does not please everybody. The same about the duty on skins. If he keeps the duty on skins he is accused by persons who support the agriculturist and primary producers. If he removes the duty, he is accused of going against the interests of the tanning industry in this country, that the industry has grown under this duty and now the industry is likely to suffer by the removal of the duty. Whatever he does,

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

there is always a body of persons who will find fault with him, and his position is no better than that of Mr. John Bull whom I have already described. My distinguished friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, is not here, but I may say that the climax was reached when my friend said that he changed his entire opinion on account of two or three words of the Finance Member. If we are going to form or change our opinion on taxation policy by a couple words from the Finance Member, I do not know where we will be. I have read the Finance Member's speech and I do not find anything which could change my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir's mind.

Coming to the particular proposal under consideration, I may tell my Honourable friend that he has misunderstood the whole position. We decided and definitely passed a Resolution that the Institute at Pusa should be transferred to Delhi. It was passed by a vote of this House in the September Session of 1934. The question was discussed three times in the Standing Finance Committee, every aspect of it was fully considered, and the Committee recommended that it should be transferred. We had a full dress debate for two full days, and a vote was taken and it was decided that the Institute should be transferred. Again, we had a full discussion in this Assembly about Pusa. The issue now is not whether Pusa should or should not be transferred, but from what funds the cost should be met. We took a vote on that matter and we decided that we ought not to pay the expenses of the transfer out of the savings of past year, but that it should be defrayed out of capital. This was according to our own wish, and when we decided that it should be paid out of capital, the Finance Member had no alternative but to come back to the House with a supplementary grant that it should be paid out of capital. Here again we find that some Members say that it should not be paid out of capital. Then out of what should it be paid? When once we have decided that it should be transferred, it should be paid out of some funds. You cannot expect the Finance Member to pay out of his own pocket. It must come from the funds of the Government of India. Either it must come from revenue or capital. These are the only two possible courses. If it should not be paid out of revenue, there is no alternative left but to pay it out of capital. I think the proposition now before the House is the logical consequence of our own decisions. With these words I support the motion.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): My justification for talking on this matter is because I was a party to the full dress debate that took place in September on this question. The Bengal and Bihar aspect of the question was not ignored at that time. It was in safe hands. Our friend, who is not here now, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, had represented this subject in all its bearings. It was after considering the whole question carefully that the House came to the conclusion that the Pusa Institute should be transferred to a central place like Delhi. After that the matter has gone so far that even the foundation stone has been placed in Delhi, near the New Delhi Town. Now, to go into the merits of the question and to try to go back on the former decision is not advisable at all. I would say to my friends from Bihar that it is no use weeping over the spilt milk any more. The grounds that have been put forward for reconsideration of this matter should not be reiterated.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member sets an example, it will be much better.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am going to set an example soon. It is necessary to say that the points that have been brought forward are not such as to make a settled fact unsettled. The only question before the House is whether the amount should be paid out of capital. The technical question was raised that the money should not be used from the surplus revenues and that having been carried, there is no other go for the Government of India but to come forward with the present demand. It is really premature for any lay man to say that the Delhi site for the Institute is bad in any way. On the contrary we have been told by experts that the place selected is such that it will serve all the purposes. On this point I would refer to what the Royal Commission on Agriculture said about Pusa, as it has been referred to by my Honourable friend who spoke last. The Royal Commission said that Pusa had failed in certain specific respects and especially in regard to scientific leadership. This Institute being centrally located, I say that this Institute in Delhi will give us a lead much better than Pusa which is in a corner place and which cannot be taken advantage of by all the provinces of India. It is well-known that there are so many schemes that have been completed in the Punjab. The Sukkur Barrage has been completed in Sind and they will all take advantage of the scientific researches and demonstrations that will be held here. I submit that if this Institute is necessary, it is necessary only in a central place, and I support the motion.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): None will be more wary, I sure, of hearing the arguments for and against this proposal repeated over and over again than you yourself, and, therefore, Sir, I shall be brief out of consideration for the Chair which, when this question was discussed in September, 1934, in another capacity, made a very important contribution on the question of merits. My Honourable friend, Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha, has made remarks which can be grouped under three heads, constitutional, financial and the scientific. The financial and the scientific are points of merit and we have discussed them threadbare. I do not, therefore, propose to go into them again. I shall, however, deal with the constitutional, because, if I heard my Honourable friend correctly, he suggested that the Government, with the pride that goeth before destruction, had, in this case also, completely ignored the verdict of the House and the wishes of the House. In this connection I would like to recall to you a question which was put by the Leader of the Independent Party, Mr. Jinnah, when this matter was discussed on the 26th March. This was what he said: "Therefore, Sir, I would ask you to put the cut motion first, which is, whether the Pusa Institute should be transferred to Delhi or not?" You, Sir, said: "That is exactly what the Chair was going to do". That motion was put to the House and it was negatived. In other words, the House declared itself in favour of the transfer of the Institute from Pusa to Delhi. I submit that in incurring expenditure upon this transfer, we are giving effect to the twice declared verdict of this House, a verdict first declared in August, 1934, and a verdict for a second time reaffirmed on the 28th March, 1934.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the motion had already been decided upon, then it would not be repeated now. The question then was whether it should be transferred to a particular fund.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I think the principle of the transfer was put first and in the second motion, which was decided against us, the Assembly decided that it did not want the expenditure met from revenue.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): What was the amendment?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The amendment was by Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant that the amount be reduced to one rupee, and that was treated as raising the question of principle as to whether the Institute should be transferred or not.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This is a different motion.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I am coming on to that. So far as the question of merits is concerned, it has been discussed twice and the House has declared its opinion. On the question whether the expenditure should be met from revenue or from capital, the decision of the House was that it shall not be met from revenue. Therefore, we have brought forward a motion that the expenditure be met from capital. I submit that we are not acting in a manner completely indifferent to or inconsiderate of the attitude of the House. We are only giving effect to the only possible alternative to the implication of the last vote of the Assembly, and I submit that we are fully justified in asking for a verdict in our favour

Mr. M. S. Aney: I want to know from the Honourable the Finance Member how he is going to utilise the 36 lakhs of revenue?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The 36 lakhs of saving has gone to the reduction of debt.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That a supplementary sum, not exceeding Rs. 27,65,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1936, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research'."

The motion was adopted.

THE CANTONMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham (Army Secretary): Sir, before I move the motion which stands in my name, I would ask your permission, and the permission of the House, to make one alteration in the list of names—that is, to substitute the name of Colonel Sir Henry Gidney for the name of Mr. F. E. James. Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Cantonments Act, 1924, for certain purposes, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Dr T. S. S. Rajan, Mr. Sham Lal, Dr. Khan Sahib, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, Sir Muhammad Yakub, Sardar Mangal Singh, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney, Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan, Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer, and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, I am in a dilemma. This is a long and a rather complicated-looking Bill, and it would be quite impossible for me to explain all its provisions to the House without making rather a long speech. Sir, I would be quite prepared to make rather a long speech, and that would be the ordinary course, but I feel quite sure that Honourable Members of this House do not wish me to inflict upon them a long speech at this stage of the proceedings, and you, Sir, have asked us to do our best to complete our business with the least possible delay. Moreover, Sir, I notice that there is on the paper a motion for the circulation of the Bill, which stands in the name of my Honourable friend, Dr. Rajan. I think, Sir, therefore, that, if this procedure appeals to the House, it would be better for me now to confine myself merely to moving the motion that stands in my name, and then perhaps my friend, Dr. Rajan, will move his motion and I might be allowed to say a few words on his amendment. If this meets with the approval of the House, I will proceed accordingly. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Cantonments Act, 1924, for certain purposes, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, Mr. Sham Lal, Dr. Khan Sahib, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, Sir Muhammad Yakub, Sardar Mangal Singh, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney, Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan, Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer, and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, I move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by 31st August, 1935."

I do so for this reason, because, as the Honourable Mr. Tottenham told us just now, it is a very comprehensive Bill; it is a Bill with a number of clauses, and it deals with the constitution, management and administration of cantonments and with a certain amount of legal disabilities which the cantonments will have to face as a result of this Bill. Sir, the question of the administration of cantonments in this country is particularly difficult. There is dual management, with a certain amount of irresponsibility, and, at the same time, there ensues a peculiar position as a result of this dual responsibility, *viz.*, the inconveniences which the civil residents of cantonments are in many respects subjected to. In view of the fact that this Bill should be circulated so as to consult a number of bodies that are in charge of cantonments and also in order to elicit the views of those who live in the cantonments before it could properly be considered by the Select Committee, I wish that this Bill should be circulated to the All-India Cantonments Association, that is, to all those important people who are concerned in the administration of cantonments, both official and non-official and their views should be elicited upon the proposal. Sir, the cantonments in India are of different varieties in different places. There are cantonments which discharge both the civil responsibilities of the place and also collect revenue and taxes, distribute the water supply and are in charge of hygiene and the medical requirements of the area under their jurisdiction. There are cantonments, like the one in which I have to live, in which the civic responsibilities are shared by the municipal bodies while the ownership, the lease of land, the sale or purchase of lands and of such

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other things—I could include the roads or the revenues or the playgrounds in the cantonment areas—all these are subject to the cantonment bodies where such bodies exist or vest entirely in the hands of the officer commanding that cantonment. In many places the Commanding Officer practically controls the whole thing. Sir, I come from Trichinopoly and Trichinopoly is a cantonment. While the municipality of Trichinopoly caters to our civil needs, the cantonment officer in charge of cantonments happens to decide upon questions relating to lands, the value of trees, and so on within the cantonment area. Therefore, I know very well that the dual responsibility has affected the management of cantonments very badly, and even such of us as have to live in cantonments are subejcted to endless trouble on account of these dual responsibilities. In many cases, I know this, that the municipality collects the taxes from us, but the roads are full of prickly pear, and when we put in an objection to that state of things, the municipality says that they have no authority to clear such prickly pear because that function belongs to the cantonment. When we approach the cantonment authority, they say, "we do not collect taxes from you and it is the business of the municipality". Then one fine morning we see all the prickly pear cleared, as a result of a viceregal or gubernatorial visit. So that, until such a contingency arises, we are always led to drift between this dual management and I do think similar things happen in other cantonments as well. As, for instance, even in the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to this Bill we find that the question of water-supply is a thing that requires immediate attention. There is a loss of revenue, a certain amount of irresponsibility and at the same time some dissatisfaction with the nature of the supply as well. I am sure, there must be a lot of more such things which can be elicited by the Bill being referred for circulation and for opinion. In view of what the Honourable Member has said, however, I would not like to delay the progress of the Bill in any way. I am certainly willing to refer the Bill to a Select Committee, provided the Member in Charge gives an assurance that this Bill would be circulated and the matter would be taken up by the Select Committee at its next meeting in Simla, and, during this interval, I would wish that the All-India Cantonments Association and other public bodies and individuals who could throw light on this subject should be communicated with and their opinions should be collected and placed for discussion before the Select Committee meetings at Simla.

The object of my amendment was to bring this fact to the notice of the Honourable Members concerned so that more public criticism and more public opinion may be thrown upon the subject before the Select Committee begins to discuss the matter.

Another observation which I want to place before the House is this. Most of the Members of the Assembly, being new, are not conversant with the opinions Government may have collected so far. In view of that fact I would like that the members of the Select Committee are placed in full possession of the opinions—not only those opinions that have been collected till now but also such other facts as may be collected in future within the next few months—before they sit to consider the matter at Simla. If this assurance comes in, I have no objection to withdraw my amendment for circulation of the Bill. I should also like that all these opinions be placed before the Select Committee before the 31st August, 1935.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 31st August, 1935.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Sir, I should like to explain, first of all, that we have already spent a very long time in preparing this Bill. We have spent over two years, I think, in talking about it; and the delay has been mainly due to the very large number of different authorities whom we have had to consult before putting the Bill before this House. We have had to consult, not only the military authorities themselves, but also all the Local Governments and the All-India Cantonment Association, which represents, and represents very ably, the opinion of the civil population in cantonments and particularly the elected members of the Cantonment Boards. Therefore, I feel that formal circulation would probably not produce any new opinions of any great value. It would also involve a little extra expenditure and it would involve some delay in the actual progress of the Bill, because, if the Bill were now circulated, it would be necessary to wait until after the commencement of the next Simla Session and then to bring forward the motion for reference to a Select Committee. As a result of that, the Select Committee would have to meet during the Session at Simla. They would probably find this a troublesome Bill to deal with during the Session, and, consequently, their report might not be received until towards the end of the Session; and the final result might be that the Bill could not be taken into consideration until this time, next year, in Delhi. On the other hand, I do quite understand that Honourable Members do not wish to be rushed with this Bill at the fag-end of a rather long and tiring Session. I should like to make it quite clear, therefore, that there is no intention of referring the matter to a Select Committee at once. It would be quite time enough if the Select Committee were to meet, say, a few days before the commencement of the next Session in Simla; and in the interval, Honourable Members of the Select Committee would have ample opportunity of studying the whole question. I would also undertake to supply them with copies of the opinions that we have already received from the Local Governments, and I would make a special point of referring the whole Bill, as it is now published, to the All-India Cantonment Association. As soon as I get the opinion of the All-India Cantonment Association, I will communicate it to the members of the Select Committee. So, if this were to meet with the approval of the House, I think my Honourable friend, Dr. Rajan, might see his way to withdrawing his amendment for formal circulation and to adopting the plan which I have suggested. On the other hand, if the Honourable Member still wishes to have the Bill circulated, I do not propose to oppose that motion on behalf of the Government.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Sir, I wish to withdraw my amendment with the leave of this House.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Cantonments Act, 1924, for certain purposes, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. N. V. Gadgil, Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, Mr. Sham Lal, Dr. Khan Sahib, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, Sir Muhammad Yakub, Sardar Mangal Singh, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney, Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan, Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Mr. Ahmed Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer and the Mover; and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

THE SALT ADDITIONAL IMPORT DUTY (EXTENDING) BILL.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to extend the operation of the Salt (Additional Import Duty) Act, 1931, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I have very little to add to what I said on this matter in the budget speech. The object of this Bill is to stabilise the position exactly as it is for one more year without prejudice to any action or inaction that the Government may decide upon during that year and without prejudice to the right of any interest affected to make representations to Government during that time. Sir, I should like to make it quite clear that during that time I will be quite ready and the Government will be quite ready to receive representations from any party which may consider itself affected in this matter. Apart from that, the intention is to preserve matters exactly in their present position.

Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to extend the operation of the Salt (Additional Import Duty) Act, 1931, be taken into consideration."

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, if I rise to intervene in the debate at this stage, it is because I am afraid the amendments we have given notice of are out of order, according to the rulings which you have already given on similar Bills. The object of my amendments—my Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, has also given notice of similar amendments—is to extend the period of the duty beyond this year, and also to increase the rate of duty. You have ruled, Sir, that both these amendments are out of order, as they affect the revenues by way of increasing taxes, or the period of taxation. That is why I want that this House and the Government should consider the point of view of those who have given notice of these amendments, namely, that this additional import duty should remain as long at least as there is need for it, and that it should be effective enough to prevent the import of foreign salt. After having gone into the question with some care, I am convinced that the rate of duty is not so important, as it seemed to me at the time I gave notice. The figures of imports in recent years are such that, so long as an import duty is levied—whether it is two annas and six pies or four annas and six pies does not seem to matter much—

should be permanent and not be extended from year to year. The story of this Bill is rather curious. This Act was passed in 1931, and it came into effect on the 17th March, 1931; and it has been since extended from year to year, until we have the Act of 1934, which this Bill seeks to amend by substituting the figure "1936" for "1935". The Honourable the Finance Member, in his speech introducing the budget, made the following remarks with regard to this additional import duty on salt:

"But I must first mention three items which though they do not appreciably affect the financial position are nevertheless of some importance.

Additional Import Duty on Salt.—The first of these is the additional import duty on salt. Personally, I am very doubtful whether this duty can ever achieve the purpose for which it was designed. I have, moreover, a good deal of sympathy with the views which have in the past been expressed by Honourable Members from Bengal that an import which has the effect of helping the producers of Aden at the expense of the consumers of Bengal is fundamentally unfair. In any case the duty will require reconsideration in view of the impending separation of Aden and Burma. Taking all these things into consideration I was disposed to think that the duty ought to be abolished at once but that would perhaps have been a little harsh to the vested interests which have grown up and I shall, therefore, propose to the House that that duty shall be extended for one year, without prejudice to any action which Government may see fit to take at the end of that year. I hope that this extension will be accepted by the House though I should perhaps make it clear that, if it should prefer to remove the duty at once, in this matter, at any rate, we should accept its decision."

The irony of it I did not realise so clearly then, as I do now, in view of the subsequent events:

"Incidentally we do not propose to make any change in the arrangements for the distribution of this duty."

I join issue with my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, on almost every statement of his contained in this paragraph. He says he is very doubtful whether the duty can ever achieve the purpose for which it was designed. I believe, Sir, it has already largely achieved that purpose, and I believe that, if it is continued for a reasonable time, it will achieve the purpose completely. As for the purpose for which this duty was imposed, I believe that that purpose will be best seen by looking at the Tariff Board report on the Salt industry, whose conclusions are summarised towards the end of the book. On page 88, the conclusions of the Tariff Board are given:

"Our conclusion is that in the national interest the Bengal market should be supplied as far as possible by railborne salt, but that so far as this source of supply is insufficient, Indian sea-borne salt should be encouraged provided that thereby no heavy burden is imposed on the country or the consumer. We recommend that Government undertake a thorough survey of these sources of supply with a view to their development. We also recommend that the question of railway rates should be fully investigated with a view to reducing the rates for salt to the lowest possible figure."

Then, again, the Tariff Board report says at page 90:

"Foreign salt would be purchased only to the extent to which the demand cannot be supplied at the prices already indicated from Indian sources. Although no heavy burden on the consumer is justified in the interest of the manufacturers of seaborne salt the national interests are served to some extent by its encouragement. Further some portions of the Bengal market will always be supplied more economically by sea than by rail."

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

On the whole, they come to the conclusion that Indian salt should be encouraged as much as possible so as to make India self-sufficient in the matter of salt.

So far as the question of the effects of this import duty on the producers of salt in Aden, it seems to me that, although I am using a hackneyed phrase, it is adding insult to injury, to have separated Aden from India in spite of us, and then say the salt produced by Indian merchants in Aden should not be protected against foreign salt. The Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce, and I should also add the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, have supported this demand that Indian salt, including Aden salt, should be protected from competition against foreign salt. What are the facts now? Judging from the reports that have been made from Aden and from Indian sources as per customs reports, it is now proved that out of 500,000 tons required for Bengal consumption, only about 40,000 tons have been imported from Liverpool and Hamburg, and the rest 460,000 tons were provided by Indian and Aden manufacturers.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg. How much Aden alone?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I will presently come to that.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Is it not 260,000 tons?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: There are four producers in Aden, out of whom three are Indians. Before the protection, the quantity imported by foreigners was 320,000 tons and those by Indian and Aden manufacturers were 180,000 tons. It is, therefore, difficult to conceive how it would be conceded that the purpose for which this duty was imposed could not be achieved, if that is the result, within a short time, that the protection has prevailed.

I should like the House to note the figures: what was formerly 320,000 tons has now been reduced to 40,000 tons. That is the result of the working of the additional import duty on salt.

Then, Sir, the price of salt for the Bengal consumer, I concede is rightly a very important factor, and on that matter also the figures are very striking and almost conclusive. The Tariff Board has given the figures for over fifty years, from which it could be seen that the imported foreign salt into Bengal was never sold, under Rs. 60 taking the average of any one year. In fact the Tariff Board has made very elaborate calculations, and has come to the conclusion that, invaribly, the importers formed themselves into a combine and continued such a combine at a time for years, and as a result salt was sometimes sold in Bengal from Rs. 75 to Rs. 125 per ton. The present price of salt in Bengal is between Rs. 46 and Rs. 50. I will give the price from the Government's own tables presently, but from the history of imported salt in Bengal—one can never find the price of same kinds of imported salt—it varies now from Rs. 46 to Rs. 50. It is possible that it may be argued that Bengal may be able to get salt at cheaper rates, than those prevailing now if protection is removed. That can be easily replied that never in the history of Bengal has foreign salt been sold cheaper than the present rates, namely about Rs. 50.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: It is not a very good answer.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: When Aden began to import salt, the price of Liverpool salt which originally was Rs. 70 was reduced to Rs. 41. Then the price-war started, which we are familiar with in the matter of the Indian coastal shipping. Afterwards, they again raised the prices. Moreover, be it stated in favour of Aden which is the *bete noire* of the Honourable the Finance Member, that the Indian salt manufacturers in Aden have co-operated and endeavoured their best to import salt in co-operation with the Indian manufacturers; and it is this endeavour and co-operation which have enabled both Indian as well as Aden salt, to be kept in Bengal at the price between Rs. 46 and Rs. 50. I quite grant that it will take some time for Bengal to produce large quantities of salt. But, so long as Aden salt is available at about Rs. 50, I do not see any reason why, in the name of the consumers of Bengal, this import duty is sought to be restricted in its duration to one year, and a threat held out that it might be abolished after that year. It is necessary, that in the interests of India, if we cannot prevent the transfer of Aden, we should insist upon a trade agreement made between India and Aden as suggested in the Joint Parliamentary Committee report, in the case of Burma. Burma is going to be separated, but British companies in Burma have been amply protected in all their interests, present and accruing. Similarly, the Indian merchants in Aden have the right to be protected, especially as I believe I have tried to prove to this House that the price of Aden salt is much lower, than the foreign salt prices were in the earlier days, and will be kept at that price.

The Central Board of Revenue issue, from time to time, a report on the working of the Salt Additional Import duty Act, and I have got a report with me during the period from 1st January, 1933, to 30th September, 1933. One conspicuous fact which the Report points out is the complete absence of importation into Calcutta of Liverpool salt in the six months April to September, 1933, and the very greatly reduced salt sales as such in the same period. The only three good sellers were Hamburg, Raass, Port Said in the order I have given, and there are also given figures for the price of salt, statistics of imports and clearance of salt in 1932, 1933 and 1934. I do not want to repeat the figures. Honourable Members will find that the difference is something between Rs. 46 and Rs. 49 for Hamburg on the one hand and Aden on the other, there being no quotations for Lancashire salt.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd (Government of India: Nominated Official): There is a great misunderstanding on the part of my Honourable friend. Those prices are quoted without payment of the additional duty, so that, if the price is Rs. 49 Hamburg against Rs. 49 Aden, it means that there is a difference in the market to the extent of the additional duty.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I know, Sir, and even assuming that the duty is removed, I have shown, by the history of the activities of the foreign importers, that the salt price is not going to fall down. That is perfectly brought out in the Tariff Board's report. If I were convinced, as my Honourable friend seems to be convinced, that the removal of the additional import duty will reduce the prices in the Bengal market, I am prepared to reconsider my opinion. But, having read the

1 P.M.

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

Tariff Board report carefully and having seen the subsequent facts and figures also, I am thoroughly convinced that the foreign importers are not going to reduce their prices. And indeed, Sir, I do not see why the Government of India, as at present constituted, should be bothered about this removal of the additional import duty, because, as far as I can see, there is no import of salt from Great Britain at all or practically none. The only import is from Hamburg and from some other countries, Italian ports and Port Said. There is nothing which I can see is likely to benefit Great Britain, unless there is in the offing an expectation that, if the duty be removed, Liverpool salt will again be imported into India.

Then, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the telegram which I have received, and which I am sure the Honourable the Finance Member has received, and other Honourable Members may have received, from the Indian Salt Association, Bombay. They have said:

"We submit by protection Indian works have considerably developed and with Aden are already able at present to meet the full requirement of India which was the object of the Assembly."

I submit, Sir, that the object of this import duty is to make India self-sufficient in the matter of salt. This Act has achieved that purpose very nearly. India is today very nearly self-sufficient in the matter of the supply of salt. Then they say:

"Government protection has stopped almost all foreign salt, Without protection salt industry must perish. Prices at Calcutta lower at present than those existing without protection."

I should like Honourable Members from Bengal and the House to note particularly this fact, that prices today at Calcutta are lower than those existing without protection:

"And these are maintained by the Salt Marketing Board of India and Aden thus consumers do not suffer. Further present rate for consumers at Bengal, Orissa, Bihar and Assam are lower than all other parts in India."

That is also a factor to be taken note of:

"Without protection foreign competition will be so strong that India will not be able to hold at all and foreign combines will again come in. Tariff Board report quite emphatically supports our plea."

I, therefore, feel, Sir, that, besides the small consolation afforded by the Honourable the Finance Member's statement this morning that he will listen to all relevant interests before the end of this year, I think Government must realise the opinion of Indians both inside and outside this House. Very naturally and legitimately, we want India to manufacture and supply her own salt. We are confident we can do it. The history of the salt industry, since this Act was passed, has proved it amply and almost conclusively. Secondly, we want that, during the period which may be necessary in order to enable India to effectively meet foreign competition, there should be adequate protection as recommended by the Indian Tariff Board on salt. Lastly, we thoroughly approve of the principle that the interests of the consumers ought to be protected. We are satisfied, both on the facts of the prices now prevailing in Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Assam, compared with the prices which

prevailed before the Act became the law of the land, and also considering the machinery devised by the Government of India for regulating the prices, that there is no real or great danger of the consumers' interests suffering. I, therefore, sincerely trust, Sir, that Government will see their way to extend the operation of this Bill and make it part of the law of the land; and, if things improve and if we are satisfied that there is no longer any need for protection, the Act can be repealed. It is not fair to the interests concerned that this Damocles' sword should be hanging over their heads year after year. They should have the complete confidence that their future is safe, and they can build up their interests. I am sure that with that guarantee of protection, unlimited in point of time, the industry will come by its own, much sooner than this continuous process of enacting a law, year after year.

Lastly, I want to say on behalf of Aden, that it is not right that Aden should be treated as apart from India, and at any rate to the best of my information, except one Italian merchant, all other merchants there are Indians who are producing salt Aden was part of India, and is even today a part of India. In fact I was prevented from making my reduction motion on the ground that Aden is still a part of India. Therefore it is not right, anticipating the separation of Aden, to say that Aden is foreign to India, and, therefore, we are imposing an import duty, in order to compete with Aden salt. I say Aden is a part of India, and it is only right to help them. They have played their part of the game, and they have not tried to exploit the Bengal market. They have kept down the price of salt between Rs. 46 and Rs. 50. The House has no opportunity now of expressing its opinion by a vote, because these amendments are out of order, and we must wait for Government to bring in their own measure; but I hope some time may be found during the next Session of the Assembly, to express its own opinion in some definite form, that we want this Act extended indefinitely, subject to its being repealed when the need no longer exists, and also, if necessary, raise the rate of duty, although I am not quite clear that there is much need for it, in view of the rapid decline of foreign imports.

Mr. G. Morgan (Bengal: European): Sir, I am opposed to this motion for consideration. As a member of the now defunct Salt Committee, I opposed the imposition of this additional salt duty from the very beginning as being a burden which fell only on the imports in two places, imports into Calcutta and imports into Burma. Ever since this question of the additional salt duty came before this House I have opposed it. The history of this case is probably not known to many of the present Members of this House. The Taxation Inquiry Committee reported in 1926, that it was desirable to make India self-supporting in the matter of salt supply, if this end could be secured by the granting of a purely temporary advantage to the local manufacturer whether by way of a rebate of duty or a differential duty on import or both. The Tariff Board report published on the 26th March, 1930, came to the conclusion that Indian sources, with Aden, could supply all local demands plus the demand for the Bengal market, and recommended that a marketing board should be constituted as a public utility company, the rate of profit being limited, and that the board would be in charge of the import and sale of salt in the Calcutta market and of the sale of salt in Northern India. Also that the board, in purchasing its requirements, preference would be given to Indian salt of the required quality. I mention that particularly because it is a very important item

[Mr. G. Morgan.]

so far as the Bengal market is concerned. As such a board could not be constituted immediately and its machinery organised till after a considerable lapse of time, the Tariff Board proposed as an interim measure that Government should assume control immediately of the import of salt into Bengal. This proposal of the Board was not accepted by Government. The real movement for the imposition of the salt additional duty started with the Salt Producers' Conference held, I believe, in September, 1930, and, if I remember rightly, a long telegram was sent to the Government of India over the signature of Sir Chunilal Mehta. Shortly afterwards, the Government of India formed a small committee, I think, on the 13th September, 1930, consisting of Sir Chunilal Mehta and Mr. Pitt, to make a survey of the salt production in India. This was done in the following three months, but, at the first meeting of the Salt Committee, the report was only presented in the middle of its sitting and we had no time to give full and careful consideration to the report. The proposal of Government at that time was to develop Khewra, Sambhar and Pachbadra, the first-named particularly, so that they could supply the total quantity of fine white salt to the Bengal market at a fixed maximum rate which was fixed at Rs 66 per 100 maunds.

This proposal of the Government was found to be impossible because the cost of salt from Khewra and Sambhar and Pachbadra to the Calcutta market was very much higher than the maximum price fixed by the Government and the history of Khewra, since then, has proved my first contention, which was that this proposal of Government could never be carried out. The condition of the salt seams at Khewra has become recently very unsatisfactory and although we have spent a lakh and a half on crushing machinery, which was to be installed for the benefit of the Bengal market, unfortunately the colour is not what was expected: that is to say, instead of being pure white to compete with Aden Solar Fine it has turned out to be a pinkish colour.

Now, as regards the vested interests which was quoted by my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, from paragraph 35 of the Honourable the Finance Member's speech of the 28th February, where the Finance Member stated: "But that would perhaps have been a little harsh to the vested interests which have grown up", I would mention that one of the vested interests is Okha which is in an independent state. The Finance Member's predecessor definitely stated that this duty was not a protective duty, in the proper sense of protection, and that no one would, in future, be able to put up the claim of vested interests. As a matter of fact the point brought forward by my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti to the effect that in order that capital should be invested in it, the date should be extended—that is, not to have an yearly tax, but a protective duty of so much for four or five or six years—I take it that that is my Honourable friend's contention. My contention is that there has not really been an expansion of capital invested in the last few years. There has been a certain amount of expansion of production but not in the capital invested. Now, the real object of the Government of India, *viz.*, the supply of white salt from Khewra for the Bengal market (that was the original proposal) failed: but owing to the very high price of Rs. 66 per 100 maunds being fixed as the maximum, all the other producers of salt rushed into the market and I may tell you that they sent all sorts and kinds of salt to Calcutta till, at one time, the stock in *golahs* in Calcutta was 35 lakhs of maunds . . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is not likely to finish soon: he can resume after lunch.

Mr. G. Morgan: I will finish in three minutes, Sir. The Tariff Board considered that no duty was necessary in the case of Aden and Aden producers themselves stated that they did not fear the possible competition from the Western Indian ports. Now, the point I want to make is this: with due respect to my friend, Mr. Satyamurti, we consider that Rs. 50 which is the present maximum price of the Government of India is too high under present world conditions. It is no good going back to the old history of what Bengal had to pay. The production in India and Aden has definitely established itself and the Red Sea ports, if they had come into the market, would knock the price down very definitely to rates previously in force just before the additional duty was imposed. But that is not the point. The point is that we, in Bengal, consider that we are paying too much for our salt. This Marketing Board has been formed because there was a feeling that the producers would have to sell below the Rs. 50 which was the Government purchasing price: and, I understand, although I have no definite particulars about this Marketing Board, that it was the fixing of the Rs. 50 that brought them together and they have come to some decision to maintain that price. I consider that the Western India producers and the Aden producers have made very large profits at the expense of Bengal, because we have paid much more for our salt than we should have . . .

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Bengalis do not say that.

Mr. G. Morgan: They do not know. At the present time the effect of this additional duty and the maximum price is costing Bengal today something like 12 lakhs of rupees in our opinion, and we cannot afford to pay more for our consumption of salt than is absolutely necessary. What I want this House to understand is that, if it is necessary in the interests of India that, India should be self-sufficient in the manufacture of salt, then I consider that the burden should be spread over the whole of India. It should not only be by Bengal. We get practically nothing because there is no import of foreign salt worth the name—we get about a lakh of rupees and we have to pay the balance, I should say, something between five and ten rupees per hundred maunds more than we ought to pay for our salt from the Indian and Aden producers; and I would ask my Honourable friends from Bengal to look at it from that point of view, that the burden should not fall on Bengal alone. My Honourable friend, who is sitting here, said the other day that we would shoulder any burden in the interests of India. It is very easy to say that here; but the fact remains that this self-sufficiency in the matter of production of salt in the interests of India as a whole should be borne by the general consumers of salt and the taxpayers in this country, and the industry should have a bounty or some other method by which it can hold that market for itself; but not at the expense of Bengal alone. Sir, I oppose the motion.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Dutta) in the Chair.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, at this fag end of the Session, I do not propose to prolong the agonies of this House by inflicting on it a lengthy speech. The matter before the House is the extension or otherwise of the additional import duty on salt. During the general debate on the budget, I made my position perfectly clear as to how we, people of Bengal, feel on this question. Unfortunately, thereafter, my Honourable friend, Mr. Ghuznavi, whom I do not find here today, sounded a discordant note. He said that in the matter, by this additional import duty on salt, only the manufacturers of Aden had been benefited, and it seems to me that the gravamen of his charge against this impost was that the Aden manufacturers had been profiteering at the expense of the Indian consumer. There is, I admit, a good deal of force in the contention, but it is not the whole truth. Before coming to that question, I should like to tell Honourable Members of this House that, in the matter of salt, as I said the other day, we feel very keenly. We Indians want that not a single ounce . . . .

Dr. P. N. Banerjea (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): On a point of order, Sir. How is it that there are no Members on the Government Benches? Have they all resigned?

An Honourable Member: Yes.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I represent the Department that is concerned with this Bill.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Where is the Member in charge of the Bill?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: It was ruled the other day by the Honourable the President that it was not absolutely necessary for the Honourable Member in charge to be in his seat the whole of the day. He has to be allowed a little time.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Dutta): Will the Honourable Member take notes?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I certainly will. It is my duty to do so.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Now, Sir, as I was telling this House, we Indians feel very keenly on this question of salt. We want that not one ounce of salt should come from outside India, no matter whether it is from Liverpool or Hamburg or Italy or any other country. I think, Sir, it is extremely disgraceful that this vast sub-continent of India with a salt belt on its three sides, should, after 170 years of British rule, depend for the supply of this prime necessity of life on foreign countries. We feel the shame of it, and we feel it with all its poignancy, and, therefore, when this additional import duty on salt was imposed, we welcomed it, because we thought that that would offer a measure of protection to the salt industry of India, that it would keep India to be self-sufficient in the

matter of salt supply. Now, Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Morgan, said that, even in spite of this protection,—he did not like to call it protection,—so even in spite of this duty, there has not been sufficient expansion of business. But the reason is not far to seek. It is due to the fact that the tax has been extended from year to year, and there has been a feeling of insecurity and uncertainty that the protection may be withdrawn. People under such conditions naturally do not care to sink heavy capital for the development of this industry.

Then, the other objection of my friend, Mr. Ghuznavi, was—why should Aden profiteer at the cost of India, or particularly at the cost of the consumers of Bengal. After all, we have to bear in mind that Aden is still territorially a part of British India and that the balance of trade between Aden and India is in favour of India to a very large extent due to large exports from India in spite of her salt trade. If, in the coming Constitution, Aden is proposed to be cut off we cannot shut our eyes to the fact that Aden is going to be torn away from the bosom of India against the declared wishes of Aden and also of the Indian Legislatures. That is due to the fiat from Whitehall, but Aden is not to blame for it. Now, barring that, one salt manufacturer, I mean the Italian Company, the other premier manufacturers are Indians, they are our own kith and kin. They have sunk millions of rupees in this important industry, and we must stand by them. As Aden is going to be snatched away from us against our will, it is only natural that when our countrymen have sunk capital in Aden to develop an industry, of which we are in dire need, our sympathies should go to them. Now, Sir, we must admit that this additional import duty falls heavily on my poor province of Bengal, but, after carefully weighing the pros and cons of the case with meticulous care, I have come to this conclusion, that. . . .

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) occupied the Chair.]

. . . for the larger interests of the country, and for the larger interests of the salt industry of the whole of the sub-continent, we must agree to have an extension of this duty. But at the same time we must make the position perfectly clear, that the money derived from this additional duty, should be earmarked exclusively for the development of salt industry in India, and particularly of Bengal. (Hear, hear.) In this connection, Sir, I note with satisfaction, and I must acknowledge it with gratitude, that the Government of India have, during the past three years, made over nearly 14 lakhs of rupees to the Government of Bengal for the purpose of developing the salt resources of Bengal. But what have the Government of Bengal done? Nothing. Nothing tangible that we have seen or heard of, nothing material. The Government of India have earmarked the amount and every year they have been making a contribution to the Government of Bengal with the intention of developing the salt industry of Bengal.

Now, we understand, that the Government of Bengal are of the opinion that commercially it is not possible to manufacture salt in Bengal. Sir, we do not accept that proposition. I emphatically assert that we cannot accept that proposition. The history of Bengal tells us that the truth is just the other way about. Even up to the seventies of the last century Bengal manufactured salt, excellent salt in very large quantities. It was a very prosperous industry. She not only supplied the needs of India but

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra.]

she exported salt outside. And, in fact, the fortunes of some of the biggest magnates of Bengal were built on this salt trade. If that was so seventy years ago, how is it that we cannot manufacture salt commercially in Bengal today? There is a seaboard in Bengal, there are districts which border on the seas, and sufficient salt, excellent salt can be manufactured there. As a matter of fact, there are companies already in existence there, for instance, the Premier Salt Manufacturing Company, the Pioneer Salt Manufacturing Company, the National Salt Manufacturing Company, the Chittagong Trading Union, Ltd., and there are other companies also, which are, I am told, sending down at least 5,000 maunds of salt to Calcutta, Chittagong and other ports every day. If that can be so, with little or no encouragement, with assistance, with State-help, the industry can surely grow and develop. After all, how is this salt to be manufactured comercially in Bengal? That is a matter for the experts to say. Whether it is a process of preliminary lixiviation and subsequent evaporation by artificial heat, or of initial Solar Concentration of Brine and subsequent crystallisation by boiling, as is done in the salt fields of Amherst district in Burma—is for experts to decide. The saliferous districts in Burma pursue the latter process now with success. I understand that the Government of Burma are viewing the question of salt manufacture in Burma with a great deal of sympathy. They are giving the manufacturers there all the assistance they can. They are also giving friendly suggestions to Bengal manufacturers whenever their advice is sought. But what are the Government of Bengal doing? It does not lie in the mouth of the Government of Bengal to say that salt cannot be manufactured on a commercial scale in Bengal, when the Government of Bengal have done practically nothing substantial so far either by way of active encouragement to the manufacture or by any serious measure or initiative of their own. What they have done is this, they have merged the sum of Rs. 13 or 14 lakhs in the provincial revenues and spent it for purposes other than the one for which alone the grant was made by the Government of India, and I say that they have committed a criminal breach of trust in that respect. So, I submit that this infant salt industry should be protected by all means, and that this duty should be allowed to continue. If it is abolished now and the protection afforded by it withdrawn, the nascent and struggling salt industry of Bengal, and, for the matter of that, of India,—would, at no distant date, be smothered out of existence by unfair and unholy competition with foreign countries which will at once capture the Indian market by their dumping rates. At the same time, I request the Honourable the Finance Member, that instructions may be sent to the Government of Bengal to treat this matter as one of the utmost importance and gravity and with the greatest expedition possible. Sir, from time immemorial the season after the harvest, *i.e.*, from the end of November right up to the end of May has been observed as a period of vacation by the peasantry all over the country, and in this period of forced leisure, the people can take to manufacturing salt as a cottage industry, as recommended by Mr. Pitt. If Government provide sufficient facilities for manufacturing salt, for storing the salt manufactured and for purchasing and selling the salt manufactured under the cottage industry system, they can recover the duty, and at the same time, people will get some employment. Again, unlike in other provinces, the saliferous areas in Bengal are not under the Salt Department, but under different departments, so that when there is an application for a manufacturing

license for plots in these areas, all sorts of questions and objections are raised, that such and such a land cannot be alienated and that such and such a land cannot be leased out. There is that difficulty in transfer or alienation. All this has got to be looked into.

We also claim that if you want to help this industry, if you really wish it well, you have to maintain a well-equipped Salt Research Institute on the Sea Board of Bengal and a technical school for training young men in the art of salt manufacture. You must also have a meteorological observatory, because we are told that in the province of Bengal, conditions are quite favourable, in fact, more favourable for commercial manufacture of salt than at Burma from the point of view of labour conditions, from the point of view of density of brine, and cheapness and abundance of fuel. We understand that the density of sea brine at some places in Bengal is something in the neighbourhood of 3·5 degrees in Beaume's Hydrometer, while it is only 2·5 in Burma. So the circumstances are more favourable in Bengal. If only the Government of Bengal take up the matter in right earnest, render the necessary aid to the industry by granting free licences for experimental and manufacturing purposes, by erecting warehouses and starting technical schools and demonstration farms and by granting subsidies and financial assistance to the manufacturers, then and then only can this problem be successfully solved. I have already told the Honourable the Finance Member about a Committee, and I do not know what he has done with regard to it. We are for the continuance of the duty, but the amount should be earmarked for the development of the salt industry. The Government of Bengal must be given definitely to understand that the whole amount allotted to it should be exclusively utilised for the purpose of development of salt industry in Bengal. I do not know whether my Honourable friend has given any thought to my suggestion of a Committee. I requested him to appoint a representative Committee not necessarily an unwieldy one but that it should consist of some representatives of commercial interests, some representatives of salt industry, some Members of this House from Bengal and some Members of the Council of State from Bengal and also of the Bengal Legislative Council, and some experts whom the Finance Member may select. They will thoroughly investigate the question of salt industry, devise ways and means for its growth and expansion and make necessary recommendations to the Government of Bengal which will give effect to them as far as possible, for the purpose of promoting this industry and setting it on its own feet. If the Government seriously address themselves to this problem, all difficulties will be overcome and they will succeed in reviving this national industry giving, at the same time, appreciable relief to the vast multitude of the unemployed in the country. With these words, I support the motion

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, when the last Session adjourned in Simla when you were the Leader of the Opposition, Members on this side of the House, particularly those hailing from Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, were very much agitated over this salt protective duty. The agitation went so far that the Government allotted us a part of their day to move a Resolution on the floor of the House. Unfortunately, as it was the fag end of the Assembly, Members got tired, and so, certain statements were made by my Honourable friend, Sir James Grigg, as also by Mr. Neogy on behalf of us, and the question was postponed. My Honourable friend, Sir James Grigg mentioned. . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I may make it quite clear that the question that was then under discussion was not the question of the continuance of the salt duty but the distribution of the proceeds of it.

Mr. B. Das: Unless there was a protective tariff there would be no funds available for distribution. That is the whole issue. My Honourable friend said:

"It has been quite clear that neither the Honourable Member opposite, who has put down the proposal to amend the Resolution, nor I, would have time to expose fully our respective points of view. As soon as that became clear, the two Honourable Members (*that is, Mr. K. C. Neogy and Mr. S. C. Mitra*) most interested in this together with myself and the Honourable the Law Member (*I am glad that the Law Member is present because the other two gentlemen are not present here*) decided to have an informal discussion. Certain suggestions which emerged from that discussion are being pursued and there was general agreement on both sides that in view of the fact that the debate could not be carried on satisfactorily, it had much better be postponed till a more suitable occasion."

Mr. Neogy replied to that as follows:

"The House must have learnt with great relief that I do not propose to move the Resolution which stands in my name. As the Honourable the Finance Member has said, we had a very full informal discussion which was characterised by the usual frankness of the Honourable the Finance Member and we, on this side of the House, hope that we have been able to enlist his active sympathy in the cause which we wanted to indicate through this Resolution. Speaking for the last time in this House (*and how prophetic he was there*!) may I express the hope that whatever happens in future the Government will not give up the policy which they had solemnly adopted, namely, that of making India self-supporting in regard to our salt supply and protecting the salt industry of this country."

If I take the time of the House in quoting these extracts, it is just to point out that even at that conference there were two non-officials conferring with two mighty Members of the Executive Council. The understanding was that the policy of the Government of India should be continued and India must be self-supporting in the matter of salt.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: There was no such understanding on my part whatever.

Mr. B. Das: The understanding was that the House will have a full discussion. Today the Honourable the Finance Member in his magnanimous way suggested that the salt industry can approach him and he was available and that the subject can be brought up again. The Honourable Member knows fully well that his predecessor gave this House and the country to understand that India must be self-supporting in the matter of salt. However much my Honourable friend, Mr. Morgan, may murmur, the Honourable the Finance Member has abolished that committee, the Assembly Salt Committee which went into the question of protection of salt industry for the last five years. My Honourable friend, Mr. Morgan, was a very valued member of that Committee. Mr. Abdoola Haroon and Mr. S. C. Mitra were also members. I was a member. . . .

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): Also a valuable member?

Mr. B. Das: I do not know, I did my duty; it is for my friend, Mr. Aney, to judge. Although my Honourable friend, Mr. Morgan, was in the minority, he put the case of Bengal. He always came out on behalf

of the Government of Bengal and said that no salt should be manufactured. What is his argument? I find there is a paper here circulated by some salt people, also containing certain resolutions of the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta. My friend, Mr. Nauman, is the President of that Chamber, and, when he intervenes, he will make a valuable contribution to the debate. This is what I read:

"The Muslim Chamber of Commerce are unanimous in their demand for the continuance of the protection to the salt industry."

It says that Bengal imports 500,000 tons of salt and only 40,000 tons come from Liverpool and Hamburg. Of course, 100,000 tons of Italian salt comes from Aden. I shall deal with that later on. Why does my Honourabe friend, Mr. Morgan, murmur? Those who consume this Hamburg, Liverpool salt can easily afford to pay one pie or one pice per pound of salt more, because these are high class table salts and they are used only by the richer class of people. Mr. Morgan made certain observations which must not go uncontradicted. He says Bengal pays eight lakhs of rupees or so but the reply which my Honourable friend, Sir James Grigg, gave last Session of the Assembly, was this. He pointed out that the salt tax that was distributed for the half year 1933-34 was 2,71,000 which means that the Government collects nearly 6 to 6½ lakhs per annum, one-eighth of which they keep for the development of Khewra salt on their internal salt mines and the remainder is distributed to provinces on consumption basis. I find that Burma got one lakh 11 thousand of rupees for the half year and Bengal got Rs. 93,900. This distribution is on a consumption basis, and I cannot understand why my friend was saying that Bengal is paying Rs. 8 lakhs. . . .

Mr. G. Morgan: May I explain to my Honourable friend? It was not on account of the duty at all. My point was that the buying price of Government was too high. That is where we are paying for it. That is all I said. Nothing else.

Mr. B. Das: That is a fallacy which I want to blow up. I think those who speak on this side of the House on behalf of the consumers and even the Government spokesman who will rise after me on behalf of the consumer. . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I will.

Mr. B. Das: He should examine the figures which I have with me and which they also have. The price of salt before the protective tariff of Re. 0-4-6 per maund was raised in 1931 was this. In 1927, it was Rs. 123-2-2 for 100 maunds of salt. This is from a Government publication. In 1928, it was Rs. 100-4-9; in 1929, it was Rs. 84-8-0; in 1930, it was Rs. 73. Since the protection was given, the Tariff Board valued it at Rs. 66. Of course my Honourable friend. Mr. Morgan, tried to point out that the Assembly Salt Committee reviewed it. It has been now fixed at Rs. 50 but what has happened today? In 1934, it was Rs. 48-12-0; and in 1935, it is Rs. 48-8-0 per hundred maunds. This Re. 0-2-6 protective duty per maund and the necessary corollary to it, the Government control of import and selling prices, have brought down the price from Rs. 100 to Rs. 48. Remove today the protective tariff and then these Indian manufacturers

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will all combine with foreign importers, they will raise the price. How is it that in Burma even today salt is sold at a high price? Why is it that in Burma salt is not available at Rs. 50 as it is available in Calcutta? I think the price of salt in Burma is today somewhere at Rs. 100 per 100 maunds.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: That is much less than that. I remember the price of Aden salt in Burma is about Rs. 70 a hundred maunds and that I should explain—I ascertained it the other day—is the price of delivery at the godowns and not the price of delivery out of the ship.

Mr. B. Das: I was also quoting only the godown prices. Burma is paying Rs. 50 more because the Indian salt does not go there. Large importers of salt raise the price and they form a combine or whatever it is. Speaking for the consumer, the best thing that has happened to the consumer is that the Government has introduced this protective duty whereby the prices have been controlled and these gone down. The Finance Member and his predecessor ought to take credit for it. For the first time today India has been almost self-supporting in the matter of salt.

3 P.M.

Of course, the question was raised as to what will happen when Aden is separated. This is not the first occasion on which I have spoken on this matter of salt. I do want some means to be devised, so that the Italian firm which brings to India nearly one hundred thousand tons of salt should be taxed and should not enjoy the benefit of this protective tariff. My Honourable friend wants some sort of opinion from this side of the House and from the country. Sir, of course, this is my personal view, but I will quote the greater authoritative opinion of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. That body represents the Indian mercantile community, and in this matter there is no difference, and I have already mentioned the view-point of the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta. The Committee of the Federation have already forwarded to my Honourable friend the resolution that they passed. They there insist that the protective tariff must continue, but they refer to Aden also. It is a long resolution. I will leave the other portions where they insist that the protective tariff should continue. I will only quote certain sentences referring to Aden.

"The Committee of the Federation and indeed the Indian Legislature have from the start strongly protested against His Majesty's Government's desire to wrench Aden from India, and the Committee regret very much that the Honourable the Finance Member, instead of assuring the Indian salt manufacturers in Aden of all the protection that it needs, should even indicate in a speech that the Indian Legislature can possibly afford to discriminate between salt manufactured by Indians in India and salt manufactured by them in Aden. The Committee beg to suggest that a categorical statement might usefully be made by the Honourable the Finance Member in the Legislative Assembly during the Budget discussion assuring Indians in Aden that complete safeguarding of their interests there will be regarded by the Government of India as their first duty."

Sir, neither the Government of India nor the people of India nor the Government of Bombay nor the people of Bombay are a party to the forcible separation of Aden from India. If circumstances so allowed and Aden gets separated from India, then Indians, who have been enjoying

commercial and residential rights in Aden for the last one hundred or one hundred and fifty years, must be safeguarded in those rights, and those Indians who, through their commercial and industrial enterprise, developed that little bit of a rock and sand on the coast of Arabia into a beautiful and flourshing town, should not be denied the right of the citizenship of India; and, therefore, as long as those original Indian settlers live in Aden they should share all the benefits of protection that we in India share in the matter of protection and other tariffs. Therefore, our proposition before the Government of India is this, that those Indian traders and manufacturers who have settled down in India should be treated as British Indians and their manufactured products should continue to be protected, when Aden is forcibly separated from us against our own will, and they should continue to derive the benefit of this salt protection duty. But I do not want that this principle should be extended to other Indian firms who start some new industry there now or hereafter; these should not have any claim to protection in India. Those industrial concerns may be treated as foreign concerns. But none of these Bombay salt manufacturers, these three firms, ever dreamt in their lives that Aden would not be part of India or that today Aden would be separated, thus taking away one hundred crores of money that have been spent by India in developing Aden as a present or free gift to England because simply Aden happens to be a strategic point. That is one thing, but to condemn these Indians there and treat their industries there as foreign industries is another crime that should not be perpetrated. Therefore, Sir, whether my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, is in a position to speak out today his mind, or whether the Government of India have not yet examined this aspect of the question which the Federation Committee has brought to the notice of the Government of India, I do not know. The Government of India must make up their mind and they should treat, at least those Indians who have settled down in Aden, as Indians, and who have established industries there, as Indian industries. As for the Italian sources, the latter came to enjoy the benefits that many Europeans used to enjoy in India before the war as Europeans. They have enjoyed certain advantages. That firm ought to be treated as a foreign firm. If it is not treated like this today, it will have to be treated so in future, but, in future, this Legislature, whatever may be its size and composition, would not like to make these Indian firms outlaws. Sir, I know—I happen to be a member of the Committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry—the Government of India have not given us any advice or any opinion in the matter that I have brought forward today before the House, but I hope they will, either today or at some future date, as early as possible, give that assurance that Indians who have started industries in Aden must remain as Indians and must enjoy all the benefits of the protective tariffs that have been given to Indians in India.

Therefore, Sir, I do not wish to touch upon the subject which my Honourable friend, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, has touched upon. Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member, during his short visit to Bengal, during the last Simla Session, had had some conference with the Bengal officials, and the Honourable the Finance Member, at that time, gathered that the Bengal Government advanced the view that no good would come by putting this two annas six pies protective duty on salt. But I think my Honourable friend will agree with me that, if any one industry has shown the maximum benefit of protection within that tiny protection of two annas six pies—it was for two years four annas six pies—and the

[Mr. B. Das.]

Assembly Committee reduced it to two annas six pies—it was this Indian salt industry and that was achieved by this Indian salt protective duty. Sir, if, with this small amount of protection to this industry, India is almost nearing being a self-supporting unit in salt, then, I say, this protective tariff must continue. Of course the question will arise, when that Italian firm will be treated as a foreign firm, that Indian manufacturing firms will have to enlarge their production and produce a hundred thousand tons more of salt.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Morgan, accused the Department of the Central Board of Revenue that they have not developed the Khewra salt mines, which was the original intention four years ago. If that has not been done, let the Honourable the Finance Member inquire whose fault it has been,—whether it is lukewarmness of the Central Board of Revenue or whether it is the result of a lack of cohesion in the policy of the Government of India? Of course the Finance Member has to face the opposition of the Railway Board in the matter of the reduction of railway freight on Khewra salt from Khewra to Bihar and Bengal. That is a policy which the Finance Member can thresh out with the Railway Board and he can get this freight to Bihar and Bengal reduced, if it can be done.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: It has been reduced to the minimum.

Mr. B. Das: May I ask my Honourable friend why he has not developed the Khewra sources to the extent that this was originally conceived of by Mr. Pitt?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Well, the answer to that really is that at the present price level in Calcutta, we could not sell the salt in Bengal,—even with the reduced rates.

Mr. B. Das: That means there is something wrong with the system.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: It means there is something wrong with the price.

Mr. B. Das: At the same time, the cost of production of the commodity by the Government of India at Khewra must be very high and, therefore, it cannot compete with Bengal salt. The Honourable Member's Department quarries salt. Now my Honourable friend is bringing out experts on income-tax. Why should he not have an expert to see whether the Government of India do manufacture salt really on efficient and economic lines or whether its cost of manufacture cannot really be reduced to one-half. So, to a certain extent, I agree with the accusation of my Honourable friend, Mr. Morgan, that the Finance Department and the Central Board of Revenue are not functioning properly in the matter of selling Khewra salt in Bengal or Bihar markets. The fact is there that India can be self-supporting in the matter of salt. My Honourable friend, the Finance Member, said in reply to a supplementary question, in the Simla Session, that he did not agree with his predecessor as to his views that India can be self-supporting.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No, I did not say anything of the sort. I said that I did not agree with my predecessor's opinion that Bengal had neglected its duty in the matter of developing salt resources or rather Bengal had broken the conditions on which they were given the share of the proceeds of the duty.

Mr. B. Das: Thank you. I am glad that my Honourable friend holds the same view as Sir George Schuster did or as I hold myself.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I did not even say that. You give your own views and never mind about my views. I will give them myself.

Mr. B. Das: As my Honourable friend is so much defending the poor and neglected Bengal Government, I think I would rather deal with it a little more in detail. I would like my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, to intervene, because unfortunately a day before I had to leave Simla and, therefore, could not participate in the Conference which was attended by the Law Member, the Finance Member, Mr. Neogy and Mr. S. C. Mitra. The Law Member is a great Bengali and he may be a part of the Government machine. But in these matters I do not think he differs from any of the Bengal public men who think that Bengal should only take Indian salt and no other salt. If the Law Member intervened in that Conference, I am sure some happy result must have been reached. I have already quoted Mr. Neogy's speech in which he said that he hoped something would come out. From what I know of my former Leader, Mr. Neogy, I can say that he was not a man to be satisfied merely with promises. He spoke in a tone of satisfaction. In this connection I would say that it was not due to any mistake of mine or of this part of the House in the last Assembly because Sir George Schuster moved a Resolution on the floor of the House, in 1931, on behalf of the Government of India to the effect that the share of salt money which the Government of India would allocate should be spent on salt manufacture. I would quote the exact words of the Resolution:

> ". . . . and that this apportionment shall be conducted by the Governor General in Council in accordance with his decision as to the extent to which the burden of the additional duty falls upon consumers in the various provinces mentioned; and this Assembly further recommends that the attention of Provincial Governments who may receive a portion of the revenue which is to be distributed should be called to the views expressed in this Assembly as to the desirability of applying such revenue in certain ways and in particular to the development of salt production where economically feasible within their own provinces."

Sir, unfortunately, at that time, we had an idea that when the Finance Member moves a Resolution, it is binding on the Provincial Governments. Afterwards, we learnt to our misfortune, that the Government of India Finance Member's recommendation is not binding on the Government of Bihar and Orissa or on the Government of Bengal. Mr. Neogy's Resolution ought to have been discussed in the last Session but could not be discussed. We wanted by that Resolution to replace the passage I have just quoted by the following passage:

> "and this Assembly further recommends that the Provincial Governments who may receive a portion of the revenue to be distributed be called upon to apply their share of such revenue to the development of salt production where natural facilities therefor exist within their own provinces."

Sir, we know that the Bengal Government is controlled by the Clive Street, otherwise how can my Honourable friend, Mr. Ghuznavi, who is a signatory to this Resolution, could speak in that tone? This Resolution is signed by most of the members of Bengal. Their names are:

> "Mr. K. C. Neogy, Mr. S. C. Mitra, Mr. B. Das, Mr. Bhuput Sing, Mr. S. C Sen, Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad, Rai Bahadur Sukhraj Roy, Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, Maulvi Badi uz-Zaman, Rai Sahib Badri Lal Rastogi, Kumar Gupteshwar Prasad Singh, Mr. Sitakanta Mahapatra and Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi."

[Mr. B. Das.]

If Mr. Ghuznavi is a party to this Resolution, then he wants the continuance of the protection of the salt industry. The other day, when he spoke—I do not know where he got his inspiration from—he spoke in a way as if the Bengal consumers were suffering from the terrible high protective duty of 2 annas and 6 pies. I am referring to Mr. Ghuznavi's long speech that he made in the interests of the consumers. I have already proved that the consumers in Bengal and Bihar and Orissa are getting their salt at a much lower price than they could ever get and if the protective duty be abolished, they will get it at a higher price.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should not repeat himself.

Mr. B. Das: Sir, I had to go for Mr. Ghuznavi a little.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He is not here.

Mr. B. Das: But, Sir, he delivered a speech and wanted us to reply.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better proceed with his speech.

Mr. B. Das: Therefore, the Finance Member, if he is alive to the situation, ought to know the views of the Indian public and he must have seen those telegrams which have been received from Madras and from Tuticorin and from other places that the protective duty should continue. The protective duty does not go to the salt producer but it goes to his friend the Honourable the Railway Member. Indian salt gets a little more protection by this additional protective duty, and, therefore, I support the present Bill. In conclusion, I would like to say that the Finance Member should revive the Assembly Salt Committee and should devise a Bill which will give protection to salt industry for a period of five years. Not only that, the Finance Member should consider the hardship that is being inflicted on the Aden salt manufacturers. In any case, Indian merchants of Aden should be treated as in alliance with us and should always continue to receive protection in case they are separated before the year closes.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, perhaps I may make the starting point of my very few remarks a reference to one of Mr. Satyamurti's pleasing innuendos, the habit of making which has so endeared him to us all. He asked in his tones of most mellifluous irony why we are bothering our heads about Liverpool salt . . . .

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: We cannot follow the Honourable Member if he proceeds so rapidly.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I would like to make it quite clear to him that the question of Liverpool and its interests in this matter has not entered into my calculations or those of the Government of India in

the slightest degree. The interests that we have been primarily considering are those of the Indian consumer and incidentally as we are talking about Liverpool I understand that the Marketing Board, if that euphemistic term is permissible, which has succeeded in raising the price against the consumer from Rs. 42 to Rs. 50, was prepared to offer Liverpool a quota of 50,000 tons, I think that is the figure. In other words the Marketing Board is much more disposed to favour or to let in Liverpool interests than the Government of India are. In this matter, our concern is primarily with the consumer. You cannot dispose of the interests of the Indian consumer by saying, as Mr. Das said, that the importers of Hamburg salt can afford to pay the extra money—the importers of Hamburg salt perhaps can perfectly well afford to pay the extra money, but every other importer of salt and every other consumer in Bengal has got to pay the extra money, whether it is Indian or Aden or Karachi salt or anything else. This question of the burden on the consumer the Honourable Member does not seem to understand. Let us take the case of Bengal. I have no doubt whatever in my own mind that if the duty of 2½ annas were removed, the price of salt would immediately drop by 2½ annas and when Honourable Members opposite say that the price of salt has never been as low as it is now, they are quite wrong. Here is a report of the Salt Industries Committee, dated March, 1931, which contained the phrase "taking the present price at Rs. 36 per hundred maunds". This means that the price was lower then than it has ever been since and that completely explodes the theory . . . .

Mr. B. Das: That was in 1933.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No, it was in 1931. The price of salt per hundred maunds was Rs. 36 which is lower than the present price and as I say, I have not the slightest doubt that in spite of what Mr. Das's little blue book says, the price of salt would fall by at least 2½ annas a maund if the import duty were completely removed. On that assumption let us see what the burden on the Bengal consumer is. I can take Burma as well, but Bengal is much more in point. Taking the average clearances in Bengal, that is Bengal in the enlarged sense, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam, the average clearances are 145 lakhs of maunds and the burden on that at 2½ annas is 22½ lakhs and of that 22½ lakhs, the Government get 4½ lakhs and distribute it to the consuming provinces. The industry gets the remaining 18 lakhs and of that the industry in Aden gets 11½ lakhs and the concerns in Western India get 6½ lakhs, that is, these four gentlemen who have works in Aden, one of whom is an Italian, I understood the Honourable Members to say, take advantage of Bengal to the extent of more than half the total burden of this additional import duty. I maintain that that proves pretty conclusively that the Bengal consumer is being exploited and you have got millions of consumers in Bengal paying 11½ lakhs to the four producers in Aden one of whom is an Italian. That is the sort of figure which proves completely my case. Incidentally if you want any more evidence beyond what I have already given as to the fact that the duty has definitely been a burden on the consumer, I think you will find if you take the price of salt *cum* duty that the fall in the price of salt has been, since the slump, very much less, considerably less than the average fall in commodity prices. I have not the slightest doubt that the burden of this is on the consumer and to the full extent of the duty. However, as I said when I made my opening

[Sir James Grigg.]

remarks, I do not want at this stage of the Session to traverse all the arguments that have been used. I refrain from pointing out my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti's admitted inconsistency, in wanting the excise duty on salt which is a revenue yielding instrument reduced and the import duty on salt which is merely a burden on the consumer to be increased, and from commenting on Mr. Das' remarks about this tiny little protection. They are extremely inconsistent: when it is a question of protection, it is a very tiny matter and it is not a burden on the consumer but when it is a question of a revenue tax which yields a considerable amount of revenue, it is a most monstrous burden on the consumer. You really cannot have it both ways in the way you are doing, but I do not want to traverse all those arguments now. The object of this Bill is merely to preserve the *status quo* for one more year and that being so, and being convinced, as I personally am, that this Bill does make an undesirable burden on the consumer, I certainly cannot accept Mr. Satyamurti's invitation to extend the operation of this Bill indefinitely so that it becomes a permanent piece of protective machinery. The Bill, as far as the Government are concerned, must remain in its present form and the Government must be completely uncommitted as to what they will do at the end of that period. (Applause.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill further to extend the operation of the Salt (Additional Import Duty) Act, 1931, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Clause 2. There are a number of amendments. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai* wants the figure "1936" to be substituted by "1938", Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar† wants the figure "1936" to be substituted by "1937" and Mr. Satyamurti's‡ amendment increases the rate of duty. All these are out of order.

Mr. G. Morgan: Sir, if I may, I should like to move the first clause of my amendment first and afterwards the other, because it is consequential.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Very well.

Mr. G. Morgan: Sir, I beg to move.

"That after clause 2 of the Bill, the following new clause be added:

'3. To section 3 of the said Act, the following proviso shall be added, namely:

'Provided that Liverpool shall be permitted to import into any port in British India, free of any additional duty of customs, salt not exceeding fifty thousand tons in quantity in any one year'."

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* "That in clause 2 of the Bill, for the figures '1936' the figures '1938' be substituted."

† "That in clause 2 of the Bill, for the figures '1936' the figures '1937' be substituted."

‡ "That to clause 2 of the Bill, the following proviso be added:

'Provided that the additional duty of Customs on salt imported into any port in British India except Aden and Perim, shall be at the rate of four and a half annas per maund'."

Sir, this is the third time that I have moved this amendment in this House.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Three times is a lot.

Mr. G. Morgan: Very well, if this duty does not continue, it will be the last. I moved it last year with a certain amount of confidence. The predecessor of the Finance Member, Sir George Schuster, had said that an enquiry would be made into the position of this particular class of salt and if it was found that it was a special salt at a special price, and did not compete with Indian salt, then a case might be made out. I do not say he promised anything in those terms, but he said that a case might be made out, so that, when I brought this amendment forward last year, it was on the report that a case as far as the special price is concerned had been made out by Government. But it was not accepted by the House. Still that had not deterred me from bringing forward this motion again. The special reason is that this quality of salt is imported to the extent of 990,000 maunds in Calcutta and 670,000 maunds into Burma, that is all from Hamburg. We have a feeling that that salt from Hamburg is subsidised in some form or other. We have not been able to discover exactly whether it is a bounty or a subsidy to shipping or a bounty to manufacturers or what. I cannot tell the House, but we are convinced that there is some system of bounty or subsidy for the Hamburg salt. There is no such thing for Liverpool salt; there is no inducement held out to Liverpool to ship their salt to India under a subsidy or bounty and they are not competing on equal terms at all. We think that if Liverpool was relieved from this additional duty there might be a chance for Liverpool to compete with the Hamburg salt, and I do not see why the House should take umbrage at the fact that Liverpool competes with Hamburg salt. The Salt Producers Conference itself, two years ago, said that they personally had no objection at all. They did not look upon this 50,000 tons of Liverpool salt as a competitor at all. They were quite willing to let it enter on the same terms, but Government, I am sorry to say, did not view it in the same way: The Honourable the Finance Member has already said that the Marketing Board, or ring as it might be called, have also said just the other day in February, that they had no objection to Liverpool importing a certain quantity of salt.

Sir, I do not want to take up the time of the House repeating what I have said *ad nauseam* for the last two years and so I will formally move my amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That after clause 2 of the Bill, the following new clause be added:

'3. To section 3 of the said Act, the following proviso shall be added, namely:

'Provided that Liverpool shall be permitted to import into any port in British India, free of any additional duty of customs, salt not exceeding fifty thousand tons in quantity in any one year'."

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I need only say one sentence in order to state the Government attitude on this amendment. I have just said that we are disposed to be very sceptical of the policy of favouring manufacturers and producers in Western India and Aden at the expense of the Bengal consumer. I am certainly not prepared, nor are

[Sir James Grigg.]
Government as a whole prepared, to give a specially favoured position to Liverpool in the same matter. The object that I personally have in mind is, as I have said several times, the Bengal consumer. And, therefore, I shall certainly, and Government will certainly, resist any proposal to give Liverpool a preference which it has not got at the present moment.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I oppose this amendment. The Honourable the Mover is more anxious about the consumer of salt in Bengal than our Bengali friends who are more representative of the Bengal population. At the same time he wants that with respect to our Indian industry of salt manufacture . . . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, is this in order? We are talking about special preference to Liverpool and not on the main question.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is only in respect of that that I am making my submission. Whereas in respect of Liverpool salt he wants that the 50,000 tons of Liverpool salt should be tax-free in this country, he pleads that it will benefit the consumer.

Mr. G. Morgan: I never said anything of the kind. I said that Hamburg salt monopolises this particular market and there was no reason why Liverpool should be ousted by salt which, we are definitely of opinion, is subsidised.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: But for some reason or other he wants Liverpool salt here so that the exporters of Liverpool salt or the importers of Liverpool salt in this country might progress. That is the ultimate result or effect of the amendment moved by my Honourable friend. I would say that it will be another form of protection for a foreign competitor to Indian manufactured salt. We do not want preference to be shown to any outside manufacturer.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Neither do we.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You don't deny Aden to be a part of India. Till then we have to put up with the Aden importers. But I find from the statistics and figures that appear in the blue book that was circulated to us, that year after year the quantity of salt that has been imported from foreign countries to India has decreased in quantity, and Aden salt also has not progressed.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is not true; Aden salt has gone up every year.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I will give figures presently. We find in Table I on page 1 that, for the three years 1932, 1933 and 1934, the quantities of imported salt have been going down in this manner. From 69 lakhs in 1932 to 31 lakhs in 1933 and 23 lakhs in 1934,—that is the quantity of imports from foreign countries. Clearances have gone down equally,—from 66 lakhs in 1932 to 40 lakhs in 1933 and 33 lakhs in 1934. Then as regards Aden salt, the quantity that is imported from Aden was 81 lakhs in 1932, 72 lakhs in 1933 and 80 lakhs in 1934. Well, Sir, 80 lakhs in 1934 is not more than 81 lakhs in 1932, and in 1933 the

quantity imported from Aden was less by 8 lakhs. Thus my statement that it has not progressed is correct. And then with respect to foreign salt, the decrease has been from 69 lakhs to 31 lakhs and again to 23 lakhs. If these figures do not prove that within a period of three years the quantity has gone down from 69 lakhs to 23 lakhs, I do not know how any other industry, which is under some protection in this country, can progress more favourably. Sir, the talk of the consumer raises its head again and again in some form or other when an Indian industry is to be protected. Now the 2 annas and 6 pies additional duty imposed over Rs. 1-4-0 does not come to very much. We have found from statistics given in the Taxation Inquiry Committee's report that not more than 16 pounds per head is consumed in any part of British India for the whole year; and the additional taxation for 16 pounds is 6 pies or half an anna which the consumer in Bengal has to bear, so that, ultimately, India may make herself absolutely self-sufficient in salt. It is a disgrace to us that with the large sea-coast we have, we have not been able to wipe out foreign salt altogether from our markets. We have had very many difficulties, and, by this time, even with the small protection this industry has had, but for the absolutely weak-hearted support that Government have been giving us, this industry would have established itself firmly and driven out foreign salt altogether. Various facilities and various conveniences that have to be given to this industry have been suggested both in the Taxation Inquiry Committee's report and in the Salt Industry report by the Tariff Board. We find, they say in the Taxation Inquiry Committee's report, that India could be made self-sufficient with respect to this industry. In paragraph 174, they say that at the time they made this report, 30 per cent. of the entire quantity of salt, consumed in this country, was imported salt. Today we find, taking foreign salt and Aden salt together, it is not more than 20 per cent. that is imported into this country and that foreign salt alone ranges only between four and six per cent. In paragraph 176, they state the several inconveniences which the local producer of salt is put to by way of transport from one part of the country to the other: they say:

"On the other hand, the Indian manufacturer is handicapped in his competition in these markets by a limitation on the tonnage of the vessel in which he may transport, by regulations regarding transport in bond, by a charge for duty on losses on the voyage, by high rates of steamer freight and still higher rates of railway freight, by the exclusion of salt transported by rail from the bonded warehouses, which receive only salt imported by sea, and by the absence of any inland bonded warehouses for salt imported by rail. Another serious difficulty is to be found in the fact that a strong combination of the merchants in Calcutta is able at one time to prevent any new class of salt from finding a footing in the Bengal market, at another to raise the price to the Bengal consumer to a figure much above what might be expected from free competition. Similarly in Rangoon the prices are kept at a high level as long as the imported salt is alone in the market and fall immediately the monsoon abates and supplies from the local factories become available.

In short, the present import arrangements, by opening the markets of the world to Bengal, give the Bengalees salt of a sort they have learnt in the course of years to appreciate. On the other hand, they are at times compelled to pay for it a price in excess of what is reasonable. Moreover, so large a dependence on imported salt results in a danger of shortage of supplies such as occurred during the War and in discouragement to an Indian industry."

Whereas, many kinds of convenience are provided for the foreign salt importers—the salt is taxed only after it is actually issued from the clearance houses—the reverse is the case with Indian salt: the moment it is sent say from Tuticorin or any other place in Madras to Bengal,

[Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.]

they have to pay the duty irrespective of whether ultimately it is liked by the consumers or finds a market there or not. Further, so far as losses are concerned, even if they lose in transit they have to pay the duty. These are the ways in which they have to suffer. In spite of recommendations no arrangement has been made to lessen the railway freight for this commodity. It has also been suggested by the Taxation Enquiry Committee that coal wagon returning to Bengal could take salt from the Southern Presidency to Bengal. No such arrangement has been made yet. Therefore, I would say, that if in addition to this small import duty, the other suggestions made by the Taxation Enquiry Committee had been given effect to, by this time we would have been able to prevent any salt from coming from any other country into this country. It is not desirable to make any distinction whether it is an Italian or an Englishman so far as the manufacture of salt is concerned both of them stand on the same footing with respect to the consumer or the producer in this country; therefore, if it were possible for us, we would drive out the Aden gentleman also from this market, and sooner or later we hope to do it. Then there is the other circumstance on account of which we must hasten the production of salt in our country and make it absolutely self-sufficient. During the War, Burma and Bengal were thrown absolutely on the mercy of the other provinces: and for lack of support from the Government these provinces were not able to supply large quantities to Bengal and Burma. We read in the papers every day news that each country in the West is trying to be prepared for a war: and, early or late, if not during the next six months or a year, at least within the next two years, there may be a war: in which case, if we do not take sufficient precautions, India, for which salt is a main article of food coming next to air and water, will have to suffer for want of salt. It has happened before. In paragraph 173 of the Taxation Enquiry Committee's report, the authors refer to the painful fate of Bengal and Burma during the War for want of salt. I would, therefore, say that in no form should, the small amount of protection enjoyed by this industry, be taken away . . . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: None of this has got anything to do with Liverpool.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Yes: if you reduce it, Liverpool will drive out Italian and Aden salt and take their place, and perhaps drive out Madras and other salt as well. Therefore, we should subsidise this industry until it establishes itself: I have given ample proof that year after year the imports have been decreasing, and, I would, therefore, say that this import duty ought not to be reduced and the amendment ought not to be accepted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That after clause 2 of the Bill, the following new clause be added:

'3. To section 3 of the said Act, the following proviso shall be added, namely:

'Provided that Liverpool shall be permitted to import into any port in British India, free of any additional duty of customs, salt not exceeding fifty thousand tons in quantity in any one year'."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. G. Morgan: The next amendment is consequential, and, as the first has failed, I do not wish to move it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Mr. Paliwal.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Is this amendment within the scope of the Bill, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair would like to know why the Honourable Member thinks it is not.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: It is a question of the title: the title says:

"A Bill further to extend the operation of the Salt (Additional Import Duty) Act, 1931";

and the operative clause in the Bill merely alters the figures 35 to 36: the original Act contains no provisions for distribution of the proceeds in any way.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): But supposing the original Act does not contain this provision, could not the extending Act amend it in that way?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I submit it cannot: an extending Act merely extends the original Act precisely in that form and in no other form.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then, there can be no amendment at all.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: My impression is that you could alter the period of extension.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Or reduce the amount of duty?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Not without altering the title.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not think that the amendment is out of order: it thinks it is within the scope of the Bill.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to move:

"That after clause 2 of the Bill, the following new clause be added:

'3. The income derived from the additional import duty on salt levied under the foregoing section shall be earmarked for and devoted to the development of salt industry in Burma and Bengal'."

I will not tax the patience of the House at this fag end of the day and a day which is probably the last day of the Session, and, therefore, I shall be as brief as possible. So far as this duty is concerned, the Finance Member in his statement introducing the budget proposals for 1935-36 said:

"Personally, I am very doubtful whether this duty can ever achieve the purpose for which it was designed. I have moreover a good deal of sympathy with the views which have in the past been expressed by Honourable Members from Bengal that an impost which has the effect of helping the producers of Aden at the expense of the consumers of Bengal is fundamentally unfair. In any case, the duty will require reconsideration in view of the impending separation of Aden and Burma. Taking all these things into consideration I was disposed to think that the duty ought to be abolished at once, but that would perhaps have been a little harsh to the vested interests which have grown up and I shall, therefore, propose to the House that the duty shall be extended for one year, without prejudice to any action which Government may see fit to take at the end of that year. I hope that this extension will be

[Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal.]

accepted by the House though I should, perhaps, make it clear that, if it should prefer to remove the duty at once, in this matter at any rate we should accept its decision. Incidentally we do not propose to make any change in the arrangements for the distribution of the proceeds of the duty."

After this statement, Sir, nothing remains for me to say on the subject. The Finance Member himself admits that the duty is unfair to Bengal and Burma. He also admits that he has got no use for this duty, and he is prepared to abolish the duty even today if the House wishes it. So far as I am concerned, I do not want to disarrange the budgetary arrangement of the Finance Member, in any way so far as the removal of this duty is concerned, but I do want that the proceeds of this duty, for which the Finance Member has no use, should be used for the purpose of the people for whom it is admittedly unfair. Generally, the Government comes forward and says that the interests of the consumers suffer in such cases, and it is only right that the policy of robbing Peter to enrich Paul should be abandoned in this case and the proceeds of the duty should be utilised for the good of the people of Bengal and Burma. Again, Sir, a reference to page 22 of the Explanatory Memorandum of the Finance Secretary on the Budget will show that the income derived from this duty is only Rs. 4,40,000, and out of this Rs. 1,63,000 is derived from Bengal, and Rs. 1,62,000 from Burma,—that is, more than three-fourth is derived from these two provinces and it is only fair that the proceeds should be used for the good of the people of these provinces. These are my grounds for placing my amendment before the House, and I hope the House will support me in getting it passed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That after clause 2 of the Bill, the following new clause be added:

'3. The income derived from the additional import duty on salt levied under the foregoing section shall be earmarked for and devoted to the development of salt industry in Burma and Bengal'."

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I am sorry I am unable to accept this amendment. The present scheme of distribution is that 7/8th of the somewhat meagre proceeds of this import duty are distributed among the consuming provinces. There is no obligation on them to use the proceeds for the development of the salt industry in their areas. There has been a certain amount of misunderstanding about this. There was a recommendation that they should use it for,—I think the phrase used was—nation-building services, and I gather, that the main part of the money has been spent for nation-building services, and only a minor part has been spent in developing salt in their areas. Then there is another 1/8th, which is reserved to the Central Government, and the Central Government devotes the whole of that towards promoting likely schemes of salt development. But these schemes have been extremely few, and, in point of fact, most of those which have been investigated have proved not likely to lead to the economic production of salt in Bengal or Burma or Bihar, as the case may be. So, Sir, as I said, in my Budget speech, we do not propose to make any change in the distribution, and I think it would not be very wise to make a change now when the whole policy is under reconsideration. I, therefore, hope that the Honourable Member will not press his amendment, especially as it does not go very materially beyond the present state of affairs.

4 P. M.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That after clause 2 of the Bill, the following new clause be added:

'3. The income derived from the additional import duty on salt levied under the foregoing section shall be earmarked for and devoted to the development of salt industry in Burma and Bengal'."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—43.

Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.	Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
Aney, Mr. M. S.	Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Asaf Ali, Mr. M.	Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.	Parma Nand, Bhai.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.	Raju, Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami.
Banerjea, Dr. P. N.	Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Bardaloi, Srijut N. C.	Saksena, Mr. Mohan Lal.
Bhagavan Das, Dr.	Sant Singh, Sardar.
Chhattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.	Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar	Sham Lal, Mr.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.	Shaukat Ali, Maulana.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.	Sheodass Daga, Seth.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J	Siddique Ali Khan, Khan Sahib Nawab.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.	Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.
Gadgil, Mr. N. V.	Sinha, Mr. Anugrah Narayan.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M	Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Giri, Mr. V. V.	Sinha, Mr. Shri Krishna.
Gupta, Mr. Ghanshiam Singh.	Som, Mr. Suryya Kumar.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.	Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Jedhe, Mr. K. M.	Varma, Mr. B. B.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.	
Khare, Dr. N. B.	
Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, Qazi.	

NOES—48.

Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.	Lindsay, Sir Darcy
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.	Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.	Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Muhammad.
Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama.	Metcalfe, Mr. H. A. F.
Bajpai, Mr. G. S.	Milligan, Mr. J. A.
Bewoor, Mr. G. V.	Morgan, Mr. G.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.	Mukerje, Mr. N. R.
Bhore, The Honourable Sir Joseph.	Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
Chatarji, Mr. J. M.	Mushran, Mr. S.
Clow, Mr. A. G.	Nayar, Mr. C. Govindan.
Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.	Nyoce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
Dalal, Dr. R. D.	Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
Drake, Mr. D. H. C.	Rau, Mr. P. R.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Sahib Shaikh.	Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kumar Vijaya Ananda.	Sarma, Mr. R. S.
Graham, Sir Lancelot.	Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay
Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.	Scott, Mr. W. L.
Hockenhull, Mr. F. W.	Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar
Hudson, Sir Leslie.	Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
James, Mr. F. E.	Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.	Sloan, Mr. T.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.	Swithinbank, Mr. B. W.
Lal Chand, Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.	Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.
	Williams, Mr. A. de C.
	Yakub, Sir Muhammad.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN MINES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923, for certain purposes, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The provisions of this Bill were explained so fully in this House at the commencement of the Session and the Bill has emerged from the Select Committee with so little alteration that it is not necessary for me, especially at this stage of the day and of the session, to make a long speech in commendation of the motion that I have just made. I need only draw the attention of the House to the more important of the changes which were made in the Select Committee, all of which were in the direction of strengthening the Bill in the interests of those who are represented here by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, and I should also perhaps add by Mr. Giri and Professor Ranga. We have in clause 6 made a change which enforces a statutory rest interval of at least one hour. We have also made a change in the proposed section 22-B (*3*), which is also included in clause 6, as we felt that in its original form it would have enabled mines working not more than 11 hours a day to fix different periods for the beginning and ending of work for the persons employed above ground. It will be obvious to the House, I think, that that might easily have led to evasion and the clause as now drafted therefore ensures that the hours for beginning and ending work for each set of persons employed on the same work shall coincide. The only other change that I need mention is to new clauses 12 and 13. Following the principle adopted in the Factories Act, the Select Committee here introduced provisions designed to ensure that persons between the ages of fifteen and seventeen are not employed below ground before they are fit for such work. That I venture to think

is a very desirable change, as I think it will be agreed that it is not desirable that persons between the ages of fifteen and seventeen should be employed on the heavy work involved in underground mines unless it is absolutely certain that they are equal to it. There are differences of opinion between the majority and the minority of the Select Committee on two rather important points. One of them is the representation of miners on the Mining Boards, and the other is the very important question of hours. I shall have more to say on those when I come to deal with the specific amendments which have been brought forward. All I would say at the moment is that I hope it will be possible for the House to come to a unanimous conclusion on those two points and that the Bill will be passed unanimously by this House. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923, for certain purposes, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

Mr. V. V. Giri (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I should like to make a few observations in the matter of the report of the Select Committee. I consider that the views put forward by the minority members of the Select Committee were most reasonable and just and, considering the previous history of the legislation on this subject, it would have been better for the Government of India to have taken courage in both hands and accepted the proposals of the minority of the Committee with respect to the reduction of hours of work underground and above ground and also as regards the representation of workers by election through Unions on the Mining Boards. I should only like to refer very briefly to the history of the legislation which has been placed last time by the various Members that spoke on the occasion of the Bill going to the Select Committee. When the amending Act of 1928 was before this House, it was considered that there was a large body of opinion in the Assembly in favour of the introduction of the eight hour work.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Dutta).]

The minority of the Select Committee were definitely of opinion that the introduction of the eight hour work was absolutely feasible and no loss would thereby accrue to the employer or even to the worker, so long as the employer employs more tubs in the mines so that the work of the miners could be made easier and swifter. The Royal Commission on Labour went into the matter and the minority members were of the view definitely, which is like the minority members of the Select Committee of the Bill of 1928, that the eight hour work is reasonable and should be introduced. Later the Geneva Convention regarding hours of work in mines definitely laid down that the introduction of $7\frac{3}{4}$ hours within the mine and eight hours on the surface were reasonable propositions. The letter of the Government of India to Local Governments asking for the views of the Local Governments about the restriction of the hours of work says: "As regards underground work, such statistics as are available suggest that existing hours in most fields do not exceed on the average 48 weekly, and the Government of India would be glad if the possibility of a reduction to this limit could be carefully considered." Now, Sir, when

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the Local Governments were asked about their opinions, most of the Local Governments have reported in favour of introducing eight hours inside the mine. That is underground. The Madras Government stated:

"Taking into consideration, however, the arguments for and against the proposed reduction of hours of work, this Government consider that the limits of daily and weekly hours of work respectively may be fixed at 9 and 54 above ground and 8 and 48 underground."

Similarly, the Director of Industries Bengal and the Government of the Central Provinces gave it as their view. The Government of Bombay reporting the views of the Director of Industries, Bombay, says:

"The Director, however, agrees with the views expressed by all the other companies, whom he consulted, that the hours should not exceed 9 per day and 54 per week above ground and 8 per day and 48 per week underground."

Similarly the Director of Information and Labour Intelligence, Bombay says:

"After a careful and considered study of the whole question, I am strongly disposed to favour an 8 hour day exclusive of winding time which will mean that an underground worker's hours will commence from the moment when the last man of a shift has descended into the mine and will end when the first man of the same shift enters the cage to ascend."

Thus you will see that most of the responsible Local Governments were of the view that there can be restriction of the hours of work inside the mine to eight hours. Under the circumstances I do not see any reason why the Government of India, fortified by the opinion of the Local Governments, could not have introduced a Bill restricting the hours of work to eight, both inside and outside, the mine. As regards the question of the representation of labour on the boards through the Unions, I hope the Government will accept the suggestions that the Select Committee have made and at any rate, would accept the suggestions that will be made hereafter, by my Honourable friend, Mr. Matin Chaudhury I, therefore, feel that the Government would accept the proposals of the minority of the Select Committee.

Dr. R. D. Dalal (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, as a member of the Select Committee on the Indian Mines (Amendment) Bill, I desire to make a few remarks; and I shall occupy only a few minutes in what I have to say. In the first place I congratulate the Honourable the Member for Industries and Labour on bringing forward this measure. My Honourable friend, Sir Frank Noyce, has done his best to implement the recommendations of the Labour Commission as far as possible and as quickly as possible. During the short period he has been in charge of the portfolio of Industries and Labour he has brought before the House four measures of great importance from labour point of view, namely, Assam Tea Districts Labour Bill, Workmen's Compensation Bill, Factories Bill and Indian Mines Amendment Bill. Of these three have already been placed on the Statute-book, and the Bill now before the House is likely to be passed into law. Sir Frank Noyce has shown a great deal of labour sagacity in implementing the recommendations of the Labour Commission; and I consider it as an achievement, which reflects great credit on the Honourable the Member for Industries and Labour.

Sir, talking about the Labour Commission's report, may I be permitted to pay a tribute to that Commission's Chairman, Mr. J. H. Whitley, who passed away a short time ago. This report will be used as a text-book of labour welfare for many years to come; and Mr. Whitley's work on that commission is likely to influence the future of the industrial development of India; and, as I have already pointed out, many of his recommendations now stand on the Statute-book.

Sir, in the course of the proceedings of the Select Committee three points forcibly struck me. Firstly, my Honourable friends, Sir Frank Noyce and Mr. Clow, Secretary of the Department of Industries and Labour, are much interested in the welfare and prosperity of the mining population; and they both have the rare merit of holding the balance evenly between what they would like to do and what is practicable; and I share their belief in instalments of progress. Secondly, I was much struck by the temper in which the discussions were conducted by the Members of the Congress Party, and by their single-mindedness of purpose to ascertain the facts, and by their co-operation in the search for precise information. Thirdly, I was particularly struck by the attitude of my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, and by the egregious proposals he put forward. Mr. Joshi is a profound student of labour legislation, and he represents labour with great force, vigour, and earnestness. But, Sir, to my mind, half a loaf is better than no loaf, and in these difficult days, with tact and patience, the half loaf should be made to grow bigger. But my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, does not appreciate the fact that the reforms should be gradual, and should only be put into effect after most careful and serious consideration. Sir, in this connection, may I be permitted to relate an episode in the life of Dr. Johnson. On his way to Scotland Dr. Johnson broke his journey at Oxford, and he had dinner there; and he dined on chicken. On being asked about the dinner afterwards, Dr. Johnson said that the chicken appeared to have been quite a good chicken, but the chicken was badly hatched, badly reared, badly killed, badly dressed, badly cooked, and badly served. So, Sir, it is with every measure brought forward by Government which in Mr. Joshi's opinion inflicts a stranglehold on the labour conditions of any industry in India.

Sir, the most important item in the Bill is the one dealing with hours of work. I welcome the proposal to reduce the hours of work—daily and weekly hours of work above ground to ten and fifty-four, and below ground to nine hours in any day, but "below ground" the hours actually available for work are likely to be less than eight hours. Thus, by reducing the amount of work which each man does, more people will gain employment; so a reduction of weekly hours of work will bring about a reduction of the number of the unemployed—in other words a spreading of the same amount of production over a larger number of individuals will reduce unemployment; and to maintain a certain amount of goods more workmen will have to be employed and more wages will have to be paid; and these additional wages will expand the market. But, Sir, a further reduction of hours of work, will, in my opinion, cause serious economic disturbance. The Royal Commission have explored the subject of hours of work most thoroughly, and their ability and capacity to come to a decision on this subject cannot be questioned. It is no good appointing a Royal Commission to gather opinions and to make recommendations unless some attention is paid to what they say. Further, the miners'

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wages are fixed on a piece-work basis and not on a daily basis. Most of these men who work in mines are agriculturists. They devote a certain number of hours to work in mines, and they devote the rest of the week to work on their fields, and they have not trained themselves to habits of punctuality and regularity. Furthermore, the standard of living amongst the miners is extremely low. One great concern of today is to raise the standard of living amongst miners, and then and then only their condition will improve, and the condition of the industry will improve. I am strongly of opinion that a further reduction of hours will not tend to the well-being of the miners, and I strongly deprecate too hasty, too premature, and too drastic steps, or the industry may be dislocated.

Sir, it has been urged that the representation of workers in mines on Mining Boards should be by some method of election. I may state, in passing, that mining is an industry which requires a great deal of expert technical knowledge. The Mining Board has got to deal with rules and regulations and bye-laws for providing for the ventilation of mines, for action to be taken in respect of dust and obnoxious gases, for regulating the use of all machinery and plant, and of electrical apparatus for signalling purposes, for regulating the use of safety lamps in mines, for providing against dangers arising from accumulation of water in mines, for prescribing the qualifications of the Managers of mines, and so on. So we want on Mining Boards people who possess technical knowledge to understand these rules. We do not want to weaken the technical power and technical knowledge on the Mining Boards. Further, there are no proper organisations—there are no proper trade unions. Had there been a properly organized Trade Union system, the Trade Unions themselves would have claimed and would have got the right to elect their own representatives; so, in my opinion no useful purpose will be served, and no material advantage will be gained by putting in a hypothetical clause in the Bill.

Sir, I submit that this important piece of legislation represents a marked advance in the amelioration of labour conditions in mines, and that it represents an important step in establishing that contented labour force, on which alone the industrial development of India can be securely based. I support the motion to take the Bill into consideration. (Hear, hear.)

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Sir, as I said just now, the most important point which has been raised, or is likely to be raised, in the course of this discussion is the question of hours, and on that, I think I had better reserve my comments until the specific amendments are moved. I would only say that I trust I shall be able to convince even my Honourable friend, Mr. Giri, that we are wise in not going any further than we propose to do at this moment.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Mines Act, 1923, for certain purposes, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): May I suggest, Sir, that it would be better if you kindly wait after saying "Those who are of that opinion will say 'Ayes' " so that you may hear who say "Ayes". You put both the "Ayes" and "Noes" together, and the other party does not get any chance at all.

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Order, order.

Mr. M. S. Aney: I am only making the suggestion to the Chair.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury has an amendment to this clause.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. Giri's amendment comes first, Sir.

Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury (Assam: Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move:

"That for clause 3 of the Bill, the following clause be substituted :

Amendment of section 10, Act IV of 1923.

'3(*1*) For clause (*c*) of sub-section (*1*) of section 10 of the said Act, the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

'(*c*) A person, not being the Chief Inspector or an Inspector, nominated by the Local Government.'

(*2*) To sub-section (*1*) of section 10 of the said Act, the following clause shall be added, namely :—

'(*e*) two persons to represent the interest of miners, who shall be nominated in accordance with the following provisions :—

(*i*) If there are one or more registered trade unions having in the aggregate as members not less than one quarter of the miners, the said persons shall be nominated by such trade union or trade unions in such manner as may be prescribed.

(*ii*) If sub-clause (*i*) is not applicable and there are one or more registered trade unions having in the aggregate as members not less than 1000 miners, one of the said persons shall be nominated by such trade union or trade unions in such manner as may be prescribed and the other by the Local Government.

(*iii*) If neither sub-clause (*i*) nor sub-clause (*ii*) is applicable, the said persons shall be nominated by the Local Government.

Explanation.—In this clause 'miner' means a person employed, otherwise than in a position of supervision or management, in any of the mines for which the Mining Board is constituted'."

[Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury.]

Sir according to the present provisions of the Indian Mines Act, Government nominate one representative of the labour to the Mining Board. According to the proposal in the present Bill, Government have increased the number to two, and this we consider an improvement, and we welcomed it when the Bill was referred to the Select Committee. But, at the stage when the Bill was referred to the Select Committee, some of us pressed that, instead of Government nominating the two labour representatives, Trade Unions themselves should be given the right to nominate their own representatives, and this point of view we pressed also in the Select Committee. Government, however, were not in a position to accept that.

Now, I have moved a compromised amendment which I hope the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce will find it possible to accept. According to my amendment, if in any mining area Trade Unions have a membership of at least one-fourth of the total number of miners employed there, then they will have the right of electing both the members to the Mining Board. But, if, in any area, Trade Unions do not succeed in enlisting the one-fourth number, but succeed in enlisting at least 1,000 members, they will have the right to elect one member. If in some area, they succeed neither in electing one-fourth of the total number, nor 1,000 members, Government will have the right of nominating both the members to the Board. I think this is a fair compromise, and I hope it will be possible for the Government to accept it, and the House also, I trust, will accept it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That for clause 3 of the Bill, the following clause be substituted :

'3(*1*) For clause (*c*) of sub-section (*1*) of section 10 of the said Act, the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

Amendment of section 10, Act IV of 1923.

'(*c*) A person, not being the Chief Inspector or an Inspector, nominated by the Local Government.'

(*2*) To sub-section (*1*) of section 10 of the said Act, the following clause shall be added, namely :—

'(*e*) two persons to represent the interest of miners, who shall be nominated in accordance with the following provisions :—

(*i*) If there are one or more registered trade unions having in the aggregate as members not less than one quarter of the miners, the said persons shall be nominated by such trade union or trade unions in such manner as may be prescribed.

(*ii*) If sub-clause (*i*) is not applicable and there are one or more registered trade unions having in the aggregate as members not less than 1000 miners, one of the said persons shall be nominated by such trade union or trade unions in such manner as may be prescribed and the other by the Local Government.

(*iii*) If neither sub-clause (*i*) nor sub-clause (*ii*) is applicable, the said persons shall be nominated by the Local Government.

Explanation.—In this clause 'miner' means a person employed, otherwise than in a position of supervision or management, in any of the mines for which the Mining Board is constituted'."

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Giri, expressed the hope that Government would be in a position to accept this amendment. I am glad to be able to inform him that that hope is about to be fulfilled. The amendment represents, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, has pointed out, a compromise between the view taken by the majority of the Committee that the two members of the Mining Board representing the interests of miners employed in the mines should both be nominated by the Government and the view taken by the minority that they should both be elected by the miners, whether they had any organisation for the purpose of election or not. I have explained in this House on more than one occasion that it is the desire of Government to foster healthy trade unionism and it seems to me that the suggestion now put forward by my Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, is likely to have that effect. If miners feel that they can have their own representatives elected by themselves or rather by their unions on the Mining Boards, that should be conducive to the formation of unions, I hope, on sound lines. I have much pleasure in accepting the amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That for clause 3 of the Bill, the following clause be substituted :

'3(*1*) For clause (*c*) of sub-section (*1*) of section 10 of the said Act, the following clause shall be substituted, namely :—

Amendment of section 10, Act IV of 1923.

'(*c*) A person, not being the Chief Inspector or an Inspector, nominated by the Local Government.'

(*2*) To sub-section (*1*) of section 10 of the said Act, the following clause shall be added, namely :—

'(*e*) two persons to represent the interest of miners, who shall be nominated in accordance with the following provisions :—

(*i*) If there are one or more registered trade unions having in the aggregate as members not less than one quarter of the miners, the said persons shall be nominated by such trade union or trade unions in such manner as may be prescribed.

(*ii*) If sub-clause (*i*) is not applicable and there are one or more registered trade unions having in the aggregate as members not less than 1000 miners, one of the said persons shall be nominated by such trade union or trade unions in such manner as may be prescribed and the other by the Local Government.

(*iii*) If neither sub-clause (*i*) nor sub-clause (*ii*) is applicable, the said persons shall be nominated by the Local Government.

Explanation.—In this clause 'miner' means a person employed, otherwise than in a position of supervision or management, in any of the mines for which the Mining Board is constituted'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I beg to move . . . .

Mr. A. G. Clow (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I rise to a point of order. I would submit for your consideration that this amendment is not in order. It is, as you will see, a clause which endeavours to amend a section of the original Act which is not touched by the Amending Bill at all. Moreover section 11 relates to a subject which this amending Bill does not touch at any stage.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is that subject?

Mr. A. G. Clow: The subject is that of certain committees that are appointed under the Mines Act. There are a number of rulings by your distinguished predecessors, about six or seven rulings on the subject. I do not propose to quote them unless you wish me to do so. I submit that this amendment which Mr. Joshi wants to move is quite outside the scope of the Bill as described in the Preamble.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is not one of the sections which is sought to be amended by this Bill. It does not relate to one of those sections.

Mr. A. G. Clow: No, Sir.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I say a word on this point of order. The amendment which I propose to make does not bring in any new subject at all.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This clause which the Honourable Member wants to amend does not extend to the section which this Bill seeks to amend.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: My point is this. We passed an amendment just now dealing with the main subject under discussion, namely, how the miners should be represented either on the Mining Board or on Committees.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir; not on Committees.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Let me now speak. I did not interrupt other speakers at all. Let me now be heard. The subject now is how the miners should be represented on bodies which are created by the Mining Act. The first amendment dealt with the representation of the miners on the Mining Board. The next section dealt with committees and the same subject appears there, namely the appointment of representatives of miners on these committees. I submit, Sir, that the subject being the same, namely, the method of appointing the representatives of the miners on the various organisations brought into existence under this Act, my amendment is in order. The first amendment dealt with the appointment and the method of appointing the miners' representatives on the Mining Board and my amendment refers to the next section which is as regards the deciding method of appointing miners representatives on the Committees to be appointed by the Act.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): What is this section 11?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: That is the next section of the Mining Act. The previous amendment was made to section 10. This amendment is made to section 11. The section which I am changing is this:

"Two persons of whom one shall be nominated by the owner, Agent or Manager of the Mine concerned and the other shall be nominated by the Local Government to represent the interests of the persons employed in the mines."

The principle is absolutely the same, namely, the method of appointing labour representatives on the Mining Board and the Mining Committees, and I hope you will agree that my amendment is in order.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Clause 3 purports to amend section 10, but not section 11.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: No, that is true.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's amendment refers to section 11.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: My amendment does not bring in any new subject. The subject of the amendment is the method of appointing miners' representatives and my amendment brings in the same subject and therefore it should be in order.

Mr. A. G. Clow: It brings in an entirely new subject. The Preamble of the Bill shows that it is to amend the Mines Act "for certain purposes" and one of these purposes is the constitution of the Mining Boards. The constitution of Committees is not one of the subjects in respect of which this Bill seeks to amend the Mines Act.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Where is that purpose laid down?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As the purport of this amending Bill is not to amend section 11 which refers to committees, the Chair holds that this amendment of Mr. Joshi* is out of order.

Mr. G. Morgan (Bengal: European): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed sub-section (2), for the words 'forty-eight hours', the words 'four days' be substituted."

Sir, I need not take up much of the time of the House on this matter. In the original Bill put before the Select Committee, the period was seven days; that was thought to be too long for these minor accidents, and, in my opinion, "48" hours is too short. So, I propose that four days

*"That after clause 3 of the Bill, the following new clause be inserted and the subsequent clauses be renumbered accordingly:

'4. In clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 11 of the said Act, for the words 'nominated by the Local Government to represent the interests of the persons employed in the mine' the words 'elected in the manner prescribed either by the organization or organizations of employees, if any, or otherwise by employees where no organization exists' shall be substituted'."

[Mr. G. Morgan.]

should be substituted for "48" hours. The fixing of "48" hours would entail a great deal of clerical work, as there is a new sub-section to clause 4 and the entries in the registers have to be submitted twice yearly. The half yearly returns are to be sent to the Chief Inspector. It is purely a question of the addition to clerical work which I consider is unnecessary for injuries which only mean absence of 48 hours. Therefore, I propose that "48 hours" should be changed to "four days".

Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed sub-section (*2*), for the words 'forty-eight hours', the words 'four days' be substituted."

Mr. A. G. Clow: Sir, I oppose this amendment. The position in respect of mines as left by the Select Committee in two respects does not go so far as even the Factories Act. In the Factories Act whenever an accident occurs, which prevents the workman from resuming work for 48 hours, the manager of the factory has got to send individual notices in every case at once to the authorities prescribed. In this case, it is merely necessary to enter it in a register, assuming that the Local Governments make rules. And discretion is left to the Local Governments to make rules in this behalf. I think the Select Committee showed extraordinary moderation in this respect and I would oppose whittling down the clause as they have left it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That in clause 4 of the Bill, in the proposed sub-section (*2*), for the words forty-eight hours', the words 'four days' be substituted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 6 of the Bill, in the proposed section 22B(*1*), for the words 'fifty-four' the word 'forty-eight' be substituted."

This, Sir, refers to what I may call surface work. The hours of work at present are 54, and my proposal is that the hours should be reduced to 48. On this question, I do not propose to make a long speech. I have already spoken in this House giving my views about the desirability of reducing the hours of work, and I hope the House will accept my amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in clause 6 of the Bill, in the proposed section 22B(*1*), for the words 'fifty-four' the word 'forty-eight' be substituted."

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Sir, this and the following two amendments which also stand in the name of my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, are in a sense part of one scheme and they raise similar points. With your permission, therefore, I shall address my remarks to the general question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then the others also had better be moved; they are not alternative amendments.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 6 of the Bill, in the proposed section 22B(*1*), for the word 'ten' the word 'nine' be substituted."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in clause 6 of the Bill, in the proposed section 22B(*1*), for the word 'ten' the word 'nine' be substituted."

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 6 of the Bill, in the proposed section 22C (*1*), for the word 'nine' the word 'eight' be substituted."

Sir, our object is to reduce the hours of work. The hours of work for miners were first fixed in the year 1922 for the surface workers and the hours were fixed at 60 a week; and for underground workers the hours were fixed at 54 a week. There was no daily limitation of work. This position was changed in the year 1927 or 1928, when the daily limits were fixed. The daily limit fixed at that time was 12 hours. Now, Sir, this Bill proposes that, in the case of surface work, the weekly limit should be reduced from 60 to 54, and, in the case of daily work, the limit is reduced from 12 to 10. We hold that this limit proposed is too high, and we would like it to be reduced to a much lower limit. We, therefore, propose that, in place of 54 hours for both underground work and surface work, the hours should be 48, and the daily limit of work in the case of surface work we are prepared to keep at nine hours, and, in the case of underground work, we want the daily hours to be fixed at eight.

Sir, the main argument which has been so far adduced against our proposal is that the earnings of the miners may be reduced if we reduce the daily hours of work. Experience has shown, Sir, that in those mines where the hours of work are shorter, the wages are not smaller. On the other hand, instances may be quoted where the hours of work are shorter and still the wages are higher. I, therefore, feel, Sir, that there is not much force in the argument that, if we reduce the hours of work, the earnings will be reduced. Moreover, the practice of eight-hour shift prevails at present in most of the mines in India. Therefore, if we reduce the hours by Statute, it will not really introduce a sudden disturbance in the life of the industry. I, therefore, hope, Sir, that the amendment will be accepted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That in clause 6 of the Bill, in the proposed section 22C(*1*), for the word 'nine' the word 'eight' be substituted."

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Sir, the general question before the House is that of an hour's reduction all round in the hours of work in mines. From the time that proposal was discussed in the Select Committee, I have given it careful and prolonged thought. We discussed it at some length in the Select Committee and after the Committee had finished its work I had the question again examined by the Chief Inspector of Mines who was asked to review the whole position. The only conclusion which I could reach in view of all the facts and the further information he supplied was the one I had reached before the introduction of the Bill in this House, namely, that it is undesirable to take the step embodied in the amendments at the present time. I should like to explain to the House as briefly as I can the considerations which have forced me to that conclusion.

Let me explain first what the proposals in the Bill mean. This is a very technical subject and I will do my best to explain what the effect of Mr. Joshi's amendments would be, if they were accepted, as simply as I can. Above ground we propose a maximum of fifty-four hours per week and of ten per day, that is, the average daily hours cannot exceed nine which is the absolute daily limit given in Mr. Joshi's second amendment. All I need say about this is that these hours are those adopted in the Factories Act and that I cannot believe that work above ground in a mine, mostly carried on in the open air, is more arduous than that in the ordinary factory. Below ground, which is the most important case, the restriction is much more severe. Here we do not propose to set limits for the individual worker, but for the relay or shift in which he works. For every shift the limit is nine hours. That means that if, for example, the shift begins to enter the mine at 6 A.M., it must cease work entirely and be out of the mine, by 3 P.M. In those nine hours, every person in the shift must get down, get to his working place, do his work, get to the cage again and reach the surface. Even if every man could be lowered simultaneously, the working hours would be substantially below nine. But actually, in a mine of any size, it takes a long time to get the shift down, for only a few men can get down at a time, and an equally long time to get it up. If winding time occupies three quarters of an hour, which is not at all unusual for a big mine and much less than is taken in some mines, the average time from the moment when a particular man enters the cage to the moment when he emerges again will be 8¼ hours, and out of that time has to come all the time he spends in getting down, in going to the face, in getting what are called his "pit-eyes", that is in getting used to the light underground, his pauses for rest, his journey to the cage, the time spent at the foot of the shaft waiting his turn and the time spent in getting up. What is left will, in all the larger mines, be less than eight hours. In smaller mines, it may be somewhat more. From this time of less than eight hours in the larger mines, the amendment of my Honourable friend would cut out another hour; and from the point of view of the miner, in spite of what he said in regard to wages, that is a serious matter. I asked the Chief Inspector of Mines to look into this matter specially with reference to wages, and the information he has provided is fairly conclusive on

this point. He is clear that the reduction must involve a further reduction in the miner's earnings, first because his output will go down, and secondly because overhead charges must go up in the larger mines, and those mines, which, as Mr. Joshi himself stated, tend to pay the higher rates at present, will have to reduce them. The House is aware that the coal industry is going through a very difficult stage and when I tell it that daily wages in the coal fields at present lie mostly between five and eight annas a day, they will realise, I am sure, how essential caution is in this matter.

I might add one further point brought to my notice by the Chief Inspector and that is that, if we attempt too big a reduction suddenly, there may be attempts to speed up the winding time unduly. It will have to be speeded up in some mines, and he thinks that with nine hours the speeding-up should not be objectionable; but he adds:

5 P.M.

"With a further reduction of one hour, it might, and in many cases I think would, result in such an extremity of hurry and bustle as to have a decided tendency to increase the accident rate in shafts and on haulage roads, and perhaps also in working places."

It might seem that there is a way out of the difficulty. When the Bill was last before the House, my Honourable friend, Mr. Giri, pointed out that the average weekly hours of miners did not exceed 48. I think he stated that again today. In actual fact in the principal fields, the average hours are at the moment appreciably below 48—probably 45 would be nearer the mark. So that it would seem that the miner, by working 6 days every week, might maintain the same level of earnings as he could under our proposals. At present, he works 3, 4, 5 or 6 days a week, irregularly. Under the Bill he will have to work for 5 days to get 45 hours, and as I explained earlier, a good deal of that time will not be worked and will not even be spent underground. Under the amendment, 6 days' work would be essential to get even as much as that.

I put my Honourable friend, Mr. Giri's idea to the Chief Inspector of Mines and he was asked to ascertain specially what the miners think about it themselves. I do not think I can do better than quote his words. He says:

"There is no doubt, however, about what miners would prefer. Those whom I have asked have *in every case* expressed their preference for 5 days of 9 hours to 5 days of 8 hours and one of five, or six days of 8 hours. Many of the miners in coal mines travel long distances from their villages to the mine. Over 40 per cent of the miners in the Jharia coalfield do not reside on the collieries, and in the Raniganj coalfield, a much greater proportion reside in villages. Since he has to walk these long distances to his work he would unquestionably prefer to work as long as possible when he does reach the mine."

Actually what we have been doing is to coerce the miner gradually into more regular hours of work. Prior to 1924, there were no limits either on the weekly or daily hours. In 1924, limits were imposed on the weekly hours and there was no limit on the daily hours. So that miners could and did come from their villages and stay down the mines for extremely long periods. Some of them in fact used to sleep in the mine and thus put in as much as 17 hours in the mine at a time. I think the House will be glad to feel that we have altered that. In 1929, a restriction was imposed on the daily hours and very long spells like those I have mentioned became impossible, and now we are reducing by three hours on paper and by more than that in practice the limit of time which a miner can spend underground. I am sure that we shall not be acting in the interests of labour in attempting more at the present juncture.

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

There is one further point on which some explanation is perhaps desirable. It may appear to some Members of the House that, in view of what I have said, there should be no difficulty in agreeing to a lower weekly limit provided the daily limit is not reduced. Could we not, for example, allow the miner the alternative of 5 days of 9 hours or 6 days of only 8 hours? I do not think I can show to this House my desire to meet it in every possible way than by saying that I had this alternative also examined. I have had every possible alternative examined in my desire to meet the views expressed by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, and the other members of the minority of the Select Committee. The examination seemed to me to show that in the present circumstances this recommendation is also impossible. It is not the case that some miners want a 5-day week and some a 6-day week. What the miner really wants is liberty to work 4 days some weeks, 5 days in others, and 6 in others according to his needs, and the state of his crops. Even if there were some miners who were willing to work regularly on one system and some on the other, a mine could not carry on with miners working on different systems. I am sure Mr. Joshi will realise the possibilities of evasion to which such a method would give rise. Nor has discipline reached such a stage yet when the miner working less than 6 days is prepared to have the particular days fixed beforehand, as can be done in factories: so that this method could neither be worked by the collieries nor checked by the Inspectorate.

There is one possible way in which we can introduce the eight hours day in the Bill and that is by fixing hours of work or hours underground and allowing separately for winding time according to the needs of the mine. I rather think that some such system is in force in Great Britain. But this would involve leaving to the Inspectorate the task of assessing the winding time according to the depth of the mine, the number employed and other factors, and the Inspector, if he was given that duty, would have a very difficult and invidious task. The system we propose, although it does give the small mines rather more scope than the big ones, seems to us to be greatly preferable from the point of view of administration. I hope I have said enough to convince the House that in present circumstances it would not be to the interests of labour to go further than the Select Committee has gone. I do not maintain that we have reached an ideal system or that further improvements will not be possible in the future. The Labour Commission, although they themselves advised caution in the rate of progress, definitely concluded that the principal aim should be greater regularity of working time. I have referred to two steps already taken in this respect, and the present Bill marks the third and the biggest step, and I should like to point out to the House that all these three steps have been taken in a period of 12 years, which after all is not very long: but I do agree that the 8 hours shift is the ideal to be kept in view, and I am prepared to undertake that after we have three years' experience of the present proposals, we will re-examine the whole question of hours with a view to ascertaining whether they cannot be further reduced. I hope that in view of this assurance my Honourable friend will withdraw his amendments.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Mr. President, in view of the fact that the Honourable Member in charge has given us an assurance that his aim is an 8-hour day, and that after 3 years he would re-examine the question, I do not wish to press my amendments, but I am willing to withdraw them. I hope, Sir, that the Honourable Member will re-examine the question sympathetically and the re-examination will lead to the introduction of an 8-hour day. Sir, I ask your leave to withdraw my amendments.

The amendments were, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the House wishes to sit till half-past five to finish the consideration of the Bill, clause by clause, the Chair is prepared to sit till then.

Some Honourable Members: Adjourn, adjourn.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 7 to 18 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I wanted to ask you, if the House is meeting tomorrow, to adjourn now and give us a chance to put forward our viewpoint tomorrow. If you are not adjourning for tomorrow, I am quite prepared to finish in two minutes' time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair is in the hands of the Honourable Members. If they want to sit, the Chair has no objection.

Some Honourable Members: Adjourn now, adjourn now.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): I will undertake not to take more than two or three minutes so far as the next Bill is concerned.

Some Honourable Members: Adjourn now, adjourn, we will meet tomorrow.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair is prepared to sit half an hour more. How long will the Honourable Mr. Joshi take?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I shall not take more than two or three minutes. Sir, this Bill, which we are about to pass, marks a definite progress in the Statutory regulation of the hours of work in Indian mines. Although I asked your leave to withdraw my amendment, let me make it quite clear that the arguments used by the Honourable Member have not convinced me that the reduction of the hours of work to 8 hours is not practicable. But, Sir, being an inveterate Moderate (Laughter), I am always prepared to accept a compromise, especially when I find that progress is likely to take place without much delay. When we discussed the motion in the Select Committee, I pointed out that the Government of India should have brought forward a Bill including all the suggestions made by the Royal Commission on Indian Labour. The Commission had recommended that besides the questions taken up the Government of India should take up the question of wages in Indian Mines. They proposed that there should be some statutory provision to ensure that the worker whose wages fall short from causes outside his control shall not be penalised, and they proposed that some regulation should be made by which the worker will be guaranteed the payment for some minimum output. This is what they said: "Our recommendation is that every worker on piece work who goes underground shall automatically be credited for purposes of payment with a certain minimum output for every shift of 8 hours or more work" Sir, this is a very important question from the point of view of the miners. The Government themselves say when we ask for the reduction of the hours of work that the wages of the miners which are already very low may be reduced. I agree that the wages of the miners are very low, and the Commission also found that the wages were very low, and, therefore, they put forward the recommendation which I have now put forward. Secondly, the recommendation proposed that in order that the miners should be assured of the wages for the work which they did, the Government of India should consider the question of what is called check weighing. In England the miners have a right to appoint their own agent to see that the weighment is credited to them is proper and they do not suffer any loss on account of short weighment. This is what the Royal Commission recommended:

> "We recommend that the introduction of a system of check weighing may be practicable in the larger mines and the possibility of instituting such a system should be explored."

I should like to know from the Government of India what investigations have been made to give effect to this recommendation of the Royal Commission and when they propose to introduce legislation for this purpose. I hope, Sir, my suggestions will be considered by the Government of India and they will introduce early legislation on this subject.

Before I close, Sir, I would like to offer my sincere thanks on behalf of the miners of India to the Honourable Member in charge of the Department and to the Joint Secretary of that Department for bringing forward this legislation, and also for the assurance they have given for the future progress.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I would have liked to congratulate the Industries and Labour Member if he had not really laboured so hard in trying to prove to this House that after all an 8-hour day will not be so very useful to workers, nor will it be welcomed by the workers. I thought that in view of the assurances he has given at the close of his speech, and of which some of us came to know a little in advance, he will not try to use all those arguments that he did use. Sir, I must protest against the hurried manner in which such important Bills are being rushed through an impatient House and Honourable Members . . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member knows that it is the desire of the House that the Bill should be proceeded with today.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is certainly the desire of the House as well as that of mine that this Bill should be passed as soon as possible, but at the same time, many Members of this House including myself have been anxious that this Bill should be improved as far as it is possible to do so and to as great an extent as possible." We tried our best on the Select Committee. The Honourable Member in charge has referred to the minority and majority on more than one occasion. Let me tell you that the majority and minority meant only this, that by the casting vote of the President the majority became majority and the minority became minority; otherwise, we were all equally divided. On this question of eight hours, I can assure this House I do not wish to prolong the sitting for the simple reason that I am myself impatient and think of my constituency as does every one of the other Honourable Members, but I can assure the House that the miners are anxious that the hours of work should be reduced. It is wrong on the part of the Chief Inspector of Factories to have stated that the miners would not welcome any reduction in hours of work. In the papers that were circulated by Government themselves, it was stated by the workers themselves, by the organisations of the workers themselves, that they would certainly be prepared to welcome a reduction in the hours of work. Yet we are told here, I do not know how, that the workers would not be prepared to welcome it. Secondly, there is the question of winding time. We are told it takes three-quarters of an hour, that though at present, according to the Bill, it is going to be nine hours a day, yet actually $8\frac{1}{4}$ hours will be there for the miners to be accepted. So the difference between the Opposition and the Government comes to this, quarter of an hour per day. The Government are not prepared to accept that little bit of alteration, and yet the Government Member is prepared to come forward and talk for twenty minutes that this fifteen minutes reduction per day will be unreasonable and even harmful to the workers themselves! I do not wish to go into the other arguments because there is no time. Protesting as I do against the hurried manner in which the Government are rushing such important pieces of legislation through this House at this fag end of the Session, I submit . . . . . .

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I must protest against the Honourable Member's statement. Government are not rushing this Bill through. Government are proceeding with it in the usual manner. It is the obvious desire of the House to get business finished, and I am sure that the House did not wish me to spend an hour in saying what I could say, and did say, in ten minutes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If only Government had only come forward with a proposal that the House was going to sit for another week and then brought forward a Bill like this, certainly the House would have been in a mood to listen to the speeches patiently . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member himself said just now that he was impatient and anxious to get away. (Laughter.)

Prof. N. G. Ranga It is because we know that the House is going to adjourn tomorrow or the day after. But if, on the other hand, we know that it is not going to adjourn for another week, we would be in a better mood to listen to speeches and consider arguments that are advanced either on this side or on that side. I am glad that the Honourable Member in charge has given this assurance, this little mercy, that in three years' time he is going to reconsider this question of accepting or not accepting eight hours a day for the miners. I am also glad that he has seen it fit to accept my Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury's amendment on the question of representation. I, therefore, request this House to accept this Bill with this condition that in three years' time the Honourable Member should bring before us a Bill reducing the hours of work from nine hours to eight hours a day.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair understands that Mr. Bajpai does not want to move the last motion in the list, that stands in his name.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) That is perfectly true, Sir.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): As far as the motion that stands in my name is concerned, it will take three minutes.

Some Honourable Members: Tomorrow, not today.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 9th April, 1935.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 9th April, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

IMPOSITION OF DUTY ON FOREIGN PADDY IMPORTED INTO THE UNITED KINGDOM.

1662. ***U Thein Maung:** (a) Are Government actively pursuing the question of getting an adequate duty imposed on foreign paddy imported into the United Kingdom in order to protect imports of Indian rice, as recommended by the Council of State Committee which reported on the working of the Ottawa Trade Agreement?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the quantity of paddy imported into the United Kingdom from all sources in 1931 and 1934 and state what quantity was imported from India?

(c) Are Government aware that since His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom granted Indian rice imported into the United Kingdom substantial preferential terms, a large foreign paddy milling industry has been started in the United Kingdom, and that this transfers to capitalists in the United Kingdom a benefit intended by the Ottawa pact to be conferred on Indian agriculture?

(d) Are Government aware that in order to prevent the import of high grades of Indian rice into the United Kingdom under the shelter of the Ottawa preferences, a mill for milling foreign paddy known as the Thames Rice Mill, has been erected in London, that another mill owned by Spaniards is now being erected in London, and yet another owned by Spaniards is now being erected in Liverpool?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) I lay a statement on the table containing such information as is available.

(c) and (d). So far as Government are aware the Thames Rice Mill is not a new concern. It has been reported that certain Spanish milling interests are looking for a suitable site for a mill in the United Kingdom.

Statement showing the imports of Rice (in husk (paddy) into the United Kingdom.

1933.

Months.	From British India.		From Australia.		From Italy.		From Egypt.		From Spain.		From United States of America		From other countries.		Total.	
	Cwts.	£	Cwts.	£	Cwts.	£	Cwts.	£	Cwts.	£	Cwts.	£	Cwts.	£	Cwts.	£
January to June (6 months).	...	...	...	...	1,001	239	...	...	2,600	690	12,600	4,930	4,585	1,216	6	14	19,510	7,426
In July . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,113	783	2,535	640	6	14	5,166	1,792
In August . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,887	3,146	...	...	...	...	8,059	3,241
In September . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,113	783	2,535	640	6	14	5,166	1,792
In October . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,000	576	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,000	576
In November . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	240	126
In December . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,887	3,146	...	...	...	...	8,059	3,241
Total for 12 months .	20	5	240	126	1,001	239	2,000	576	2,600	690	12,600	4,930	4,585	1,216	6	14	19,510	7,426

1934.

January . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,765	2,000	875	6,944	1,798	...	...	...	21,242	8.750
February . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,162	...	...	3,880	971	...	...	...	10,075	3,758
March . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,104	...	...	14,128	4,092	...	...	...	24,467	8,499
April . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,324	7,249	...	...	...	22,324	7,249
May . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	425	...	...	3,833	1,274	492	271	...	9,540	4,461
June . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,621	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,760	7,871
July . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,704	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,750	6,918
August . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30,589	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	94,664	31,789
September . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37,847	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	105,017	40,247
October . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,164	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,791	2,164
November . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
December . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	35	...	...	2,100	1,113
Total for 12 months .	201	50	240	126	1,001	239	2,000	576	92,381	2,000	875	51,209	15,419	492	271	333,774	122,819	

1934.

January . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	445	...	...	1,000	451	...	...	...	1,000	451
February . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
March . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
April . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
May . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,000	...	...	1,000	451	...	...	...	2,000	576
June . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	240	126
July . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,059	3,241
August . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,166	1,792
September . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19,510	7,426
October . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	445	...	...	1,000	451	...	...	...	2,000	576
November . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	240	126
December . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,059	3,241
Total for 12 months .	201	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	23,190	13,823	256,682	92,381	2,000	875	51,209	15,419	492	271

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to clause (b) of the question, has this quantity of paddy imported into the United Kingdom increased?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: It has.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: From India?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I think the object of this question is to show that, in view of the preference which we have got for Indian rice, foreign imports have switched on to paddy, and it is a fact that foreign imports of paddy have increased. As a matter of fact, that matter is engaging our active attention and we are in correspondence with His Majesty's Government on that subject.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Does it mean that, as a matter of fact, we have not got, either partially or wholly, the results of the preference granted to Indian rice as a result of the Ottawa Agreement?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: As a matter of fact, our imports of Indian rice have increased enormously into the United Kingdom, but the full effects have not been obtained by reason of the fact that certain interests have switched on to paddy, instead of importing rice which has a very heavy import duty, as compared with the duty on Indian rice.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government addressed His Majesty's Government on this aspect of the matter?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: Most certainly, Sir.

Railway Mail Service Sorters in the "D" Division, Delhi.

1663. *Mr. Sham Lal: (a) Is it a fact that a number of candidates were accepted in 1929-30 in the Railway Mail Service "D" Division, Delhi, for the posts of upper division sortership and that they were made to officiate off and on against vacancies in that scale?

(b) Is it a fact that they could not be appointed as sorters in the upper division scale in the Railway Mail Service "D" Division, owing to pitch-forking of officials of other Division, in the Railway Mail Service "D" Division?

(c) Is it a fact that at the time of according approval to these candidates, no undertaking was given to them that they would be appointed as lower division sorters, and, that too, on the reduced scale (to be yet introduced)?

(d) Is it a fact that these candidates have now been provided for in the vacancies of lower division clerks, with the condition that they will have to accept reduced scale of pay (when introduced)?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why they cannot be appointed in the upper division on the existing scale?

(f) In case it is not possible to appoint the candidates in question in the upper division time-scale, are Government prepared to permit them to remain at least in the existing lower division scale and allow the officiating service in the upper division scale to count for increments in the lower division scale?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) and (b). Government have no information, but it is possible that there may be some cases of the nature referred to by the Honourable Member. I may add for the information of the Honourable Member that there is no prohibition against the transfer of sorters from one division to another.

(c) When a candidate is approved for appointment, no undertaking is given to him that he will be appointed to any particular post; on the contrary he is distinctly informed that mere approval gives him no right to any appointment.

(d) Government have no information but they have no reason to believe that their orders on the subject are not being duly observed. If any individual has any grievance, it is open to him to represent the matter to the proper authority.

(e) Because, under Government's orders, recruitment to the Upper Division was entirely suspended, and all vacant posts in that division where they could not be abolished were utilised for conversion into Lower Division posts, as a measure of economy. Such vacancies are now being converted into second grade posts in the ordinary clerical cadre on the new scales of pay

(f) As regards the first part, Government have decided that all officials who have not been in the service of the Government continuously from the 15th July, 1931, should be placed in the new scales of pay. Government see no reason to make an exception in the case of the candidates recruited in the Railway Mail Service, 'D' Division.

As regards allowing officiating service on the Upper Division scale to count for increments, the matter will be examined.

FUTURE VACANCIES IN THE POST OFFICE AND RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE.

1664. *Mr. Sham Lal: (a) Is it a fact that the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, has issued orders that the vacancies that may hereafter occur, in the Post Office and Railway Mail Service be converted to lower division?

(b) Is it a fact that some of the vacancies that exist in the upper division in the Railway Mail Service in the Punjab Circle, have not been converted to lower division, for the reason that some of the officials of other Circles are to be provided for in them?

(c) Is it a fact that there are a number of candidates, departmental and outside, in the Railway Mail Service in the Punjab Circle, who are being denied provision as sorters, in the Punjab Circle, owing to the decision pointed out in part (b) above.

(d) Is it a fact that for the last six or seven years, the Railway Mail Service "D" Division had been made a providing ground for officials of other Circles and Divisions to the detriment of the candidates of that Division?

(e) Is it a fact that as a result of the policy stated in part (d) being followed in the Punjab Circle, the candidates of the Railway Mail Service who were on the waiting list since 1929-30, have been denied provision in the upper division scale in the Railway Mail Service "D" Division?

(f) If replies to parts (a) to (e) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether the withholding of conversion of upper division appointments to lower division in the Punjab Circle is consistent with the orders on the subject; and

(ii) whether the provision of officials of other Circles and Divisions in the Railway Mail Service in the Punjab Circle is not inconsistent with the orders of Government regarding the provision of surplus staff in the vacancies elsewhere to avoid throwing out of employment of officials by retrenchment?

(g) Will Government be pleased further to state the policy they intend to follow hereafter with regard to the conversion of upper division appointments in the Post Office and Railway Mail Service and to the appointment of candidates in them?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Assuming that the Honourable Member refers to vacancies occurring in the clerical grades, the fact is not as stated by the Honourable Member. Government's orders were, that posts which became vacant in the ordinary clerical cadre should not be filled, and if the posts could not be abolished, they should be converted into posts in the lower division clerical cadre until the percentage of such posts became 33. I may inform the Honourable Member that orders have since been issued by Government abolishing the lower division of the clerical cadre for all new entrants with effect from the 1st April, 1935, in the Post Office and the Railway Mail Service.

(b) to (e). Government have no information. If the candidates referred to consider that they have any grievance it is open to them to represent it to the proper authorities. The transfer of the permanent sorters from the 'K' Division in the Sind and Baluchistan Circle to the 'D' Division in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province Circle is not objectionable.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to part (a) of the question.

EDUCATION CIRCULAR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, NO. 83-1/34-E.

1665. *Maharaj Kumar Vijaya Ananda Gajapatiraj: With reference to fourth paragraph of the Education Circular of the Government of India No. 83-1/34-E., dated the 25th January, 1935, wherein it is mentioned that "a large number of students who were unfit for higher literary or scientific education, do not justify the expense of their education", will Government please state:

(a) whose expense is referred to therein: parents' or guardians', or on the part of the education authorities;

(b) whether any enquiry has been made as to the scale of expenses for giving young students education in universities:

(i) province by province,

(ii) in each university,

(iii) local conditions as depicted in variations of such expense in different provinces, and

(iv) the factors that entail greater expense; and

(c) if no such enquiry has been made, are Government prepared to institute such an enquiry in view of *educational reconstruction* proposed in the circular?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) The passage quoted in the Government of India education circular was taken from a resolution issued by the Government of the United Provinces on the 8th August, 1934. Presumably the expenses of parents or guardians as well as of the educational authorities are meant.

(b) and (c). No inquiry on the lines suggested by the Honourable Member has been made. The general questions raised in the Government of India Circular will be considered after receipt of replies from Local Governments.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government considered the question that in a country like India, where the vast majority of parents and guardians are poor compared with other countries, some attempt ought to be made to equate the expenses even of higher education, with the means of parents and guardians whose wards have to be educated?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I think that is a point which might well be taken into account when the replies of Local Governments are received to this circular.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do Government accept the implications of this statement that, as a means of reducing the chances of higher education for the men and women of the country, the expenses ought to be kept at a fairly high level?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I do not think that Government have any such idea at the back of their mind that, in order to keep down the number of people aspiring for higher education, the expenses of higher education ought to be increased. The real question is as to whether the right class of persons is aspiring for and admitted to the facilities provided for higher education.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government considered the question that, in view of the very high cost of education, some very deserving pupils of this country are unable to pursue higher education?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: That, in my opinion, is a different question, namely, as to how you should discriminate between the deserving and the undeserving and assist the deserving who are not able to pursue educational courses in the University. I think it is a more limited question not touched upon in our circular.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government considered the question that while the cost is high, some undeserving students whose parents can afford the expenditure go through the universities and get the benefit of university education such as they can get, and that there are very many more deserving students qualitatively who are kept out of this education because of the cost? Have they considered, or will they consider any steps such as free scholarships and prizes, to enable these very deserving students to go into the universities?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: As my Honourable friend is aware, this is largely a question for the Provincial Governments who control education. I should have thought that the universities and local education authorities would have devised some system of free scholarships. If my Honourable friend is not satisfied with the position I am quite prepared to bring the suggestion to the notice of Local Governments.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Central Advisory Board consider this question, *inter alia*, as to how far university education is now being availed of by deserving students, how far deserving but poor students are kept out of it, and what facilities should be offered by Local Governments, in order to encourage the deserving students to get the benefit of higher education?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I submit that in view of the undertaking which I have given, namely, that I shall forward my Honourable friend's suggestion to the Local Governments, it would be more appropriate that the suggestion for the consideration of this matter by the Central Advisory Board should come from the Local Governments themselves.

AIR OBSERVATORY AT SHARJAH, PERSIAN GULF.

1666. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Is it a fact that an air observatory is going to be started at Sharjah, Persian Gulf?

(b) Is it a fact that the emoluments sanctioned for the observers at Sharjah are the same as for those employed at other stations in the Persian Gulf?

(c) Is it a fact that the Inspecting Officer who visited Sharjah has reported that the Sheikh wants Hindu observers only?

(d) Are Government aware that the names of the Muslim wireless operators and other Muslim employees have intentionally been omitted by the Inspecting Officer in his report, and if so, what action do Government propose to take in this connection?

(e) What is the total population of Sharjah and how is it distributed among the Hindus and Muslims?

(f) Will Government please state the number of Hindu and Muslim employees at Sharjah?

Mr. A. G. Clow: (a) Yes.

(b) The matter is still under consideration.

(c) No.

(d) and (f). The employees of the Government of India at Sharjah at present number two, both of whom are Arabs. Government have no wireless operators there. The wireless station at Sharjah is owned by the Air Ministry and is operated by the Imperial Airways. The Inspecting Officer reported merely on the proposal to start a Meteorological Observatory. He was not concerned with the wireless operators and with Government employees now stationed at Sharjah.

(e) With the exception of few British Indian Hindus, whose exact number is not known, the entire population of Sharjah, which is estimated at about 5,000, is Muslim.

MUSLIMS IN THE METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

1667. ***Mr. H. M. Abdullah:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the percentage of Muslims in service, superior or subordinate, in the Meteorological Department of India?

(b) Is it a fact that in the superior staff, there is absolutely no Muslim and in the subordinate staff the percentage of Muslims is hardly four? If so, what action do Government propose to take to redress the grievances of the Muslims and make up their percentage?

Mr. A. G. Clow: (a) The percentage of Muslims in 1934 was:

Superior Services	3·22
Subordinate Services	21·05

(b) The facts are not as stated by the Honourable Member. I would invite his attention to the reply given by Sir B. N. Mitra on the 7th February, 1927, to part (b) of Sardar Gulab Singh's question No. 312 regarding the representation of minority communities in the superior services of the Meteorological Department. In the case of the subordinate services a statement of the appointments made is prepared annually, and Government are satisfied that the general orders regarding representation of minority communities are being followed.

HOLIDAYS OBSERVED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER OF RAILWAY ACCOUNTS, NEW DELHI.

1668. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali** (on behalf of Seth Govind Das): (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the offices of the Government of India, permanently located in Delhi, are required to observe holidays notified by the Chief Commissioner of Delhi Province?

(2) Is it a fact that the Office of the Controller of Railway Accounts, New Delhi, which is attached to the Railway Board, though located in Delhi is required to observe holidays of the Government of India in winter, while the Railway Board is in New Delhi? If so, will Government be pleased to state why this differential treatment is meted out to the staff of that office?

(c) Is it a fact that the staff has repeatedly represented against the inequitous treatment, without any action being taken in the matter?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state what action they propose taking in the matter?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Ordinarily, attached and subordinate offices located permanently in Delhi are allowed to follow the local practice in regard to holidays.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. Upto 1932, the working hours for the office of the Controller of Railway Accounts like those of other Railway Accounts Offices, were from 10 to 17, while in the case of the Railway Board they were from 10-30 to 16-30. It was then decided that as the two offices were working side by side it would be more convenient if both the offices observed the same holidays during the winter and the same working hours throughout the year.

(c) Not to my knowledge.

(d) None.

AMALGAMATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER OF RAILWAY ACCOUNTS WITH THE RAILWAY BOARD.

1669. ***Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Pope recommended the abolition of the post of the Controller of Railway Accounts and the amalgamation of the office with the Railway Board, thereby effecting a saving of nearly a lakh of rupees?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why no action has so far been taken on this specific recommendation, although most of the other recommendations have been put into effect?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state when they intend to take necessary action and why it has been delayed so far?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Mr. Pope suggested the amalgamation of the office of Controller of Railway Accounts with the office of the Railway Board. The resultant saving is likely to be much less than a lakh.

(b) and (c). A similar suggestion made by the Railway Sub-Committee of the Retrenchment Advisory Committee was examined at great length by Government in 1931-32. After discussion with the Auditor General and the Public Accounts Committee, Government found themselves unable to accept that suggestion. As a result of Mr. Pope's recommendation, however, the question is being reconsidered.

RESTRICTION OF FREE PASSES TO GAZETTED RAILWAY OFFICERS.

1670. ***Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the recommendations of the Indian Railway Conference Association, the Railway Board decided to restrict the free passes issued to the gazetted officers of the various Railways to six sets last year and reduced the passes of the staff to four sets?

(b) Is it a fact that from January, 1933, the passes of the gazetted officers have again been made unlimited? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reason for such action?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Orders were issued by the Railway Board in March, 1933, limiting the number of passes. These were based on the recommendations of the Indian Railway Conference Association. I would refer my Honourable friend to the reply I gave to Bhai Parma Nand's unstarred question No. 65 on the 22nd February, 1935, as regards the actual number of passes now admissible.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the negative and the second does not arise.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already replied to this question, it appears?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: Yes, Sir, I have already replied to a question on this subject more than once.

INDIAN INSURANCE COMPANIES NOT ALLOWED TO DO BUSINESS IN ITALY.

1671. ***Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that Indian insurance companies are not allowed to open branches or transact business in Italy?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many Italian insurance companies, registered in Italy, are working in India?

(c) Is there any law in India which makes it obligatory for companies of foreign origin to deposit some amount with Government as is the case in France and the United States before they can do some business on the Indian soils?

(d) If the answer to part (c) be in the negative, what action do Government propose to take in this connection?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) Government have been informed that one Indian insurance company has experienced difficulty in setting up business in Italy. They are making enquiries into the matter.

(b) So far as Government are aware, only one Italian company is transacting insurance business in this country.

(c) The reply is in the negative so far as insurance business other than life assurance business is concerned. As regards life assurance business, every life assurance company, constituted outside British India, in respect of which the Governor General in Council has not made a declaration that it carries on life assurance business in the United Kingdom, is required, before commencement of business in British India, to make a deposit of Government securities with the Controller of the Currency, Calcutta, in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of the Indian Life Assurance Companies Act, 1912.

(d) The question of the amendment of the insurance law in India is already under the consideration of the Government of India.

DEATH OF A PORTER AT THE DHARWAR RAILWAY STATION YARD ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

1672. ***Mr. S. K. Hosmani:** (a) Is it a fact that a goods train entered the Dharwar Railway Station yard, on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, without the line clear being given on the 10th March, 1935?

(b) Is it a fact that a porter was thereby run over and killed immediately?

(c) Are Government prepared to investigate the matter and institute criminal proceedings against the railway servants responsible for having caused the death of the porter by that rash and negligent act?

(d) Are Government aware that there were two accidents between Belgaum and Harihar, one fatal and the other almost fatal, within the last two months?

(e) If so, are Government prepared to take effective steps to prevent the frequent occurrence of such accidents?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) No.

(b) and (c). The Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, states that a pointsman deputed to receive the incoming token from the driver of a goods train fell off the platform in front of the train and was killed. This was a case of misadventure.

(d) The administration are not aware of any other recent serious accident in connection with the working of trains. Possibly my Honourable friend is referring to a case in which a contractor's cooly at Hubli station, who was preparing a charge for blasting a rock, was injured by the blasting powder exploding prematurely.

(e) The existing rules provide for the prevention of accidents, as far as is humanly possible, and Government do not consider these two cases show that any further elaboration is necessary.

ISSUE OF A WHITE PAPER GIVING THE TEXTS OF THE CRITICISM ON THE INDIA BILL BY INDIAN PRINCES AND MINISTERS.

1673. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to the answer of the Rt. Honourable Sir Samuel Hoare to Mr. Davidson's question in the House of Commons on the 13th March, 1935, stating that he hoped to issue in the next few days a White Paper giving the texts of the criticism on the India Bill communicated by the Indian Princes and Ministers to the Viceroy and comments of the Government thereon?

(b) Have Government any knowledge about this matter? If so, are Government prepared to make a full statement on the matter, specially as to the stage at which the matter now stands?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the Press Communiqué issued by the Foreign and Political Department on the 18th March, 1935, to which a reference has already been made in my reply to my Honourable friend's question No. 1077 and in my reply to his question No. 1145.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I ask, Sir, if anything further has happened—because I see many amendments are being moved in the House of Commons in this matter? Are the Government of India being at all kept informed about it? Is their opinion at all asked?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Opinion asked about what?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: About the amendments which are being made now in the House of Commons.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, I want notice of that question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know what exactly it means? Amendments are actually being moved in the House of Commons, week after week in order to meet the Princes' point of view. I am simply asking my Honourable friend—and I am not asking about any particular amendment—whether he was consulted or not,—whether in respect of the amendments which the Secretary of State is now moving to the Government of India Bill, in order to meet the objections of the Princes, the Government of India are being consulted or not.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Well, Sir, I want to inform the Honourable Member that I have no materials available now from which I can now answer that question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: To the best of his recollection, were the Government of India ever consulted, since the Princes sent their objections to Whitehall—I believe, through the Government of India—with regard to the attitude the Secretary of State is taking in respect of the amendments he has actually been moving in the House of Commons and cabling out here?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: As my Honourable friend is asking me about my recollection, I do not think it is very safe, Sir, to rely on "recollection".

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I will take the risk, Sir,—I would ask, "to the best of his recollection, has he ever been consulted as a Member of the Government of India"?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I am afraid I cannot take that risk.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is it the case that he has not been consulted at all?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It may be that he has nothing to do with it. Departmentally, he may have nothing to do with it.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: As a matter of fact, Sir, I may tell my Honourable friend that when these questions are put, I have got to get the information from the Reforms Department.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am asking this question, Sir. My friend is a Member of the Government of India. He, along with his other colleagues, is in charge of these fundamental constitutional matters. My difficulty is this. A first-class constitutional issue is being introduced and discussed in the House of Commons; certain amendments are moved; and I merely want to know whether the Government of India are at all consulted on that matter. Of course, if my friend says it is not in the public interest to answer this question, I am helpless.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already said that he cannot answer this question without previous notice.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am appealing to you, Sir, that this simple question does not require previous notice,—I am asking. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Well, the Honourable Member is unable to answer the question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is it a genuine inability, Sir? I doubt it very much.

PROHIBITION OF INDIAN IMPORTS IN ROUMANIA.

1674. *Mr. S. Satyamurti: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Indian imports have been barred in Roumania?

(b) What are the reasons for this step?

(c) What is the value of Roumanian goods imported into India before and after the Ottawa Agreement?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to parts (b) and (d) of Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar's starred question No. 1620 on the 6th April, 1935.

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to table No. 7 in Volume I of the Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India for the year ending 31st March, 1934, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to clause (c) of the question, has there been any increase or decrease in the value of the Roumanian goods imported into India, before and after the Ottawa Agreement?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: My Honourable friend will surely realise that as the imports from Roumania consist entirely of oil, the Ottawa Agreement has got nothing whatsoever to do with the matter

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I ask, Sir, whether, on the materials now available to my Honourable friend, he can now say whether the value has increased or decreased after the Ottawa Agreement?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I cannot say, I do not remember the actual figures, I shall have to look them up. . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have the Government of India taken up this matter with the Roumanian Government?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I told my Honourable friend the other day that we were inquiring in order to ascertain whether there was any real truth in the allegation which has been made. We have received no official news to this effect.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: When do you expect that opinion?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: We have referred to our Trade Commissioners abroad, and so far, we have received no information of any sort.

PROHIBITION OF INDIAN IMPORTS IN ROUMANIA.

1675. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state

(a) whether they have received a representation from the Secretary, United Provinces Chamber of Commerce, pointing out that the Italian Government have restricted Indian imports during the year 1935 to 30 per cent. of the goods of the year 1934;

(b) whether it is a fact;

(c) whether they are aware that it is due to the Ottawa Agreement; and

(d) the value of the Indian export trade to European countries before and after the Ottawa Agreement?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to table No. 8 in Volume I of the Annual Statement of the Sea-borne Trade of British India for the year ending 31st March, 1934, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the net result? With regard to clause (d) of the question, has the value of the Indian export trade to European countries increased or decreased, after the Ottawa Agreement?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: My Honourable friend will realise that a question of that magnitude cannot be answered without a complete explanation, and that explanation cannot be given in reply to a question asked on the floor of the House. The whole matter will be before the Assembly when the report which is being prepared is presented to the House at the next Simla Session.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am asking only a question on a matter of fact—has, as a matter of fact, the value of the Indian export trade to European countries increased or decreased, after the Ottawa Agreement?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: As I said in reply to a previous question, I do not recollect the actual position.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With regard to answer to clause (a) of the question have Government taken any action in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: They have taken no action whatsoever.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the reason for not taking any action?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: The reason is that this is a matter which will be debated by this House at the appropriate opportunity.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: But do Government know that the British Government have already sent a mission and they have come to an agreement with the Italian Government about the mutual trade?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I beg your pardon. I misunderstood my friend. I was not referring to (a). We certainly have made a strong representation to the Italian Government and as a matter of fact I understand that from some date in this month—at any rate, in regard to jute—restrictions have been reduced to 50 per cent.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: When was this representation made?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: The representation, I think, was made very shortly after the information was received by the Government of India.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Government of India consider the desirability of sending a special delegation to Italy, to negotiate this matter and come to a satisfactory settlement?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: I think my Honourable friend knows that the question of negotiation with Italy is at the present moment engaging the attention of both the Italian and the Indian Governments.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Indian Government get permission from the Secretary of State to carry on direct negotiation on this matter with the Italian Government?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That question has been put before.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: If negotiations are entered into between the Indian and the Italian Governments, I have no doubt that those negotiations will be direct negotiations.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: When will they start?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: That I cannot tell you It will depend upon the result of the preliminary exchange of communications which are at present taking place between the Italian Government and the Government of India through His Majesty's Government.

REDUCTION OF IMPORTS OF INDIAN GOODS TO ITALY.

1676. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the news appearing in the *National Call*, Delhi, of the 16th March, 1935, regarding the letter of the Secretary, United Provinces Chamber of Commerce, to the Secretary, Commerce Department of the Government of India, on the subject of the reduction by 70 per cent. of imports of Indian goods to Italy?

(b) Have Government received and considered the representation?

(c) How far is it a fact that the Ottawa Agreement has adversely affected Indian export trade?

(d) Will Government give an idea of such adverse effects?

(e) What remedies are Government contemplating?

(f) Are Government contemplating bi-lateral trade treaties as suggested in the representation? If so, will they give some detailed idea of the plan?

The Honourable Member may answer only parts (c), (d) and (e) in view of the fact that other parts have been answered in the previous question.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore: (c) Government have no reason to think that the Indian export trade has been adversely affected as a result of the Ottawa Trade Agreement.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

HINDUSTANI SEVA DAL.

1677. ***Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement issued by Dr. Hardikar, the founder of the Hindustani Seva Dal, which has appeared in the *Hindustan Times* of March 16, 1935, replying to the charges made by the Honourable the Home Member that the Hindustani Seva Dal was a revolutionary organisation?

(b) Will Government please state when they were informed of the revolutionary activities of the Dal?

(c) Is it a fact that the said Seva Dal was declared illegal along with other Congress organisation in the year 1932?

(d) If in the opinion of the Government of India, the leaders of the Seva Dal have "intimate connection with the terrorists", why has not even one of them been proceeded against so far for the said offence?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) I have seen the statement in the Press.

(b) and (c). As far as I am aware, the first notification issued against the Hindustani Seva Dal was issued by the Punjab Government in January, 1931. During that year we received reports from various provinces showing the revolutionary nature of the organisation.

(d) The view stated by me on several occasions is that action was taken because this body was a revolutionary organisation whose activities included incitement to violence. I do not think it would be profitable to have enquiries made from Local Governments as to what individuals who were members of the Dal have been prosecuted.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the meaning attached to the phrase "revolutionary nature" by the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have already explained that revolutionary organisation means a body whose aim is revolution.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Peaceful or violent?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have already explained that in this particular case a violent revolution is contemplated.

Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that, after the declaration of the Hindustani Seva Dal as an unlawful body, it was declared lawful during the truce, that is to say, the ban was removed?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I must have notice of that question

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: How many members of the Hindustani Seva Dal have been convicted for revolutionary crimes?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have answered that.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Local Governments dealing with this separately, or as a matter of uniform policy throughout the country? Are Local Governments dealing with the Hindustani Seva Dal on their own information, or on their own reasoning, or have the Government of India laid down any uniform policy for application throughout India?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, Sir. I have already explained that Local Governments are dealing with this Dal individually. The Dal is banned in four provinces only.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Government of India ask those Local Governments, in whose jurisdiction the Hindustani Seva Dal is still under a ban, to remove the ban if there is no evidence that there is any violent activity being indulged in or advocated by the Hindustani Seva Dal?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I see no reason to address the Local Governments in that sense.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it a fact that not a single member of this Dal has been prosecuted?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I do not think that is a fact.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Has the rifle, to which the Honourable the Home Member had referred, been discovered?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question. This question has been discussed more than once.

STOPPAGE OF FREE MANUFACTURE OF SALT IN THE KAKATPUR AREA OF THE PURI DISTRICT.

1678. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Is it a fact that the Bihar and Orissa Government have recommended to stop allowing free manufacture of salt in the Kakatpur area of the Puri District?

(b) Are Government aware that Kakatpur is a badly flooded area and that after the big flood of 1933 and its damages to fields and embankments, the peasants of the area have no occupation left to them at present, and if free salt manufacture for local consumption be stopped, conditions will be very grave in that area?

(c) Are Government aware that even before the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, people of Kakatpur area were allowed such free manufacture of salt in consideration of flood and famine in the area? (Reference is particularly to the year 1919-20).

(d) Are Government prepared to reconsider the case and allow the people of the area free manufacture of salt as they were doing for the last three years?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) The local authorities do not propose at present to withdraw the concessions which were granted in accordance with the terms of the Delhi Pact of 1931.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In view of the severe distress which prevailed in certain parts of the Orissa Division Government permitted from the year 1918 onwards the lenient treatment of offences committed against the salt laws in those parts (including the Kakatpur area). This concession was withdrawn in 1929 when the distress disappeared.

(d) Does not arise.

Pandit Nilakantha Das: I could not hear the answer to part (a). Will the Honourable Member kindly repeat it?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is really the only effective part of the answer. I said:

"The local authorities do not propose at present to withdraw the concessions which were granted in accordance with the terms of the Delhi Pact of 1931."

Pandit Nilakantha Das: May I ask if the privilege so long enjoyed in the area is limited in any way or is contemplated to be limited?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: To the best of my knowledge, no.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of reviewing the actions of the Local Governments from year to year in regard to the concession or the withdrawal of the concession for the manufacture of salt?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I have already answered that question about eight times.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the answer? If the Honourable Member has answered that question eight times, he must remember the answer.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The answer is that I do not propose to interfere with the discretion of Local Governments.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government at least review the position from year to year and place the results of their examination on the table of this House?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No, Sir.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I put question No. 1679, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member been authorised?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: No, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is there any particular reason for the Honourable Member putting that question?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Yes, Sir. It is a very important question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): All right, the Honourable Member can put the question.

CONTRACTS FOR SUPPLY OF STATIONERY.

1679. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty): Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) if contracts for supply of stationery are on the basis of tender system;

(b) whether tenders were called for last year and this year for supply of pencils—black lead and copying;

(c) whether in the award of the contract Indian concerns are not given the preference;

(d) from which country pencils were got last year and this year and how many grosses in each variety;

(e) what is the rate at which each variety was bought;

(f) if the order for any of the varieties of pencils was not placed for this year with Indian factories, why it was not placed?

Mr. A. G. Clow: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Yes, pencils manufactured in India are given preference, if the quality offered is sufficiently good and the price reasonable.

(d) and (e). Pencils were obtained for last year and this year from India, Great Britain and Continental countries. There are between 30 and 40 varieties at prices varying from Rs. 2-4-9 to Rs. 24-13-0 per gross.

I cannot give figures for each variety within the limits of a reply but the aggregate purchases in the two years were as follows:

1934-35	Indians	6,600	gross,
	British	300	,,
	Continental	3,740	,,
1935-36	Indian	5,248	,,
	British	3,073	,,
	Continental	3,390	,,

(f) The quality manufactured by the Indian factories for several varieties of pencils was not up to the standard required.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I put this question, No. 1680, Sir, as I am also equally interested in it?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Why did not the Honourable Member get his permission?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: He went away without giving permission. I feel that it is an important question and should be asked.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): All right, the Honourable Member can put that question.

MONOPOLY OF NON-SINDHIS IN THE KARACHI GENERAL POST OFFICE.

1680. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai** (on behalf of Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah): Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to an article, headed "Monopoly of Non-Sindhis in the Karachi G. P. O.", appearing in the Daily *Alwahid*, in its issue of the 14th March, 1935;

(b) if so, what action they have taken or propose to take in the matter;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to make any enquiry or to take any action in regard to the subject matter of the article?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Government have seen the article.

(b) and (c). I have called for a report from the Director, Posts and Telegraphs, Karachi, and will, on receipt of the report, take such action as may be called for.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member take that action before we meet again at Simla?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I have said, Sir, that I will take action on receipt of the report.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE FIRST ALL-INDIA MOTION PICTURE CONVENTION HELD IN BOMBAY.

1681. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they have received a copy of the resolutions of the First All-India Motion Picture Convention held in Bombay on the 21st February, 1935;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to reduce or remove the high import duties on raw cinefilms and other equipments used in film production and reproduction; if not, why not;

(c) whether Government have any proposals to give representation to the Motion Picture Society of India on the Board of Film Censors, if not, why not, and

(d) whether Government have any proposals to encourage the production of educational pictures for being exhibited in India and foreign lands, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Yes.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by my colleague, the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce, to part (c) of Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliar's question No. 1604.

(c) The Government of India recently received a recommendation to this effect through the Society in question. The matter is one primarily for the Local Governments of the provinces in which Censorship Boards have been established, *viz.*, Madras, Bombay, Bengal, the Punjab and Burma, but I am sending the recommendation to them for such action as they may consider necessary.

(d) No; "Education" is a transferred provincial subject, but this matter may occupy the attention of the Central Advisory Board of Education, which will shortly be constituted.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member if Government could give relief to this motion picture so far as the raw materials are concerned without amending the Tariff Act?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That is really a question which should be addressed to my Honourable colleague, Sir Frank Noyce. But I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by him to part (a) of question No. 1604.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it that Government are now considering the question of reducing or removing the high import duties on raw cinema films?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That was explained in the answer which Sir Frank Noyce gave the other day. He said:

"Government are prepared to consider the reduction in the import duty on raw films after they are in possession of the information showing the saving in revenue effected by the restrictions on the grant of drawback, rules in regard to which are being framed."

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is that information being collected?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, Sir.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have Government taken any steps to encourage the production of raw films in this country?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I want notice of the question.

DEAF MUTES AND BLIND PERSONS IN INDIA.

1682. ***Maulvi Muhammad Shafi Daudi:** (a) Is it a fact that according to the 1931 Census Report there were 230,895 deaf mutes and 601,370 blind persons in India?

(b) Are Government aware that very few institutions exist in certain provinces for their education and training, which are inadequate for their needs?

(c) Have Government so far drawn the attention of Local Governments and Administrations to this inadequacy? If not, are they prepared to take up this matter immediately and call for a conference of the representatives of provinces to devise ways and means for improving the present condition?

(d) Will Government please state the number of blind and deaf mutes in the areas under their control, and measures taken to provide suitable institutions for them?

(e) Are Government prepared to give a lead to all Local Governments and Administrations by establishing an up-to-date residential institution for the defective children and training of teachers in the capital of India? If not, why not?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) to (d). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me to Haji Chaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan's question No. 728 on the 16th April, 1934. The number of schools for deaf mutes increased to 17 while the number of scholars in those schools increased to 788 during 1932-33. The number of scholars in the schools for the blind also increased to 660 in that year.

(e) A school for deaf and dumb children already exists in Delhi to which the Delhi Municipality give a grant of Rs. 1,200 per annum. The Government of India have also sanctioned for this school a grant of Rs. 2,000 per annum for a period of three years in the first instance with effect from 1935-36. The question of providing residential accommodation for this school is already under consideration.

NON-OFFICIAL RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

1683. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of non-official resolutions passed by the Legislative Assembly within the past ten years?

(b) Which of the resolutions mentioned in part (a) above have been given effect to by Government and in what manner and with what result?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to Mr. M. Asaf Ali's unstarred question No. 223 asked on the 25th March, 1935, and to the statement laid on the table on the 30th March, 1935, by me, in reply to starred question No. 656 asked by Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena on the 5th March, 1935, which give full information which is required.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: What is the reply?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: The reply is to be found in the full statement laid on the table showing what was the result and what was done. The Honourable Member has got to take the trouble of reading that statement.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Government appear to believe that there is a revolutionary party in the country. May I know from the Honourable Member what he should expect from the people in answer to his despotic way of ruling the country?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. What has this question to do with the revolutionary party?

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I sent a question relating to postcards a long time ago. I do not see that question at all in the list. It was sent about 20 days ago.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are no other questions today.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: I have not got any reply to my supplementary question.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I am quite willing to answer that supplementary question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. Next item.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

FINES REALISED FROM THE STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

300. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please lay a statement on the table showing by class or cadre of employees and by divisions the amount of fine realized during the preceding three years from the staff on the East Indian Railway, with the minimum and maximum amount of fine from an employee in each scale of pay of the classes or cadre, and to state how far the policy laid down in Railway Board's letter No. 1023-E., dated the 25th August, 1935, regarding fining system, is carried out by their subordinate officers?

Mr. P. R. Rau: According to the information readily available the following sums were realised by way of fines from the staff on the East Indian Railway in the last three years:

Year.	Amount.
	Rs.
1931-32	54,339
1932-33	51,307
1933-34	48,865

I presume my Honourable friend is referring to Railway Board's letter, dated the 25th August, 1925, if so, Government have no reason to believe that the policy laid down therein is not followed by the East Indian Railway Administration.

MILEAGE ALLOWANCE PAID TO THE RUNNING STAFF AND THE ORDINARY TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE ADMISSIBLE TO THE OTHER STAFF ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

301. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state the substantial difference between the mileage allowance paid to the running staff on State-managed Railways and the ordinary travelling allowance admissible to the other staff (non-gazetted) on State-managed Railways?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The mileage allowance paid to running staff is not a travelling allowance. The latter is a compensatory allowance intended to meet expenses of travelling: the former depends on the work done.

REMOVAL OF TRAVELLING TICKET COLLECTORS FROM THE CATEGORY OF TRAIN (TRAFFIC) OR RUNNING STAFF ON CERTAIN RAILWAYS.

302. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state the date from which the Travelling Ticket Collectors (paragraph 362 of the State Railways Open Line Code, Volume II) were removed from the category of train (Traffic) or running staff on the Burma, Eastern Bengal, East Indian, Great Indian Peninsula and North Western Railways, respectively?

Mr. P. R. Rau: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 302, 303, 304, 307, 309, 317 and 318 together. I am obtaining certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CREW SYSTEM IN THE HOWRAH AND LUCKNOW DIVISIONS, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†303. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Is it a fact that Mr. G. J. Harris, in his report, dated the 5th January, 1928, on the experimental working of the Crew System in the Howrah and Lucknow Divisions, East Indian Railway, wrote: "There is no class of employees under the Crew System whose duties and responsibilities could be held as equivalent to those of Travelling Ticket Inspectors? If so, will Government please state how and in what respect the classes of employees (temporary) under the Crew System were considered senior *inter se* to those of Travelling Ticket Inspectors on and after the 1st June, 1931?

†For answer to this question, *see* answer to question No. 302.

PROMOTION AND SENIORITY OF THE TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS OF THE ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT DEPARTMENT TRANSFERRED TO THE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†304. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state the policy and procedure of promotion and seniority of the Travelling Ticket Inspectors of the Accounts and Audit Department, now transferred to the Traffic Department on the East Indian Railway, with the staff recruited by the Traffic Department in the ticket checking systems (Crew and Moody-Ward) as stood on the 1st day of March, 1935, the 1st day of January, 1933, the 1st day of June, 1931 and the 1st day of May, 1931, respectively?

DELHI-SHAHDARA NOTIFIED AREA COMMITTEE.

305. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) Is it a fact that Delhi-Shahdara has a Notified Area Committee? If so, is that Committee responsible for (i) the health of the town population, (ii) good sanitation of the town, (iii) supply of sweet and healthy water, (iv) lighting of roads and streets, and (v) the upkeep of roads in good condition?

(b) Is it a fact that there are buildings and railway quarters between the railway station on the North Western Railway and Delhi-Ghaziabad Road (portion of Grand Trunk Road) and on the road connecting the town with the Grand Trunk Road? If so, who is responsible for the sanitation of this locality?

(c) Is it a fact that there is a pool between the Railway lines of the Shahdara-Saharanpur Light Railway adjacent to the road connecting Delhi-Shahdara with the Grand Trunk Road?

(d) Do Government propose in the interest of the health of those who are residing nearby, to level the pool when there is no water and put the outlet in good condition? If not, why not?

(e) Is it a fact that on the road connecting the town with the Grand Trunk Road, there are *Sarais* and *Dharamsalas*? If so, who is responsible for their sanitary condition?

(f) Is it a fact that there are permanent residential quarters in the *Sarais*?

(g) Is it a fact that in one of the *Sarais*, a factory to manufacture Soda Siliceous is erected? If so, are Government aware that the smoke from the chimney, where coal is consumed in the process of the manufacture is injurious to the residents of that *Sarai*? Will Government please state whether the factory has the approval of the Committee or Government for erection of the chimney and other buildings, and whether the Factory Inspector ever inspected the factory and issued the necessary certificate? If not, why not?

(h) Are Government prepared to see that the health of the population is in no wise affected by the working of the factory within the populated area?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The Notified Area Committee is responsible for the sanitation of the area.

†For answer to this question, *see* answer to question No. 302.

(c) Yes.

(d) It is on land which is the private property of the Shahdara Saharanpur Railway, but the question of draining it, if funds permit, is already engaging the attention of the Committee and the Sanitary Engineer.

(e) Yes. The owners of the *Sarais* and *Dharamsalas* are responsible for their sanitation.

(f) Yes.

(g) and (h). The reply to the first part of part (g) is in the negative; the remaining portions of the question do not, therefore, arise.

SERVICE RECORDS OF EMPLOYEES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

306. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to the answer given to starred question No. 895, asked on the 30th August, 1934, regarding service records of employees on State Railways, will Government please state the rules and procedure for the upkeep, inspection and recording of entries in the record of service of a non-gazetted employee on State-managed Railways when Supplementary Rules 199 and 202 are not applicable?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraph 403 of State Railway Open Line Code, Volume II. A copy of the Rule has been placed in the Library.

CONSOLIDATED ALLOWANCE OF THE TICKET CHECKING STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†307. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to the statement laid on the table of the House on the 4th February, 1935, in reply to starred question No. 924, asked on the 30th August, 1934, regarding consolidated allowance of the ticket checking staff on the East Indian Railway, will Government please state:

(a) the number of Travelling Ticket Inspectors under the Moody-Ward System;

(b) the rates of pay of the Travelling Ticket Inspectors under the Moody-Ward System;

(c) the rates of allowances admissible to the Travelling Ticket Inspectors under the Moody-Ward System;

(d) the rates of pay of the old Travelling Ticket Inspectors who are now employed as Head Ticket Collectors, Assistant Head Ticket Collectors and Ticket Collectors; and

(e) the rates of pay last drawn by the staff of the Crew System who are now employed as Ticket Inspectors and the reasons why in those posts the old Travelling Ticket Inspectors were not absorbed?

†For answer to this question, *see* answer to question No. 302.

TRANSFERS IN THE DELHI DIVISION ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

308. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Is it a fact that transfers in the Delhi Division, on the North Western Railway, are never ordered in the interest of the administration? If not, will Government please lay a comparative statement of transfers ordered during the preceding three years, showing the class of employees, pay, nature of interest derived from the transfers and the amount of travelling expenses incurred?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The reply to both parts of the question is in the negative.

PROMOTION AND SENIORITY OF THE TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS AND TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS OF THE ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT DEPARTMENT TRANSFERRED TO THE OPERATING DEPARTMENT OF THE NORTH WESTERN AND EAST INDIAN RAILWAYS.

†309. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state the policy and procedure of promotion and seniority of the Travelling Ticket Examiners and Travelling Ticket Inspectors of the Accounts and Audit Department, now transferred to the Operating Department of the North Western and East Indian Railways, respectively, with regard to the staff recruited by the Operating or Commercial Departments in the Ticket Checking System between 1926 and 1932 either temporary or permanent, or otherwise?

PROMOTION OF STAFF IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

310. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to the answer given to starred question No. 898, asked on the 30th August, 1934, regarding promotion of staff in the Moradabad Division, East Indian Railway, will Government please state:

(a) whether the powers of the Agent are supreme;

(b) the rules of promotion; and

(c) the rules for determining seniority?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Agents of Railways have full powers to deal with questions of seniority and promotion regarding the subordinate staff. Government have laid down no rules regarding these but general orders regarding normal channels of promotions for various categories of staff are contained in the rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff on State-managed Railways, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

ISSUE OF PASSES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

311. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) With reference to the answer given to starred question No. 919 asked on the 30th August, 1934, regarding the issue of passes on the East Indian Railway, will Government please lay a statement on the table of this House, showing the schedule of powers delegated to the Chief Operating Superintendent by the Agent, with the date and authority of such delegation?

† For answer to this question, *see* answer to question No. 302.

(b) Is it a fact that no such powers were delegated on which the Railway Board might have exercised the power of supervision?

(c) What are the sources of the information of Government?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Government understand that no powers have been formally delegated to the Chief Operating Superintendent as such. Like other principal officers at headquarters he acts in some cases on behalf of the Agent in accordance with the Agent's policy.

(b) I am unable to understand my Honourable friend's question, but re-delegations made by the Agent under powers delegated to him by the Railway Board do not require the latter's approval.

(c) So far as they relate to details of administration the Agent of the Railway concerned.

PERSONS DISCHARGED AS PER TERMS OF AGREEMENTS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

312. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state (a) (i) the persons discharged as per terms of agreements during the preceding three years by each division in the East Indian Railway, (ii) the length of service of such persons; (iii) whether an inquiry or a charge sheet for a crime was preferred against those persons before discharge; (iv) the necessity of discharge and the extent of profit to the administration by such discharges; (b) (i) the persons discharged on the recommendations of the District Medical Officers; (ii) the length of service of such persons; (iii) whether such persons were granted leave as provided by the Railway Board in Explanation (b) to Rule 6 of Rules regulating discharge and dismissal of State Railway non-gazetted Government servants; if so, to what extent in each case; (iv) the efforts made to avoid hardship by finding other suitable employment for him; and (v) what is the effect of a medical certificate when altered or amended from time to time—whether a man is liable to discharge or to be put up before a Board?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information as regards the various points of detail referred to in the question, and do not consider that the time and labour expended in collecting them will be justified by results.

GRANT OF CERTIFICATES TO GUARDS BY THE DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

313. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Is it a fact that the District Medical Officer, Moradabad Division, on the East Indian Railway, granted certificates to guards of that division that they would never be fit for employment involving running duties, which were subsequently amended to show that they would not even be fit for duties involving walking? If so, will Government please state:

(a) whether the staff was put up before a Medical Board; if so (i) whether before or after the discharge order; (ii) whether the Medical Board recommended any leave; if so, to what extent; and (iii) whether after the expiry of leave they were again placed before the Medical Board; if so, on what dates;

(b) whether the District Medical Officer declared them fit for a sedentary job; if so, what efforts were made to provide them with sedentary jobs and to avoid hardships to them; if not, why not;

(c) whether the Medical Board examined them on the 28th July, 1933 and recommended them nine months' leave and suggested that they appear before a Medical Board again after nine months; if so, what action has been taken on this medical advice; if not, why not;

(d) the date on which the said Medical Board confirmed the opinion of the District Medical Officer and whether at the time of confirming the opinion of the District Medical Officer, the Board examined them on that date; if not, how far the action is justified; and

(e) what is the difference between the term "permanently incapacitated for further railway service" and the term "would not be fit for duties involving walking about"?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am obtaining certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

INCREMENTS TO STAFF IN THE MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

314. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to the statement laid on the table of the House on the 4th February, 1935 in connection with part (d) of starred question No. 921 asked on the 30th August, 1934, regarding increments to staff in the Moradabad Division, East Indian Railway, will Government please:

(a) state whether the Ticket Collectors are required to pass Goods Accounts Examination; if so, the date from which the said examination was made obligatory upon this class of employees and to place the authority on the table of this House;

(b) state whether the examination in first aid is obligatory upon the staff, if so, to place the authority on the table of this House;

(c) state whether it is the desire to place any person as Flag Station Master, if he was not recruited as Assistant Station Master;

(d) lay on the table of this House, the rules for the recruitment and training of relieving clerks which are not embodied in the rules placed in the library of this House;

(e) quote the rule under which increments are granted for approved service and not as a matter of course;

(f) state whether promotion depends on qualifying in examination or in increments in time scale to which they are appointed;

(g) state whether Government are satisfied that the report of the Agent is in conformity with the rules;

(h) state what were the higher grades in which the locomotive running staff officiated;

(i) state what was the practice in vogue in those divisions and the date from which that practice was brought into action;

(j) state whether the rules for pay, overtime allowances, etc., to engine drivers, shunters and firemen on the former Oudh and Rohilkund Railway were not sanctioned by the Railway Board in their letter No. 329-E.—18, dated the 4th March, 1918; if so, under what authority, the sanction is overruled by the Agent;

(k) state where and who examined the practice which had been in vogue for many years, and lay on the table the report and the result of the examination;

(l) state the date from which this practice was abandoned;

(m) state when the Railway Board sanctioned the practice of a driver of eight years' standing to officiate in the 9th year;

(n) state whether the scales of pay of drivers are on yearly basis or otherwise;

(o) state how the Agent has the power to refix the pay of those who have already earned it by virtue of their service on the 7th February, 1931;

(p) quote the clause of the schedule of powers of Agents wherein the Agent is empowered to refix the pay of a non-gazetted staff at his discretion;

(q) quote the clause of the schedule of powers of Agents wherein the Agent is empowered to convert increments by refixation of pay;

(r) state whether the Railway Board have perused the correspondence referred to in part (d) (iii) of the said starred question; if so, with what result;

(s) state why the refixation has not retrospective effect when the claim for increment was raised as early as 7th February, 1931;

(t) state whether under Rule 31 of the rules sanctioned by the Railway Board in their letter No. 329-E.—18, dated the 4th March, 1918, a driver, who has completed 12 months' satisfactory service, will get his increments, and if so, what are the reasons under which drivers were not given increments since 1931; and

(u) state whether Government propose to order the adjustment of their pay in accordance with rules in force before the 1st September, 1934 and to adhere to their acknowledged policy not to give effect to any rules retrospectively?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am obtaining certain information and will lay a reply on the table of the House in due course.

THIRD CLASS TICKETS FOUND MISSING AT THE DELHI RAILWAY STATION.

315. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to the answer given to starred question No. 920 asked on the 30th August, 1934, regarding third class tickets found missing at the Delhi Railway Station, will Government please state:

(a) the duration of the upkeep of paid and refund vouchers;

(b) the duration of the upkeep of the pay, salary or other bills after payment is made;

(c) the date on which the record of missing tickets was destroyed;

(d) the date on which the record of subsequently found tickets was destroyed;

(e) the date on which the claim of refund was preferred by the poor staff and the dates of reminders received by the Divisional Superintendent; and

(f) whether the Agent has arranged the refund by this time, if not, what period is required finally to retund the amount?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Two and a half years.

(b) Fifteen years.

(c), (d) and (e). The Agent, North Western Railway, states that the relevant records have been destroyed and the information asked for cannot, therefore, be given.

(f) The reply to the first part is in the negative. It is not possible to say when the matter will be settled, as it is under correspondence with other Railways who are also concerned in any refund that may be due.

GRANT OF PASSES TO THE TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

316. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to the statement laid on the table of this House on the 21st January, 1935, in reply to starred question No. 999, asked on the 31st August, 1934, regarding grant of passes to the Travelling Ticket Inspectors on the East Indian Railway, will Government please state the date on which the mistake was corrected and second class passes were issued to the Travelling Ticket Inspectors while serving in the Moradabad Division?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The Agent states that action was taken to correct the mistake when the matter was brought to his notice in August, 1934. He is having enquiries made as regards the latter part of the question.

CONSOLIDATED ALLOWANCE OF THE TICKET CHECKING STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†317. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to the statement laid on the table of this House on the 4th February, 1935, in reply to starred question No. 925 asked on the 30th August, 1934, regarding consolidated allowance of the Ticket Checking Staff on the East Indian Railway will Government please state:

(a) the posts classed higher to Travelling Ticket Inspectors and quote the rule or the Rules for the recruitment and training of staff or otherwise;

(b) the comparative scales of pay of the posts classed higher and of the Travelling Ticket Inspectors;

(c) what purpose is served by issuing circular No. 548/A. E.-2460, dated the 1st October, 1932, by the Agent, East Indian Railway;

†For answer to this question, *see* answer to question No. 302.

(d) what is meant by 'Ticket Collector' as used in Rule 25 of the rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff on State-managed Railways and whether in the class "Ticket Collectors" the following grades are included or not;

(i) Ticket Collectors grades I, II and III;

(ii) Assistant Head Ticket Collectors; and

(iii) Head Ticket Collectors grades I and II;

(e) if Assistant Head Ticket Collectors and Head Ticket Collectors do not form the class of "Ticket Collectors" to which class they belong and by what rule they are governed?

PROMOTION AND SENIORITY OF THE TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†318. **Dr. N. B. Khare**: With reference to the answer given to starred question No. 998 asked on the 31st August, 1934, regarding promotion and seniority of the Travelling Ticket Inspectors on the East Indian Railway, will Government please state:

(a) whether the position of their seniority *inter se* has been altered by the control over them having been transferred to the Traffic Department;

(b) what was their strength in each of the grades (i) Rs. 64—8—120; (ii) Rs. 130—10—200; (iii) Rs. 105—210; and (iv) Rs. 227—350; on the 1st April, 1926, on the 1st May, 1931, on the 1st June, 1931 and on the 1st March, 1935, respectively;

(c) whether they are blocked at (i) Rs. 80 or Rs. 96; (ii) Rs. 120; (iii) Rs. 160; (iv) Rs. 180; (v) Rs. 200; and (vi) Rs. 210; if so, why;

(d) whether the Railway Board in their letter No. 822-E.G., dated the 22nd December, 1932, decided that an employee who held a permanent post in a substantive capacity as a Travelling Ticket Inspector prior to the introduction of the Crew System should be allowed the option of retaining the scale of pay applicable to the permanent post held by him in a substantive capacity prior to the introduction of Moody-Ward Scheme *with the benefits of increments therein*; if so, (i) what is the reason for the blockade at Rs. 80, 96, 120, 160, 180, 200 and 210; (ii) whether the benefits of increments therein cover increments from Rs. 120 to Rs. 130 and Rs. 210 to Rs. 227 or not; if not, under what Statutory or Fundamental Rule; (iii) what is the correct explanation or interpretation of the expression *"with the benefits of increments therein"*, and (iv) whether Government now propose to instruct the Agent to allow these employees to draw the increments from Rs. 120 to Rs. 130; Rs. 160 to Rs. 180; Rs. 180 to Rs. 200; Rs. 210 to Rs. 227 and so on; if not, why not;

† For answer to this question, *see* answer to question No. 302.

(e) whether the Railway Board in their letter No. 822-E.G., of the 22nd December, 1932, instructed the Agent, East Indian Railway, that with a view to reducing the extra expenses, arising from the grant of this concession the Railway Board desire that such employees should be considered for promotion to higher posts for which they may be qualified as vacancies occur in these posts; if so, (i) what are the scales of pay of higher posts to which an employee drawing Rs. 80, 88, 96, 120, 160, 180, 200, or 300 respectively is considered eligible for promotion in the Ticket Checking Branch or any other group or branch; (ii) whether a post carrying lower scale of pay than the employee is in receipt of in his grade is considered a higher post for promotion, (iii) whether a post carrying a scale of Rs. 120—10—140 is higher than a post carrying a scale of Rs. 130—10—200, if so, how, (iv) whether the appointment to a stationery post carrying less scale of pay of a Travelling Ticket Inspector drawing Rs. 160, or Rs. 200, *plus* a consolidated allowance of Rs. 50 or Rs. 65 sanctioned as *ex gratia*, is a promotion in higher posts; if so, how; and (v) whether Government propose to remove the anomaly caused by exceptionally prejudicial treatment of the Agent, East Indian Railway, if not, why not?

(f) whether the staff of the abolished Crew System who have less service and less pay than these Travelling Inspectors and were in the scale of pay (Rs. 120—10—140), were promoted to the scale of pay (Rs. 150—10—190) (Rs. 220—10—280) in preference to those Travelling Ticket Inspectors who were actually drawing Rs. 160, Rs. 180 and Rs. 200; if so, why and how far the Agent has carried out the instructions of the Railway Board conveyed in their No. 822-E.G. of the 22nd December, 1932?

OFFICES HELD BY NON-GAZETTED STAFF ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

319. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state:

(a) whether the offices held by non-gazetted staff (both superior and inferior) on State-managed Railways, are Civil Services of the Crown in India within the provisions of section 96-B of the Government of India Act;

(b) whether the rules made under sub-section (2) of section 96-B by the Secretary of State in Council are applicable to non-gazetted staff;

(c) whether the employees on State-managed Railways are civil servants of the Crown; if not, what is the difference between the two classes of servants of the same Government;

(d) whether it is obligatory on the railway administrations to follow the procedure when discharging or dismissing an employee; if not, under what authority;

(e) what is the procedure in the case of discharge or dismissal of an employee on State-managed Railway on account of physical disability?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) So far as Railway servants are concerned the rules made under subsection (2) of section 96(b) of the Government of India Act are the Railway Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. As will be seen from rule 3 of those rules they do not apply to non-gazetted Railway servants, control in respect of whom is vested in the Governor General in Council under the 'Direction' appended to the said rules.

(c) and (d). Yes.

(e) I would refer the Honourable Member to footnote (b) to the explanations below rule 6 of the Discharge and Dismissal rules.

THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE (THIRD AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): Sir, before I move the motion that stands in my name, I would like to ask the leave of the Chair, and, through the Chair, of the House, to be allowed to substitute the name of Mr. A. G. Clow, for that of the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce in the Select Committee.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): I cannot hear what the Honourable Member says. Will the Honourable Member please speak up?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is plenty of room in the front Benches, and there is no good shouting from there.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Why not the Honourable the Home Member come nearer?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Honourable Member has been unnecessarily interrupting.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, for certain purposes (*Amendment of section 60*), be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the Honourable the Law Member, Mr. A. G. Clow, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. Shri Krishna Sinha, Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, Mr. K. L. Gauba, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, Mr. F. E. James, Mr. J. M. Chatarji and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Sir, in the course of this Session, it has been apparent that there are comparatively few subjects on which this side of the House is in agreement with that. That is regrettable, but I think most Honourable Members will agree that there is one subject on which all sides of the House are in agreement and that is that it is the duty of the Government and the duty of the Legislature to do what both can in common to improve the conditions of the poor.

As this is a Bill designed to confer relief on poor debtors, I hope it will be welcomed in all quarters of the House. This Bill is one of the measures that has been introduced in order to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour, but as the Statement of Objects and Reasons shows it goes in some respects beyond and in some respects not quite so far as the recommendations of the Royal Commission. Its main object is to help persons in receipt of small pay or small salaries by protecting them from the evils of indebtedness and it seeks to do so by amending the law which relates to the attachment of their pay or salary. It may be well if I explain very briefly to Honourable Members the existing law in this respect as stated in section 60 of the Code of Civil Procedure. The law divides persons into three classes in respect of attachment of salaries. In the first class there are labourers and domestic servants irrespective of the amount of wage which they draw and also Government servants, servants of railways and servants of local bodies who draw pay less than Rs. 40 a month. All these persons, that is to say, Government servants drawing less than Rs. 40, labourers and domestic servants, are free from the penalty of having their salary or wages attached, either before they become payable or after they become payable. Then, there is the second class which consists only of Government servants, railway servants and the servants of local authorities who draw more than Rs. 40 a month, and in the case of those persons half the salary or Rs. 40, whichever is greater, is protected from attachment, but the rest can be attached either before or after it becomes payable—that is an important point—and it can be attached by order of the Court indefinitely till the debt is satisfied. In the third class are all other employees who are liable to have the whole of their wages or salaries attached if they become payable, but no part of it can be attached before it becomes payable.

Now, Sir, I think all lawyers in this House will agree that the attachment of salary, after it becomes payable, is a very difficult thing to effect. In fact it is very seldom attempted, and indeed we have the opinion of a Chief Justice of a High Court that the attachment of salary after it becomes payable is practically impossible. On the other hand the attachment of salary before it becomes payable is a very simple matter. That applies to Government servants and servants of railways and other local bodies who are in receipt of a regular fixed monthly salary. The disbursing officer in their case receives the order of the court and carries it out merely by retaining a certain portion of the salary and handing it over to the Court until the debt is satisfied, month by month. And as I have said, this process may and often does go on month after month for many years. In fact, it provides, through the agency of Government, a debt collecting machinery from which there is virtually no escape. The result of that is that although it would seem at the first view that Government servants and the servants of railways and local authorities all of whom are in receipt of fixed monthly salaries, are placed in a preferential position as compared with private employees, the real truth is very much the opposite, and Government servants are, as a matter of fact, in a very much worse position and indeed in a peculiarly unfavourable position, because they are exposed to the operation of this machinery that I have described, which automatically can and does at the request of the Court act as a debt collecting agency for the moneylender.

Now, Sir, the Royal Commission on Labour dealt of course only with industrial workers, but inquiries have satisfied us that there is just as much

[Sir Henry Craik.]

indebtedness among workers of any other type, for example clerical employees, as there is among industrial workers; and also that there is a very large amount of indebtedness among the poorer employees of Government. Therefore, the Bill which I am now commending to the attention of the House embraces all classes of workers and is not confined only to industrial workers. And in justification of that I would ask the House to agree in the proposition that there is no inequity and there is no real reason for drawing a distinction between an industrial worker in receipt of, say Rs. 50 a month on the one hand and on the other hand a Government employee or a man working in a private office in a clerical capacity and drawing the same rate of pay. They are both equally prone to the temptations of falling into the clutches of the moneylender.

Sir, the Royal Commission recommended that all salaries of less than Rs. 300 a month should be protected from attachment. We have consulted various authorities as to that amount and have come to the conclusion that that is perhaps too high a figure; but there is a very general concensus of opinion that the figure should be considerably higher than the present figure of Rs. 40 a month, and we have in the Bill fixed it at a limit of Rs. 100 a month. But I need hardly say that that, as other points of detail, will be open to reconsideration in the Select Committee.

But merely to protect salaries of Rs. 100 a month or less from attachment does not, in our opinion, go far enough, because the evil of indebtedness extends to employees who are drawing considerably higher salaries than that, and specially perhaps to Government servants in receipt of higher salaries than that. And, as I have explained, the present law places Government servants at a considerable disadvantage by means of the system of the disbursing officer acting as a debt collecting agency which, so far as I am aware, is a system not known in other countries; certainly it does not exist in England. It is a system which gives Government servants really too large an amount of credit and there can be little doubt, in fact I think it is the generally accepted view of all who have studied this question of indebtedness, that there is nothing that is so conducive to indebtedness as too easy credit. Now, we are not proposing to abolish this system of attachment of salaries altogether but we are proposing to place certain restrictions on it which will I hope commend themselves to this House. In the case of Government servants, including the employees of railways and local bodies, the first hundred rupees of their salary and half of the remainder of their salary will in future, if this Bill becomes law, be completely protected from attachment. The balance will, as at present, be liable to attachment but only for a limited time. It is proposed to limit the period of attachment to 24 months at any one time, and after those 24 months have expired, the attachment cannot be resumed until there has been an interval of 12 months at least, and then only in respect of a fresh decree by the Court.

It only remains for me to deal with one or two subsidiary matters which are included in the Bill. The first point is that we propose to omit any special provision relating to debts due to co-operative societies. Under the existing law co-operative societies are placed in a preferential position. Where a judgment-debtor is a member of such society, the amount of salary totally exempted from attachment is Rs. 20 only and not Rs. 40. That provision was introduced into the present law in 1925 as the result of a suggestion that emanated from the Government of Bombay. But, after full consideration, Government have now come to the conclusion that it is no longer necessary to retain it, and that conclusion is agreed to by all Local Governments including the Government of Bombay at whose suggestion, as I have said, that provision was first inserted in the present law.

There remains only one point and that is the date on which it is proposed that the changes should have effect. Honourable Members will observe that in clause 3 of the Bill it is proposed that the amendments should have effect in respect of any proceedings arising out of any suit instituted on or after the first day of February of the present year. That requires just one word of explanation. It is a matter of some difficulty to decide the date from which a Bill of this character should take effect. Judgment-debtors would no doubt prefer that it should be applied to all pending suits or possibly even to all debts incurred before the introduction of the Bill. But creditors on the other hand would no doubt very strongly object to any such provision as being contrary to equity and as involving a breach of contract. We have chosen the middle course, and have decided to fix a date approximately that of the date of the introduction of the Bill, that is on the 1st February last, and I hope that Honourable Members will consider that that is, in all the circumstances of the case and on the balance of the interests affected, a fair provision: but that again is a point which I am quite willing to consider in the Select Committee. I have nothing more to say, and I beg to move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, for certain purposes (*Amendment of section 60*), be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the Honourable the Law Member, Mr. A. G. Clow, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. Shri Krishna Sinha,, Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, Mr. K. L. Gauba, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, Mr. F. E. James, Mr. J. M. Chatarji and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

There is an amendment in the name of Mr. Gupta, that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon: but the Honourable Member has not given any date: by what date?

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: Say, the 31st August next.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Make it the 30th June.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: All right: I accept that date. I move, Sir:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 30th of June, 1935."

The whole House is practically tired, and I will not inflict a long speech at this late stage of the Session. Even the galleries do not seem to take any more interest now. But the Bill is of such importance and of such wide application that I cannot but say a few words on this. There is no doubt that the Bill makes discrimination—it is a discriminating Bill. If we see the provisions of the Bill, we find that it not only makes discrimination between those who get salaries and others, but also between one class of persons who get salaries and other classes of persons who get

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salaries. In clause 2 (a), it says:

"(*h*) the wages of labourers and domestic servants, whether payable in money or in kind, and salary, if the amount of the salary does not exceed one hundred rupees monthly."

Here it applies to all salaries—any person who gets Rs. 100 a month or less his salary shall not be attached. Except for the purpose of paying income-tax he is a poor man. The Honourable the Finance Member will not consider him poor because he will not exempt him from income-tax and the Honourable the Home Member will consider him poor and would protect him not from the exactions of the State, but from the exactions of the moneylender. If it is fair to protect him from the consequences of his own contracts made voluntarily, he should also be protected from the exactions of the State. This is not all. We find further that it is not only the poor man who gets a salary of Rs. 100 that is protected, but I think another poor man who gets probably a salary of Rs. 6,000 or more also is protected. The only rich man who is not protected by this Bill is the one who lives in villages and who does not receive fixed income monthly, irrespective of the fluctuations of the time. A person who is in receipt of a salary of Rs. 6,000 or Rs. 8,000 a month, like my Honourable friends opposite—I do not know if any of them are indebted to any one . . . .

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Law Member): We do not get Rs. 8,000.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: Rs. 6,000: but will he not be poorer if he gets Rs. 8,000, because his expensive habits will increase more than the money he would receive. Those who get Rs. 6,000 will be protected by at least Rs. 3,100 . . . . .

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Honourable Member has misread the Bill; they are protected only to the extent of Rs. 100.

An Honourable Member: And half of the other as well

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: I speak subject to correction; but I think I am correct and if the Honourable the Home Member reads that interpretation in the Bill, I will have no objection. The Bill says that any Government servant who gets Rs. 6,000 will be protected to the extent of Rs. 3,100 . . . . .

An Honourable Member Rs. 2,950 will be protected.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: It says "half of the rest" he is a better lawyer and I submit to his interpretation. I really could not reconcile myself to this position that such poor men as get Rs. 6,000 a month may be protected. But supposing a poor doctor who practises in a *mufassal* town or a newly certified lawyer who practises in a *mufassal* town gets say about Rs. 100 a month—and I say that the number of those earning Rs. 100 or less a month, in these professions, is much greater than those getting more than Rs. 100—I say where is the principle in not protecting

them? If a doctor or lawyer practising a *mufassal* gets Rs. 100, his property can be attached: again, a petty shopkeeper earning only Rs. 50—his whole shop can be attached. If this Bill is not to be a discriminating Bill, you must think of ways and means by which you can protect all these persons whose income is less than Rs. 100 or just Rs. 100. Then I can understand this. But you say only those who are Government servants or others who get a monthly salary of Rs. 100 can have relief: but those that are not in receipt of monthly salaries and are not in this privileged position of being a Government servant or a monthly salaried man can have no protection. That is one charge that I make against this Bill. It gives preferential treatment to one class of persons over another. I should have absolutely no objection if the scope of the Bill were extended so as to bring within its purview all professions which earn Rs. 100 or less in order that all such people whose incomes are less than Rs. 100 may be protected from attachments . . . . .

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Many moneylenders themselves may have less than this income.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: My friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa, says moneylenders. A moneylender himself may probably get money from other moneylenders and so on. There is another kind of protection which is specially given to Government servants and which is not extended to other wage earners or salaried men. Although the Statement of Objects and Reasons says that this Bill is based on the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Labour, yet Government really under the cover of the recommendation of this Commission want to protect their servants primarily, because it is obvious that the Royal Commission on Labour does not at all speak of Government servants, in fact they have not even inquired whether Governments need such a measure as this or whether there is such an amount of indebtedness in the class which my friend, the Home Member, wants to protect. My point is, when the Royal Commission on Labour have not even mentioned anything about the necessity of protecting Government servants, why should the Government have gone out of their way to bring forward this measure to protect the Government servants? Why did they not make inquiries as to the amount of indebtedness existing amongst other classes of persons? Sir, the curse of indebtedness is not confined to any one particular class and if I may say so, there is greater indebtedness amongst villagers, landowners, the peasants and landholders than amongst Government servants . . . . .

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The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: They are protected in many other ways.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: If we go into the numerous ways in which that class has been protected and the class to which my Honourable friend belongs is protected, probably there are others more capable than me who would be able to say as to which class is protected more and which class is protected less. We are discussing the present Bill in which there is absolutely no protection to others. My point is, if you went out of your way to bring forward this Bill, you should as well have inquired whether there was indebtedness or not among the classes other than Government servants about which the Labour Commission did not report. You have confined yourself to only one class, and that is yours. As I said, Sir,

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there is greater indebtedness among the villagers, the *malguzars*, landholders, peasants and other poor people, and this Bill does not afford any protection to them. What is the position now? They say that so far as other persons who receive salaries from institutions other than Government are concerned, they are not protected to the same extent. For instance if a man in a mill receives Rs. 500, he is protected to the extent of Rs. 100. If my friend has a mill and the manager of the mill receives Rs. 500 a month, then he will be protected only to the extent of Rs. 100.

An Honourable Member: No.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: Well, I am sorry, I made a mistake,—he is not protected at all. What I meant to say was that if his salary exceeded Rs. 100 and if he got Rs. 110, then he would get no protection, but if a Government servant or a railway employee gets Rs. 6,000, he is protected, not merely to the extent of half of his salary, but he gets this advantage also, that after two years, the whole debt is wiped out. Therefore, is this not a Bill which gives undue preference under the cover of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour to one class of persons only? Government, under cover of the recommendations of the Labour Commission, want to legislate for Government servants, and that is my charge.

Then there is only one other point to which I would like to draw the attention of the House. After all, if we look into the reasons of indebtedness, it cannot be said that an income of Rs. 100 a month is too small for an Indian if we look to the average income of Indians. Sir, an income of Rs. 100 a month, I think, is a very decent income, considering the average income of Indians in general, and I think one can live quite comfortably on Rs. 100 a month in India. A man who is in receipt of Rs. 100 a month may be a poor man in Enland, but in India a man who gets Rs. 100 a month is really a rich man. I don't think even a very small percentage of the total population of this country is in receipt of Rs. 100 a month on an average, but what is the real reason of the indebtedness? The reason is really psychological, and that is, we ape the Europeans; we try to ape them in what I may be excused in calling, their luxuries, manners and habits.

An Honourable Member: Their vices?

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: I won't call them vices, because they are not vices for them, but they are downright vices for us Indians. We don't copy their good points. They have really many good points which we can copy with advantage, but we don't do it. What do we do? We merely copy their dress, manners and habits, because some of the Indians think that if they imitated them they will be regarded as a better class of persons,—they think that because they put on a tie and a collar, or because they put on a pantaloon and a hat they will be regarded as something above the average man. I say, Sir, this is entirely a false notion, and, therefore, unless you can change this psychological mentality in the Indians, no amount of patch work will be of any avail. The Royal Commission has reported that there is more indebtedness amongst the railway

employees than among the other classes of employees. And what is the reason for it? The reason is that Indians in railway service try to ape the Englishmen more than the employees in other departments do. An Englishman has justification to stick to the dress which he is wearing. What justification is there for us to ape them and then say that an income of Rs. 100 a month is not sufficient and that we want protection. I say, Sir, that a man who is in receipt of Rs. 100 a month is really a rich man, and if he has got into this misery, it is not because he really needed all those luxuries, but because he wanted to ape the Englishman . . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is discussing the details.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: I am discussing the psychology behind this Bill, and that is, Government wants to protect one class of persons, and I say you cannot protect them unless you really change their mentality. For instance, take this House. If this were really an Indian House or an Indian Assembly, I don't think we would need all these expensive carpets on which we walk with our shoes? Do we want all these things really? It is these things that make us poor. We do not use such carpets in our houses even to sleep on, whereas we are walking on them with our shoes. It is this habit that is eating into our vitals, and unless we change the psychology of Indians, we can never protect them, and, therefore, I say, that even if you increase the figure in this Bill, it will be quite useless.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Amendment moved:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by the 30th of June 1935."

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): I support the motion for sending this Bill out for eliciting opinion thereon, moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta. I do not want to inflict any speech at all. My Honourable friend has pointed out prominently what he considers to be the essential defects, in principle, of the present Bill. Although I concede that there is a necessity for making some provision to protect low paid servants, whether they are Government servants or servants in the employ of private parties, still there should be a limit in making a distinction between a Government servant and an ordinary citizen. If the Bill is circulated for opinion, the public will get an opportunity to express clearly what limit they would like to fix in making that distinction. Secondly, the principle involved in clause 3 of the Bill clearly conflicts with any contracts that people might have already made. A certain arbitrary date is fixed here in clause 3. That is another point on which the public will certainly like to express their opinion. These two points are very important on which both the Government and this House should know the opinion of the public before the Bill can be sent to a Select Committee to take a final form for the approval of this House. They are points of principle, they are not mere points of detail. I shall not take up any more time of the House, but I think there is a good case for sending the Bill out for public opinion, and I hope the House will accept the motion for circulation.

Mr. A. G. Clow (Government of India: Nominated Official): I have listened to the speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta, with regret. I think in a large measure he was under a serious misunderstanding as to the object and purpose of this Bill. I am sorry to say that I gathered the impression at other times that he was importing a certain amount of prejudice into the consideration of the measure. He referred, for example, to those very few persons in receipt of Rs. 6,000 a month, and I took him to suggest that the Bill had been introduced for their advantage. As he is doubtless aware . . . .

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I did not say that it was introduced for the purpose of their protection. I only said that they could also be protected by this Bill.

Mr. A. G. Clow: I am very glad to hear that explanation. I would only point out what possibly he was not aware of, and that is that, under the existing law only half their salaries can be attached at present, so that it raises the protection of an individual from that class from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 3,050, which I think the Honourable Member would agree is negligible. Further, it does not wipe out the debt after two years. It only stops one method of recovering it after a sum of approximately Rs. 35,000 has been recovered.

My Honourable friend referred to the reasons for the indebtedness, and suggested that they were in part psychological. I am prepared to agree that in the case of certain employees that is the case. But I would also maintain strongly that one reason, and a very important reason, for the indebtedness of certain classes of Government servants is the existing law; and I think it was in regard to the effect of that law and the effect of the proposals in the Bill that my Honourable friend was under such a misapprehension. He compared the private employee with the Government employee, and, in spite of what the Honourable the Home Member said, he appeared to be under the impression that the Government employee was, or would be placed by this Bill, in a more favourable position. Precisely the contrary is the case. The ordinary private employee, getting for example, as my Honourable friend said, Rs. 500 a month, can have his salary attached only after it is payable. If he has failed to draw his salary let us say, on the first of the month, it can be attached on the 3rd, 4th or 5th of the month before it is paid to him, but no action can be taken until that sum is due. So that the salary is, for all practical purposes, exempt from attachment because it is almost impossible to go to a Court and get an order of attachment before the employer hands over the money. Now, the Government servant, the railway servant and the post office servant are in an entirely different position. The money-lender goes to the Court and says, "This man owes me Rs. 2,000 or 3,000. Please give me an order." That order is sent to the head of the department, and the head of the department is bound to attach, month by month, a proportion up to half his salary until the debt is repaid. It is that provision which enables this unfortunate man—for I maintain that a man with more than Rs. 100 a month can be unfortunate . . . .

Mr. M. S. Aney: They are fortunate in having security of tenure.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: Would you like to put them on a par with others?

Mr. A. G. Clow: I am coming to that. It is that provision that enables them to contract and tempts them to contract such heavy debts. My Honourable friend asked whether I would put them on a par with others. As regards that, Government's proposals are in the Bill. But I will say this, that if you were to withdraw from this Bill and from the Civil Procedure Code the special provisions relating to the Government servant and the railway servant, they would be in a far more favourable position than they would be if this Bill were passed. I do not think I need say any more except that the Honourable the Home Member has asked me to say that if it is the general desire of the House that this Bill should be circulated he has no objection, but at the same time that will preclude the appointment of the Select Committee at the present moment.

An Honourable Member: Let the question be now put.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): I strongly take exception to the fact that such an important measure, affecting as it does the commerce, trade and banking in this country, should be taken up at this fag end of the Session. Government probably did not consider the full significance and importance of the principles that underlie the provisions of this Bill. At the outset, let me say that it is bad in itself to introduce a measure which interferes with private contracts of parties but it is still worse to introduce a measure which practically debars people from trading with the class of people known as public servants in this country. The Honourable the Home Member has cleverly appealed in his speech to the feelings of my Honourable friends, Mr. Joshi, Mr. Giri and Mr. Ranga in the name of labour. Then, he very cleverly appealed to the sentiments of the House when he said that protection must be afforded from the evils of indebtedness. So far as the protection of labourers is concerned, so far as the provision to protect people from indebtedness is concerned, I am at one with everybody, but the question is, whether this measure is intended for that purpose, and, so far as the wages of labourers are concerned, section 60 of the Civil Procedure Code already has a provision for it. I hope Mr. Joshi will like to hear what the existing provision is as regards the protection afforded to the labourer in section 60.

Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Nominated: Non-Official): The Honourable the Home Member has already said that.

Sardar Sant Singh: I have to elucidate the point. My Honourable friend, Captain Lal Chand, ought to know as a lawyer what elucidation means. Section 60 (*1*) says that the wages of labourers and domestic servants, whether payable in money or in kind, are exempted from attachment. So far as the fears of the advocates of the labourers are concerned, they should be at rest. Now, the only addition in the present Bill is in sub-clause (*h*) of clause 2 which says:

"The wages of labourers and domestic servants, whether payable in money or in kind, and salary, if the amount of the salary does not exceed one hundred rupees monthly."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): That is a useful addition.

Sardar Sant Singh: Sentimentally it is very good. Then, the other point made is about the protection from indebtedness.

An Honourable Member: Why do you say sentimentally?

Sardar Sant Singh: I will deal with it later on. The position is that a public servant, who is in receipt of a salary of Rs. 100 or upwards, has got a credit in the market as pointed out by the Mover of this amendment. The general practice is that he goes to the shop, purchases the necessities of life from the shopkeepers and pays after he receives the salary. What will be the effect if this provision is made into law—that no shopkeeper and no trader will ever advance any money to any public servant. (*An Honourable Member*: "So far, so good.") If it is good, then, what I will say is that nothing is evil. If you want to protect him from running into debt, I will suggest to you another amendment and that is in sections 11 and 12 of the Contract Act. Section 11 says:

"Every person is competent to contract who is of the age of majority according to the law to which he is subject, and who is of sound mind, and is not disqualified from contracting by any law to which he is subject."

Section 12 of the Contract Act says:

"A person is said to be of sound mind for the purpose of making a contract if, at the time when he makes it, he is capable of understanding it and of forming a rational judgment as to its effect upon his interests."

I really cannot understand why this section should be brought in to limit the powers of contract.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: To help people inspite of themselves.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will you please wait? I know that labour has obsessed you.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better address the Chair.

Sardar Sant Singh: My reason is that the public servant in this country has already got a good deal of facilities in social life. Now, when you introduce a legislation of this kind, you should consider what effect it will have upon the trade and commerce of the country generally.

The second point which I want to make in this case is that of a provision wherein the attachment of salary is limited to 24 months, and then there is a brake Mr. Clow has said that it does not do away with the decree altogether, but it only stops the attachment. Let us illustrate it by a practical case. Supposing a public servant drawing Rs. 6,000 a month purchases property worth two lakhs and he borrows money for the purpose. The value of the property goes down. It goes down to, say, about Rs. 80,000. He invested this Rs. 80,000 for the purpose of making a profit, but unfortunately, owing to the fluctuation of the market, the price goes down. The result would be that he can escape the liability of two lakhs of rupees by paying Rs. 35,000 only, and then he is safe. Is that just? Does it afford relief to the poor or to the deserving? It affords

relief to the highest paid official in this country. Then, Sir, the point is, why this particular solicitude for the Government servants and the servants of local authorities? Why don't you extend it to lawyers, doctors, traders and commercial men and the shopkeepers. The arguments given by Mr. Clow were that the servants of private concerns are situated in a more favourable position inasmuch as their salary is only attachable after it becomes payable. I regret I have not been able to find this even in section 60 of the Civil Procedure Code which says:

"The following property is liable to attachment and sale in execution of a decree, namely, lands, houses or other buildings, goods, money, bank notes, cheques, bills of exchange, *hundis*, promissory notes, etc."

Now, supposing the attachment comes on the 26th of a month. Has not the man earned his pay for 26 days? Why is it not liable to attachment?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: May I inform my Honourable friend that his view is opposed to the view of all the High Courts?

Sardar Sant Singh: It is attachable only when it becomes payable, and not before that. What is the difference? The difference is only this much. What is in the background of the Honourable the Home Member. The gentleman who takes the money on the 3rd or 4th of the month will go and conceal that property, which the public servant probably cannot do. Does he mean to say, Sir, that they want to place a premium upon dishonesty?

Mr. A. G. Clow: On a point of personal explanation, Sir,—the Honourable Member is attributing something to me—that I have something in my mind, which however was not in my mind at all. There is no question of concealing the money. The point is that you cannot in the interval take any practical steps to get hold of such a debt in the case of a private salary which is usually paid promptly. With a Government servant, you can take your precautions in advance.

Sardar Sant Singh: That is exactly what I am dealing with. My position is very simple,—*viz.*, that because the private servant may, after receiving the money, conceal the property and thus make the attachment difficult, that because that facility does not exist in the case of the public servant, therefore the public servant should be protected—is that the argument? If that is the argument, then you are placing a premium upon the dishonest intention of a private individual.

Then, further, Sir, there is another question, namely. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The real question before this House now is the principle of the Bill.

Sardar Sant Singh: I am pointing out the principles underlying this Bill, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is open to the Honourable Member to do that: that is the only question before the House now.

Sardar Sant Singh: My submission, Sir, is this, that this protection, which is being afforded to the public servant, is entirely out of place. Government probably ought to have considered, when introducing this Bill, what effect such a provision was likely to have upon the credit in the country. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary, in the interest of all those who deal with public servants, that either the public servants should be debarred from entering into contracts—just as certain people with certain disqualifications are debarred—rather than that such a provision should be enacted to protect them. Then, clause 3 of the Bill goes much further. It gives retrospective effect to the provisions of this Bill, which is against the canons of jurisprudence.

Therefore, Sir, I would say that the Bill should be circulated, and, after that, we can consider what the provisions should actually be.

Several Honourable Members: I move that the question be now put.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated: Non-Official): Mr. President, I shall not detain the House for more than a few minutes. At the outset, I must say that I am surprised that my friend of the Congress Party should have moved a motion for circulating the Bill. Sir, it is more than four years since the Royal Commission on Labour made its report, and I have said that several times in this House. Not only the recommendations of the Royal Commission have been before the country for more than four years, but the subject-matter of this Bill, if not the Bill itself, was circulated to Local Governments and the various organizations concerned with this subject. Therefore, Sir, if the Select Committee want to know the opinions of the various organizations and Local Governments, the Select Committee can very well obtain that information from the Government of India. Sir, I would, therefore, suggest to those gentlemen who are pressing for circulation not to press that dilatory motion and thus delay the reform coming into operation at an early date.

Now, Sir, as regards the subject of the Bill itself, I think there is a misunderstanding about the very basis of the proposal of the Royal Commission on Labour. I spoke on this subject when the Bill regarding arrest and imprisonment was before the House and the motion for circulating that Bill was made. The basis of the Royal Commission's recommendation is that the real evil from which not only the labourers but some of the salary-earners suffer is due to their credit, *i.e.*,, their borrowing capacity which is secured on account of the various facilities offered by law for the recovery of debt. The Royal Commission, therefore, came to the conclusion that, if this evil is to be uprooted, it could be effectively done by destroying the credit of these people.

Sardar Sant Singh: Can you make them incompetent?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: It is for that purpose that the Royal Commission made various recommendations. The first was to restrict the law of arrest and imprisonment for indebtedness. The second proposal of the Royal Commission is included in this Bill, namely, that the wages and salaries of all wage-earners and salary-earners should not be attached. My Honourable friend, Sardar Sant Singh, said that labourers and domestic servants are covered already by section 60 of the Civil Procedure Code. It is true, but I do not know whether a "labourer" is defined in the Civil Procedure Code

Sardar Sant Singh: It is not defined here.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: That is true, but it is for that reason that this Bill is brought forward. You will see that the inclusion of the word "salary" extends the scope of the section referred to in the Civil Procedure Code. In the latter Code it is the labourer and the domestic servants that are only included; in this Bill not only labourers and domestic servants but all people who receive a salary if the amount of such salary does not exceed one hundred rupees are included.

Sardar Sant Singh: Only labourers and domestic servants.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I do not think so. I think labourers and wage-earners, irrespective of the wages they receive, and all people who receive salaries up to one hundred rupees. That is the intention of the section. (*Voices* "Yes, yes.") Therefore, labourers and wage-earners are included whatever may be the definition of "labourer", and besides them, other people also receiving monthly salaries up to one hundred rupees are included in this Bill. Therefore, the scope of this Bill goes much further than the section of the Civil Procedure Code. Moreover, as the word "labourer" is not defined, a large number of workers who work in the factories in various capacities may not be included by Courts of law in the word "labourer". Take, for instance, the railway servants. The Royal Commission, when they made their investigation, saw the great evil from which the railway servants suffered on account of the practice of their salaries being attached through their offices, and that was one reason why they made this recommendation, in spite of the fact that "labourers and domestic servants" were already covered. The first point was that some workers may not be covered by the word "labourer", and, secondly, there are salary-earning people who are practically labourers and who should be included in this Bill. So far, Sir, as I am concerned, I think it is wrong for the law to be the interest-gatherer and the debt-gatherer for the sake of creditors. (Hear, hear.) That facility given by the law is itself wrong. If some people want to enter into bargains and contracts let them collect their own money. (Laughter.) I do not know why the law should go to the help of the creditors at all. (Hear, hear.) (Laughter.) If you are going to have that law, by all means have the law for people who have got lots of money. If they want to make contracts, let them have the law for themselves. We do not want the law for the poor people. Sir, the Royal Commission recommended that the limit should also be of Rs. 300 a month. I do not know why the Government of India should have put the limit of Rs. 100. There are many railway people who get more than Rs. 100 and they are suffering from this evil. I would, therefore, like the Select Committee to consider the question of raising the limit from Rs. 100 to Rs. 300. Then, Sir, it is said that some classes of people are not included. In the first place, it is quite open to the Select Committee to include some classes of people which can be included with the consent of the Chairman of the Select Committee. So far as the scope of the Bill could be extended, that could be done. I feel, Sir, that the peasants and cultivators, in whom my friends are interested, do deserve relief in this matter and it is quite possible that some of them may be covered. If they are not covered, let another Bill be brought forward and they will have my fullest support. But let them remember this that because some other class of people are not covered, they should not

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

come in the way of some other people getting relief. That is the dog in the manger policy and I am quite sure that the Members of the Congress Party do not want to follow that policy. I, therefore, hope that the Members of the Congress Party, my Honourable friend, Mr. Aney, and also my Honourable friend, Sardar Sant Singh, will not press their dilatory motion. If it is necessary that opinions of some more organisations should be asked for, I would like the Honourable the Home Member to circulate the Bill by executive order, so that the opinions of those organisations which some Members want to be consulted may be obtained. We are making a motion for the Select Committee now in this Session and the Select Committee has to meet in August. There is enough time for the Honourable the Home Member to circulate the Bill by executive action and secure the opinions of Local Governments again, if you like, and of some of those organisations which may not have been consulted up to this time.

One word more, Sir, before I sit down. The Royal Commission on Labour made several recommendations to relieve the working classes from their indebtedness and I would like the Government of India to tell me what they have done as regards the other recommendations of the Royal Commission on this subject. The Royal Commission recommended that there should be a summary procedure for the liquidation of debts of the working classes and they also suggested that a new law should be passed. The Royal Commission thought that the law of insolvency does not suit the working classes. In the first place, the working classes being very honest class of people do not like to take advantage of the law of insolvency of which honest people do not take advantage. The Royal Commission, therefore, recommended that a new law should be passed for the sake of the working classes. They also suggested that the law of limitation so far as the working classes are concerned should also be amended. I would like the Government of India to tell me what they propose to do as regards the other recommendations of the Royal Commission. Sir, before I sit down I wish to express the hope that the motion for the Select Committee will be approved by this House and the much needed reform will not be delayed.

Several Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Sir Henry Craik.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I want to say a few words on this motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order: Sir Henry Craik.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Sir, I have only very few words to say. I would like to remind the House that when I brought forward a Bill connected with another aspect of this problem of indebtedness, namely, a Bill, which, so far as I recollect, practically abolishes the system of imprisonment for debt, the motion which I then made was that it should be circulated for eliciting public opinion thereon. My Honourable friends opposite pressed then that the Bill should go straight to a Select Committee. I do hope that they will keep a consistent course in regard to the present

Bill and allow it to go straight to the Select Committee. If they agree to that, I am perfectly prepared to accept the suggestion put forward by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, that I should circulate it privately before the Select Committee meets which will not be in any case till just before or during the Simla Session, and that I will do my best to ascertain the opinion not only of Local Governments and of High Courts but also of bodies representing commercial opinion, Chambers of Commerce, Trade Associations and so on.

An Honourable Member: Also Bar Associations.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Bar Associations will also be consulted.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Peasant Associations should also be consulted.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: We will also consult Peasant Associations where such exist, so that the Select Committee may be in full possession of the views of both sides of this question. In view of that undertaking, I hope the Honourable Member will withdraw his motion for circulation and will agree to the Bill going straight to the Select Committee.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: Sir, in view of the assurance given by the Honourable the Home Member, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion. I would like to say only one word. I was never opposed to the principle of this Bill. I am in entire agreement with it and I only wanted its scope to be widened.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, for certain purposes (*Amendment of section 60*), be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the Honourable the Law Member, Mr. A. G. Clow, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. Shri Krishna Sinha, Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta, Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali, Mr. K. L. Gauba, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, Mr. F. E. James, Mr. J. M. Chatarji and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned *sine die*.

CORRIGENDUM.

In the Index to the Legislative Assembly Debates, Volumes I—IV, 1935 (Delhi Session, 1935), page 83, column 2, line 11, under the catch word "Delhi Time", *for* "2623-24" *ad* "3623-24".

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—— raised by the Honourable Sir Henry Craik as to whether it is not desirable that the Government should have sufficient notice, according to the Standing Order, of the cut motions that are to be moved by different Parties. 1908-10.
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—— raised by Mr. S. Satyamurti as to whether, once the Government have arranged the order of business they have any further right of interfering with that business, that is, to change the order of business, except by vote of the House. 2664.
—— raised by Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan as to whether a reference to Madras is in order on a cut motion, which refers to the Salt Range in the Punjab. 2065.
—— raised by Mr. A. G. Clow as to whether an amendment amending a section of the original Act is in order when the Amending Bill does not touch that section. 3948-49.
—— raised by Mr. A. K. Fuzlul Haq as to whether the motion that the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Indian Constitutional Reforms be taken into consideration is in order, because the object with which the motion has been moved has not been specified. 262.
—— raised by Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai in connection with the substitution of Mr. M. A. Jinnah's amendments (which were already adopted part by part) for the original motion *re* Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Indian Constitutional Reform. 576-79.
—— raised by Mr. G. S. Bajpai as to whether the discussion on the Demand for Supplementary Grant in respect of "Delhi" is not to be limited to the proposals for expenditure which are before the House. 3239.

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—— raised by Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe as to whether the Honourable Member (Dr. Khan Sahib) is in order in attacking by name, as a corrupt adventurer, a distinguished public servant who has no opportunity in the House of defending himself. 1739.
—— raised by Mr. H. A. F. Metcalfe as to whether the Honourable Member (Mr. S. Satyamurti) is in order in discussing large questions of policy on this motion for Demand for Supplementary Grant in respect of "Aden". 3242-43.
—— raised by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai as to whether it is fair that the Honourable the Finance Member should not be in the House to listen to the criticism made by the Honourable Members on the Indian Finance Bill. 2584-85.
—— raised by Mr. S. Satyamurti as to whether a Government member is in order in refusing to answer a question regarding consultation between the Governor-General and the Governor General in Council. 3406-10.
—— raised by Mr. S. Satyamurti as to whether the proper procedure for Government is not to come to this House for an excess grant and not for a Supplementary Grant where expenditure has already been incurred. 2775-77.
—— raised by Mr. S. Satyamurti as to whether: (1) the recommendation of the Governor General for the appropriation of any revenue or money for any purpose as provided under section 67A of the Government of India Act is not to be communicated to the Legislative Assembly through the President; (2) in case of a Supplementary Demand for grant, the expenditure ought not to be in the financial year in which the grant is asked for; (3) it is open to the Government to create a new Demand, unless it is in the case of expenditure which cannot be rightly classified under existing demands and moreover as this Demand for Supplementary Grant in respect of "Transfer to the Fund for the Development of Broadcasting" does not contain

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—— raised by Mr. S. Satyamurti that the demand for supplementary grant in respect of "Transfer to the fund for the development of Civil Aviation" is out of order. 3001-05.

—— raised by Munshi Iswar Saran as to whether an Honourable Member is entitled to use a language which most of the Honourable Members do not understand. 1415.

—— raised by Munshi Iswar Saran as to whether any Member of the Government is entitled to get up and abuse the Indian National Congress on the floor of the House. 1741.

—— raised by Munshi Iswar Saran as to whether in reply to a question it is in order to refer to an answer given in the Council of State, thus depriving the Members of the House of the right of putting supplementary questions. 2634.

—— raised by Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant as to whether notice is required of a motion to refer a Bill to Select Committee when it is to be moved by way of an amendment to the motion for consideration of that Bill. 1109.

—— raised by Sardar Sant Singh as to whether token cuts can be moved on Demands for Supplementary Grants to discuss questions of policy. 2773-74.

—— raised by Sir Muhammad Yakub as to whether it is within the competence of a Government Member to say, in answer to a question, that the expenditure and labour involved in collecting the information is not commensurate with the result to be achieved after the Honourable the President has admitted the question as fit to be answered. 3375.

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—— raised by the Honourable Sir James Grigg as to whether an amendment providing for distribution of the proceeds is within scope when the Bill is merely for extending the period of an Act imposing import duty. 3937.

—— raised by the Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar as to whether questions of policy can be debated on Demands for Supplementary Grants. 2766.

—— raised by the Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar as to whether the discussion of the proposed enactment establishing a Railway Authority in substitution of the present Railway Board is in order or relevant in connection with a motion for reduction of the demand for grant for the Railway Board. 1228-36.

—— raised by the Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar as to whether the discussion of the question of the separation of Burma is relevant to the motion before the House (Motion for Adjournment *re* Financial Adjustment between India and Burma). 2807-08.

—— raised by the Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar as to whether the Honourable Member (Prof. Ranga) is in order in speaking twice on a motion. 2798.

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ROLLING STOCK—
Question *re* amount spent in making new sidings and yards for the army and new — in the shape of aeroplane wagons. 1981-82.

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ROUTINE DIVISION—
Question *re* promotion of a clerk of the — to the Second Division in the Departments of the Government of India. 3400.

ROW, MR. K. SANJIVA—
Demand for Supplementary Grant in respect of Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department (Difference between a Supplementary Grant and an Excess Grant). 2863-66, 2869.
Oath of Office. 1503.
Points of order raised by Mr. S. Satyamurti as to whether :—
(1) the recommendation of the Governor General for the appropriation of any revenue or money for any purpose as provided under section 67A of the Government of India Act is not to be communicated to the Legislative Assembly through the President;
(2) in case of a Supplementary Demand for Grant, the expenditure ought not to be in the financial year in which the grant is asked for;
(3) it is open to the Government to create a new Demand, unless it is in the case of expenditure which cannot rightly be classified under existing demands and moreover as this Demand for Supplementary Grant in respect of "Transfer to the Fund for the Development of Broadcasting" does not contain necessary details, this House cannot be expected to vote block grants; and
(4) the demand in respect of "Transfer to the Fund for the Development of Broadcasting" can be called a Supplementary Demand in view of the fact that Broadcasting is not a new service, not contemplated in the Budget of that year. 3194-96.

ROYAL AIR FORCE—
Question *re*—
Examination for entry into the King's Commissioned Ranks of the Army the — and the Royal Indian Marine. 1968-69.

ROYAL AIR FORCE—*contd.*
Question *re—contd.*
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Vacancies for Indians in the —, Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Military Academy. 1872-73.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE—
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ROYAL COMMISSION ON LABOUR—
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ROYAL INDIAN MARINE—
Question *re*—
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ROYAL INDIAN NAVY—
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RUBBER CONTROL BILL—
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RUBBER RESTRICTION SCHEME—
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RULE(S)—
Question *re*—
Absence of — regulating leave reserve on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway. 690.

RULE(S)—*contd.*
Question *re—contd.*
Application of new leave — to journeymen on State Railways. 1897.
Application of the Provident Fund — in the Government of India Presses. 2651-52.
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Desirability of allowing the staff reappointed after retrenchment to retain the Fundamental Leave —. 1633-34.
Exemption of the employees of the old East Indian Railway Company from the operation of the revised — about quarters and house allowance. 2187-89.
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Leave — for the employees of the Lac Cess Committee. 827-28.
Meaning of the head of the railway as used in Railway — and Regulations. 1894.
Observance of the Geneva Convention — on the Rajputana Malwa Railway. 982-83.
Option given to the staff under the East Indian Railway Company to elect State Railway — for the grant of travelling allowance. 1438.
Option given to the temporary staff of the old Audit and Accounts Offices of remaining under the Leave — laid down in the Fundamental —. 1636-37.
Option to elect new leave — to the staff on the North Western Railway. 2018-19.
Pension — for inferior servants of the Postal Department. 3777.
Revision of the Pension — applicable to inferior servants. 3628-29.
— for dealing with appeals from State Railway subordinate staff against supersession, removal, etc. 3723-25.
— for the recruitment of Inspectors of Post Offices and Railway Mail Service and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices. 3255-59.
— regarding appeals from the subordinate staff on State Railways. 1437-38.

RULE(S)—*concld.*
Question *re—concld.*
— regarding condonation of break in service on State Railways. 2743.
— regarding free quarters or house rent for the East Indian Railway and Old Oudh and Rohilkund Railway employees. 2744-45.
— regulating the training and promotion of railway subordinates. 731-32.
Staff of the East Indian Railway Accounts Department brought under new leave —. 2949-50.
Uniform — for all railways for testing the Transportation staff like that in vogue on the Eastern Bengal Railway. 2445.
Reserve Bank of India (Note Refund) —. 3630-34.
Statement laid on the table *re* certain further amendments in the Ottawa Trade Agreement —. 128-29.

RULER(S)—
Question *re*—
Negotiations with the — of Indian States. 2938-39.
Negotiations with the — of Indian States about the Instrument of Accession. 1257-58.

RULING(S) BY MR. DEPUTY PRESIDENT (MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DUTTA)—
Cut Motion(s)—
The Honourable Member (Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty) is out of order in referring to Madras on a — which relates to the Salt Range in the Punjab. 2066.
Motion(s) for Adjournment—
The Honourable Member (Mr. B. Das) will not be in order in discussing the merits of the question of separation of Burma on the — *re* Financial Adjustments between India and Burma. 2808.
Point(s) of order—
The — raised by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai about the absence of the Honourable the Finance Member during the discussion of the Indian Finance Bill is no point of order. 2585.
There cannot be any discussion on the — which has been decided by the Chair. 2585, 2586.

RULING(S) BY MR. PRESIDENT (THE HONOURABLE SIR ABDUR RAHIM)—*contd.*

Miscellaneous—*contd.*

On a Resolution *re* revision of the taxation policy of the Government of India, the question of assessment of land revenue must be confined to Centrally Administered Areas. 848, 862, 863.

Smoking inside the Chamber is now allowed. 2524.

The use of such language as "It was a great folly committed by this House in rejecting the Trade Agreement" is not in order as it constitutes a reflection upon a Decision of this House. 530.

Motion for adjournment *re*—

As the — *re* arrests in Calcutta of prominent workers connected with the All-India Trade Union Congress wants to raise a question of policy which was laid down sometime ago and as the intention of the Mover is to discuss the policy in pursuance of which these raids have taken place and the particular occurrences which happened during those raids, the Chair holds that on a — the policy which has been pursued for sometime past cannot be discussed, and, therefore, the motion is not in order. 2029.

If the conduct of the Chair is to be debated with reference to any proceedings, then, in that case, the only proper way of doing it is by means of a substantive motion to which, for instance, an amendment can be moved and on which a distinct vote can be taken. As regards a —, no amendment can be moved, and the Chair holds that if an Honourable Member wishes to ask the House to pass a vote of censure on the President because of the way he conducted certain proceedings or, if an Honourable Member wants the House to consider, without implying any censure on the occupant of the Chair, whether the procedure followed by the Chair and the way it conducted the proceedings in that matter was according to the Rules and Standing Orders or was in any way irregular, then the Chair thinks that this can be done either by a motion of no-confidence or some other appropriate procedure, but not by a — of the business of the House. 623.

RULING(S) BY MR. PRESIDENT (THE HONOURABLE SIR ABDUR RAHIM)—*concld.*

Question(s)—

A Member cannot put a — standing in the name of another Member without the latter's authority. 1057.

An Honourable Member cannot discuss a question of interpretation when asking a —. 2933.

It is quite open to Honourable Members to put — as regards the communications that have passed between the Government of India and the Secretary of State, but at the same time, the Chair thinks, the Governor General has authority to disallow any information being given which he considers to be detrimental to public interest, and when Honourable Members, sitting on the Treasury Benches, representing the Government of India, refuse to disclose any communication that has passed, it is to be presumed that they do so on grounds that it will be detrimental to public interest to disclose any such information. 1801.

It is quite within the competence of a Government Member to say, in answer to a question, that the expenditure and labour involved in collecting the information is not commensurate with the result to be achieved even after the question has been admitted by the President; but there may be some obvious cases in which the Chair can interfere and suggest to the Honourable the Government Member to try and answer the question. 3375.

Reference to the published proceedings in the Council of State as containing the answer of Government to a similar — is not improper, but, for the convenience of this House, the Honourable Member who replies to the — should be prepared to read out the answer, if required. 2635, 2639.

When an Honourable Member puts his question, it is included in the list, and it is not the business of the Assembly Department to see that the reply to the — is made ready. 3791.

RUNNING ALLOWANCE—
See "Allowance(s)"

RUNNING ESTABLISHMENT(S)—
Question *re* class of employees termed as train staff or — on Railways. 3377.

RUNNING ROOM(S)—
Question *re* racial discrimination in the use of — on the East Indian Railway. 1086, 3892.

RUNNING SHED(S)—
Question *re* notice of discharge served on Ash-pit cleaners in — of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway. 3510.

RUNNING SHED FOREMEN—
Question *re* treating of Locomotive Assistant — as continuous workers on the East Indian Railway. 2000.

RUNNING STAFF—
Question *re*—
Allowances of the relieving staff and the — on the East Indian Railway. 152.
Allowance of the relieving staff and the — on the North Western Railway. 153.
Hours of employment of the — on State Railways. 1444.
Mileage allowance paid to the — and the ordinary travelling allowance admissible to the other staff on State-managed Railways. 3982.
Non-gazetted staff on State Railways termed as —. 1444-45.
Non-treatment of the Travelling Ticket Examiners as belonging to the —. 2160-61.
Removal of Travelling Ticket Collectors from the category of train (traffic) or — on certain railways. 3982.
See also under "Staff".

RUNNING TIME—
Question *re* definitions of "—" and "Night" in a Railway Mail Service Section. 2657-58.

RUPAR—
Question *re* opening of the Railway Line between Duraha and — Nalagarh. 451-52.

RURAL AREA(S)—
Demand for Supplementary Grant in respect of "Transfer to the Fund for the Economic Development and Improvement of —". 3231-38
Question *re*—
Provision of medical aid in the —. 2852.
Report of Major-General Sir John Megaw on conditions of health of — in India. 2833.
Scheme for the economic development and improvement of — in the Bombay Presidency. 3270-71.

RURAL INDEBTEDNESS—
See "Indebtedness".

RURAL RECONSTRUCTION—
Question *re* central agency to co-ordinate the —— Activities. 1058.

RUTLAM—
Question *re* grant of an allowance to Ticket Collectors acting as Guards in the — district. 3509.

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SADAR BAZAR—
Question *re*—
Amount given to the — Municipal Committee from the Cash Balance in the Cantonment Fund, Ambala. 758-59.
Government land transferred to the — Municipal Committee, Ambala. 758.
Separation of the —, Ambala, from the Cantonment area. 752.

SAFETY MATCH BOX(ES)—
See "Match Box(es)".

SAHARANPUR—
Question *re* contract for the supply of coolies on stations between — and Moghulsarai. 326.

SAHEBGUNGE—
Question *re* passes for inferior staff at Madhupur and — Stations on the East Indian Railway. 2745-46.

SAKSENA, MR. MOHAN LAL—
Demand for supplementary grant in respect of—
Scheme for the improvement of agricultural marketing in India. 2982-86.
Transfer to the fund for the development of Broadcasting. 3198-3205, 3206-09.
Indian Criminal Law Amendment (Repeal) Bill—
Motion to consider. 3097-3102.
Motion for adjournment *re* confidential Circular issued by the Home Department of the Government of India on the decisions of the Bombay Congress. 71.
Motion *re* report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Indian Constitutional Reform. 457, 470.
Motion to reduce Demand for "Home Department" *re* repressive policy. 1948.
Oath of Office. 4.

RULING(S), BY MR. PRESIDENT (THE HONOURABLE SIR ABDUR RAHIM)—

Amendment(s)—

— increasing the rate of duty are out of order. 3932.

An — amending a section of the original Act is out of order when the Amending Bill does not purport to touch that section. 3949.

An — must be within the scope of the Bill. 3756.

An — providing for distribution of proceeds is within scope though the Bill is merely for extending the period of an Act imposing import duty. 3937.

An — which has the effect of restoring a duty which has ceased to exist requires sanction of the Governor General. 3745.

The Chair is not bound by the order in which — are given notice of. 568.

Bill(s)—

If one recommended amendment is negatived by the House but other recommended amendments carried as also the motion that the Bill be passed, the Bill would not be a Bill in the form recommended. 3836.

Notice is required of a motion to refer a — to Select Committee when it is to be moved by way of an amendment to the motion for consideration of that —. 1109.

One clause alone, apart from a whole —, cannot be referred to a Select Committee; but after the whole — has come back from the Select Committee, a single clause may be re-committed. 3424.

Sanction of the Governor General is necessary if the proposed taxation in a — is to be extended to another year. 3744.

Business of the House—

Government have got the right and power to make any modification in the —— even after the same has already been announced to the House. 2762.

Cut Motions—

It is extremely desirable that the Government should have sufficient notice, according to the Standing Order, of the — that are to be moved by different Parties during the discussion of the General Budget. 1909, 1910.

RULING(S), BY MR. PRESIDENT (THE HONOURABLE SIR ABDUR RAHIM)—*contd.*

Cut Motions—*contd.*

When one specific grievance is mooted by the Mover of a —, it would be convenient to the House if that specific motion is dealt with under that head; but this does not mean that the Chair rules out any other grievance being discussed. 2039.

Demand(s) for Grant(s)—Motions for Reduction—Railway Budget—

Discussion of any proposed legislation regarding the Railway Authority would not be in order on this motion, but it may be possible for any Honourable Member to make a passing reference to any amending legislation as a motive for refusing the grant. 1235-36.

Demand(s) for Supplementary Grant(s)—

As a certain amount is proposed to be transferred from the revenues to form a fund for the purpose of meeting the expenditure for the development of Broadcasting in the future, the Chair, having regard to the established practice, cannot hold that the transfer sought to be proposed for which the sanction of the House is asked is illegal. 3198.

As the amount asked for in the — in respect of "Aden" is not in connection with the separation of Aden from India, but in connection with things as they stand at present, the discussion of the policy of separation is not in order. 3243.

As the — in respect of "Transfer to the Fund for the Development of Broadcasting" is for the transfer of a fund to a suspense account from the revenue, the Chair is not prepared to hold that a — like that does not come within the purview of the Rules. 3198.

Development of Broadcasting is a new service in the sense that there is a fresh programme which was not contemplated in the original demand. 3198.

On a motion for —, there cannot be any general discussion of grievances. 3239.

Questions of policy cannot be debated on —. 2766.

RULING(S), BY MR. PRESIDENT (THE HONOURABLE SIR ABDUR RAHIM)—*contd.*

Demand(s) for Supplementary Grant(s) —*contd.*

The Chair does not find anything in the law or Rules or Standing Orders saying that a recommendation of the Governor General for a certain appropriation of revenues must be made to the Assembly through the Chair, and the Chair is informed that the recommendation has already been received by the Finance Department. That, in the Chair's opinion, sufficiently complies with the requirements of the Rules and Standing Orders. 3197.

The question, whether the — in respect of "Transfer to the fund for the development of Civil Aviation" is for a new service, not being free from doubt, the demand is not out of order. (The ruling not to be taken as a precedent). 3005.

Token cut motions raising questions of policy are out of order. 2982.

Token cuts cannot be moved on — to discuss questions of policy. 2774.

Token cuts on — are out of order. 2978-79.

Where an expenditure is actually incurred in excess of the estimate, it is not really a question of procedure which only the Chair can regulate. It is for the House and for the Government to see that proper estimates are made and that excess expenditure on any large scale is not to be incurred. 2777.

Indian Finance Bill—

Amendments with regard to the surcharge are out of order as being outside the scope of the Bill. 3415.

Joint Parliamentary Committee on Indian Constitutional Reform, Report of the—

The Chair does not think, having regard to the nature of the motion as well as of the so-called amendments that have been disenssed and voted upon, that there is really any serious difficulty in the way of the decisions of the House on the motion and the amendments being properly carried out. The Chair thinks that it would be in accordance with the desire of the House as expressed in its votes that the decisions should remain on record as given and should be communicated to His Majesty's Government. The Chair, therefore, rules that, in the peculiar circumstances of the case, it is not necessary to put any further question to the House. 579.

RULING(S), BY MR. PRESIDENT (THE HONOURABLE SIR ABDUR RAHIM)—*contd.*

Joint Parliamentary Committee on Indian Constitutional Reform, Report of the—*contd.*

Miscellaneous—

A Member cannot argue by way of interruption. 862.

All sorts of insinuation and sarcasm are prohibited. 2755.

An Honourable Member cannot use such language, as "Monkey House", regarding this House. 2220.

An Honourable Member is not in order in alluding to any particular individual by name and accusing him of corruption. 1739.

As regards any particular communication between the Government of India or the Political Department and the States, if the Department says that the communication is of such a nature that they cannot, in public interest, disclose it, the Chair must accept that position. 2427.

"Devilish Government" is an unparliamentary expression. 787.

Honourable Members are not in order in discussing questions relating to the Indian Princes. 1828.

Honourable Members cannot discuss any particular incident in detail if there is nobody to answer the Honourable Members. 2577.

Honourable Members cannot discuss the ruling of the Chair. 1242, 2586.

Honourable Members should refrain from making running comments on a speech. 1329.

Honourable Members, while speaking, should not carry on a conversation amongst themselves. 2572, 2578.

If an Honourable Member wants to make a personal explanation, he ought to rise and make it. 1466.

If strong language has been used on one side, it is for the other side to consider whether equally strong language should be used by the other side or not. 1741.

It is for the Honourable Member speaking on behalf of the Government to say whether a certain matter is in the public interest or not. 1169-70.

No conversation across the floor of the House is allowed. 1394.

No Honourable Member is allowed to read newspapers inside the Chamber. 2379.

SAKSENA, MR. MOHAN LAL—*contd.*
Question *re*—
Action proposed to be taken on the resolutions and motions passed by the Legislative Assembly. 1625.
Action proposed to be taken on certain resolutions and motions passed by the Legislative Assembly. 3187.
Amalgamation of the Lucknow Division with the Allahabad Division of the East Indian Railway. 3629.
Annual yield from sale of postcards. 1179-80.
Anti-Indian Legislation in Zanzibar. 581.
Certain particulars in connection with State Prisoners at present confined in India. 3677-79.
Concession to Zamindars and tenants to remit land revenue and rent to the Government officials by money order. 3681.
Degradation of persons who fail to pass the Refresher Course of the Chandausi and Asansol Railway Schools. 1084.
Demotion of certain drivers on the East Indian Railway. 1085-86.
Draft instruments of instructions to the Governor General and the Governors. 2171.
Economies effected during the last three years. 2643.
Extra income from the enhanced postage rates on book packets. 582.
Facilities for Members of the Legislative Assembly who go to the Andamans to study the conditions there. 3030.
Feasibility of extending the benefit of Postal Insurance to factory workers and company railway employees. 3681-82.
Fixation of a minimum limit for pensions of Government servants. 3629.
Formation of constituencies for election to the Provincial Legislatures under the new Reforms. 1087-88.
Forthcoming Constitution Act. 1087.
Gold exported from India. 581, 582.
Gold exported from India to England. 3029.
Government employees insurred in Postal Insurance. 3681.
Government's attitude towards the Village Industries Association founded by Mahatma Gandhi. 732-35.

SAKSENA, MR. MOHAN LAL—*contd.*
Question *re—contd.*
Immediate supply of information to their relatives *re* accidents suffered by railway servants. 1083-84.
Interviews by their relatives with prisoners confined in the Andamans. 3030.
Laying of printed copies of answers of questions on the table of the Legislative Assembly. 1625-26.
Methods of recording votes during the Legislative Assembly and Council elections. 1626.
Non-removal of ban from the All-India Hindustani Seva Dal and its branches and the Prem Maha Vidyalay, Brindaban. 842.
Organisations and institutions declared unlawful under the Ordinances and other Acts. 838-42.
Percentage of expenditure incurred in maintaining the Postal Insurance. 3681.
Persons detained without trial. 455-57.
Property and cash money taken possession of by Government under the various Ordinance and Ordinance Acts during the civil disobedience movement. 3679-81.
Public debts of India. 1624.
Racial discrimination in the supply of uniforms and occupation of quarters, etc., in the Moradabad Division, East Indian Railway. 1086.
Racial discrimination in the use of running rooms on the East Indian Railway. 1086, 3892.
Railway concessions for military traffic. 3028-29.
Reduction in the duty hours of persons working in the Transhipment Yard, Moradabad. 1084-85.
Release of prisoners in honour of the King's Silver Jubilee Celebrations. 3029-30.
Retrenchment recommended by the Retrenchment Committee for the Army Department. 3029.
Revision of the Pension Rules applicable to inferior servants. 3628.
Stamp required to be affixed on applications for licence of firearms. 3629.

SAKSENA, MR. MOHAN LAL—*contd.*
Question (Supplementary) *re*—
Advertisements sent to Newspapers and Periodicals with regard to the Railways, Posts and other Public Utility services. 3479, 3480, 3481.
Advertisements to popularise overseas telephone service, trunk telephone service in India and local telephone services. 3484.
Candidates set up against Congress candidates during the last Assembly election. 3150, 3151.
Certain appointments in the Kabul Legation Office and Waziristan Residency Office. 3621.
Hardships to young men convicted of revolutionary offences after their release in Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara. 925.
Hindustani Seva Dal. 3975.
Magazines supplied to State Prisoners. 1963.
Monopoly of Anglo-Indians in the appointment of Registrar, Punjab States Agency Office. 3622.
Non-withdrawal of ban on certain Congress and allied associations. 1979.
Problem of unemployment amongst the *Bhadraloke* classes. 2842, 2843.
Provision of medical aid in the rural areas. 2852.
Public servants receiving salaries from Government. 1003.
Refusal by the Italian Government to give permission to an Indian Insurance Company to do business in Italy. 3777.
Selection of candidates for admission to the Indian Audit and Accounts Service Examination. 923.
Shower baths in the quarters of the Members of the Legislative Assembly. 3791.
Soldiers requisitioned for the suppression of terrorist movement in Bengal. 748.
Supply of books to State Prisoners in provinces outside Bengal. 742.
Tariff Board Report on the glass industry. 997.
Unemployment problem in India. 2848-49.
Resolution *re*—
Draft convention of the International Labour Conference concerning unemployment insurance and other forms of relief. 1127-32.

SAKSENA, MR. MOHAN LAL—*contd.*
Resolution *re—contd.*
Removal of ban on the Khudai Khidmatgars Organisation in the North-West Frontier Province. 388, 398, 399.
Revision of the taxation policy. 876.

SALARY(IES)—
Question *re*—
Cut in the — and allowances of the Staff at Kamaran Quarantine Station. 702-03.
Exemption from cut in — of subordinates suffered from earthquake in Bihar and Orissa. 3438.
Increments made to the — and allowances of British and Indian soldiers and officers of the Army. 3499.
Public servants receiving — from Government. 1001-03.
— and allowances, etc., of Indian and British soldiers in India. 992-94.
— of the Branch Postmasters. 2731-32.
Withdraal of five (per cent. cut in the — of Government servants. 622-24.

SALE(S)—
Question *re*—
Licence for country wine retail — and whole— / bottling in the Punjab and Delhi. 105.
Manufacture of salt for home consumption and local — in the Madras Presidency. 1173-76.
Procceeds from — of Nazul lands and rents in Delhi. 682.
—, leases, etc., of lands in the Sukkur Barrage Area. 448-49. 452-53.

SALOON(S)—
Question *re* relations and friends of railway officers entitled to the free use of officers' carriages (Railway —). 3684-85.

SALT—
Demand for Grant. 2064, 2249.
Demand for Supplementary Grant. 2794.
Motion to reduce Demand for "—" *re* damage done to the poor zamindars of the khusab and Pind Dadan Khan tahsils in the District of Shahpur and Jhelum in the Punjab on account of the — Range and Khewra — Mines. 2064-75

SALT—*contd.*
Question *re*—
Amount allotted to Burma out of the additional import duty on —. 1194-95.
Applications from peasants in the Nellore District for the restoration of the right for free manufacture of —. 3614.
Correspondence between Sir George Schuster and Mr. Gandhi relating to the — concession. 1628.
Manufacture of — for home consumption and local sale in the Madras Presidency. 1173-76.
Proposal to increase the duty on foreign —. 2756.
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Stoppage of free manufacture of — in the Kakatpur Area of the Puri District. 3976-77.
Uniform distribution of — all over India. 1893.
Withdrawal of concession enabling the villagers and Rayalaseema to manufacture —. 1427-29.

SALT ADDITIONAL IMPORT DUTY (EXTENDING) BILL—
See "Bill(s)".

SALT CONCESSION(S)—
See "Concession(s)".

SALT INDUSTRY—
See "Industry(ies)".

SALT MANUFACTURE(S)—
Question *re* representation by the Burma — of Ahmerst District to His Excellency the Viceroy. 1195.

SALT MINE(S)—
See "Mine(s)".

SALUR—
Question *re* proposal to construct a railway line from Drug, Bengal Nagpur Railway, to Bastar and —. 2009.

SAMASTIPUR—
Question *re*—
Inconvenience caused to traffic on the — station, Bengal and North Western Railway. 916.
Provision of a train in the afternoon for — to Darbhanga on the Bengal and North Western Railway. 984-85.

SAMPLE PACKET(S)—
Reduction of the Postage rates on Book, Pattern and — (Discussed under the Indian Finance Bill). 3556-63.

SANT SINGH, SARDAR—
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Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill—(Amendment of section 205)—
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Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill—(Amendment of section 406)—
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Demand for supplementary grant in respect of "Transfer to the fund for the development of Civil Aviation". 3009-12, 3013, 3014.
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General discussion of the General Budget, 1698, 1703, 1712.
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SANT SINGH, SARDAR—*contd.*
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"Army Department" *re* Indianisation and over-expenditure. 2211, 2212, 2222, 2230.
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"Salt" *re* damage done to the poor zamindars of the Khusab and Pind Dadan Khan tahsils in the district of Shahpur and Jhelum in the Punjab on account of the Salt Range and Khewra Salt Mines. 2070-71.
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Question *re*—
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Appointment of an Indian in the Cypher Bureau of the Foreign and Political Department. 355-56.
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(3) it is open to the Government to create a new Demand, unless it is in the case of expenditure which cannot be rightly classified under existing demands and moreover as this Demand for Supplementary Grant in respect of "Transfer to the Fund for the Development of Broadcasting" does not contain necessary details this House cannot be expected to vote block grants; and
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