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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 23rd February, 1936.

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

MEMBERS SWORN.

Mr. Gurnath Venkatesh Bewoor, C.I.E., I.C.S., M.L.A., (Government of India; Nominated Official);

Mr. Arthur Sheldon Hands, C.I.E., I.C.S., M.L.A., (Government of India; Nominated Official); and

Mr. Kodikal Sanjiva Row, C.I.E., M.L.A., (Government of India; Nominated Official).

THE BUDGET FOR 1936-37.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member) : Sir, a year ago, I commented on the complicated character of a financial review which had of necessity to cover three years instead of the normal two. I still find this difference from English practice slightly confusing and I must, therefore, apologise in advance in case it should be found that my statement today is lacking in perspicuity.

I am afraid too that the statement may prove to be dull and this I suppose is inevitable, seeing that a budget speech must proceed on a set plan. But if you find it dull, please remember that I shall find it much more so, if for no other reason than that it is so much more familiar to me than to you.

FINANCIAL YEAR 1934-35

2. Let me first examine the final accounts for 1934-35.

Last year I anticipated that they would disclose a surplus of Rs. 3,27 lakhs. The actual figure has proved to be Rs. 4,95 lakhs. The excess of Rs. 1,68 lakhs over the revised forecast is due in the main to an increase of Rs. 1,50 lakhs under Customs and Excise. For the rest there are excesses of Rs. 30 lakhs on Income Tax, Rs. 24 lakhs on Posts and Telegraphs, and Rs. 19 lakhs on Currency and Mint but these are partially counterbalanced by a short fall of Rs. 55 lakhs on Salt.

The decrease in Salt is due to a postponement of clearances at the end of 1934-35; the increases under the other heads I have mentioned all point to one cause, viz., that the recovery in India's economic position had set in more strongly than could have been foreseen a year ago. Under the Customs and Excise head there were increases both on imported and on indigenous kerosene, improvements in the yield of the export duties on jute and rice, an improved yield from matches, and unusually high seasonal importations of cotton fabrics, raw cotton and machinery. None of these could have been foreseen when the Budget statement was made; indeed in the case of jute the early months of

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1934-35 had shewn a decline and naturally a pronounced reversal of this tendency in the last three months of that year was an agreeable surprise. Similarly telephone receipts manifested a definite spurt in the last quarter of the year, as also did the profits from small coinage owing to the increasing demand for this means of payment—a sure sign of increasing prosperity.

In short, in my inexperience I attached rather too much importance to the Cassandra-like prophecies of those who were concerned for one reason or other to proclaim that India was being ruined by its attachment to the British Empire and its adherence to sterling, and too little to the assurances of those who told me that India had a marvellous power of recuperation from economic troubles. However, I would very much rather err on the side of caution than in the other direction and I do not feel called upon to be unduly penitent, though naturally I shall try to avoid repeating the miscalculation.

The House will remember that last year it was decided to devote the then surplus of Rs. 3.27 lakhs to various non-recurring objects including a crore for constituting a Fund for the Economic Development and Improvement of Rural Areas. After these allocations had been made, there remained a free surplus which was estimated at Rs. 13 lakhs. Later in the Session the Assembly agreed to transfer the whole of the unallocated surplus to the Rural Development Fund, and now that this surplus has turned out to be much bigger than was expected, the result is that the transfers to the Fund amount not to Rs. 1.13 but to Rs. 2.81 lakhs. It will be remembered from the paper which I circulated on the 6th of September last that out of this fund we allocated Rs. 15 lakhs for the improvement of the Co-operative Movement and Rs. 92½ lakhs for grants to the various Provinces on schemes approved by the Government of India. There thus remains in the fund a balance of Rs. 1.73½ lakhs. In order to present my actual proposals as one co-ordinated whole I will leave this balance and come back to its disposal when I have set out more fully the financial situation and prospects as they now appear to me.

FINANCIAL YEAR 1935-36.

3. The revised forecast for the current year also indicates a considerable improvement over our estimates of a year ago and we now anticipate a surplus of Rs. 2.42 lakhs instead of Rs. 6 lakhs. This surplus is produced by an improvement of Rs. 3.53 lakhs in revenue offset by a deterioration of Rs. 1.17 lakhs in expenditure.

The actual figures are as follows :

	(Rs. lakhs.)	
	Budget 1935-36.	Revised 1935-36.
Revenue	82.99	86.52
Expenditure	82.93	84.10
Surplus	6	2.42

These are of course net and they exclude Railways altogether. Full details will be found in the Financial Secretary's memorandum which will be among the papers available when I have finished my speech, but clearly you will expect from me some explanation of such wide variations.

Revenue.

4. To take Revenue first. Of the excess of Rs. 3.53 lakhs the import duty on sugar is responsible for Rs. 1.85 lakhs and all the other heads of revenue account for Rs. 1.68 lakhs. What this means in effect is that the general under-estimate of 1934-35 was carried forward into 1935-36 and that in addition the tapering off of the sugar revenue has been somewhat delayed.

Apart from sugar, we hope to have an excess of Rs. 40 lakhs in Income Tax clearly due to the improvement in trade being greater than we expected, and in Customs, etc., we anticipate almost precisely the same kind of excesses as were shewn by the final results of 1934-35 over the revised forecast. Raw cotton, machinery, petrol, the export duty on jute and the excises on sugar and matches are all heading for surpluses. Textile fabrics as a whole do not disclose much variation but there are large differences in detail. For example, cotton fabrics of British manufacture are Rs. 80 lakhs below the estimate, but this is more than counterbalanced by an increase of Rs. 90 lakhs in cotton fabrics of other than British manufacture.

5. *Sugar.*—Sugar I must deal with in more detail for here we expect an excess of Rs. 1.85 lakhs on the Customs side or a gross figure of Rs. 3.60 lakhs which is not very materially below the figure of last year. I know that I was told a year ago that my figures here were too low and that the bad sugarcane crop combined with the inadequate protection would falsify my predictions. Well, my predictions look like being falsified but the reasons which were then advanced do not fit the facts. Here are the facts. In spite of the partial failure of the cane crop the yield of the excise duty appears likely to be some Rs. 21 lakhs above our expectations. The estimate which was itself 50 per cent higher than the actuals for the previous year was based on a factory outturn, excluding Khandsari production, of 510,000 tons, whereas the progress of collections points to a probable outturn of over 600,000 tons from factories alone. At the same time the volume of imports is being maintained at a figure only slightly below that of the previous year. It is a reasonable inference from these facts that there was a jump in domestic consumption combined with a decline in non-exciseable forms of indigenous production but our statistics do not enable us to say how much weight to attach to these two opposing factors.

Altogether the anticipated excess on Customs, etc., is Rs. 2.87 lakhs making with the Rs. 40 lakhs expected on Income Tax, Rs. 3.27 lakhs. The remaining Rs. 26 lakhs which go to complete the Revenue excess of Rs. 3.53 lakhs represents a balance of innumerable excesses and deficiencies under other heads, but I have only time to mention a few of these.

6. *Interest.*—The revised estimates for Interest receipts have been reduced by Rs. 13 lakhs because the return anticipated on the investments constituting the Silver Redemption Reserve has been almost completely offset by a depreciation in their market value.

7. *Currency.*—This shews no serious change but the revised estimate conceals an increase on account of unclaimed currency notes combined with a short-fall owing to the fact that our share of the Reserve Bank profits was Rs. 7 lakhs less than had been anticipated.

8. *Mint.*—Here we hope for a surplus of Rs. 16 lakhs due to the greater absorption of small coin.

9. *Posts and Telegraphs.*—As will be seen from the figures I give later, we now expect the position to be Rs. 19 lakhs better than the original estimate.

[Sir James Grigg.]

Expenditure.

10. I now turn to expenditure. The main increases in the revised over the original budget estimates fall under the following headings :

(i) *Extraordinary Payments*.—Here the increase is Rs. 41½ lakhs and this represents the expenditure which we expect to incur from Civil Funds during the current year in connection with the Quetta earthquake. This includes the Government of India's contribution of Rs. 10 lakhs to H. F. the Viceroy's Quetta Earthquake Relief Fund, the provision of the extra police, public health and administrative and clerical establishments rendered necessary by the disaster and the cost of temporary hutting and lighting arrangements, of special measures for the protection of property in the ruined city and of the labour and plant required for salvage and site clearance operations. It also provides for assistance to the rural population in repairing their irrigation channels. I shall, of course, have a good deal more to say about Quetta later on.

(ii) *Interest*.—The House is aware of course that there are two interest heads. "Interest on Ordinary Debt" consists of what we have to pay on our market obligations less what we get back in respect of our outstanding loans to Provinces and the commercial Departments. "Interest on Other Obligations" consists of the amounts paid in respect of Provident and other Service Funds, Savings Bank Deposits and Cash Certificates. I am bound to confess that I cannot see any satisfactory reason for this division into two heads, for they are essentially one. Taking them together, they show a revised figure of Rs. 10,63 lakhs instead of Rs. 10,39 previously estimated. It is impossible to give any simple explanation of the increase for it is the result of the combined operation of a large number of forces pulling in different directions.

(iii) *Currency and Mint*.—The increase of Rs. 10 lakhs is entirely due to a larger demand for currency notes and small coin. It is of course more than made up by an increase on the Revenue side.

(iv) *Miscellaneous Adjustments*.—Here too the excess is more apparent than real for we have an increase of Rs. 15 lakhs in the payments to the Jute growing provinces, owing to an improvement of Rs. 30 lakhs in the yield of the export duty, combined with a decrease of Rs. 6 lakhs due to a transfer of a certain item to the head "Civil Administration".

The remainder of this increase of Rs. 1,17 lakhs is made up by a number of items which fall mainly under Civil Administration and under this head the principal excess is under Frontier Watch and Ward.

11. *Defence*.—The Budget figure was, as the House will remember, Rs. 44,98 lakhs and under the normal procedure any saving on this figure lapses to the Defence Reserve Fund. The principal variations within the total figure of Rs. 44,98 lakhs are as follows :

Receipts show increases on various items totalling about Rs. 9½ lakhs. On the expenditure side substantial savings have accrued from entirely unforeseen causes. The despatch of troops outside India in connection with the international situation is expected to result in a saving of over Rs. 10 lakhs. In order to provide funds for emergency expenditure at Quetta, the Military Engineering Services postponed about Rs. 9½ lakhs of their new works programme, and in consequence of the earthquake the bulk, viz., Rs. 2½ lakhs, of their ordinary maintenance grant for Quetta lapsed. There has been

a gain on Exchange amounting to Rs. 4½ lakhs. A further under-spending of Rs. 14 lakhs represents merely the carry forward of liabilities in respect of which the administrative authorities have been unable for various reasons to spend the allotments made in the current year.

These improvements account for about Rs. 50 lakhs but against them we have to set substantial expenditures not contemplated at the time of the budget. The most important of these are about Rs. 36 lakhs arising from the earthquake in Baluchistan mainly on account of temporary housing (including tentage), transportation and stores and Rs. 12 lakhs representing that part of the cost of the Mohmand operations which is expected to be brought to final account this year.

The result of all these variations is an under-spending of Rs. 4 lakhs which will accrue to the Defence Reserve Fund.

During the course of the year, certain withdrawals from the Fund have been made to finance the re-equipment programme and other measures. At the end of the year, in addition to the Rs. 4 lakhs above mentioned, we shall deposit in the Fund from the 1935-36 budget the Rs. 14 lakhs which I have referred to as representing postponed but inescapable liabilities and Rs. 22 lakhs representing the annual contributions towards the various military equalisation funds. The estimated result of all these transactions is to effect a reduction of about Rs. 25 lakhs in the balance of the Fund as it stood on the 31st March, 1935.

12. *Posts and Telegraphs*.—All that remains in order to dispose for the time being of the year 1935-36 is to give a revised forecast of the results of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. For this Department we show on the Revenue side of the general budget the excess of Gross Receipts over Working Expenses while on the Expenditure side we show the Interest on the capital at charge of the Department. Here are the figures :

		(Rs. lakhs).	
		Budget 1935-36.	Revised 1935-36.
Gross receipts		11,33	11,50
Working Expenses		10,62	10,64
Net receipts		71	86
Interest charges		84	80
Balance		—13	+6

Thus, we now expect, instead of an appreciable loss, a small profit. Lower interest rates are responsible for some of the improvement but in the main it is due to increased sales of stamps and a rise in receipts from trunk telephone calls.

Position as on 31st March, 1936.

13. To recapitulate we now expect that the current year will close with a surplus of Rs. 2,42 lakhs. This too I leave over for later examination and meanwhile I place before the Assembly the estimates for the coming year.

[Sir James Grigg.]

FINANCIAL YEAR 1936-37.

Revenue.

14. The total figures for revenue, excluding Railways, are Rs. 87,35 lakhs, an improvement of Rs. 83 lakhs over our revised estimate for the current year.

15. *Customs, etc.*—Here the receipts are estimated at Rs. 54,82 lakhs. This figure presumes a deterioration of Rs. 1,60 lakhs under the import duty on sugar and an all round improvement of Rs. 1,71 lakhs under other heads. Full details of the changes will be found in the Financial Secretary's memorandum, but I must again say a word regarding the yield of the import duty on sugar.

There are three elements in the calculation of the margin available for imports of sugar. First, the growth of domestic factory production, secondly, the extent to which this displaces other forms of indigenous production, and thirdly, the growth of consumption. In the end, we can confidently predict that the outcome of the operation of all the factors will be the reduction of sugar imports to very small dimensions. But the speed at which this result will be attained is quite uncertain. Last year, the process was delayed by a partial failure of the cane crop and by a combination of the second and third of the above factors, but even so it is clear that the running down process will be somewhat slower than we thought when framing the original estimates for last year. In these circumstances, it is extremely difficult to do more than make an enlightened guess and, on the whole, the best we can do is to assume a figure of Rs. 2 crores for next year's yield of the import duty which is higher than last year's original estimate but considerably lower than this year's results are likely to be. I do not make this prophecy with any over-weening confidence but let me point out to the Assembly that for many years the original estimate of sugar revenue has been wildly inaccurate and, unfortunately, not always in the same direction. The yield of the excise has been estimated at Rs. 1,96 lakhs allowing for an increase of roughly 15 per cent. over the revised estimate of the current year's outturn.

The other items call for no particular comment except that we provide for some recovery from the very striking fall in the imports of British cotton fabrics which I mentioned a few minutes ago and for a continued expansion of the yield of the match excise and the petrol duties.

16. *Taxes on Income.*—Here we are counting on the undoubted and we hope continuing improvement in economic conditions and we anticipate a receipt of Rs. 17,60 lakhs for next year or an increase of Rs. 80 lakhs even over the revised estimate for the current year, or Rs. 1,20 lakhs over the current year's original estimate after allowing for the reduction in the surcharges. This is obviously a very optimistic estimate and the fact that I put it forward should acquit me of any charge of being too conservative under this head at any rate.

While on this subject, I might say a word on the visit of the two income-tax experts who arrived from England last October. They are at present touring India under the guidance of one of our senior Income-tax Commissioners. As I have repeatedly said, the real purpose of their enquiry is a thorough administrative overhaul but, at the same time, they are not ignoring altogether the question of revising the law and arrangements have accordingly

been made for the Committee to receive representations from responsible commercial bodies at the various centres it visits. Their task is a big one and they have a great deal of ground to cover so that I do not expect to receive their report before October next. This means that any changes that may be found necessary or desirable as a result of their recommendations cannot come into force before 1937-38 and, therefore, will have no effect on the estimates for the budget year 1936-37.

17. *Currency receipts.*—The only other revenue item that calls for specific mention is Currency receipts. The estimate of Rs. 81 lakhs under this head assumes Rs. 65 lakhs as our share of the profits from the Reserve Bank on a full year's working.

Expenditure.

18. The total figure for expenditure, exclusive of Railways, is Rs. 85,30 lakhs showing an increase of Rs. 1,20 lakhs over the current year's revised estimate. There is an increase under Civil Works a considerable part of which is due to larger payments to the Road Development Fund—an automatic result of the expanding yield of the duty on motor spirit. But there are more important changes to which I wish to draw your attention, *viz.*, a decrease under Interest and increases under Miscellaneous Adjustments, Civil Administration and Defence. In addition I shall have to mention Extraordinary Expenditure though it does not shew a very large variation from the revised figure of 1935-36.

19. *Interest.*—Again, taking the two heads of Ordinary Debt and Other Obligations together, we get a figure of Rs. 9,20 lakhs as against Rs. 10,63 lakhs in the revised estimate for 1935-36, or a reduction of nearly Rs. 1½ crores. But the position is really better than this, for under "Interest on Other Obligations" there is an increase of Rs. 62 lakhs due mainly to an alteration in the arrangements in respect of the Indian Military Service and the Indian Civil Service Family Pension Funds. At present the subscriptions collected on account of these funds are credited to general revenues and the pensions are paid from the same source. The interest on the balances in the funds does not enter the Government accounts. A *pro forma* account is, however, maintained, showing the balances in the funds, the interest accrued, the subscriptions received and the pensions paid. As the present accounting arrangements are admittedly erroneous, it has been proposed that in future the balances to the credit of the funds should be shown as regular unfunded debt. The subscriptions received and the interest on the balances will be credited to the funds and the pensions will be paid direct from the funds. The Rs. 62 lakhs increase under Interest is offset by reductions of Rs. 34 lakhs under Military Pensions and Rs. 20 lakhs under Civil Pensions. Comparing like with like, the improvement under the Interest heads is over Rs. 2 crores. The reasons for this improvement are, firstly, that we shall get the full benefit of the conversion operations of the current year, and secondly, that we hope to repay the £16·8 millions of 5½ per cent Sterling Stock maturing next year without floating a fresh loan.

20. *Subventions to Sind and Orissa, 1936-37.*—The increase under Miscellaneous Adjustments is due to the provision of Rs. 1,58 lakhs for subventions to Sind and Orissa—Rs. 1,08 lakhs for the former and Rs. 50 lakhs for the latter. It has been decided that these two new provinces shall begin their careers on April 1st, 1936, in advance of the full institution of Provincial Autonomy. It has all along been recognised that they would require subventions, at any rate for some years, after they began their separate existence. The definitive subventions fall to be determined by His Majesty in Council

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after considering the recommendations of Sir Otto Niemeyer's enquiry, but in the meantime the two Provinces must be put into a position to carry on under the provisional regime, and the present subventions are intended for this purpose. The amounts provided are larger than was at one time anticipated but I do not think that they are framed on an over-lavish basis. They do not purport to provide any substantial margin for new schemes of expenditure and apart from furnishing small opening balances they are intended to do very little more than enable the provinces to balance their budgets during their first year's working. Let me repeat that these subventions are entirely provisional. They are not intended to prejudge the claims of these two provinces at the enquiry which Sir Otto Niemeyer is now holding, when their future subventions will fall to be considered in conjunction with the claims of other provinces.

21. *Civil Administration.*—The increase amounts to Rs. 64 lakhs and I now proceed to describe some of the more important items which go to make up this total. First there are Rs. 18 lakhs for two public health schemes in Delhi. The present methods of dealing with the refuse of Delhi have evoked general comment and have been a menace to public health for a considerable time and a new scheme has now been sanctioned for which a provision of Rs. 13 lakhs is made. The system of dealing with Delhi sewage has also been examined and has been found to be inadequate and defective: a final decision has not yet been reached on this, for it has so far been found impossible to frame a scheme the cost of which is not prohibitive. However, the effort to formulate a scheme at a reasonable cost is being continued and, in the meantime, a provision of Rs. 5 lakhs is made to permit of a start being made in 1936-37 if such a scheme turns out to be possible. The opening of the Delhi Broadcasting Station, together with some necessary improvements in programmes generally, will require a further Rs. 4 lakhs in the coming year and there is an extra Rs. 5 lakhs for Civil Aviation where the Capital programme inevitably involves an increase in maintenance charges. Finally, provision is made for the restoration of the cut in pay for the full twelve months of the year instead of eleven as in the current year's figures. This means an extra 11 lakhs.

22. *Defence.*—The Defence Budget stands at the figure of Rs. 45.45 lakhs. Of this, however, Rs. 60 lakhs is a special provision for the reconstruction of Quetta and the replacement of military stores consumed in connection with the earthquake. The ordinary Budget is, therefore, Rs. 44.85 lakhs of which Rs. 18 lakhs is for new measures. The total figure for the present year is Rs. 44.98 lakhs but this includes Rs. 34 lakhs for Indian Military Service Family Pensions which, as I explained in dealing with the Interest heads, is omitted from the Defence budget of next year. The comparable figures for the two years are, therefore, Rs. 44.64 lakhs and Rs. 44.85 lakhs. The real increase is thus Rs. 21 lakhs and this is more than accounted for by two items. Rs. 5 lakhs represents the restoration of the remaining half of the cut in pay of British soldiers which was not budgeted for in 1935-36 and Rs. 20 lakhs an increased provision for ordnance stores. In regard to the latter I must reiterate the warnings which have been given in this connection in recent years that the present budget figures do not represent a new permanent low level of Defence expenditure. The surplus stocks of ordnance stores, the existence of which in the past has tended to keep down the budget are approaching exhaustion and the time has now come at which expenditure under this head must inevitably rise.

23. *Extraordinary Payments.*—I have referred above to the provision in the Defence Budget arising out of Quetta. There is also a provision on the Civil side of Rs. 40 lakhs under the head "Extraordinary payments." This relates mainly to the reconstruction of the most urgently required civil buildings and to the continuance of the special establishments created there to deal with the emergency. While the bulk of the expenditure on salvage will be incurred in the current year, site clearance operations will continue for sometime into the new year and have had to be provided for.

24. *Quetta.*—This is probably the most convenient place to review the Quetta problem as a whole. In 1935-36 we expect to spend from Civil Funds proper Rs. 41½ lakhs, and Rs. 36 lakhs from Army Funds. Practically the whole of this has been on relief, temporary housing, and salvage though there has been a beginning of clearance. Next year we shall have to complete clearance and begin reconstruction. Under Civil Grants Rs. 40 lakhs are provided of which Rs. 12 lakhs are for clearance and special staff and Rs. 28 lakhs for reconstruction. Under Defence there is Rs. 10 lakhs for replacement of stores and Rs. 50 lakhs for reconstruction. Thus the cost to Government of the disaster, up to the stage of beginning reconstruction, may be put at Rs. 41½ plus 36 plus 12 plus 10 lakhs or almost exactly a crore in all. The reconstruction both Civil and Military is at present expected to cost something over seven crores. These estimates are provisional but I have every hope that they will not be exceeded. The work will take seven or eight years and we do not anticipate that it will be possible to spend appreciably more than a crore in any one year. In 1936-37 we begin with Rs. 78 lakhs of which Rs. 50 lakhs is for Military and Rs. 28 lakhs for Civil buildings, and in the following years the programme will proceed at the rate of about a crore a year.

In explaining the charges on Civil funds I have left out of account the expenditure to be incurred by the two commercial Departments, Railways and Posts and Telegraphs. They have incurred some small expenditure in connection with the immediate emergency and they will both have to incur expenditure on reconstruction. For Railways the cost will be something like Rs. 40 lakhs in all, of which Rs. 12 lakhs has been included in next year's Railway budget and for the Posts and Telegraphs department the cost will be Rs. 9½ lakhs of which Rs. 1 lakh will be spent this year and nearly Rs. 4 lakhs in 1936-37.

We have already heard something and I daresay we are destined to hear a good deal more about the wickedness of paying for the reconstruction of Quetta out of revenue. Perhaps, therefore, I had better say a few words on this subject as a brief opening to the inevitable debate. I take it that nobody will contend that the immediate expenditure on relief, salvage and other emergency measures incurred during the current year should have been charged to capital, with no other results than to decrease the call by the Army Authorities on the Defence Reserve Fund and to increase the surplus on the general budget by some Rs. 40 lakhs. But what will be advocated widely will be that the expenditure upon the reconstruction of the Government buildings together with that to be incurred in clearing the site of the city should be borrowed and this is the proposition that I shall briefly examine. In the first instance let me say that it is contrary to strict financial orthodoxy to borrow for expenditure which does not yield a cash return equivalent to the interest and sinking fund charges on the amount borrowed. I know that this strict view has not always been followed in India but some people might say that our financial difficulties would now be considerably less if a little more orthodoxy had been observed in years gone by. Apart from that, however, unorthodoxy was

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clearly easier to justify in the days when there was an annual provision of something like Rs. 7 crores a year for the reduction and avoidance of debt. Borrowing for capital expenditure or shall we call it raiding the Sinking Fund, for it is nothing else, may not be a very heinous offence when the Sinking Fund is more than adequate but is that the case now? Leaving out of account the deficit budgets of the early thirties the actual provision in recent budgets has been limited to Rs. 3 crores. Last year I expressed a certain discomfort at the smallness of this amount but comforted myself with the thought that the Railways, which then looked as if they would very shortly resume their contribution to General Revenues, would soon provide ways and means for an increase in the Sinking Fund contribution to a figure more commensurate with a capital debt of Rs. 1,200 crores. But clearly a Railway contribution has now disappeared into the somewhat remote future and we are faced with a situation in which the Sinking Fund contribution is no more than a quarter of 1 per cent. of the debt—obviously a dangerously inadequate figure. Who dare say then that for the next seven or eight years we should by this high-sounding device of borrowing to pay for Quetta still further reduce this already inadequate provision by sums which vary from year to year of course but which are of the order of Rs. 75 lakhs? I certainly cannot accept such a proposition.

But there is another consideration. Borrowing has got to be paid for some time and clearly the burden of it in this instance of Quetta would be fully felt by the Central Budget in the early forties, *i.e.*, at the time when it will or ought to be distributing a proportion of its Income-tax receipts to the Provinces. The task of a Finance Member at the present time must be to see that India is put into a position to finance the new Reforms and at the same time is left if possible with its credit in a state of inexpugnable strength. This being so I cannot possibly have any part or lot in a device which is both unsound in itself, having regard to the size and structure of our debt, and which moreover would diminish the amount ultimately available for distribution to the Provinces.

25. *Posts and Telegraphs*.—In my budget speech last year I referred to the fact that the fixation of the contribution to the depreciation fund was still under examination. That examination is now complete and it is proposed to abandon the depreciation fund conception altogether and to adopt instead that of a fund for renewals and minor improvements. The renewals fund will take over the existing depreciation fund of Rs. 3,17 lakhs and will be fed by annual contributions to be fixed for periods of five years. For the first quinquennium we have, with the assistance of the Auditor General, calculated that a contribution of Rs. 25 lakhs will be an appropriate figure and the Posts and Telegraphs budget provides for this amount instead of the Rs. 29 lakhs provided last year.

The only other item I need mention on the expenditure side of the department is an enhanced provision of Rs. 2 lakhs for providing improved postal facilities in rural areas. Last year my Honourable friends opposite made strong representations on this subject and they will no doubt welcome the fact that the improved financial position of the department enables us in the coming year to do more in this direction than has been possible in these last few years of depression.

On the Revenue side we are reckoning on a continuance of improving trade and an increase of Rs. 38 lakhs over the revised figure for 1935-36. On this basis the position works out as follows:

	(Rs. lakhs.)
Gross receipts	11,88
Working expenses	10,93
Net receipts	95
Interest charges	80
Net surplus	15

Summary of the position for 1936-37.

26. I am now in a position to summarise the estimates for 1936-37 as follows:

	(Rs. lakhs.)
Revenue	87,35
Expenditure	85,30
Surplus	2,05

Before disposing of this and the surpluses for the two earlier years, I must turn aside and give some account of our Ways and Means position.

WAYS AND MEANS.

27. *The Reserve Bank*.—First a word about the Reserve Bank. The Bank began to act as the bankers of Government with effect from the 1st of April, 1935. It took over the management of the currency and the duties of selling treasury bills on behalf of Government and of supplying the Secretary of State with his sterling requirements from the same date. In the beginning of July it assumed its full banking functions and fixed its first bank rate. The first elections to the local boards have been made and its first annual meeting has been held at which the Executive of the Bank submitted their report of its first nine months working. This report has been published in the Gazette and I need say nothing about it except perhaps to mention that in accordance with Section 47 of the Act the Government of India has received Rs. 43 lakhs as its share of the profits, which sum has been included in the revised estimates for the current year, 1935-36.

28. *Remittance*.—The ways and means estimates for the current year provided £26 millions as the sterling requirements of the Secretary of State. Our revised forecast stands at £12 millions. This reduction is due to the large opening balance which the Secretary of State had on the 1st of April, 1935. It will be remembered that our remittance operations are now conducted through the Reserve Bank. For the ten months up to the end of January the Bank has in fact purchased nearly £29 millions of sterling of which about £19½ millions is still shown among the assets of the Banking Department. In the Issue Department there are considerable sterling assets in excess of the statutory requirement and altogether the external position of the Bank is one of extraordinary strength. Next year we shall expect to call upon the Bank for £41 millions and this includes the repayment of £16·8 millions of 5½ per cent. Stock, 1936-38 without fresh borrowing in London. On present shewing there should be no difficulty whatever about achieving this programme.

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29. *Post Office Cash Certificates and Savings Bank deposits.*—The 6½ per cent Treasury Bonds, 1935, and the 5 per cent Bonds, 1935, matured in September and evidently some of the smaller holders have deposited the funds made available to them in the Post Office Savings Bank. This accounts for the increase in the revised estimate to Rs. 9,50 lakhs as against the budget figure of Rs. 8,75 lakhs. Next year's forecast assumes deposits in the Post Office Savings Bank of Rs. 8,25 lakhs net and by 'net' I mean of course the excess of deposits over withdrawals.

The reduction in the rate of interest on Post Office Cash Certificates in 1934 has naturally been followed by larger discharges. We now expect a balance between purchases and discharges during the year 1935-36 and a net discharge of Rs. 50 lakhs during the year 1936-37. It will be remembered that maturities will be particularly heavy during the coming financial year.

30. *Loans to provinces.*—The estimates for the requirements of provinces this year included provision for the repayment of the 6½ per cent Bombay Development Loan, 1935. There will be no such unusual item in 1936-37 and we are providing about Rs. 5½ crores only instead of about Rs. 11 crores.

31. *Borrowing Programme.*—Government have been able to take considerable advantage of the low market rates for borrowing which prevailed both in India and in England during the year. Two loans were issued. The first was a sterling loan early in July for £10 millions of three per cent stock, 1949-52 in part replacement of £12 millions of six per cent Sterling Bonds, 1935-37. The loan was issued at 98 and was oversubscribed seven times, the lists being closed ten minutes after opening. The services of the Governor of the Reserve Bank, who was in London at the time, were available during the negotiations for this loan, and I am glad to be able gratefully to acknowledge them.

At the end of the same month a three per cent Rupee Loan, 1951-54, for Rs. 15 crores at Rs. 96-8 was announced. The Reserve Bank was entrusted with the issue of the loan and applications amounted to nearly 30 crores. Applications for conversion of five per cent Bonds, 1935, and 6½ per cent Treasury Bonds, 1935, were accepted in full and were allotted nearly Rs. 13 crores. This is the first time that the Government of India has been able to raise a three per cent medium term loan at such a favourable rate.

£3½ millions of East Indian Railway 4½ per cent debenture stock, 1935-55, have also been repaid during the year.

Next year there are no rupee maturities but as I have previously mentioned £16·8 millions of 5½ per cent Sterling Stock, 1936-38 fall due for repayment and we are proceeding on the assumption that we shall be able to repay this amount without further borrowing in London. However, that depends on conditions later in the year and not being a prophet I can only express hopes. I do, however, estimate on the basis of my hopes and for the purpose of calculating interest charges next year I assume the repayment of the sterling stock without replacement. This together with the full effect of the conversion operations of the present year enables us, as I have already said, to reduce the estimate for interest charges to Rs. 9,20 lakhs, or nearly Rs. 1½ crores less than the revised estimate for the current year.

32. *Treasury Bills.*—The Treasury Bills outstanding on the 1st April, 1935, amounted to Rs. 18,27 lakhs with the Public and Rs. 36,07 lakhs with the Reserve Bank, a total of Rs. 54,34 lakhs. The revised estimate provides for the reduction of this amount to Rs. 13,99 lakhs with the Public and Rs. 20,10 lakhs with the Reserve Bank, Rs. 34,09 lakhs in all by the end of March 1936,

as against a total of Rs. 46 crores anticipated in the budget. The difference of Rs. 12 crores is due to the cancellation of Bills held in the Issue Department of the Reserve Bank mainly as a result of the transfer of surplus sterling assets to the Bank. The average rate of interest on Treasury Bills for the 10 months ending January 31st, 1936, was Rs. 1-4-9 per cent against Rs. 1-8-10 per cent for the corresponding period last year.

Next year, on the assumption that we are able to repay the sterling loan without further borrowing from the market, we expect the outstanding balance of treasury bills on the 31st of March, 1937, to be Rs. 20,10 lakhs with the Reserve Bank and Rs. 24,99 lakhs with the Public a total of Rs. 45,09 lakhs.

PROPOSALS FOR 1936-37.

33. I have now set out the final results of 1934-35, the revised forecast of 1935-36 and the first forecast of 1936-37. I now turn to the surpluses that have either accrued or are expected to accrue and Government's proposals for dealing with them. They are, first, the balance of Rs. 1,73½ lakhs remaining over in the Rural Development Fund from the surplus of 1934-35, secondly, the expected surplus of Rs. 2,42 lakhs for the current year, and finally the estimated surplus of Rs. 2,05 lakhs for next year.

34. *Surplus for 1934-35.*—From the balance of Rs. 1,73½ lakhs available in the Rural Development Fund we propose to allocate:

First.—A grant of Rs. 30 lakhs for Agricultural Research. This will cover the Rs. 10 lakhs still outstanding of the block grant promised to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research when it was first established and a further Rs. 20 lakhs for financing other urgent schemes of research, some of which will be under the direct control and supervision of Government. These other schemes include sugarcane research, and investigations in connection with the dairying side of animal husbandry. This branch of the peasants' activity has not received sufficient attention in the past. Experience elsewhere emphasises its importance to the cultivator, both as a means of supplementing his income and of adding to his diet elements that make for good nutrition and, therefore, for good health.

Secondly.—A grant of Rs. 10 lakhs to the Indian Research Fund Association. Health is a vital factor in measures aiming at a general improvement in the conditions of village life and to ensure that the benefit of these Rs. 10 lakhs goes primarily to the rural population the Association will be required to devote the amount mainly to schemes connected with the prevention or cure of malaria.

Thirdly.—A grant of Rs. 5 lakhs for the benefit of cottage and small scale woollen industries.

Honourable Members are aware that the case for the protection of the woollen industry was examined last year by the Tariff Board and that for certain reasons, including the refusal of evidence on the part of an important section of the mill industry, we were unable to accept its claim to protection. But woollen manufacture is also carried on in cottages and in small scale workshops; and the Tariff Board's findings suggested that this branch of the industry stood in greater need of assistance than the other. Further, there was no reason why the action of the manufacturers should be allowed to prejudice its claims.

But, as the Tariff Board pointed out in this case a cottage industry is likely to derive more benefit from technical advice and assistance in marketing arrangements than from the imposition of protective duties.

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Government, therefore, propose to make a grant for the benefit of the cottage and small scale woollen industry amounting to Rs. 5 lakhs to be spread over five years and our intention is that it should be administered on lines somewhat similar to those adopted in the case of the corresponding grant for sericulture, except that, as reach is not likely to be involved, the States will not participate in the allocation of funds. The actual execution of provincial schemes financed from this grant will be in the hands of the Provincial Departments of Industries.

Fourthly.—A grant of Rs. 20 lakhs to the Fund for development of broadcasting. This Fund is, of course, only available for capital expenditure; recurring expenditure is to be provided in the budget in the normal way. In my speech last year I emphasised that the expression "economic development and improvement of rural areas" was used "in a wide sense to cover any measure which will conduce to the amelioration of the conditions of the cultivators and rural classes". Broadcasting which now provides instructional lectures on agriculture and health has a quite legitimate claim on this fund and the additional grant will help to satisfy the demand for such information over a larger area.

This allocation will bring the fund to Rs. 40 lakhs. Although the expenditure so far incurred against the fund amounts to rather less than Rs. 4 lakhs (for the Delhi station) we have before us estimates for work costing Rs. 32 lakhs, and the field for further development is extensive. It is obviously desirable—in fact essential—that we should have the best technical advice available before we embark upon this further development. We have been fortunate in obtaining this, for the British Broadcasting Corporation have very kindly lent us Mr. Kirke, the head of their Research Department, to advise us on our future programme and I hope that it will be possible to place definite proposals before the Standing Finance Committee next month. After these grants there is still left in the Fund Rs. 1,08½ lakhs. We shall in all probability allocate the bulk of this to Provinces on a rural population basis for expenditure on schemes to be approved by the Government of India. But before deciding upon this finally we shall review the results of last year's grants. It will be remembered that I circulated to the House on the 6th September last a full description of the schemes which had been approved by the Government of India in connection with the grants amounting to Rs. 92½ lakhs which have already been made to Provinces. We have called for full reports from Local Governments as to the actual progress and results of their schemes. We expect that these will be available next month and in the light of them we shall decide whether any alterations are necessary in the conditions of our grants. Needless to say Provincial Governments are more closely in touch with local conditions and needs than we are but, at the same time, the Government of India has its responsibilities in the matter and it will be for consideration whether we should not define more closely the categories of schemes which we are prepared to approve. At all costs we must guard against too much diffusion of effort and we must moreover be careful to see that our money is spent on the most useful schemes. As soon as definite conclusions have been reached we shall take the House fully into our confidence both as regards the results of last year's schemes and our intentions for the future.

Perhaps the House will forgive me if I point out that in the last two years the Government of India have allotted nearly Rs. 3½ crores in the way of special grants for rural purposes. I emphasise the word 'special' for the Leader of the Opposition waxed sarcastic over the grants made last year as if they were the only contributions which the Government of India had made to rural welfare. I dealt with that argument then and I have no doubt that I shall have to deal with it again but at present my purpose is only to claim that we have shewn and are shewing that, whenever resources are available, we are prepared to supplement in no niggardly fashion the work that Provincial Governments are doing on behalf of those in the villages.

SURPLUS FOR 1935-36.

35. *Initial building equipment of Sind and Orissa.*—I now come to the surplus of Rs. 2,42 lakhs which we expect to have on the 31st March next. To begin with I propose to allot Rs. 45 lakhs of it to a special fund for assisting Sind and Orissa to meet their expenditure on the adaptation of old and the provision of new official buildings. It was originally intended to advance the amounts required for this purpose by way of interest-bearing and repayable loans but there are two reasons why we think that this would be ungenerous. First because the needs of these two provinces look like being more than was supposed and secondly, there is the consideration of what has been done in the past in similar circumstances. In 1921, all the provinces were started off with necessary buildings free of debt incumbrances. The North-West Frontier Province was given, at its inception, not only the existing Government of India Buildings in the Province but also a grant of Rs. 3 lakhs to adapt them. It might reasonably be held then that Sind and Orissa have corresponding claims on the Centre. Moreover, in assessing the subventions clearly the existence of a liability for loan charges for such a purpose would have to be taken into account and it may, therefore, be said that for a good many years at any rate the Government of India would, if it insisted on payment of these loan charges, merely be taking away with one hand and giving back with another.

I may perhaps add two things:

- (a) that we propose to limit our liability strictly to Rs. 45 lakhs, and
- (b) that this amount will be divided so as to give Rs. 17½ lakhs to Sind and Rs. 27½ lakhs to Orissa. The reason for the apparent preference to Orissa is of course that Sind already has a considerable part of the buildings it will need.

After this grant there will remain available from 1935-36 a sum of Rs. 1,97 lakhs and, before I can deal with this, we must not only look at the position as it is likely to be in 1936-37 but we must also cast forward and attempt to make some estimate of the position we shall be faced with in 1937-38 and the immediately succeeding years.

36. *Revenue Reserve Fund.*—We now expect to have a non-recurring balance of Rs. 1,97 lakhs available from 1935-36 and an estimated surplus of Rs. 2,05 lakhs available in 1936-37. What does this imply for 1937-38 which we are assuming to be the first year of Provincial Autonomy? If all goes well, we may perhaps count upon certain reductions in interest charges and improvements of revenue which will produce what in

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Government of India parlance is known as a betterment of some Rs. 2½ crores over the figures for 1936-37. On the other hand, the separation of Burma will cost us Rs. 2½ crores in that year while it would not be safe to assume a figure of less than Rs. 2 crores as the cost of the initial adjustments which will emerge from Sir Otto Niemeyer's enquiry, i.e., on the existing basis of taxation we can expect in 1937-38 at best a bare balance. If this conclusion is right, then it looks at first sight, as if it would be unjustifiable to reduce taxation at all this year and, of course, it is always much more satisfactory to play for safety in financial affairs. I know, however, what feeling was aroused in commercial quarters by the postponement of their claim for a reduction of the emergency taxation in favour of the restoration of the pay cut and it behoves me, therefore, to look a little more closely into the possibilities. For this purpose it is necessary to look also at the year 1938-39. There ought in that year to be no major alterations of expenditure while, we may hope that if our affairs continue to go well, there may be a further expansion of some Rs. 2 crores in revenue receipts. If this calculation is justified, then it would perhaps be legitimate to reduce taxation in 1936-37 by something like Rs. 2 crores if we can find a non-recurring balance of about the same amount to fill up the consequent deficit in 1937-38. Here then is the significance of the Rs. 1,97 lakhs remaining over from 1935-36. I propose to ask the House to transfer this balance to a Revenue Reserve Fund available to help out the finances of the first year of Provincial Autonomy and in this way I can, with a fairly clear conscience, propose remissions of taxation in 1936-37 so long as they do not alienate revenue to a greater extent than about Rs. 2 crores a year.

What then shall the reductions be?

SURPLUS FOR 1936-37.

37. Reduction of Taxes on Income.—The most insistent demand with which I am confronted is the claim for the abolition of the emergency taxes upon income and, as the House knows, there exist certain pledges upon this subject given by my predecessor. The complete removal of the present surcharge of one-sixth on income-tax and super-tax would cost Rs. 2,76 lakhs per annum, while the abolition of the tax on incomes between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000—which, as I said last year, must also be included in the emergency class—would cost Rs. 47 lakhs more. Obviously if we are limited to surrendering no more than Rs. 2 crores a year, we cannot meet the demand for abolition in full. But we can go a good way towards it and we propose to abolish the tax on lower incomes and to halve the present surcharge, leaving it in future at one-twelfth. In other words, we shall, in the last two years have removed the emergency tax on lower incomes altogether and reduced the surcharges on income-tax and super-tax by two-thirds. The cost of the proposed reductions is Rs. 1,85 lakhs and the surplus for 1936-37 is reduced to Rs. 20 lakhs accordingly.

38. Reduction in Postage Rates.—With no more than Rs. 20 lakhs left in hand, we can clearly make no further substantial cut in taxation and we propose, therefore, to make a postal concession which, though inexpensive, will, we believe, be generally welcomed if not gratefully received. This is the increase in the weight of the one anna letter from a half to one tola and the adoption of a scale of an additional half anna

for every additional tola. It will cost Rs. 13 lakhs a year and it will absorb all but Rs. 2 lakhs of the expected surplus on the Posts and Telegraphs budget and all but Rs. 7 lakhs of that on the general Budget.

CONCLUSION.

39. I have now completed my story. I cannot expect that everybody will find it agreeable. I do expect, however, that all fair-minded people will admit that it is a reasonable compromise between the claims of the agricultural producer, the claims of the direct taxpayer and the supreme necessity for preserving the credit of India. If I have erred, I think it is in departing too much from the strict canons of financial orthodoxy which I put forward last year, viz., that non-recurrent resources should not be devoted to recurrent demands. The only justification for this departure is the fact that India's economic and political barometers are both rising. If they continue to rise, all may be well. If they do not, the risk will be proved unjustified. And perhaps I may end by saying that the economic barometer cannot rise if the political barometer falls and that the political barometer must fall if the political thermometer rises. (Loud and Continued Applause.)

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce the Indian Finance Bill, 1936.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce the Indian Finance Bill, 1936."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): Sir, I understand that it is now definitely known that the *Id* holiday will be on Thursday next week. Unless, therefore, it is the wish of the House that the day immediately preceding the *Id* holiday should be kept free, the general discussion of the budget will take place on the days already allotted for the purpose, namely, Tuesday and Wednesday. In the event of the House desiring not to sit on the day preceding the *Id* holiday, the general discussion would take place on Monday and Tuesday and I am authorised to announce that in this event His Excellency the Governor General would be pleased to revise the allotment of days accordingly. The position is, that unless the House agrees to sit on the 2nd of March, there is no possibility of keeping the Assembly closed on the 4th.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur (South Madras: Muhammadan): So far as the Muslim Members of the Assembly are concerned, I am authorised to say that we are quite prepared to sit on Monday, but we

[Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur.]

are very keen on having the 4th as a holiday because it happens to be the *Haj* day. So far as that day is concerned, Government may be aware that the United Provinces Government and the Punjab Government have allowed the *Haj* day and the *Id* day to be observed as holidays, and so also Bihar and some other provinces. But so far as the Government of India are concerned, they have declared only one day as holiday and not the *Haj* day, which, as I have already stated in my letter to you yesterday, Sir, is as important as the *Id* day or rather more important. So we are very keen on having the *Haj* day also as holiday and we are quite prepared to sit on Monday

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The *Haj* day is Thursday?

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: Wednesday. Thursday is the *Id* day, and I hope my non-Muslim friends will not grudge our enjoying that holiday on the 4th, along with the 5th.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I have no objection to 4th being a holiday. In fact, I join Syed Murtuza Sahib in the request that he has made to the Government that the 4th may be observed as a holiday. But I do feel that it would not be fair to the House to hold the general discussion on the budget on the 2nd. Last year, the budget was introduced on the 28th and the general discussion started on the 5th. So far as my recollection goes, every year there has been an interval of not less than four days; and, in any case, not less than three days between the introduction of the budget and the general discussion (interruption) I stand corrected: I am prepared to accept there might have been occasions when the interval was shorter. But I think the matter can be arranged otherwise. 7th is a holiday so far as the Assembly is concerned: it is a Saturday; we are not sitting on that day; it is probably allotted for the discussion of the Delimitation Committee Report or some official business. I suggest that the business of the 6th be taken over to the 7th and that the 6th be allotted for discussion on the general budget in place of 4th.

Some Honourable Members: 7th is *Holi* day.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Then, there is another difficulty, that several of our Members have gone away under the impression that the 2nd would be a holiday and there will be no meeting on that date, and several others among us have got engagements which they cannot now postpone. So, in these circumstances, it will be very difficult if the Assembly sits on the 2nd. I would request the Government to find some way out, so that 4th may be a holiday and the Assembly may not sit on the 2nd.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): Sir, I rise to endorse what my friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, has said. It is really a pity that we should be put on the horns of a dilemma in a matter like this, but so far as the possibility of having a holiday on the 4th is concerned, it is an arrangement which the Government might very well think of

making without compelling this House to sit on Monday. As my Honourable friend just said, many Honourable Members have made arrangements to go out and return to Delhi on Tuesday for taking part in the general discussion of the budget. To make changes at the eleventh hour in all their programmes will mean upsetting the arrangements made in many places, and I think it would be prejudicial. If that arrangement was to be made, then it would have been fair that some proposal to that effect should have been made at least a week before

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Member agree that the 4th should be a holiday?

Mr. M. S. Aney: I have not the least objection. I should be very glad to have a holiday on that day, but some other arrangement will have to be made excepting asking this House to sit on Monday.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, I hope my Honourable friends will not take offence if I say that they are contriving to throw the task of displeasing some section of the House on the Government, but our position is this. On the 6th there is going to be a general discussion of the budget in the Council of State, and so it is not possible to accede to the request that has been made. 7th is a gazetted holiday on account of *Holi* festival. If the 4th March, the day preceding *Id*, is such an important day, about the merits of which I shall say nothing, then we should have been informed about it earlier. These dates were announced in January, and my friend waits till the day preceding the 2nd of March, and asks Government to make changes when it is impossible to make such changes, and he is himself unable to point a way out of the difficulty. Nothing was said between January, when these dates were announced, and yesterday. Then, Sir, as a matter of fact, this House had never at any time been closed for two days on account of *Id*. I am not for one moment suggesting that the day is not an important day, but if proper representations had been made at the proper time, then, Sir, something could have been done, but we are in this position that we extremely regret, as the House finds it inconvenient to sit on the 2nd, we cannot possibly, as we are situated now, agree to the 4th being a holiday.

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): It is also possible that the 4th itself may be an *Id* day. It has not been decided. In some places the moon appeared on Sunday also

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It has been settled now.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: That has not yet been settled, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair understands from the Honourable the Leader of the House who apparently has information that it has been decided.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: My information is that it has been decided finally.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): What is the objection to both Houses having a general discussion on the same day?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Because the Finance Member cannot be in two places at the same time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As there is agreement on this point, the original arrangement must stand.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 3rd March, 1936.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 3rd March, 1936.

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.

BIRTH CONTROL PROPAGANDA IN INDIA.

920. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Are Government aware that one Mrs. Sanger hailing from America is carrying on birth control propaganda in India?

(b) Is she receiving Government support?

(c) What is the attitude of Government with regard to birth control propaganda in India?

(d) Are Government prepared to take steps to stop such propaganda, in the country?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) Not from the Government of India. Government have no information regarding Local Governments.

(c) and (d). I would refer the Honourable Member to the last words of my reply to Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta's question No. 158 on the 7th February, 1936.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: Are Government aware that several organisations of women have asked for a grant in support of propaganda for starting birth control clinics?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: They may have made such a request to Local Governments, but they have made none to the Government of India.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: What precisely is the policy of the Government of India in respect of this question?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The policy of the Government of India in this matter is to conform to public opinion.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: May I take it that the Government of India are not going to ban propaganda in favour of birth control?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The Government of India are not going to do anything of the kind.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it that the Government of India are not themselves going to do any propaganda, nor are they going to encourage any such propaganda in favour of birth control?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The Government of India have no such plan at present.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether Government will consider the question of prohibiting the propaganda?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have already said that the Government of India are prepared to abide in this matter by public opinion.

NON-REPRESENTATION OF THE INDIAN CASE ON THE WORLD COTTON CONGRESSES.

921. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Are Government aware that in the world Cotton Congresses the Indian case is not represented?

(b) Are Government aware that by such default, hostile propaganda is going on in the world unchecked, regarding the quality of Indian cotton and the reliability of Indian merchants and shippers?

(c) Do Government propose to remedy this, and if so, how?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) No. The Indian Central Cotton Committee has recently become an associate member of the International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Association and is thus in a position to secure timely information of subjects to be discussed at such unofficial congresses and to arrange for the presence of properly instructed representatives.

(b) No.

(c) The action taken by the Indian Central Cotton Committee is considered adequate.

LEGISLATION FOR LICENSING COTTON GINNING AND PRESSING MILLS.

922. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Do Government propose to introduce any legislation for licensing cotton ginning and pressing mills to ensure that different types are not mixed in one bale? If so, when?

(b) Have Government read the discussion on this subject at a meeting of the Central Cotton Committee held at Bombay on the 4th and 5th of February, 1935? What steps, if any, do Government propose to take with regard to this matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). The regulation of cotton ginning and pressing factories is a matter which is within the legislative competence of the Local Governments concerned and I may point out to the Honourable Member that the Governments of Bombay and the Central Provinces have already taken steps to render illegal the mixing of cotton.

TAXING OF SALARY AND INCOME FROM PROPERTY BROUGHT INTO BRITISH INDIA FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

923. ***Mr. M. Asaf Ali** (on behalf of Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty): (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that prior to 1st April, 1934, salary and income from property brought into British India from foreign countries were not taxed? If so, what were the reasons that influenced Government to tax these sources of income now?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what the extra revenue is that was realised as a result of this amendment in the current year?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) Yes. I would refer the Honourable Member to the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Bill which was enacted as Act XII of 1933.

(b) It is not possible to calculate the amount involved.

EXEMPTION OF LEAVE SALARIES AND PENSIONS DRAWN IN UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES FROM TAXATION.

924. ***Mr. M. Asaf Ali** (on behalf of Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty): (a) Will Government be pleased to state why they have exempted leave salaries and pensions drawn in United Kingdom and Colonies from taxation?

(b) What is the amount of probable loss to Government every year on account of such exemption being granted to such employees?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) The notifications conferring the exemptions mentioned were issued in order to confirm existing practice when the income-tax law in India was amended after the War, and did not confer any actual new concessions upon the officials to whom they relate. The further exemption of leave salaries drawn in similar circumstances by the servants of private employers was apparently granted in order to avoid an appearance of discrimination.

(b) It is not possible to make even an approximate estimate of the total amount involved. So far as leave pay of officials is concerned my predecessor gave in 1931 a figure of from 10 to 15 lakhs a year.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to the first part of the question, that is to say, that, in order to remove any apparent discrimination, the salaries drawn by private employees also were exempted, have the Government of India considered, or will they consider removing the discrimination in the other way, that is, by bringing all those incomes within the scope of the Indian income-tax?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: As far as considering is concerned, I think it is one of the points which have been referred to the experts to consider. But, of course, as far as officials are concerned, this exemption is a very small part of the general question of pay, and on that the Honourable the Home Member gave an answer the other day on the main question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In view of the need for getting as much revenue as Government can get, will Government consider, apart from the expert enquiry, from the point of Indian finances, whether the time has not arrived when we ought to bring within the scope of the income-tax this very legitimate source of revenue?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I have pointed out as far as pay is concerned, that it is only a small part of the much larger question. As regards pensions, it cannot be considered, because it is definitely ruled out by the Government of India Act, 1935.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What about the private employees?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is part of the same question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it not a fact that the pensions and salaries accrue in India, though they are only paid in England?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That seems to be a matter of legal argument, and I am not very expert in legal arguments.

INDIA'S POWER TO ENACT LEGISLATION IN RESPECT OF MERCHANT SHIPPING AND TO REGULATE ITS COASTING TRADE.

925. ***Mr. M. Asaf Ali** (on behalf of Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty): (a) Will Government be pleased to state, if they are aware of the recommendations made by the Conference on the Operation of Dominion Legislation and Merchant Shipping Legislation held in London in October, 1929, on the following points:

- (i) that the recommendation is based on the equality of status as the root principle governing the relations of the Members of the Commonwealth;
- (ii) that action should be taken by the Parliament of the United Kingdom to remove the existing restrictions;
- (iii) that there can no longer be any doubt as to the full and complete power of the Dominion Parliament to enact legislation relating to Merchant Shipping; and
- (iv) that to regulate its coasting trade in such a manner as it likes?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if they are aware of the further recommendations of the Conference referred to in part (a) above, as brought out in paragraph 123 (page 40) of the report of the Conference?

(c) Are Government also aware of the further recommendations made in paragraph 124 (page 40) of the report of the Conference?

(d) If the answer to part (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what steps were taken to secure for India the same status which has been secured for the Dominions, so that India should have full and complete power to enact legislation in respect of Merchant Shipping and to regulate its coasting trade in such a manner as she likes?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a), (b) and (c). Government are aware of the recommendations of the Conference.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to the relevant provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

INDIA'S POWER TO IMPOSE CUSTOMS TARIFF DUTIES ON SHIPS BUILT OUTSIDE INDIA.

926. ***Mr. M. Asaf Ali** (on behalf of Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty): (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they are aware that as a consequence of the Conference on the Operation of Dominion Legislation and Merchant Shipping Legislation held in London in 1929, to which India was a party, an Agreement was concluded called the "British Commonwealth Merchant Shipping Agreement 1931", between His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and other Dominions from which India was excluded?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why India was excluded from such an Agreement?

(c) Are Government aware that the Agreement referred to in part (a) does not "restrict the right of the Government of each part of the Commonwealth to give financial assistance to ships registered in that part" and also enables that Government to impose customs tariff duties on ships built outside that part?

(d) If the answer to part (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether India under the new constitution can give financial assistance to ships registered in India, to which ships registered outside and trading with India will not be entitled?

(e) If the answer to part (d) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take to secure that power of giving financial assistance to its national shipping, which is possessed by the other parts of the Commonwealth?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether India has got the right to impose customs tariff duties on ships built outside India, just as that power is possessed by the other parts of the Commonwealth?

(g) If the answer to part (f) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take to secure such power, as is possessed by the other parts of the Commonwealth, to enable India, if she so chooses, to impose customs tariff duties on ships built outside India?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes, but I might observe that India was not excluded from the Agreement. The Government of India voluntarily decided not to sign it.

(b) The Government of India did not sign the Agreement because they considered it unreasonable to commit the future Government of India to the obligations imposed by the Agreement.

(c) Government are aware of the provisions of Article 12 of the Agreement, to which no doubt the Honourable Member is alluding. I would point out, however, that this Article does not confer on any Dominion Government the right to impose customs duties on ships built outside that part of the Commonwealth, but merely provides that the Agreement shall not be deemed to derogate from any such existing right.

(d) Yes, subject to the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Yes, if they are imported into India.

(g) Does not arise.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to part (c) of the question, will the Honourable Member enlighten the House as to whether the Government of India have now got the unrestricted right to give financial assistance to ships registered in Indian ports?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That is a question of interpretation of the constitution on which I cannot offer an opinion.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have the Government of India considered this question at all? With a view to giving assistance to Indian shipping, have they considered whether they enjoy the right mentioned in clause (c) of this question?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: If the Honourable Member means whether the question has been considered in the sense whether it has been posed as an issue and a decision arrived at, I am not aware of any such consideration of the question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are we to understand that such a question has not arisen at all till now?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have not said so: I only said that I am not aware of any such consideration.

REPLACEMENT OF BRITISH KING'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS BY INDIANS.

927. ***Mr. K. L. Gauba:** Will Government please state:

- (a) if it is a fact that Indian King's Commissioned Officers were replacing British King's Commissioned Officers when the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun was established;
- (b) whether it is a fact now that officers commissioned from the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun are only replacing Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, *i.e.*, Subedar-Majors, Risaldar-Majors, etc., instead of replacing British King's Commissioned Officers;
- (c) whether it is a correct assumption, therefore, that none of the boys passing out of the Indian Military Academy, will replace a British King's Commissioned Officer, for 17 years, *i.e.*, he cannot become a Company Commander for 18 years; and
- (d) if the answers to the above be in the affirmative, whether this device had the approval of the Indian Legislature?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. Cadets from Dehra Dun will probably again begin to replace British officers by 1941.

(d) The fact that the policy of Indianisation involves the ultimate disappearance of the Viceroy's Commissioned Officer has frequently been brought to the notice of the Legislature. In particular, that policy and its implications were fully explained to the Legislature when it accepted the Indian Army (Amendment) Act of 1934.

RESENTMENT AT THE ELIMINATION OF VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

928. ***Mr. K. L. Gauba:** Will Government please state:

- (a) if they are aware of the keen resentment in all ranks of the Indian Army at the gradual elimination of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers; and
- (b) whether the wishes of the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers have been ascertained in this matter as also the wishes of those classes and tribes from which Viceroy's Commissioned Officers have hitherto been selected, and if so, whether Government are prepared to lay these opinions on the table of the House?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) and (b). The gradual disappearance of the Viceroy's Commissioned Officer is as much a source of regret to the Government as it is to the enlisted classes, of whose views Government are naturally well aware. There is, however, no justification for retaining two classes of officers in the Indianised Army of the future; and, in the process of Indianisation, everything possible is being done to protect the interests of those classes which have hitherto produced Viceroy's Commissioned officers.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the reply to the last part—whether Government are prepared to lay these opinions on the table of the House?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The opinions of these people have not been formally obtained in any written communication. Therefore, it is impossible to lay any communication on the table of the House.

SPEECH OF SIR PHILLIP CHETWODE AT DEHRA DUN ABOUT POOR MATERIAL FORTHCOMING FOR THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY.

929. ***Mr. K. L. Gauba:** Will Government please state whether their attention has been drawn to the recent speech of Sir Phillip Chetwode at Dehra Dun, in which he referred to the poor material forthcoming for the Indian Military Academy at Dehra Dun?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Yes, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do Government propose to take any steps to get better material for the Academy?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The Honourable Member might wait for the answer to the next question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do Government agree that the Universities can supply better material for military training?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I would ask the Honourable Member to wait till I answer the next question.

ADMISSIONS INTO THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY.

930. ***Mr. K. L. Gauba**: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) if they are prepared to (i) reconsider the numbers to be admitted into the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, from the army and by open competition; (ii) revise the rules whereby such recruits from the army are only sent to the Academy; and (iii) revise the pay and emoluments of Dominion Commissioned Officers?
- (b) any other plans they may have under consideration to bring forth proper material for the Academy, and whether this House will be given an opportunity of discussing this matter before the proposals are put into effect?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a), (i), (ii) and (iii). The answer is in the negative.

(b) Government are considering methods of improving the standard of Indian Army cadets at the Academy, but this is not in any case a matter in which this House would be in a position to advise.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: What is the cause of this poor material?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: That would need a quarter of an hour's speech.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member give one reason?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has said that it would take too long to explain.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask the Honourable Member what is the percentage of the marks allotted to the interview in comparison with those for the written papers in the examination?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I could not say. I believe the interview carries 500 marks, which is the maximum allowed for any subject in the examination.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if it is fact that when the applications are submitted through the District Magistrate, the magistrate writes on the applications the political views of their parents and guardians.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I am not aware of that.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member make inquiries and find out?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: If the Honourable Member will give me any specific grounds for doing so.

Sardar Sant Singh: I can give you the instance of my son. When my son applied for the examination, the District Magistrate wrote the political views of myself.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Very well, but that is not a question.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if these remarks of the District Magistrate influence the Selection Board in granting marks at the interview?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I am not aware of that.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member take it from me that my son, after he appeared at the interview, told me that, from the way in which questions were put by the Selection Board, he thought he would be given zero marks at the interview.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to clause (b), may I know why the Defence Secretary said that this House cannot give any assistance in the matter, in view of the Commander-in-Chief's speech, and the need for improving the kind of material we get?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I was referring in my answer to the question of improving the standard of Indian Army cadets at the Academy, and it was in that connection that I pointed out that this House would not be in a position to advise. As regards the supply of candidates for the open examination, there is to be a discussion of that matter shortly in another place on a Resolution which His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will deal with. I would suggest that it might perhaps be advisable to wait until that Resolution has been discussed in the Council of State.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will the Honourable Member recommend that the marks for the interview should be eliminated?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: No, Sir.

SELECTION BOARD FOR THE INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY.

931. ***Mr. K. L. Gauba**: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) on what basis the Selection Board for the Indian Military Academy is constituted;
- (b) whether any Indian King's Commissioned Officer is on the Board, and if not, why not; and
- (c) if the answer to part (b) be in the negative, whether they are prepared to take steps to nominate a suitable officer to the Board?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) The composition of the Board is:

- (i) A member of the Public Service Commission as Chairman.
- (ii) Two officers of the Indian Army nominated by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.
- (iii) Two non-official gentlemen, one nominated by the Government of India and one by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

Of the two military officers one must be not below the rank of Major-General and one not below the rank of Colonel.

I may add that this rule is based on the recommendation of the Indian Military College Committee.

(b) No—because there is no Indian Officer holding the King's Commission on the active list of the Indian Army (except in the Indian Medical Service) who has yet attained the rank of Colonel. But I may add that a retired King's Commissioned Indian Officer has more than once been nominated by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to sit on the Board.

(c) Does not arise.

INDIANISATION OF A GURKHA REGIMENT.

932. ***Mr. K. L. Gauba**: Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gurkha regiments are recruited entirely from British subjects, and if not, the percentage of non-British element in the Gurkha regiments in India; and

(b) whether Gurkha regiments are regarded as Indian units, and as such, whether the Indianisation of any Gurkha regiment is contemplated, and if not, why not?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) No. In Gurkha battalions, only the King's Commissioned officers, or about 1.5 per cent. of the total strength, are British subjects. The Viceroy's Commissioned officers and other ranks are Nepalese subjects.

(b) Gurkha regiments are units of the Indian Army but their Indianisation, in the sense in which the word is used by the Honourable Member, is not contemplated, because they are not composed of Indian personnel.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know why Government do not propose to make these units predominantly British Indian, and not Nepalese Indian?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: They would cease to be composed of Gurkhas in that case.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know the political or military reasons why these regiments are kept predominantly composed of subjects of an Indian or Foreign State, whichever the political status of Nepal may be?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Because they are very good soldiers.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are there no comparable classes, from whom recruitment can be made in India proper?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: That is a question of opinion.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is it because Indians are not competent to defend their country, that these mercenaries are recruited for the Indian army?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: That is not the reason?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Then, what is the reason?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: If a war were to take place and if the Honourable Member were on the other side, he would understand why.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are the Gurkhas the only class of people who can furnish better material and Indians cannot?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I did not say so.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why are the Gurkhas recruited, in preference to Indians and paid out of Indian revenues?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: It is because they are some of the best soldiers we can get.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are there no equally good soldiers in India?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I did not say that.

An Honourable Member: Will Government recruit Germans and Japanese on the same ground?

INELIGIBILITY OF INDIANS FOR ADMISSION INTO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

933. ***Mr. K. L. Gauba**: Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is in the so-called "barred zone", and Indians are ineligible for admission to the United States under section 13(c) of the Immigration Act of 1924;

(b) the provisions of this law, and whether they are prepared to lay a copy thereof on the table of the House; and

(c) whether they have taken any steps, or made any representations to the Government of the United States, either through His Majesty's Government, or directly, concerning this law? If not, why not?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: (a) Yes. Indians are, therefore, subject in common with nationals of other Asiatic countries to certain restrictions in the matter of entry into and residence in the United States of America. These restrictions are imposed by the Immigration Acts of 1917 and 1924 and by a large number of rules since made under those Acts.

(b) No spare copy of the Immigration Law of 1924 is at present available but a copy can, if the Honourable Member so desires, be obtained and placed in the Library of the House. It may, however, be pointed out that the provisions of this law have been so extensively amended and added to by rules promulgated thereafter, that a representative of the United States Government, when asked in 1934 to furnish a memorandum of the regulations affecting the entry of British Indians into the United States, replied that such a memorandum would be difficult to prepare since the sections of the United States Immigration Law affecting them depended on the date and circumstances of their entry into the country.

(c) Government have in the past taken and are in future prepared to take steps to represent to the United States of America through the usual diplomatic channels, individual cases of hardship caused by these laws and regulations. They have also made representations on the general question through His Majesty's Government to the Government of the United States of America.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In the course of these general representations, did this Government ask that India should be removed from the so-called "barred zone" altogether?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: That is, of course, the main object which we have tried to achieve, but, so far, there has been no result and no reply.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: When was this representation made?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: As far as I remember, about a year ago.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have they heard in reply at all from His Majesty's Government, in answer to this representation?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: No; as I said, no reply has yet been received.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do Government propose to keep quiet, or to take further steps to remind them to press the United States Government to remove our grievances, and to convey to them, by all possible means, the keen feeling in India that India should be treated as a self-respecting nation?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: Certainly. We have taken more than one occasion of doing so.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the result?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: So far, no result.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government try to get some result?

(No answer.)

NON-ISSUE OF RETURN CONCESSION TICKETS ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

934. ***Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni:** (a) Are Government aware that the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway do not issue week-end and ordinary return tickets for the third class and intermediate class passengers?

(b) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of recommending to the Railway administration to issue such return concession tickets for the lower classes? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Return tickets are issued between certain stations on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway but not generally over the entire system.

(b) I am conveying the Honourable Member's suggestion to the Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, for consideration.

NON-ISSUE OF CONCESSION TICKETS FOR LOWER CLASSES ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

935. ***Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni:** (a) Are Government aware that Christmas, Easter and Dewali and other concession tickets between any two stations on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway are not issued to the lower class passengers, whereas the same concession is allowed to higher classes?

(b) Are Government prepared to recommend to the Railway Company to issue such concession return tickets for all classes on the same conditions?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) From notifications that have been issued by the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Administration, it would appear that, in connection with the holidays referred to, concession tickets are issued as follows:

(i) third class, for servants of first and second class passengers who have purchased concession return tickets between any two stations over 100 miles apart; and

(ii) intermediate and third class, from Bombay, Dadar and Bandra to all stations over 100 miles, and *vice versa*.

(b) I am conveying the Honourable Member's suggestion to the Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, for consideration.

SPEEDING UP OF A TRAIN FROM AJMER TO KHANDWA ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

936. ***Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni:** (a) Are Government aware that the fastest train from Ajmer to Khandwa on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway metre gauge takes about 23 hours for a journey of less than 400 miles, while other passenger trains take about 26 hours?

(b) Are Government prepared to move the Railway Authorities to increase the speed of at least one train on this important line and also to reduce the long stoppages *en route* to avoid the inconvenience to travellers caused by the slow speed of these trains?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) I am bringing the Honourable Member's question to the notice of the Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, for consideration.

STATES NOT IMPOSING MATCHES EXCISE DUTY AND FACTORIES MANUFACTURING MATCHES.

937. ***Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the States which have not imposed the matches excise duty in their territories?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the total quantity of matches which was allowed free banderols after the imposition of the matches excise duty?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of factories manufacturing matches in British India and in the Indian States?

(d) Will Government state the number of new factories established and closed down after the imposition of the excise duty?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) The information desired by the Honourable Member will be found on page 59 of the Pamphlet containing the Acts and Orders relating to Central Excises, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

(b) The total number of boxes for which special duty-free banderols have been issued is approximately 500,000 gross.

(c) and (d). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given on the 14th of February, 1935, to Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar's question No. 261, and to the information which was laid on the table of the House on the 23rd of March, 1935, in connection with Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliar's question No. 634.

Information regarding match factories in the Indian States is not available.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have Government gone into the question of the effect on the Indian match industry of the allowing of the manufacture, free of duty, of matches in Indian States and their export to India?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The provisions to which the Honourable Member refers are contained in the Act itself. So, naturally, the Government and the Legislature have gone into this question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government any information, or will they be good enough to collect the information, as to the number of factories which have been closed, and those that are still working and manufacturing matches, which may be compendiously described as cottage industries?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I have already dealt with that by referring to the replies that were given to previous questions which the Honourable Member can find in the proceedings of the Assembly.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the percentage of these small factories?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I am afraid, I cannot give you the percentage figure.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government considered, or will they consider the effect of this excise duty on those small industries?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Naturally, Sir.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And have they come to the conclusion that they can bear this taxation?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Yes, Sir.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How many small factories have been closed down, as a result of this taxation?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: In the Madras Presidency, apparently about 46 small factories have closed down.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government consider the removal of this duty on the match industries, so that they may have a chance of developing as cottage industries?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The question was very fully considered when the Match Excise Duty Bill was before the Assembly, and one factor, with which, as I clearly remember, the Select Committee dealt, was the recommendation of the Tariff Board that this was not an industry the development of which, as a cottage industry, should be encouraged in the interests of public safety.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is that the Government position today?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I believe so, Sir.

INSTALLATION OF RADIO SETS IN PUBLIC PLACES IN AJMER-MERWARA, ETC.

938. ***Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni:** (a) Will Government state the total number of licences of radio receiving sets in Ajmer-Merwara issued during the last three years? How many of them are in the villages and in the cities?

(b) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of installing such sets in public places in the villages of the district for educational purposes and for popularising radios?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of introducing some items in the Broadcasting Programme of the Delhi Station on health, hygiene, agriculture and other subjects of general welfare, in the language understood by the people of the district?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) 184—all to persons resident in towns.

(b) Yes.

(c) This has already been done.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Since the last grant for broadcasting was made last year, how many such sets have been imported into India?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I shall require notice of that question.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: From the portion allotted for broadcasting, has any portion been set apart for the purpose of giving grants to enable towns and villages to introduce receiving sets?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Does my Honourable friend mean out of the grants set apart for broadcasting? If so, no such grants have been made from the other grant—the grant made for rural development.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What amount has been spent so far?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Obviously, I could not answer that question without notice.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Wherefrom have these sets been sent for? Wherefrom, from what countries have they been indented?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I hardly think that arises out of the present question.

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

DECLARATION OF LORD MAHABIR'S BIRTHDAY AS A HOLIDAY IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

939. *Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) Have Government received any representation from the Jain community for declaring Lord Mahabir's Birthday as a holiday?

(b) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of declaring Lord Mahabir's Birthday as a public holiday in the Government of India? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Yes.

(b) Members of the Jain community are at liberty to take a holiday on the day of this festival within the six communal holidays allowed to persons employed in the offices of the Government of India.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know the cost of a holiday for the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Honourable Member or some other Honourable Member asked me that the other day, and I said I did not know.

FACILITIES FOR THE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS IN AJMER-MERWARA.

940. *Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) Are Government aware that in the last census report, Ajmer-Merwara is shown as having a very large percentage of blindness?

(b) Will Government please state if they have provided any special facilities for the treatment and prevention of blindness in Ajmer-Merwara? If so, in what form, and if not, why not?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. There is an Eye Department at the Victoria Hospital, Ajmer, in charge of a Doctor specially trained in ophthalmology. In addition, grants-in-aid are given to specially selected free eye dispensaries. Lectures on the prevention and treatment of eye diseases are given by an eye specialist to school teachers, to impress upon children the care of the eyes.

Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni: Do Government think that adequate, Sir?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Well, Government consider that to be as much as they can do consistently with their present resources.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are Government aware that a lot of this blindness is due to ordinary plain glasses being prescribed by quacks in place of proper lenses?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That is possible, Sir.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will Government take steps to prevent the prescription or the importing of such glasses for use in India, as is done in England?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Sir, I do not think the prevention of the importation of glasses is going to make any difference to the iniquities of quacks. (Laughter.)

UTILISATION OF THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT.

941. *Mr. Suryya Kumar Som: (a) Was the grant of one crore of rupees from the Central Exchequer allotted to different provinces? If so, what is the amount granted to each province?

(b) Was there an instruction issued from the Central Government to the Local Governments as to how the allotted money should be utilised? If so, will Government lay on the table the circulars containing such instructions?

(c) Have Government been kept informed as to the purposes and works for which the allotted sums have been spent by the Local Governments?

(d) Has the entire sum of one crore been disbursed to the provinces and have the provinces utilised the entire sum thus given to them?

(e) Have Government been satisfied that the money given to the different provinces has been properly and judiciously applied by them?

(f) Are Government aware that villagers are not aware of any such grant and no work for the improvement of their condition has yet been done by any Provincial Government, and specially by the Bengal Government?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a), (b), (c), first part of (d) and (e). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the statement laid on the table of the House on the 6th September, 1935, in reply to starred question No. 162 by Mr. Basanta Kumar Das.

Second part of (d) and (f). Provincial Governments have been requested to send a report by the beginning of March showing the progress of schemes financed from the grant. A summary of these reports will be laid on the table of the House.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know whether the Government of India exercise no control over the disbursements made by the provinces?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: After the amounts have been allotted and the individual schemes have been approved,—No, Sir.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Do I understand from the Honourable Member that the Government of India do not keep themselves in touch with the Provincial Governments as to how these amounts are actually disbursed there?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is a different question. I have answered that already. We keep in touch to the extent of asking them for a report.

ERADICATION OF WATER HYACINTH IN BENGAL.

942. ***Mr. Suryya Kumar Som:** (a) Are Government aware that water hyacinth has become a source of great danger to Bengal?

(b) Are Government aware that the Bengal Government is introducing a Bill in the Local Council to eradicate water hyacinth in Bengal, imposing further taxation in the shape of cost on the already over-taxed people of Bengal?

(c) Are Government prepared to direct or instruct the Bengal Government to drop the Bill and to spend the money, received from the Central Government as its quota from the grant of one crore, to eradicate the pest of water hyacinth?

(d) In granting sums to the provinces in future, are Government prepared to take into consideration this particular danger of Bengal from water hyacinth and grant more money to Bengal so long as the water hyacinth is not eradicated?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) and (b). Government are aware that the water hyacinth is a pest in Bengal and they understand from the newspapers that the Government of Bengal have introduced a Bill to deal with the matter.

(c) No.

(d) No.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know if the Government of India will consider the desirability of including the question of eradication of water hyacinth also in the programme of rural economic uplift in Bengal?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The Local Governments, in connection with last year's grants, were invited to put forward their own schemes for approval, though, certainly, last year, the Government of India suggested certain classes of schemes which they would sanction out of hand. As I said in the budget speech, this year, we have got to consider whether the new grants this year should be subject to any limitation by the Government of India in the light of the reports which we expect to get from the Local Governments.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I, therefore, request the Honourable Member to convey to the Government of Bengal the opinion of some of the Members of this House that eradication of water hyacinth in Bengal is to be of primary importance for the betterment of the Province?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Why should the Honourable Member assume that the Government of Bengal will listen to his views any more closely through my passing them on than his passing them on directly?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Our advice is treated with contempt, while the views of the Honourable Member will not be.

OPENING OF RADIO CENTRES IN THE MIDNAPORE DISTRICT.

943. ***Mr. Suryya Kumar Som:** Are Government aware that the Bengal Government is going to open radio centres in Midnapore District out of the sum granted by the Central Government for improving the condition of the villages?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraph (5) of page 8 of the statement laid on the table on the 6th September, 1935.

Mr. Suryya Kumar Som: Do Government think that the setting up of radio centres in Midnapore will improve the condition of the villagers?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The Bengal Government think so, Sir.

HIGHER FARES CHARGED ON THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

944. ***Mr. Suryya Kumar Som:** Are Government aware that the rate of fare on the Assam Bengal Railway is higher than on the Eastern Bengal Railway and the East Indian Railway?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes, except for intermediate class.

PROVISION OF RAISED PLATFORMS AT CERTAIN STATIONS ON THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

945. ***Mr. Suryya Kumar Som:** (a) Are Government aware that on the Assam Bengal Railway, even at important stations like Conilla, Chandpore, Noakhali, Akhaura, Mymensingh, Badarpore, Lumbding, there are no raised platforms, which causes great inconvenience to passengers, specially to female passengers?

(b) Are Government prepared to take early steps to erect raised platforms at those stations?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). It is left to the discretion of Railway Administrations to provide raised platforms at stations where the traffic offering justifies their provision. Government consider that the best method of dealing with such matters of local importance is through the Local Advisory Committee who can bring specific cases of hardship to the notice of the Railway Administration.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: When these complaints against the administration of particular railways are made, would he kindly institute enquiries to be made in regard to those matters?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No. For instance, how can I cause enquiries to be made into the question of the order in which raised platforms are going to be provided at certain stations.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Enquire if it is a fact that a lot of inconvenience is caused to the people owing to lack of raised platforms?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: At a very large number of stations in this country, there are no raised platforms.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Where is the excuse in not making enquiries even after the Honourable Member's attention is directed to the practice of not having raised platforms.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim). The Honourable Member is arguing.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have not put that forward as an excuse. I have said that is so.

ARRANGEMENT FOR DRINKING WATER ON STATIONS ON THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

946. ***Mr. Suryya Kumar Som:** (a) Are Government aware that there is no arrangement for serving drinking water in any of the stations on the Assam Bengal Railway?

(b) Are Government prepared to make early arrangements for the same at least at important stations?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) No. I would refer the Honourable Member to page 75 of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1934-35, Volume I, which gives particulars of the arrangements made for the supply of drinking water.

(b) Does not arise.

ABSENCE OF AN OVERBRIDGE AT CHANDPORE KALIBARI STATION.

947. ***Mr. Suryya Kumar Som:** Are Government aware that there is no overbridge at Chandpore Kalibari Station, which is in a very thickly populated quarter of the town and that this exposes the inhabitants of the locality to great risk?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no information but are of opinion that such matters are best left to the Administration to remedy in consultation with the Local Advisory Committee.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the status of these Local Advisory Committees? Is their advice mandatory? Are the Agents bound to consider them, and give reasons for rejecting them, or are they really bodies which make recommendations and which nobody takes notice of?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No advice is ever mandatory. They make suggestions and from a study of the reports and the action taken thereon, I am convinced that a very large number of these suggestions are given effect to.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are the Railway Agents compelled to give reasons at least, before they reject any of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: My own experience is that whenever a suggestion was put forward, the Agent undertook to look into the matter and used to put up a note with regard to the matter as to the extent to which it was feasible or practicable to accept the suggestion and to what extent he would accept the suggestion and to what extent he could not.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member is not going to interfere in detailed matters of administration, may I request him to convey to the local Agents the views of the Members concerned on this question of railway grievances?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: It is the practice of the Railway Department with regard to the suggestions made here to convey the suggestions to the Agents for their consideration. As a matter of fact, I have been repeatedly reading that out.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know, if the opinion of the Advisory Committee is not accepted by the Agent, is that final? Does it mean that the Railway Board will not interfere?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The Honourable Member's question raises a very important point. I am afraid the Government could not give a general reply. Take the instance of providing an overbridge or a level-crossing or a raised platform. Government cannot interfere in such matters. The Agent must be left to decide the order in which these facilities could be provided, having regard to the funds at his disposal for such purposes.

USE OF GOODS WAGONS FOR CARRYING PASSENGERS DURING CERTAIN *Melas* ON THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

948. ***Mr. Suryya Kumar Som:** (a) Are Government aware that the Assam Bengal Railway administration use goods wagons for passengers during *Setakunda Mela*, and *Mehar-Kalibari Mela* and on the occasion of other *melas*, when there is rush of passengers?

(b) Are Government prepared to see that during *mela* times, the Assam Bengal Railway makes arrangement for *mela* rakes or extra bogies?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply I gave to this question during the railway budget discussion.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are goods wagons now being used? I think my Honourable friend said that this practice is practically non-existent. Is it a fact that, in this particular railway, goods wagons are used during these *melas* for carrying passengers even now?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The position with regard to the use of goods wagons for this purpose is exactly as I explained then, namely, that during recent years, it has been very rare that goods wagons were used for the carriage of passengers and that the Agents were taking steps to see that the necessity should not arise in future. If it does arise, then they have got to communicate to the Railway Board the circumstances under which they took such action, so that the Railway Board can decide whether such action was or was not justified. In this particular case, the Agent says that he will endeavour to obtain additional coaching stock on loan from other railways when his estimate of requirements shows that this is necessary.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is it not barbarous and inhuman to use goods wagons for the carriage of human beings? Will my Honourable friend issue peremptory orders to stop this?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have expressed my own views on the subject pretty clearly the other day in my speech. I am prepared to abide by the verdict of the House in regard to this matter if it is conveyed to me sufficiently clearly. In some cases, passengers, who must get to a *mela* or a pilgrim centre on a certain date, would rather be carried even under very uncomfortable conditions than be left back at all. It is only in cases, where no other arrangement can possibly be made, to carry the passengers that goods wagons are used. I am prepared to issue peremptory orders provided there is no complaint afterwards that though proper rolling stock was not available these people should not have been left behind.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Are Government aware that, on the Assam Bengal Railway and the Eastern Bengal Railway, frequent use is made of goods wagons for the transport of human beings?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am told that that is not so. But I will certainly take steps to see that that is not done where it is avoidable.

PUBLIC WELLS SUNK OR REPAIRED.

949. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some public wells were sunk or repaired in different provinces of India out of the grant of one crore of rupees for village uplift;
- (b) if so, whether it was duly notified amongst residents of those rural areas that these wells were open to all classes of people, depressed or non-depressed; and
- (c) if so, whether the central authorities have made themselves sure by making enquiries that the various depressed classes are not being treated differently in connection with such public wells?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). These are matters for the Local Governments concerned.

Mr. Sham Lal: When the grants are made by the Central Government, is it not the duty of the Central Government to see that the depressed classes are not treated differently?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The grant was made by the Central Government under certain conditions, and one of the conditions was that the execution of the schemes should be in the hands of the Local Governments.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government lay down general rules that, in the enjoyment of the benefits accruing from the expenditure out of this fund, no distinction shall be made between one class and another?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I assume they are making no distinction.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The question was asked:

"Whether it was duly notified amongst residents of those rural areas that these wells were open to all classes of people, depressed or non-depressed",

and the answer was:

"These are matters for the Local Governments concerned."

I am asking whether the Government of India will satisfy themselves that no such distinction is observed, or in the alternative give directions generally that no such distinction ought to be observed. It is a matter on which there is a strong feeling throughout the country, among every class of political opinion.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No, Sir. I am not prepared to lay down any condition. I am not prepared to admit that the Local Governments are blind to their own responsibilities in the matter.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: If any such instances are brought to the notice of the Government of India, will the Government of India then withhold the grant from such Local Governments?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I am not prepared to give any undertaking on that matter.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Even if such instances are brought to your notice.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is a hypothetical question.

NON-EXISTENCE OF COMPARTMENTAL EXAMINATION FOR MATRICULATION CANDIDATES IN THE DELHI UNIVERSITY.

950. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the University of Delhi have granted the F.A. and B.A. Examinees the concessions of compartmental examinations under certain conditions; and
- (b) if so, what reasons have stood in the way of the University in the case of candidates for matriculation?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) The University of Delhi does not conduct the Matriculation examination.

CHECKING OF ARTICLES ENTERED IN THE STOCK-REGISTERS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

951. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government auditors or Inspecting officers, at the time of their checking, do actually find articles entered in the stock-registers of various Government departments; and
- (b) if not, whether Government propose to take any action in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) It is not ordinarily the function of Government auditors to verify stock. In the exceptional cases in which they do so they see that the stock-registers actually do contain the articles whose existence has been verified. Inspecting officers also make this examination if stock verification is part of their duties.

(b) General orders about stock verification have already been issued at the instance of the Public Accounts Committee and there is no reason to believe that they are not followed. A copy of these orders is placed on the table.

Model rules governing the Maintenance, etc., of Inventories of Government Stores.

1. A reliable list, inventory or account of all stores in the custody of Government servants must be maintained, in a form prescribed by the competent authority, to enable a ready verification of stores and check of accounts at any time, and transactions must be recorded in it as they occur.

2. Priced lists, recording both quantities and values, must be maintained in cases where the stores are intended to be converted into money or where it is desired to distribute their cost over the works, items or objects on which they are actually used. In such cases, the expenditure on stores must be charged to a stores suspense-head in the first instance.

3. Purely numerical inventories, recording quantities only, will suffice in cases when the stores are intended solely for the service of the department keeping them and it is not desired to distribute their cost. In such cases, the expenditure on stores must be charged off finally to the service concerned.

NOTE.—In some cases it may be found necessary to show prices against some articles, say when, for facility of identification or other reason, it is desirable to distinguish costly articles from cheap articles bearing the same general description otherwise. Such articles should not be treated as priced articles if the requirements of this rule are otherwise satisfied.

4. The lists, inventories, or accounts of stores will in all cases be subject to such internal check as may be prescribed by the competent authority, whether or not they are subject to any check by the Audit Officer.

5. A physical verification of all stores must be made at least once in every year under rules prescribed by the competent authority and subject to the condition that the verification is not entrusted to a person—

- (i) who is the custodian, the ledger keeper, or the accountant of the stores to be verified, or who is a nominee of, or is employed under, the custodian, the ledger keeper, or the accountant, or
- (ii) who is not conversant with the classification, nomenclature and technique of the particular classes of stores to be verified.

The verification must never be left to low paid subordinates, and in the case of large and important stores, it should be, as far as possible, entrusted to a responsible officer who is independent of the superior executive officer in charge of the stores.

6. In making a physical verification, the following instructions must invariably be observed:

- (a) Verification must always be made in the presence of the officer responsible for the custody of the stores or of a responsible person deputed by him.
- (b) All discrepancies noticed must be brought to account immediately, so that the stores account may represent the true state of the stores.
- (c) Shortages and damages, as well as unserviceable stores, must be reported immediately to the authority competent to write off the loss.

7. Balances of stores must not be held in excess of the requirements of a reasonable period. In order to ensure the observance of this rule, a periodical inspection must be made by a responsible Officer, who must submit a report of surplus and obsolete stores to the authority competent to issue orders for their disposal. The inspection must be made six-monthly in the case of perishable stores and once a year in the case of other stores unless there be good reason to the contrary. Stores remaining in stock for over a year should be considered surplus unless there is any good reason to treat them otherwise.

8. The previous sanction of the competent authority should be obtained to the sale of stores regarded as surplus or obsolete, and to the write off of the value of stores.

9. Where a priced inventory is maintained, it is essential that the values recorded therein shall not be materially in excess of the market value of the stores. The head of the Department concerned must issue instructions to govern—

- (a) the fixation of prices with reasonable accuracy;
- (b) the periodical review and revision of rates; and
- (c) The agency to be employed in periodical re-valuation.

NOTE.—The 'market value' of an article, for this purpose, means the cost per unit at which the article, or an article of a similar description, can be procured at a given time, from some suitable public markets. It should be inclusive of carriage and incidental charges, and may even include a reasonable provision for wastage, breakage and depreciation, when these are inevitable.

10. All losses must be duly recorded and formal sanction of the competent authority must be obtained in respect of them even though no formal correction or adjustment of accounts is involved.

11. (a) Losses due to depreciation must be analysed and recorded under the following heads, according as they are due to:

- (1) Normal fluctuation of market prices.
- (2) Fair wear and tear.
- (3) Lack of foresight in regulating purchases.
- (4) Neglect after purchase.

(b) Losses not due to depreciation should be grouped under the following heads:

- (1) Losses due to theft.
- (2) Losses due to neglect.
- (3) Losses due to an act of God.
- (4) Anticipated losses on account of surplusage of obsolete stores or of purchases in excess of requirements.

TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF REQUIREMENTS OF GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

952. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the respective numbers of Indenting officers in different departments who, relying on price lists alone, did not call for tenders during the last financial year from three or four different firms at the time of giving orders for the supply of the departmental requirements;

- (b) if there were such cases, whether they were duly objected to by any of the Government auditors or Inspecting officers; and
- (c) if not, whether any action is intended to be taken in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to Rule 2 of the Rules for the Supply of Articles required for the Public Service, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. This Rule does not require tenders to be called for in every case. Government regret that they cannot undertake to collect the information asked for as it would entail an amount of labour and trouble disproportionate to the result.

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

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AT THE CONFERENCE OF THE REFORMS COMMISSIONER WITH PROVINCIAL REFORMS OFFICERS.

953. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the subjects which engaged the attention of the Conference of the Reforms Commissioner with the Provincial Officers in charge of 'Reforms';
- (b) the conclusions arrived at; and
- (c) whether the dates for the provincial election under the Government of India Act, 1935, have been fixed, and if so, what those dates are?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) The Conference considered generally the various preliminary steps to be taken before the introduction of the new Constitution in the provinces and, in particular, questions connected with the issue of the Orders in Council and Governors' Rules necessary for the constitution of the provincial Legislatures.

(b) The Conference was held on an entirely informal basis for the purpose of exchanging and co-ordinating the provisional views of provincial Governments and there are therefore no conclusions as such to be placed before the House.

(c) No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know what the Governors' Rules are?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I cannot, exactly remember the sections under which the rules were framed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do they relate to the manner of conducting business by the Governors?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Yes, possibly.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Under the Government of India Act?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Yes.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the subjects of the Orders in Council, which this conference considered?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: The Government of India Act provides for various things to be done by Orders in Council, and all these matters have to be considered as to what the recommendations will be as to the contents of the proposed Orders in Council.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Were all these subjects considered by the conference?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: May not have been all, but some of these were the subjects considered.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Was any report sent to the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Not yet.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And does my Honourable friend realise that some Orders in Council have already become final Orders in Council, and others are in the process of being so made? Was any action taken on the conclusions or informal proceedings of the conference by the Government of India, as a result of any recommendations or report submitted by them?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I do not understand the question. In so far as it concerns matters over which there was this conference, there has been no final conclusion yet; it is an intermediate stage. There is nothing which can be placed before the House just now.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to clause (c), may I know whether the Government of India have not yet considered at all this question, or are still considering it, and have not yet come to any conclusion on the subject?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I have already said that we have not come to any final conclusion.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government considering it?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Yes.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know whether Government will consider the convenience of the 35 millions of electors who are being enfranchised, in fixing the date and not fixing it at an inconvenient time for all concerned?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Government would have considered it even if the suggestion had not been made by the Honourable Member.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How do Government propose to ascertain the convenience of these millions of electors?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I am not prepared to make any statement just now as we have not come to any definite conclusion. And I request my Honourable friend to realise that it is extremely embarrassing if we have to answer questions at an intermediate stage when no conclusions have been reached.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And may I suggest to my Honourable friend that it is extremely embarrassing for us to have to face these elections, if the time is fixed without taking public opinion into account?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has made the suggestion that the dates should be convenient, and they said they will consider it.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am asking whether Government will take proper steps in time, and consult relevant public opinion in the matter, and not come out with a *fait accompli*. Have Government any intention of consulting relevant public opinion on this important matter which affects 35 million voters?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: We have no intention of consulting these 35 million voters individually, but public opinion has been expressed and will be expressed and will be considered.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: When, and where, and in what manner? Do Government propose to consult this House, or ask the Local Governments to consult their Provincial Legislatures, and get some relevant public opinion on this matter?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I do not think my Honourable friend requires to learn from me as to how public opinion is to be expressed. There is no undertaking to consult this House.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I know it, but Government do not know. I am, therefore, asking whether Governments will consult their Legislatures, or whether they will consult public opinion in any other manner.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Government will take all proper steps.

CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TYPE OF THIRD CLASS RAILWAY CARRIAGE.

954 ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) at what stage the proposals for a new type of third class railway carriage stands; and
- (b) whether such carriages are going to be built; if so, the number and time when such carriages will be placed for use on the railway lines?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I believe I dealt with this matter also in the course of the debates on the railway budget.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are such carriages going to be built at all?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I think I also replied to that. It will depend on the stock renewal programme and the financial situation.

ARTICLE ENTITLED "NEED FOR VIGILANCE" IN THE *Hindu*.

955. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to an article entitled "Need for Vigilance" in the issue of the *Hindu*, dated the 9th January, 1936;
- (b) whether the facts stated therein are correct;
- (c) what action, if any, they propose to take to guarantee the rights of Indians; and
- (d) whether they will place their proposals before the Assembly?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, in parts.

(c) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me on the 11th September, 1935, to parts (b) and (c) of his question No. 276. As regards the Rural Dealers' Licensing Law Amendment Ordinance, an assurance has been obtained that, if it can be shown that its provisions are being used to deal harshly with the Indian community, the Government of Natal will be prepared to review the position. Negotiations for safeguarding Indian rights in the only practical application of the Slums Act that has so far been brought to notice are in progress. The recommendations of the Feetham Commission are, as the Honourable Member is aware, designed to relax, in favour of Indians the provisions of the Gold Laws. Representations for further liberalisation of the legislation introduced to give effect to the Commission's recommendations have recently been made.

(d) There are no proposals which Government can usefully bring before the Assembly at present.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Under the first category, have any individual cases of hardship been brought to the notice of Government, and have Government made any representations to the Natal Government?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I presume my Honourable friend refers to the Rural Dealers' Licensing Law Amendment Ordinance. No cases of individual hardship have been brought to the notice of the Government of India.

JUDGMENT IN THE APPEAL OF THE BENDA RAID CASE.

956. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the judgment in the appeal of the Benda Raid Case, in which ten soldiers of the King's Regiment were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment;
- (b) whether their attention has been drawn particularly to the following sentences in the judgment: "We see no reason to interfere and concerted raid on innocent and defenceless villagers including abominable conduct towards women, was more heinous and reprehensible by reason of the fact that it was perpetrated by British soldiers, whose duty it is to protect the lives of persons and property of the inhabitants of this country. That duty they have shamefully betrayed and brought indelible disgrace on their uniform."; and

- (c) what action, apart from punishments given to individuals concerned, they have taken or propose to take to raise the tone and discipline of the British Army as a whole in India?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the answers I gave on the 5th February to the questions arising out of his question No. 52.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government bring to the notice of the British soldiers this judgment, and particularly this sentence:

"We see no reason to interfere and concerted raid on innocent and defenceless villagers including abominable conduct towards women, was more heinous and reprehensible by reason of the fact that it was perpetrated by British soldiers, whose duty it is to protect the lives of persons and property of the inhabitants of this country. That duty they have shamefully betrayed and brought indelible disgrace on their uniform."

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: No, Sir.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why not?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Because they think it unnecessary to do so.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are they satisfied that no such incidents will hereafter occur at all?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: They are fully satisfied that the army are ashamed of this business, and they do not wish to rub it in any further.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How are they satisfied that the whole of the army is ashamed of this?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The case has been given ample publicity in India.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do all these soldiers read these newspapers?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Quotations from the judgment have appeared very widely in the press.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What newspapers do they read? Did these newspapers contain this extract from the judgment?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member need not ask that question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The Honourable Member said that this matter has been published in the press, and, therefore, the whole army knows it. I am asking what kind of newspapers they read, and whether those newspapers published this judgment. If they did, I am satisfied. If they did not, I am asking the Honourable Member to bring it to their notice.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is not prepared to answer that.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Are Government aware that a woman, who gave evidence before the Sessions Court, said that special care should be taken of her by Government as, having been violated by the soldiers, her caste people had turned her out? Have Government done anything for her?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Was that in connection with this case?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Yes, Sir. A woman made that statement before the Sessions Court and she said that, as she had been violated by the soldiers, her family and her caste people had turned her out, and she wanted that she should be particularly protected by Government. Have Government done anything to compensate this woman and to see that no further harm is done to her and that she is looked after properly?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I would be glad if the Honourable Member would draw my attention to the particular part of the judgment or the evidence of the woman in question. My information was that no woman, in the course of her evidence in the trial, complained that she had been violated by the soldiers.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Then, I shall send a cutting from the papers.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I have an answer to my question, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair understands that the Honourable Member is not prepared to answer the question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why is he not prepared? You have ruled, Mr. President, that if a Member of Government says, a question cannot be answered in the public interest, it need not be answered; it is certainly all right. I am simply asking how

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair has ruled that the Chair cannot compel any Honourable Member to answer the question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Does the Honourable Member refuse to answer the question?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has answered certain questions.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: We have made enquiries into the question of compensation, and our information was that no compensation had been given in the case of any woman, because no woman had made any complaint that she had been violated by the soldiers.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know as to how this sentence in the judgment, which I consider very important, has been brought to the notice of the whole Army? What are the newspapers which they read, and is the Army Secretary satisfied that this sentence found a place in the newspapers which this average British soldier reads in this country?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I read it myself in the *Statesman*, and I also imagine it also appeared in the *Civil and Military Gazette*, and these are the papers read most freely by the Army in this country.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN MUSEUMS.

957. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the statement of Mr. S. S. Markham, Empire Secretary, Museum Association, London, that "museums as a vital factor in the educational system has yet to be developed. There appears very little provision for training curators and one unfortunate result of this is that in a majority of cases, manuscript collections are very extremely poorly curated. It is not perhaps too much to say that evidence of India's greatness in these fields is fast disappearing, and little effort has been made to meet these problems.";
- (b) whether they propose to take any steps to improve the Indian museums; and
- (c) if so, what they are?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Not all museums are under the control of the Central Government and the Press report of Mr. Markham's interview is, on the whole, friendly to the museums under the control of the Government of India. Effort will be made to secure a copy of Mr. Markham's complete official report, and, on receipt, it will be considered by Government, and, if necessary, brought also to the notice of Local Governments.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government satisfied that all curators are properly trained, that is, trained for the work which they are specially intended to do?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I may inform the Honourable Member that I met Mr. Markham when he was in Delhi, and we have also made enquiries since. So far as our staff is concerned, there is not very much to be done.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government bring this to the notice of Provincial Governments, in view of the importance of preserving these manuscripts, which are almost the only evidence of India's greatness in these fields?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have already said that, as soon as we get a copy of Mr. Markham's official report from the Museum Association, we would consider whether it should be brought to the notice of Local Governments.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Have Government got any arrangements for the training of curators for the museums?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: There are no uniform arrangements, which depend upon the nature and the responsibility of the work to be done. Sometimes we can train a man here, sometimes it may be necessary to send him abroad.

REPORT OF THE CONTROLLER OF CURRENCY.

958. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to a leading article in the *Hindu* of the 8th January, 1936, on the latest Report of the Controller of the Currency;
- (b) whether they are aware that 'the strength of the present position, as stated therein, is obviously due to the large gold exports.'; and
- (c) whether they are prepared to investigate the conditions carefully and take steps to improve the position generally?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) Yes.

(b) Gold exports obviously do tend to strengthen Exchange.

(c) I have already explained to the House my views on this subject, and, in any case, I cannot deal with it adequately in reply to a question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government satisfied that the favourable balance of trade today is almost entirely, if not entirely, due to the large gold exports?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is not true.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Has the Finance Member examined the figures?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Yes, in so far as they are available.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How does the Honourable Member think that these gold exports are in the interests of India?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That does not arise out of the question.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE AS AGAINST THE BUDGETED ESTIMATE.

959. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government lay on the table:

- (a) the latest figures of revenue as against the budgeted estimate;
- (b) the latest figures of expenditure as against the budgeted estimate; and
- (c) what the reasons are for the difference?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I have already given the reply in my budget speech.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if it is the Honourable the Finance Member's policy to always budget for a hidden surplus, so that, at the end of the year, he can dispose of it as he pleases?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is a matter for debate.

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AT A CONFERENCE OF THE HOME MEMBER WITH THE
PROVINCIAL OFFICERS.

960. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti**: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) what the subjects were which were discussed at a conference of the Home Member with the Provincial Officers on questions regarding Executive business and Provincial Service Commissions;
- (b) whether any principles have been laid down; and
- (c) if so, whether they will place the proposals on the table?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a), (b) and (c). As the Honourable Member is no doubt aware the new Government of India Act requires various rules and regulations to be made. Some of these rules and regulations must be made simultaneously with the introduction of Part III of the Act. These include the Rules of Business to be made under section 59(3) and the regulations relating to provincial Public Service Commissions under sections 265 (2) and 266 (3) of the Act. The immediate object of the discussion which my department had last month with provincial representatives was to provide an opportunity for the exchange of views regarding the contents of these rules and regulations, which, it was felt, would be of assistance to Governors in carrying out their duties under the new constitution. It would not be in the public interest to lay the proceedings of the Conference on the table.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do these rules contemplate the means by which Governors of Provinces will keep themselves in touch with what Ministers are doing, over the heads of those Ministers?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Does the Honourable Member refer to Rules of Business, which are rules to be made by the Governor in his discretion after consultation with his Ministers?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am asking whether this particular Conference, which the Honourable the Home Member had with the Provincial Officers, considered the question of providing means by which the Governors of Provinces shall keep themselves in touch with the administration of provincial subjects, independent of the Ministers' reports to the Governor.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, as far as I can remember, that particular subject was not discussed, but I cannot be quite certain. A large number of subjects were discussed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Did this Conference consider the question of Provincial Service Commissions in all provinces where they do not function today?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes. We did consider the subject of the rules which will have to be made by the Governor in his discretion in relation to the functions of Public Service Commissions.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Did this Conference come to any conclusion that there should be Public Service Commissions in all provinces?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Act itself lays down that there must be Public Service Commissions.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Did this Conference consider this question, and lay down any principles for bringing into existence all these Commissions?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No. The Conference did not lay down any principles at all. It was merely an interchange of views. The Act itself lays down the principle that in each province or group of provinces there must be a Public Service Commission.

POSITION WITH REGARD TO INDIANS IN ZANZIBAR.

961. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti**: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the latest position with regard to Indians in Zanzibar;
- (b) whether any steps have been taken by them since questions were answered in the last Assembly; and
- (c) what the results of their representations have been so far?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me on the 5th February, 1936, to part (c) of his question No. 61 and to the answer to part (a) of Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant's question No. 850 on the 26th of last month.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Has this despatch gone?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Yes.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Has it been received?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: It went by air mail: I suppose it has.

Maulana Shaukat Ali: May I know if the Honourable Member knows that the Zanzibar Government passed this decree in the interests of the Arabs and Swahilis, the original inhabitants of Zanzibar?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That is the contention of the Government of Zanzibar.

Maulana Shaukat Ali: Do they say that it is in the interests of the Arabs and Swahilis, the real inhabitants of Zanzibar?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That is what the Government of Zanzibar have said.

Maulana Shaukat Ali: Does the Honourable Member know whether the agriculturists who own these clove gardens in Zanzibar—the Arabs and Swahilis—like this decree?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I cannot say. The Government of India have conducted no referendum on the subject.

Maulana Shaukat Ali: I do not ask to conduct a referendum, but have Government received any information and can they give us some idea as to what the people think?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have only information from the Indians in Zanzibar. I have had no representation from the Arabs and Swahilis in Zanzibar.

Maulana Shaukat Ali: Did the Government of Zanzibar in their reports, in reply to the Government of India's representations, give any information or indications that these decrees are liked by the Arabs and Swahilis?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The Government of Zanzibar have all along contended that these decrees are in the interests of the Arabs and Swahilis in Zanzibar.

REPORT OF SIR OTTO NIEMEYER.

962. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they will lay on the table the provincial memoranda supplied to Sir Otto Niemeyer;
- (b) whether they will place on the table the materials supplied by them to him regarding customs, income-tax and the jute duty, tracing the recent history of these and making conjectures regarding the future;
- (c) whether there is any conflict of views between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments; if so, what are the points of conflict;
- (d) when the report of Sir Otto Niemeyer is likely to be published;
- (e) whether, after he reports, the Assembly will be consulted before the Government of India submits their opinion; and
- (f) whether the Provincial Governments will also be invited to express their opinion on the report?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) and (b). No.

(c) Conflict of interest possibly but I am unaware of anything which may be called a conflict of view.

(d) It is impossible to say, but clearly sometime during the present year.

(e) I can give no such undertaking.

(f) I imagine that they will do so whether they are invited or not.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to clauses (a) and (b) of the question, may I know the reasons why these very enlightening documents may not be placed on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Because they are confidential documents.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if the fact has been brought to the notice of Sir Otto Niemeyer that most, if not all, the provinces have deficit budgets for the next year?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Yes, I can answer for that.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to clause (b) of the question, may I know whether Provinces or States have claimed a share of the customs, the income-tax and the jute duty, and, if so, what those proportions are?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No, Sir. The answer is, you may not know.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have they claimed?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is a question I am not willing to answer.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to part (c), I hope my Honourable friend will be a little more enlightening possibly. May I know what is the extent and subject-matter of this conflict?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I said "Conflict of interest possibly, but I am unaware of anything which may be called a conflict of view". The conflict of interest is that both people want as much as they can get: at least all the provinces want as much as they can get irrespective of what there is there. The aim of the Government of India is to give up to the provinces as much as they can spare which is extremely benevolent of them.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have the Government of India made any computation of all the claims of the provinces, and have they come to any conclusion that, if all the claims are conceded, there will be anything left to the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: There will be a negative amount left to the Central Government.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to clause (e) of the question, may I know if an opportunity will be given to the Assembly, either now or at the Simla Session, to express its opinion in time for the Government of India to make their recommendations in their turn to His Majesty's Government?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I cannot give any undertaking of that sort. The decision is one for His Majesty's Government, and not for us.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA
IN COUNCIL ACTING BY AND THROUGH THE GOVERNOR IN
COUNCIL, GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED PROVINCES OF
AGRA AND OUDH, AND THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the Agreement between the Secretary of State
12 NOON. for India in Council acting by and through the Governor in

[Sir James Grigg.]

Council, Government of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, and the Reserve Bank of India.

AN AGREEMENT made this twenty-fifth day of September 1935, BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL ACTING BY AND THROUGH THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL, GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED PROVINCES OF AGRA AND OUDH (hereinafter called "the United Provinces Local Government") of the one part and THE RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (hereinafter called "the Bank") of the other part.

WHEREAS the Bank was constituted and incorporated and is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (being Act No. II of 1934) (hereinafter called "the Act").

AND WHEREAS by section 21(2) of the said Act it is provided that each Local Government shall entrust the Bank on such conditions as may be agreed upon with the management of its public debt and with the issue of any new loans.

NOW IT IS HEREBY MUTUALLY AGREED AND DECLARED by and between the said parties hereto as follows, that is to say:

1. This Agreement shall come into force on the execution of these presents.
2. The management of the public debt of and the issue of new loans by the United Provinces Local Government and the performance of all the duties relating thereto respectively including the collection and payment of interest and principal and the consolidation, division, conversion, cancellation and renewal of securities of the United Provinces Local Government and the keeping of all registers, books and accounts and the conduct of all correspondence incidental thereto shall be transacted by the Bank at all or any of its offices in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras and at any of its offices, branches or agencies at which respectively the administration of any portion or portions of the public debt is for the time being conducted or interest thereon is for the time being payable and the Bank shall also keep and maintain such registers, books and accounts in respect of the said public debt as the United Provinces Local Government may from time to time direct and shall audit all payments of such interest and act generally as Agents in India for the United Provinces Local Government in the management of the said public debt and shall conduct such agency subject to such orders and directions with regard to the general management thereof as may from time to time be given to the Bank by the United Provinces Local Government.
3. As remuneration to the Bank for the management of the public debt as aforesaid the Bank shall be entitled to charge to the United Provinces Local Government half-yearly a commission at the rate of Rs. 2,000 per crore per annum on the amount of the public debt as aforesaid at the close of the half-year for which the charge is made. In calculating this charge the following amounts shall be excluded from the amount of public debt, viz. :-

- (a) The amounts of loans discharged outstanding after one year from the date of a notice of discharge.
- (b) The amount of stock certificates for Rs. 50,000 and upwards held by the United Provinces Local Government or by any officer or officers of that Government authorized in that behalf.

And in addition to the charge of Rs. 2,000 per crore per annum the Bank shall be entitled to charge to the United Provinces Local Government such fixed sum as may from time to time be agreed upon between the parties on account of the stock certificates referred to in clause 3(b) hereof, and the Bank shall be also entitled to charge the public (but not the United Provinces Local Government) all such fees and charges as are now or may hereafter from time to time be prescribed by the Governor General in Council under the powers conferred upon him by the Indian Securities Act, 1920 (Act No. X of 1920), for duplicate securities and for the renewal, consolidation, division or otherwise of all Government Securities which the Bank issues.

4. The responsibility for all loss or damage to the United Provinces Local Government which may result from any act or negligence or omission of the Bank or its Agents in conducting the business of the public debt aforesaid or the payment of interest or discharge value thereon or the renewal, conversion, consolidation, sub-division or cancellation of any security of the United Provinces Local Government shall rest with and be borne by the Bank provided however that it shall not be incumbent on the Bank to verify signatures and endorsements on securities which *prima facie* appear

to be in order and in the acceptance of which the Bank shall not be guilty of any negligence and in such cases no liability shall be incurred by the Bank in respect thereto.

5. This agreement may be determined by either party giving to the other party one year's notice in writing expiring on the 31st day of March in any year, such notice if given by or on behalf of the United Provinces Local Government to be addressed to the Governor of the Bank and to be served by being left at the Head Office of the Bank and if given by the Bank to be served by leaving the same with or Addressing the same by registered post to the Secretary to the Government of the United Provinces in the Finance Department and immediately upon the expiration of such notice this Agreement shall absolutely cease and determine save as to rights or liabilities acquired or incurred prior to such termination.

6. Nothing in this Agreement shall operate to affect in any way the obligations imposed either on the United Provinces Local Government or on the Bank by or under the Act or any subsequent amendment or amendments of the Act.

7. The Bank shall be entitled to perform all or any of the matters contained in this Agreement through such agency or agencies as may be prescribed by the Act or any amendment thereof or as may be approved by the United Provinces Local Government.

8. In the event of any disputes arising as to the terms and conditions of this Agreement such disputes or any differences of opinion shall, in the event of the parties hereto failing to reach an agreement, be referred to the Governor General in Council whose decision shall be final and binding as between the parties hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF Mr. J. L. Sathe, I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh in the Finance Department, by the order and direction of the Governor in Council, Government of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, acting for and on behalf of the Secretary of State for India in Council, has hereunto set his hand and the Common Seal of the Reserve Bank of India pursuant to a Resolution of its Central Board Committee has been hereunto affixed in the presence of its subscribing officials the day and year first above written.

Signed by the said Mr. J. L. Sathe, I.C.S.,
Secretary to the Government of the United
Provinces of Agra and Oudh in the Finance
Department for and on behalf of the Governor
in Council, Government of the United Provinces
of Agra and Oudh, acting in the premises for and
on behalf of the Secretary of State for India in
Council in the presence of

J. L. SATHE,

Secretary to the Government of
the United Provinces of Agra
and Oudh, Finance Department.

S. D. BAJPAI,
Deputy Secretary to the
Government of the
United Provinces.

Common seal
of the
Reserve Bank
of
India.

The Common Seal of the Reserve Bank of India was affixed hereto in the presence of Sir Sikander Hyat Khan, K.B.E., its Deputy Governor and Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Kt., C.I.E., M.B.E., and Mr. Framroz Edulji Dinshaw, two of its Directors who in token thereof have hereunto signed their names in the presence of

S. HYAT KHAN,
Deputy Governor.
PURSHOTAMDAS THAKURDAS.
F. E. DINSHAW,
Directors.

K. G. AMBEGAOKAR,
Secretary, Reserve Bank of India

THE GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): With reference to the general discussion of the budget, I fix for today twenty minutes as the time limit, and I do not propose to reserve any discretion to myself. Of course, for the Government Member's reply, he will have more time if he wants. I may also mention that I understand that there are a certain number of Muslim Members who do not intend to attend the Assembly tomorrow, as it is Haj day, and, I am, therefore, prepared to give greater opportunity to those Members today if they propose to take part in the general discussion.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah (Sind Jagirdars and Zamindars: Landholders): Sir, at the outset, I must congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member on not bringing any fresh proposals for taxation for the next year. I must also congratulate him on reducing taxes. But, I am sorry, I cannot see eye to eye with him as regards the economic condition of our country. He says that the economic barometer is rising; he sees a silver lining in the clouds; but his Honourable colleague, the Railway Member, told us that the economic barometer was falling and that the clouds were gathering. I have no time to get into their domestic quarrels. . . .

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan (Member for Commerce and Railways): I never said that.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah: . . . but one thing is clear that the railway budget is a deficit budget, and it has been a deficit budget for a number of years, and the country has had to find from four to five crores every year for it.

Now, let us examine whether the economic barometer of our country is rising. The Honourable the Finance Member has congratulated himself on a very large surplus of 4,95 lakhs in 1934-35, and he has shown that his revenues from customs and excise have increased. I refer the Honourable Member to the explanatory memorandum of his Secretary at page 12: take the revenue duties and protective duties, both together, during the year of depression 1932-33 and compare them with the best years of the Honourable the Finance Member. What was the revenue in 1932-33? It was 41,90 lakhs. In 1934-35, it was 38,84 lakhs, and the provision in the next year's budget is 38,19 lakhs. That shows that the customs revenue has decreased. But I admit that the revenue from excise has increased considerably, and I must say that, in 1934-35, for the first time, excise duties on matches and sugar and steel ingots were levied and which, luckily for the Finance Member, brought him 2,46 lakhs. The rest of the surplus also came from excise on kerosene and petrol. So Honourable Members will see that it is the excises that have brought him all the money. He has then cited some other articles in which he says there has been improvement—raw cotton: again I take the year of depression 1932-33: what was the revenue? 55,92 lakhs. In 1934-35, it was 38,91 lakhs, and he has budgeted for 55 lakhs for the next year. That does not show any prosperity. Even in 1934-35, we were losing in comparison with the year of depression 1932-33. No doubt the revenue from import of machinery has been steadily increasing, but that is mostly due to the protection that is given to sugar, and, therefore, to

(1848)

new sugar factories coming into existence in India. Coming to other articles mentioned by the Honourable the Finance Member, I again take the lean year of 1932-33: cotton fabrics of British manufacture and cotton fabrics not of British manufacture: in 1932-33, the total revenue was 6,52 lakhs, while, in his prosperous year of 1934-35, it came down to 5,45 lakhs, that is, over a crore less; and the budget provision for 1936-37 is 5,40 lakhs, that is, more than a crore less. Another article quoted by the Honourable Member is jute. That has been steadily increasing; but jute is a monopoly of India, and, therefore, it is no wonder: more jute is exported to other countries. He has then mentioned rice, which has been decreasing every year. So Honourable Members will see that there is not much improvement worth the name. All the money he has got is out of the excise duties on sugar and other things.

Then, Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member talks of the 1935-36 Revised Estimates and of a surplus of two crores and 42 lakhs. If we take the new excise duties that were imposed in 1934-35 on sugar, matches and steel ingots for the first time, he has got over four crores, and the excise duties on motor spirit and kerosene have brought in some more crores, and, but for these excise duties, he would have had a deficit budget.

The Honourable the Finance Member himself admits that the provision for the redemption of debt or sinking fund is dangerously inadequate. . . .

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Sinking fund is not the same as debt redemption item. . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): I meant it in that sense.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Is not the sinking fund amount put with interest charges separately?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sinking fund is the amount for reducing the capital debt or avoiding an increase in it. It is a three crore provision.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah: The Honourable the Finance Member himself has admitted that these three crores are dangerously inadequate. At least seven crores or more should have been provided according to the convention of 1924; or, in other words, he has provided four crores less. If he had made adequate provision for sinking fund according to the convention, both his budgets would have been deficit budgets. Now, Sir, we are losing on our railways about four crores. We are making for the sinking fund four crores less provision, and the additional liabilities the Finance Member has taken upon himself are one crore for rural development, about 1½ crores as subventions to the new provinces of Sind and Orissa, and about a crore on the reconstruction of Quetta, and all these the Finance Member wants to finance out of revenue. So all these things bring his liabilities every year, including the railways, to nearly 12 crores. Now, how are we going to get all this money? Is the revenue expanding to that extent? No. The import duty on sugar is one of our most important sources of revenue at present, but the Honourable the Finance Member himself warned us last year, and he has repeated that warning this year also in his budget speech, that this sugar import duty would disappear. Then, he is relying on betterment in interest charges which will bring about two crores, but the separation of

[Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah.]

Burma will cost us about 2½ crores, and so this will more than swallow up the savings expected on Interest.

Now, looking to the expenditure side, he himself has admitted that in the Revised Estimates for 1935-36, there is an increase of Rs. 1,17 lakhs over the budget for 1935-36, and, in the budget for 1936-37, there is a further increase of Rs. 1,20 lakhs even over the Revised Estimates for 1935-36.

Then, as regards the military expenditure, the Honourable the Finance Member says it is likely to increase, and His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief also says the same thing, and, therefore, there is a clear indication that the defence expenditure is bound to increase.

Now, Honourable Members will see that our revenues are not increasing in proportion to our expenditure, but the expenditure has increased very considerably.

When we talk of 1s. 4d. ratio, the Finance Member says that he does not want to "monkey" with the ratio question, though this ratio had stood the test of 20 years. I would, in this connection, quote for his benefit the contrary opinion of a great financier, the Right Honourable Reginald McKenna, who says:

"The misuse of gold has driven us to abandon fixity of the external value of our currency for the far more important benefits of stable internal value."

Now, Sir, because of the present ratio, our agricultural prices have gone down, and we are obliged to export our gold. I would, therefore, again request the Finance Member to put a very heavy duty on the export of gold.

The Honourable the Finance Member has set aside a sum of Rs. 1,97 lakhs out of the surplus for 1935-36 as a Revenue Reserve Fund for the new reforms. I appreciate it very much. Sir, in the past, dyarchy in the provinces failed, because the Ministers had very inadequate funds for nation-building purposes. They were, therefore, not able to do much to catch the imagination of the people. The two chief sources of revenue of the provinces, land revenue and excise, are very inelastic, but as everybody in this House knows, prices have gone down, and, therefore, there is every likelihood of the land revenue decreasing. If the land revenue decreases, then automatically the excise revenue also will decline. Unless, therefore, the Central Government give the Provinces a portion of the personal income-tax and of the excise on matches as early as possible, Provincial Autonomy will be wrecked on the rock of finance. (*Opposition Members: "Hear, hear."*)

Now, I come to the surplus; in whatever way he has achieved it, I must say he has made the best use of it. He has first satisfied the claims of the agricultural classes. He has given them not only one crore, but has given them something more to improve their lot. Now, I would request him to pay greater attention to small industries or cottage industries. He might say that Industries is a transferred subject, but I may tell him that the provinces have very depleted resources, and it is for the Central Government to help in this direction. He has given grants for several agricultural schemes, and I would suggest that he should also

help small industries by giving loans on good security and also by granting subsidies till these industries are put on their feet. The Honourable the Finance Member may object to this proposal on the ground that Industries are a transferred subject, and are, therefore, the concern of the Provincial Governments, but the provinces, as I have already explained, have very depleted resources and cannot, therefore, do anything themselves in the matter without the help of the Central Government.

Then, I think the middle classes will very much appreciate the raising of the income-tax limit from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000; and my friends, the commercial magnates, will very much appreciate the reduction of surcharges, and the country in general will appreciate the reduction in postal rates.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Not the country.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah: But I would request my friend, the Finance Member, to think of the poor man's postcard also.

Now, Sir, I come to my own province. He has provided a subvention of one crore eight lakhs.

An Honourable Member: It is too much.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah: No, it is too small. (*Opposition Members: "Hear, hear."*)

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): You must get a hundred crores!

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah: Sir, there are no roads in Sind. It is purely an agricultural province, and the prosperity of the Sukkur Barrage scheme, in which we have sunk about 25 crores, depends on better communications. There is no Government College in Sind, Arts or Engineering. Education in Sind is at its lowest ebb. Among the majority community,—the Muhammadans,—barely one per cent. know English, and only about three per cent. know Sindhi. The subvention given is hardly adequate for the requirements of the new province. We want medical relief in a large measure, because what medical facilities we already have are not worth mentioning. Therefore, I would request my Honourable friend to have a soft corner in his heart for my province. At the same time, I would request him, as the watch dog of the finances, to see that the administration of Sind is not made top-heavy. . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir Lancelot Graham has gone there, and he will see to it!

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): My Honourable friend, Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah, started his speech with congratulations to the Honourable the

[Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta.]

Finance Member. I listened to his speech throughout with great attention, but I regret to say that throughout his speech he did not say anything in support of his budget proposals. Sir, I am not in that happy position of being able to offer my congratulations to the Honourable the Finance Member. Any congratulation that is offered here on the budget must be congratulation offered on behalf of the great mass of people whom it is our proud privilege and sacred duty to represent here. The budget debate is not an after-dinner speech where it is permissible to be in a hilarious mood and to indulge in congratulations in a light-hearted manner. The real, pertinent question is, is the budget that is presented before us such a budget, on the merits of which we feel justified in congratulating the country? That is one test. It has been claimed that it is a surplus budget. It has been further claimed that a recovery in Indian economic situation has set in and has set in very strongly. In fact, it has been claimed that there are sure signs of increasing prosperity and that we can count upon an undoubted and increasing improvement in our economic condition. These are not my words, these are the words which occur in the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member. On these two questions, as to whether there is a surplus budget and whether there are really signs of increasing prosperity, I cannot see eye to eye with the Honourable the Finance Member. One may or may not attach too much importance to the Cassandra-like prophecies of those who are not endowed with the unduly robust optimism of our Finance Member. One may or may not have that implicit faith in the innate and marvellous powers of India for recuperation from economic troubles. There may or may not be room for honest differences of opinion on that point, but I feel no hesitation in submitting two propositions before this Honourable House. The first proposition is that there is really no surplus at all. All that glitters is not gold, and an apparent surplus is no real surplus at all. Sir, under the emergency taxation legislation of September, 1931, Government have taken crores and crores of rupees from the people, we have had to pay additional taxes in the neighbourhood of Rs. 50 crores during these last five or six years. What is the total amount of the much-vaunted surplus? It is not even eight crores up to the end of the current year, and including the budget surplus for 1936-37, it will not be even ten crores. It is mere truism to say that, but for this additional taxation, there would have been a deficit to the tune of about 40 crores up to this time. Can it, therefore, be said that there is a surplus budget? A man raises, say, Rs. 50 crores, either by loan or by extortion or by robbery; he squanders 40 crores of this amount, and then proclaims from the house-tops that he has made a net saving or surplus of ten crores. I do submit that the claim for a surplus, made by the Honourable the Finance Member, is no more tenable or justifiable than that of the hypothetical man whose case I have just mentioned. So, my contention is—I shall not use any strong language, but I shall say this, that it will be a substantial untruth to say that there has been a surplus and that the budget is a surplus budget.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): It is only a substantial untruth; not a misrepresentation!

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is unparliamentary.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: I said I should not like to use strong language. (Laughter.) The second proposition that I should like to put before this House is this, that it is rash, if not reckless, to assert that the corner has been turned in India and that India is completely out of the wood.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I never said that.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: The Honourable the Finance Member certainly did not use these identical words, but he certainly used words which are more significant and more dogmatic in that direction. Let us take the test, one after another, as to prosperity and as to recovery.

The first and foremost test of recovery is the price level. Has there been a rise in the prices of agricultural commodities? I take it that there is no dispute that the price level is as low now as it was ever since 1929. If that is so, can it be said that there is any sign of recovery? On this question of price level, during the question hour, we have asked on more than one occasion—there may not be too many times, but I remember at least two occasions on which we asked the Honourable the Finance Member as to whether he has taken any steps seriously and honestly, ever since he assumed office, to improve the price level of agricultural commodities. My grievance is that he has never cared to answer this question in a straightforward manner; he avoided, he evaded. The other day, the Honourable Sir Henry Craik, taking a brief for his colleague, characterised the supplementary questions in this House as a police court cross-examination. Now, Sir, whenever a question is not answered. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair cannot allow the Honourable Member to go into that. He must confine himself to the budget.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: I bow to your ruling. The point that I was making was simply this. Here is a test of prosperity and of recovery, namely, the price level of agricultural commodities, but, in spite of our best efforts, we have not been able to get any information from the Honourable the Finance Member, as to his plan and programme. That was my point. That is one test. Let us consider another test as to economic prosperity. Has the standard of living amongst the masses been raised in proportion to productive capacity? Has the purchasing power of the masses been increased in any way? Then there is the other test about industrial development. Can the Honourable the Finance Member say what serious effort he has made throughout the year, or ever since his assumption of office, for the improvement of industry? With regard to that, the policy of Government has been definitely laid down in the Resolution passed by this House in February, 1923,—the policy of discriminating protection. I want to ask the Honourable the Finance Member whether as a Finance Member he is following that policy or is he fighting that policy. Is it not a fact that he has been going round the country and preaching against the policy of indiscriminate protection?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Certainly against indiscriminate protection.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

[3RD MARCH 1936.]

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: My friend is taking advantage of a slip of the tongue,—I meant discriminating protection. I am reminded of the speech that was made by the Honourable the Finance Member at Bombay. Now, Sir, the sight of the Finance Member of the Government of India fighting the financial policy of the Government of India regarding industries is a sight for the gods to see. If one were to follow strictly the traditions of the British Parliament when one is unable to carry out honestly the policy of the Government, the only course is to resign. I wonder, Sir, if that aspect of the question has ever occurred to the Honourable the Finance Member. As regards industry, of course, the political barometer may rise or may not rise. The financier may be orthodox or heterodox, but certainly even the most orthodox financier will not dispute that the problem for India at the present moment is a problem of industrialisation. That is the fundamental problem for India. The salvation of India lies in industrialisation. Unfortunately for us we have got a Finance Member who will not carry out the policy of the Government of India with regard to industries. Let us take another test, the question of unemployment. The budget is silent, the speech is silent as to what steps have been taken to tackle this problem of unemployment. Ever since the depression began, every country in the world, in order to fight the demon of depression, has devised some plan or other, call it economic plan or by any other name. Every country has adopted some plan of its own. In India, Sir George Schuster was seriously contemplating as to what that plan should be. He definitely said "we must have a plan" but unfortunately for us, his successor is not a believer in any plan whatever. He is an advocate of the doctrine of *laissez-faire*, that exploded doctrine. His philosophy is a comfortable philosophy, the philosophy of inaction and stagnation. He is not for exertion. He is looking up to the Heavens and expecting some windfall as he actually looked up throughout his budget speech. May I sound a warning? Even India will not stand any such economic nonsense for any length of time. Therefore, I say that we will be living in a fool's paradise if we proceed on the assumption that India is on the high road to prosperity, and to recovery.

May I invite the attention of the House to some salient features of the Budget? The most remarkable fact is that this is a rich man's budget. For the year 1936-37 the estimated surplus is 242 lakhs. How has it been distributed? For reducing the surcharge on income and super-tax a grant has been made of 138 lakhs. That is for the relief of the rich. Then for the abolition of the tax up to Rs. 2,000—47 lakhs. That again is relief for the middle class people. The last concession is the postal concession about the weight of the one anna letter. That, also, I submit, is relief for the middle class people. The crowning irony of the whole thing is that whatever relief has been given has been given to the rich and the middle class people and none to the poor, not even in the matter of the post-card. The second feature of this budget is that it is an extravagant budget, because it appears that in spite of the depression expenditure has been allowed to mount up from year to year.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only two minutes more.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: One important aspect of this budget is that it is a political budget, a budget for propaganda. I find 20 lakhs has been granted for the development of broadcasting.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): I must emphatically protest against that statement. Broadcasting is not used for propaganda.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: I shall definitely prove that it is for propaganda. One of the items is "rural broadcasting service in Midnapore", and I find from one of the papers circulated that one of the items is "propaganda talks" in villages. It is very significant that, of all the districts in Bengal, Midnapore should have been singled out for this purpose, the district of that *zabardast* magistrate, Mr. Griffiths. He said once "my district, Midnapore".

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not think the Honourable Member ought to discuss these matters here.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Of course, that is a district where the monopoly of propaganda is taken by the officials. When my friend, Mr. Chattopadhyaya, went there to speak to his constituents, he was turned out by Mr. Griffiths.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: He has been turned out from here also.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Then, another matter, I want to refer to, is the appointment of the News Editor, Mr. Franks, at the Delhi Station.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Sir, I shall conclude my speech. It is said that all this broadcasting is for the benefit of the cultivator. Sir, scriptures may certainly be quoted by anybody in support of any cause.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair cannot give the Honourable Member any more time.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: Half a second, Sir. For rural uplift there is five lakhs for cottage industries and the amount has been spread out over five years. It is, therefore, merely a white-wash and a camouflage. I want to say one word about Bengal, Sir,—I cannot elaborate it, I only mention it, that the whole of the jute tax ought to be given to Bengal; and income-tax also.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The whole of that too?

Maulana Shaukat Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, probably some of my friends may be astonished that I am rising to speak on this budget. My theory of the financial adjustment is known to everybody in this House. The only knowledge I have of finance is based on my personal expense, that is, I begin my family budget often with a zero and sometimes with a minus balance. (Laughter.) As regards affairs here, Sir, I have come to have some regard for the Honourable the Finance Member, not so much for his financial abilities as for other qualities, and I rather like him. (Laughter.) Sir, he is a sportsman, and talks and behaves like an over-grown school-boy. (Hear, hear.) In spite of my grey beard, I have also got the school-boy mentality. Now, he likes hitting people all round, and the people in their turn are hitting him, and so the fight goes on. I would not use the strong language that I used last year in this House for which I was reprimanded and for which you made me apologise to the House. Now, the case I am going to relate is a very interesting case—based on my own knowledge. I am afraid, from what I am going to say, the Honourable the Home Member may think that probably I am offering bribery and corruption. (Laughter.)

[Maulana Shaukat Ali.]

Sir, last year, I got a few rupees off in my income-tax on my little pension which I got on account of my humble, but I think, very meritorious services as a government officer, viz., Rs. 2 last year; and this year I have got another Rs. 2 and now my pension will be absolutely free from income-tax and I shall start life with a banking account of four rupees a month. I must thank him for that, but I have got one grievance also which I shall lay before him and before the House—and I hope, as he is in a good mood, he will consider it favourably. He has got lots of money in his pocket—a fine surplus in the budget; and only the other day he offered, when angry, four annas to our millionaire (Sir Cowasji Jehangir) to join the Congress. I do hope he will offer something to me now when he is happy, but I assure him that I shall be very glad to run up to him and receive the gift. Sir, I have been that abject being, called a "Government servant" for seventeen years in my province, the United Provinces, and I was a very honest and a very capable officer. (Laughter.) I assure you that I know my job.

An Honourable Member: Opium was your job.

Maulana Shaukat Ali: Yes, opium was my job, and I did it well, and it agreed with me. Sir, I served for seventeen years. Then, suddenly, something happened to me, to Islam and to the Moslem world, and suddenly I gave up Government service, and I gave up the beautiful clothes I used to put on, and I gave off my shaving twice a day (Laughter), and, then, I started the growing of this beard, and I stood up for my conviction against this Government.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is not speaking to the budget.

Maulana Shaukat Ali: Sir, after seventeen years' meritorious service, my pension, a poor amount, was given to me and, then, because I stood for my faith this Government not only locked me and my brother in prison, but when I came out, also stopped my pension. This certainly has to do with this budget. Sir, for fourteen years I non-co-operated with these people and never asked them for my pension. When H. E. the Viceroy frequently asked me that I should not non-co-operate, and also, on my own account I wanted to co-operate and I did co-operate I asked for my pension as a sign of goodwill, but this Government only gave me three years' pension, and they docked up Rs. 20,000 of my arrears of pension. Sir, I hope the Honourable the Finance Member, now that he has got a budget surplus, will restore me that (Laughter) and will thus make his budget a real poor man's budget and include in that concessions for poor pensioners like myself. There must be other pensioners in the countries who have been wrongly deprived of their pension. Then, Sir, I have got one other little grievance. There was a very festive gathering—a very fine lunch given in Simla at which I was present—and there the question was being discussed about the allowances Honourable Members of this House were getting. Now, my difficulty about Simla was that, when I first went to Simla, all the rickshaw coolies said to me: "You are the right type of a member to come to the Assembly, your weight is such that you cannot walk too much, please get into a rickshaw", and they all began to loot me, so much so, that half of my allowance that you gave me went to the rickshaw coolies. (Laughter.) Now, Sir, I cannot understand what is wrong with the financial experts of this Government. Here,

in Delhi, we can walk over a flat country, and also we can get a friend's car or a friendly *tonga* and they give us here Rs. 5 a day for our conveyance; but, in Simla, there you go up, or you go down and it is impossible for a man of my size and age to walk. I am now a broken down old athlete and my knees ache and refuse to function. It is a great pity the Government do not give us Rs. 5 there for conveyance as they do here. These were the things they were discussing at that lunch. I heard that these old friends of mine the Congress Party were very troublesome to the Government and they ask all sorts of embarrassing questions and raise troublesome discussions, some of which I also do not like. (Hear, hear.) It was suggested that there should be formed a scheme through which fewer elected non-officials should be coming to the Assembly Sessions and thus the Government should always win and never lose in a debate or in the divisions. There were many suggestions made. Now, my suggestion was this. It would be much better that you give us a reasonable consolidated allowance, which Members drew whether they attended the Sessions or not.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must now conclude his speech unless he confines himself to the budget.

Maulana Shaukat Ali: These are matters which do form part of the budget, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member knows that the discussion on the budget is not for raising questions of personal grievances, but the grievances of the country.

Maulana Shaukat Ali: These are grievances of the country, Sir. (Laughter.) Now, Honourable Members opposite (Government Benches) ventilate their own grievances, the question of their pay, their overseas allowances and hundreds of other allowances they want in spite of the huge salary that they get and we poor people have not got even our minimum demands satisfied. Surely, we have a right to put our case before the Government, and I think you ought to support us. (Laughter.) This is not only my personal grievance—it is a grievance of all the poor Members of this Assembly, and, in this poor man's Assembly, I have put in a very important suggestion for the consideration of the Honourable the Finance Member; and I do hope, Sir, he will show a little generosity and increase our allowance—at least they should give us in Simla some kind of rickshaw allowance.

Then, the second matter, which concerns the poor man's budget, is this. They should reduce the price of postcards to two pice. If they do that, it will be a very popular budget. I need not speak much on this obvious point. I think if they do that, in spite of violent criticisms, all would be satisfied with this budget. I think if my Honourable friend, Mr. Bewoor, could see his way to give two pice postcards, then this budget will really be a poor man's budget and a popular budget.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, for one like myself, who has been accustomed since 1921 to hear about deficit budgets year after year and new taxation every year, the

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present year's budget is a great relief, and I welcome it wholeheartedly. I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member on having presented such a popular budget. The Honourable the Finance Member is not a magician, and, therefore, he cannot change the character of the Government and its commitments by the touch, as it were, of a magician's wand, but whatever little he could do, he has done. It has come as a great relief and pleasure to me to find that, instead of new taxes, even some of the old taxes have been remitted this year. I am glad that the Honourable the Finance Member has set apart some money as reserve for defence. We always learnt in the past that a great deal of our money is consumed by the extraordinary expenditure on the military side. By finding reserves for the defence, it will be possible to meet the extraordinary requirements, on the military side as they come, from this reserve fund. I hope a sufficient amount will be placed in reserve so as to save this country from further taxation or putting the Government to the necessity of borrowing. There is one aspect of the budget on which all are agreed and that is that the deficit on account of loss on the strategic lines of railways, which amounts to about two crores of rupees, should be really debited to military budget. The strategic lines are not really commercial lines and they stand by themselves, and I see no reason why the military should not bear the loss on these lines. If that is done, then we can easily find out how much India spends on her defences and what is the proportion of military expenditure to civil expenditure.

I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member on having taken away the income-tax on incomes below Rs. 2,000. That is really a welcome relief to the poor people who could not find sufficient money to meet their ordinary necessities and requirements, such as education of their children, medical relief, etc. My Honourable friend, Maulana Shaukat Ali, already pointed out that he too would get relief to the extent of two rupees per month. The most unpopular budget that we ever had was when the income-tax was levied on incomes below Rs. 2,000. Some of the millionaires also will get relief in this budget by way of reduction of surcharge. But, as regards the reduction of surcharges, my ideas may not be palatable to some Honourable Members of this House. I submit that the surcharge, if it had remained at the old level, would not have been unwelcome to the country provided there was a reduction in the cost of postcards. It would have been welcome if postcards had been reduced in price rather than the reduction of surcharges. If the Government had been able to balance the budget without having to face a deficit, even then it would have been justified in keeping the surcharges at the old level on high incomes. The Government could have thus seen their way to reduce some of the unpleasant taxes which agitate the minds of the country such as postcards, etc. By keeping the high rates for postcards, the Government have given a loophole for agitation in the country. I know, Sir, that the postcards are not so much used by the poor people as is sought to be made out in the House. The postcards are really used more and more by the business people. There are few people whom we can really call poor who use the postcards at all. Perhaps these poor people would use postcards once or twice a year. I am sure, I am not wrong when I say that people whom my Honourable friends, Mr. Joshi and Mr. Giri, represent, never resort to letter writing

at all. They have nothing to correspond with others. Probably they write once a year, or they may not write even once a year. Whatever it may be, even if the postcards are used only by businessmen, there is no justification in keeping the cost of a postcard at three pice instead of two pice. If it had been the case that the very poor people have recourse to postcards, then the charges should have been reduced still further. If any cuts come up from any side of the House in the shape of reduction of charges on postcards, I think the Government would do well to accept such a motion with good grace. This is my sincere advice to the Government that they must show to the Opposition that they are ready to meet them when they are really reasonable.

The next subject on which I should like to say a few words is the question of unemployment in the country. What have the Government done with regard to unemployment? The Government, as the custodian of the welfare of the people, should find ways and means to solve this unemployment problem. Anybody who finds his stomach empty is sure to agitate against the Government. Nowadays, education is rapidly advancing in the country and Universities are turning out lots of graduates, but these graduates find no employment whatsoever in the country. The policy of Government should be changed in this direction, and I think Government should spend as much money as they can on technical education which is greatly needed in this country. I do not see that Government have done anything at all in that direction in the present year or that they propose to do anything for the future.

An Honourable Member: That is a provincial subject.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: It may be a provincial subject, but the Government of India are as much involved in it as the Provincial Governments are. If an agitation takes place, the Government of India suffer as much as the Provincial Governments do. And, whatever sum they can afford, they must spend, in order to give help to the Provincial Governments and the Universities in order to provide technical education rather than turn out more graduates either in science or in arts.

One thing that I wanted to know and I expected in the speech of the Finance Member is, how much India has gained in commerce this year, whether we have been able to purchase our commodities by making payments by the export of gold or whether our exports are equal to our imports. If our imports have increased a great deal and brought a lot of customs revenue, what about our exports? Is our export really the export of gold or of raw material? We want that our exports should be of raw materials which bring wealth to the country and not the small hoardings of gold of the poorer people which they have been tempted to part with, simply because the prices had gone a little bit high. That is a point which I expected the Finance Member to deal with elaborately in his speech, but he has not done so. I think the right policy for Government is to take stock of the situation in the country and not depend in future on making purchases from the other countries with the precious metal which we have got in this country.

Then, we find that, in spite of so many sugar mills being put up, the duty on sugar has increased. I think this should not be kept as a standard for the future. If revenue has come from the sugar import

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customs duty, this will not last very long and Government should not depend on it in future; they will be wise if they take the circumstances into consideration and not deliberately go on with a policy which may not be fulfilled in the next few years. The sugar mills which are rising every day in this country will have to be supported by giving protection, because Government gave them hopes in the beginning that they will go on giving protection to this industry. The revenue from this head is sure to fall in future years as far as import is concerned. I do not know how far Government have been able to check the illegal import in those harbours which are not Government harbours. I have heard a lot of tales,—I do not know if Government are aware of them and have taken proper precaution,—that a lot of sugar is imported, not in Bombay or Karachi or in other British Indian ports, but in some ports in Gujrat, and that this sugar finds its way in an unauthorised manner into British India. It is a difficult thing to check, but I hope Government have taken proper precautions about it. I should like to know from the Finance Member as to what steps Government are taking about it.

One thing more, and I have done. The University, which I have the honour to represent in this House, as I am the representative of the Muslim University at Aligarh,.....

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Not here?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Yes, I represent it in this House.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How? Is it a University seat?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Aligarh is in my constituency, and so I represent that University.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Ah! Then I represent the Madras University!

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: That University requires a great deal of money in the near future to change its policy and educate young men in such a manner that they may be useful citizens and may not wander about as unemployed graduates. For this we require some kind of help from Government.

Several Honourable Members: All Universities want it.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I made a general case about it in the beginning, and now I am representing the case of this University as its representative in this House. I hope Government will do their best for it, and my community also is doing its best to help themselves. Although I know that God helps those who help themselves, still Government also must help them. As God has made this Government and placed them in this position.....

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Don't say God has made this Government.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: They are the distributors of wealth, and I hope they will not be lacking in their efforts to look after the interests of this University.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I must confess, in the first place, that I am not much of a financier. I know very little about finance, but I know something about medicine. In medical practice, there is a rule that people call in experts when the disease becomes dangerous, but the patient gets generally very little out of the experts. The general practitioner calls in one expert and he says that this is a case for the ear specialist. The ear specialist is called, and he says that the blood specimen should be sent to the pathologist and his report should be called for. A third one is called, and he says the urine should be examined after which he would be able to say what to do. So, in fact, the man goes from one expert to the other, while the disease makes its own headway: and perhaps the patient has paid through the nose and gets very little out of all these consultations! We have, Sir, an expert in our Finance Member to the Government of India. I am sure, he is well paid as the experts go, and we have got this disease in India—the disease of chronic poverty.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Hear, hear.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: We have asked him to realise this chronic poverty and show some relief by which this chronic poverty of India of years could find some loophole through which it could come out and we could say: "Our poor man's income has been raised to such and such an extent", even by as much as a quarter of an anna. Each year's budget comes, each year's budget goes, but the poor man is perhaps growing worse day by day, and the expert advice, as all expert advices are, is perhaps not advantageous to the patient.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): His urine is not examined.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: In fact, we have heard—at least from what I have seen of the budget, I can see very well—that the Finance Member has made an exceedingly good budget from the financial point of view. He has shown us very good surpluses, but he seems to have twitted the Opposition by saying that he attached rather too much importance "to the Cassandra-like prophecies of those who were concerned for one reason or other to proclaim that India was being ruined by its attachment to the British Empire and its adherence to sterling". I would put it to him this way. You are a great expert, you have been brought here at great expense, and although we are not aware of financial implications, we suggested some remedies last year. May I say that you, in your wisdom, found it worth your while not to follow the advice we gave you last year. We wanted some reduction in income-tax, some reduction in postal charges, and those you have given now, but at what cost?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should address the Chair.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: We have paid the taxes right throughout the year at the enhanced rate, and if you had been a very good prophet, you ought to have spared us this extra taxation, because, we at least have proved that our calculations were perfectly correct, according to our proposals last year. Probably it was the prestige of the Government that stood in the way of our proposals being accepted; they were afraid that the Congress fight would have made itself felt in the country if Government

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had given us the reductions for which we pleaded. But this year what is it we find? We find a surplus of nearly five crores, with the result that the country has been asked.....

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The Honourable Member is talking about the surplus of the year before. The surplus in the current year is Rs. 2,42 lakhs.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: We wanted these reductions last year, and if the Finance Member had granted them to us last year, we should certainly have gained by them, because his financial forecast of this year and of last year shows that he has realised his anticipations and he could as well have granted them without fear of a deficit budget—and our advice was that the relief we asked for could be given. That apart, what we contended for last year still continues, namely, that we are part of the Empire and that our finances have been tacked on to sterling. What we see today in the finances of the Government of India is a phenomenon which I find it very hard to compromise. There is a deficit all over the provinces except perhaps in my own province of Madras where they have tried to equalise the receipts and expenses. We have found a large deficit in all the major provinces of the country.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member may stop here.

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.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: When the House rose, Sir, I was saying that I could not understand how a prosperity budget could be announced under the existing conditions. Last week, the Honourable the Railway Member told us that there is a huge deficit and that movements of goods and long lead traffic were all absent, and, therefore, he had a deficit budget. Again, Sir, the price levels of this country do not show any improvement at all. The prices of commodities have remained exactly as they were last year. Rice, cotton and oil-seeds—in fact any commodity which is of any commercial value for this country—have all fallen in price, and the poor man in the villages is just as poor as he was last year. In fact, from the statement contained in the budget, I believe that the poor man has lost the very little of precious gold that he ever held in this country and has taken to hoarding nickel coins in place of gold. Gold goes from the country as freely as ever, and the Finance Member is not in a position to tell us for how long this drain will go on and when it will ever stop. He does not tell us the approximate amount of gold hoarded in this country; he does not tell us how long this process of drainage of gold will go on: on the contrary he

tells us that the drain must go on, while confessing it is all distress gold. How long the export of this distress gold will balance our budgets it is very difficult to say, but the fact remains that gold is being drained from this country at a very very rapid rate.

There is no attempt made in this budget to reduce expenditure to any appreciable degree. Take the Army. There is a suggestion that, if anything, it tends to go up. There is already an increase of 20 lakhs nearly, and, if things go on at this rate, I do not know really whether this military budget, which is the heaviest item in our expenditure, will ever go down at all. No attempt is made to nationalise the army. No attempt has ever been made to train men, civilians, for the army. Instead, an army of occupation is being maintained recruited from the so-called martial classes, both British and non-British. In our efforts to maintain the army we get some consolation in the budget. The budget figures tell us that there is ten lakhs accruing to the Government by sending our army—I should think the unemployed army—abroad for service. That has brought in a relief of ten lakhs. But, it only proves this, that that army is not wanted for us: it could be easily spared, it could be easily sent abroad. But if the army could really be nationalised and if every free citizen is trained to take up arms in defence of his hearth and home, we would really find the military budget necessarily decreases. When compared with the colonies and dominions, India maintains a very heavy military expenditure absolutely disproportionate to its position in the Empire. This has been brought to the notice of Government more than once and no attempt has ever been even suggested with regard to this heavy military debt.

Then, there is no attempt even to reduce the civil expenditure, both here as well as in England. Commodity prices have fallen, but the wage cuts have been restored. An anomaly of this sort could never exist in any country where public opinion has at all any say in the matter.

There is one other item to which I would like to draw the attention of the House. When the tax on salt was restored and was levied, we were told it was to balance a deficit budget. Now, years have gone by: we have got a surplus budget and the tax on salt remains as it ever was. The poor man's salt has been knocked on the head. The Gandhi-Irwin Pact, which, after a struggle of years, brought about a gentlemen's agreement between Lord Irwin and Mahatma Gandhi, has been ignored: the poor man was told he could get his salt free; he could go and lift salt to the extent of his family requirements: but what was given by the right hand was taken away by the left: he was told that he lifted salt indiscriminately and therefore the whole of the poor men in India were punished by being deprived of this privilege which they got as a result of that agreement. Certainly, if the Government had so wished, they could have punished the wrong-doer; the man who infringed the law. It is not beyond the capacity of our Government to do that: but they say: "We are helpless, we cannot prevent people from stealing salt and we cannot alter it: therefore, we must punish the whole community". A more flagrant violation of an honest agreement we could never imagine.

Coming now to the postal rates, I was surprised to find an Honourable gentleman of this House, the Member from Meerut, saying that the poor people did not use post cards. I would refer him to the statistics published by the Postal Department and the number of cards

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that are being utilised. These gentlemen do not know, when they speak, how large a place the card finds in a poor man's budget. I have seen people writing with two coloured inks, one right across from top to bottom, and again across in red ink, so that they could get in as much matter as possible in the small space of a postcard, for fear that they would have to pay another quarter-anna more. That is the poverty of our country, and yet we find one of our own Members coming and telling us that postcards are not used by the poor people . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: There is only one more item which I would like to mention before I close, and that is the expenditure on the reconstruction of Quetta. Last year we did complain that the revenues must not be spent on reconstruction of Quetta and that a separate loan should be raised for the purpose. As a civilian I may not be able to appreciate its importance, but for military needs reconstruction of Quetta may be necessary, and if it is necessary, then it is common knowledge that capital expenditure cannot be supported by this means. Money has to be raised separately for the purpose. Money is cheap and interest rates also are lower, and it is no use taking away the revenues of the country for reconstructing Quetta instead of relieving the poor man.

Dr. Khan Sahib (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, to rise and take part in the debate on the general budget is an onerous task. The Honourable the Finance Member will excuse me if I say something which may not be very palatable to him. The House has heard the optimists and the pessimists; I am a realist, and have, by a slow process of elimination, removed from my mind those dreams of self-deception which are prevalent in the minds of the optimists and the pessimists alike.

Now, Sir, coming to the budget, it is a well balanced budget on paper, and one must congratulate the representative of the foreign exploiters for his jugglery. (Laughter from Opposition Benches.) I have no complaint to make if he has failed to think of a fair distribution of the production of this land among the starving millions who are entitled to it, because he has been sent to this country for the specific purpose of taking away whatever he can lay his hands on by the help of all the forces at his command. ("Hear, hear" from Opposition Benches.) I, for myself, am convinced that this Government will never do anything for the good of the people of this country. This group of Executive Councillors, who promulgate Ordinances against the will of the people, and then consider themselves above them and thus abuse them, Sir, according to my way of thinking, is an unlawful assembly. (Laughter.)

Mr. M. S. Aney: You mean the Executive Councillors?

Dr. Khan Sahib: Yes, I mean the Executive Councillors. Sir, it is impossible for them to have a clear mind and clear brain, which is absolutely necessary for conducting the affairs of the State properly, because they are constantly chased by the fear of being found out and

their iniquitous secret deeds exposed before the world. Moreover, the constant irritation caused by the knowledge (and here I must sympathise with them) of their being removed from this country in the near future. It is my cherished hope that the contradictions brought about by their misdeeds will help us in the realisation of our goal of freedom quicker than we imagine.

Sir, this Government of the jugglers who can send out and bring in Members into this House at any time they like, as we noticed it just before the Finance Bill was introduced, proves to us beyond doubt that their ways are irresponsible and deserve condemnation.

Sir, I have divided this Government into parts so as to make its complicated structure easier for analysis: (1) that section which is composed of foreign exploiters who think only of their country, and their duty, during their temporary stay here, is to take away as much as they can. They never think of the people of this country and they are quite right in doing so, because, when they retire, they are forgotten by the people of this country, and so they are not responsible to them. Then, the second one is the hired section. This section, Sir, reminds me of the example of a particular senate. A great emperor, after just depriving that senate of all hand in public affairs, called them and consulted them on the matter of what sauce should be served with a fine "Turbot" he had received from a distant shore. Then comes the third the non-remunerated section. The members of that section are constantly living in the hope of being declared Knights of the Round Table (Laughter), and are always ready to answer loyally to the dictates of their masters irrespective of caste, creed or religion. Sir, it is amusing to listen to the communal debates in this House, when we see all the Members on the Opposite Benches, they are, for all practical purposes, English, Scotch or Welsh or Ulstermen if you like. I am afraid I won't call them Irish, because they may not like it or it may not be to their advantage (Laughter), as you all know the word "Irish" is an irritant to their benefactors. Sir, now to come to the point (Laughter) . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member recognises that he has not been speaking to the point so long.

Dr. Khan Sahib: It was merely an analysis of the Government.

I will first begin with the Afridis,—last year we were told that 25 lakhs were set apart for the construction of a road, for which they had received a request in the form of a document with thumb impressions. This year, I do not know what the position is, because the Finance Member is reticent about it, but whether it is pleasant or unpleasant, I will lay before the House certain facts which will throw some light on the manner in which our foreign exploiters conduct affairs on the Frontier. Last year, they got some Afridis and they made them sign a blank paper. They got thumb-impressions of those who could not sign. When two of the people asked what would be the future contents of that paper (Laughter), they were turned out on the plea of being habitual charas smokers. I am afraid, this might appear strange to the Honourable Members; but, on the Frontier, things like that are not uncommon. We had a Chief Medical Officer who could pass a lunatic quite fit to will away his property. This is not hearsay. What I say I know, and it has been done to people whom I know personally. Now, luckily, that Medical Officer is not on the Frontier. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This also is not the budget.

Some Honourable Members: This is Foreign and Political Department budget. (Laughter.)

Dr. Khan Sahib: +[* * * *] To come back to the Afridi affair, there is still trouble going on about that road. The Afridis do not want that road, but Government are forcing it, and I will tell you how the Government are trying to enforce their will. To begin with, I must narrate a few items which will clear the whole situation.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Frontier budget is not under discussion.

Dr. Khan Sahib: This comes under the foreign policy. I have not come to the Frontier yet; it is on the borderland. (Laughter.) After the last Afghan War, the Afridis signed an agreement with the Government with the exception of the Zakka Khels, which is one of the chief tribes of the Afridis; they neither paid the fine nor returned the quota of their rifles. For the purpose of protecting certain parts from the Zakka Khels, the Government engaged three men, one Ghulam Haidar Khan of . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better not mention names. Let him leave off names.

Dr. Khan Sahib: They engaged three men for the Chura Lachi Pass to prevent any raids. After two years, the Zakka Khels came to an agreement with the Government, and, then, from 1922-25, the railway work and the work of the pickets continued quite peacefully. In 1925, the Government established fortifications at Shagai, and the coolie camps for the railway work. This caused some irritation among the tribes. The Chura-Lachi arrangement continued for the protection of these camps till 1927-28. After the work was finished, they terminated the Chura-Lachi arrangement,—this was all personal and temporary arrangement. The allowances, which are paid to the Afridis, are in compensation for what is called the Khyber toll. The Afridis used to take toll from people who went to Afghanistan *via* the Khyber Pass. At the time the Government took over the Khyber Pass, they agreed that they would pay certain allowances in compensation to the Afridis. The Afridis further agreed to the protection of the North-Khyber Road for motors, the railway line and the South Khyber Road. All those allowances, which the Afridis get, are for the Khyber Pass and the roads, as mutually agreed upon. Now, the Government say, they won't pay the old allowances unless the Afridis agree to the construction of the new road, in other words, they are going to repudiate their pledges.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe (Foreign Secretary): On a point of information, Sir. May I ask how the Honourable Member knows what the Government are going to do?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member can contradict it, he can do so.

+Portion within brackets since expunged by order of the Honourable the President.

Dr. Khan Sahib: I know the Afridi Jirga is still going on. The Honourable Member went there himself, but he stayed only in the Government House. The Jirga was going on up to the time when I left the Frontier, the question was not settled. I do not know if the Honourable Member has got the latest information. If they have done something now, that may be, but when I was there, they were creating trouble between the different tribes. They wanted to pay certain tribes and stop the allowances of others, which will create disturbances and my information is accurate and correct, because the secret service cannot hide it from me. If there is any trouble on the frontier, at least it is my duty to tell the Honourable Members of this House that it will not be the fault of the Afridis. They have got these pledges, and I have told you what those pledges were given for, and now those pledges are going to be repudiated.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I do not know.

Dr. Khan Sahib: I do not mind; let them throw it away, but only I want my countrymen to know that we are not going to be deceived by statements of this Government that the irritation on the Frontier is produced by the Afridis, and we should not be a party to the sanction of money to create trouble between our brothers on this side and that side. My object is that the House should know this. The Afridis used to bring firewood to Peshawar to sell,—because they are very poor people,—for their livelihood. The hiring of a bullock cart from Darah to Peshawar costs Rs. 3, and a whole bullock cart, full of firewood, is sold in the Peshawar City for about Rs. 8. Now, what do you think the Government have done? They have imposed a Rs. 5 tax on a bullock cart. How are the Afridis going to make any living out of that? This will further increase their irritation. It may not appear to the Honourable Members of this Government unjust, because they receive very comfortable remuneration for their very little work. (Laughter.) . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only one minute more.

Dr. Khan Sahib: All right, Sir. At least one point I have cleared, and, if I have a further chance, I shall give further description to the House about other affairs. With these words, I resume my seat.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: May I, before we proceed, raise a point of order? I understood the Honourable Member to make certain gross accusations against an officer of Government, and I would ask that those remarks may be expunged from the record of the House.

Some Honourable Members: Why?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair asked the Honourable Member not to mention names. The names have not perhaps been mentioned.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: No name was mentioned, but a particular officer was mentioned, and there can be no doubt in anybody's mind, who knows about that particular province, as to what officer was mentioned.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member's remarks are relevant, the Chair cannot allow the remarks to be expunged. ("Hear, hear" from Opposition Benches.) But if the Honourable Member wants to make necessary corrections, he may point out that the remarks are not well founded.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No objection can be taken long after the speech. If the Honourable Member wanted to object to any words, he ought to have done so then and there. My Honourable friend cannot object to it at this stage.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member wants to make a speech, he can certainly make the correction.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: May I know, Sir, whether my objection has been taken note of?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair cannot allow the remark made by the Honourable Member, Dr. Khan Sahib, to be expunged from the record, but the Honourable Member, if he wishes to correct any misrepresentation that has been made, is at liberty to do so when he intervenes in this debate.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: My objection is this. So far as I understood the Honourable Member, he stated that the Chief Medical Officer, North-West Frontier Province, was prepared to give a false certificate if he was paid enough to do so. That is the remark that I object to, and I think it is a remark which ought not to be made.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not think it heard him say that.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: He said that the Chief Medical Officer was prepared to give a false certificate, if he was paid enough to do so.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair will look into the speech and if it finds that the Honourable Member has made that remark, then certainly, the Chair will expunge it.

Dr. Khan Sahib: I say, Sir, what I have said is absolutely true and the Honourable the Foreign Secretary knows it.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Dr. Khan Sahib referred to a Chief Medical Officer. He had only a particular person in mind.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If any such allegation was made by the Honourable Member, the Chair will look into it later.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Whether that is relevant or not, I leave it to you. If it is absolutely irrelevant, then, why should it stand?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I have read May to some purpose; and, if any Honourable Member objects to any word or phrase, you have the right to ask the Member to repeat what he said, and then give your ruling.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair has given its ruling. If the words are such as to bear the interpretation which has been put upon them by the Foreign Secretary, then, in that case, the Chair holds that those words ought to be taken out.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I hope you will give us a chance. If those words are objected to, I ask you to hear both sides and then give your considered ruling.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the remarks referred to by the Foreign Secretary were made, then they cannot be allowed to stand.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: You do not now know what are the remarks.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That that particular officer gave some certificate on being paid.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: He did not mention any particular officer by name.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair has given its ruling.

Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Mr. President, in commenting upon the general budget of the Government of India for 1936-37, I must commence by a tribute of welcome and admiration for the statement presented by the Honourable the Finance Member, Sir James Grigg. By a combination of circumstances and good fortune, Sir James has been able to present a budget with a substantial surplus, which is not unique in the series of years for which he has to render an account; and in the disposal of which some of the important and crying needs of the country have been served, for which every reasonable heart must feel grateful.

While offering this meed of congratulation to the author of the budget, I must not omit to state that I cannot agree with all the reasoning and principles underlying Sir James's budget statement, and much less with the implications of some of his observations. The surplus seems to be repeating for three years in succession; and each time the original estimate for the surplus of the same year has been exceeded by the revised estimates or the final accounts for the same period. This fact alone indicates that Sir James is a cautious and conservative estimator who confronts us each time with the agreeable surprise of finding each time his own expectations bettered.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: He works for it.

Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji: Yes. Nevertheless we cannot agree to the belief, implicit in the statement, that economic recovery has definitely set in; or that the policy of Government in adhering to sterling and permitting gold exports without restriction was the wisest and the most beneficent course that could have been devised. We cannot see, from the Index Numbers published by Government themselves, that there is an appreciable rise in the general price level, or in the level of prices of the commodities in which India is most vitally concerned. Nor do the Trade Returns of the country, issued from month to month, indicate that healthy and substantial improvement in the country's exports, which alone can spell a real recovery in the depression that is still hanging like a pall upon the country's collective economy. In the absence or weakness of these indices, we can scarcely regard the state of our national

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economy as a matter for unqualified felicitation, even though the financial position by itself may show a surplus budget. The finances of a country are, indeed, the mirror of its general economic position, if properly handled. But high taxation, and a distorted fiscal policy may succeed in showing, for a time, a hectic, and a spurious prosperity, which may be no true index of the real economic position in the country; and I very much fear, the actual state of our national economy, closely scrutinised, will not reveal much cause for gratification, despite the repeated surplus shown by the Finance Member.

I am the more impelled to these somewhat Cassandra-like reflections—as the Honourable the Finance Member would call them—by recalling the further fact that, after all, even in the financial position proper, there are obvious signs which must make us hesitate in our sense of satisfaction or complacency. The railway budget has been showing losses for the past several years,—and failing to make the stipulated contribution to the general revenues of the country, which, by itself, would suffice to wash out the entire surplus shown in the general budget of the Government of India. The railways are a liability of the Government of India, and so long as they continue to be a losing venture, as they have always done with few exceptions in the past—the tax-payer of the country would be ultimately compelled to make good this deficit, in one way or another. The mere separation of the railway budget from the general budget does not avoid the fact of this deficit. We cannot, therefore, consider the aggregate of even the financial position of the Government of India to be any cause for real optimism.

The same reflection is unavoidable in regard to that other commercial department of the Government of India, the post office, including all the connected services of communications. In the next financial year, the post office is estimated to be showing a small surplus, after meeting all the working expenses of the department and paying its appropriate interest charges. This would be a surplus for the first time in recent years in that department, on a proper commercial basis of accounting. In contrast with the British post office, the cheapness and abundance of its services, and yet the heavy annual profit obtained in that department, the record of the Indian post office seems nothing to be proud of.

Even if we cannot run the postal services on the American model, which works this department at a loss, out of regard to the immense service it can render to the general prosperity of the nation, we may yet press upon the Government of India the analogy of the British post office, the history of our own past postal rates, and the needs of the country's general economy, to emphasise our demand that the postal rates be still further reduced.

While the two great commercial departments of the Government of India continue in such an unsatisfactory condition, we cannot, I repeat, feel that we have passed through the wood for good and all. But the signs of danger or weakness in India's financial position are not confined only to the unsatisfactory position or earnings of our commercial services. The expenditure on the defence services continues at a level, which, under the present price level, must inevitably be called exorbitant. Forty-five crores on this department, at a time when the price level is perhaps half of what it was at the time of the Incheape report, is equal to 90

crores in the standard of values in 1923-24 and should be the maximum that ought to be spent on this unproductive item (Hear, hear); and they recommended further economies as and when prices slumped. There is no real reduction in the defence budget even though prices have slumped so heavily and judging from some of the recent pronouncements of our highest military authorities, we may even have to face an increase in this department in the near future. This matter will, I have no doubt, receive the attention of other elected Members, in so far as this House is entitled to express an opinion on that expenditure. I am, however, concerned to mention it only to emphasise that, in the most considerable of the spending departments, under the Government of India, there is no sign nor hope of economy or retrenchment despite the incessant demand of the country for such economy. (Hear, hear.)

Not the same remarks could be made, I admit, for the other unproductive head of expenditure relating to the debt charges of the Government of India. There has been some reduction in these charges. This is due to circumstances for which the Government of India can scarcely take exclusive credit. Nevertheless, it constitutes a relief for which the country may be grateful. Our gratitude will, of course, be tempered by the fact that, in other countries, they have ordered such matters much more beneficently for the community collectively. We can also be not unmindful of the fact, that the present surplus in the general budget of the country is due, in no small measure, to the cutting down of the provision for the reduction or avoidance of the debt, which may not really appeal to a conservative financier; and which, look at it how you will, exposes our general finances and credit to a risk, that cannot be underestimated in any thoughtful eyes.

With such a state of our aggregate finances, and with this condition of the national economy, collectively considered, it is impossible for us to feel an unmitigated satisfaction with the budget proposals of the Honourable the Finance Member. The very fact that he is himself disposing of substantial portions of the surplus, in this and the last year, in the shape mostly of non-recurring outlay, ought to be sufficient index, that, in his own judgment, improvement in the financial position of the country is neither so real nor so lasting as to admit of any relief or sacrifice, which might mean a permanent benefit to the vast masses of the people. I shall come to the tax-relief proposals in the next year's budget in a minute. But here I must observe, that, while not dissenting from the Honourable the Finance Member, in his proposed grants for construction of buildings in Sind or Orissa, in his provision for making up the earthquake damage at Quetta, in his creation of a revenue reserve fund for the benefit of the provinces in their new career of autonomy, or in his appropriation for rural reconstruction, one cannot but feel these very gestures are indicative of a lurking uneasiness in the innermost financial conscience of Sir James Grigg, which precludes him from relaxing on the income side very materially. Add to this the fact that many of the leading provinces are living from hand to mouth, or making both ends meet, either by starving nation-building services in their charge, or by maintaining taxation at a crushing level, and you will see, Sir, without any difficulty, that the financial position of the country is not so satisfactory as the present budget might lead one at first sight to believe.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadian): Give Orissa the same income as Bombay, and I will be satisfied.

Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji: Very well, you try.

An Honourable Member: Orissa is an excluded area.

Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji: I now come to the proposed changes in taxation announced by the Finance Member. I must, at the outset, compliment him on his having seen his way, though tardily, to grant the reduction that he has at last conceded. The raising of the minimum of income liable to taxation to Rs. 2,000 is a benefit to the poorer section of the country's middle classes, which, I am sure, will be widely welcomed and truly appreciated. The reduction in the surcharges on income and super-taxes will, similarly, be gratefully acknowledged by the section of the community benefiting from such changes. That section, though numerically small, is not the least important in the community bearing the tax-burdens of the Government. This relief, therefore, to that very highly taxed section of the country, must be thankfully acknowledged by every representative of that section. At the same time, I cannot omit to point the attention of the House to the still unfulfilled promise of Sir James's predecessor in office about permitting the mercantile community to average their incomes for three years, as they do, I believe, in Britain, and be made chargeable to the tax on that average.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No, they don't do it any longer.

Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji: This is a most urgent reform, which the canons of justice as well as economy demand immediately for the benefit of the mercantile community; and so long as the Finance Member cannot see his way to offer this concession to an overburdened section of the community, I am afraid, appreciation of the concessions already made will be tinged by a sense of disappointment on this account. I trust the Finance Member will not feel it too late, even now, to make this further concession, by suitable amendment of the Finance Bill, or the Income-tax Act; and so not only earn the lasting gratitude of the commercial community, but contribute materially to the general betterment of the taxation system and of our national economy. I am aware, indeed, that a Committee of experts is sitting to overhaul the whole system of taxation of income; and pending their recommendations, perhaps, the changes I have mentioned may not be advisable to effect. If so, I would be satisfied if the Honourable the Finance Member would give an undertaking that the points I have made will be borne in mind, and that reform on the tax system on those lines will claim his attention at the earliest moment.

I have already referred to the reduction in the postal rates. While welcoming the slight changes proposed by the Finance Member, we cannot forget that the postal rates still continue at a disproportionately high level, and act as deterrent to the spread of education and the development of commerce. In view of the surplus shown, which, if we may trust the experience of the present and the last year, may quite possibly turn out to be much greater at the end of the next year, I cannot consider that the reversion to the $\frac{1}{2}$ anna postcard, and reduction in the bookpost rates

to a minimum of $\frac{1}{2}$ anna for packets of five tolas or less, would really affect materially the revenues from this department, or reduce the surplus to an unpermissible extent. It has been my long standing conviction that the financial authorities in this country do not appreciate fully, in making such charges, the intrinsic truth of the economic laws of increasing and diminishing returns. Reduction in the postal rates will, I feel convinced, stimulate business and correspondence to such a degree as materially to counterweigh the loss that may initially be apprehended by the lowering of the rates. I would, therefore, earnestly impress upon the powers that be to take this point immediately into consideration, and afford reduction in the postal rates before the Finance Bill becomes law at least to the extent I have mentioned above.

With the relief in taxation already given, and fully acknowledged above, it might seem ungracious to add that one very important item of taxation, in which the whole population of the country is concerned without reference to their taxable capacity, receives no relief. I refer to the salt duty. It is the one article of universal consumption, which the rich and the poor have to use alike, and the present scale of duty on which falls with disproportionate weight on the poorer consumer—which means 90 per cent. of our people. We cannot concur with the Finance Member in his neglect of this important item of taxation and I trust he will find it possible, at an early date, to afford this much needed relief to the most considerable section of the community.

I have very little to add on the ways and means section of the budget statement. I find the wisdom of withdrawal from the loan market by the Government of India in the coming year somewhat questionable, especially when one recollects the extremely low rate of interest, and the obligations likely soon to arise of a capital character upon the Government of India. I would, likewise, offer no observations on certain *obiter dicta* of the Finance Member which refer to the fundamental, fiscal or economic policy of the country, for the voice of the country has been declared, on those issues, in no uncertain terms, however much Government may affect not to perceive that. On the whole, Sir, while recognising and fully appreciating the more liberal features of this budget, while complimenting the Finance Member on having produced even an appearance of prosperity, and reduced taxation, I would be failing in my duty if I did not draw his attention and that of the House on certain omissions in the budget proposals which will be warmly criticised in the country.

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, one who does not know how to handle figures properly cannot be expected to make any illuminating contribution to the discussion of the budget. But as the general discussion on the budget is not confined only to the domain of figures, but it affords an opportunity for giving expression to views upon the general policy of the Government of India, I would utilise this opportunity for making a few general observations. The Honourable the Finance Member seems to have been endowed with good fortune, for, we find that, in the very second year of his office, the general financial conditions in the country are showing signs of improvement. Under several heads of income we find that there is an excess in the actual figures over the anticipated yield. Therefore, it

[Sir Muhammad Yakub.]

would not be a mere formality if I were to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member over the budget which he has placed before the House.

My Honourable friend, Sir Homi Mody, is reported to have said that this budget was only a bad one and not a very bad one. From the point of view of my Honourable friend, Sir Homi Mody, the budget would have been a good one if all the surplus, which has been earmarked for the economic development of rural areas, had been given as a bounty to the Tatas and to other business concerns in which my Honourable friends, Sir Homi Mody and Sir Cowasji Jehangir, are personally interested. On the other hand, the Honourable the Finance Member cannot avoid the fury and condemnation of my Honourable friends, Prof. Ranga and Mr. Joshi, unless he stops all the expenses on the army and reduces all the salaries of all the Government servants to one-fourth of their present emoluments; and the savings thus achieved are spent in giving doles to labourers whenever they come out on strike if they are compelled to work for more than two hours a day, unless he removes the salt tax and reduces the price of postcards and makes them available at four for one-pice, and the remaining balance of the surplus is spent in providing luxuries of all sorts to political prisoners.

An Honourable Member: Will you then come with us?

Sir Muhammad Yakub: I am even now ready to join your ranks provided you remain firm where you are at present. I do not believe in starting one programme today and suspending it tomorrow.

That being so, there can be no wonder that the budget, which has been presented by the Honourable the Finance Member, cannot find favour with any section of the House. I am very glad that Government have at last devoted some attention towards the economic development of the rural areas. The greatest hindrance in the way of our salvation is the vast margin of difference between the educated classes and the lower strata of our society. I am perfectly confident that the small number of educated classes in our country are quite fit to take the administration of the country in their hands, but a majority of the population living in the villages are, at least, two hundred years behind the times. Under the present conditions, to increase the franchise means giving sword in the hands of children. Therefore, the problem of the improvement of the people in the rural areas must occupy the first and foremost item in the programme of our national progress. I should like to see that the money spent on the development of rural areas is spent in such a way that it would bring useful and advantageous results and not wasted away on mere showy programmes and propaganda work. The problem of the improvement of the rural areas, in a vast and huge country like India, is a very difficult and intricate one. Instead of spending small sums of money on vast areas, which, like a slight shower of rain, cannot produce any good result, I would suggest that each province should be divided into smaller areas or localities.

An Honourable Member: Like Moradabad, for instance.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: Yes, Moradabad should come first, because it is one of the foremost agricultural districts in India.

An Honourable Member: Because it has produced a Knight.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: No doubt it has Knights, but it also gives lights to those who remain in darkness and thus deceive their own conscience. I was submitting that larger sums of money should be spent on smaller areas in such a way that, when one area is completely equipped, then a beginning should be made with another. In this way, instead of doing half done work in vast areas, the gradual progress of the whole country would be ensured. Sir, while I would like very much that expenditure on rural areas should continue and should be increased as much as possible, I cannot at the same time approve of the policy of the Government of India in treating education in a step-motherly fashion. We know that the cuts on the salaries of Government servants were removed as soon as even hazy signs of improvement appeared, but the cuts on the educational institutions of India still remain unremoved; and it is a great stigma on Government, which boasts of being a great friend of education and a lover of science and learning. For the last two years, we have been placing, very clearly, before Government the financial position of the Aligarh Muslim University, but it seems to me that, in spite of all our efforts and entreaties, Government have turned a deaf ear. When a reduction was made in the Government grant to the Aligarh Muslim University, we made a proportionate reduction in the salaries of the staff of that University; and, although the cut on the salaries of Government servants has been removed, we have not yet been able to remove the cut on the salaries of the staff of the Muslim University. I hope Government knows that it is not good to run an institution with a dissatisfied staff. I, therefore, appeal to the representative of the Education Department in this House,—whom I wish to take this opportunity of congratulating on the very learned address which he delivered at the convocation of the Muslim University,—to come to our rescue and recommend that immediately the cut on the grant to the Muslim University should be removed.

Sir, two years ago, we accepted the proposal of Government for levying an excise duty on the sugar manufactured in this country. On that occasion, Honourable Members of this House laid great stress on the fact that, when this Act comes in force, it should be acted upon with great care and precision. But I very much regret to note that, as regards the *modus operandi* of this Act, there are great complaints and criticisms in my province, which is one of the largest sugar producing areas in the country, with the result that I understand that some of the smaller factories were closed on account of the hardship which was entailed upon them on account of the manner in which the sugar excise duty was levied. I hope the Government of India will not fail to institute an inquiry into the matter and will try to redress the legitimate grievances of the sugar manufacturers in the United Provinces as soon as possible.

Sir, along with other Honourable Members who have spoken in the House, I am also glad that although the Finance Member has made a very precious gift to his "favourite wife", the capitalists, yet. . . .

An Honourable Member: They are his masters.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: The wife very often becomes the master.

[Sir Muhammad Yakub.]

I am glad that he has not altogether forgotten the lot of the middle-class taxpayer and has been able to remove at least some burden from his already over-loaded back. I also note with satisfaction that a source of every-day annoyance has been removed by raising the weight of the one-anna letter. It was a source of great irritation every day to pay two pice on bearing letters, but I hope it will also be possible for Government to reduce the price of postcards to two pice.

Sir, the other day, in moving his cut on the railway budget, my Honourable friend, Mr. James, started a discussion on the question of the reshuffling of the portfolios of the Government of India. On that occasion, I remarked that that was a matter which ought not to have been discussed on the occasion of the limited scope of the railway budget, but it is a matter which ought to be discussed on this occasion. Sir, my own opinion is that the present departments of the Government of India have worked satisfactorily under the constitution for which these departments were made, and I think it would be extremely unwise and improper to make any reshuffling of the portfolios on this occasion. With the introduction of the new reforms, the Executive Council will be replaced by a Cabinet, and a more or less responsible Cabinet, and I think the question of the reshuffling of portfolios may properly be taken up on that occasion.

Sir, before I conclude, I should like to sound a note of warning to Government. We find that the whole of Asia is in a ferment today. The political horizon all round is beset with dark clouds of war, and every nation in the world, without any exception, is making great preparations for a bigger world war in the name of peace. With our vast land and sea frontiers, it is necessary that India should not lag behind in her preparations for the defence of the country, and that, when the occasion arises, the safety of our country should not be imperilled in any way.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Long live Mr. Tottenham!

Sir Muhammad Yakub: People from Southern India, who do not know how to wield a sword or a gun, talk with their tongue in their cheek when they speak of a military programme.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: We have to pay for it.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: You do not know how to wield arms, and, if you want others to come to your rescue, you will have to pay.

Sir, I have now finished my observations.

Raj Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni (Ajmer-Merwara: General): I am really thankful to you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak in this House today. It is a happy coincidence, Sir, that in my very first speech in this House I have to offer my felicitations to the Honourable the Finance Member for the very clear, lucid and frank statement of the finances of the Government of India that he has presented to the House. The very satisfactory and agreeable surpluses shown by him in the last two years and the expectation of a further surplus during the next year speak for themselves and we hope that, in years to come, we shall hear more about the reduction in heavy taxations with the upward

trend in the revenues of the Government. The abolition of taxes for incomes below Rs. 2,000 has been a very great blessing to middle class people and will be much appreciated by them. I am grateful to the Honourable the Finance Member for reducing the surcharge on income-tax but he could have entirely removed the surcharge and thus satisfied the mercantile community.

Sir, the results of the working of the Posts and Telegraphs Department show a fair profit which is quite satisfactory in view of the fact that this department was working at a loss for a number of years. I welcome the one anna a tola envelope though the rate of half an anna for every additional tola cannot be looked with favour as it means that we shall have to pay two annas for an envelope weighing $2\frac{1}{2}$ tolas instead of $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas under the present rate. I am sorry that the long looked for reduction in postcards has not materialised, as such reduction would have been a great boon to the poorer classes who use postcards very largely. The telephone rates for trunk calls are also very high and the mercantile community have been long expecting a reduction in the rates. I fully believe that, if the rates are reduced, there will be an increased traffic, and the result will be enhanced revenues.

Sir, the great interest which the Government of India have evinced in the economic development and improvement of rural areas and the allotment of such a large sum of money as $3\frac{1}{2}$ crores of rupees for the purpose in the course of two years have won them the admiration of the masses. The Provincial Governments are busily engaged in the preparation of schemes for the utilisation of the money allotted to them from the rural development fund according to the needs of the people of the locality in the different provinces, and there is no doubt that, when such schemes are completed, the people in the villages will be greatly benefited.

In the very little time at my disposal, Sir, representing as I do the small province of Ajmer-Merwara, I would very much desire to say a few words about the financial position of my own province rather than dilate upon the details of the budget generally. The demands for grant for my province are rarely discussed owing to the procedure adopted in the House and I will have to take this opportunity to refer to the very unsatisfactory treatment that is meted out to my province. I would not hesitate to say that Ajmer-Merwara does appear to be a step-child of the Government of India. Other Centrally Administered Areas have been so generously provided with substantial grants, and their educational, medical and sanitary requirements have always been given greater preferences. I cannot too strongly stress the necessity of giving a favourable attention to the needs of my province.

Sir, the unsatisfactory medical and sanitary conditions of my province have been placed before the House from year to year, and nothing has been done so far to improve them. The sanitation and public health of the rural areas is very deplorable, and still unfortunately we have no public health department in the district. The hospitals in the province are poorly equipped and the lack of facilities for the treatment of poor people well deserve the consideration of the Government. Medical science has made remarkable progress during the recent years, but Ajmer-Merwara is denied the benefit of any improvement in this respect. The Annual Reports of the Victoria Hospital in Ajmer and other hospitals

[Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni.]

in the province have been constantly complaining about the paucity of funds for providing amenities for the ever increasing number of patients, and, if the Government had paid even a little attention to our wants, this disgraceful state of affairs would not have continued. The X-ray equipment of the Victoria Hospital, Ajmer, is hopeless. We have no adequate provision for treatment of eye diseases or infectious diseases which further necessitates the attention of the Government.

In education, we have still a very much sadder tale to tell. Girls' education on which Government spend so much in the Delhi District has not received any serious attention. Sir, in the whole of the province, there is only one non-denominational girls' high school. The state of affairs there too is far from satisfactory for want of funds. And, if no timely help is given, this institution will collapse. Their representation for grants for building improvements have been either turned down or only evasive replies given.

Compulsory primary education has not been introduced into the province notwithstanding the fact that its need has been strongly felt for years.

There is absolutely no provision for technical or engineering training in the province, and the students from this province find it very difficult to get admission in institutions of other provinces. Sir, students wishing to get medical education are also denied these facilities as there are no such institutions in Ajmer-Merwara, and medical schools and colleges of other provinces refuse admissions to our students. There is no agricultural department in the province and there has been no scheme to ameliorate the conditions of the agriculturists.

Turning to the sanitary and health conditions in Ajmer, we find again the same apathy and indifference by the Government. The health of the people in the district is far from satisfactory. The death-rate is increasing. The water supply extension and town-planning proposals and drainage schemes have long been under the consideration of the Government, but no decision has been taken. The water supply of Ajmer has been declared by the medical authorities quite unfit for drinking purposes, this being very dirty and unfiltered. For all these schemes the municipality had approached the Government for special grants and loans. Whereas the Government spend lakhs and crores of rupees for Delhi, poor Ajmer suffers like a dumb animal which cannot voice its grievances. The amount of the Petrol Fund which is allotted to Ajmer is also quite inadequate for the improvement of roads and lanes. The roads in the City require widening and footpaths are necessary for removing heavy congestion in traffic.

Similar unhealthy conditions prevail in the Beawar municipality, and there too schemes for improvement cannot be taken in hand without substantial help from the Government.

And when I find that revenues of the district are increasing and when other provinces have been granted subventions and special grants, Ajmer-Merwara has not been permitted to spend even its own surplus. May I ask, Sir, the Finance Member to be generous enough to spend this surplus of Ajmer-Merwara in the province? The budget figures for Ajmer-Merwara show that the total receipt for the year 1936-37 in all

heads would amount to Rs. 20 lakhs, whereas expenditure is Rs. 16.75 lakhs, excluding, of course, interest on debts and pensions which expenditure cannot be really debited to Ajmer.

Ajmer is an important place in Rajputana, both historically as well as being a sacred place of pilgrimage for Hindus and Mussalmans. With its beautiful surroundings and a delightful climate, it could have been made a healthier and pleasanter resort if the Government had shown a sympathetic attitude towards its needs. It is a pity that the Honourable Members of the Government of India have not taken trouble to visit this place, and, had they done so, I am sure, the state of affairs would have been quite different. They would have seen with their own eyes the real state of the province.

I may, in the end, add a few words about the political status of the province. Although Ajmer-Merwara has been given the right to elect one Member to the Council of State and one to the Federal Assembly in the new Reforms, there is no Council for Ajmer, and the province suffers from all drawbacks which Centrally Administered Areas are likely to. We can well say that the status of Ajmer is just that of an excluded area, although the Government would not admit it. So, under these conditions, we can never hope to have Provincial Autonomy or control in the administration of the province. Delhi has about the same population as Ajmer-Merwara and is much smaller in size, yet Delhi will have two Members in the Legislative Assembly. Coorg, of half the size of Ajmer-Merwara, and having less than half the population of my province, will have a Legislative Council. New Provinces of Sind and Orissa have been created and other provinces are also advancing.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government, with all the emphasis at my command, to satisfy the aspirations of my constituency for participation in the administration of the province, and, if a full Council is not practicable, some other machinery may be devised to give the people some hand in the administration.

With these words, Sir, I now conclude my speech.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member for having once again presented a surplus budget of about five crores, which includes 2.42 lakhs for the current year. The presentation of the budget is always looked with anxiety and suspicion in every country, and specially in this country where the people are always pessimistically nervous about fresh taxations. That has been the story of the budget till a few years back: it is only since 1934-35 that no fresh taxations have been proposed or included. Of course, the relief given in the budget for income-tax by increasing the limit of taxable capacity to Rs. 2,000, instead of Rs. 1,000, and by way of reduction of surcharge from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{12}$ is greatly welcomed in business circles particularly. I must confess to a feeling of surprise at the remarks made by my Honourable friend, the Deputy President, in his speech today that "the budget is neither genuine, nor reveals a substantial truth". If jugglery of figures is to be attributed to Sir James Grigg, why should not the same have been done by Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan when he presented the railway budget. Sir Zafrullah could also have produced a surplus budget by such jugglery as is attributed to Sir James. As I remarked in my

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman.]

speech on the railway budget that the business world definitely thinks that the depression in trade is at an end, so I do again say that that end is real. This is borne out by the remark of Sir James Grigg in his budget speech when he says:

"The recovery in India's economic position had set in more strongly than could have been foreseen a year ago—a sure sign of increasing prosperity."

Why the railways have not recovered from their chronic disease of deficit budget is a surprise to people who are concerned in the trade of this land: probably it may be said that there did exist some other reasons besides the depression which are not making railways self-supporting organisations. Had the general budget not been separated from the railway budget, we would certainly have been just quits. The Honourable the Finance Member would not have been in a position to give relief to the poor by way of "Rural Development Schemes".

Having my practical connection with the commerce of India and being connected with different Chambers of Commerce in some capacity or the other in India and different countries, I think I am in a position to say that India's economic position today, as surveyed by the Honourable the Finance Member, is distinctly on the side of recovery and prosperity. Mr. Datta, in his speech today, said that this seemed absurd to him. With all due respect to him, may I inform him and the House that the theory of recovery in the trade does not depend on the prices so much, but on the volume, on the gross turn over, on the total consumption and on utility of stock, on an average, with world's parity prices. In this connection, I may also add that the depression in prices cannot mean to exist if the same is levelled on the basis of world's parity prices, that is, if the prices in other countries have also gone down on the same level as here, and that if the ratio of decrease is maintained and balanced.

We notice in the budget an increase in jute and jute fabrics as well, and this is a good sign and it confirms the fact that India's trade in all commodities has improved. Jute is considered as one of those commodities which have relative utility: that is, they are not of any particular staple use by themselves, but are a collateral commodity for the use of trading in all other commodities and materials. I may further explain that we require jute and jute bags for packing and repacking goods to stand transit, and unless business moves, jute goods cannot be in good demand at all, and this is one of the many signs that the world is recovering from the depression which set out in 1929. If we do not export our grains, skins, cotton, oilseeds in gunny bags and if we do not import our motor cars, machineries, hosiery and other things, we do not require jute hessians at all, and all these facts confirm my statement.

One of the Members on the Opposition Benches remarked that broadcasting is a means of propaganda and is utilised by the officials for the purpose of British Raj propaganda. I do not want to deny that it might not have been used for such purposes: but if this theory is adopted, then, telegraphs, telephone and railways are all means of keeping the British Government here in power, for transmitting messages and moving troops to different parts of the country, and giving timely check to any rising or propaganda that may set in here and these should, therefore, be as much condemned as broadcasting. I do not know what we would have said if we had been denied broadcasting. I do not say that we should

never oppose the Government, but we should oppose only where it is proper. Let me once again congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member for his great sagacity in understanding the commercial need of India

Mr. B. Das: What are the particular items you want to oppose at all?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: None at this moment. If there were any such subjects, I would not hesitate to oppose him. But I do not oppose him in season and out of season. He has not given relief to industries, and I must complain of this part: he should not have given money only to rural development: there should have been something done for industries as well; I will try to touch that point in my speech later on if only Honourable Members will give me a patient hearing.

I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member on the allocation of over a crore of rupees for rural uplift. This is really very much appreciated by everybody; but I agree with Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah that the method of distribution should not be imperial and it should not entail such top-heavy expenses, otherwise, the whole purpose of rural uplift may be defeated. When discussing this point, I am driven to agree with Mr. Datta when he said today that our industries have been absolutely neglected and that the Honourable the Finance Member should have come to their rescue in a country where unemployment is gaining ground every day. Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan has also pointed out this aspect of the need of the country. India is an agricultural country, and, if a little impetus is given to industry by way of protection and also by way of subsidies, it would relieve a lot of unemployment in the country. Government give no subsidies to industrial programmes, and, if I am allowed to say so, neither do the banks in India give facility. In foreign countries, what Governments do is to give protection by way of high tariff duties and give subsidies by way of grants or loans. Here, instead of giving any support, the foreign banks rather look with contempt if any such programme is placed before them. In countries like Japan, Germany and America, Governments first give them protection and allow them subsidies in the form of loans, either on low interest or free of interest. Had it not been so, probably they would not have been able to build up their industry to the extent they have done, either in cotton or other articles. In those countries, the banks advance money and the working capital against the hypothecation of stock and machinery. But, in India, all this is neither encouraged by Government nor supported by foreign bankers, and all the merchants are placed in a helpless position. I think it would have been just possible to divide the money allocated to rural uplift in such a way that industrial development should also share some part with rural uplift. For the reason of the political barometer not being consistent, the economics of the country should not be made to affect adversely. Political unrest is sometimes the result of economic difficulties in any country. Regarding protection, as a practical suggestion, I may urge that the Government should help cotton, silk and other industries by raising still higher and bigger tariff walls against the import of those things from other countries. I know the great sagacity of the Honourable the Finance Member, and I hope he will bring this to us in due course

Mr. B. Das: What about the tanning industry?

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I have not mentioned it particularly, but I think the tanning industry should receive the same support as the other industries.

4 P.M.

I think the Honourable the Finance Member deserves to be congratulated for the great sagacity he displayed last year by abolishing the duty on skins. The result of this has only been that over one crore and 69 lakhs—exact figures are 1,60,72,716 pieces—of skins have been exported from this country, which is the highest figure exported since 1921. If Honourable Member wants to challenge it, I am prepared to produce statistics, which I only hold here in my bag.

Now, Sir, I will take the question of each trade and industry one by one if time permits me, and I will suggest such protections as may be necessary from Government. Last year, the Finance Member gave relief to the skin merchants by abolishing the export duty of five per cent, and this relief has made the position of the skin merchants more healthy. After the abolition of five per cent. duty on skins, our shipments have come to the highest figure within the last 16 years, and this is a clear proof of the fact that the abolition of this duty has been to the benefit of India.

Now, Sir, having expressed my opinion on the general aspect of the budget, I take this opportunity of placing my suggestions. I shall first deal with the Postal Department. I feel that the value of postcards should have been reduced to six pies. Even last year, the feeling of the House was definitely in favour of six pies. I do not agree with my friend, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, when he says that postcards are used mostly by businessmen. Postcards are used by the poorer rural people more than by any other sections. I appreciate the letter weight limit, and though the rural people do not make much use of the anna cover, still the benefit will be appreciated by the public at large. At any rate, the half anna postcard would have given greater and appreciable relief to the poorer people of this country and this would have made the budget popular.

Another suggestion I wish to make is about the reduction in the customs duty on the import of motor cars and petrol. Sir, motor cars are no more a luxury in any part of the world, and cars being a conventional necessity should not be taxed so much. On principle, the theory of taxing transport and means of transport is bad, and, specially, of such conveyances which form necessity in life.

Another suggestion I wish to make is,—and I agree with my friend, Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji, who just said that taking the world parity prices, 45 crores Army expenditure means 90 crores of 1922—24 and this should be reduced to the extent of about 30 crores, which will be in quite a comparison with 65 crores of 1922—24.

Another suggestion is that the expenses on strategic lines, which are about two crores, should be met from the defence budget and should be under Army expenditure and not railways.

As regards the question of the ratio of 1s. 6d., I may submit to the Finance Member once again this year, through you, Sir, that this has always been opposed in commercial circles, and it is against the interests of this country. When discussing this question, I think it is my duty to suggest that an embargo should be put on the export of gold from this country, or at least big prohibitive duties should be levied so as to restrict the export of gold from India. From the budget we are not at all in a

position to see whether our imports have been balanced by shipments of gold or by our exports of raw materials. Sir, the world is returning to the "old theory of barter", commodities for commodities, and when the world is carrying on trade with this feeling, it is absolutely necessary that India should stop the export of gold and create a Reserve in the country and make up our trade balance by exports and imports of such commodities as we require in this country and of such commodities as we can afford to send out of this country. Fortunately, Sir, we are so placed that we can afford to balance imports by exports, as, among our exports, there is jute of which we hold a virtual monopoly. All the other countries have no substitute as yet for jute and are compelled to buy from India. The Bulk Handling system in Australia could not succeed as yet, and that is why, although we import very little from Australia, Australians buy our jute bags and sacks and their trade balance with India is not so satisfactory to them and is always in our favour. In the last conference I had with the deputation which had come to India from Australia to investigate into the possibilities of trade between these two countries, the conclusion was quite obvious that Australia could not afford to get on without jute and jute gunnies from India though they could not export so much goods from their country to India in order to balance their trade with this country. With these few suggestions, Sir, I again congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member on the surplus budget he has produced, and particularly on the relief he has given to the poor people by the reduction in the postal rate.

Mr. Basanta Kumar Das (Surma Valley *cum* Shillong: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to take part in the budget discussion of today. Sir, the budget of the Central Revenues is certainly a vast subject, but by the budgeted time of the House which requires every Member to finish his speech within twenty minutes, I feel very much handicapped as I do not feel competent to do anything like justice to this vast subject within the brief time allotted to us.

[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).]

Sir, to my mind, the fact that the budget discussion gives us an opportunity to present our budget of grievances is a valuable right. When the Honourable the Finance Member delivered his learned budget speech, we listened to him quietly, but it was very surprising that when a page of that budget of ours was opened up and some of our grievances were being put before Government by our Honourable friend, Dr. Khan Sahib, it had a very irritating effect on the agents of the Government here. They felt irritated, they felt angry; but, Sir, this irritation and this anger on the part of the Government is welcome to us, because, Sir, we want their destruction, and, from the display they made of their anger, we feel that the rule of the moral world, which is summed up in a verse in the Bhagwat Gita, is in operation. That verse is:

"Krodhāt bhavati sammoha,

Sammohāt Smritibhrama,

Smritibhramsāt buddhināsha,

Buddhināśāt prānasyati."

[Mr. Basanta Kumar Das.]

That means: "from anger comes bewilderment, from bewilderment follows loss of memory, and from loss of memory follows loss of the capacity to distinguish right from wrong, and the loss of that capacity leads to destruction." (Opposition cheers.)

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: No one is more angry than you, and the quotation fits your head.

Mr. Basanta Kumar Das: I may be simulating anger, but I am not angry. Sir, I now come to the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member. He has no doubt tried to make his story of figures as attractive as possible, in order to show that the economic condition of India is improving, and his gifts from the surpluses are all no doubt meant to make that story attractive, but the figures, Sir, tell their own tale, and in spite of the attempt of the Finance Member to make his story attractive, the figures cry out that India is where she is and the talk of her prosperity is certainly a moonshine. For, Sir, the claim of the Finance Member that India is progressing economically is disproved by the state of the Railway Budget and the state of some of the provincial budgets. And what is our own experience also? We who are always in touch with villagers, the rural people, can very definitely assert that our experience is that there is no sign of any prosperity in the country. The debtors cannot pay their debts, the tenants cannot pay their rents, and there are innumerable people in the country who cannot have two meals a day even now. But, it has pleased the Honourable the Finance Member to claim that India is progressing. He can do so, because he has got a different object in view. He has described his speech as a story. No doubt, he has played the rôle of a story-teller quite well. It has been shown by some of the Honourable Members that he is also a juggler, and, at the end of his speech, he has also shown that he is a bit of a meteorologist. He can afford to do so and avoid the real rôle of a Finance Member, because we know that he is merely a bird of passage. He has been here for some years

An Honourable Member: Only two years.

Mr. Basanta Kumar Das: . . . and he may be here for two or three years more, but we want a Finance Member who will make the question of the prosperity of India his real concern and a live issue with him, and who will not leave any stone unturned for the purpose of devising ways and means to put India on the sure path of economic progress. Will that day come when we shall have a Finance Minister who will face the real problems of the country and look after the interests of its teeming millions?

What are his proposals in the budget, Sir? If we read those proposals and analyse them properly, what do we find? He has not at all budged an inch from the conservative policy of the bureaucracy. Last year, in my budget speech, I said that he had come fresh from England and that we expected a better outlook from him, but, being in the surroundings of the Government of India, he could not get over the poison of conservatism of the bureaucracy, which he has imbibed from his other colleagues in the Government.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Right or left? Which side does he get it from?

Mr. Basanta Kumar Das: Both sides. An analysis of the budget proposals would show that he has been niggardly in his gifts. He has allotted a big sum for broadcasting, but for cottage industries and for the improvement of agriculture he is only depending upon propaganda only.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is not true.

Mr. Basanta Kumar Das: It is all truth. The immediate object of these gifts is for the Government to carry on propaganda.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): How did you get this information? From secret files? (Laughter.)

Mr. Basanta Kumar Das: And will he be able to deny that?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Certainly I deny that.

Mr. Basanta Kumar Das: But this denial is not based upon what has been placed before us in the budget proposals. He says that it is only technical advice and assistance for marketing arrangements which will be beneficial for the agriculturists. It is only an eye-wash, and what he really wants is propaganda. Although we do not know what the Government propagandist will do when he gives the so-called technical advice and assistance for marketing arrangements, but we can imagine the propaganda he will carry on. What is more disconcerting is that he has not been able to give up his policy of *laissez faire*. He has no definite plan, he has no definite programme for stimulating industries, trade and commerce.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: When he does anything, you will complain. You will say that we get the benefit of it.

Mr. Basanta Kumar Das: If there is a genuine desire to stimulate Indian industries, commerce and trade, we shall welcome it. There is no definite plan, no definite programme. Although the Railway Member complained the other day that, if the railway finances are to be improved, India should be made self-sufficient, what is the plan of the Finance Member to make India self-sufficient industrially, agriculturally and commercially? He is proceeding only on the conservative policy which is consistent for the purpose of keeping up British domination on India, and he has not the desire to tackle the real problems that affect the masses. For the co-operative department he allotted a paltry sum of Rs. 15 lakhs last year. There has been no allotment this year, but I submit that when in the provinces we are getting moneylenders' Acts for helping the debtors, this co-operative movement should be brought up on a sounder basis and should really be effective in the villages so that debtors may get proper relief. Then, as regards deficits in the provinces, the Finance Member has paid no proper attention to it. Mr. Deputy President, you claimed a portion of the jute duty for Bengal and you are not satisfied, because an adequate allotment has been made from that duty. Coming as I do from Assam, I also claim that no attention has been paid to the claims of Assam on the petrol duty. His Excellency the Governor of Assam very pithily remarked on one occasion: "The sheep grows wool, but others enjoy it". That is exactly the case in Assam. The Government get a very

[Mr. Basanta Kumar Das.]

big income from the petrol that is produced in Assam, but she is deprived of a legitimate share of that income. Sir, with these few words, I resume my seat.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, I want to make a few observations on the general budget. For the last two years, the Honourable the Finance Member has been lucky enough to have surplus budgets, and he has come forward with a broad mind and open heart to distribute the surplus.

Last year, I said on the floor of the House that he estimated a very small amount for the sugar duty. I am glad, today he admitted the fact, and he gave many reasons for the improvement in the sugar import duty. However, I must say that it is very satisfactory to me that he has distributed the amount rightly. In the first place, he gave 30 lakhs to the Imperial Agricultural Institute. That is a very good grant and very beneficial to India. Many Honourable Members have wanted help and subsidies to be given to industries. In my opinion, India's main industry is the agricultural industry, and if the Government will support its improvement, it will be very beneficial to the country. Besides, I am glad to find that he gave from that surplus 45 lakhs of rupees to Sind and Orissa for their buildings. Both the provinces are very poor. The Honourable the Finance Member said very rightly that, if these provinces are given a loan, they have to pay interest and again get subvention, thus putting money from one pocket to another. I must say here that the Finance Member knows very well that the Government of India have appointed an engineer in Sind to find out the condition of the roads, and that that engineer has already submitted his report to the Government of India, but, for the last two years, the Government of India have done nothing. I find that there is no grant for roads in Sind. I hope the Government will consider it very soon and give that grant for the roads.

I do not want to go through each and every item of the budget, but I may say generally that the present policy of the taxes should be considered very seriously, and I hope it will be revised according to the present circumstances and conditions. At present you will find many schools of thought springing up in the country. You may call it Socialism, you may call it Communism or you may call it Bolshevism. These ideas are spreading in the country, and it is time that we revised the scheme of taxation. In my opinion, the taxes should be levied on the capitalist and middle classes, and not on the poor classes. I find that the main income of the Government of India is from customs and I also find that that comes from direct taxes on the poor. You see there is eight crores and 75 lakhs from salt, two crores and ten lakhs from match excise and four crores and 60 lakhs from kerosene oil. I think all these taxes are derived from the poor people. Reduce these taxes and put these on the well-to-do who can bear these. About the subvention to Orissa and Sind, the Finance Member says that the amounts are more than were originally anticipated, but, he says: "I do not think that they are framed on an over-lavish scale. They do not purport to provide any substantial margin for new schemes of expenditure", and so on. If that is so, I must appeal to the Government of India or Sir Otto Niemeyer to consider the position. If these provinces cannot get any good sum for their nation-building services, how can they improve?

Mr. B. Das: I agree with you.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Thank you.

Another point is about the Sukkur Barrage in Sind. I hope that point will also be considered by Sir Otto Niemeyer in his next visit to Delhi, because that is the amount already given by the Government of India on certain loans as money-lender.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Who pays interest on it?

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Sind. That amount of interest is debited to the barrage account. The Bombay Government does not pay a single pie. Today the prices of the produce have gone down. When they started the scheme, they considered the prices to be very much, but today the position is quite different. If you want to get that money back, you must give relief to the people of Sind and make the barrage a success. My third point is about the sugar duty. The Honourable Member has considered the subject carefully, although still I find that the import duty on sugar next year might give 50 lakhs more. But, considering the present circumstances and the present crop of sugarcane in India, it might just be, if the crop were bigger and the sugar-mills could crush it more and more, not less than fifty lakhs; you must get fifty lakhs more in that way; and if my Honourable friend will be a little more active on the Kathiawar ports and with regard to the jobberies that are going on in the Kathiawar ports and other places, I think he might get something like, say, a crore or Rs. 75 lakhs of excise duty from sugar alone. I find, Sir, that, since the last three months, Kathiawar is importing little, and I imagine, on account of some pressure from the Government of India, the rebates which the merchants were getting in Kathiawar previously are now, I find, becoming less, and I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will watch the situation, so that all these kinds of rebates should be stopped in Kathiawar. There is one thing more, Sir, and that is this, that a pamphlet has been received by me from the Indian Sugarmill Association in which they have shown whether the sugar industry is prospering or not. Of course, I know very well that the present policy of the Finance Member is one of not much appreciating the protective policy hitherto adopted by the Government of India. Sir, whatever my Honourable friend's opinion might be, according to the information I have, I think that today the Government of India are getting, on account of protection, a customs duty of not less than twelve crores fifty lakhs in respect of different commodities,—and that in the shape of protective duty only. And this is a good sort of income. There is not only the protective duty, but the railway freight. Now, there are lots of people employed, and, in respect of income-tax and all sorts of these things, the Government of India are getting more and more of income than previously. Now, take the case of income-tax. We find an increase of about seventy-five lakhs of rupees in income-tax. What are the causes? I should have been very glad if the Honourable the Finance Member gave some causes, but in my opinion they are getting more income-tax, because more companies for sugar or some other things have been formed in this country and they are getting income-tax, not only from those companies, but also from the employees of the companies, because the companies are now deducting income-tax from their wages and handing that over to the Government.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Then they are making profits?

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: The companies may be either making profits or not, but, in any case, I have got here a list of companies who are deducting income-tax from the salaries of their employees and sending it direct to the Government. Then, of course, whether the policy of protection is right as we claim or not right as you sometimes think, in any case you are getting more and more money in this way than previously. Therefore, Sir, I say that it is a very wise policy that the predecessor of my Honourable friend adopted that the Government of India should give protection to Indian industries, and I hope the present Government of India and the present Finance Member will change their views very soon and will allow that protection policy to continue.

An Honourable Member: "Government" is the most paying industry.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Besides, Sir, I am very glad that the Government of India are paying one anna to the Provincial Governments from whatever they are recovering by way of excise duty from sugar. But I should like to suggest to my friend that he should pay two annas per rupee to the provinces, so that they can improve the quality of the sugarcane, and so that, within a few years, as, in fact, happened in Java, the provinces will commence to give help to the poor ryots to improve the quality and quantity of the sugarcane. In that case, the sugar can be sold very cheap and can be produced very cheap also. Sir, the members of the Sugar Mills Association are hoping and thinking that if the quality and quantity of the sugarcane can be improved, as happened in Java, then it will not be very far off when we Indians can ship our sugar, if not to all parts of the world, at any rate to England, and we hope we can ship our sugar there very soon. I believe they are already importing sugar to the extent of about 200,000 tons per year. So I suggest that, instead of one anna per rupee from excise duty, they should please give two annas to the provinces, so that they can improve the quality and quantity of their sugarcane in many of the provinces.

My last point, Sir, concerns Quetta. You know very well, Sir, that the Government have already decided that they have to re-build Quetta, and, for that, they have estimated about seven crores of rupees. I do not know, Sir—I am a lay man—high military strategic points, but I can say only this that I very seriously doubt whether it is advisable to spend as much as seven crores on that place. In my opinion, that is a very high standard of expenditure, in fact very very high, and I do not think it is advisable for the Government of India to spend such a huge amount on that single purpose, in the present position of the finances of the country. Sir, I do not know whether, in fact, seven crores of rupees will be enough or not, ultimately. According to the experience that I have of these estimates, I dare say that every year there will be more and more increase and the increases will pile up more and more, and I do not know whether ultimately it will not reach ten crores; and, besides that, the money required by the military authorities is always put up very high, and they are always spending that money without any regard to the country's position or the country's revenue or income or anything of that sort. But I would suggest to the Government of India that they should consider this point very seriously and should always strive to spend money up to, and never beyond, a certain reasonable prescribed limit.

In conclusion, Sir, I appeal again to the Government to consider the present circumstances and reduce the expenditure of the Government, whether on the military or on the civil side, so that they could give relief to the tax-payers. From my past experience, I can safely say that whenever a taxation is levied, it comes to stay. It is never removed afterwards. In this way, taxation is increasing every day, and, with it, expenditure is piling up. If this is the way in which the administration is going to be carried on, then, I am afraid, there is no salvation for the improvement of the condition of the people.

Mr. Suryya Kumar Som (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, so far as the question, whether this is a surplus budget or not, is concerned, I have very little quarrel with the Honourable the Finance Member. If he would be happy to term it a surplus budget, then, of course, I have no objection to call it so, but I must remind him that no credit for this surplus budget is due to him, because, all these high taxes, which were introduced in 1932, still continue to remain on the Statute-book. Therefore, it is nobody's credit to show a surplus budget with so many taxes. Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member in his speech said that India was showing signs of steady recovery and he says that the economic barometer is rising. I may tell him that the economic barometer might be rising, but the economic thermometer is certainly below normal. A man with a huge body might show a healthy appearance outwardly, but his internal condition might be rotten, he might have blood pressure eating up the vitals while maintaining a good appearance. That is the economic health of the people of this vast country. From the increase in the customs revenue, the Honourable the Finance Member thinks that the barometer is rising, but the internal condition of the country, the economic condition of the masses is very poor indeed, that is, the thermometer is below normal. But, unfortunately, Sir, the condition of the masses was never good ever since the advent of the British, and, I fear, it will never be good so long as the British remain here for exploitation purposes. So much for the barometer and so much for the surplus.

Sir, the whole country is being emaciated and depopulated by malaria and by such other preventable diseases. The Honourable the Finance Member has sanctioned only ten lakhs of rupees to combat this scourge. The condition of Bengal, in particular, is very serious in this respect on account of the water hyacinth problem. I appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member that, in allocating money for village improvement next time, he will kindly consider the plight of Bengal and give special instructions to the Bengal Government to utilise the money for the eradication of this water hyacinth pest which has been admitted to be a dangerous source of spreading malaria. The Bengal Government, with the poor resources, have been trying their best to combat this pest for the past five or six years, but they have failed so far for want of funds. I, therefore, appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member to earmark some money for the eradication of this pest in Bengal. The removal of this water hyacinth problem will also come in the category of village improvement. Sir, the villages in Bengal are at present going to ruin on account of this pest which is destroying crops of the cultivators to a great extent. If the Government could drive out this pest, it would really benefit the masses for whom this grant of village uplift is made. I again appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member to give some thought on this point.

[Mr. Suryya Kumar Som.]

Sir, I submit that this budget is a rich man's budget. In this Assembly, for the last two or three years, all the Members were unanimous, all parties were unanimous that the price of postcards should be reduced to two pice. But we have failed then to convince the Treasury Benches of the justice of this demand which they now recognise. I think this stubbornness on the part of the Government is due to a certain disease in the bureaucracy. It is this. All these years the bureaucracy has not been in the habit of doing any good to the masses in this country. Owing to the clamour of the Members in this Assembly or of people outside, sometimes the Government are compelled to do some good to the people though unwillingly, as it seems. According to their habit, whenever they are compelled to do certain good for the poor, they take special care to do it with as little grace as possible.

The question of reduction of postal rates mainly falls under three categories. The weight question, the four-pice envelope and the two-pice postcards. If the bureaucracy should accede to the third, namely, the two-pice postcards, then the Government would be doing a thing which will have an universal approval and the people would be happy. The bureaucracy, it appears, won't do such a good thing for the people. When the Government are willing to take away some money from the postal budget, in order to give some relief to the taxpayer, why should they not do a thing which will be approved by all and which will be really beneficial to the masses. The Government have thought fit to change the postal rates in such a way that it will be more beneficial to the middle classes and the richer classes than to the poorer classes. There is another mentality on the part of the Government which I wish to bring to the notice of the House. Last year, this House, by an overwhelming majority, passed the motion reducing the postal rates, in which motion, so far as I remember, even the Members of the European Group joined. After that, everybody thought that the Government would accept the motion for reduction in postal rates. Curiously enough, the fiat came from the Governor General restoring the original rates. But, this year, the Government themselves want to give some relief at least in postal rates,—the very thing which they refused to do last year in spite of the overwhelming vote of this House. Because, if they had acceded to our request last year, the people would have thought that the Government had climbed down owing to the fight put up by the representatives of the people. The Government would never like to give such credit to this Assembly. So they did not agree last year. They could not encourage any such idea in the minds of the people. This year, the Honourable the Finance Member has come forward with a proposal for some reduction in postal rates, so that the whole credit might go to the Government. I have no quarrel there, but such mentality is not normal with any Government and should be strongly condemned. Then, Sir, I think it is not even too late for the Finance Member to reconsider the question of two-pice postcards; because, after this Assembly Session is over, when they will go to their respective constituencies, poor people will naturally ask them about the postcard. Sir, it is not a question of one pice with the poor cultivators, nowadays

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Does the cultivator really use the postcard? That is the point.

Mr. Suryya Kumar Som: If they have ceased to use it, they have done so, because they cannot pay for it. When the price was two pice, about 20 per cent. of the cultivators did use it; now, as my friend says, even that 20 per cent. have ceased to use it. It is very difficult for my friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, to appreciate what one pice means to these people.

Then, Sir, there is another question in which I think the Finance Member has committed a mistake. I mean the sugar industry and the match industry. These two industries are new in this country. These ventures have been started for the last three or four years, and they have, no doubt, made some progress on account of protective duties. But, as soon as some progress is made for one or two years,—the industries still being in the nascent stage,—Government came down with excise duties. I think, that was a very improper thing to do. If the excise duty can be altogether abolished now, that would be much better. But if that cannot be done, some reduction of the excise duty should have been made when this budget shows that there is some surplus. That would indirectly benefit Government and much more benefit the Railway Department; and that would bring greater relief to the cultivators for whom I find the Treasury Benches are very anxious. The prosperity of the sugar mills means larger and larger production of sugar cane, and that means larger economic gain to the cultivators. The improvement of the sugar mills directly touches the cultivators. The grant of one crore or two crores, to be spent though for village uplift, will, I think, never touch the mass. From all these considerations, I would appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member to reconsider the question of excise on sugar and matches.

Sir, I find that in the budget estimate some money has been set apart for the improvement of the rural areas. It looks very good, but it is no good in reality. Those who know how the executive authorities work in the districts have a very great suspicion whether these grants will really go to improve the condition of the villagers at all. And the beginning is not at all reassuring. We find that the Bengal Government has not moved its little finger in this direction within these 12 months. The other day, I sent some questions in this Assembly about the inactivity of the Bengal Government as to any programme of rural progress with the money granted by the Government of India. And, after these questions were sent, and they were printed in January, the Bengal Government came out with a communiqué; and it was a communiqué, not of work done, but of what they intend or think of doing in future with the 16 lakhs that was granted to them. And, during the Budget Session, Government made a statement that they propose to spend only 5½ lakhs this year. The year has now passed away, and only two months remain; and, within this financial year, they will be able to make a provision for 5½ lakhs, and the balance of 10½ lakhs will remain for the future. This is how it is working. But about one thing they were very active. They are setting up a radio centre at Midnapore about which my Honourable friend, the Deputy President, was also going to speak. Do Government consider that, by this radio centre at Midnapore, the health of the villages, the crop of the villages, the wealth of the villages, etc., will be improved? It is stupendous nonsense to think that the illiterate cultivator, who does not know even the vernacular, who does not care to mix with the educated people and who keep themselves aloof from the respectable gentry,

[Mr. Suryya Kumar Som.]

will come and take instructions from these radios and then learn to grow their crops, and that these radios will teach them what the schools and the colleges and the *pathsalas* and the people of the villages could not teach them. That is why I say that the beginning is not reassuring.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim), resumed the Chair.]

I am afraid, the whole money will go for propaganda purposes, I mean other propaganda than any propaganda to improve the condition of the villages. (*An Honourable Member*: "No, no.") My Honourable friend says, no. I will refer to a pamphlet which was distributed by the Finance Member on the 6th September in Simla. There Bengal was specifically mentioned, and it was said that a radio station was going to be constructed at Midnapore for propaganda purposes. I do not know whether it is C. I. D. propaganda and political propaganda or whether it is for agricultural propaganda. That was not clear. So, for the purpose of propaganda, much of the money will be spent. I can tell the Honourable the Finance Member that we live in the villages and we mix with the people; and, in the Bengal villages, they have never heard of any grant for village uplift being made, not to speak of being affected by any activity with regard to this money. They have never heard of this money. They look askance when we speak to them about this money. Therefore, the little thing, that I presume the Honourable the Finance Member has done honestly and sincerely in this year's budget, will go in this way in vain, and thus the only ray of hope that we find in his budget speech will prove to be a chimera.

Sir, I must say that, so far as the country is concerned, so far as the mass is concerned, with their stomach and cash balance, the country is in a very bad condition. I find that, in almost all the Provincial Legislatures, there are drastic pieces of legislation being undertaken for relieving the cultivators and the masses from their liability to pay to the creditors. Why are these things done? If the cultivators have money and if they are well off, why are these drastic measures necessary in the provinces? The Government also recognised that, without these measures, cultivators and the masses would inevitably fail to pay their debts and discharge their liabilities. What does it mean? Of what is this admission by the Government, not of one province, but by several? In these circumstances, to say that the barometer is recovering is to me meaningless. So I say that the barometer may be rising, but the thermometer is undoubtedly below normal.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 4th March, 1936.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 4th March 1936.

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.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, may I request you to be good enough to dispense with the question hour today, so as to enable more Honourable Members to take part in the discussion on the Budget? I understand that the Government have no objection.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): Sir, as regards Government, I shall make the position clear. We are making no request, neither are we expressly consenting; but if the President thinks that there is a good case for dispensing with the questions today, we shall raise no difficulties. We leave it entirely to the President.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair understands from office that the House has been able to dispose of a large number of questions, and, therefore, if the House generally agrees, the Chair is prepared to dispense with questions today if it will not cause inconvenience to any Honourable Member. But it is not to be taken as a precedent for the future.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—GENERAL DISCUSSION—*contd.*

Dr. P. N. Banerjea (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, there is nothing sensational about the Finance Member's speech and his budget contains no surprises.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Where is he?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan (Member for Commerce and Railways): As soon as he is informed of the decision about questions, he will be here. He did not expect that the discussion would start immediately.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: The Honourable Sir James Grigg belongs to the orthodox school, and, naturally, his financial proposals tend to err too much on the side of caution and circumspection. It is pointed out by him that the actual surplus of 1934-35 exceeded the revised estimate by over a crore and three quarters, and that the revised forecast for the current year anticipates a surplus of nearly 2½ crores of rupees instead of a nominal surplus of merely Rs. 6 lakhs. The reason assigned by the Honourable the Finance Member for these successive improvements is

[Dr. P. N. Banerjca.]

that the recovery of India's economic position had set in more strongly than could have been foreseen. If the Honourable the Finance Member had used the words "foreign trade" instead of "economic position", I would have agreed with him; but it should be remembered that the foreign trade of a country is not necessarily synonymous with its economic position. Besides, would it be wrong for us to think that an additional reason may be found in the fact that excess of caution on the part of the Finance Member has led him to under-estimate the revenue to some extent.

Of course, we are all glad that the era of deficits is giving place to an era of surpluses, but what are the causes of these surpluses? In the first place, it appears to me that reduced interest charges account for a great deal of these surpluses. But the more important reason is that these surpluses are the after-effects of the heavy amount of additional taxation which was levied between the years 1930 and 1934.

Coming to the expenditure and revenue for the year 1936-37, it is estimated that the total revenue will be Rs. 87.35 lakhs, and this shows an improvement of Rs. 83 lakhs over the revised estimate for the current year. Here, again, it would not have been at all unsafe to estimate an improvement of something like three crores of rupees in view of the likelihood of a further recovery in the foreign trade of the country.

Sir, as for expenditure, as I have already pointed out, the interest charges are expected to be less by a crore and a half of rupees. The total figure, in spite of this fact, shows an increase of Rs. 1.20 lakhs over the current year's revised estimate. Of course, I do not object to beneficial expenditure; nor do I wish to say anything about the subventions to be paid to Sind and Orissa, although one may doubt the expediency of creating new provinces when the existing provinces are starving from lack of funds.

Mr. K. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): It is all over now!

Dr. P. N. Banerjca: Yes, but people may still doubt the expediency. The increase under the head "Civil Administration" amounts to no less than Rs. 64 lakhs, while the increase in the defence budget is nearly half a crore of rupees. From this it is clear that avoidable expenditure, after having been kept under control for some time, is again showing signs of expansion. This is an alarming state of things, and the alarm is accentuated by the warning given by the Finance Member to the effect that the present budget figures do not represent a new permanent low level for defence expenditure. Sir, I desire to express my emphatic dissent from this view. My firm conviction is that retrenchment is absolutely necessary both in the Civil and in the Military Department, and that, unless effective measures are taken towards this end, no progress will be possible in this country.

In addition to ordinary expenditure, the budget provides for a large amount of extraordinary expenditure on Quetta. I do not object to the expenditure of about a crore of rupees which has already been incurred or is about to be incurred on relief, temporary housing and salvage operations, but re-construction stands on a different footing. The estimate for reconstruction is seven crores of rupees. The question which naturally suggests itself is, can the country bear such a huge burden? Is it not

possible to reduce the estimate to a lower figure? My own view is that a poor country like India cannot afford the luxury of an expenditure amounting to seven crores of rupees on the rebuilding of Quetta and that three crores of rupees would be more than sufficient for the purpose. Then, the question arises whether this sum of money is to be found out of revenue or out of borrowed funds. The Finance Member says that it is contrary to strict financial orthodoxy to borrow for expenditure which does not yield a cash return equivalent to the interest and sinking fund charges on the amount borrowed. My Honourable friend is only partially correct, for most of the eminent economists, who have written on public finance, have held the view that in the case of large extraordinary non-recurring expenditure the utilisation of public credit is permissible. Resort to a loan is particularly justified when a project is designed to benefit not merely the present generation but also future generations, or when it is feared that expenditure out of revenue will curtail the power of expending on essential social services. In the present instance, both these circumstances co-exist. The Honourable Member's suggestion that the annual burden of the Quetta reconstruction debt would be Rs. 75 lakhs is an absurd one.

I come now to the second argument of the Finance Member with regard to Quetta expenditure. He says that the financing of Quetta reconstruction out of borrowed funds would be prejudicial to the interests of the provinces. Here I must say, that the Finance Member is wholly wrong. He says that the burden of the Quetta debt will be heavily felt by the Central budget in the early forties, that is, at the time when it will be or ought to be distributing a portion of the income-tax receipts to the provinces. I must record my emphatic protest against the suggestion contained in the latter part of this statement. The distribution of income-tax receipts ought to begin simultaneously with the establishment of provincial autonomy, and provincial finances will be helped considerably if the decision is now taken to finance Quetta reconstruction out of loans instead of out of revenue. The needs of the provinces will be the greatest during the first five years of the new experiment, and their position will be extremely difficult if they do not receive the advantage of a financial readjustment between the Centre and themselves from the very commencement of their new career. It would be most unwise to force the provinces to resort to fresh taxation and, if the new Constitution is to get any chance of success, the fundamental principle of financial reallocation should be the provision of adequate revenues for the provinces. There will be no surer way of destroying the new Constitution than to starve the provinces.

Before leaving the subject of provincial finance, I desire to offer to the Honourable the Finance Member my sincere thanks for continuing the policy of making over half the proceeds of the jute export duty to my province. This has enabled Bengal to live, though on a very low level of existence. But I must say once again that this grant does not meet the needs of the situation. In spite of drastic retrenchment of beneficial services and the levy of a considerable amount of additional taxation, the budget of the Bengal Government discloses a deficit amounting to Rs. 51½ lakhs. No solution of the financial difficulty of the province will be possible unless her legitimate claim to the entire proceeds of the jute export duty and to the bulk of the income-tax revenue, derived from the province, is admitted and enforced.

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I come now to the Honourable the Finance Member's proposals for 1936-37. So far as the disposal of the surplus is concerned, I am glad to be able to say that some of his grants are for very desirable purposes. Rural reconstruction is undoubtedly one of the most urgent needs of the hour. But a more tangible benefit would have accrued to the country if my Honourable friend had ear-marked the whole grant for only two definite objects, namely, sanitation and the development of cottage and small-scale industries, instead of providing moneys for a large variety of purposes. I also cordially welcome his decision to transfer the balance amounting to Rs. 197 lakhs to the revenue reserve fund, for aiding the finances of the first year of provincial autonomy. As for remissions of taxation, I welcome the decision to remove the income-tax on the lower incomes; but I am definitely of opinion that the reduction in the surcharge on income-tax ought to have been held over till more prosperous times, and I strongly protest against the proposal to reduce the surcharge on the super-tax. No persons in the land are better able to answer the test of ability to pay than the super-tax payers; and in the existing system of taxation in the country, the burden which falls on them is much lighter than that which falls on the poorer sections of the community. I therefore, strongly urge that this proposal of the Honourable the Finance Member be not accepted by the House

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only two minutes more.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Sir, I shall finish within two minutes. In this connection, I am glad to receive support from a very unexpected quarter. His Highness the Aga Khan is reported, in this morning's papers, to have said that he was in favour of taxing the rich for the benefit of the poor. His Highness is the richest man in the country, and, therefore, his words should carry weight with the Honourable the Finance Member.

The Honourable the Finance Member says that the most insistent demand of the commercial community with which he has been confronted is the claim for the abolition of emergency taxes on income; but has the demand for the reduction in the price of the postcard been less insistent? It is a matter for extreme regret that the Finance Member has turned a deaf ear to the voice of the poor while he has been so eager to listen to the voice of the rich. But the most culpable omission on his part relates to the salt tax which imposes an unduly heavy burden on the masses of the population. In the matter of tax remission, therefore, the Finance Member has merely touched the fringe of the problem and even that fringe is not the most important viewed from the standpoint of the interests of the country taken as a whole.

Dr. R. D. Dalal (Nominated Non-official): Mr. President, I heartily congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member on his masterly, lucid, and impressive speech, and on certain bright features of his budget. Sir, with your permission, I propose to avail myself of this opportunity to bring to the notice of the Honourable the Finance Member and of this Honourable House a vitally important and terribly urgent problem, namely, the combined health, economic, and population problem. In the first place, let us examine for a moment the vital statistics for the whole of British India. The figures for the calendar year 1933 are available. In 1933, the birth rate per one thousand of population was 35.5 as against 14.4 in England and Wales.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the death rate?

Dr. R. D. Dalal: The death rate was 22.4 as against 12.3 in England and Wales. The infant mortality per one thousand live births was 171 as against 64 in England and Wales. In India, the average expectation of life at birth is only 25 as against 58 in England and Wales. From these figures, I have just quoted, we can infer that sickness rates in India must be several times higher than those in England and Wales. Having given the House an idea as to the vital statistics for British India, I shall now proceed to discuss very briefly the relationship of the health problem and population problem to the economic question. Since the beginning of the present century, annual additions to the population have steadily increased, because the high birth rate has remained more or less stationary whilst the general mortality rate has progressively diminished. Despite the appalling and deplorably excessive mortality owing to high birth rate and the subsidence of plague and the absence of any great pandemics, such as influenza, the population of India has increased by thirty-four millions during the last decennium ended 1931. The last census shows that the numbers of married women at different age periods between 15 and 35 are more favourable to the growth of population. The Census Commissioner in his 1931 Report has expressed the opinion that the normal percentage of increase in India may be taken as about ten per cent., but this rate has been exceeded in 1931, 1932, and 1933. So we can forecast that by 1941, when the next census will be taken, the population of India would probably reach the figure of four hundred millions. This increase in population has a very definite bearing on the economic question. If the population of India continues to grow at the present rate, and if the increase in the food supply is not markedly stimulated, the available surplus must gradually dwindle away till there would be no money to spend on education, medical relief, public health, police, railways, commerce, etc., and the country must lapse into barbarism. It will at once be seen that India is faced with a grave emergency. Therefore, it behoves us to sink all our differences and to awake to the fact that our country is in imminent danger. The population of India is increasing at an alarmingly rapid rate. This increase is a cause more for alarm than for satisfaction. In view of the economic consequences it is absolutely necessary to check the birth rate; and if birth control methods can reduce the terrible infant mortality of India, and if they can restrict the extent of suffering, illness and death among the women their adoption should be considered as humane and beneficial public health measures

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: What will be the effect on the morals of young people?

Dr. R. D. Dalal: The population of India is already living permanently on the verge of scarcity, and any further increase is bound to result in an insufficiency of the food supply, and this rise of population on the subsistence margin must reduce the standard of living. The progress of agricultural science has demonstrated that far larger supplies can be produced without any extension of the land area or increase of cost. The agriculturist desires to farm well, and to produce the utmost yields that the fertility of his land will permit. Medical opinion is now convinced that an adequate intake of proteins, mineral salts, and vitamins is essential for the resistance of disease and the maintenance of sound health.

[Dr. R. D. Dalal.]

Certain physical features prevalent amongst the rural population, such as bad teeth, rickets, stunted growth, anæmia, etc., are nutritional in origin. The rural population may be free of starvation, but the bulk of the population lack the optimum of nutrition. So it would be pedantry to deny that the production of food should be largely increased and its quality greatly improved. Our ideal should be to marry health and agriculture.

Sir, certain aspects of the population problem such as polygamy, polyandry, differential fertility, birth control, national food policy, marketing schemes, industrial development, colonization schemes, etc., all these require a close study in all their bearings and a protracted and formidable investigation. I may state in passing that active inquiry into these matters is long overdue. In this connection I would request the attention of this Honourable House to the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, which stresses Government's duty to investigate medical problems and to enunciate and direct sound principles of public health administration. These are weighty words, and they have an added significance in that they represent the views of the Chairman of that Commission—the Marquess of Linlithgow, the Viceroy-designate of India. (Cheers.)

Sir, the health problems cannot be solved with any prospect of success by Public Health experts and the Public Health Department alone unless co-operation of other Departments of Government, above all, co-operation of the general public is secured. Let us reflect for a moment what would happen if the Medical and Public Health side of the problem were solved with complete success, while the other aspects of the situation were left untouched. If we succeed in reducing the infant mortality and if we succeed in abolishing preventable disease, the population will double itself in a generation. It is easy to imagine the consequences that would follow from a sudden upsetting of Nature's balance without applying the counterpoise in the shape of increased production of food, lowering of birth rate, celibacy, delayed marriage, war, pestilence, earthquake, famine, etc. If such a counterpoise be not applied, what will happen? The population will go on increasing, but the production of the necessities of life will not keep pace with the growth of population. So, there will be a steady deterioration in the state of the nutrition of the people. What is more? There will also be a steady deterioration in the financial situation of the country, because a population, which is carrying on a desperate struggle for bare existence, cannot possibly provide the revenues which are necessary for a progressive administration. Then, what is the remedy? To my mind, the imperative necessity of taking stock of the existing position is at once indicated. Therefore, I would strongly urge the immediate necessity for appointing a strong Commission for the purpose of making a thorough enquiry and investigation into all the factors influencing health so as to be able to pave the way for a permanent and practical scheme of economic uplift. The Commission should consist of picked men with a special knowledge of medical relief, public health, finance, economics, agriculture, education, industry, and sociology, also of a few educated women and leaders of public opinion, also of a few outstanding men from England, where conspicuous success has already been achieved in raising standards of health and economic welfare of the people. If we are sincerely anxious to promote the health of the people of India in a

sensible, rational, comprehensive and adequate way, I submit, that my suggestion is a vital, essential, and powerful instrument, and on that ground I earnestly, with all the emphasis at my command, commend the suggestion, namely, the appointment of a Commission to investigate into all the factors influencing health, to the favourable consideration of the Honourable the Finance Member; and I need hardly add that the sympathetic treatment of the suggestion I have just brought to his notice will earn for him the commendations and gratitude of all India. (Cheers.)

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Mr. President, brevity is the soul of wit, and that is the motto that my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, has adopted.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: One hour and twenty minutes!

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: It has considerable advantages. It does not sacrifice clarity, and while for us the advantage definitely is that we understand exactly what he desires to convey, the advantage to him is that he supplies less ammunition to the Opposition than is usual on such occasions. I will only touch upon two or three aspects of the budget, and that I trust very briefly.

The first conundrum that the Honourable Member has set us is, when is a non-recurrent source of revenue made into a recurrent source? I am afraid that that is entirely in his own hands. He can under-estimate the revenues and he gets non-recurrent resources, and then with these non-recurrent resources he hands out as a great benefactor doles all round. The poor taxpayer sees very little of the money that he has paid into the treasury. This under-estimating can go too far. It may be very pleasant indeed for the Treasury Benches to have sometimes two crores of rupees to dole out by simply calling it non-recurrent resources. Well, Sir, there is a time in the lives of most Legislatures when that sort of thing must stop for, after all, there are limits to the ability of the taxpayer to pay, and a safer, and, in the end, a juster method will be to really not go much further than the year before us and see what the surplus is likely to be. He makes use of these resources in several ways. I have mentioned one. He hands out doles all round, but he goes a little further. He makes forecasts into the future. It need hardly be said that we are living in most unsettled times. We do not know really what is going to happen in Europe. There are black clouds in the Far East, and he is a bold man who will forecast for more than a year ahead. We, some of us, who have got to deal with world conditions, are not able to say with any confidence as to what will happen a month ahead. But my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, is tempted to tell us what is going to happen, not only next year, but a year ahead, and again another year ahead. For the year 1937-38 he tells us that there is going to be a deficit of two crores. He estimates what the separation of Burma is going to cost. He estimates the cost of what Sir Otto Niemeyer is going to do. Then he estimates for a betterment. The result is a deficit of two crores, and then with a magic wand, the surplus that he has obtained in the last year of about the same amount he quietly puts into his pocket, and says, he will keep it as a reserve. Whom does that surplus belong to? Last year we told the Finance Member that we thought he was under-estimating and that he was on the safe side. Still he was not pleased to take our advice and

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give a little further relief to the taxpayer as we had suggested. He did not foresee that surplus and now he wants to keep it for a deficit that he believes will occur, not in the next year, but in the year to come. Then again in 1938-39, he tells us, he believes there will be another betterment of two crores and that the deficit will be wiped out. I would respectfully point out that, however much I admire my Honourable friend's foresight, I believe it is rather risky in the times in which we live to forecast in the way he has done. It is difficult enough to be able to see just before our noses, it is more so when one attempts to forecast what is going to happen in the next two years. I would be content with trying to see what surplus there will be next year and to let the future take care of itself. I have seen forecasts made in times gone by and I have a little experience of making budgets myself and I have seen how forecasts break down when you try to make them for two and three years ahead, especially in the conditions in which we live today. It is impossible to say what is going to happen next month with regard to commodity markets. It is impossible to say what the political position will be in the Far East two weeks hence. How is it then possible to make forecasts for two years and three years ahead? I will just touch upon another point that my friend, Dr. Banerjee, alluded to. For the next year one of the ways in which he disposes of the surplus is to hand over about a crore for the reconstruction of Quetta. Of that crore, I admit that a certain number of lakhs should rightly be debited to revenue but 78 lakhs that he takes from the surplus is very doubtful allocation. He propounds the dictum that you must not borrow for expenditure which does not yield a return equivalent to the interest and sinking fund charges on the amount borrowed. Now, Sir, we have had Finance Members who preached to us on the advantages of having safe finance. My Honourable friend perhaps rightly preaches to us safer finance and perhaps we will get another Finance Member who will preach on the safest finance—if the times be normal, there should be surpluses, if the worst times come suddenly upon us, there should not be a deficit. God help us from this safest finance. Safe finance means taking 78 lakhs from your surplus which ought to go into the pockets of the taxpayer and hand it over for the construction of buildings that may last 100 years and which will benefit generations to come. May I ask him whether that policy is always followed in England. I can give him many instances.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Not in England. You cannot.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: What about Waterloo Bridge?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is not financed by Government. Can you give me a single case of money spent from the Central Exchequer?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Most probably, the Central Exchequer does not spend on buildings. It is the local bodies that do it. What about the County Council Hall which cost 5½ million sterling and was financed by loan?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is not Central Government. Can you give me a single instance of military works built out of capital?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: What was done about the Pusa Institute last year? The proposal was made to pay for the Pusa Institute from revenue. The proposal was turned down by the House. It was then debited to capital. I will give any number of instances nearer home, Civil Aviation. The fact cannot be contradicted that this dictum is all right in theory but it is only put into practice when it suits the circumstances. When you have got a surplus and you do not want to return it to the tax-payer, you must find ways and means of disposing of it. If you had not the surplus perforce you would have had to borrow for the Quetta earthquake. I see that the Government of India have not adopted any fixed principles with regard to this question. Why should we be made to pay 78 lakhs this year and seven crores in the future? The main argument that my Honourable friend has brought forward is that he does not think that the three crores that we credit to a fund for the reduction of debt is sufficient on a capital debt of 1,200 crores. I do not think that my friend has drawn the picture quite in its correct perspective. That 1,200 crores debt is made up of debt incurred on railways. There is also 17½ crores on Posts and Telegraphs. Both these departments are commercial departments and have got their own budgets. In the Railway budget you have set aside 13½ crores for depreciation and replacements. Not a word about that is mentioned in the Finance Member's speech.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: It is revenue.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Three crores on 1,200 crores debt is not a correct statement. He set aside 13 crores out of revenue as a depreciation and replacement fund on a debt of 800 crores. Now, in a commercial department, you keep your assets up to scratch. You put in so much for depreciation and replacements and you go on replacing and you keep your assets in a fairly good condition. Unless the commercial department is a flush of money and is making huge profits, it does not set aside for reserves to write down the capital charge. In stringent times, it considers itself lucky if it can set aside a sufficient amount for replacement and depreciation and, therefore, I contend that as far as 1,200 crores are concerned, 800 crores of it have been provided for. Then again in the Posts and Telegraphs Department the capital debt is something like 17 crores. I am not going into the exact way in which that 17 crores has been arrived at. I know the facts but take it for granted that 17 crores is the amount. Against that seventeen crores of expenditure you have got a depreciation fund of three crores—to be accurate, three crores, seven lakhs in 1934-35, you have set aside 25 lakhs a year for the next five years towards that fund. You used to set aside up to 34 lakhs and when I had the honour of examining that question, in great detail, in a committee on which sat an expert from England, we did increase the lives of everything in the Posts and Telegraphs Department. Since then, Government came to the conclusion that we did not go far enough. They went further, and they have now decided on 25 lakhs. I think that is quite sufficient, more than enough, considering that on a debt of seventeen crores you have got a depreciation fund of three crores, seven lakhs. Therefore, I contend, that the picture drawn before this House by the Honourable Member is wanting in perspective, that his three crores I consider are sufficient to set aside in this fund, and, therefore, he cannot put forward the argument that, the three crores not being sufficient, he will not increase his capital

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debt even for Quetta but will make us, and force us to pay it out of revenue, thus utilising surpluses which ought to go into the pockets of the tax-payer. Now to cut a long story short, let us see what the Finance Member of the Government of India himself said on this subject and I will take the liberty of reading to you, Sir, just one paragraph from a speech made by Sir George Schuster on the 27th February, 1934, when he reduced this provision of six crores 88 lakhs to three crores, and this is what he said:

"We have come to the conclusion after weighing most carefully all the issues, that we have so strengthened our general financial position that in these times of special difficulty it is not necessary to strain the tax revenue in order to maintain our provision for Reduction and Avoidance of Debt at the full level fixed by the present convention. I would remind Honourable Members that this convention was settled in 1924 and laid down that in respect of all debt incurred up to March 31, 1923, a fixed sum of Rs. 4 crores should be set aside, and that on all debt incurred thereafter (other than debt for advances to the Provinces which make their own provision for repayment) a sum of 1½ per cent. should be provided. This scheme has meant that the budgetary provision for reduction of debt has increased from 3,78 lakhs in 1924-25 to 6,89 lakhs in the current year. Now, although the provision has automatically grown to this onerous degree, since 1929, the actual debt position has become sounder and the net burden lighter. While gross figures of the Government's indebtedness have increased, the value of the productive assets held against that debt have increased by more than the same amount. On March 31, 1924, the total indebtedness of the Government of India was 919 crores, on March, 31, 1934, the corresponding figure will be about 1,212 crores, an increase of 293 crores. But in the same period the interest-bearing assets of the Government will have increased by 314 crores, namely, from 664 to 978. And at the same time the net annual burden of interest has been substantially reduced. In the year 1924-25 the net charge to the budget for Interest on Debt (that is to say, interest paid less interest received) was just under 15 crores, while for next year the net charge will be less than 10½ crores. It is necessary to explain these facts in order that the position may be fully appreciated. The burden of the debt reduction provision has become especially heavy in recent years for the following reasons. The main portion of our debt represents advances to the Railways. So long as the Railways were paying to the Government a general contribution over and above the interest due from them, that represented something which could be fairly set off against the debt reduction provision. But—(now mark these words, this is the crux of the whole situation)—when the Government is receiving no contribution, and when at the same time the Railways are, through their depreciation fund, maintaining their capital assets at their full value, one must ask whether it is reasonable or even advantageous to make the attempt to raise tax revenue sufficient to meet the full provision." (Hear, hear.)

Now, that is a complete answer to the apprehensions of my Honourable friend.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I don't agree.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: That may be his opinion. I know there is room for disagreement in everything, and evidently the present Finance Member does not agree with the late Finance Member. He has every right to maintain his own position. It is, however, also our duty to point out to him how the policy has changed from time to time in the Government of India, to the great detriment of the taxpayer. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Sir, I have shown sufficiently clearly in the short time at my disposal—I will have further opportunities of speaking on the

Budget—that there could be much greater liberality on the part of the Government of India towards the taxpayer. I congratulate my Honourable friend on the great luck he has had in being able to contribute from surplus two crores 81 lakhs for agricultural purposes. We have no complaints. He had provided one crore, and Providence made it into two crores 81 lakhs, and let us hope that India will make the best use of that 2·81 crores. Let us hope that it will operate to the advantage of the agriculturist and the masses of the people: and speaking for myself, I have no objection to being taxed, provided I am assured that the money will really go to the advantage of the masses (Hear, hear); that the middleman will not get hold of it; and if there are surpluses, by all means allocate them for the advantage of the people, but be sure that it does go to the people (Hear, hear), and that it is not pocketed by the middleman in the transit, that some of it does not slip into the pockets of others; be assured of that (Laughter); and if you can give us that assurance, I do not think there is anybody here who will object to money being allocated for such purposes. Let us know exactly what you are doing. Do not tell us that our revenues are X, and, when we find that they are X+Y, do not take the Y and allocate it for agricultural purposes. (Laughter.) Let us know beforehand exactly what we are going to pay for agricultural purposes, and for such other purposes as you like and we shall be taxed, but on condition that we know for what purpose we are paying and you will not take the surplus, when you get it, calling it non-recurrent, and then dole it out as you choose. (Hear, hear.) These are the conditions that I lay down, and I trust, that even in this Budget my Honourable friend will listen to our advice. We may be wrong, we are only human, but we have had some experience, and we give you the benefit of that experience. My Honourable friend, Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon, told my Honourable friend that even in his sugar import estimate for next year he may be out by fifty lakhs; and that will mean another surplus. I contend, these 78 lakhs ought not to be debited to revenue, it ought to go to capital. That will give you over a crore of rupees for further distribution this very year. Let him consider it. And I would appeal to my friend on my right, before I sit down, to cut out a figure from the budget which we believe the Finance Member can justifiably do. Do not over-estimate it and give him a handle for arguing that the Assembly is unreasonable and he must recommend the Viceroy to certify the lot. If we are convinced that he has under-estimated for so many lakhs, and if we are convinced that he has provided from revenue what he ought to have from capital, let us take that amount out of the budget to the best of our ability. Give him no argument for saying that we are unreasonable in our demands. This I would appeal to my Honourable friends to do; and I would appeal to my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, to listen to our advice on this occasion a little more than he did last year. (Hear, hear, and Applause.)

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, if I am not able to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member, it is not because I refuse to give him his due, but because the budget presented by him compels me to abstain from doing so. As I am unable to congratulate him, I congratulate myself on having succeeded, after attempting 15 times, in getting an opportunity to take part in this debate.

12 Noon.

[Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal.]

Sir, in his budget speech, the Honourable the Finance Member claims that increases under certain heads of revenue point to the recovery in the economic position of India, and that they are a sure sign of progressive prosperity of the people. But, to my mind, this claim is untenable. The surplus budgets are not necessarily a true index of the people's prosperity. All students of statistics know that budgets can be manipulated to produce a surplus. Therefore, I am not prepared to be taken in by this propaganda of figures. I take my stand upon hard facts which show unmistakably that India is being ruined by her attachment to the British Empire and that the budget has been framed, not in the interest of the people of this country, but in the interest of the Britishers. A budget to be a good budget must be characterised by three P's. It must be people's, progressive, prosperity budget. But, Sir, this budget is characterised by three B's. It is bureaucracy's, bellyful, banditry budget. Sir, my attitude towards such a budget is, in accordance with the advice, which Lenin, the greatest Socialist Scientist of our age, gave to a member of the Bolshevik party in the Russian Duma. When this gentleman came to seek his advice, Lenin is reported to have told him:

"My dear chap, whatever do you want to bother yourself with amendments to budget proposals of the Cade's for? You are a worker, the Duma is for buffaloes. You just go and tell all over Russia about the life of the workers, explain the horrors of capitalist slavery, call the workers to revolution, fling in the face of the Black Duma the words 'scoundrels', 'exploiters', etc. You introduce such an amendment that in three years we are going to hang the lot of you black hundred Cadets on lamp posts. Now that will be a real amendment."

I too, Sir, want to introduce such an amendment that within three years we may have "Purna Swaraj" in India and the charming gentlemen over there on the Treasury Benches, who are in the habit of committing mistakes, paying and profitable to themselves, but at our expense, may have to leave the country bag and baggage.

An Honourable Member: But without baggage.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: Without baggage if you please. Sir, looked at from the people's point of view, what does this budget disclose? It discloses the bureaucracy in their true colours, that their much advertised show of deep concern for the interests of the people is a piece of pure propaganda. Even as a propaganda or as a show, it is such a poor and miserable show that it cannot compare favourably with the concern which the owners of the Chicago Stockyard immortalised by Upton Sinclair in his world famous novel "The Jungle" show to animals they deal in. At its best, it is on a par with the Government policy of the preservation of wild life, the only difference being that, there, they preserve the wild animals for the pleasure of hunt, and, here, they have established the peace of the bureaucracy for the profits of exploitation.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair would ask the Honourable Member to speak to the budget. He ought not to indulge in remarks like these. His arguments must be relevant to the budget.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: Sir, I have characterised this year's budget as the bureaucracy's, bellyful, banditry budget, and I am prepared to prove to the hilt that it is so. I am using these arguments to prove it. According to a political proverb, taxation without representation is robbery, and who does not know, Sir, that the bureaucracy has been going on with its lawless robbery by collecting taxes which this House refused last year? The budget is bureaucracy's budget, because the whole show is run by them. According to another proverb, he who pays for the piper calls for the tune. But, here, we the people pay these pipers, but it is these pipers who call the tune. They levy whatever tax they like and spend those in whatever manner they choose. So far as the people are concerned, theirs is not to question how; theirs is not to reason why, but, theirs is only to pay and die.

An Honourable Member: And cry.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: Cry here, but die outside. The revenue side of the budget shows the utter disregard of the Government to the interests and the welfare of the people. On an examination of the revenue figures, we find that only 17 per cent., that is less than one-fifth, is derived from direct taxation. In the United Kingdom, they raise something like 51 per cent. from taxes on income and a further nine per cent. from taxes on inheritance, thus making a total of 60 per cent. of her total taxes from direct taxation. America raises 66½ per cent. of her taxes from incomes. Now, Sir, even a school boy knows that direct taxes are more honest and above-board, and they encourage social justice, while indirect taxes are highly regressive and they fall with excessive severity upon the poor. Besides this, Sir, the incidence of taxation is increasing. It has more than doubled during the last 20 years, while the income of the people is decreasing. I accuse the Government of having diminished the aggregate economic welfare of the people by their policy of taxation, both direct and indirect. Indirect taxes are falling very heavily upon the poor. It is unjust and it is inhuman to tax the bare necessities of life of the people, such as salt, matches, kerosene oil, etc. The policy of Government as regards direct taxes favours the foreigners at the expense of the sons of the soil. India is losing annually a revenue of about five crores, because the income of the people, who reside in India but who carry on their business outside, the income of the people who reside outside but who carry on their business here and also the income from sterling securities as well as the profits of the foreign firms carrying on their business here and the foreigners carrying on shipping business on Indian coast are not taxed. Another two crores are lost, because income-tax is not deducted from the payment sent every year from this country to Britain in the shape of pensions, home charges, etc. Thus far about the revenue side.

Coming to the expenditure side, we find that the lion's share is eaten up by the handsome salaries given to the members of the bureaucracy and the departments which are necessary to maintain them in power and to keep them in office and to make their bellyful secure. About 90 per cent. of the expenditure is incurred on debts on the military and administrative purposes. Sir, I submit, the military expenditure is out of all proportion to the needs of the country, and it is increasing by leaps and bounds. Before 1914, it was 29 crores, now it is about 50 crores. Sir, I do not know what opinion the Honourable the Finance Member has about the

[Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal.]

ex-Premier of the British Empire; that is, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald. But his opinion is here, and I quote it for his advantage. He says:

"A large part of the army, certainly one-half, is an Imperial army which is required for other than purely Indian purposes. Its cost should be met from Imperial funds."

Sir, India is one of the poorest countries of the world, while England and America are the richest. Still the bureaucrat's bellyful, that is, the standard of pay of the all-India services is high even when judged by the standards of those countries. It is not the same multiple of the *per capita* income as in those countries. The result of this policy of expenditure is that, while people who form the teeming millions are groaning under the heavy burden of taxation and are becoming poorer and poorer day by day, a class of costly parasites, entrenched in a specially privileged position is being formed,—a state of affairs which is reflected here in the luxury and splendour visible in Connaught Place and the poverty and misery of the dwellers in the huts near by or the dwellers of the crowded dens in Old Delhi. To illustrate my point, I will take the income-tax figures of the year 1933-34. In that year, the aggregate tax collected from salaried income was four crores and 12 lakhs. Out of this, two crores and 63 lakhs were deducted at the very source from the salaries paid by Government. This means that 62 per cent. of the salaried income was dependant upon Government alone. If we take the aggregate taxable income of the country in that year to be 2,31 crores and 20 lakhs, it means that one-fourth of it was dependent upon Government. This does not include the income from salaries below the taxable minimum. As such, it excludes the salaries of all Government servants, of troops and camp followers, Indian as well as British, as well as the employees of railways, postal and education departments, clerks of the lower grades in all departments, etc. Sir, the public salary bill of our country comes up to 120 crores, if we include the civil, railway and military; and if we add to it the pensions and allowances and other things, it will come to something like 200 crores. And if we take the sum total of India's wealth at the present prices to be 1,000 crores per annum, it means that two per cent. of these Government servants take away one-fifth of the whole wealth of the country. This shows unmistakably that the services do not exist in this country for the people. On the contrary, it is the people whose very life blood is sucked to feed the services fat. Only ten per cent. of the expenditure is devoted to the nation-building departments. And, again, to quote Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, he says:

"On the whole, I think two charges can be substantiated against us; first, that our Government is extravagant, and that we have behaved meanly towards India. We spend far too much of the income of India on Imperial purposes and far too little on Indian development."

If we compare the expenditure of the other countries with the expenditure incurred in India, we will find that every word of what Mr. Ramsay MacDonald says is true. Great Britain, in the year before last, spent something like 425 crores on social services of some sort or other; America spent something like 150 crores on relief alone. After these things, is it any wonder that millions of people in this country do not know what it is to have a full meal a day? That so many people commit suicide for

their inability to find any employment? And that millions die of preventable deaths every year? Sir, I cannot be a party to such a budget. So far as I am concerned, I believe with Bernard Shaw that, if we are to avoid a terrible social explosion in this country, we must have a statesman at the helm of the destinies of the country, who may supersede the financier in the Finance Member and put him back in his proper place. Sir, in "the Political Mad-house in America and nearer Home", Mr. Shaw says that every financier is 19 per cent. a lunatic. (Laughter.) But, Sir, I think our Finance Member is 90 per cent. so (Laughter) if he thinks that his budget really shows the prosperity of the people and that it has got nothing to do with the economic welfare or any other sort of welfare of the people. That being so, I will, in conclusion, prescribe a financial remedy for the malady from which the Finance Member suffers. And my prescription is this: that a little deflation of his ego and a little inflation of the man in him will do him immense good. (Laughter.)

Mr. G. Morgan (Bengal: European): Mr. President, I should like, at the outset of the few remarks I shall make, to congratulate the Finance Member on his budget speech, and I hope that anything that I may have to say later on will not be taken as unduly qualifying the gratitude we feel towards the Honourable Member. Financial confidence is, as we all know, the prerequisite of all business enterprise and industrial activity and whatever points of detail there may be which are open to criticism, the broad fact remains that unless an unforeseen calamity occurs, we may enter upon another year free from the year of financial embarrassments.

Caution and prudence in public finance are virtues which yield their own rewards, and the Finance Member's second budget shows clearly that he is in no great peril of being led astray into the alluring paths of spectacular finance. Indeed, the Honourable Member himself described his budget as "dull", and a closer examination only serves to confirm the correctness of his choice of the adjective.

The revenue position is apparently better than the Honourable Member anticipated, the ways and means position is strong and justifies the pursuit of a sound monetary policy, and last but by no means least, he was able to invite us to take particular note of India's "Marvellous power of recuperation from economic troubles". Having said that, however, it is necessary for me to add that there are one of two matters to which we feel justified in drawing the attention of the House. The first point I have to make is in connection with the surpluses. My Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, has dealt with that point too. The Finance Member has produced for us three substantial surpluses and that fact has at any rate removed any immediate anxiety. We may have felt that our accounts might show a balance on the wrong side. It should not be forgotten, however, that in public finance a surplus can be just as unsatisfactory to the tax-payer as a deficit. The one indicates the extent to which he has been over-taxed and the other to the extent to which he is liable to be additionally taxed. If the Honourable Member can be charged with any fault at all in this connection, he can, on the figures he has given us, certainly be charged with having, I will not say grossly, but at any rate considerably, under-estimated the yield of revenue. Let me take the years which he covered in his budget speech as an example of what I mean. At the commencement of 1934-35 the then Finance Member, Sir George Schuster, estimated a surplus of Rs. 10 lakhs. A few weeks before the close

[Mr. G. Morgan.]

of that financial year, the Honourable the Finance Member, Sir James Grigg, gave us a revised estimated surplus of Rs. 327 lakhs. He now tells us that the actual surplus was nearly Rs. 500 lakhs. In the year which ends this month we observe exactly the same symptoms. The original estimated surplus of Rs. 6 lakhs has now been converted to a revised estimated surplus of Rs. 242 lakhs, and what assurance have we that the actual surplus will not be even greater? Making every allowance for the Honourable Member's caution, I do not think we are entitled to regard the position as other than an example of persistently bad estimating. Last year the Honourable Member described his surplus as a fortuitous non-recurrent circumstance. This year he offers us precisely the same explanation, and in the light of that explanation, he asks us to accept the view that these surpluses can only be used for non-recurrent purposes. We had occasion last year to invite the Finance Member to explain to us at what particular stage a non-recurring surplus which recurs regularly year after year ceases to be non-recurring. We renew that invitation today, and we hope that it would be accepted as an invitation for a reply.

Far be it from me deliberately to charge the Honourable Member with evading his responsibility for removing the emergency surcharges of 1931 by regarding his surpluses as non-recurrent, but I am bound to say that the facts now presented to us would appear to lend some justification for such a suspicion. I ask the House to take note of the fact that it is quite clear that on the evidence of these substantial surpluses now before us we should have been justified in pressing, with even more vigour than we did last year, the claims of the taxpayer for the removal of the special emergency surcharges which he has borne so patiently since 1931, and it seems equally clear that the Honourable Member's habit of under-estimating has deprived the taxpayer of that relief which he was legitimately entitled to expect. Put in another way, it means that the Finance Member, by pursuing a policy of alleged non-recurring surpluses, has maintained taxation at a level which, having regard to his own assurances of India's economic recovery, is unjustifiable.

The Honourable Member made a particular point of his inaccurate estimating in respect of the revenue from sugar, and he frankly confessed that his predictions looked like being falsified. Such a frank admission must be accepted in the same generous spirit in which it is offered, but for the sake of the sugar industry, we sincerely hope that at his third attempt the Honourable Member will be able to get a little nearer to the right figure. The present statistics, on which the Honourable Member bases his calculations, are no doubt misleading, and as he himself has said, wildly inaccurate. We are prepared to accept the explanation that wild inaccuracy has been the cause of the Honourable Member's wild guess work in this connection, and we hope that he will be able to inform us shortly that he has taken steps to stabilise the position so that in the future the market will not be subject to these upsets which are liable to cause panics.

There is one final point which I wish to make on the general structure of the budget before I sit down, and that is in connection with the method which the Honourable Member has chosen for the disposal of his surpluses. The strictly orthodox method of disposing of non-recurrent surpluses is to pay them into the sinking fund for the redemption of national debt, and we should like to know how the Honourable Member reconciles his

adherence to orthodox principles with his practice of using these sums for other purposes.

We are upon the eve of important constitutional changes and we expect to have an opportunity later on of raising the question of the Honourable Member's financial policy in relation, among other things, to these changes and we hope that the Finance Member will be able to give us some assurance that he is bearing all aspects of that important fact well in mind in framing his future policy.

U Ba Si (Burma: Non-European): Sir, fully realising that the cry of the Burmese Members for help and relief in this House is like the cry in the wilderness, and with an expectation that, with the separation of Burma next year, we would have the pleasure of managing our own affairs in our own country, I feel rather reluctant to take the time of the House, particularly so, as we did not receive even the courtesy of a reply last year. However, as this is going to be the last Budget Session we would be attending, we would like to make a few observations on this budget as well as on certain grievances of Buddhists in India. Talking about economic improvements, I would like to explain to you the real economic conditions of the Burmese people, of which you seem to be very ignorant. We feel that we have been neglected all along. The Government of India have been handling about 40 Central subjects and doing this work from about 2,000 miles away from Rangoon from where it takes us five days to come to Delhi.

Several Honourable Members: Not by air.

U Ba Si: Of the actual conditions in Burma, they know little or nothing. But, before I come to explain these conditions, I would like to state a few points about the budget. Of course, it is hardly necessary for me to say that we welcome the proposal of the Government of India to allot Rs. 108½ lakhs to the provinces for expenditure on schemes of rural uplift. But, in this connection, I would like to say that we are not at all satisfied with the allocation of last year. We got last year only five lakhs out of a crore, that is, exactly, five per cent., and we did not get anything like most of the other provinces in the form of subventions for special purposes. Now that the Secretary of State for India has accepted the recommendations of the Indo-Burma Finance Tribunal that, in the allocation of debts, Burma's share should be 7½ per cent., we appeal to the Government of India to be fair and equitable in the distribution of assets as well, and to allocate at least ten lakhs this year, thus making up the 2½ lakhs shortage due last year. On the eve of separation, such a gift will be most welcome. It is an irony of fate that while the provinces of Sind and Orissa receive special subventions on separation, and while Bengal is allowed to enjoy half of its export duty on jute, Burma cannot get even its legitimate and fair share in the allocation of funds for rural development, not to say of its share in the Rice Export Duty.

While welcoming the abolition of the tax on lower incomes, and the reduction in postal rates, we wish to state that Burma would have been more grateful if the half anna postcard is restored. Burma is a purely agricultural country and its villages are situated far apart. Postal communication is resorted to greatly by the villagers, and we desire to press once more the extension of more postal facilities to the Burma villages.

[U Ba Si.]

All political parties in Burma are desirous of having the half anna postcard, and thus, after separation next year, Burma will have to ask special permission of the Government of India to allow the introduction of the same at least locally in Burma if the Government of India do not find their way to introduce the half anna postcard in India proper.

We also wish to avail ourselves of this opportunity to state the desire of certain Indian employees in the postal department in Burma. We have been informed that while the postal clerks are allowed the option of voluntary retirement from service or transfer of their services to India, on the separation of Burma, the postal peons have not been allowed the same privilege. We wish to protest against this discriminatory treatment among the members of the same department in the Government of India and urge that the same facilities for transfer to India or voluntary retirement be provided to the postal peons . . .

Mr. G. V. Bewoor (Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs): On a point of personal explanation, Sir. The Honourable Member's information is entirely wrong. Postal clerks have not been given any facility for voluntary retirement.

U Ba Si: But I understand some representations have been made . . .

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Representations have been received, but that is quite a different thing from saying that clerks have been given facilities for voluntary retirement.

U Ba Si: I accept the explanation; but, at the same time, I would like to urge on him that they should be allowed this option of retirement or transfer to India on separation of Burma. This would be beneficial both to Indians and to the Burmese people as there is a great deal of unemployment at the present day in Burma.

We would like to express our surprise also about the question of export of tea from Burma. We have been informed that Burma has been denied its legitimate share of quota for the export of tea, on the ground that the existence of green and black tea in Burma was not known in India and as the Federation of the Shan States was taken to be outside British India. In the Shan States, there are over 32,000 acres in one Taungpeng State alone. According to a book called "Production of Tea in India", Burma or rather the Shan States has been exporting on an average over seven million pounds of tea per annum to India before the enactment of the Tea Control Act. We desire to urge the Government of India to see into this matter thoroughly and help Burma to get justice at the hands of the executive authorities in India.

As this House has been used as a forum to ventilate communal grievances, we would urge the Government of India to include the Buddhists in India among the minority communities, and see that the qualified Indian Buddhists are treated for purposes of employment in the services of the Government of India, along with Muhammadans, Sikhs and Indian Christians. Buddhists in India are most unfortunate in this respect. If we compare the number of population between the Indian Buddhists and the Indian Christians in Bengal, we see that there are 1,29,000 Indian Christians, whereas the number of Indian Buddhists is 3,16,000; and, in the

distribution of seats in the Legislature, they allow two seats to Indian Christians, whereas the Buddhists in Bengal get none. In the Kashmir and Jammu States, we understand that though close scholarships are reserved for Muslims, Rajputs and Depressed Classes and Sikhs, no provision is made for the Buddhists. For the State Assembly, though two Buddhists have been nominated, they are chosen from a place called Ladakh, with the result that they cannot attend all the Sessions of the Assembly, for instance, in April, when the passes are closed; and, being not conversant with the court language of Urdu, they cannot take part in the proceedings of the State Assembly. We would, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to suggest to the Kashmir State for the nomination of Buddhists from Srinagar and other places of easy access. For Bengal, as at present arranged, no Buddhists can have any chance of representation on the legislative bodies. The Government of India should see that one or two Buddhists are returned to the Legislative Council in the same way as Indian Christians.

As I have stated, the Government of India know little or nothing about the conditions of the Burmese people. Do you know the real cause of the increase of crime in Burma? It is due to increase of poverty. Do you know, we have lost all our capital? Do you know, we have lost all our lands? We have practically become landless people in our own land. The reasons are obvious. With the annexation of Burma, the whole country was opened out to all foreign influences, without giving protection to the sons of the soil. The Burmans at that time were not ready: they were taken unawares. In all competitions they were pushed out. They found themselves nowhere in the field, economic industrial, commercial and so on. Poverty and crime naturally increased. People got demoralised and the whole fabric of society broke down, and the position of Burma being between two very big countries, between China with her four hundred millions of people and India with her three hundred millions, both trying to gain outlets for their own people, there is every danger of the whole of the Burmese nation becoming extinct if we allow the existing state of things to go unchecked.

An Honourable Member: What about the British?

U Ba Si: We leave them alone for the time being, but I am telling Honourable Members here that Indians in Burma are not like our friends here. (Laughter.) They themselves are exploiters in the country, and they form obstacles in the way of our fight for freedom. As a matter of fact, they have been playing the rôle of adopted children of the Government there. This is the position in Burma. I can very well sympathise in one way with the Government of India, because they are so overwhelmed with their multifarious problems in India that they are not able to pay adequate attention to Burma . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only one minute more.

U Ba Si: In conclusion, we wish to express our disappointment in that no steps have yet been taken to Burmanise the army. With the separation of Burma next year, the defence of the country will be the increasing concern of the people of Burma, and, as such, we feel that there should

[U Ba Si.]

be no undue delay to set up Burmese units in the army. For this shabby treatment meted out to Burma, the people of Burma can never forgive the Defence Department of the Government of India, particularly when it is remembered that the Burmese people had demonstrated their martial spirit in the past and Burmese forces had discharged their duties with distinction during the last World War. Sir, I have done.

Raja Sir Vasudeva Rajah (Madras: Landholders): Sir, I should like to offer my congratulations to the Honourable the Finance Member on his budget proposals for the year 1936-37 as well as on his lucid and interesting explanation of the dry figures of the budget. I am indulging in no conventional words when I say that he has brought in light and sunshine where darkness and gloom prevailed. When he came and took charge of the financial administration of this country, things were very discouraging, and every one took a pessimistic view of the future. Within one year of his being in office, he has been able to introduce a more hopeful and encouraging outlook. Whether one calls it luck or dexterity in handling finances, we find that India is showing signs of recuperation. Ours is the poorest country in the world, and we all know that so many live in villages and cottages where they do not know what a happy life is. Coming as I do from Malabar, where depression is at its worst, the reference of the Finance Member to India's capacity for recuperation fills me with gladness and hope.

I must congratulate him and thank him for his allotment of a substantial amount of money for rural uplift, for the benefit of cottage industries and for rural relief generally. While this Assembly voted for a similar sum last year, it had no voice in the manner in which the money was to be utilised. In regard to the contribution this year, I should like to suggest that the money should be earmarked for specific purposes which are calculated to benefit the rural agricultural population. It is often said that he who pays the piper has a right to call the tune. We, representatives of the people, from all over India, are invited to vote for the necessary money, and it seems only proper that the opinion of these representatives should be fully considered in regard to the objects for which the money is spent. Many of us, or, I may say, most of us, did not know how the money voted last year was going to be spent in the different provinces. There is no use in sitting in judgment over the fairness or unfairness of expenses already incurred, after they have once been incurred. In each province, the condition of help required may be different, and the representatives may be consulted for what purposes they ought to be spent in different parts of the country. In my province, several parts, to my personal knowledge, require, first and foremost, facilities for drinking water. Last year, in Pollachi and other places in the Coimbatore district, people had to go miles to get drinking water for their domestic purposes. Again, in several places, for example, in some parts of Malabar, village roads, that were once in existence before, have been abandoned completely and the agriculturists find it very difficult to transport their produce. Now, if ryots cannot get drinking water and if they have no village roads, you can conceive what a hard lot they have. When once the money is distributed according to the population basis, it must be earmarked for rural and agricultural development only, and, in these, local opinion of responsible people should be taken. I hope the

Finance Member will bestow some consideration on this suggestion and make it possible for the agriculturists of every district to have their share in the benefits accruing from the utilisation of these funds.

I should like to draw attention to one important feature of the budget, namely, the increase in the investments in the post office cash certificates and post office savings banks in recent years, and that in spite of a drastic reduction in the rate of interest. In his budget speech last year, the Honourable the Finance Member even referred to this fact as indicative of the popular desire to convert their dead stocks of gold into interest yielding forms of investment. On this ground, he contested the theory that the gold exported from the country was distress gold. In my opinion, this increase in the investments in the post office cash certificates and post office savings banks is an indubitable indication of the chaos that prevails in the money market today and the almost universal destruction of the private credit in India. People are unwilling to lend to private persons or even invest their money in small banks. They trust only the Government or well established banks. The latter have too much money, do not lend to ordinary people and have to refuse deposits. The result is that people put their savings in Government securities. At the same time, borrowers are not able to obtain loans. This shyness of money is due to two very important causes, (1) the fall in the prices of food grains and raw material, and (2) the feeling of insecurity that has been created in the minds of owners of land and money. As regards the first, I realise that the result is partly due to causes which are universal in their application and not peculiar to India. But one method, by which the fall in prices could be combated, is by increasing the purchasing capacity of the people and by creating a demand for goods. But, instead of this being done, I regret to find, the purchasing capacity of the masses is being reduced gradually. As regards the feeling of insecurity, I cannot acquit the Government of some share in the process which has led to this result. In my own province, there has, in recent years, been undertaken measures of legislation which have had the effect of undermining people's confidence in the security of property. The Malabar tenancy legislation began the process. It was a drastic and confiscatory piece of legislation. Recently, a measure was undertaken by Government—since vetoed by the Governor General—thanks to His Excellency—which had the effect of expropriating several classes of *inamdars* of their rights in the soil and of setting up their tenants against them. In their desire to free the country from its indebtedness, legislation has been undertaken in more than one province, including mine, or is being undertaken, by which the creditors are practically deprived of portions of the debts, while, at the same time, there is no provision for securing to the debtors their properties. Even in this Honourable House, measures are pending which are calculated to put difficulties in the way of the creditors' realising their dues, if not make it impossible for them to do so. No wonder, therefore, if creditors are unwilling to lend and seek less profitable forms of investment! In the meantime, the value of land has fallen enormously in the country. In certain parts of Madras, it has fallen by 50 or 60 per cent., and, even then, there are no purchasers. It is very necessary to arrest this fall in prices of foodstuffs, and to prevent this growing feeling of insecurity in the minds of landowners and owners of capital and money.

I would suggest that further legislation discouraging money-lenders from lending, and legislation disturbing the existing relations between

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[4TH MARCH 1936.]

[Raja Sir Vasudeva Rajah.]

landlords and tenants be stopped. When Local Governments want to undertake such legislation, the Government of India should scrutinise their proposals with care and should use all their influence to prevent such legislation.

I gratefully acknowledge the measures which the Government of India and Local Governments are undertaking by way of providing marketing facilities and otherwise with a view to securing for producers a fair price for their products. But their purchasing capacity can be increased only by leaving a fair margin in their hands for the purpose of meeting their needs. In provinces like mine, in which the land revenue forms the major item of revenue for the Government and in which the system of periodical settlements of land revenue mostly prevails, there has been a widespread cry for some relief from the burden of taxation of land. I am aware, Sir, that land revenue is a provincial subject, but it is a reserved subject and the Central Government here have full powers to direct and control its administration by the Local Government. When the Montford Reforms were inaugurated, it was one of the intentions of the Parliament that the collection of land revenue should be systematised and brought under Statutory safeguards, and, though in the early years of the existing Constitution, some attempts were made in Madras to introduce a Land Revenue Bill, these were afterwards given up and nothing has since been done. I would request the Government of India to issue a Resolution (just like the one which Lord Curzon did many years ago) making it impossible for Government to so raise the rates of land revenue as to be an undue burden on the landowners, and, in any case, not to raise the rates without the consent of the Legislature.

Last year, some attempt was made to put an embargo on the importation of rice from foreign countries to raise the price. In spite of the imposition of an import duty of twelve annas on broken rice per maund, the import of rice from foreign countries has not become reduced. Moreover, the duty does not apply to imports of paddy or whole rice, which are duty free. It has been pointed out that from April, 1935, to January, 1936, as much as 51,303 tons of broken rice were imported into the ports of Madras from Siam and Indo-China. In addition to this, there were 12,779 tons of whole rice and 18,000 tons of paddy also imported. It seems desirable, not only as a protection for local paddy and rice, but also as a means of getting some revenue, that a small duty of twelve annas on whole rice and eight annas on paddy should be imposed. That would enable the producer to obtain a higher price for his paddy and rice, and, to that extent, increase his power of recuperation.

As a landholder, I consider the grant of 30 lakhs for agricultural research as another welcome feature of the budget. The Agricultural Departments, throughout India, have proved their value to the rural community, and it is only right that the Central Government should make its contribution to agricultural research. In other great federal countries, like America, agricultural research is very largely a federal activity. As the Linlithgow Commission so rightly observed, agricultural research does not recognise either provincial or political boundaries. Research on rice in Madras may well bring results, and indeed has brought results, of value to other provinces. The wheats bred at Pusa have been the mainstay of the United Provinces for years. The research on cotton in the Punjab

has provided Sind with a means of rapidly expanding its long staple cotton production. I recognise that this 30 lakhs does not, by any means, represent all that the Central Government are contributing to agricultural and veterinary research in India, but it is not a pie too much, and personally I should like to see this made an annual contribution.

When so much needs to be done, it is highly desirable that such money, as is available, should be spent on the most urgent objects. The Honourable the Finance Member has indicated that sugar-cane research will receive its share, and I hope that the insect pests of sugar-cane which did so much damage last year will not be forgotten. There is need for work on some of the oilseed crops and for more research on fruits. Though something is being done by Provincial Departments of Agriculture, there is scope for more research on groundnut and linseed, and so forth. In fruit cultivation, we have a direct means of improving the return to the agriculturist and simultaneously promoting the health of our urban population, and I trust that fruit research will receive due consideration when these funds are allocated. Another crop from my own Presidency, which will well repay large expenditure on research, is tobacco. We have shown that we can grow good, bright and mild cigarette tobacco in South India, and an important trade is gradually growing up. In our country, with an easily-worked soil and an ample labour supply, tobacco growing should have very bright prospects. I am glad to see that the Honourable the Finance Member has mentioned that special attention is being given to the dairying side of animal husbandry. I hope that a fair share of the funds will be allotted to research on the diseases of dairy cattle. Disease control is of outstanding importance, for it greatly limits the possibilities of enhanced production.

I am glad to inform that the local Legislature of Madras has recently enacted a law amending the Agricultural Loans Act of the province, enabling the Local Government to grant *taccavi* loans to ryots for the purpose of paying off their prior debts. This is a step in the right direction. But, unless the power thus taken is liberally used, there will be no advantage derived from the passing of a measure of legislation. The Government of India ought, if required by a Local Government, to make sufficient funds available to the Local Government for their laudable object of reducing agricultural indebtedness.

While I am grateful to the Honourable the Finance Member for reducing the surcharge on income-tax and raising the weight of letters for one anna from half a tola to one tola, I regret that he has not gone further. I had expected that he would introduce the half anna postcard. That would be welcomed by the masses of the people as a boon. Also, I do not like his increasing the postage for letters weighing more than one tola. For instance, while a letter weighing $2\frac{1}{2}$ tolas now pays only an anna and a quarter as postage, according to the proposals of the Honourable the Finance Member, such a letter would in future have to pay two annas. The present rates are comparatively more beneficial to the poorer people. It is only we who write small letters on thick letter paper that are benefited by the weight of an anna letter raised from half a tola to one tola. The ordinary man would prefer to pay $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas and not two annas on a petition to Government complaining of a grievance, or on a *vakalatnama* or affidavit sent by post to his *vakil* or similar communications. I think that the existing rates for letters weighing more than one tola should not be raised and should be retained.

[Raja Sir Vasudeva Rajah.]

I have got only one other suggestion to make. There has been an insistent demand from Government servants of all grades—especially of those in non-gazetted ranks—for the substitution of a system of contributory provident fund for the present system of pensions. I am aware of the Resolutions on this subject in the other House and the replies of Government Members thereon and of the replies of Government to various questions on the subject. It appears to me that the question has not received the amount of attention which its importance, and the intensity of the feeling of the officers concerned, demand. It ought to be possible for the Government to devise some scheme by which existing incumbents and future entrants would get the benefit, at their option, of a system of contributory provident fund, instead of a system of pension. In the States of Mysore and Travancore, such a system exists even today, and if it is working in those States satisfactorily, I fail to see the impossibility of introducing it in British India. Pending the introduction of such a system, I think that the Government of India should liberalise the rules regarding commutation of pensions and should enable a Government servant to commute a portion of his pension, say, one half, or, at any rate, one third, without the formality of a medical certificate, which, in my province, is not easy to obtain. The Government of India have promised to examine the question of liberalising the conditions of compassionate allowances to families of deceased Government servants and it behoves them to expedite their examination of the question.

Before concluding, I wish to take this opportunity of paying my tribute to His Excellency Lord Willingdon for all the services, which, during a period of more than fifteen years in this country.....

Mr. S. Satyamurti: On a point of order, Sir. How is all this relevant? Shall I be allowed to criticise him in my speech?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better not mention the Viceroy. The Viceroy is not under discussion.

Raja Sir Vasudeva Rajah: While I do not want to detract from the credit due to the Honourable the Finance Member for his cautious and successful handling of the finances of the country, it must be admitted that this success would have been impossible but for the share taken by His Excellency in bringing down the political thermometer, and, I am glad to find, the Honourable the Finance Member has himself frankly recognised the interconnection between the rising of the economic barometer and the falling of the political thermometer.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I very carefully listened to the speech of my Honourable friend from Burma.
1 P.M. I want to assure him that, so far as we in India are concerned, we have full sympathy with our Burmese friends, and, if Indians in Burma are behaving like adopted children of the Government, we certainly disapprove of their conduct. We feel that our sorrows and our difficulties are common. We have to fight against the same forces to free our countries.

Coming to the budget, I would say that this is a budget of separations and subventions. We are on the eve of separation of Burma. We have separated two more provinces. I should call them two April Fool Baby provinces, because they are to be born on the 1st of April, and then there is the separation of railways. I wish that there could be one more separation, separation of India from England. I have heard speeches from commercial magnates, but I would look at this budget from the point of view of the man in the village. After the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member, we were given a bundle of books. I took those books to my place, and I began to study them. I confess that I was confused and bewildered. I was caught in the meshes of figures. Whether they were real figures or fictitious figures, I do not know. I found that he has granted some relief to the income-tax payers. He has raised the limit of income-tax from 1,000 to 2,000. He has also reduced postal rates, but I am sorry to say, that he has not given us the two pice card. We remember that once we had a one pice card. Then, there was the two pice card, and then there came the three pice card. This three pice card is, I submit, an emergency card. When he, the Finance Member, has removed the emergency salary cut, the emergency taxation and even the surcharge, why has he not gone back to the two pice card? This two pice card is generally used by the rural population for which the Government are never tired of expressing their lip sympathy. I welcome the grant to the rural population, but I would make two submissions in this respect, that this grant should be made a permanent feature of the annual budget, and my second submission is that this grant should be spent on a definite scheme. What is happening now? Our province last year got eight lakhs and 50 thousand rupees and our Provincial Government proposes to spend the sum on 13 or 14 different items. For the benefit of the Honourable the Finance Member, I would read these items. They have set apart Rs. 1,04,050 for consolidation of holdings; then, sanitary improvements 8,000; bore hole latrines 10,000; watersupply 2 lakhs 25 thousand; serum cellars 20,000; reconstruction of veterinary hospitals 12 thousand; construction of ten veterinary hospitals 60,000; broadcasting scheme 48 thousand; tanning scheme 75,000; fruit growing 62,000; well boring 50,000; cinema films and loud speakers 58,000; shop development 15,000; and one lakh is kept as a discretionary grant to be given to Deputy Commissioners whenever they require money. I do not know why this one lakh is kept. I submit that this sprinkling of money will produce no good results. Personally, I submit that the whole of the rural grant should be spent on removing illiteracy from the rural areas. Then, the Honourable the Finance Member has been congratulated for giving us a surplus budget, but I would submit that this surplus budget, this plenty and prosperity of the Government treasury, certainly is no indication of the prosperity of the people of the country. The people of the country are very poor. They are sunk in indebtedness, poverty, ignorance and so many other social evils. This Government of India would not dare to introduce social legislation, because they feel that, by introducing social legislation, they will incur the displeasure of certain section of the people. They have not the courage even to enforce the Sarda Act, because this irresponsible Government feel that it is weak, and I would submit that, so long as this irresponsible Government lasts, no lasting benefit can accrue to the people. Take the case of the poor people. The Finance Member wants to improve their lot by giving them one crore or two crores every year. What is their condition after

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more than a century of British rule? They are certainly more poor, their health is bad, their average life is shorter, they are more ignorant and they pay more taxes. I am reminded of a short story. There was an old woman who had a stepson. That woman would not give that child anything to eat, and that child died of starvation. When the neighbours came to express sympathy with her, before they came, she put some butter in the mouth of the child and began to cry: "Here is my son. He has died while he was eating butter." Similar is the condition of this bureaucracy. They have exploited the peasantry of this country. They have exacted every pie. They have bled them white. Now, when they have died of starvation, they are putting butter of one crore or two crores into their mouth. Now, how are Government expressing sympathy with the rural population? Last year, we passed a Resolution that the policy of taxation in this country should be reviewed in order to lighten the burden of the people. To that Resolution, there was an amendment moved that the policy should be reviewed with a view to assessing land revenue on the basis of income-tax. I was responsible for that amendment. The Government appointed a committee to review the taxation policy, but they deliberately excluded the question of the revision of the land revenue policy. Sir, this is not the first occasion when the Government of India have done that. Several years ago, they appointed a Taxation Committee and they deliberately excluded any reference to the land revenue assessment. Sometime after that, they appointed an Agricultural Commission over which the Viceroy-designate presided, and in that Commission also they deliberately excluded any reference to the land revenue policy of the Government. Why is this Department being treated as a secluded and an excluded Department? Why don't you come forward and place all your cards on the table? You are taxing the poor people in a wrong and oppressive manner.....

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is a provincial subject.

Sardar Mangal Singh: But you are responsible for superintendence, direction and control in a reserved subject.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No.

Sardar Mangal Singh: What about Centrally Administered Areas? Here you see splendid buildings all around you, and you are rolling in wealth; but go a few miles away from Delhi *incognito* . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must address the Chair.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Sir, my Honourable friend interrupted me and I was only replying to him. I was referring to the land revenue policy and the Government of India. They appoint committees, but they do not consider the extremely deplorable condition of the poor peasantry. Sir, the Government are taxing the poorest peasant. His income may be two hundred rupees a year, his budget may be a deficit budget, but still the Government of India are taxing his slender resources, and this I think, is nowhere to be found in any part of the world. (Hear, hear.) What have the Government of India done to reduce the indebtedness of the poor peasantry?

An Honourable Member: Nothing.

Sardar Mangal Singh: We have to pay more than 800 crores. In my province, about five or six years ago, the debt of the peasants was about 135 crores, when the Banking Enquiry Committee made that inquiry. Now, that debt has piled up to 200 crores: and the peasants of the Punjab alone pay more than 25 crores as interest. I ask the Government of India—what are they doing to remove the indebtedness of the poor peasantry?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not really relevant to this budget.

An Honourable Member: They can make some provision for it.

Sardar Mangal Singh: I am referring to the Centrally Administered Areas. (Laughter.) I would invite the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to the very fine report recently issued by the Bhavnagar State. They have liquidated all the debt of the peasants!

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: At the expense of British India!

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And you were a party to that!

Sardar Mangal Singh: Why don't you introduce that scheme here?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: At whose expense?

Sardar Mangal Singh: I submit, Sir, that the Government of India should take active steps . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has five minutes more. He may 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. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Before we adjourned for lunch, I was talking about the deplorable economic condition of the rural masses and of the failure of the Government of India to do anything to improve their lot. The rural grants, which have now become a regular annual feature of the budget, would hardly touch the fringe of this vast problem. I submit, Sir, that unless the whole machinery of the administration is completely overhauled, no improvement could be expected. I would urge the Government of India to take immediate steps to reduce land revenue, to liquidate their debt and to increase the price of agricultural products. Other Governments all over the world have done that. Japan has done that; even England did it, if by no other method, at least by depreciating

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their currency. Why can't the Government of India depreciate the currency of the country and increase the price of agricultural products? Recently a suggestion has been made, from a very responsible and high quarter, that the rupee should not be linked to the sterling and that the exchange ratio should be lowered to one shilling in the rupee. If you do that, you would increase the price of agricultural products and thus improve the financial position. Your broadcast messages would not bring relief to hungry stomachs. They want bread, but you are giving them your songs. I do submit—of course I do not mean that the officials of the Government of India are in any way concerned with this matter—that high placed personages, Directors of companies have derived benefit by sending their implements, their radio sets, and so on, to this country. It is more for their benefit that these implements are imported from abroad. (Hear, hear.) I know that the Agricultural Department and the Radio Department are acting more or less as the agents of those companies in pushing forward their products, and it is not with a view to improving the condition of the agricultural masses that they are introducing these measures. I, therefore, urge that the Honourable the Finance Member should reconsider his proposals and introduce more effective methods to improve the condition of the masses.

Another point which I should urge most strongly for the consideration of the Government of India is that they should issue instructions to Provincial Governments to frame uniform rules regarding restrictions upon the length of *kirpans*. Recently, there has been a great agitation among the Sikhs about the ban on the length of the *kirpans*. When I tabled a question in this Assembly and asked the Government of India whether they approved of this, they said, "Yes, they did".

An Honourable Member: Does it cost any money to the Government?

Sardar Mangal Singh: Yes, some money was spent by the Government. There was the Civil Disobedience Movement and Government arrested about 800 people and they were taken to jail. Magistrates and police were engaged in conducting the cases against the arrested Sikhs and so it cost some money to the taxpayers. I submit, Sir, it is the first time in the British Raj that such a ban on *kirpan* has been imposed. Not even during the martial law days in our province, when serious riots took place, did the Government think it proper to impose a ban on *kirpans*. This time the Government came forward with a strange plea that the District Magistrate has the right to disarm people. I submit that, under section 144, the District Magistrate had only the right to regulate the conduct of the people; he had no right, whatsoever, to usurp the functions and the rights of the Legislature and thus take away the rights of the people which have been conferred upon them by the Government.

With these remarks, I would urge upon the Government to issue instructions to Local Governments not to impose any restrictions upon the length of the *kirpan*.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, unlike previous years, we are this year in the

happy position of having to budget for a large surplus. Sir, once in 1921, Sir Malcolm Hailey, the then Finance Member, remarked:

"Let me tell the House that I have, in my department, men who, if I would allow them to do so, would be capable of putting up a budget which would easily defeat the scrutiny and defy criticisms of the House. They could conceal among the innumerable items which go to make up one budget, a liberal provision of reserves that the House would never detect and which would relieve one, of the embarrassing necessity of having subsequently to produce demands for supplementary grants."

Sir, true to the traditions set out by one of the former Finance Members, we have been seeing that the Finance Department has been consistently and successively under-estimating the yield of taxation measures which the Government introduced, and now we find that we have a large surplus in hand. A great writer has said that a Government should be judged as to its benevolence and devotion to its subjects by the way in which taxes are imposed and how the income derived from those taxes is spent. Judged by this canon, I am sorry to say that the Government deserve nothing but censure on its conduct. I will give you, Sir, a few of the extravagant ways in which the finances of the country are spent.

The Army expenditure comes first and foremost. At the risk of repeating my Honourable friend, Mr. Paliwal, let me state what exactly Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, in those days while he was still a Labourite, used to say:

"That a large part of the Army in India, certainly half, is an Imperial army which England requires for other than purely Indian purposes, and its cost should, therefore, be met from Imperial and not Indian funds."

It seems to me, Sir, that purely with a view to relieve unemployment in England, all the British soldiers are kept in India. The former Commander-in-Chief once admitted in the Council of State that Indian sepoy made efficient fighting forces under English commanders. Well, Sir, here is an easy way to retrench expenditure. All the British soldiers can be easily replaced by Indian sepoys under English commanders and this will incidentally relieve some portion of the unemployment that is now so rampant in this country. Besides, an English soldier costs four times more than an Indian sepoy. Another way of reducing the expenditure in the army budget is to dispense with the services of soldier clerks who are at present employed in the Army Headquarters at Simla. Sir, I do not see any reason why the Government should entertain British soldier clerks at such high rates of pay; indeed their salaries are too high for the services rendered by them.

The next item of reduction in the army expenditure is the Medical Branch. The amount spent on army medical hospitals is out of all proportion to the needs of the situation, and I venture to think, here is a fruitful source of economy. The Indian Medical Service might be Indianised and even the European nurses might be replaced by Indian or Anglo-Indian nurses.

Coming to the civil side of the budget, there has been a huge waste of expenditure, and let me give a few such items. The annual exodus to Simla of almost the entire Secretariat is the most criminal waste of the taxpayers' money. Huge palatial buildings have been erected in Delhi and they are allowed to remain deserted for more than half the year. At

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this rate, I am afraid, the buildings might get into disrepair after a few years. A major portion of all the Provincial Governments and almost all the European businessmen stay in the plains during summer, and there has been no complaint from them of lack of efficiency on the part of their staff. Why should the Government of India desert Delhi for a major portion of the year? I also learn, Sir, that in Simla there are not enough Government buildings, and, therefore, some of the offices are located in private bungalows on payment of high rents. All this waste could be avoided if New Delhi is made the permanent headquarters of the Government of India.

Another direction in which economy could be effected is to give effect completely to the recommendations of the General Purposes Retrenchment Committee of which the Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim was the Chairman, and made some valuable recommendations in 1931. New scales of pay have not yet been introduced for the steel frame service of the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service. The cause of reduction of salaries for other services is well-known, that is, the remarkable fall in prices of all commodities. The Government have been repeatedly promising to consider the introduction of new scales of pay for the I. C. S. and the I. P. S., but I gather from the latest answer which the Home Member gave, in reply to a question, that the Secretary of State has now the subject of revision of scales of pay for the I. C. S. under his consideration. I have grave doubts if any thing will be done in this direction. Poor India will be saddled as before with the payment of huge rates of pay to the Indian Civil Service with not even the added burden of the Lee concessions being removed. I, therefore, insist that the salaries of the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service should be immediately revised.

The next direction in which retrenchment could be effected is to Indianise the Medical Service. We have got very efficient medical practitioners in India, and there is no necessity to import highly paid Indian Medical Service officers from abroad. The old bogey that Europeans would not like to be treated by Indian medical practitioners has been exploded. In Madras, I know of many Europeans, both ladies and gentlemen, who consult Dr. Guruswami Mudaliar, and the late-lamented Dr Rangachari had a very large European clientele. Even in this Honourable House, we have got my Honourable friend, Dr. Rajan, who is consulted by Europeans and Indians alike.

I will now say a word about the Posts and Telegraphs. I shall advert to the question of reduction of postal rates when my amendment comes up for discussion. It has always been accepted that the Posts and Telegraphs Department should be run on commercial lines and we have to see whether both sides of the Department are each self-contained or whether the Telegraphs Department is being pampered at the expense of the Postal Department. On the telegraphs side the salaries of employees are much higher than on the postal side.

Now, I wish to draw the attention of Government to the taxation policy of the Government. The Government of India have antagonised almost all the foreign countries on account of the Ottawa Agreement which gives preferential treatment to England. All other countries are imposing a ban on the export of Indian goods to those countries with the result that India is losing her market on the Continent.

What are the steps taken by Government in developing the nascent industries in India? Because of the heavy excise duties, expansion of sugar and matches industries are hampered. I would appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member to take steps to revive the cottage industry of matches. There are several heads of taxation which tell adversely on the progress of the country. Relief to the taxpayer is necessary in several directions, for instance, reduction on post cards, reduction, if not the total abolition, of salt duty, reduction of railway freight on agricultural and industrial products, etc. After all, it is from the proceeds of these various direct taxes which operate harshly on the poor people that Government derive the bulk of their revenue for their expenditure. Why should the masses pay for the extravagance of the bureaucracy? If we go through the budget volume, we find that various new offices are going to be created. I submit that Government, instead of conserving the resources of the country, are allowing them to be dissipated in creating new posts and paying huge salaries to the staff. Many departments of Government, which had their small beginnings years ago, have increased enormously in size. I may instance the case of the Assembly Department or the Department of Education, Health and Lands. And new officers are being created carrying huge salaries with the incidental overseas allowances, etc., which one of non-Asiatic domicile is allowed to get by the Lee concessions. Recently, two Europeans were brought from England, one as Marketing Officer and another for broadcasting; they were being paid in England only an equivalent of Rs. 700 or Rs. 800. But they are paid here Rs. 2,500 and Rs. 2,000, besides their special allowances. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research was an attached office to the Education Department till three years ago. It is now a separate department. And yet, there is a separate branch for Agriculture in the Education, Health and Lands Department. Why should it not be under a single department? What are the functions of the Agricultural Research Department besides distributing grants to various institutions and societies? Agriculture being a transferred subject in the provinces could not all the work of this Department be handed over to the provinces themselves? And what is the function of the Agriculture Branch attached to the Education Department? The Foreign and Political Department is another illustration of the top-heavy administration. The Agricultural Research Department had recently attached to it the Marketing Department. This was started with a view to finding markets for agricultural products and a foreign Marketing Officer was imported to carry on that Department. What has it done so far? What is it going to do in the future? As the Commerce Member said in his railway budget speech, every country is striving after self-sufficiency except, of course, India, which is being ruled for the benefit of the Empire. Besides the expansion of these Departments, the offices of Assistant Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and Superintendents are being doubled and trebled. With the advent of the Federal Constitution, I do not know what proportions these Departments will assume. Besides, with the introduction of Provincial Autonomy, under the new Constitution, the resources of the Central Government will be needed to pay subventions to the deficit provinces, and the Federal Government will have to part with a substantial portion of the income-tax revenue to the provinces. So it is up to Government to reduce expenditure instead of allowing it to mount up year after year.

1924

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

[4TH MARCH 1936.]

[Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar.]

Then, Sir, take the case of gold. Governments are very indifferent to the weekly drain of distress gold from this country. The Honourable the Finance Member said that gold is a commodity. Even assuming his argument to be correct, why not then impose a duty on gold just as he levies an export duty on rice? I suggest that a prohibitive export duty should be placed on gold, so that the little further gold that might be left in India might still remain here.

Now, I come to the industry which is the backbone of this country, namely, agriculture. It is well-known that the agriculturists are not able to get any profit out of the lands on account of the dumping of rice and paddy from abroad. The agriculturists find it difficult even to meet the payment of land revenue and they are obliged to part with their gold and silver ornaments to meet Government demands for *kist* or they borrow for this purpose. So far as rice is concerned, speaking for my province of Madras, the agriculturists have been ruined by the import of large quantities of paddy and rice from Siam and Indo-China. The import duty which the Government have levied on broken rice is very insufficient, and by various ways this duty is evaded by mixing broken rice with whole rice. As matters stand at present, an import duty on broken rice is not of much consequence to us. It may benefit Burman broken rice importers. But an import duty on rice and paddy alone is of value to South Indian agriculturists.

Now, about the salt duty. It has been repeatedly urged in this House that the ideal which Government should aim at is a free distribution of salt to the masses. If this is not feasible, only a nominal duty of one or two annas per maund should be put on salt. At present Government are making large profits on the salt monopoly. Sir, salt is needed not only for human consumption but also for cattle and plants.

In conclusion, I will say that the distribution of the surplus should have been utilised towards reduction of taxes; instead of that the Government propose to spend huge sums on broadcasting, aviation, etc., which will only go to help the British manufacturers of machinery because contracts for the supply of materials will be placed with British firms. The starving masses do not get a pie out of the surplus in the shape of reduction of land revenue.

Sir, I have done.

Mr. B. Das: Sir, the short time at my disposal I will not devote to the budgetary position, as that will take a longer time than is now allowed to me. When I take part in the debate on the Finance Bill, I shall go into the financial problems, the over-budgeting or the under-estimating of the Honourable the Finance Member's budget. Elsewhere I have expressed the view that the budget is a lucky budget. I know that the Honourable the Finance Member is lucky. Whether India is lucky or the taxpayers are lucky, I shall discuss when I speak on the Finance Bill.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): Orissa is very lucky.

Mr. B. Das: Not so lucky; that is what I am going to say. When I picture to myself the relations of the Government of India with the Provincial Governments, I picture to myself that the Government of India live as an Indian Nawab and Maharaja combined with the character of King Charles II, Louis the XIV and Louis the XV. If you combine all these characters, you will picture the Government of India with all the extravagance and luxury attached to them. The Government of India have Departments—pampered Departments. I will take an instance of the Foreign and Political Department, which is something like Madame de Pompadour. When Madame de Pompadour claimed that there should be snow in Paris in a summer, the poor King had to sprinkle fine salt all over the Paris streets at enormous cost—though there was a famine in France then and she went over riding with King Louis on the snowy roads. Similarly, the Foreign and Political Department wants seven crores of rupees for that small little place called Baluchistan for the building of Quetta, and Madame de Pompadour ordains it and the seven crores must be given! The Finance Member told us the other day that a crore of rupees had already been provided this year for Quetta.

I now come to my Honourable friend, the Army Secretary. One of the pampered mistresses, Madame de Montenon had whatever she demanded, and the Army Department heartlessly announces that they must have more money to spend. Then, we had the pulling from my Honourable friend from Ajmer-Merwara who said that the Government of Ajmer-Merwara has not got what it ought to get. Ajmer-Merwara is a Centrally Administered Area and gets a grants-in-aid of nearly Rs. 14 lakhs, that is, Rs. 3-2-0 *per capita*, if we include pensionary charges, interest on debt, and so forth. If Ajmer-Merwara does not get what probably Madame de Pompadour gave to Baluchistan, it is because it does not happen to be a hot favourite of the Madame.

Why is it that the provinces are treated as the discarded wives of the Government of India? I have calculated the provincial incomes and the corresponding amounts that the provinces spend on their nation-building departments, that is education, medical relief, public health, agriculture and industry:

Province.	Per capita income in 1935-36.	Amount spent on nation-building departments.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Bombay and Sind	6 11 0	1 4 8
Punjab	4 7 8	1 3 2
Madras	3 8 3	0 15 0
Central Provinces and Berar	3 1 7	0 9 0
Assam	3 1 7	0 11 9
United Provinces	2 7 10	0 9 8
Bengal	2 5 4	0 8 8
Bihar and Orissa	1 7 2	0 6 3

[Mr. B. Das.]

The North-West Frontier Province, another favourite of both Madame de Montenon and Madame de Pompadour, gets a *per capita* subvention of Rs. 4, has an income of Rs. 8-0-6 and spends Rs. 1-5-7 on nation-building departments. So the discarded wives—the provinces get nothing for their bread! From Re. 0-6-3 in Bihar and Orissa, the expenditure attains the maximum of Rs. 1-5-7 *per capita* in the North-West Frontier Province. The rest is spent on retinues and other paraphernalias. But, yet, the Honourable the Finance Member, backed by the Army Secretary and the Foreign Secretary, can go and spend on such things as Quetta Military Zone, seven crores of rupees from revenue. Sir, I am confining myself to the discussion between the Centre and the provinces, because although this subject does not, for the moment, come in the purview of finance—Sir Otto Niemeyer's committee is enquiring into it—I would like the Finance Member to know the injustice that has been done to the provinces and, through him, Sir Otto Niemeyer must know.

Now, I shall speak a little about Orissa as my allotted time is passing away. The Finance Member is going to give this province 50 lakhs of rupees as subvention and Rs. 27½ lakhs for buildings. Somebody called Orissa a baby province. The baby is beginning to cry and it will soon grow strong . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The stronger it grows, the harder it will cry.

Mr. B. Das: Orissa will be a province, but treated as a discarded wife and not a favourite mistress. The Honourable Member has given Rs. 27½ lakhs for buildings. Unfortunately, Madras is keeping from Orissa districts which would have formed excellent sites for district headquarters, and Orissa will have to build one district headquarters at Koraput and two sub-divisional headquarters, so that the grant for buildings should now be revised.

The Order in Council which has been issued shows that Orissa is to get no share of the provincial balances from Madras and Bihar. It is pointed out that these are to be adjusted towards pensionary charges. The other day, I was telling a friend that Bihar and Madras had sent me, with a piece of cloth on my back, to the street, and the Government of India had cut me off with the proverbial shilling, so that I had to fend for myself in Orissa. The time has come, if autonomy is to be a reality and not a proverbial joke, that every province should have a minimum sum of money for spending on nation-building departments. Let it be one rupee or Rs. 1-4-0 as in Bombay, but let there be a minimum sum of money for the nation-building departments. May I ask why the North-West Frontier Province should get Rs. 4 *per capita* subvention—of course it spends only Rs. 1-5-7 *per capita* on nation-building work—and why Bihar and Orissa should be condemned to 0-6-3 or Bengal to 0-8-5? I know, Sir, that Sir Otto Niemeyer is inquiring into these matters, but I am raising my voice of protest, so that he should know and the Government of India should know what our views are. Equity and justice demand that there should be a minimum expenditure for nation-building work and development of the provinces, and not on the paraphernalia of Governors and Ministers—which does not benefit the people at all. Today, too much is spent on the retinues of these discarded wives though they starve all the while. There should be a minimum basic expenditure which

will bring the people a certain amount of development and economic expansion and improve their public health and sanitary conditions and general economic conditions. I would suggest that one rupee *per capita* on that account should be the minimum. Why should not the Frontier Province have a little smaller subvention? Or even Sind which is getting a very large subvention? Seth Abdoola Haroon and Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah—and if my old friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, participates in the debates he would endorse it—said that the province was saddled with a white elephant, the Sukkur Barrage. But I see a golden throne is being carried on that white elephant; and when that golden throne distributes sovereigns, as a result of the successful working of the barrage, Sind will be a prosperous province. But what about Orissa? Orissa has not borrowed a loan of a single rupee from the Government of India on any capital programme. If Orissa is condemned to the standard of Rs. 43 lakhs of subvention given for this year, then Orissa will ever remain poor. It cannot float a loan in the public market, because prosperous provinces will get money at 3 and 3½ per cent. interest, while Orissa will have no such credit as to borrow at that low rate. That means that, instead of having autonomy, Orissa will have to come to the Honourable the Finance Member to borrow money from him or through the Central Government's loan if we want to spend money on capital programmes in Orissa. That sort of thing ought not to be allowed to happen.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): Why should you borrow?

Mr. B. Das: Orissa must borrow to develop her economic resources.

3 P.M. We have seen that when a great national calamity occurred, the Government of India gave to Bihar Rs. 2 crores: they are giving to Quetta—the Viceroy's Fund has gone up to more than 60 lakhs—another 47 lakhs for this year: they may give more to help the people there. Orissa is afflicted by floods, by famine always, and it is due to the canals, which, as was described the other day, were constructed for making a navigable system by a British firm in the seventies of the last century, but afterwards abandoned, put the legacy—that these floods occur periodically. That canal scheme was abandoned, but these canals are a permanent burden upon Orissa, and the effect of these canals has been that the beds of rivers have gone up and the surrounding land is perpetually marshy and always affected by floods. Why should not the Government of India give 50 lakhs of rupees to Orissa to do away with, and eradicate the causes of, these floods? Perhaps it might be said that the Bihar Government never pleaded for this. But, for the last seven years, I have been working and fighting here and outside in London—and I am grateful to my friends, Sir Nripendra Sircar, who was not Law Member then, Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan, Mr. Joshi and Sir Cowasji Jehangir, for the help they gave me in London and elsewhere to bring forth this province of Orissa and, in justice and equity, those causes which are making Orissa perpetually economically poor must be redressed at the outset. Why should Bihar or Baluchistan get so much money in lump sum grants? I wish them all luck; but, I think, before the autonomous provinces start, Orissa must enjoy equal status in economic development, at least with Assam, Bihar, Central Provinces, and not equal status only in the power of spending money over large non-productive expenditure which the Government will spend and over which the people will have no command . . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Equal status in taxing too.

Mr. B. Das: The Honourable the Finance Member is a big financier. If, after seeing the very low economic vitality of the people, he says that the people can be taxed, I will agree with him, as occasionally in financial matters I agree with him. But that he cannot say. If Sir James Grigg, not the Finance Member, but the *man* will say that this economic low vitality of the people of Orissa justifies further taxation, as in Bengal or Bombay, I will agree with him: but that he will never say . . .

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What about the recuperative power of those provinces?

Mr. B. Das: That is what I am saying. Those provinces with their resources and standing can easily recuperate. But what I want is only this lump sum grant of Rs. 50 lakhs now, so that the causes of these floods will be eradicated and then the recuperative power of the people will grow, and then the Provincial Government may tax them: I will not object: if I am there, I will support them: if I am here, I will bless them . . .

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: If you are not in this world?

Mr. B. Das: I will still bless them from Heaven.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. B. Das: I will say only one word more. I am grateful to my Honourable friend, U Ba Si, for having raised the question of Buddhists in India and for having reminded the Government of India, at the time of the separation of Burma, that the interests of Buddhists ought not to be neglected in India and that the Buddhist shrines at Bodhi Gaya and other places should be maintained in Buddhist interests. I am in accord with his views, and I do hope that the Government of India will look after the interests of the Buddhists in India and the Buddhist holy places in India.

Mr. Sham Lal (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I had no mind to take any part in this debate, because, I am afraid, I might be held guilty under the Official Secrets Act. This time I am not going to touch the secret doings of this bureaucracy. I will only lay before the House their open doings, what they are doing openly, not the sealed book, but the open book. I read the budget; so far as the figures are concerned, I think they are really confusing; but I wanted one thing, because I know that, so far as the money is concerned, this Government of India is a subordinate Government. We can neither congratulate the Finance Member nor condemn him. He is part of the machinery which has been thrust upon India to grind it down and he is not to blame. He has discretion with regard to a few crores of rupees. You may blame him or you may congratulate him; but I wanted to find something, if only one item, of goodwill and conciliation and the spirit of service; and we find that that is wanting. The railway budget was

a deficit budget, but there was that spirit of goodwill and conciliatory attitude about it. What is the spirit here? If you condemn the attitude of an English officer towards Indian officers, the reply is: "These charges are unfounded: you had access to the secret documents. These subordinates cannot invoke political assistance." All these pleas are inconsistent. If the charges are unfounded, if we are inventing these charges, where is the need for us to go to official documents and where is the question of any subordinate seeking political assistance? You say, the Members are inventing these charges themselves: then why should those poor officers come to us at all?.....

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: May I rise to a point of order and ask if all this is relevant?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Chair does not think that all this is really relevant on the budget discussion.

Mr. Sham Lal: I bow to your ruling, Mr. Deputy President. What I find is that the spirit of service is wanting. There is no spirit of service behind the entire rural uplift movement. I shall explain to the House why lands were being acquired near about Delhi; in fact, lands were acquired in the vicinity of Delhi to such an extent that we wondered what Government was proposing to do with land when it was not necessary to have so much of land, but, after visiting those villages, we have come to know the reason of acquiring so much land, because the bureaucracy or the Government of India knew that Delhi was going to be the seat of the new Government of India, and so they wanted to acquire all the lands they could lay their hands on near about Delhi, to construct huge palatial costly buildings and bungalows for the use of officers who are all already very highly paid. But, if Honourable Members desire to know the real state of the administration, I would only request them to please go to a distance of just 13 miles from Delhi and pay a visit to Tughlakabad. They will then see how the Government are utilising this rural uplift grant. It may be all right for some Government Members to pay a flying visit to Rohtak and get themselves photographed with a cow on one side and a farmer with a plough in his hand on the other side and get the photograph printed in the *Illustrated Weekly* in order to show to the public outside the deep interest these Members of Government are taking in rural reconstruction affairs. Sir, I submit that this grant of one crore is utilised more for staging the *tamasha* of rural reconstruction than for the real good of the people, and all this is done to show to the world at large that Government are really interested in the village uplift movement. But what is it that is actually being done? I have a book with me called "A Peep into the Rural Area of Delhi Province", and a perusal of it will show what is being done by the administration. In the time of Muhammad of Ghazni, who was considered to be a very cruel monarch, and about whom there are so many stories told, it is stated, there was a woman who lived very far from the capital and who could not get justice from the monarch. So she told the monarch: "If you cannot do justice to me because I happen to live far away from your seat, what is the use of taking upon yourself the administration?" And the monarch was very much impressed by this. Now, as I was saying, if you read this book called "A Peep into the Rural Area of Delhi Province", you will see what amount of poverty exists

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in the villages which are only about 13 or 14 miles from Delhi. What is the condition there? Poor people are dying on account of scarcity of water and food. And yet what is the Government doing there? This is what is stated in this book:

"Wells sunk on private lands by private enterprise irrigate vast areas of agricultural lands. All such wells are taxed varying from Rs. 2 to Rs. 40 per year. This taxation is perhaps unparalleled in the history of revenue taxation in the world."

Now, if there is no canal water in these villages, there can be no irrigation, and so, if a private person sinks a well in his own land for irrigating his own lands, at once a tax is imposed on him varying from Rs. 2 to Rs. 40 per year! You cannot irrigate your land, you cannot sink a well in your own land, with the result that these people get no water for drinking purposes, nor for irrigation purposes, and, therefore, small wonder that the poor people are living a miserable existence in these villages. I request Honourable Members to please pay a visit to some of these villages which are not far from Delhi and see things for themselves. Again, it is stated here:

"A *Genda Nala* passes through Masjid Moth, Zamaruddpur, Rajpur Khurd, etc., and is a positive torment to a number of other surrounding villages in consequence of which death rate specially among children is abnormally high and the birth rate low. We were told that no birth has been recorded in village Zamaruddpur during the last three years."

That means that no children were born during the last three years, and if they were born at all, they died at once. And yet, you find it here is provision made for medical relief! My point is this, that rural uplift movement or the rural reconstruction scheme, whatever you may call it, is a *tamasha* that is being staged, while actually nothing is being done. This one crore which has been set apart for the uplift movement will go into the pockets of the middlemen. You may go to any village and ask the people if the Government have done anything at all for them after this one crore was sanctioned, and you will surely get a categorical reply "No". This one crore will go to the *zaildars* and *sufaidposhes*, and not to ameliorate the condition of the people. The spirit of service, as I said at the beginning, is not there. How can the officials be expected to interest themselves in the uplift movement when they themselves need lifting up? How can you expect a man getting Rs. 6,000 or Rs. 7,000 a month in India to do uplift work? And can it be believed that an Honourable Member of Government who wants to take 40 maunds of ice with him while going from Delhi to Bombay would be able to do any good for the masses of India who live mostly in villages? Once, Mahatma Gandhi was told by friends: "Mahatmaji, your life is very valuable, your life should be preserved, and, therefore, it is not in your interest, but in the interest of your life and in the interest of the country, that you should travel second class, so that you may live longer." But what did he say? He said that he stood for a principle, and the very day efforts are made to save him at the sacrifice of his principle, he would become useless. But can such a thing be expected of Members of Government drawing Rs. 6,000 or Rs. 7,000 a month. Members who treat this House with contempt who, having been rejected in their own province, dance here like peacocks and call the elected

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representatives of the people as unknown muffers lawyers? I say, Sir, these highly paid Government Members, drawing Rs. 6,000 or Rs. 7,000 a month, can never think of the masses; they can only think in terms of exploitation, and so long as the spirit of exploitation, the spirit of domination is there, no appreciable good can be done to the people. Sir, we are not only losing money here, but even the great traditions of Englishmen like Hailey and Muddiman, as was pointed out by Sir Cowasji Jehagnir the other day, are not observed by the Government Benches. Of course, Hailey and Muddiman were hard upon India, but they were courteous enough to non-official Members; but, here, we not only lose money, but get discourtesy and we are treated with contempt; everybody is found guilty on this side, everybody is told that he is making false allegations, he is making untrue statements, Government are engaging an army of informers and are blaming us for disclosing official secrets. Sir, the Finance Member may get showers of congratulations from that side of the House, but he cannot get anything but condemnation from this side of the House. ("Hear, hear", from the Opposition Benches.) Sir, this budget needs the strongest condemnation, I mean the policy underlying this budget must be deprecated in the strongest terms. This budget discloses nothing but a spirit of exploitation and domination. By this budget the Government of India are not only robbing the people of India, but they advance arguments in favour of their actions. That is their great sin. If the Government say: "We are conquerors, we have conquered India, we want to take away so much money", well and good, they can very well say that, but they go further and say: "We rob India in the interest of India, we give you one crore for the benefit of Indian masses", whereas this one crore does not touch the masses at all. There is clearly a manipulation of figures. There are new provinces asking for subventions, some people asking for removal of surcharges, and so on. This is all useless talk. Last time, even the European Members, the whole House appealed to the Finance Member that the postal rates should be reduced. But it is a sealed book. This is all a *tamasha*; a *tamasha* is being staged here. Nothing is going to be reduced, and it is all irrelevant and useless talk. Therefore, I submit that this budget does not require any consideration at all.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I warmly congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member for giving us a surplus budget for the introduction of the new reforms. The financial position of India is very much better. If we calmly and honestly, without any bias or prejudice, look into this question, we will find that the Honourable Sir James Grigg is a great friend of India. (Interruption.) He has maintained the credit of India by giving us a surplus budget, and there is an Indian proverb which says,—it is not made by any foreigner—

"*Lakh jai par sakh na jai.*"

This means that credit is more valuable than millions of rupees. When the credit is lost, you cannot get money. It is impossible for any Finance Member or even a Committee of Finance Members to provide money for all the wants of all the provinces or according to the wishes or suggestions or criticisms of each and every individual Member

[Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan.]

of this House. It is an impossible task for any one. If we honestly realise the responsibility of the Finance Member's position, and the difficult situation in which he is, we should see that all the most important things, which are required to run the Government, are provided with. In the present case, for India, the three chief things to provide for are, first, money for the coming reforms and subventions for the provinces. The second is the safety of India, that is, that money be provided for the military, and the third is that money be provided for the good of the agriculturist. All these things have been provided well.

An Honourable Member: For the loyalists!

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: Yes, if there is a complaint, it is this that Government provide more for the disloyals than for the loyalists! The Government are so kind that they cater more to the Opposition than to the supporters. (Laughter.) If there had been an Indian Government, here today, no Member of the Opposition would have ventured to criticise it. If they read the history of India, what was the case of the subjects and their representation at the time of the Mughal Rulers?

An Honourable Member: You are decrying even the Mughal Rulers?

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: What was the case in the time of the Government of Indian Rajas and Maharajas when there was no British Government? . . . (Interruption.)

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Let the Honourable Member go on without interruption.

An Honourable Member: The Honourable Member unnecessarily brings in Rajas and Maharajas!

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: If we read the history of India, we will know that our poor people in India are a thousand times better than they have ever been in the time of either the Muslim Rulers or Hindu Rajas or Sikh Rajas. The proverbs are well-known to all Honourable Members of this House regarding those rules. One is this, it is well-known in the Punjab: "*Sikha Shahi*" meaning "Will of the Government officer is the law of the land". Sir, I may tell you that it was my ancestor, Ahmad Shah Abdali Saddozai, who gave a disastrous and decisive defeat to the Mahrattas in the battle of Panipat, near Delhi, in 1761.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member must confine himself to the budget.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: We must be thankful to any Government or any man who does good to us, and we should not have the habit of criticising always and always. Sir, I am not going to say anything more about these interruptions which Honourable Members make. One thing, which I wish to draw the attention of the House to, is the military expenditure. During the past years we have spent very

much less than what is really wanted for the efficiency of the army. On account of the depression, it was quite right that the military expenditure was curtailed, but it could not be for all times. The Indian Army is not up to that standard which is necessary if we indulge in some international wars, where it should be quite ready to take part, and take part successfully in any encounter.

An Honourable Member: Why should it take part?

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: Sir, there has been some objection about Quetta expenditure. All those who know Quetta would realise that the rebuilding of Quetta, from the military point of view, from the commercial point of view and from the point of view of the interests of Baluchistan and the surrounding places, is very necessary. No doubt, those Honourable Members, who live far away from Quetta, cannot realise the advantages or disadvantages as local people or the people round about Quetta can. They may criticise such expenditure, but if they come to know the real situation, they will not continue to do so. My Honourable friend, Mr. Sham Lal, said something and criticised the Government. Every one agrees that Government should do more for the peasants, but the Central Government cannot make uniform rules for all the provinces, because the circumstances differ in different provinces. I think that it is quite right and proper for the Central Government to leave the matter entirely to the choice of the Local Government to do as they think proper to help the agriculturist. Some Honourable Members think that the Government of India are not really helping the agriculturist, and that they only want to show to the world that they are doing something. It is not correct, surely, nor can it be expected that in a few years the poverty of the villagers, which has been there since several centuries, can possibly be removed. If you spend 20 crores of rupees, every year, for the uplift of these agriculturists and for removing their difficulties, even then it will take 50 years. To blame the Government is not right. What the previous Hindu and Muslim Governments could not do in 15 centuries or more, can the present Government do in a few years? This poverty has been in existence for thousands of years, from the days of Ramayana and Mahabharata in India. It is only in the hand of God Almighty to make every poor man a rich man, and I believe this Government and every Provincial Government are doing their utmost according to the funds that are available. Sir, on the question of *kirpan*, may I say a few words with your permission?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Chair cannot give its ruling until it knows what the Honourable Member is going to say.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: Sardar Mangal Singh blamed the Government to interfere in religion without any rhyme or reason. I only wish to say that it is on account of stopping the crimes only that Government are putting some kinds of restrictions on the use of swords by the Mussalmans and the use of *kirpans* by the Sikhs in the North-West Frontier and Punjab Provinces. It is as much the religious right of the Mussalman to carry sword as it is for the Sikh to carry a *kirpan*. With these few words, I welcome the budget.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I rise to make a few observations on the budget which seem to me to be appropriate to this occasion. I must confess that, so far as the main features of the budget or the larger questions of policy are concerned, I have no intention of tackling them within the 20 minutes limit which has been rigidly fixed by the Chair for every speaker. Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member has made a remarkable innovation this year. He has separated what may be called the narrative part of the budget from its operative part, and, at the first instance, he circulated only the part relating to the examination of the financial position. Well, to some extent, it will be a matter of relief to his subordinates as there will be fewer occasions for suspicion against them, but really I do not know the length to which the Government of India are going to take precautions in these matters. Distrust is just the forerunner of decay. That is what happened in the time of Aurangzeb. He suspected his father, his son and his brothers. He suspected his very shadow. . . .

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Just as you are suspecting us?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: We are not the Government. We distrust those who are against us, and those of our countrymen who are part and parcel of the alien machine exploiting this land. If those in power lose confidence in their agents, with whose help alone they can function, it indicates a state of demoralisation and deterioration which must result in the disruption of the institution they represent. So the Mughal Empire came to an end after Aurangzeb. So, I hope that this is the forerunner and precursor of the end of the present system of Government in this country. I hope, Sir, that the Honourable the Commerce Member will take a leaf from the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member. The Honourable the Finance Member has dealt with the matter in a genuinely business-like fashion. No fulsome eulogies were wasted on his subordinates. I hope the Commerce Member will not consider it necessary to devote a paragraph at the end of his speech every year to express the gratitude he and his predecessors felt for Sir Guthrie Russell and others under him in the Railway Department. I am glad that the Honourable the Finance Member has scored out that part of the conventional appreciation of his subordinates which should have no place in a budget speech. There were times when men like Sir Guy Fleetwood Wilson, Sir Malcolm Hailey and perhaps Sir Edward Baker used to put in a clause or a paragraph at the end, but I am glad that has become obsolete now, and the futile formality has been abandoned. For that I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member. He has taken to the other way of doing things and he administers warnings to his subordinates on the floor of this House, and that is a better way of dealing with the matter, for, I believe, Government servants require all the restraint which can be imposed upon them by their superior officers.

Sir, the moment the Honourable the Finance Member was on his legs he reminded us of Cassandra and Cassandra-like prophets, and, for the time being, we felt that we were face to face with a Cassandra. That is how he started his speech, it was an apt illustration of the Bacchanalian abandon which the Honourable the Finance Member has introduced

into this House. To make a mistake himself, to be guilty of miscalculation, in spite of all warnings, and then to take us to task for his mistakes—that is the audacity of which the Honourable the Finance Member alone is capable and his Bacchanalian abandon was witnessed in this House in an extreme form when the Honourable the Finance Member made that statement.

He will pardon me, Sir, for the conceit of which possibly I may be accused when I make a reference to what he said about me this time last year. I quote his words:

"He said"—"he" meaning myself—"that we had under-estimated the revenue so as to deprive the tax-payer of his just dues."

[At this stage, Mr. President (the Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

"and for this purpose",

and so on. Then, further on, he said:

"to the best of my belief the estimates as presented to the House are fair and just. Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant spoke of the encouraging factors that are visible in India. It is quite true there are encouraging factors. There are encouraging factors in the world at large"

and so on.

Then, he gave his reasons as to why he did not agree with me. But, any way, to hold us responsible for his spurning our view of things, for his going against us, and for his mis-calculating the revenue, in spite of the warning that we gave in an unambiguous manner is a queer way of chastising us for his own folly, if not for his calculated, determined suppression of revenue. (Hear, hear.) Sir, I would have no such quarrel with the Honourable the Finance Member if he had frankly said that it is on rare occasions the privilege of the Finance Minister to keep something up his sleeve—and I may tell him that is what one of his predecessors, Sir Guy Fleetwood Wilson, did on a similar occasion. Now, if the Honourable the Finance Member had made a candid statement like that—and we have witnessed his candour on the floor of this House more than once—the criticism would have taken a different line. Then the quarrel would be about his doing something which is wrong deliberately. But it is neither fair nor courageous to persist in a wrong course and then to blame those who had uttered the note of warning forthwith for their Cassandra-like prophecies! (Hear, hear.) Sir, there were other reasons why the Honourable the Finance Member should have seen the signs. I think he knows it as well as anybody that the volume, rather the value of imports between the 1st April, 1934, and the 31st January, 1935, was about 109½ crores, as against 95 crores for the previous ten months of the financial year 1933-34, and the amount of import duties that had been collected during those ten months was about three crores more than for the corresponding period of the previous year. The figures are before me, and I would like the Honourable the Finance Member to refer to page two of the last "Trade Review" for the month of January 1936. Thus, he knew at that time, that the imports had increased by more than 17 per cent. He also knew that the import duties that had been collected had already exceeded the collections for the previous year by three crores, and, still, he framed estimates which have today been exceeded to the extent of more than four crores (Hear, hear), that is, Sir, if we take both years, and to the

[Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant.]

extent of about two crores if we take that year alone! Sir, there are two years with which we are concerned—1934-35 and 1935-36. It is strange that he should have made a blunder even about the year 1934-35, which had already been completed and which was to close within a few weeks of the time when the budget was presented, with all necessary data before him about which there could be no doubt. Sir, if the Honourable the Finance Member did not deliberately do what he did, then I am really perplexed—I would not say that he is a knave and I would shrink from saying that he was a fool, because he is, perhaps, neither. He is one of those men whom Mr. Gokhale once described. Mr. Gokhale once said that Lord Curzon had come to India with a definite intention, he had a definite policy, he had a definite object. That is what I can say, Sir, about the Honourable the Finance Member. But, beyond that, he is neither a fool, nor a knave. He is quite a shrewd gentleman, and he knows his mind well; only, he does not know the motives and intentions of others, and he is often inclined to take the worst view of others. But, Sir, leaving it at that, I should like to invite the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to two other aspects of the accounts that are before us. He knows, I think better than anyone of us here, that his control over expenditure today, even as the officer in charge of the Finance Department, is not as complete as it ought to be. He knows much better than I do perhaps that, from year to year, allotments have remained in part unappropriated. There has been over-budgeting in a number of Departments. He also knows that from year to year a number of supplementary demands have been made and approved by this House which have not been utilised at all. I would ask him whether, in these circumstances, it is not necessary to overhaul the machinery which regulates the expenditure. (Hear, hear.) I wonder if it is not possible to introduce a system of pre-audit accounting. There are difficulties I know for that system to be operated in such a vast country as India, but, still, I feel that, with reference to certain Departments, it is possible, and at all events certain methods can be devised by virtue of which expenditure can be regulated and controlled.

Then, the Honourable the Finance Member has, I believe, full knowledge of the fact that on the 31st March large sums of money are drawn, recklessly, irrespectively of whether they are genuinely required, under some pretext or other, simply because the financial year is closing and the grants may lapse. I wonder whether he cannot think of something like a Public Works Department reserve fund to which those sums could be transferred for the time being, instead of being precipitately misused, simply because the year is about to close. Sir, these are minor points and I am not going to deal with them at any length, but I believe, Sir, that economy is the soul of finance, and the Government should keep a vigilant eye on the progress of expenditure. Even this year, I find, Sir, that the net military expenditure budgeted for the current year is about 2½ crores more than the net expenditure actually incurred in the accounts year 1934-35. The Honourable the Finance Member, I think, Sir, feels a shock. If he will examine the accounts, I think he will agree with me; so, I do not take more time over it. The method I have adopted is this. I can tell him that where a transfer has been made out of sums provided for military expenditure to a military reserve fund, I have deducted that from the allotment; where the reserve fund has been drawn upon, I have added that to the allotment for the year: with the result that in this

particular budget year there will be an expenditure of more than 2½ crores above the actual expenditure under military accounts in the year 1934-35:

1936-37 : 45,45,00,000	1934-35 : 44,34,26,000
+ 82,40,000	— 88,92,924
46,27,40,000	43,65,33,676
Defence—2,62,06,924	

That, I repeat, is a very disquieting state of affairs, and I would ask the Finance Member whether it is not time for him to consider some method of what might be succinctly called Efficiency Audit which was, I believe, recommended strongly by Speaker Lowther, and also by Henry Gibson under which certain officers are appointed in order to audit, not the papers formally, but actual working from time to time to see if the taxpayer is getting full value for his money.

Sir, I see that there has been a lot of talk here about the surplus. What is a surplus after all? A surplus is always an unexpected thing. A surplus is something which results because of miscalculation. It is an additional burden inadvertently and unwittingly imposed on the taxpayer and which would not have been imposed had the Finance Department or those in charge of the finances been able to form a correct estimate of the situation. In the circumstances, a surplus is an additional tax imposed foolishly on the people. It is still more oppressive, especially in the midst of depression, than it would be in other circumstances. It is an intolerable burden at a time when prices have fallen down by about 50 per cent. In these circumstances, no Finance Member could congratulate himself on having a surplus budget. In fact, in our country, unfortunately, there has been a strange cycle. There have been surpluses or deficits according to the luck or ill-luck of Finance Members. Sir Malcolm Hailey had a time of deficits, Sir Basil Blackett had a time of surpluses; Sir George Schuster had a time of deficits again, and now Sir James Grigg is having these surpluses. I want the Honourable the Finance Member to guard against this, and I would like to tell him that at least in one respect he has gone against the constitution and promises of his predecessor. We all know, Sir, that the Honourable the Finance Member has no tender regard for the opinions of others. He spoke, well, in the strain he usually does, about his predecessor in August, 1934, a few weeks after his arrival here. What he said then, I think he can recall himself to his mind. I need not say more about his opinions about other experts who had been brought over here or about the policies followed by other Finance Members. Here was, however, a definite promise given by Sir Malcolm Hailey on behalf of the Government, and this policy was approved by means of a Resolution adopted by this House, that no allotment shall be made out of lump sum grants unless they were sanctioned by the Finance Committee. It was said in very clear, unambiguous and distinct words. In the course of his speech on that occasion, Sir Malcolm Hailey observed as follows:

"The fact is, Sir, that we want, if we can, to utilise for our own advantage the brains of those Members of the Assembly who have had knowledge of finances or administration."

I do not know if the present Finance Member credits the Members of this Assembly or any one here with any brain.

Then, Sir Malcolm Hailey goes on:

"There would of course be no objection to submitting to it—indeed we have already done so—all questions regarding allotments out of lump grants, and I should further have no objection to extending the definition of its functions to include the suggesting of retrenchment and economy in expenditure."

[Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant.]

In fact, a Resolution was passed by this Assembly which laid down:

"The functions of the Committee will be (a) to scrutinise all proposals for new votable expenditure in all Departments of the Government of India, (b) to sanction allotments out of lump sum grants (c) to suggest retrenchments and economy in expenditure and (d) generally to assist the Finance Department of the Government of India by advising on such cases as may be referred to it by that Department."

Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member or the Government had no authority whatsoever to make grants out of this rural development fund without the sanction of the Finance Committee. (Hear, hear.) In so far as he has done so, he has gone against the policy that was accepted by the Government and that was approved by the House and that forms part of the records of the Assembly. His grants were unconstitutional, if not illegal. I hope he will take great care hereafter to treat the Finance Committee—which he is anxious to abolish, I believe—with greater respect. I do not say with greater indulgence, as, so long as I am there, I do not want any concession, I will, however, insist on and safeguard its rights and privileges. The Honourable the Finance Member has not shown any respect for the decisions of the Finance Committee. I may inform this House that except on two occasions and with respect to two grants which a majority of that Committee could not approve, the Committee has invariably accepted, to my regret on various occasions, all the proposals that were placed before it by the Government. But even with reference to these two, the Honourable the Finance Member told us then and there that they would all the same be taken to the Assembly for its approval. It is a matter of deep regret to me that any Committee of this House should be so slighted—I am not speaking personally about myself, I am not speaking about the representatives of this particular Party in that Committee, but I speak about the dignity of this House, I ask Honourable Members whether it is fair that, where a Committee has been formed by them, by means of election with the vote of every single Member of this House and with the additional safeguard of the single transferrable vote, that the decisions of such a Committee, which seldom rejected the proposals of the Government, should be disregarded and thrown overboard. The Honourable the Finance Member tells us that it is only an Advisory Committee. Well, all Cabinets in the world are advisory bodies. All the Ministers in the House of Commons hold the position of no more than advisers to the King, and here the Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches are perhaps no better than constitutional advisers to the Governor General. If the decisions of those advisory bodies like the Cabinets or like the Ministers were upset all the world over, because they are advisory bodies, then constitutional Government would lose all its force and its significance and meaning. So far as I am concerned, I have dealt with the budget only in an administrative spirit today. But I feel that the whole system is so rotten, the whole thing is so intolerably wicked, that unless it is thrown into the hotchpotch, there is no hope for this country. (Applause.)

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, this is an extraordinarily difficult debate to wind up, and, if my Honourable friend, who has just spoken, will forgive me, I wish to express a certain amount of disappointment with his speech, not for the reason he thinks, but because I expected something much more warlike than that, something much more definite to bite me. As it is, there were some very admirable remarks on

financial control with which I almost entirely agree, a certain number of pleasantries saved up for a whole year and then a final sweeping condemnation at the end, but only in one sentence.

All the rest of the debate has been on the same plane, and it really is a matter of great regret to me that Honourable Members, who have spoken, have not thrown up more on which I could work up indignation. (Laughter.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The Honourable Member wants very little provocation!

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Most of the criticisms which have been made, of course, relate to matters which have nothing whatever to do with the budget; and, in so far as they do relate to the budget, they have been mostly mutually destructive. Let me give you a few examples.....

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Oh! Divide and rule!

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: "This is not a surplus budget. The surplus is quite chimerical; the surplus is all moonshine. On the other hand, the revenue has been grossly under-estimated; the Finance Member is repeating the miscalculations which he has already made twice." Incidentally, the first miscalculation was not mine, but that of my predecessor—but that is quite in keeping with the ordinary controversial methods here. Then, also, we have—"the defence expenditure is disgracefully high; it is intolerable"; on the other hand, two Honourable Members think that in this disturbed world it behoves India to be well prepared for anything that may happen in the military sphere. Then, again, "the income-tax surcharges must be altogether removed"; the Honourable Baronet from Bombay, I think, took that line. On the other hand, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta protested strongly against this reactionary proposal of removing even one-half of the surcharge and referred to it as the rich man's budget. Well, I might have left the comments of individual Members to cancel themselves out, and then I could have taken refuge in a silence somewhat unusual to me. (Laughter.) However, if I had done that, I daresay, the Opposition, with its usual facility for having it both ways, would have complained bitterly.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Well, you can stop now; we will go home. (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: If I say anything, it is wrong; and if I did not, it would be wrong too. Was there ever such an unfortunate person as I am? However, as I cannot please everybody, I must be content to please myself (Laughter), and, pursuing my usual rôle, make such answer for myself as I can with my customary moderation. (Laughter.)

I have already expressed my grave disappointment with Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant's speech, but perhaps I can take up some of the points that he mentioned. As regards financial control, I certainly have a great deal of sympathy with his contentions on that. It is a matter to which unremitting attention ought to be given, as his Honourable friend on his left gives a good deal of attention to it in the Public Accounts Committee.

[Sir James Grigg.]

And if I may say so without any risk of being thought to patronise, I think he has done very good service in calling attention to certain matters in that committee which the Pandit himself calls attention to now publicly. And it is a question to which those responsible for financial control ought to give unremitting attention; and that has been done to the extent that an exhortation to departments has been compiled and circulated. I think I am bound to say that, in one or two respects, the operation of the exhortation in the first year was not fully effective. But, I can assure Honourable Members that I will and the Finance Department will give absolutely unremitting attention to that and we hope that, as years go on, conditions will show some improvement. But, all the same, it is not any good being too stern about that sort of thing in times when price-levels and conditions are changing very rapidly. Therefore, if he will on his part promise to regard any shortcomings on our part with rather more tolerance than he showed in his speech today, I can promise him that, as far as it is within our power, there will be improvement.

There were two points raised by the Honourable Pandit on which I could not understand his figures. And though I will look into them more carefully when I see his speech in print, I do not think he is right about them. First of all, he said that the army expenditure for 1934-35, comparing like with like, is 3½ crores less than is expected in the year which is about to start, 1936-37.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: The net expenditure.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Yes, the net expenditure. I have applied his methods of calculation and I have arrived at a figure of 1½ crores instead of 3½ crores.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Sir, as it is a matter of personal explanation, I should like to explain it to the Finance Member. Please take the budget estimates of expenditure on the Defence Services and look at page 2. You will find there the accounts of 1934-35. The net expenditure is 35 crores and 47 lakhs, Effective, and eight crores and 18 lakhs, Non-Effective. From the aggregate of 44.34 lakhs, 68 lakhs is taken away to the Defence Reserve Fund. If you add the first two or deduct 68 from the last, you get a figure of 43 crores and 65 lakhs. Now, take the last one and add up 38 crores and 26 lakhs and 8 crores or add 82 lakhs and 40 thousand to 45.45: you find 46 crores and 27 lakhs. This difference is what I mentioned.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Even on the Honourable Member's showing, certainly 68 lakhs away from 44 crores is only something just under 44 crores. But, anyhow, it is not 3½ crores difference. However, as I say, I will examine the Honourable Member's figures when I see them in print.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: We have examined them now; admit that they are correct.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: In any case, taking 68 lakhs from 44 crores does not produce 42 crores.

The other point raised is that I ought to have known that, on the figures of imports for the first nine months of the year 1934-35, there would be a great excess in customs revenue and that I ought to have estimated accordingly. As a matter of fact, in our revised estimates, we provided for an increase of four crores for the whole year; that is not very unreasonable. And, as I pointed out in the budget speech, there was quite undoubtedly a spurt in a great many directions in the last two or three months of the year, some of the main directions being those I have mentioned in that speech,—raw cotton, machinery, jute, and so on.

Perhaps I can now, before I come to the main point of my reply, deal with some of the minor points which have been raised by the other speakers during the course of this debate. Mr. Basanta Kumar Das said that the whole of the rural development grant was being spent on propaganda. Even if he reckons the two lots of 20 lakhs which are to be spent on broadcasting, that only comes to 40 lakhs out of 3½ crores; and as far as the actual expenditure on wireless and receiving sets out of the 107½ lakhs given to provinces last year, the total expenditure is 1½ lakhs. As regards the two broadcasting items, my Honourable colleague, the Member for Industries and Labour, pointed out quite clearly that there have been explicit pledges that this broadcasting service is not to be used for propaganda. And to give what seems to me to be conclusive proof, may I say that I have listened on various occasions to the news service coming from the Delhi broadcasting station and on practically every occasion I thought it was very unfair to Government. (Laughter.) And I have not the slightest doubt that Honourable Members opposite think it unfair to them. So, between the two of us, I dare say, it works evenly and pursues its rôle of impartiality pretty successfully.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhamadan Rural): Everything cancels out in your budget. (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Anyhow, as I said, out of the grants in the Rural Development Fund last year, which the Honourable Member from Assam said had been practically entirely spent on propaganda, the truth is that only Rs. 1½ lakhs out of Rs. 107½ lakhs have been so spent. There was a certain misunderstanding on the part of some of the Bengal Members about the expenditure in Midnapore. I shall refer them to this paragraph from the Memorandum which was circulated in September last:

"A transmitter will be used for broadcasting the amusement programme from the Calcutta Broadcasting Station and also to broadcast from Midnapore in the local dialect, to give instruction and propaganda talks of the kind required by the people of the district and in the form likely to appeal to them."

I cannot help feeling that they are reading more into the use of the word "propaganda" there than can possibly be found in it. Propaganda obviously does not mean what they suspect it to mean; I think they are being unduly suspicious. Propaganda is not necessarily Government dope. (Laughter.) There are other kinds of propaganda such as propaganda which is merely information that you want to disseminate, and it may be information and almost invariably is information which is useful.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With a certain aim.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I do not know what goes on from Midnapore, but I think it is quite conceivable that on certain occasions it would broadcast.....

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Propaganda for malaria.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I think it is quite conceivable,—I do not know in the least,—that on occasions the Midnapore station might want to broadcast anti-terrorist information. If Honourable Members say that is undesirable propaganda, let us know where we are.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It is.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Would you enquire what it is?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: We come now to the question of the postcard, which I propose to deal with only in a preliminary way. I do not propose to deal with it at any length as an amendment on the Finance Bill will doubtless be moved, and then my Honourable colleague on my left will deal with the matter in a full dress debate.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will you accept it?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: As I said, I propose to deal with it in a preliminary manner. All that I would say at the moment is that it would cost half a crore of rupees, and that is not available in the general budget except on the imaginative basis invented by the Honourable Member from Bombay, namely, that I had deliberately underestimated my revenue, which I deny. And, certainly, whether it is available in the general budget or not, it is not available in the Posts and Telegraphs budget. The surplus after paying the concession which I have already announced is Rs. 2 lakhs. Out of Rs. 2 lakhs, you cannot find half a crore, and personally I think that the Posts and Telegraphs budget this year is framed rather on optimistic lines. Anyhow, it is a cardinal rule—and certainly with the spectre of the railways in front of us it ought to be kept as a cardinal rule—that the Central budget in no circumstances must be allowed to subsidise the commercial departments.

Certain other Members have commented rather acidly on the discrepancy between a deficit railway budget and a surplus Central budget. But it is not as strange as all that. It is quite conceivable that one particular activity of Government may not be prospering, whereas the general activities are prospering. The railways are subject to all kinds of competition from all sorts of other forms of transportation. It is very acute in India, and, as far as I can make out, almost entirely unregulated, and in some respects, the competition of other forms of transport with railways is definitely unfair. That has been stated by Members of the Government in the House over and over again. What is quite clear is that unless the problem of co-ordination is solved by co-operation and good will between the Centre and the provinces, the railways will never pay and the provinces will never get any income-tax. (Interruptions.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair would ask Honourable Members not to go on interrupting.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: As I said, none of the provinces will get any share of the income-tax.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is that final?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: And, as the Honourable the Commerce Member pointed out in his speech, losing railways are not in the least inconsistent with an improving activity over the economic sphere generally, particularly as the railways themselves—although the position is still pretty gloomy—have been showing some improvement in the last two years. Apart from that, and it is no good Honourable Members opposite blinking the fact, there are certain effects arising from Government policies in India which do affect the railways adversely and which, if I may say so, have never been taken into account in calculating the cost of those policies. I think the Commerce Member gave an illustration of the effect on the North Western Railway's revenue of sugar protection alone which has resulted in carrying the same amount of goods or even more goods over very much shorter distances, and has cost the North Western Railway Rs. 30 lakhs a year. Then, he gave other examples of the effects of various barrage schemes. There, again, I doubt very much if the losses to the railway were taken into account in the original projects. The effect of the Sukkur Barrage in shortening the lead over the transportation of crops is a cost to the North Western Railway of Rs. 20 lakhs a year—at least Rs. 20 lakhs a year. These are facts you have got to take into account. It may be that the sugar protection policy is resulting in a balance of advantage on the whole. I am very doubtful about that—but it is much more likely that the irrigation policy is resulting in a net gain to the country. But the fact that these policies do injure the railways has got to be taken into account, and it is one of the explanations why the railway finances are less prosperous than those of the general Central budget. However, as I have said before, if the railways are to remain or are to become a permanent weight on the Central budget, the situation will soon become very different and both will be in distress together, and if that happens, the provinces will have to look a very long time before they get any income-tax. I think provinces ought to realise this and be prepared to co-ordinate the various forms of transport much more than some of them have been inclined to do in the past.

There are still one or two minor points that I would like to deal with. One or two casual references were made to the ratio. On that my somewhat categorical statements in the past have incurred a certain amount of comment from Members opposite, but there it is. That is still my position. I personally am convinced that the maintenance of the present ratio is, in present circumstances, very much in the interests of India, and as far as I am concerned, that policy is going to remain. When you are talking about a shilling rupee, please remember that in comparison with the position at the time when it was fixed, when the rupee was 1s. 6d. gold, it is now about 10½d. or 11d. gold, so that it has already been devalued to a very considerable extent. Another thing that I would point out to the House is that it is almost certain that on present purchasing power parity theories, the rupee is not overvalued, but undervalued: the proper ratio for the rupee, based on purchasing power

[Sir James Grigg.]

parities at the present moment, is probably about 1s. 8d. But, anyway, you can get figures to prove anything. (*Opposition cries of "Hear, hear."*) In any case, I have at least got figures for my contention: those who say that the rupee ought to be devalued to a shilling have got no figures in support of their contention.

Then, the Honourable Member from Moradabad raised two questions about which I would like to say a word. The first was as regards the restoration of the education cuts associated with the name of Aligarh. There are a variety of grants from the Central Government not amounting to very much in all, which are still subject to the cut which was made in 1931. I think the two classes are education grants and medical grants. We are taking that question up and considering the question of restoration, and I hope it will not be very long before we come to a decision on them. The Honourable Member from Moradabad also exhorted us not to waste the money that is allocated for rural purposes. I have every sympathy with him in that exhortation, and, in fact, that will be the aim of the Government of India too. I do not believe—though some of the Honourable Members opposite continually assert the contrary—that the provinces have, in fact, wasted money or devoted it to unworthy objects. But whether they believe it or not, Honourable Members will go on saying so till the end of time. As I pointed out in the budget speech, we have called for reports from the Local Governments. They are due at any time now, and before any allocation is made from the 108½ lakhs now remaining over for distribution, the whole question of the conditions on which these grants are made will be carefully considered, and, I think, as I said in my budget speech, it is quite possible that the Government of India will seek to restrict the grants to certain narrower categories.

Now, I come to the Honourable Baronet from Bombay. His speech, if I may say so without being thought to flatter him unduly, was perhaps the most important we have had, because it discloses the main line of attack which is going to be adopted against the budget as a whole. Let me first clear out of the way his point about Quetta. He produced a somewhat abstruse argument to show that a provision of Rs. 3 crores for sinking fund was quite adequate, and that it would, therefore, be perfectly legitimate to borrow the whole of the Quetta Expenditure. So far as I could understand it, his argument is as follows: of the 1,200 crores of the Government of India debt, 800 crores relates to the railways, and already that 800 crores is cared for by the annual contribution of 13½ crores to the railway depreciation fund. Let us, for the purposes of argument, admit his contention that 13½ crores is sufficient over a period of years to make up the annual detriment of fixed and working capital owing to depreciation of assets: or, in other words, that it suffices to keep the block at its present valuation. On the other hand, it quite clearly is insufficient to write off any amount by which the valuation of the block is less than the capital debt, and it certainly is inadequate to write down the capital in respect of any diminishing earning capacity of those assets. Moreover, I think his argument amounted to saying that no business concern ever makes any provision from revenue for writing down share capital

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I did not say "never"; only when they have made fabulous profit.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: very rarely makes provision for writing down share capital. But, in the first place, the railway debt does not represent share capital at all. It is much more like debenture stock, and, though a commercial concern may not, except in the rarest of circumstances, make provision for writing down share capital or return capital to the shareholders, certainly any prudent business would make provision out of revenue for a sinking fund for the redemption of debentures. I do not think there is any question about that whatever: there cannot be any question about that. But, even apart from all that, it is not the railways, it is the Government of India who are responsible to the public for the 800 crores of railway capital, and it is the Government of India who have got to care for the various loans when they mature; and nothing can get away from the fact that the Government of India have borrowed from the public 1,200 crores and that the capacity to convert the various elements of this debt as they mature on favourable terms is the measure of the market's appraisal of the credit of the Government of India and not any theoretical calculation of the material life of an asset, which may not be earning its keep anyhow. In this appraisal of the credit of the Government of India, there is no doubt that the provision of a sinking fund out of revenue is a material factor, not only because it does provide an assurance that the debt will be gradually and regularly reduced, but because it helps to ensure that the Government of India can bring to bear on the market at the time of any particular maturity a considerable—if I may borrow a phrase from one of the Chancellors of the Exchequer I have known—a considerable mass of manœuvre. I, therefore, maintain that, in spite of the Honourable Baronet's abstruse arguments, it is on the total of 1,200 crores of debt that the adequacy or otherwise of the sinking fund provision must be assessed. But let us see what happens if we give him his argument. Let us take 800 crores out of the 1,200 crores for the time being, and leave only 400 crores of debt. The sinking fund of three crores is still very much less than one per cent. on that debt, and, if it is raided to the extent of 75 lakhs a year for the purpose of Quetta, it is little more than half per cent

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Will the Honourable Member kindly explain how he gets this 75 lakhs figure? We do not understand it.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: It is an average calculation of the amount of the annual expenditure on the reconstruction of Quetta less the interest on the instalments borrowed.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: You will borrow at 3½ per cent?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Call it 80 lakhs if you like.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: No; it is 3½ per cent. on seven crores plus sinking fund. How is it 75 lakhs?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: If you make your calculation on that method, namely, assuming that you borrow seven crores outright and provide interest and sinking fund on it at 3½ per cent, the rate is much smaller, it would not be 75 lakhs; it will be something like 55

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: It will be about 25 lakhs.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It will not be 75 lakhs anyhow.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The method which I have adopted is to assume that each instalment of construction money is borrowed as it is paid, and that, therefore, interest alone is paid on it. On that assumption, the saving to the budget is about 75 lakhs a year. If you want to borrow the seven crores outright and pay interest and sinking fund on it, the saving to the budget is much less than 75 lakhs. Anyhow, nothing can alter the fact that three crores on 400 crores is well under one per cent., and that $2\frac{1}{2}$ or $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores on 400 crores is very little more than half per cent., and I do not see how anybody can contend that a sinking fund of that magnitude is safe for India: in the present circumstances of India, it is dangerously inadequate. As a matter of fact, it seems to me that it is not necessary to argue this question at any very great length, for, in spite of the quotation that the Honourable Member produced from Sir George Schuster, there is the fact that on the sinking fund plan, fixed by Sir Basil Blackett, the provision would now have been about seven crores, and that basis was fixed when the railways were making profits, and when the possibility of the railways proving to have been over-capitalised was never considered. I think it is extremely likely that if Sir Basil Blackett had to fix the basis of a sinking fund provision now with the present prospects of the railways, he would have considered that seven crores was not adequate; he certainly would not have considered it excessive. And, incidentally,—but let me first earnestly ask to be acquitted of any suggestion of patronage—all this glib talk about borrowing does seem to me to illustrate one of the cardinal sins of Indian finances, both public and private. Rash borrowing by provinces—including the Baronet's province at times—and rash borrowing by individuals have not only landed so many provinces in financial difficulties, but have created a situation where individual indebtedness in India has been calculated to be of the order of nine hundred or a thousand crores, with the result that nearly every province has had to introduce legislation to condone the default of debt payments to the creditors.

But this paying for the reconstruction of Quetta out of capital is not the only respect in which the Honourable the Baronet seeks to reconstruct the budget and bring it rather nearer to his heart's desire. His desire is to write up the estimates of revenue. I gather that one of the Honourable Members from Calcutta supports him in that desire. I see from a communication I have received from the Federation of Indian Merchants' Chambers that they also take the same line, and perhaps the House will allow me to take the communication of the Federation as my text, because it does make certain specific suggestions, and that will enable me to attach rather more concreteness to the examination which I propose to make of this kind of suggestion. The Federation says that revenue has been underestimated, especially in sugar and silver. So they calculated that a much larger fund is available for reduction of taxation. They also add the non-recurring 1,97 lakhs from the 1935-36 surplus and produce a much larger fund still. Now, let us see what they want to do with it. First of all, they want the six pies postcard; the cost of that would be 54 lakhs a year. They want the whole of the surcharges on income-tax and super-tax to be removed at a cost of 1,38 lakhs a year; they want business losses to

be carried forward for income-tax purposes at a cost of a crore a year; they want the super-tax to be made payable only at Rs. 50,000 instead of Rs. 50,000—that is a comparatively moderate item, because that will only be 15 or 16 lakhs a year. But the whole of it, when added up, comes to something like 3,10 lakhs. Let us throw into it the Quetta raid, as I may call it for purposes of brevity,—the Quetta raid of 75 lakhs and also the non-recurring 1,97 lakhs a year, and see what happens in 1936-37 and in the next two years. I must apologise to the Honourable the Baronet for repeating my offence and looking forward and making estimates for the future. Unfortunately, I cannot take quite such an easy line about it as he does. First, on my basis of estimating, that is to say, assuming that my present estimates of revenue are fairly accurate, in 1936-37, if you do what the Federation suggests, you will have used up the whole of your revenue reserve and left yourself with a deficit of 40 lakhs uncovered by anything; in 1937-38, there will be a deficit of about $4\frac{1}{2}$ crores; in 1938-39, there will be a deficit of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores. Well, it will take a good deal of under-estimating to eat those up. This question of under-estimating is of the essence of the matter, and, of course, it is only right and proper, for I have a certain past in the matter, that I should deal with it somewhat fully. The Honourable the Baronet from Bombay and the Honourable Member from Calcutta, and I think the Honourable Pandit also said that I had under-estimated. I think there were some interjections from one of his colleagues, and from his own remarks I gathered that they regarded it as a deliberate piece of malice, a forethought on my part from the very moment I landed in India. But there is a good deal of opinion on the other side. There are a good number of gloomy opinions expressed in this debate, and perhaps I can quote some of them. If I summarise and don't do full justice to the arguments in the contentions of Honourable Members, I will apologise in advance.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah said that the sinking fund provision was too low,—I agree with him,—that revenue was declining, that there were railway deficits, and that anyhow more money was wanted for Sind.

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta said that there was really no surplus, it was quite chimerical to say that there was a surplus.

Then, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan said that Government ought not to rely on a continuance of the yield of the sugar import duty.

Then, Dr. Rajan, I think, took an extremely gloomy view and said that the surplus was entirely imaginary. Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji said there was certainly no recovery; there was certainly still depression, and certainly the railways had always lost in the past, and, except for those years of boom, when they made a little profit, they will lose in the future, and there was no ground for real optimism. I am not sure that I am doing him justice, but I think Mr. Basanta Kumar Das said that the surplus and prosperity was all moonshine, at any rate he said something to that effect. Then, Mr. Som from Bengal said very much the same thing, that taxation was still too high and it was absurd to say that there was a surplus budget when there was still the emergency taxation, that there was no recovery and the optimism was quite misplaced. Now, let me go for a brief moment into the question of the estimates of revenue. And may I repeat that the original estimates for 1934-35 were made by my predecessor, and not by me? It is perfectly true that a year later or nine months

[Sir James Grigg.]

later, I reckoned, with the best advice I could find, that these estimates were pessimistic to the extent of three crores, and, in the following year, 1935-36, the estimates were calculated in the light of that conclusion. It is quite true that this three crores was about $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores too low; it was three crores 27 lakhs, while the actual figure was 4.95 lakhs. The miscalculation turned out to be in the end nearly five crores, but three crores of that, so far as 1935-36 was concerned, can be assumed to have been corrected by me last year. That is shown from the fact that the surplus this year, instead of being 4.95 lakhs, is something over two crores. Taking these two facts together, we can assume three crores of the underbudgeting was corrected last year so far as the estimates of 1935-36 are concerned. Then, clearly, with the evidence of those underestimates, the revenue figures for the year 1936-37 have been adjusted accordingly, and, to the best of my belief, the remaining underestimating has been corrected for. This is confirmed by the fact that, leaving out of account sugar, my miscalculation if you like, or underestimating for 1934-35 and 1935-36, was almost exactly the same figure. So, the only real scope for miscalculation, leaving out of account miracles in the current year, is the estimate of sugar imports. I think there is universal agreement that the revenue from sugar import duty is bound to go down to very low figures before long; it is only a question of when it is going to happen. Everybody knows, that the figures, on which the budget is based, are calculated on figures which are very much in arrear,—but since they were prepared, we have got another month's figures, and during that month there was a very heavy fall in the yield of sugar import duty, and my information is that there have been very small imports in February, and there are likely to be very little importations in March. In that case, I think that it is extremely likely that the estimate of two crores for the yield of sugar import duty next year may be an optimistic one.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Is it for this year or the next year?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I think that sugar will show in the current year some shortfall from the revised figures, so that I cannot admit for a moment that the figure of two crores for next year is, on the information at present available, a pessimistic one. That is rather a complicated explanation, but I hope that I have shown that *prima facie* there is no reason to suppose that there is anything very much of a margin by way of underestimating the revenue. But this point of underestimating, if I may say so, is a very important one, because the Honourable the Baronet from Bombay has now disclosed his plan of campaign. First of all, let us take 75 lakhs or 55 lakhs,—it does not matter for the purpose of illustration,—off the expenditure on account of Quetta. Then, add X crores to the revenue, and you do that, I think, not on any relationship to any fact, but on relationship to the tax reductions that you think you ought to have, and then you bring in on the Finance Bill motions to reduce taxation accordingly. It would perhaps be kinder to pass over the Honourable the Baronet's theory of budgeting. It is in a word, every year must take care of itself, borrow as much as you can, don't look ahead, let us eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die. If India follows his advice, it certainly will die. (Laughter.) But one aspect of his plan of campaign I cannot pass over, and that is, what he has accused me of in the past, the political manoeuvre. I am not quite sure what his design is, I am not sure whether it is to steal the clothes of the Leader of the Opposition,

or to induce the Leader of the Opposition to walk into his parlour. I am not sure whether he is offering the Congress Party his support in carrying a motion for the reduction of the salt duty, or whether he is inviting the support of the Congress Party in aid of his efforts on behalf of the super-tax and income-tax payers. (Laughter.) I have noticed a disposition on the part of the Honourable the Baronet to hold himself out as the champion of the poor. Incidentally, something that my Honourable friend, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, said about the level of income-tax below 2,000—he was a little unkind in the contention, but I think the Honourable Member from Bengal said that even people below 2,000 were rich, which was necessary to prove that it was a rich man's budget. However

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I never complained against the reduction of the surcharge. My complaint was that whatever relief was given was given only to the rich people and nothing to the poor.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Included in the rich were people whose income was between 1,000 and 2,000

Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta: I definitely said they are middle class people.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I am sorry; but anyhow, whatever that may be, I cannot see the Congress Party falling for the Honourable the Baronet's little game. There is not the slightest doubt that the Congress Party will gladly accept his help in mutilating the Finance Bill.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In spite of the loan of four annas!

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I have no doubt that the Congress Party will equally see to it that he gets nothing for what he spends except the kicks that always come to people who get between the two main combatants in a battle. (Laughter.)

Anyhow, I will stop these conjectures about the future course of events. (Laughter.) As I stated in the budget speech, my job as, I conceive it, is to prepare for Provincial Autonomy, and, despite the advice of the Honourable Member from Bombay, I have got to look ahead and I cannot let precautions go to the winds. Certainly I have tried to look ahead, and I shall continue to do so. I personally do not think that I have underestimated. In any case, I should wish to be able to relieve the provinces, particularly the deficit provinces, as quickly as possible, and, at this juncture with this momentous change no more than a year ahead, if I find or if it is found in the months to come that I have been over-cautious, I certainly shall not feel very penitent about it, and I do not think I shall find it necessary to apologise. (Applause.)

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): Sir, I stated on the 14th February, in reply to Mr. Satyamurti, that we would be willing to secure the allotment of two additional non-official days, one for Bills and one for Resolutions, after the Finance Bill had been disposed of and the debate on the Ottawa motion had concluded. The

[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

House will remember that the arrangement to take the Ottawa motion after the completion of the Finance Bill was subject to intervention of any other items of business of an urgent character. There will certainly be some items of business within this category, for instance, supplementary demands for the current year will have to be taken before the end of March, even if this involves an interruption of the debate on the Finance Bill itself. There will also be some items of legislative business which it would be most inconvenient to delay until after the Easter and Baisakhi holidays, which extend from the 9th to the 13th April. It has further to be remembered that the Muharram holidays will reduce working days in the week, opening on the 30th March, to three. My conclusion is, therefore, that it will be impossible to allot additional non-official days until after the Easter and Baisakhi holidays. I have been informed that some Honourable Members would prefer to forego the additional days rather than have them at that late stage in the Session. I should be grateful if Party Leaders and any unattached Members interested in the question would favour me with their considered opinion during the course of next week.

Mr. F. E. James (Madras: European): May I ask the Honourable Member one question? Can he give any idea as to the legislative measures which are considered to be essential before the end of the Session? What are they? What is the programme?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Speaking offhand, first of all, there will be a Bill to be introduced by the Member for Industries and Labour in connection with the coal mines. Then there is every chance of our introducing the Company Law. Then, the ticketless traveller has to be taken care of. These are the three I can think of just at this moment. I think there are one or two more.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Does the Honourable Member mean to bring up the amendment of the Company Law for first reading? Or is it merely introduction?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: As I explained on an earlier occasion, in answer to my friend, Mr. Satyamurti, I propose to introduce it and then I propose to move a motion for Select Committee this Session. If that is accepted, then we can have the Select Committee later on.

Mr. F. E. James: I hope the Honourable Member has not forgotten the Indian Tea Cess Bill among the urgent legislative measures?

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Are Government bringing up the Cantonments (Amendment) Bill?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: There are two questions put at the same time. The answer to one is in the affirmative and the other in the negative. I think the Cantonments (Amendment) Bill will, in all likelihood, come up for consideration.

Mr. F. E. James: I hope you have not forgotten the Tea Cess Bill.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I have not forgotten it, because I have not heard of it.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Will the Cantonments (Amendment) Bill be recommitted to the Select Committee? What will the motion be in regard to it?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: There was a kind of understanding about to be arrived at, by which it will be recommitted without much further discussion here at this stage.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 6th March, 1936.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 6th March, 1936.

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.

STEPS TO IMPROVE THE RAILWAY FINANCES.

963. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the leading article in the *Hindu*, Madras, dated 17th January, 1936, entitled "Railway Earnings",
- (b) what steps they have taken or propose to take to improve the railway finance; and
- (c) whether they propose to have the whole question considered by an expert committee of the House, in view of the seriousness of the situation?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the speech I have made in this House in connection with the railway budget.

(c) As the Honourable Member is aware, the last enquiry by a committee into railway finances was that of the Railway Retrenchment Sub-Committee in 1931, composed of three Members of this House, one Member of the Council of State and two outsiders. They recommended a full enquiry into the details of working by a small committee composed of financial and railway experts. An investigation on these lines is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have they come to any conclusion on the suggestion made by the Honourable the Finance Member that, if Provincial Governments do not agree to controlling the rail-road competition with a view to its not affecting railway finances adversely, they will have to wait long for their claims to income-tax? Have they considered the question, or was it merely the Finance Member's own statement?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That is a hypothetical question. I think what the Honourable the Finance Member said was that, if things continue, as they are, and railways continue to lose, as they are losing from the motor transport competition, there will be so much the less chance of the provinces getting their share of income-tax.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to clause (c) of the question, may I know, in view of the very disquieting situation with regard to railway

finance, what objection the Government can have to constituting a fresh expert committee of this House,—such experts as we are—to go into the whole question and make suitable, necessary recommendations?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: As I have already explained, when a committee of this House was set up, they recommended that these questions should be dealt with by a small committee composed mainly of financial and railway experts—not Members of this House—and Government have that suggestion under consideration. There have been committees in between, the Pope Committee, etc., and since then Government have under consideration the question whether another expert committee should be set up.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it that Government have turned down the proposal to have a committee of this House, which, after all, represents the public opinion of this country, to the extent to which it does that?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Sir, a committee of this House that was appointed recommended an expert committee for this purpose?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know what the attitude of the Government is towards my suggestion contained in clause (c) of the question?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The matter is under consideration.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: May I just say, Sir, that I was a member of that committee of 1931 and we recommended its abolition on the understanding that a committee of experts was to be appointed. In November, 1931, and then it was settled that Members of the Legislature would not be precluded from sitting on the committee. The actual recommendation was that a committee was to be appointed by the Government, but the Members of the Legislature were not to be excluded?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have read out from the report of the committee itself that the committee should be composed mainly of experts.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are there no financial experts in this House?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I merely read out what the recommendation of the committee was.

RE-BUILDING OF QUETTA.

964. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have formed any estimate of the cost of re-building Quetta;
- (b) whether any foreign architect has been appointed for the building of Quetta; and
- (c) why a foreigner has been preferred to an Indian?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: (a) The reply has already been given by the Honourable the Finance Member in his budget speech.

(b) The Secretary of State for India has been asked to recruit an architect on a regular monthly salary.

(c) Enquiries showed that it was likely to be considerably more economical to adopt this course than to pay the fees of any of the architects in this country who possess the requisite qualifications.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if an Indian architect will be joined on to that officer so that they may both work together?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I cannot say at present. It will depend on whether another architect is required.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know why it is that Government think that recruiting a foreign architect will be cheaper than recruiting an architect here?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: For the reasons stated.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: No reasons are stated.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: The reasons are stated. I have said that inquiries showed that it was likely to be considerably more economical to adopt this course than to pay the fees of any of the architects in this country who possess the requisite qualifications.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the requisite qualifications?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: The qualifications required are a knowledge of reinforced concrete, steel framing and other earthquake-proof designs.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if any estimates have been framed, in figures, of the fees likely to be demanded by such qualified architects in India, and whether any estimates were obtained of the fees payable to foreign experts, and what the difference would amount to?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: As I tried to explain, fees are not going to be paid on a percentage scale at all. The architect coming out from England will be paid a monthly salary.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if there is no Indian architect familiar with Indian buildings, who can be paid a monthly salary, if employed for this purpose?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I understand there was no one, who had these particular qualifications which I have described, available in India.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Who made the Foreign Secretary so understand?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: The committee which had to select the architect.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Which committee?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I think it was the Quetta Earthquake Committee. As to what exactly that committee said, I must have notice of that question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, the Foreign Secretary says that they have formed some estimate, and they have come to the conclusion that it would be more economical to engage a foreign expert than to engage an Indian on a monthly fee. He now tells us that he has no exact information as to who advised him, what the fees are, and who has to appoint that committee, and he says he must ask for notice of all these questions. I submit, Sir, that it is less than fair.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Some committee was formed, and it might have advised the Foreign Secretary that.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, clause (c) of my question asks why a foreigner has been preferred to an Indian. That is a comprehensive question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has given the answer to that.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No, Sir, he simply says that some estimates were made, but no figures are forthcoming, and so forth.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has said that it will be cheaper to engage a foreign expert on a monthly salary than to engage an Indian expert.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I want an elucidation of that answer,—the figures on the basis of which he gives that answer.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He cannot answer the question off-hand and the Chair cannot compel him to do so.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: What is the monthly salary this foreign expert will get?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I must have notice of that.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Is it also a fact that even the contractor will be a foreigner (Hear, hear)—that the work should be given to a foreign contractor?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: So far as I am aware, contracts have not yet been given out.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will my Honourable friend give a guarantee to this House that contracts will always be given to Indian contractors?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: Certainly not.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is that the only officer being sent for from outside, or other officers also?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: Besides him, a town-planning expert also, who will probably be a European.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Is it also a fact that a new system has been evolved in the Quetta Re-building Committee that all the plans and estimates should be prepared by the contractor himself and he must come out with plans, and that Government will only ask for certain requirements to be complied with, but that the contractor must frame his own plans, etc., and then he will submit all these to the Committee along with his tender?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: It is impossible for me to give the exact details of how the contracts are to be given out. The Honourable Member is himself a member of the Quetta Consultative Committee, and presumably he knows what is being done.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Was not that committee an advisory committee? That committee has nothing to do with contracts. That committee is concerned only with salvage of the property.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will Government call for tenders for these contracts by advertising in the newspapers and then accept the best tender?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I understand that all contracts are being put out to tender.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government formed any final estimate of the cost of re-building the devastated city of Quetta? Does it amount to between eight and nine crores, including posts and telegraphs and railways and the expenditure already incurred?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I have already referred the House to the speech made by the Honourable the Finance Member in introducing his budget. He gave the figures so far as they are at present available.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: The point raised by my Honourable friend, Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon, is a very important one. Is it or is it not a fact that contractors are asked to draw up their own plans and prepare their own estimates and the Government only give sanction? Or is it that the Government engineers will draw up these estimates and tenders will be invited on those estimates?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: The question asked by the Honourable Member is so important that I must have notice.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know if this post has been advertised in India?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: No.

Sardar Sant Singh: Why has it not been advertised in India?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I have already fully explained, and I can give no further information.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, I do not ask question No. 965.

†965*

PREVENTION OF THE CIRCULATION OF MISS MAYO'S BOOK ENTITLED "THE FACE OF MOTHER INDIA".

966. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have taken any steps to prevent the circulation of Miss Mayo's book entitled "The Face of Mother India" in countries other than India; and
- (b) whether they have made or propose to make any representations through recognised diplomatic channels to other countries, requesting them to stop circulation of the book in those countries?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) and (b). The Government of India much regret the publication of a book of this kind and they asked the Secretary of State for India to consider whether any action could be taken to prevent or restrict its circulation in England and other countries. The Secretary of State fully agrees with the views of the Government of India about the book and regrets that currency should be given to opinions which would have the unfortunate result of giving deep offence to the Hindus but he has informed us that there are no powers under which action could be taken against the book in the United Kingdom. An Empire-wide ban is, therefore, impossible.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Government of India request the Secretary of State for India, apart from actual prohibition of this book, to make representations through His Majesty's Representatives, especially in America, to bring persuasion or gentle pressure to bear upon the Government, in view of the strong feeling in this country about the contents of this book that they may take such steps as are available to them to stop the circulation of this book which is highly defamatory of India?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I am prepared to pass on that suggestion to the Secretary of State, but I am afraid it will do no good.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Honourable Member pass on that suggestion, with a strong recommendation on this matter that the Government agree with the people of this country?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have done that. I have already made representations to that effect.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will he kindly do it again?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether Government are aware that when a book is proscribed, it is generally sold more widely than otherwise?

† Not put by the questioner.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I am afraid the Honourable Member is right that there is a tendency to use the ban as an advertisement for the book. That is very regrettable.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India will stop the practice of proscribing books hereafter? (Hear, hear.)

(No answer.)

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS IN INDIA.

967. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to a leading article in the *Hindu*, Madras, dated 20th January, 1936, on Sir Michael O'Dwyer's letter to the *Times*, commenting on the results of the last I. C. S. examination held in England;
- (b) whether they are taking any action in the matter; and
- (c) whether the present system of competitive examination will continue?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The general question of recruitment for the Indian Civil Service is still under consideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to an answer or to a speech of Mr. Butler, the Under Secretary of State for India in the House of Commons, in answer, I believe, to a question of Sir Reginald Craddock about this very matter, in which the Under Secretary of State stated that they are considering this whole question, and that they hope to make rules very soon to restore the fifty-fifty per cent. ratio? May I ask whether that statement was made with the knowledge or after consultation with the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have only seen a Press report of that question and answer. But the Honourable Member must remember that recruitment to the Indian Civil Service is a matter for the Secretary of State for India and not for the Government of India.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Does the Secretary of State never consult the Government of India on this matter, or did he not consult them on this particular matter?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: On this particular question, no, Sir.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Does the Secretary of State generally consult the Government of India with regard to recruitment in England of members of Indian Civil Service or other services?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, sometimes; but not, I think, invariably. He consults other authorities as well as the Government of India, for instance, the Civil Service Commissioners, the Universities, etc.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to part (c), may I know if the Government of India have been consulted at any time recently by the Secretary of State on the question of giving up wholly or partially competition by examination, in order to increase the British element in the Indian Civil Service more than is obtained by competitive examination, and of modifying that system and reserving some powers to the Secretary of State, to nominate a certain number of Britishers independent of the results of the competitive examination?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I cannot say more than that the question is under consideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I want simply to know whether the Government of India have been consulted on this particular aspect of the question, which I suggest to the Honourable Member.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: About the steps to restore the fifty-fifty ratio in recruitment?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: By giving up competition, wholly or partially?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Those are the matters which are under consideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have the Government of India sent any opinion on that to the Secretary of State?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I cannot say more than that this matter is under consideration. I am not prepared to say anything further.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I want a ruling from you, Sir. The rules say that, in matters which are matters of controversy between the Secretary of State and the Government of India, the Government may refuse to answer a question. Mere correspondence is not a matter of controversy. If so, let the Honourable Member say so.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has given sufficient answers to the questions that have been put.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is your ruling, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The ruling is that he has sufficiently answered the question.

MARKING OF THE PLACE OF ORIGIN ON GOODS COMING FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

968. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have received any communication from the Southern India Chamber of Commerce regarding British goods, particularly, piece-goods, which are being imported into India under the indigenous labels without any indication of their having been manufactured in Great Britain, asking them to

suitably amend the Sea Customs Act so as to necessitate the marking of the place of origin on goods coming from foreign countries including Britain;

(b) whether they have taken any steps; and

(c) if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The matter is under consideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: When did they receive that representation?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I would require notice.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government satisfied that the allegations are in the main true?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I cannot make any statement on that as the Government are considering the matter, and if they find that the statement is true, they will consider what action would be suitable to stop that practice.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if they are considering both the matters? First of all, the truth of the allegation and secondly, whether any steps are called for, in case the allegation is true.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes, they will consider both.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Honourable Member expedite matters, because, in case the allegation is true, it is very dangerous to Indian trade?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes, Sir. I will try to expedite the matter.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will Government also consider the fact that, after they are imported, the labels are changed?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: There were some allegations of that character with regard to imports from Japan, but I am not sure that an allegation of that kind had been made with regard to this.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Are Government considering that question?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: To that I have already replied that the existing law is quite adequate on the matter. This is a different matter altogether.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I wish, with your permission, Sir, to make an alteration in this question. To part (a) of this question, in the last line, I wish to add "the wives of voters qualified on account of their paying any tax or owning any property". I wish to add this, because it is contemplated in the rules.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It may be contemplated in the rules, but the Honourable Member cannot alter the question now.

DIVISION OF THE ELECTORAL ROLLS FOR THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE INTO TWO PARTS BY THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

969. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the action of the Madras Government in dividing the electoral rolls for the Provincial Legislature into two parts; the first part to include the names of the property owners and tax-payers, and the second part to consist of literates and guardians of minors;
- (b) whether they were consulted in this matter;
- (c) if so, what their opinions are; and
- (d) the reason why such a division was made?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) and (b). No.
(c) and (d). These questions do not arise.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if Government have made any enquiries in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: As regards part (a) of the question, no, Sir.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why not, Sir?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I cannot enquire into a matter of which I have no notice.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I have given notice. After receipt of this question, in view of the importance of making the electoral rolls as complete as possible, Government could have made enquiries to find out if the Madras Government have divided the electoral rolls into two parts, the one to be automatically filled up by Government, and the other to be filled up only if applications are made.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: It is impossible for Government to make inquiries into various matters on which information is received from the 1,500 questions, within such a short time.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know whether it is impossible on a matter of this kind?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: There are matters of other kinds also, equally important according to others.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am only asking about this kind.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I have given the information that no inquiry has been made.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know the reason why?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I have given the information that no inquiry was made, because we received no information in time to make any inquiry.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the extent of time during which Government want to make an inquiry into the question?

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

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE MEETING HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE RAILWAY WORKERS' ASSOCIATION, MORADABAD.

970. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to resolutions 8 and 9 passed at the meetings held under the auspices of the Railway Workers' Association (Registered), Moradabad, on 9th and 12th January, 1936;
- (b) whether they propose to take action on the lines suggested in those resolutions; and
- (c) if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: These resolutions contain allegations of a sweeping character which Government have no reason to believe are well-founded. Government, therefore, do not propose to take any action.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Did they make any kind of inquiries to satisfy themselves that the allegations were so wild as to be *prima facie* unfounded?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The character of the allegations themselves is such that, having regard to the information which Government have in their possession, they must be held not to have been well-founded.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it, therefore, that no inquiry was made at all, and no inquiry is proposed to be made?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Not after these resolutions. But I might inform the Honourable Member that there is one minor point in one of those resolutions which I am taking up and which I did not mention because it did not affect the main question. And that is with regard to a succession certificate being taken as sufficient evidence of the person holding the succession certificate as being entitled to the amount of compensation payable.

STATEMENT OF GRIEVANCES BY THE RAILWAY WORKERS' ASSOCIATION, MORADABAD.

971. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to a statement of grievances by the Railway Workers' Association (Registered), Moradabad;

- (b) whether they have looked into the grievances; and
 (c) if so, what action they propose to take to redress their grievances?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). These are matters of detailed administration which are being brought to the notice of the Agent, East Indian Railway, for such action as he may consider necessary.

BROADCASTING OF COMMERCIAL NEWS IN THE MORNING.

972. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have taken any steps by way of reviving the broadcasting of commercial news in the morning, which was stopped from 1934;
 (b) whether they are aware that there is a demand for such a revival; and
 (c) whether they will arrange for the commercial news being broadcast from morning, 6 A.M.?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (c). The matter is at present under consideration.

(b) Yes, but Government are not yet entirely satisfied that the demand extends beyond purely speculative interests.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In view of the increased grant for broadcasting, which my Honourable friend wants and is likely to get in the next week, will he favourably consider this broadcasting of commercial news in the morning?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have said that the matter is at present under consideration. I am having a careful inquiry made into it.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will it be favourable consideration?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That depends on the report I get.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: From whom is the report being called for?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The Controller of Broadcasting is investigating the question now.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are Government considering the broadcasting of commercial news, whether in the morning or evening or mid-day or mid-night, so far as Delhi is concerned?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I take it that the main question under consideration is whether the broadcasting of commercial news in the morning should be revived.

TRADE DISPUTE ARISING OUT OF THE DISCHARGE FROM THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY SERVICE OF MR. G. KRISHNAMURTHY.

973. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Employees Union, Perambur, has addressed a communication to the Industries and Labour Department in connection with the trade dispute arising out of the discharge from Railway service of Mr. G. Krishnamurthy for continuing to be the General Secretary of a Registered Trade Union; and

(b) if so, what action they have taken?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India have replied that they are unable to interfere.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have they come to their conclusions on the mere technicality of it, or on the merits of the question?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: It is a matter which is entirely within the competence of the Agent of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, and, that railway being a Company-managed Railway, Government really have no power to interfere with his decision in this matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it that there is no power of appeal for these discharged employees, on account of their activities in connection with the trade unions, to the Railway Board?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I do not believe there is a right of appeal to the Railway Board; but it is a technical matter and I could not answer definitely off-hand.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has any appeal been sent up to the Railway Board by Mr. Krishnamurthy?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I do not know; I could not say without notice.

BAN ON EMPLOYEES TO BE THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY EMPLOYEES UNION.

974. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they are aware that the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Agent has issued an order that no Railway employee would be permitted to be the General Secretary of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Employees Union; and
 (b) if so, whether such an action is in conformity with the Railway Board's policy?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) No. But this is a matter in which Company-managed Railways are not bound to follow the policy laid down by the Railway Board for State-managed Railways.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is it the answer that a circular has been issued that no railway employee will be permitted to be the General Secretary of this Union?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The answer to (a) was, yes.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if, apart from commanding them to obey orders, the Railway Board will be good enough to consider asking this company to bring their policy in this matter, in conformity with the Railway Board's policy and encourage the formation of good trade unions, which are as much in the interests of the employer, as in the interests of the employed?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The difference is not with regard to the policy of encouraging good trade unions but with regard to the past experience which the Agent has had with regard to the activities of certain people; and he thinks that, unless he framed such a rule, trouble would continue to arise.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government satisfied that, among the large class of railway employees, there can be none who may be permitted to be the General Secretary without such consequences as the Agent apprehends?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have no doubt that if a minute inquiry were held and everybody's record was searched many people would be found who are fit to become the General Secretary of the Union; but I am afraid in such a matter the inquiry could not be undertaken.

PROTECTION OF A WORKER AGAINST VICTIMISATION FOR BEING A MEMBER OR OFFICE-BEARER OF A TRADE UNION.

975. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they are aware that the Indian Trade Unions Act does not protect a worker against victimisation by his employer for being a member or an office-bearer of a Trade Union; and
- (b) if so, whether they are prepared to amend suitably the legislation so as to make it illegal on the part of the employer to discharge a member or an office-bearer of a Registered Trade Union?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). No provision of the kind mentioned in part (a) of the question exists in the Indian Trade Unions Act. Government are not prepared to take action which would prevent an employer from discharging an unsatisfactory worker.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With regard to the answer to clause (b), may I know the reasons why Government are not prepared to suitably amend legislation, so as to protect members or office-bearers of Registered Trade Unions being discharged on the simple and sole ground,—apart from discharging an unsatisfactory worker which an employer is entitled to do,—of being a member or office-bearer of a Registered Trade Union?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Because they do not consider the suggestion practicable.

ACCEPTANCE OF RULES FOR THE RECOGNITION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES BY RAILWAYS.

976. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state what Railways have accepted the Industries Department *Communiqué*, dated 29th March, 1934, regarding rules for the recognition of associations of industrial employees (including railway employees) of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Under the orders issued by the Railway Board, the Rules referred to have been made applicable on the State-managed Railways to all associations of railway servants employed by Government other than those of gazetted officers. Copies of these orders were forwarded to the Company-managed Railways for information, as this is a matter in which they have complete freedom.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have they heard from any companies, and, if so, have any Company-managed Railways accepted those rules?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I should require notice of that question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government make inquiries and find out how far, if any, those railways have accepted these rules?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: If the Honourable Member would put down a question to that effect, I shall be very glad to get the information.

REGISTERED RAILWAY TRADE UNIONS NOT GRANTED RECOGNITION.

977. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state the names of Registered Railway Trade Unions which have not been granted recognition after the issue of the Industries Department *Communiqué* on each of the class I State-owned Railways, with reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no information other than that contained in the statement laid on the table of the House in connection with the reply given to starred question No. 231 asked by Mr. Lalechand Navalrai on the 10th February, 1936. I may add, that recognition of railway unions has been left to the discretion of Agents of State-managed Railways but Government are prepared to consider appeals against non-recognition by Railway Administrations in accordance with the undertaking given by them in the information laid on the table of the House on the 21st January, 1935, in reply to starred question No. 480 asked by Lt.-Col. Sir Henry Gidney on the 14th March, 1934.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are there any such appeals pending before Government now?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I should require notice of that question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know what are the criteria by which Government decide these appeals, as against the decision of Agents of State-managed Railways, refusing to recognise trade unions?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: It is the common-sense criterion of seeing whether the Agent is able to adduce reasonable grounds for non-recognition.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are there any grounds which satisfy Government that a Registered Railway Trade Union should not be recognised?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That is a hypothetical question whether in a particular case there could or could not be sufficient grounds for refusal.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the main considerations which Government generally apply to this question?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The main considerations are that the constitution of the Union should be such that it would contribute towards the welfare of the people for whose welfare it has been formed.

RECOGNITION ON UNRECOGNISED RAILWAY UNIONS.

978. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state whether the Railways are prepared to inform unrecognised Unions the conditions under which they would be granted recognition? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I would refer the Honourable Member to the Rules for the recognition of Associations of Industrial Employees (including railway employees) of the Government of India, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. As the Rules have already been published in the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, Press Communiqué, dated the 29th March, 1934, Government do not consider it necessary that State-managed Railway Administrations should address individual unrecognised unions regarding recognition under these Rules. Apart from the general conditions contained in these Rules which must be observed by unions registered under Trade Unions Act, 1926, seeking recognition, there are other factors which have to be taken into consideration by the Railway Administrations before recognition can be granted. Agents of Railways have for this reason been allowed discretion in the matter and Government must reserve the right to refuse recognition to individual unions when, in their opinion, the constitution or the working of a particular union is unlikely to be conducive to the welfare of a Railway Administration or its employees.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: What are the other factors referred to besides the general conditions contained in the rules?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have mentioned them in the reply I have just read out.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is not the constitution of these unions confined to railway employees? Are there any outsiders?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: If a union applies for recognition, it will have to be looked into whether the constitution of that union is likely to be conducive to the welfare of the Railway Administration or its employees. I imagine ordinarily unions of railway employees only will ask for recognition.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: If that is so, what are the criteria by which, outside these rules, Railway Agents can refuse to recognise unions?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Supposing the proposed officers of a union—I am giving a purely hypothetical case because after all the question is a hypothetical one—are all people whose past record shows that they generally get up these unions only to serve their own personal ends and not to benefit the members of the union, that will be a very good reason for refusing recognition.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government consider laying down some rules, to help these unrecognised unions, which do not conform to the general rules, so that they may be encouraged to help these unions when they are assured that these unions satisfy their management about them?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The general rules have already been laid down in the communiqué.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Will Government consider the advisability of framing model rules for these unions on the same lines as for co-operative societies?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I do not think the unions will like that at all.

CULTIVATION OF TEA BY SMALL GROWERS IN THE NILGIRIS.

979. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- whether they have received representations from the small growers of tea in the Nilgiris, regarding new cultivation;
- whether new cultivation is permitted largely to Europeans;
- whether hundreds of acres of small holdings have been left out and their petitions have been shelved by the local committee;
- whether the average allowance of tea quota given to bigger estates is about 100 pounds an acre, but in the case of small growers it is only 250 pounds on an average; and
- whether they are prepared to take steps to amend the Tea Control Act of 1933 so as to permit extension and new cultivation of tea to small growers only?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government have received from a Mr. M. K. Bellie Gowder copies of certain resolutions said to have been passed at two meetings of the small growers of tea on the Nilgiris.

(b) New cultivation has been permitted in the case of Indian and European owned tea estates as follows:

Indian owned—2412·60 acres.

European owned—478·86 acres.

(c) Enquiries from the Licensing Committee show that the committee have no knowledge of the small holdings that are alleged to have been left out.

(d) The allotment of export quotas to tea estates is governed by Statutory Rules framed under the Indian Tea Control Act, 1933, and all estates are treated alike. The amount of export quota admissible to an estate depends upon its best crop basis during the basic years 1929 to 1932, the area planted since 1928 and the title of the estate to a special hardship allowance.

(e) No.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware of the fact that, since coffee growing has become unprofitable, the Department of Agriculture in Madras are themselves interested in advising the small growers to raise tea on their small holdings and that tea is being grown on small holdings?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: It is possible that that is so; I have no specific knowledge.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In that case, why is it that Government have made this invidious distinction of allowing 250 pounds on an average for small growers, whereas only 100 pounds are allowed for the bigger estates?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have laid down no such restriction. It is done by the Tea Licensing Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of taking steps to amend the Tea Control Act of 1933 in order to remove this distinction?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am not accepting the distinction to begin with, and Government certainly do not contemplate any such action.

ARTICLE ENTITLED "THE ORDERS-IN-COUNCIL" IN THE *HINDU*.

980. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to a leading article entitled "The Orders-in-Council" in the *Hindu*, dated the 22nd January, 1936;

(b) the reasons why they have provided an autocratic government for Bihar and Orissa;

(c) the principles, if any, on which liabilities and assets between Madras and Orissa have been assessed; and

(d) whether it is proposed that Madras should hand over any part of her Famine Relief Fund to Orissa?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) Yes, the article in question has been perused.

(b) By "Bihar and Orissa" the Honourable Member presumably means "Sind and Orissa". The interim constitution for these Provinces will last only until the introduction of Provincial Autonomy. During this transitional period it will be essential for the two Governments to concentrate on administrative reorganisations consequent on their separation from their parent Provinces and to prepare the new Provinces for the advent of Provincial Autonomy. The interval before Provincial Autonomy is likely to prove none too long for the solution of the administrative problems even if the whole attention of the new Governments is diverted to this end. The answer to this part of the Honourable Member's question is therefore to be sought in the object for which these transitional Governments are being set up.

(c) The balance sheet principle reduced to its simplest terms, with the shares of the parties determined by the revenue ratio.

(d) No, as Orissa will assume a smaller share of the pecuniary liability than a strict application of the above principle would entail.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know what is the period, which Government contemplate for these transitional arrangements continuing?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I think my friend has put me a number of questions as to when Provincial Autonomy comes and I have given my answers to those questions. The transitional period obviously depends on the exact date on which Provincial Autonomy is introduced. So I cannot carry the matter any further.

EMPLOYMENT OF "DUFFERIN" CADETS IN INDIAN COASTAL SHIPPING.

981. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to a leading article entitled "Dufferin" cadets, in the *Madras Mail*, dated the 22nd January, 1936;

(b) whether they have considered the note submitted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce, regarding the employment of "Dufferin" cadets in Indian coastal shipping;

(c) what the latest position is; and

(d) what steps they are going to take to see that justice is done to "Dufferin" cadets?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government have seen the article referred to.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply recently given by me to Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant's starred question No. 744.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government realise that, from next year, the position will get much worse, and will they take steps against that contingency, as early as possible, *i.e.*, with regard to the employment of these cadets?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have already informed Honourable Members that I am pursuing this matter in view of the situation that is likely to arise next year.

GRIEVANCES OF INDIANS IN ZANZIBAR.

982. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state.

- (a) whether they are satisfied with the case put before them by the Zanzibar Indian Deputation, on behalf of the Indians in Zanzibar, and with the demand for immediate redress of their grievances;
- (b) whether they have taken steps to ask the Zanzibar Government to state their case in respect of their anti-Indian legislation of 1934, which affects the Indian settlers adversely, and particularly their clove trade and acquisition of land; and
- (c) what the latest position in the matter is?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I would refer the Honourable Member to my answer to his question No. 961 on the third of this month.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to part (b) of the question, may I know if Government have definitely asked the Zanzibar Government to state their case?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: We have not corresponded with the Government of Zanzibar. We can only correspond with the Colonial Office.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: But, in corresponding with the Colonial Office, have Government ever suggested to them to get the Zanzibar Government to state their case, in respect of this anti-Indian legislation?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The Government of Zanzibar have already stated their case twice as regards clove legislation. They have also generally stated their case as regards the debt legislation, but I do not think that the Zanzibar Government have addressed the Secretary of State with regard to the representation which we made to the Colonial Office on the debt legislation only a fortnight ago.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the answer to part (c) of the question, with regard to the latest position?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The latest position this morning is nothing different to what it was two days ago.

PROTECTION TO HANDLOOM WEAVERS.

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

- (a) if they are aware of the fact that the handloom weavers are obliged to face the competition of the Indian textile mills also;

- (b) whether they are aware that these weavers are obliged to depend upon Indian mills also for their supplies of yarn;
- (c) whether they are aware that the yarn supplied by Indian mills is weaker in strength, short-reeled, not in proper hank form and is sold at much higher prices than that available for the weaving mills;
- (d) whether they are aware that the handloom weavers are benefited to a much less extent, and are even made to suffer by the present protection given to the textile mills; and
- (e) if so, whether they are prepared to consider the advisability of some suitable action, such as the reservation of certain kinds of production for the handlooms, so as to protect the one crore handloom weavers as against the competition of State protected mills employing less than a million workers?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No.

(c) It is true that generally speaking the handloom weaver has to pay more for his yarn than the weaving section of a mill which spins its own yarn. Government have no information on the other points mentioned.

(d) and (e). The Honourable Member is referred to the replies given by me to the questions on the subject on the 12th, 13th and 27th February, last.

TRAINING OF INDIANS IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING BY THE CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

984. ***Mr. Basanta Kumar Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Calcutta Port Trust authorities recruit apprentices in their Mechanical Engineering Department and afford sufficient facilities for their training in ship repair work?

(b) Is it not a fact that the Trustees of the Port of Bombay recruit apprentices in their Mechanical Engineering Section and make suitable arrangement for their elaborate training both in India and abroad?

(c) Are Government aware of the fact that:

- (i) now-a-days there is no dearth, among the Indians, of graduates in mechanical engineering with a reasonable degree of practical experience in workshops; and
- (ii) such engineers are available for appointment in subordinate positions?

(d) If the answers to part (c)(i) and (ii) be in the affirmative, why cannot the Calcutta Port Trust authorities formulate a scheme for the appointment of Indian graduates in mechanical engineering supplemented by the system of recruitment of apprentices in order to ensure the Indianisation of their Mechanical Engineering Department?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The information asked for is being obtained and will be laid on the table in due course.

REMARKS ABOUT INDIA IN THE BOOK "MEIN KAMPF" BY HITLER.

985. *Pandit Nilakantha Das: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the communication published in the Press regarding Hitler's fling at India in his recent book "Mein Kampf", made to United Press by Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose? (Vide for instance *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of Calcutta, dated 15th January, 1936, Dak Edition, page 9, under heading "Hitler's Fling at India")?

(b) Have Government marked in the same communication the effects of protests of China against certain remarks regarding the Chinese in the same book, and also of Egyptian protests against the film "Bengal Lancer"? If so, what action have Government taken in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) and (b). I have seen the article in question but in the absence of any details from the Honourable Member as to what passages of the book are referred to, Government do not propose to take any action on the statement alleged to have been made by Mr. Subhas Bose to the United Press.

OFFICERS AND SERVANTS OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE INDIAN MUSEUM, CALCUTTA.

986. *Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Will Government be pleased to refer to starred question No. 475 and the answer given to it in the Legislative Assembly on the 18th September, 1935 and state:

- (a) whether they paid a sum of one hundred and fifty thousand rupees to the Council of the Asiatic Society of Bengal;
- (b) for what purpose the abovenamed sum was given;
- (c) (i) whether they spent so much money for the sake of a private institution; and (ii) under what rule they can spend so much money from the public exchequer for the purposes of a private institution;
- (d) whether in section 8 of the Act XXII of 1876, it was laid down that "they (the Trustees) shall appoint, and may remove or suspend, all officers and servants, salaried or otherwise, employed in the care or management of the trust property";
- (e) whether in the existing Act (X of 1919) under section 9, it is laid down that "the Trustees shall appoint such officers and servants as may be necessary or proper for the care or management of the trust property";
- (f) why the powers of the Trustees of the Indian Museum to remove or suspend officers and servants of the Indian Museum conferred on them by a previous Act have been taken back and restricted;
- (g) whether under the existing Act, the Trustees are empowered to remove any officer or servant of the Indian Museum;
- (h) whether the officers and servants of the Trustees of the Indian Museum are entitled to salaries, allowances, pensions and leave of absence from duty in accordance with the Civil Service Regulations, under section 13 of the existing Act (X of 1910);

- (i) whether the Trustees of the Indian Museum are empowered to pay the salaries, allowances and pensions of the officers and servants of the Indian Museum; if so, under what section of the existing Act;
- (j) whether section 9 of the existing Act (X of 1910) only empowers the Trustees of the Indian Museum to assign pay to the officers and servants of the Indian Museum;
- (k) what is meant by the word "to assign"; what is the difference between payment and assignment;
- (l) who provides the pay from which the assignment is made by the Trustees;
- (m) who pays the pension of the officers and servants of the Indian Museum;
- (n) the difference between Government service and public service; and the functions of the Public Services Commission; whether it deals with the case of any body who is not a Government servant; and
- (o) the distinctions between a public servant and a Government servant?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the latter part of the preamble to Act XXII of 1876.

(c), (i) and (ii). It is a grant-in-aid institution which exists for the benefit of the public. There are no rules that prohibit the grant of financial assistance to such an institution.

(d) and (e). Yes.

(f) and (g). The Honourable Member is referred to section 16 of the General Clauses Act, 1897. The Trustees still have the power to remove any officer or servant of the Indian Museum.

(h). The officers and servants are, as regards their salaries, allowances and pensions and their leave of absence from duty, subject to the rules which under the Civil Service Regulations for the time being in force would be applicable if their service was service under Government.

(i) Yes. There are no specific provisions on the point in the Act.

(j) and (k). The words "assign pay" in the section in question mean no more than "fix and pay salaries".

(l) Government make an annual grant-in-aid to the Trustees of the Indian Museum from which the cost of establishment employed by them is met.

(m) The pension of officers and servants of the Trustees is a proper charge on the Trustees' fund, but pending the creation of a pension fund, the pensionary charges of their establishment have been paid from the general revenues.

(n) and (o). A reference to section 21 of the Indian Penal Code will show the Honourable Member that not all public servants are Government servants. The latter are, broadly speaking, persons engaged and paid by Government for work done for Government. The functions of the Public Service Commission are set out in the Public Service Commission (Functions) Rules, 1926, published with the Home Department notification No. 178/14/24-Ests., dated the 14th October, 1926.

REFERENCE TO MR. GANDHI'S MOTIVES IN CONNECTION WITH THE HARIJAN CAMPAIGN IN "INDIA IN 1933-34".

987. *Mr. Suryya Kumar Som: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the observation contained in the Government publication "India in 1933-34" that "The Harijan Campaign had been started by Mr. Gandhi from motives other than a purely altruistic desire to remove social disabilities"?

(b) What are the materials on which this observation was made?

(c) Is not the book "India in 1933-34" written by a Government servant, and is it not published under the authority of Government?

(d) Are not Government aware that some allegation was made against Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in the Administration Report of the Government of Bengal, which has since been withdrawn by the said Government, after a strong objection was taken by the Pandit and the Press here and in England?

(e) Are Government prepared to take early steps to expunge the paragraph containing the observation from the book and make an unconditional apology for publishing such an observation against the greatest man of the present age?

(f) Are Government prepared to punish the officer who wrote the book "India in 1933-34"? If not, why not?

(g) Are Government prepared to take steps to stop the practice of their officers abusing their position to vilify leading men of India? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is presumably referring to a sentence which occurred on page 4 of the publication "India in 1933-34", which was as follows:

"In the circumstances it is natural that certain observers saw in the Harijan campaign motives other than a purely altruistic desire to remove social disabilities."

This sentence has thus been misquoted. The writer did not actually make a statement, such as is alleged in part (a) of the question, but referred to the views which certain persons had taken of the Harijan campaign. The sentence was based on contemporary reports and press articles in which this criticism of the Harijan campaign was made. The Press also at that time contained reports to the effect that public persons and associations in India had made this criticism of the movement. I am prepared to lay extracts from the Press on the table.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes.

(e) and (f). From the facts which I have stated in reply to (a) and (b) it will be seen that there was adequate material on which the sentence referred to was based. Government are not prepared to expunge the sentence nor to take any action against the officer who wrote the book.

(g) No such practice exists.

RECRUITMENT OF MUSLIMS IN PORT TRUSTS.

988. *Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: (a) Is it a fact that Government recently wrote to the various Port Trusts in India, suggesting recruitment of Muslims to the services under their Trust so as to redress communal inequalities on the lines adopted by Government?

(b) If so, will Government please place on the table a summary of the replies received by them from various Port Trusts?

(c) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the reports published in the papers regarding the resolutions of the Calcutta Port Trust and the speech of the Chairman, rejecting suggestions of the Government of India, and casting reflection on the entire Muslim community?

(d) Are Government prepared to take any action against such reflection on the entire Muslim community which has cast great resentment all over the country?

(e) Are Government prepared to suggest to the Port Commissioners of Calcutta to set up an independent committee for recruitment to its service through open advertisements?

(f) Will Government please place on the table a list showing the names and qualifications of persons appointed to the superior and upper subordinate posts in the Calcutta Port Trust?

(g) Are Government aware that considerable discontent exists amongst the minority communities against the method of recruitment followed by the Calcutta Port Trust?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) A statement will be laid on the table when all replies have been received.

(c) Government have seen the press reports, but not the resolution of the Port Commissioners or the speech of the Chairman. I would, however, say that information has been received that the Commissioners will do all that they can to see that suitable Muslim candidates are advised of future vacancies and given every encouragement to apply.

(d) On the information at present available, Government do not consider that action on the lines suggested is required.

(e) No. The power to fill appointments under the Calcutta Port Commissioners vests by law in the Chairman or Deputy Chairman, the Commissioners and the Local Government.

(f) The reply to this would entail the preparation of an extremely bulky statement, the labour involved in which would be, in the opinion of Government, entirely incommensurate with its value.

(g) No.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the Commissioners have said that they will consider the question of taking up Muslims on account of merit or only because they are Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have said that the Commissioners have said that they will do all they can to see that suitable Muslim candidates are advised of future vacancies and given every encouragement to apply.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Did the Honourable gentleman read the report of this Port Trust in which the speech of the Chairman is also quoted, and the note of dissent by the only Muslim Member specially in the case of Calcutta?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have said that Government have seen the press reports, but not the resolution of the Port Commissioners or the speech of the Chairman.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: The resolution is given in their proceedings: have Government seen their annual report?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: If the Honourable Member will specify the particular report, I can give a reply. I do not remember whether I have seen the particular report.

CHAIRMAN OF THE CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

989. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** Will Government please state the name, qualifications, salary and administrative capacity of the Chairman of the Calcutta Port Trust?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The Chairman is Mr. T. H. Elderton, whose salary is Rs. 4,000 per mensem. The fact that he has served the Calcutta Port Trust in high positions for 28 years is sufficient indication of his qualifications and administrative capacity.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Is there any special qualification for the Chairman of the Port Trust?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: He is English, and that is good enough!

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: By special qualification, does the Honourable Member mean any technical qualification?

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Yes.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No.

STEPS TO HAVE THE MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE OF THE REVISED SCALES OF PAY.

990. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Is it a fact that the new revised scales of pay fixed for new entrants to various services under the Central Government are lower than the existing scales of pay?

(b) If so, what steps are Government taking to have the maximum advantage of the revised scales of pay?

(c) Are Government considering any scheme of retiring Government servants, as soon as they complete 25 years' service?

(d) If so, when are they likely to enforce the scheme?

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row: (a) Yes, almost invariably.

(b) The revised scales were introduced with effect from the 16th of July, 1931, and were made applicable to all persons newly appointed to Government service on or after that date. Further, a person in service before the 16th of July, 1931, appointed to a post which has been created on or after that date and which is not a mere addition to a previously existing cadre or establishment, draws pay at rates which are fixed in relation to the revised rates for old posts. But as pay forms part of service conditions, a person appointed before that date on an old scale of pay is entitled to the full benefit of the old pay scales applicable to the cadre or establishment to which he belongs. In these circumstances, the full advantage from revising the scales of pay will not be secured until all posts are vacated in the normal course of time by persons entitled to the old pay scales.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know the reasons why Government are not considering any scheme of retiring Government servants, as soon as they complete 25 years of service in view of the likely gain to the State Exchequer, by retiring them and appointing fresh men on the lower scales of pay?

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row: Because we cannot, in the case of existing Government servants, except in the case of a few Government servants who are under the control of the Local Governments and of the Governor General, revise the service conditions to the disadvantage of the persons concerned who have got a Statutory right in most cases to continue on the existing scales of pay; and we cannot retire them immediately after completing 25 years' service, because, under their conditions of service, they can continue, in some cases till they have put in 35 years' service and in some other cases till they attain the age of 55 years.

APPLICATION OF SANCTIONS AGAINST ITALY.

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

(a) the effect of applying sanctions against Italy;

(b) what are the articles of imports and exports prohibited;

(c) how the foreign trade of India has been affected; and

(d) whether other markets have been found for any of the articles which Italy has now ceased to take from India?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: (a), (c) and (d). Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given by me to starred question No. 910 by Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given by me to part (a) of starred question No. 748 asked by Mr. S. Satyamurti.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there any machinery set up by this Government to follow the course of trade as raised in this question, or will they set up any machinery, so that Government may be put in possession of relevant facts, as early as they arise or immediately after?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I am not aware of any particular machinery set up for this purpose: as explained the other day, the whole question is receiving careful consideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Of whom?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: Presumably of the Commerce Department.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know, actually, of whom?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe. Does the Honourable Member mean the exact person or persons?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No. I am simply asking if any Department of the Government of India is pursuing this question, how far, that is to say, to what extent the foreign trade of India with Italy has been affected by the enforcement of these sanctions?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: The matter is certainly being examined and carefully watched.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: By whom?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: By the Commerce Department.

DIFFERENTIAL PUNISHMENTS TO EUROPEAN AND INDIAN SUBORDINATE TRANSPORTATION STAFF OF THE RAWALPINDI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

992. ***Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of men:

- (i) dismissed,
- (ii) discharged,
- (iii) reverted,
- (iv) reduced in grade, and
- (v) reduced in pay,

among the subordinate Transportation Staff of Rawalpindi Division, North Western Railway, from January 1934 to December 1935?

(b) Is it a fact that the victims in categories (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) were all Indians, and 95 per cent. of categories (iv) and (v) were also Indians?

(c) Is it a fact that the Indian Transportation staff of Rawalpindi Division has sustained the greatest loss as compared to the staff of other Divisions of the North Western Railway?

(d) Is it a fact that for the same offence with the same train, an Indian guard was reduced for six months, whereas a European guard was merely warned? Will Government please state the reason for this discrimination?

(e) Is it a fact that in connection with a side collision between two trains, an Indian Assistant Station Master was reverted as a guard, but the European driver who actually caused the accident was simply warned?

(f) Is it a fact that there have been several other cases of differential treatment?

(g) Are Government aware that this treatment has created serious discontent among the Indian Transportation staff of Rawalpindi Division?

(h) Is it a fact that the previous Divisional Superintendent who subsequently became Secretary of the Railway Board turned down many orders of this Divisional Transportation Officer?

(i) Is it a fact that the present Divisional Superintendent has not accepted a single appeal against the orders of this officer?

(j) Is it a fact that representations have also been made to the Agent through the Union, against the said officer?

(k) If the answers to the preceding parts be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to appoint a committee of some officers to enquire into his conduct as an officer, and to redress the grievances of those who have been unduly punished?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) (i) Dismissed Nil.

(ii) Discharged 5.

(iii) Reverted 3.

(iv) Reduced in grade 2.

(v) Reduced in pay 55.

'Revision' is not necessarily a punishment.

(b) As regards (a) (i), (ii) and (iii) the reply is in the affirmative, and as regards (a) (iv) and (v) the percentage given by the Honourable Member is approximately correct. It may, however, be pointed out that Indians form about 95 per cent. of the total subordinate transportation staff employed on the Rawalpindi division.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) I presume the Honourable Member is referring to a case in which a train ran through a station irregularly. The Indian was the guard in charge of the train and he attempted to conceal the offence. The European was the second guard and was not in charge of the train and so received a lesser punishment.

(e) I presume the Honourable Member is referring to a collision in the Rawalpindi Yard on the 11th April, 1934, in which it was held that the driver was in no way to blame. The assistant station master who had a very unsatisfactory record was correctly punished.

(f) and (g). The cases referred to in (d) and (e) do not indicate differential treatment, nor has any other case of alleged differential treatment been brought to notice. The administration is not aware of serious discontent among the Indian Transportation staff of the Rawalpindi division.

(h), (i) and (j). No.

(k) Government do not consider any enquiry is necessary.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I know, Sir, what was the personnel who made the inquiry into this matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I cannot say, Sir; but if the Honourable Member is anxious that this information should be obtained, I have no doubt he will put down a question to that effect.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. H. G. FRANKS AS THE NEWS EDITOR OF THE DELHI BROADCASTING STATION.

993. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Is it a fact that one Mr. Franks is appointed to the Chief Broadcasting Station for broadcasting information from the headquarters of Government to the rest of India?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state the special qualifications of this gentleman for the post?

(c) What are the terms of the appointment with regard to salary, leave, pension, gratuity, overseas allowance, exchange compensation, etc.?

(d) Has he served in the staff of a number of papers in Calcutta in the past? If so, what is the nature of the work he did, in what capacity and in how many papers and for how long?

(e) Has he been connected with Reuter's news service in India and if so, for how long?

(f) Was he connected in some capacity or other with some communal newspapers or magazines in Calcutta and if so, for how long?

(g) Is he the author of a book entitled "Queer India"?

(h) Are Government aware of the criticism of the *London Times* in its literary supplement regarding the book written by this gentleman?

(i) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons why the Public Service Commission has not been directed to call for suitable candidates from all over India and choose the best from amongst them?

(j) Are Government prepared to reconsider their choice?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) to (e) and (g) to (j). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the replies given by me on the 27th February, 1936, to questions Nos. 870 and 909 by Mr. Suryya Kumar Som and Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant respectively and the supplementaries. I may add with regard to part (a) that Mr. Franks is the News Editor and is responsible mainly for the compilation of the News Bulletin from press agency telegrams. He has nothing to do with the actual broadcasting of news or other information from the Delhi Station.

(d) and (f). I understand that Mr. Franks was the Editor of the *Star of India* in Calcutta for two or three years.

(e) Yes, for one year.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: May I know, Sir, if Mr. Franks is competent enough to do the work entrusted to him? That is the only point with which we are concerned.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I answered that question the other day.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There were perhaps a very large number of questions put on this subject the other day.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: May I know the answer to part (j) of this question, Sir?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have also answered that.

Seth Govind Das: Sir, I want to put only question No. 995, because 994 has already been answered.

†994 *.

MISS MAYO'S BOOK ENTITLED "THE FACE OF MOTHER INDIA".

995. ***Seth Govind Das:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they are aware that the publication entitled "The Face of Mother India" had reached India before the book was proscribed by Government;

(b) how many copies came into India before the imposition of the ban;

(c) whether they seized any copies of this book from private possession in this country after the book was proscribed;

(d) whether they approached His Majesty's Government to have this book proscribed throughout the British Empire, or within such dominions of His Majesty's Empire wherever possible;

(e) if not, whether they will state their difficulties for not having done so and whether they are prepared to do so immediately;

(f) whether they proscribed the book after obtaining consent from the Secretary of State for the purpose; and

(g) whether they are prepared to lay on the table a full text of the correspondence that ensued between themselves and the Secretary of State in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). I have no information as to the exact number but I think very few copies came to India.

(d) and (e). The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to Mr. Satyamurti's question No. 966.

(f) No, the Government of India took the action on their own initiative. I, however, invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given in the House of Commons on the 10th of February to a question about this book. The Under Secretary of State stated as follows:

"The book was proscribed on the grounds that it would give deep offence to Hindus and outrage their religious feelings and would also increase communal tension. My noble friend (the Secretary of State) entirely shares the view taken of the book

by authorities in India and cannot but regret that currency should be given to opinions which would have this unfortunate result."

(g) No. It is not customary to lay on the table correspondence between the Government of India and the Secretary of State.

BAN ON THE CONGRESS ORGANISATION IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

996. *Seth Govind Das: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Congress organisation in the North-West Frontier Province is under Government ban;
- (b) if so, whether they will state their reasons that justify the continuance of the ban on the Congress organisation in the North-West Frontier Province; and
- (c) whether they are prepared to remove it immediately?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) The North-West Frontier Provincial *Jirga*, (otherwise Frontier Provincial Congress Committee) with District and local *jirgas* subordinate thereto, is an unlawful association within the meaning of the Criminal Law Amendment Act.

(b) and (c). The reasons for maintaining the ban on this organisation were fully explained by me in the debate on the adjournment motion on February 5th, 1935. In the view of the Local Government with which the Government of India agree, it is not desirable to remove the ban on this organisation. There are, however, I understand, now Congress Parliamentary Boards being formed in the districts and as these follow constitutional methods, they are of course allowed to function without let or hindrance.

Seth Govind Das: After the adjournment motion, don't Government think that the time has now come to remove the ban?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have said that the Local Government, with whom the Government of India are in agreement, consider that it is not desirable to remove the ban.

Seth Govind Das: What are those activities of the Congress on account of which the Local Government think that the ban should not be removed?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I explained that in speaking on the adjournment motion on the 5th of February, 1935.

Mr. M. S. Aney: What are the activities of the Congress after February, 1935, which, according to the Local Government, justify the continuing of the ban?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have already explained that.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. MUDIE AS OFFICER ON SPECIAL DUTY IN THE RAILWAY BOARD.

997. *Seth Govind Das: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Mr. Mudie's appointment to the Statutory Railway Board will still be requisitioned despite the rejection of the item of Rs. 35,000, the amount of his salary, by the Railway Standing Finance Committee on 31st January, 1936;
- (b) whether they desire to meet this amount from the general allotment of the Railway Board;
- (c) if not, how else they propose to meet this amount;
- (d) whether Mr. Mudie's appointment is an absolute necessity; and
- (e) whether there is none in India among Indians who could serve the purpose?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes. Mr. Mudie's salary is non-votable.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes.

(e) Possibly there are, but Government do not consider that racial considerations should be taken into account in filling such an appointment.

DELAY IN THE INTRODUCTION OF REVISED SCALES OF PAY FOR THE CENTRAL AND ALL-INDIA SERVICES.

998. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Is it a fact that revised and reduced scales of salary were given effect to in the case of new entrants to provincial services by Local Governments about three years ago?

(b) Was it at that time stated by Government, that similar reduced and revised scales of pay would be introduced with respect to new entrants in All-India and Central services?

(c) Was the Secretary of State for India addressed on the subject and if so, when?

(d) What is the reason for the delay in introducing the revised scales for the Central and All-India services?

(e) Were new entrants in any of the All-India and Central services taken on the specific understanding that their scales of pay would be subject to revision and if so, what are those services?

(f) When will the revised scales of pay be given effect to?

(g) What is the probable saving for the first ten years, according to the revised scales of pay?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) It is understood that various Local Governments have been revising the scales of pay for their services, but as it is not incumbent upon Local Governments to consult the Government of India in such matters it is not known whether they have all completed the revision or not.

(b), (c), (d) and (f). The scales of pay of future entrants into most of the services under the control of the Governor General in Council have, after very careful consideration, been revised during the last few years and in the majority of cases very appreciable reductions have been made. The revision of the scales of pay of future entrants into the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police is a matter for the consideration and decision of the Secretary of State who, as has been explained by me in this House in reply to question No. 129 on the 6th February, 1936, decided to postpone further consideration of the matter until after the passing of the Constitution Act. This question will now be further considered.

(e) Entrants into the Indian Police since 1932 have been warned that the revision of the existing rates of pay for the service is under consideration. In the case of the Central Services, under the rule-making control of the Governor General in Council, the terms of the Finance Department Resolution No. D./4523-Ex. I/31, dated the 9th July, 1931, which will be found in the appendix of the Revised Rates of Pay Rules, specifically imply that conditions of service, including pay, would be liable to revision in the case of those appointed on or after the 16th July, 1931.

(g) The Government of India have not calculated the probable savings that will accrue for the first ten years from the revision of the pay of the services under their control, and they are unable to state what savings would accrue from hypothetical reductions in the scales of pay of the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: At what stage is the consideration of that matter now?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The consideration of what?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Secretary of State is revising the scales of pay of the All-India Services, and I want to know at what stage the matter has reached?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Does the Honourable Member mean the revision of pay of the All-India services which are under the control of the Secretary of State?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Yes.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I cannot say. We addressed our views to the Secretary of State a long time ago.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have the Government of India reminded the Secretary of State of his promise to consider the revisions of pay after the Constitution Act is passed?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I expect they have, but I am not sure.

CONFERENCE OF THE REFORMS OFFICERS OF GOVERNMENT HELD AT DELHI.

999. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Was there a conference of the various reforms officers of the Government at Delhi in the month of January this year?

(b) What were the objects of the conference and what are the results achieved?

(c) Do Government propose to obtain any uniformity in the Legislative Rules of the various Provincial Legislatures?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) Yes.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the detailed reply given on 3rd March to parts (a) and (b) of Mr. Satyamurti's question No. 953 on the subject.

(c) Possibly some uniformity may be secured in regard to the matters dealt with in the proviso to section 84 (1) and in section 84 (3) of the Act which are decided by the Governor acting in his discretion. The main legislative rules will, however, be framed in due course by the new legislatures themselves under the authority of the first part of section 84 (1) and the securing of uniformity does not therefore rest in the hands of the Government of India.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will Government explain to us what he meant by Governor's Rules to which he referred in his previous answer?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I think I made that quite clear. May I read it again:

"Uniformity may be secured in regard to the matters dealt with in the proviso to section 84(1) and in section 84(3) of the Act which are decided by the Governor acting in his discretion. The main legislative rules, will, however, be framed in due course by the new legislatures themselves under the authority of the first part of section 84(1) and the securing of uniformity does not therefore rest in the hands of the Government of India."

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am sorry the Honourable Member has not understood me. In his previous answer he referred to the Governor's Rules, and I want to know what those Governor's Rules are?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member got the previous answer?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Yes, Sir. In today's reply, he has referred to a previous answer

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: The trouble is that my Honourable friend will not read section 84 (3) which indicates the matters on which the rules are being framed.

DETENTION OF MR. RAM KISHAN UNDER REGULATION III OF 1818.

1000. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that the Punjab Government have arrested and detained Mr. Ram Kishan, B.A. (National) under Regulation III of 1818?

(b) Will Government state the date when he was arrested and the reasons for his arrest?

(c) Have Government given Mr. Ram Kishan a chance to prove his innocence?

RESERVATION OF THE INTER-IMPERIAL TRADE TO THE BRITISH FLAG.

1043. *Mr. S. Satyamurti (on behalf of Seth Govind Das): (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received any Despatch from the Board of Trade in England in connection with the reservation of the Inter-Imperial Trade to the British Flag?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the said Despatch?

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the communication that they may have sent in reply to the said Despatch?

(d) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the commercial and the shipping interests were consulted by them before forwarding their reply to the Board of Trade?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) No.

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

STEAMER SERVICES ENGAGED IN PASSENGER TRAFFIC BETWEEN BOMBAY AND EUROPE.

1044. *Mr. S. Satyamurti (on behalf of Seth Govind Das): (a) Will Government be pleased to state if their attention has been drawn to the following remarks made by Sir William Currie, Deputy Chairman of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company at the annual meeting of the Company held on the 5th December, 1934?

"British shipping serving India is grateful for the circular issued by the Government of India expressing the hope that the services of British ships should be sought by those travelling to and from India under the Lee Commission scheme. It was suggested to us the other day that the issue of this circular was a species of flag discrimination. But I do not agree that it comes within this category. On the contrary it is, I think, only an example of the old adage that 'he who pays the piper calls the tune'."

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether it is British shipping that pays for the passages under the Lee Commission scheme or whether it is the Indian taxpayers who pay for these passages?

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if it is not a fact that the largest number of passengers travelling to and from India and from and to Europe arrive at or depart from Bombay?

(d) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if it is not a fact that the Lloyd Triestino is the only regular passenger service other than the Peninsular and Oriental Line engaged in the passenger traffic from Bombay to Europe and *vice versa*?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government have seen the statement referred to.

(b) The passages in question are paid for from Government revenues.

(c) Yes.

Statement showing weight and general health of State prisoner Ram Kishan detained at the Central Jail, Lahore.

Weight at the time of arrest—112 lbs.
General health—Good.

Date.	Weight.	Health.	Remarks.
	lbs.		
1-8-1934	116	Good	
3-9-1934	118	Fair	
1-10-1934	118	Fair	
1-11-1934	125	Good	
1-12-1934	122½	Fair	Had had a few attacks of Malaria.
2-1-1935	121	Improving	Had B. Coli infection during last month. Blood was examined at Provincial Bacteriological Laboratory. Vaccine prepared. Injections given.
1-2-1935	125	Good	
1-3-1935	119	Is being watched.	In the last week of February he developed some boils in his left ear, which gave him evening temperature to 99. His boils were cured.
1-4-1935	124	Improving	Shown improvement during the last week of March.
1-5-1935	122	Indifferent	He had had a mild attack of Influenza of which he was cured, his evening rise of temperature to 99 continued.
1-6-1935	126	Fair	Had low temperature during the 1st fortnight; later on improving.
30-6-1935	125	Good	
31-7-1935	123	Good	
13-8-1935	123	Good	
30-9-1935	117	Good	
30-10-1935	116	Fair	
18-11-1935	115	..	Report of the Mayo Hospital, Lahore:— Examination revealed physical signs of infiltration of both lungs more especially upper part of the left. There was definite evidence of active disease of left lung and signs suggestive of the active disease at the lower part of the right lung. T. B. Bacilli in sputum.
31-12-1935	116	Not good.	
31-1-1936	125	Improving.	

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I make a submission to you on the reply given by the Home Member this morning?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair cannot allow any argument.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I want to make the submission to you, arising out of the reply given this morning by the Honourable the Home Member in reference to sub-clause (g) of question No. 995. I am talking of a general rule of practice.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair cannot allow that at this stage.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 531, asked by Seth Govind Das on the 17th February, 1936.

INDIAN EXHIBITION AT THE CHRIST CHURCH, WESTMINSTER.

The Honourable Member's question is presumably based upon an article which appeared in the *Hindu* of the 26th November, 1935, and in which the London correspondent of that paper quoted from an article in a little known English paper called the *South London Press* and reproduced the criticisms mentioned in the question. A short time later the same correspondent sent another article to the *Hindu* which appeared in the *Hindu* of the 30th December, 1935, in which he explained that he had not seen the exhibition himself and in effect withdrew the implied criticisms contained in his previous article by pointing out that the object of the organisers of the exhibition was to unfold to all who attended it a broad general picture of India as a whole and to emphasise its possibilities for development. The organisers of the Exhibition, the London Missionary Society, also wrote to the editor of the *Hindu*, but as far as I am aware the letter has not been published in that newspaper. As this letter shows clearly the object of the organisers of the exhibition and their sympathy with India, I annex a copy of it to this statement. It is clear from this that the criticisms of the exhibition to which publicity has been given in this country were not justified and that there is no need for Government to take any action in the matter.

Copy of a letter from the London Missionary Society, London, to the Editor, "*Hindu*", Madras, dated the 3rd January 1936.

"I have received from several people in different parts of the Madras Presidency, also from other parts of India where newspapers appear to have copied from the *Hindu*, extracts from your London letter published in *Hindu*, extracts from your London letter published in your issue of the 26th November, 1935, criticising a recent Exhibition in Westminster organised by a local group of Churches connected with the London Missionary Society. Your own correspondent did not visit the Exhibition and probably now regrets having published criticisms of it on second-hand evidence. The actual criticism was published in a little-known local paper and although the organisers of the Exhibition saw it, the misrepresentations in it were so obvious, and the range which the criticism was likely to have seemed so restricted that at the time they thought it unnecessary to publish a reply. Large numbers of people had seen the Exhibition and no-one but the reporter in the local newspaper had felt critical about it. Not having had the advantage of living in India they did not know the Tamil proverb that though the snake be small you should hit it with a big stick, and naturally thought they could safely leave alone a little misrepresentation. Now the London Missionary Society has been most unjustly pilloried all over India.

It has been ascertained that the reporter whose statement was quoted in your London letter came into the small Exhibition referred to at a time when a well-known Indian gentleman, with whom India's reputation is perfectly safe, was addressing a meeting, and sat there for a time. Each day at the Opening of the Exhibition a speech was made by a distinguished Indian. Near where the reporter sat there happened to be a stall shewing a few objects connected with religion, including one or two idols, though these were not in any way specially conspicuous. He left before the speech was over and apparently did not look at the rest of the Exhibition or he would have seen some very interesting and attractive exhibits concerning India in general, as well as concerning the social and educational services which the missionary society tries to render in the name of Christ. He would have seen Indian games played by English children with great appreciation, and would have found an intense and sympathetic interest in Indian problems in the minds of a score or so of honorary Stewards who had been studying text books on India for some weeks past. He did not read his programme or he could not possibly have made the statements which he did. Its opening pages include pictures of the Himalayas and other features shewing India as a great and beautiful country.

(1990)

There is excellent evidence that this small Exhibition has actually heightened the love of India in many people's hearts as well as strengthened their desire to serve India in the Christian spirit. Amongst those who addressed meetings or shewed lantern slides there were men and women whose whole working life has been spent in India and who are as sensitive for India's good name as if they were Indian themselves.

Things are being said in the Indian press just now about the means which missionary societies use to educate their constituencies, which to those of us who know the facts are very strange. As one who has spent 25 years in India and who is in intimate touch with the educational work of the London Missionary Society in Britain, may I assure you that throughout the Churches of this country there is a widespread love and respect for India which rests upon the statements which missionaries are continually making. We are all human and doubtless there are lapses here and there, but broadly speaking it is quite untrue to say that the missionaries of societies like ours dwell only on the darker side of Indian life. We should be quite happy to have British life portrayed in India as fairly as Indian life was portrayed in the Westminster Exhibition.

With best wishes for the *Hindu*, of which I am an old reader.

Information promised in reply to unstarred questions Nos. 142 and 144 asked by Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal on the 18th February, 1936.

APPLICATION OF THE NEW SCALES OF PAY TO THE RE-EMPLOYED STAFF OF THE AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

142. (a) Certain memorials were considered and rejected.

(b) and (c). Government servants selected for retrenchment were compulsorily discharged and were entitled to certain concessions under the general orders issued by the Governor General in Council. Under the Re-employed Personnel (Conditions of Service) Rules and the Revised Rates of Pay Rules, retrenched persons are in the event of re-employment regarded as new entrants to Government service and are entitled only to the revised rates of pay. This equally applies to the retrenched staff of the Audit and Accounts Offices.

(d) No question arose of warning the retrenched persons of the consequences of accepting the retrenchment concessions, because whether they were retrenched or not was not a matter for their option. As there has been a break in their service, they are not, under the rules mentioned in the reply to parts (b) and (c), now entitled to their former status.

HARDSHIPS OF CLERKS DISCHARGED FROM PAY AND ACCOUNTS OFFICES IN THE UNITED PROVINCES AND IN DELHI.

144. (a) Yes. The establishments to which these retrenched clerks belonged agitated for retrenchment concessions when the Pay and Accounts Offices were broken up. The question of intimating any adverse consequences did not arise as the terms to be offered on re-employment were settled later.

(b) As there was neither guarantee nor even prospect of re-employing the retrenched personnel when they were retrenched and as the rules regulating re-employment were framed later, there could have been no reasonable belief about refund at the time the gratuity was granted.

(c) As far as can be ascertained from records, it appears that these re-employed personnel submitted memorials on this subject in July, 1933. Their request was not accepted as the extra cost was considered to be prohibitive.

Information promised in reply to the short notice questions asked by Messrs. S. Satyamurti, M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar and T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar on the 18th February, 1936.

RIOTS IN ZANZIBAR.

Following the recent disturbances in the Protectorate, the Government of Zanzibar have appointed a Commission of Inquiry with the Honourable Mr. W. T. S. Freiz, Acting Chief Justice of Zanzibar, as Chairman. The Indian community is represented on the Commission by Mr. Ahmed Ayub, an Indian Advocate, the other members being Dr. W. L. Webb, Director of Medical Services, Sheik Ali bin Ameir-El-Marhubi, Arab member of the Legislative Council, and Archdeacon Elliott.

The terms of reference to the Commission are to enquire into and report upon the causes, direct and indirect, of the riots which took place in Zanzibar town on the 7th February, 1936, including any circumstances which may reasonably be considered to have been a contributory factor.

Information promised in reply to parts (l) & (m) of starred question No. 745, asked by Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant on the 24th February, 1936.

POSITION OF INDIANS IN IRAQ.

(l) Indians may enter Iraq on obtaining an entry *visa* for Iraq which entitles them to remain in Iraq without other formality for three months.

(m) Indians intending to reside in Iraq for more than three months are required to register with the Iraqi Police and to obtain a residence permit valid for one year and renewable thereafter. This residence permit is in general granted on the production of a guarantee of repatriation by a British Consular Officer who in turn requires either the deposit of Rs. 100 or the guarantee of some individual or firm known to him, to enable him to issue this guarantee. Deposits are refunded to the depositors on their leaving Iraq, in so far as they have not been utilized for repatriation expenses.

SIR FREDERICK WHYTE'S NOTES REFERRED TO BY THE HONOURABLE THE HOME MEMBER DURING THE DISCUSSION ON THE ADJOURNMENT MOTION ON THE 24TH FEBRUARY, 1936.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): Sir, I lay on the table a copy of Sir Frederick Whyte's notes, dated the 17th September, 1921, and the 14th October, 1921, referred to by me in the course of discussion on the adjournment motion on the 24th February, 1936.

A note dated 17th September 1921 by Sir A. F. Whyte.

I notice that it is the practice for clerks and other subordinate officers in Government employment to approach Members of the Legislature and to ask them to air any grievance they may have on the Question Paper of the Legislative Assembly. As an instance of this I may refer to Q. D. No. 815.

There is an administrative rule at home by which all candidates for office under Government are warned that any attempt to enlist the influence of Members of Parliament in favour of their candidature may entail disqualification and, certainly, will not promote their success.

Will you ascertain privately from the Departments whether such a rule would be possible or advisable here. It would assist us in excluding Questions from the Order Paper of the Assembly which ought to be excluded, and yet are difficult to disallow under existing conditions.

A. F. WHYTE,—17-9-21,
President, Legislative Assembly.

A note dated 14th October, 1921, by Sir A. F. Whyte.

At the Presidents' Conference, we agreed that questions likely to interfere with the discipline or proper working of a Department were undesirable and one President went so far as to say that he had disallowed them as not being of public concern. I think this is a sound view. There are presumably means whereby subordinates can approach the head of an office when they have a real grievance; if so, such questions cannot become 'of public concern' unless and until the prescribed method has been tried and failed—and I would add, unless the grievance is substantial.

A. F. WHYTE,—14-10-21,
President, Legislative Assembly.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): May I make a submission to you. The other day, unless my eyes deceived me, I found the Honourable the Home Member reading from a bulky volume. The Secretary of the Independent Party then raised the point that he was reading from the proceedings of the Presidents' Conference, which he claimed was a confidential document, and you were then pleased to say that they were confidential. Then, my friend, the Home Member, stated that he was reading from the notes sent by Sir Frederick Whyte to the Government of India. I then asked him whether he would be pleased to place the document on the table of the House. You were then pleased to ask him whether he would be pleased to do so and he said 'Yes'. Then, Sir, on that, I wrote to the Secretary of the Assembly asking for that document, and he wrote to me and said that the Honourable the Home Member will place on the table a copy of the document from which he quoted. I rely on the words "document from which he quoted". I submit to you that according to "Parliamentary Practice" as defined by May, not the particular note which he quoted, but the document as a whole has got to be placed on the table of the House. I trust we are entitled to that.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair has considered the matter. If the Honourable Member will refer to the notes, he will find that they are complete.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It is rather hard on us. I want the book. I am entitled to it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable the Home Member was not quoting the book, and the Honourable Member is not entitled to the whole book.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I saw it myself.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He is entitled only to the notes which were forwarded to the Government, and he has got the complete notes. The Chair has gone through the relevant passages in May and the ruling. The Honourable Member is not entitled to the whole book.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Is the Honourable the Home Member entitled to give only extracts and not the whole context?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable the Home Member produced an extract that does not give the context, then the Honourable Member is entitled to ask for the context as well. As the Honourable the Home Member in this case has supplied the full notes, there is no question of any context being kept out.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May we have an exact copy?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I have not compared it with the original. How do you know, that it is a correct copy?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair cannot ask the Honourable Members of the Government to furnish the whole book. He has not read out the book. He said that he has got a note by Sir Frederick Whyte and he has placed that on the table.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How can you be sure that it contains every thing or that it is accurate?

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the objection to placing it on the table, so that we may compare?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS FOR THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ROADS.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of six members to serve on the Standing Committee for Roads which will be constituted to advise the Governor General in Council in the administration of the Road Account during the financial year 1936-37."

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of six members to serve on the Standing Committee for Roads which will be constituted to advise the Governor General in Council in the administration of the Road Account during the financial year 1936-37."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I may inform Honourable Members, that, for the purpose of election of Members to the Standing Committee for Roads, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations up to 12 Noon on Monday, the 9th March, and the election, if necessary, will, as usual, be held in the Secretary's Room in the Council House on Wednesday, the 11th March, 1936, between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M. The election will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

THE DECREES AND ORDERS VALIDATING BILL.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Law Member): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to remove certain doubts and to establish the validity of certain proceedings in High Courts of Judicature in British India.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to remove certain doubts and to establish the validity of certain proceedings in High Courts of Judicature in British India."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN LAC CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Lac Cess Act, 1930, 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 Indian Lac Cess Act, 1930, for certain purposes."

The motion was adopted.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN CINEMATOGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That Mr. A. S. Hands be re-appointed to the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1918, for a certain purpose, as passed by the Council of State."

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

"That Mr. A. S. Hands be re-appointed to the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1918, for a certain purpose, as passed by the Council of State."

The motion was adopted.

REPORT OF THE INDIAN DELIMITATION COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): Sir, I beg to move:

"That those portions of the Report of the Indian Delimitation Committee which relate to the Federal Legislature be taken into consideration."

Honourable Members will remember that there was an assurance given in this House by myself and in pursuance of that assurance this motion is being moved. I desire, Sir, to say only a few words. The language which has been used here is an exact reproduction of the language previously used, but I quite realise the difficulty of keeping matters which relate to the Federal Legislature and those which do not in two water-tight compartments, and I quite realise that it is possible and it can reasonably be submitted that matters which may be said from one point of view not to relate to the Federal Legislature may nevertheless be said to have an indirect bearing on the Federal Legislature. I am making this statement, because, in case various amendments are moved, I am not going every time to raise any objection. I will leave the matter entirely to you, Sir, and if you think that it is within the scope of this motion, we really do not want to take a strenuously hostile attitude. If any amendment is not permissible, then that may not be allowed, but if for any reason such an amendment can be moved on the ground that the subject-matter has a direct or indirect bearing on the Federal Legislature, then the Government will have no objection to the matter being discussed subject to your ruling. Now, Sir, as a matter of fact, so far as the portions of the Report of the Indian Delimitation Committee which relate to the Federal Legislature are concerned, the Government of India have not yet come to any definite conclusion; and, I am sure, the discussions that will take place in the House will be carefully considered by the Government before they finally decide as to what their recommendations ought to be. I understand that there is a proposal for referring this matter to a Committee and possibly, strictly speaking, I ought to wait until that motion is moved.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): A short notice of the motion has been handed in just now.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I would rather, on second consideration, wait until that is moved. I desire also to inform the House that as the Government of India have not yet come to any conclusions as to what their recommendations are going to be, it will be difficult and embarrassing for any individual Government official to express any definite opinion on the floor of this House, and, in the circumstances of this case, and in view of the fact that no conclusions have been arrived at by the Government of India, they do not propose to take any part in the

proceedings, although, whatever conclusions may be arrived at by whatever means, we are bound to consider them ourselves and to send them forward to the proper quarter at the earliest possible opportunity. Sir, I move.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal: Landholders): Sir, may I ask for a piece of information from my Honourable friend, the Law Member? He said that the Government are not taking part in the discussion of this matter. Will Government consider and give effect to the decision of the elected Members of this House in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, my Honourable friend asks for information which has in fact already been supplied by me just now, viz., that, whatever the decisions and recommendations are, they will be duly considered by us. I did say that.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney (Nominated Non-Official): Will the Honourable Member kindly inform the House—in view of the wording of his motion in which he says that:

"That those portions of the Report of the Indian Delimitation Committee which relate to the Federal Legislature be taken into consideration."

or will you, Sir, give us a ruling, whether the Government are going strictly to confine the discussion today to Federal subjects only, or will the Government allow us to discuss and refer to matters concerning the Provincial Legislatures which form the nucleus of the Federal Legislature. I would like to have a clear understanding on that point.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, it is rather unfortunate that within five minutes, for the second time, information has been wanted on a matter on which I gave full and ample information, viz., I made it perfectly clear in my speech that it was not intended to construe those words strictly, and it would be for the Honourable the President, after hearing the House if necessary, to give us a decision; but we, as a Government, shall not take up an actively hostile attitude as to whether a matter which, although not, strictly speaking, appertaining to the Federal Legislature, can be indirectly and reasonably be said to have a bearing on the Federal Legislature, can be discussed or not.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Thank you.

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

"That those portions of the Report of the Indian Delimitation Committee which relate to the Federal Legislature be taken into consideration."

The Honourable Member, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, wants to move an amendment. The Chair would ask him why he did not send in notice as he should have done according to rule?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): In fact, Sir, I did send in a notice, but yesterday was a holiday.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Why not before that?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: I tried to study the report before giving notice of any such motion. If no objection is taken by any Honourable Member, I would request you, Sir, to suspend the Rules of Business.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If no objection is taken by anyone.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: So far as we are concerned, we do not take objection.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Sir, I move:

"That for the words 'be taken into consideration' the following be substituted:

'be referred to a Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar; the Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan, Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai, Mr. S. Satyamurti, Mr. M. Asaf Ali, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, Mr. M. A. Jinnah, Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr. M. S. Aney, Sardar Mangal Singh, Sir Leslie Hudson, Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji, Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah, Mr. N. M. Joshi.'"

and I would just now, Sir, like to add thereto, if the House will permit me, the names of:

"Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta and Pandit Nilakantha Das and the Mover, with instructions to submit their report before March 18th, 1936."

Now, Sir, the reason why I consider it necessary to refer this Report to a Committee, instead of having it discussed on the floor of this House, will, I believe, commend itself to every Honourable Member of this House. The Report covers wide ground.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Very wide.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: The issues to which it relates are of a varied and complex character; it is difficult to deal with them in an adequate manner or to do justice to them within the limited time that can be available for discussing the contents of the Report on the floor of the House, and, moreover, the questions arising out of the Report will have to be considered from various aspects and points of view. In these circumstances, I feel that the best way to deal with the matter is to refer it to a Committee. There are many points which have to be considered, and, if one were even to narrate them, it would take many minutes. I would refer only to some of the important issues which are covered by it. For example, whether there should be multi-member constituencies or single-member constituencies, whether the representatives of the Scheduled castes should be returned by means of the distributive vote or by cumulative voting or by the single non-transferable vote, whether the proportion of representation of urban and rural areas as given in the Report is fair or just or it is not so, whether the electorates and the qualifications prescribed for the electors in regard to special constituencies, such as those of landholders, commerce, labour, etc., need any revision or should be adopted as they are, whether the method of voting as prescribed by the Report is a sound one or not, whether the secrecy of the ballot can or cannot be preserved in the manner suggested by the Report and so on and so forth; there are numerous other questions. Without dealing with them on their merits or at any

length, I suggest that the best method and the only profitable, useful and effective course of meeting the situation is by making a reference of the entire report to a Committee of this House. I have tried to suggest a committee in which all interests which are specially interested in the Report are adequately represented. I have no objection to putting in names that might be considered necessary or even taking out names which might be considered unnecessary. I do not want the Committee to be much bigger than it is. You may add one or two. I believe there are no interests ignored. As I said I am not committed to the actual personnel I have announced.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Is the Honourable Member himself satisfied that it is representative enough?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Yes, Sir. The Leaders of all Parties are in it.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): What about unattached Members?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair thinks there are three names who do not belong to any Party.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: There are Honourable Members in the list who do not belong to any Party even, such as Mr. Joshi who represents labour, Mr. Rajah who represents the Depressed Classes and Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji who represents commerce

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): Who represents loyalty in that list?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: I have included the name of the Honourable the Leader of the House in charge of Law which is the fountain-head of loyalty, and I have put him at the top and at the head of the Committee. I hope, Sir, that considering the nature of the problem which is to be tackled and considering the numerous questions of detail and pretty large number of questions of principle which are involved, the House will agree with me, in the view, that I have submitted that the only proper, appropriate and effective manner of dealing with the question is by means of reference to a Committee. In view of the fact that the decision of the Committee should not be delayed and so that the Government might be in possession of the views of this House as early as possible, I have put the latest date as the 18th March by which the report of this Committee should be submitted. It will be for this House and for the Government to decide whether the report of the Committee will be considered by this House or whether this Committee will be empowered to submit the report on behalf of this House—the decision rests with this House. I would personally prefer its coming back to this House. (Hear, hear.) In any case, it is better that the matter should be sifted in committee rather than there should be a sort of discussion which is likely to be discursive on the floor of this House for a decision of these intricate and important matters. As they do not affect any fundamental questions of constitutional policy or communal representation, but only methods of representation, I believe, no embarrassing situations will arise. In the circumstances, I expect that this proposal of mine will be accepted unanimously by the House and the Government will be good enough to accede to it.

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Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There are two matters which are brought to the Chair's notice. The Chair does not think there is any definite procedure laid down for an amendment of this character. Anyhow, the Chair finds that the Honourable Member has not mentioned who will act as Chairman of the Committee and how many will constitute the quorum of the Committee. Perhaps he would like to provide for these matters.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: I suggest that the Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar be the Chairman of the Committee and that seven Members do constitute a quorum. Add the following at the end of my motion:

"That the Chairman of the Committee will be the Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar and that the presence of seven Members will constitute the quorum for the Committee."

Sir Leslie Hudson (Bombay: European): I propose, if there is no objection, to add the name of Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney to the list of Members on the Committee.

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

"That for the words 'be taken into consideration' the following be substituted:

'be referred to a Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar; the Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan, Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai, Mr. S. Satyamurti, Mr. M. Asaf Ali, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, Mr. M. A. Jinnah, Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr. M. S. Aney, Sardar Mangal Singh, Sir Leslie Hudson, Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji, Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, Pandit Nilakantha Das, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney, and the Mover, with instructions to submit their report before the 18th March, 1936, and that the Chairman of the Committee will be the Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar and that the presence of seven Members will constitute a quorum for the Committee'."

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, I should like to make the position of myself and of Government clear in this matter. We are out to ascertain the opinion of non-official Members. As I have explained, Government as such have not come to any conclusion. We can have no objection if, instead of opinion being formed here as a result of debate on the floor of the House, it is formed by the deliberations of a committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair takes it the report will be submitted to the House and will be discussed.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: If the idea is that the recommendations which will be made or the opinions which will be formed or the Resolutions which will be passed there will represent the view of this House, to that I have no objection. But I understood my Honourable friend to say,—and that is the indication which you are giving me,—that after this report is made to the House there will be a discussion like any other report.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair takes it that is the intention, that the report should be submitted to the House.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Yes, Sir; I would certainly prefer the report to be made to the House. But if the choice came between having no committee or having a committee whose report might be submitted direct to Government, then I would rather have a discussion today on the principles of this report, and then a committee constituted in order to make a report in the light of the opinions that may be expressed.

Mr. President: Surely the Honourable Member does not want that the committee should decide the matter? It must be the House to decide on the report of the committee.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Yes, Sir, the House must decide it, naturally, according to usual practice.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: That is exactly my difficulty. We want to make it clear that we gave an undertaking, and in pursuance of that undertaking we have brought this motion before the House. We have given no undertaking, and I cannot undertake now, to give further time for the discussion of any report which may be made by the committee. A *via media* was suggested to me by the Mover, but I do not know whether it will be acceptable to the House. I thought what was suggested is that instead of having a discussion here on the points which are many and complicated and on which opinions are likely to be divergent, this committee will come to conclusions as to what ought to be their recommendations, and I thought I was being asked to accept that report as the view of this House. That can only be done by a delegation by the House, if it is permissible.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That cannot be done.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: If that cannot be done, then I desire to make it clear that in any case we cannot, so far as I myself and my Honourable colleague, Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan, are concerned, possibly serve on the committee in the circumstances. We have no objection to a purely non-official committee, but there the difficulty is that we cannot undertake to give further time for the discussion of the report of the committee. That is our position. In any case we do not propose to take part in the discussions of the committee, and I desire to make it clear that we are not in a position now to give any undertaking that further official time will be given for discussion of any report which may be made by the committee to the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Unless some clear precedent is produced that the House can delegate its functions like that to a committee, the Chair is not prepared to allow a motion of that character, if it is intended that the committee shall decide the question now raised before the House.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: So far as the terms of this motion go, the matter is being referred to a committee with instructions to report, that is, report to the principal body which is making reference. But, if any amendment is made from any quarter for modification of this, then will be the time to consider whether that amendment should or should not be made. Otherwise the terms of this motion are clear as they are.

Mr. President: The Chair wants to make it clear that the power of this House cannot be delegated in that way.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: The Honourable the Leader of the House has only expressed his difficulty about giving any undertaking today as to when he will be able to give time for the consideration of that report. That is after all a minor matter. When this House refers a matter to a committee and its report is submitted and it is a question of an urgent as well as of an important character, I have every hope that Government will be pleased to find time for it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has also suggested another difficulty,—the Chair does not know what the Honourable Member has to say to that,—that the Members of Government will not be able to serve on the committee.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Then the committee will have to be a non-official committee and it will elect its own Chairman and proceed with the business. But if it is necessary to nominate a Chairman, I will suggest the name of one of the Members who are here.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I hope there will be no misunderstanding; I may not be able to give time in this Session for a discussion of a report of this kind.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That being the position, the Chair cannot find time.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Anyway, the motion being before the House it has to be discussed. Whether Government will be able to find time or not is for them to consider.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That cannot be the subject-matter of a motion.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: We cannot introduce a motion that Government will have to find time. That is for them to consider. But I still believe that they are resourceful enough to be able to find time for us.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House and the Honourable Member must take this fact into consideration that the Leader of the House is positive that he cannot undertake to find time this Session. It is for him then to consider whether he will press this motion.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Sir, I rise on a point of order. The Honourable the Leader of the House said that he and his colleague will not be in a position to work on this committee. I believe, under Standing Order 40 of our Manual, no Select Committee of this House can be appointed. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This is not a Select Committee.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: There is no Bill before us.

Mr. M. S. Aney: It is a committee of the House that is being appointed to examine a particular report. I submit

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Rule 24A will apply.

Mr. M. S. Aney: The only provisions under which we can appoint committees like that must be on the lines of the provisions made for the appointment of Select Committees by the House, and that is the only provision of which we can take some advantage for the sake of appointing a committee. And for the appointment of such committees it has been distinctly laid down that the Member who is in charge of the department to which that particular motion refers has to be on that committee. It is not a question of his choice.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: That is for Select Committees upon a Bill and has no application to the present case.

Mr. M. S. Aney: That is the only analogy on which we can go.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I am referring to the rule and not to analogies.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Which rule is the Honourable Member referring to?

Mr. M. S. Aney: I refer to Standing Order 40.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That has no application. Rule 24A is the only rule which can apply. The Chair does not think there is any other rule.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Will the Honourable Member (Pandit Pant) move an amendment that these two names should be left out?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: I beg to withdraw the names of the Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar and the Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafarullah Khan as they do not want to be on the Committee.

Sir H. P. Mody (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): What then is the position? Is the Report coming before the House, and, if so, will the House have an opportunity of discussing it?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Not this Session apparently.

Sir H. P. Mody: Then, is the House to be deprived of the opportunity of pronouncing its opinion on any issue involved in the Report?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That will be the result.

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Sir H. P. Mody: Is that admissible? If that is the result,

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will know when the amendment comes on.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): These difficulties arise, it appears to me, from two causes. The first cause is that. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not want that sort of question to be discussed.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I am speaking on the amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair will come to that. If these two names are left out, who shall be the Chairman of the Committee?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, the Deputy President, will be the Chairman of the Committee.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the amendment is modified like that, the names of the Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar and the Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan will be omitted and the Chairman shall be Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta instead of Sir Nripendra Sircar.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: On a point of order. I think these two names have been accepted. Is it fair on the part of the House to alter the names after a decision has been taken?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No decision has been taken. I have simply read out the motion.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Do we adjourn at a quarter to one? (Laughter.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Today being Friday, the House is adjourned to 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.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, with your indulgence, I would like to move my amendment. I shall read it:

"That at the end of the motion, the following be added:

"That on such consideration the Assembly is of opinion that in the matter of labour representation in the Federal Assembly"

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member cannot move this amendment, having regard to the nature of Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant's amendment which is for reference to a Committee. If that is negatived, then the Honourable Member can move his amendment.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What I would suggest is that the convenience of the House will be better met if you will permit all the amendments to be moved and then allow the discussion. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair cannot allow that, having regard to the fact that this amendment is to refer the motion to a committee: the Chair will allow Mr. Joshi's amendment to stand over.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What I would suggest is that the committee will get some guidance if we are allowed to move our amendments. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can speak on the motion as well as on this amendment—whatever views he has got on the subject.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, the Government of India Act has laid down that ten seats should be reserved for labour by special constituencies. These seats are divided among the different provinces. There is one seat which is an All-India seat or a non-territorial seat, which is to be filled by the central organisation of the working classes, the National Trades Union Federation. In this connection I would draw the attention of the Government of India that the Report of the Hammond Committee has suggested the name of the All-India Trades Union Federation. As a matter of fact, the real name of that organisation is National Trades Union Federation. Then, the Government of India Act has given two seats to Bengal, two to Bombay, one to Bihar, one to the United Provinces, one to the Central Provinces, one to Madras and one to Assam. When the Royal Commission on Indian Labour considered the question of labour representation they suggested that the proper constituencies for labour representation are the trade unions of the country, and, therefore, they were of opinion that the election of members for the seats reserved for labour should be through trade union constituencies. The Franchise Committee too generally approved of the proposal of the Royal Commission on Indian Labour. But the Franchise Committee also suggested that where trade union constituencies are not practicable, there should be special labour constituencies formed for unorganised labour. Sir, this Hammond Committee has given four seats to Trade Union Constituencies. The All-India seat is given to a labour organization, the National Trades Union Federation. The two seats for Bombay are also to be filled by election through Trade Unions. There are two seats for Bengal out of which, the Committee has suggested, that one seat should be filled by the Trade Unions and one by special labour constituencies. In other provinces, that is, Madras, Assam, the Central Provinces and the United Provinces, the Committee has suggested special labour constituencies, and in Bihar, the Committee has also suggested special labour constituencies as well as a Trade Union Constituency by rotation. Thus, on the whole, the Committee has not done justice to the demand of the working classes that the seats reserved for them should be filled

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by Trade Union Constituencies. I, therefore, suggest, Sir, that these recommendations of the Hammond Committee should be altered so that in all provinces except Assam where Trade Unions do not exist the seats should be filled through the Trade Union Constituencies.

Then, Sir, the Hammond Committee in making recommendations for the election of labour seats through Trade Union Constituencies have selected Trade Unions only in certain industries; the Unions or even all the registered Unions in all industries are not empowered to take part in the elections through Trade Union Constituencies. My suggestion is that in every province the Unions in all industries should be entitled to vote for election of labour seats through Trade Union Constituencies.

Then, Sir, the National Trades Union Federation have suggested that the territorial labour seats for the Legislative Assembly should be so filled that all the important industries shall be represented, so that in the Legislature there will be men who understand the conditions of life and work of the employees in all important industries such as the textile industry, the railways, the mining and plantations. Unfortunately, Sir, the Hammond Committee, although it considered that the functional scheme was an interesting one and deserved to be considered, they said they could not accept it, because the scheme did not harmonise with the views of the Provincial Governments. I think, Sir, the Hammond Committee has done injustice to the National Trades Union Federation which after a good deal of consideration had put forward their scheme. I hope the British Parliament will accept the scheme which the National Trades Union Federation has put forward before that Committee.

Then, Sir, the Committee has done injustice to the railwaymen in India. Railwaymen residing in one province and whose Union is registered in another province are not entitled to vote in the province in which they reside. I think, Sir, this is not fair. The railways run through several provinces. But their Union is registered in one province, although there are branches in other provinces, and there is no difficulty at all in allowing the branches of the Railway Unions in other provinces than the one in which the Union is registered to take part in the election for filling the labour seats.

Then, Sir, as regards the qualifications. . . .

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I rise to a point of order, Sir. What are we discussing now? He has not read the amendment.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Both the Resolution and the amendment.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Which amendment?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant's amendment.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: He has not said a word about the amendment yet.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am talking on the whole motion. Then, Sir, the Committee has suggested certain qualifications for the voters. In that connection, I wish to say that the Committee have suggested that a workman or a labourer whose wage is not less than Rs. 10 will be entitled to vote either in a special labour constituency or in a Trade Union Constituency. I think there is absolutely no justification for putting down a wage limit as a qualification. I feel that it is not the fault of a workman that he gets a wage less than Rs. 10, and he should not be disenfranchised on the ground that his wage is less than Rs. 10.

Then, Sir, the Committee has suggested that in order that the weight to be given to each Union should be decided properly, a Tribunal should be set up to decide what is the weight to be given to each Union. The Committee has also suggested that in order that the Tribunal should be able to judge the strength of each Union, the Trade Union Act should be amended. My view is that the Trade Union Act need not be amended at all. If the Tribunal wants information regarding the details of a Trade Union, the Tribunal should be empowered to call for such information as is necessary from the Trade Unions. Under the present law the Registrars of Trade Unions do not possess any power to inspect the registers or the accounts of the Trade Unions, and I do not know why for purposes of elections the Registrars of Trade Unions should be given power which they do not possess under the present law. It should be quite enough if the Tribunals to be set up are empowered for the purpose of elections to secure whatever information the Tribunal requires from the Trade Unions. If the Trade Unions are not in a position to give information to the Tribunals, those Trade Unions will suffer.

Then, Sir, I wish to say a word or two about the proposals which the Committee has made for the filling of seats in different provinces. I have already said, Sir, that in Bombay the Committee has suggested that the two seats to be given to that province should be filled through Trade Union Organizations, but there too the Committee has not suggested that all the registered Trade Unions in the Province should be entitled to take part in the elections. I suggest that that defect should be removed. Then in Bengal, out of two seats, they have suggested that one seat should be filled by Trade Unions and one by special labour constituency. In Bengal there are about 46 Trade Unions, and the number of members is 79,000. I do not, therefore, understand, why both the seats should not be filled through the Trade Union Constituency. Similarly in Madars a special labour constituency. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only one minute more.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I did not know that there was time limit of 15 minutes for the discussion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is a Resolution.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I ask for your indulgence. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is speaking on the amendment which is to refer the Resolution to a Committee.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I would, therefore, Sir, with your permission, summarise my proposals and leave them before the House. My proposals as summarised are these:

(1) That the election for all the provincial seats except in Assam be through Trade Union constituencies.

(2) That the constituencies should not be restricted to Trade Unions in some industries only but should include Unions in all industries.

(3) That the scheme for the representation of workers in the different industries as proposed by the National Trades Union Federation and reproduced on pages 243, 244 in para. 674 of the Report be adopted.

(4) That the railwaymen residing in a province other than the province in which their Union is registered should be enfranchised in the province in which they reside for Trade Union constituencies and also for special labour constituencies where such are created.

(5) That no minimum limit of wage be imposed for the enfranchisement of the workers.

(6) That the Trade Union Act shall not be amended but the tribunal to be appointed to assess the membership of a Trade Union be authorised to examine registers and account books for the purpose of the elections.

(7) (a) That as regards the proposals for labour representation in Assam the enfranchisement shall not be restricted only to certain castes or tribes but shall extend to all workers on the plantations, whether residing therein or not.

(b) The franchise shall also be extended to workers in other industries such as railways, mines, oilfields, etc.

(c) That the right of candidature shall not be restricted to certain castes or tribes.

(d) That sardars and other members of the recruiting or supervisory staff shall be disqualified from being candidates.

(e) That members of Trade Unions including their officials situated in Assam, Bengal, Bihar or Orissa shall be permitted to be candidates.

(8) The preparation of the electoral roll shall not be left to the employer, whether the manager of a railway or a mine or a factory, but shall be undertaken by the Government.

Before I close, I wish to say a word on this last suggestion. It is a wrong thing to permit the employer to prepare the electoral roll. Moreover, how can an employer of one factory prepare an electoral roll for a Trade Union which has members in different factories? I think, Sir, if the Government of India will give their attention to this suggestion they will find that the suggestion is very impracticable. I hope, Sir, that my suggestions will be accepted both by the Government of India and the British Parliament.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Although we are not entitled to discuss questions of fundamental importance, such as the composition of the Legislatures and qualifications for franchise for election to the Provincial as well as the Federal Legislature, there are some important points which we might discuss on the present occasion. One of these important points is the character of the vote to be given in plural-member constituencies. It is proposed

by the Delimitation Committee that there should be the cumulative vote. Now, what is the effect of this vote on the electorate? It seems to me that the effect of this vote is to create separatist tendencies and to prevent harmony among the different groups which constitute the electorate. I am glad, therefore, that my Honourable friend, Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah, has given notice of an amendment to the effect that the distributive vote be substituted for the cumulative vote. I am particularly glad because the Delimitation Committee seems to be under the impression that the cumulative vote will help the Depressed Classes, i.e., the members of the scheduled castes.

Then, Sir, another question is, what is the meaning of the term "a panel of four" with reference to the primary election? After discussing various aspects of the question, the Delimitation Committee come to the conclusion that the term means neither maximum nor minimum, but optimum. What is meant by optimum is made clear by them in these words:

"The Government view is that the number four is neither the maximum nor a minimum but an optimum. It is desirable that there should be five or more candidates at the primary election but it is in no wise compulsory. If there is only one candidate as the result of primary election or on account of subsequent withdrawals the candidate should be returned unopposed for the reserved seat at the final election."

If this be the meaning of the term "a panel of four members", what is the difference between this system and a separate electorate?

Was this the thing for which Mahatma Gandhi was prepared to lay down his life by fasting unto death? Sir, I do not think the interpretation given to this term is the correct one.

I come next to the universities. It is recommended by the Hammond Committee that the electorate should consist of members of the Senate or Court (as the case may be) and of "graduates of not less than seven years' standing who are registered". Now this term 'registered' has given rise to a great deal of confusion and the result is that in the different university electorates we find curiously different numbers of voters. For instance, in Madras, we find that the number of electors will be 10,000, in Bombay, 4,500, Allahabad, Lucknow and Agra, 1,700, Punjab, 1,300, Patna, 639, Nagpur, 140, Dacca, 2,350, Calcutta, only 350. Now, why should there be such a limited number of voters in the Calcutta University constituency? The Calcutta University is the oldest of the universities of India and it has the largest number of graduates on its roll. Why, then, should this constituency be so small, namely, consisting of 350 votes? Well, Sir, the reason is to be found in the fact that this term 'registered' has been misunderstood by the Government of Bengal. Registration may be for two purposes. First, it may be for the election of Fellows of the University of Calcutta, in which case the person who wishes to be registered has to pay an admission fee of Rs. 10 and an annual fee of Rs. 10. Besides, if the graduate has not registered himself when he became first eligible, he has to pay a fine of Rs. 30. Now, it is very difficult for an ordinary graduate to pay Rs. 30 in the beginning and continue to pay Rs. 10 every year in order to be a registered graduate. In the other provinces, I believe, registration has been understood in a different sense, namely, registration for the purpose of election to the Provincial Legislature. Well, I happen to be a registered graduate of the University of London, and I am entitled to vote at Parliamentary elections; but I am

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not required to pay a fee every year. I do not think it is reasonable to restrict the franchise to such a small number of persons who pay their fees annually. Then there is another difficulty. It is said in the report that those only will be qualified to vote who were on the register during the previous academic year. The academic year in the Calcutta University begins on the 1st of June. It means, therefore, that only those who will have registered themselves before the 31st May next will be entitled to put themselves on this limited register. That also will create a great deal of hardship, for very little time is left for people to be on the register. As regards the present practice, I may inform the House that the Calcutta University constituency has on its roll something like 11,000 or 12,000 voters. My Honourable friend, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, who belongs to that constituency, has come here on that qualification; but as soon as the new meaning of the term "registered" will be accepted, he will cease to have that qualification. This, Sir, is an anomaly which ought to be set right. And what is the object in creating such a pocket borough? Do the Government consider that they will have as a representative of the Calcutta University a person on whom they can always rely? Government commands eighty per cent. of the votes in the Senate, because eighty per cent. of the Members of the Senate are Nominated Members. Sir, unless this anomaly is removed, I am afraid it will be said that the Government want to have not only safe Members but Members of practically their own choice. Well, there are several other pocket boroughs in Bengal, and why do they want to add to that number? Is it because Government want to have an administration composed of persons on whom they can fully depend? I want an answer to this question.

Another question which should receive consideration at the hands of the Committee as well as of this House is that of the plantation labour seats. Jalpaiguri is an Excluded Area, but for purposes of the labour seat it is included, because it is said in the Report that the planters do not object. Well, do they want to send a planters' man to the Legislature?

I fully agree with my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, in regard to the labour franchise and I hope his suggestion will be accepted by the Committee and the Government.

Lastly, coming to the commerce constituency, I find a grave injustice has been done to one of the bodies which has been enjoying its seat for the last fifteen years,—I mean the Bengal Mahajan Sabha. This body has been in existence for quite a large number of years and it has done a fairly good amount of work. The Bengal Government as well as the Provincial Advisory Committee recommended that this body should continue to enjoy its seat, but the Delimitation Committee has recommended the cutting out of this body and the substitution for it of the Indian Chamber of Commerce. Sir, these are very important questions which I hope the Committee that is to be appointed will consider and I hope also the Government will accept our suggestions.

Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I wish to speak on the motion, and, in doing so, I wish to confine my attention to the system of voting. The Committee in their Report have discussed the methods of voting in paragraphs 45 to 52. The methods considered are (1) the single non-transferable voting, (2) the distributive voting and (3)

the cumulative voting, and the Committee in paragraph 283 give their recommendations. In paragraph 283 they say:

"Two provinces strongly recommended the use of the single non-transferable vote, not only, in the primary election, as agreed on in the Poona Pact, but also in the final election. Our view is, as stated in paragraph 46 above, that this runs counter, at any rate, to the spirit of the Pact, the essence of which is combination and mutual exchange, combined, we submit, with the freedom of the elector and, so far as is possible, the protection of minorities. We, therefore, recommend the use of the cumulative vote, the elector being allowed at the final election to divide or to combine his two votes."

And, with regard to the single non-transferable vote, in paragraph 46 of the Report, they reject this system of voting. They say:

"As a result, however, we have reached the unhesitating conclusion that, whatever the merits of the single non-transferable vote as an electoral device, and, however convenient it may be for administrative purposes, its adoption at final elections, in constituencies in which seats are reserved for the scheduled castes, would be contrary to the spirit of the Poona Pact. . . . We may add that the objections of principle which we see to the adoption of this method of voting in the case of the scheduled caste constituencies, are shared by representative members alike of the caste Hindus and of the scheduled castes."

So, Sir, the Committee finally recommends the cumulative system of voting.

Before I proceed further, I should like to examine rapidly the evidence tendered by the representatives of the Depressed Classes who appeared before this Committee and that is in volume III. Let me first of all take the evidence of Rao Bahadur R. Srinivasan who is now a Diwan Bahadur. This is on page 59. I suppose the House knows that Diwan Bahadur Srinivasan was one of those nominated to represent the Depressed Classes on the Round Table Conference and his view is this: he recommends the system of the single non-transferable vote and condemns the system of cumulative voting, for he says that there would be more chance of corruption in it than if it is distributive. Then taking next the evidence of Dr. Ambedkar which is on page 65, he recommends the system of cumulative voting. But he evidently speaks only for the Bombay Presidency, for in reply to a question put by the Chairman he says definitely that he does not know about other provinces. Next, Sir, there is the evidence of Mr. A. V. Thakkar on page 61. He may be taken to represent fairly the views of both the sections—the caste Hindus and the Depressed Classes—and he advocates the system of distributive voting. Then, Sir, there is another piece of evidence, rather of joint evidence, on page 57, of three gentlemen. They evidently advocate the cumulative system of voting and their idea is that they want plumping. That you will see, Sir, if you read the evidence. These gentlemen dislike the distributive system of voting because they say that they have had the advantage of working it all these fifteen years and found that it was not beneficial to them. Now this is a misstatement of facts, as there is no reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes under the existing constitution. They have absolutely no experience of Local Boards election in my province, nor any of them at any time during the past seven years the present Local Boards Act has been in operation, where seats for Scheduled Castes are reserved in joint electorates with the distributive method of voting, any of them stood for any of these elections. They prefer cumulative voting for the mere reason that they want plumping. This is really at the back of their mind.

[Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah.]

Plumping, Sir, is against the essence of the Poona Pact. Then, Sir, the other evidence is that in a note of dissent by the Honourable Babu Nirsu Narayan Sinha printed in the Report under Scheduled Castes Evidence. He represented the Depressed Classes of Bihar and Orissa and he definitely says that he is for the distributive system of voting. And then there is another letter from the Central Provinces and Berar Depressed Classes Federation of Nagpur. That Association advocates the single non-transferable vote; and then, Sir, next comes the note by Rai Sahib Senapati, a nominated member of the Assam Council and a pioneer of the Depressed Class workers in the province. He was also a member of the Assam Delimitation Committee. Mr. Senapati recognises distributive system of voting. My evidence is found on page 51 and I there advocated the distributive system of voting.

Apart from this evidence, let me quote the opinion of Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai, a nominated Member of the Madras Legislative Council who advocates the system of distributive voting. Then, Sir, there is the opinion of Swami Sahajananda who is another nominated Member of the Madras Legislative Council, he also advocates the system of distributive voting. These two gentlemen, Rai Sahib Muniswami Pillai and Swami Sahajananda are also the elected Members of local bodies and municipal councils and they have ample experience of local board elections where the system of distributive voting is in practice. Another Member, Rao Sahib L. C. Guruswami also a nominated Member of the Madras Legislative Council, and a member of the Madras Delimitation Committee, also advocates the system of distributive voting.

Coming to the Central Provinces, Mr. G. A. Gavai, the veteran leader of the Scheduled Castes of that Province and the General Secretary of the All-India Depressed Classes Association and a nominated Member of the Central Provinces Legislative Council ever since the inauguration of the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms, also advocates distributive system of voting. He was also a Member of the Central Provinces Delimitation Committee. I can quote many more persons who are all leading members of my community and who are all in favour of the distributive system of voting. In spite of this overwhelming evidence in support of the distributive system of voting, the Committee say in paragraph 51 of their Report that the cumulative system of voting has the support of representative leaders of the Scheduled Castes. The Committee themselves point out in paragraph 284 of their Report, that the essence of the Poona Pact lies in the joint electorate. In paragraph 275 of the Report referring to the objects of the Poona Pact, the Committee say:

"It is generally admitted that the object of this agreement was two-fold. First to advance and safeguard the interests of the Depressed Classes, and secondly, to prevent any division in the Hindu community."

Now, the question is, does this system of cumulative voting unite the two sections of the community and preserve the Hindu solidarity by keeping the Depressed Classes within the general constituency? Does the cumulative system of voting make the caste Hindus and the Scheduled Castes vote together in the multi-member constituencies thereby compelling candidates to consider the well-being of both sections of their constituents when appealing for their support? The answer is a definite, no. The

Poona Pact indicates joint electorate which means that both the caste Hindus and the Depressed Class voters should be in a position to vote for both the caste Hindu and the Scheduled Castes candidates. (Hear, hear.) The Committee says that the single non-transferable vote is against the spirit of the Poona Pact. Yes, it is so. If that is the objection, then the same objection holds good for the cumulative vote also and that with greater force because it may be expected that the caste Hindu will plump all his votes in favour of a caste Hindu candidate. Instead of giving one vote to one candidate, he will now give more votes to him. And, it should be noted that this will prevent a caste Hindu candidate from appealing to the Scheduled Caste voter and thus there will be no approach and no interdependence between these two communities. It would thus defeat the very object of the Poona Pact and in effect deprive the caste Hindus of their voice in the elections of the Scheduled Caste candidates and the Scheduled Castes of their voice in the elections of the caste Hindu candidates and restore the state of affairs which it was the object of the Pact to alter. The method of voting suggested by the Committee cuts at the very root of the Poona Pact and instead of bringing about the unification of all classes, it will tend to disintegrate the Hindu Community.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has two minutes more.

Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah: I am the only representative of my community in this House, and I, therefore, request you, Sir, to give me some more time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member will have time enough if this goes to the Committee.

Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah: Well, Sir, what is this system of cumulative voting? It is nothing but a concentration of communal votes in favour of the communal candidates. We must wean away the voters from the communal habit of heaping up all their votes on one particular candidate and get them to vote for different candidates and thus should prevent the accumulation of votes in the hands of one community. This system of voting will give free scope for class partiality which will inevitably lead to inter-communal dislikes and hatred. It will easily prevent the Scheduled Caste voters from exercising their votes in favour of their own candidate, as they are in rural areas mostly agricultural labourers working under landlords who are caste Hindus. Thus rivalry will be set up between the caste Hindu candidates on the one hand and the Scheduled Caste candidates on the other and it will unnecessarily create bad blood in them.

Cumulative system of voting will enable a rich man to buy up all the votes and thus will lead to corruption. This is the most pernicious system of exercising the franchise, inasmuch as a candidate will be permitted not only to canvass for one vote but also for more than one vote, for as many votes as a voter can give and thus it will lend itself to new forms of corruption.

The cumulative system of voting will be disastrous. It is certainly not in accordance with the Poona Pact. It will perpetually keep the two communities further apart and the enormous amount of work so far done by the caste Hindus and also the leaders of the Scheduled Castes to bring

[Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah.]

together the two communities will be completely wasted and besides will nullify any further efforts that may be made to bring the two communities together. Moreover, cumulative voting militates against the rectitude of a sound and democratic system of representation. The distributive system of voting is best suited for us.

Before I conclude I wish to draw the attention of the House to para. 3 P.M. 281 of the Report where they say:

"The number of four is neither a maximum nor a minimum but an optimum. It is desirable that there should be five or more candidates at the primary election, but it is in no wise compulsory. Executive orders might well be issued to District Officers to encourage and facilitate candidature, where this was thought necessary."

Sir, I fail to see the wisdom of the authors of this Report in giving this suggestion. This is improper and inconsistent with the principles of democracy. It is none of the business of the District Officers to run their own candidates. It is the sole business of the community and of the Depressed Classes Association of the various Provinces and of the Parties. If leading members of the Scheduled Castes stand for these seats and if they are not contested, why should they be opposed at all by other second rate men? If executive officers take up the job, then in order to justify the nomination of a particular candidate, they will have to take up the work of election agents. It implies that the executive officers will actively lend their support to their particular nominees, exercising their authority and influence in their favour and compelling others to vote for the particular candidates set up by them. The executive officers might even defray election expenses. This is the very negation of democracy and it will have a thoroughly demoralising effect on the elections.

If this suggestion of the Committee is accepted it will be a great disaster to the Scheduled Castes and it will destroy the existing organisation of the Scheduled Castes in this country. All the Associations, *Sabhas* and societies which have been working for the amelioration of Depressed Classes will be adversely affected. This suggestion should be rejected. Sir, I support the motion and in doing so, I advocate the distributive method of voting in plural member constituencies, as it will ensure the return of the best and the ablest representative of the Scheduled Caste.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Sir, I have very few remarks to make as far as my community is concerned on this report, and I hope the Honourable Member will give his attention to them. From a perusal of the Joint Parliamentary Committee Report, Part I, Volume II, Honourable Members will find in Appendix III on page 347, it is recommended that the community's vote should be taken by postal ballot. I am not in a position to say what the Local Governments recommended to the Delimitation Committee. But I do know that, at least, in Bengal and—indeed—I know well that in my representations to the Joint Parliamentary Committee, speaking on behalf of my community, I advocated, for various reasons, a postal voting system. The Anglo-Indian community is today represented in the various Legislatures as follows: By direct election in Bengal, by postal ballot in Madras. In all other Provinces, including the Legislative Assembly, we are nominated.

A reference to the Delimitation Report shows that, against the recommendation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee and the recommendation

from the community which asked for postal ballot, it has recommended a mixed system of voting. For instance, for Bombay it has recommended that the urban and suburban areas of Bombay City should have a direct system of election and the other parts of the Presidency, which have been given one seat, should have a partially direct system of election. In Bengal, against the advice and the recommendation of the community and the Joint Parliamentary Committee, this Committee recommended direct election for that part of the community resident in Calcutta who live in compact areas and the postal system in the urban parts of Bengal Presidency. Direct election has been recommended for the Punjab.

Now, Sir, the main object for which I stress this point is that I want the entire qualified community to be given the right to exercise its vote. My experience of conducting election campaigns for my community has shown me clearly that, if the direct system of election is carried out, at least half of the community is denied a chance of exercising the vote, and I will tell the Honourable Member why. The Honourable Member must be aware of the fact that the majority of my community who have a vote are employed in the all-India services, particularly Telegraphs, Railways and Customs; and it will be obvious to him as I have repeatedly pointed out to Government, that on any day on which elections take place at least half of them will be on the line working and unable to exercise the vote. It is for this reason that during the 1926 Bengal election, I asked that two days should be given for voting; and it was for this reason and this reason alone that, in my memorandum to the Joint Parliamentary Committee and the other recommendations that I had the honour of making, I asked that our votes should be taken by the postal system. Instead what do we find? We find this Committee, not entirely throwing away my advice, nor ignoring the recommendations entirely, but on some information given to them outside our advice, have divided the system of voting and in doing so, they have certainly deprived the community of at least half its voting numbers. I would ask the Honourable Member, who I suppose will submit this discussion to the Secretary of State, to take note of this small request of mine which I make on behalf of a community which is really anxious to enjoy a full measure of franchise and so play its part in the development of this country.

I have two more points to mention. One point refers to a matter concerning a very large portion of the community I represent. It is that part of the community that lives in assigned areas or tracts under political control. For instance, I take the case of Bangalore. In Bangalore we have thousands of the community who are living in an assigned area and because of this misfortune they are denied the right to vote or any participation in the franchise of the country. The other point relates to Karachi. Karachi, which will come under the new province of Sind, has had the formation of its Legislative Council announced. As far as my community is concerned, I know it is a small community, but it has played and is playing today a very important part in the development of that port and in the civic life of that city and province. And, although repeated requests have been made, may be late, may be too late, no notice has been taken and the community today has not got a voice in the province of Sind in which there are several thousands of the community. There are also scattered over this province sections of the community employed in Railways, Telegraphs, etc. My suggestion to the Honourable Member is this and I hope means will be found for the representation of the community in the local Assembly and so enable them to have a vote.

2016.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

[6TH MARCH 1936.]

[Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney.]

in matters of legislation affecting the province in which they live. (Interruption by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai). They at least belong to a distinct community whereas my friend Mr. Lalchand Navalrai does not belong to any community except to call himself a Sindhi. Moreover, the absence of any representation in the Provincial Assembly automatically deprives the community in this province of the franchise in electing its member for the Federal Assembly. I understand that the community in Sind has made a suggestion to Government analogous to the method adopted in the case of women in Sind, to the effect that the community's votes should be compiled together and all such voters be allowed to vote in one constituency—say the "South Karachi Constituency". By this means they will be able to influence the voting of at least one seat in the Provincial Assembly, whereas if they are allowed to vote as it is at present contemplated, in the constituency in which they are resident, being widely distributed, they will never be able to make their voice felt, much less return one of their own numbers. I hope the Honourable Member will take note of what I have suggested. It is a very small matter but I am sure he will see his way favourably to report on this to the proper authorities.

Sir, there is one other matter to which I wish to refer; I refer to the four seats that have been allotted to the community in the Federal Assembly and the one seat in the Council of State. A reference to the Government of India Act will show that these four seats are allotted to Bengal, Madras, Bombay and the United Provinces. The other five provinces are not considered at all which means that about 50 per cent. or nearly so, of the community who reside in these provinces are disenfranchised. These four seats are to be chosen by an electoral college consisting of the Anglo-Indian members of the Provincial Legislatures of the seven provinces. Now these seven provinces in which we have been given a total of twelve representatives will together, as the electoral college, choose these four seats for the Federal Assembly. I cannot understand why Government has ordained that, while the seven provinces are given the right to choose these four seats, none but qualified residents in only these 4 Provinces can be chosen. That is to say that, though Anglo-Indian members on the Punjab, Bihar and Orissa, Central Provinces, etc., will have the privilege of choosing four members for the Federal Assembly, they will not have the right to sit on it themselves. I, therefore, ask the Honourable Member to be so good as to recommend to the proper authorities the following suggestion which I have more than once made both to the Government of India and to the Joint Parliamentary Committee:—I appeal to Government, when making their recommendations on the report of the Indian Delimitation Committee, that they will consider the advisability of redistributing the four seats allocated to the community in the Federal Legislature somewhat as follows: The seat for Bengal to include Assam, and Bihar and Orissa; the seat for Bombay to include Sind, Baluchistan, the Central Provinces, Central India and Rajputana; the seat for Madras to include Bangalore and other assigned territories in the South, and the seat for the United Provinces to include the Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province and Delhi. This will enable members of the community resident in any part of India to stand for and be elected a representative of the community in the Federal Assembly. I am grateful for what has been given the community. All I am asking in addition is, that the four representatives should be truly representative of the whole community in India and not a half of it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only one minute more.

Lt.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: I have finished. In support of my demand I may say that other minority communities in almost every province—at least in seven provinces—have a separate seat in the Federal Legislature except the Anglo-Indian. Most of them have seats in seven provinces. My community which is small has four seats. We are satisfied. All we want is that the seven or eight provinces in India should be allowed not only to vote for these four seats but should also be allowed to stand for election.

One more point, and I have done. The one representative of the Anglo-Indian community in the Council of State is chosen by the same electoral college. But the anomalous part of it is this. Whereas, for the Federal Assembly, the choice of the four seats is confined to the four Provinces I have mentioned, the representative of the community on the Council of State, whilst being chosen by the same electoral college, can be selected and chosen from any province in India. If the whole community is given the honour and privilege of selecting its member for the Council of State from any part of India, I do hope that the Honourable Member will see the reasonableness of my demand and recommend that we be given the same privilege for the four seats that we have been given in the Federal Assembly.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Mr. President, coming back to the amendment moved by my Honourable friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, I understand that some arrangement has now been arrived at whereby some time will be given for the discussion of the Committee's report. If my understanding is correct, I have nothing further to say except to ask the Mover of the Resolution to accept three more names: Sir Muhammad Yakub, who served on the Lothian Committee, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, who represents commerce in the Northern India, and Mr. K. L. Gauba from the Punjab. I think that this Committee ought to be as representative as possible, and I trust that the Mover of the Resolution will accept these three names. I also trust that the debate may now come to a conclusion: I am not going to move for the closure or anything of the sort, but since a Committee is to be appointed and will report to this Honourable House, everybody will have another opportunity of having their say.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah (Sind Jagirdars and Zamindars: Landholders): Sir, I appeal to the Mover of the amendment to consider the question of the representation of rural areas on this Committee. All the names, that were read out, are representative, either of commerce or of the cities. (*Several Honourable Members:* "Hear, hear.") The representatives of the landlords or of the rural areas do not find any place on the Committee. I, therefore, appeal to him that he must amend his proposal; otherwise, I shall oppose it.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I have proposed Sir Muhammad Yakub as a representative for the rural areas.

Mr. C. H. Witherington (Assam: European): Sir, the only reason I wish to say a few words on this motion is to express my strong opposition to the views put forward just now by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi.

[Mr. C. H. Witherington.]

That is the only point on which I wish to speak now. It will only take three minutes. Mr. Joshi proposes that for the Assam labour seats the list of castes which are scheduled and which are a necessary qualification for a voter and for a candidate for both the Federal Assembly and for the Provincial Assembly should be eliminated. I am definitely against that. I am not altogether in favour of the proposals which have been made by the Hammond Committee in regard to labour representation, but if I have any preference at all, I have preference for the recommendations put forward by the Hammond Committee rather than for those put forward by Mr. Joshi.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The employers' voice cannot count in this matter.

Mr. C. H. Witherington: Then, again, as I understood him, he favours the view that members from any Trade Union outside Assam should be allowed to stand as labour candidates. There also I join issue with him. The evidence given before the Hammond Committee by those who, by their experience, were best qualified to form a proper judgment in the interests of the labourers and of the industry explains very clearly that it would be most unwise to have Trade Union representatives from other provinces to hold those labour seats. I will also read an extract of what the representative of the tea industry stated in the Assam Legislative Council, which Members will find on page 204 of Volume I of the Delimitation Committee's report:

"In any case the tea industry has no objection to labour representation by responsible and reputable organised and registered trade unions. But what they do object to, and what they will oppose to the utmost of their power, is labour representation by irresponsible and seditious organisations and associations, formed and run by political aspirants for power, with no labour qualification, ostensibly for the benefit of labour, but actually for the purpose of causing labour troubles and for their own glorification."

That, Sir, puts it in a nutshell. The point I want to make clear is that, if representation is to be true and proper representation, those who represent the Assam labour constituencies in the Legislatures must be in the very closest contact with those whom they represent, they should be fully aware of, and be practised in, the difficulties which labour may have to contend with and they should be of the same caste and should have the fullest experience of tea garden matters. I ask, Sir, how on earth can a Trade Union member from Bengal or Bihar and Orissa or elsewhere have any experience of Assam tea garden conditions? What we want to exclude is the agitator, and we wish to have labour in the tea gardens represented by men who are in the closest contact with labour.

That is all I wish to say at present. I want to make it very clear that I do not agree with Mr. Joshi. I hope that, later on, I shall have the opportunity of discussing this matter in greater detail.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Mover of the amendment agree to adding the three names that have been given, Sir Muhammad Yakub, Mr. Muhammad Nauman and Mr. K. L. Gauba?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: I have no objection, Sir.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: May I propose the addition of the name of Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Mover object?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: I do not object to anything, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does any Honourable Member take any objection to these names being added?

(No objection was taken.)

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

"That for the words 'be taken into consideration' the following be substituted:

'be referred to a Committee consisting of Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai, Mr. S. Satyamurti, Mr. M. Asaf Ali, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, Mr. M. A. Jinnah, Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr. M. S. Aney, Sardar Mangal Singh, Sir Leslie Hudson, Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji, Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah, Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, Pandit Nilakantha Das, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney, Sir Muhammad Yakub, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. K. L. Gauba, Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah, and the Mover, with instructions to submit their report before the 18th March, 1936, and that the Chairman of the Committee will be Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta, and that the presence of seven Members will constitute a quorum for the Committee'."

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION *RE* NON-RATIFICATION OF DRAFT CONVENTION CONCERNING THE HOURS OF WORK.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I would, first of all, ask your permission to move the first two Resolutions that stand in my name together: they are very closely connected, and, I think, it would shorten discussion if I moved them together

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): They will have to be put separately to the House unless the Honourable Member wishes to join them in any way: they are separate subjects.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: If that is so, I will move the first Resolution, and, if I may, discuss the two together. I move:

"That this Assembly, having considered the draft Convention adopted by the Nineteenth Session of the International Labour Conference concerning the reduction of hours of work to 40 a week, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he do not ratify the Convention."

Sir, it is hardly a matter of satisfaction to me to have to move no less than four Resolutions on the same day, asking this House to refuse ratification of draft Conventions adopted by the International Labour Conference

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There is an amendment to the first Resolution: there are no amendments to the others. The Chair will permit the Honourable Member to move the other Resolutions also and then it will put them separately to the House. The Chair will put this one first and the Honourable Member can speak on all the others.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: On the first two, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): They are on separate subject matters.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The first two are very closely connected. The first is general; the second is an application of the first.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The next is coal mines: they are all separate subjects: the Honourable Member had better go on with the first.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: As I was saying, it is no satisfaction to me to have to ask this House to refuse to ratify no less than four draft Conventions adopted by the Nineteenth Session of the International Labour Conference. India has, as those Members of this House, who were present at a recent meeting, were told, a good record in the matter of adoption of labour Conventions. As the speaker at that meeting, himself a representative of the League of Nations, pointed out, India has adopted no less than 14 Conventions. Up to the beginning of last year, Great Britain had adopted 18, France 17 and Japan 12. The fact of the matter is that, as Mr. Clow stated in this House last year, when we were dealing with a Convention somewhat similar in character to the second one on the list of business today, we have been pursuing here a very solid programme of labour legislation—rather too solid a programme to satisfy some of my Honourable friends on the Central Benches,—but unfortunately, as it happens, our programme has differed recently on very many points from the programme that Geneva has been following. That departure has never been more marked than in regard to the Resolutions regarding the draft Conventions which I am asking the House to discuss this afternoon. Indeed, I cannot help thinking that the time has already come or is rapidly approaching when our procedure in dealing with draft Conventions should be somewhat different from what it has been in the past. It has been our practice, hitherto, to bring Conventions before the Assembly in the form of Resolutions, but our procedure in this respect, which does not appear to be the same as a number of other countries, is perhaps in some respects not ideal. For one thing, the number of Conventions adopted by the International Labour Conference has recently shown a marked tendency to increase. I find, on looking up the records, that during the last three years, the International Labour Conference has passed no less than 16 draft Conventions, whereas, between 1926 and 1932 no Conference adopted more than two. Further, a considerable number of Conventions in recent years have had very little practical relation to conditions in India. Finally, the demands on the time of this House in other directions have been steadily increasing. But I do not think I need apologise to the House for bringing forward at least the first of these Conventions, because, whatever view may be held on its merits, it deals with a subject of very great importance. The proposals embodied in it represent the outcome of a very large amount of deliberation at Geneva and it has attracted a wide amount of international interest. My excuse, Sir, for asking you to allow me to deal with the first two Conventions on the list together is that the first and much the most important of them all is directly related to the second in that the former lays down the principle . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair has allowed the Honourable Member to move only the first: perhaps the Chair did not make itself quite clear.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I am sorry if I have transgressed: at any rate, I may perhaps be permitted to explain to the House that the first Resolution is directly related to the second, in that it lays down the principle, while the latter represents its application to a particular case; and I will deal with that particular application more specifically later. The Convention with which the Resolution deals is *extremely* simple in form consisting as it does of only one operative Article. The principle which the Convention enunciates, if it is a principle at all, is clear, and that is that there should be a 40-hour week, and that this should be so introduced that the workers' standard of living is not adversely affected. The Convention is so short that I may perhaps read it to the House. It runs as follows:

"Each Member of the International Labour Organization which ratifies this Convention declares its approval of:

- (a) the principle of a 40-hour week applied in such a manner that the standard of living is not reduced in consequence, and
- (b) the taking or facilitating of such measures as may be judged appropriately to secure this end;

and undertakes to apply this principle to classes of employment in accordance with the general provisions to be prescribed by such separate conventions as are ratified by that Member."

As the House will see, the importance of the draft Convention is hardly commensurate with its length.

Well, Sir, the word "principle" is an inadequate translation of *principle* meaning a general guiding rule. It would be very hard to affirm that there can be any such principle as that the week should be of a particular length, because the suitable length of the working week must obviously be a matter of judgment rather of principle. I maintain, Sir, that so far as this so-called principle is concerned, its application is obviously impossible in India. I doubt if it is possible anywhere except in exceptional industries and in exceptional circumstances, but that is perhaps hardly our concern today. Whilst, however, it is arguable that unemployment would be substantially relieved by spreading employment with a corresponding reduction in wages, a system which involves in most countries a large reduction of hours in particular industries where wages remained the same would seem to be doomed to failure. For this involves putting up the price of particular commodities substantially, while the general price level is not substantially affected. In other words, those who buy commodities will have nothing more to buy them with although they will cost more, and the result must be a substantial diminution in the demand for articles and consequent further unemployment. Whatever, Sir, may be the position elsewhere, the effect in India is quite certain. I am sorry, Sir, I have to refer to the second Resolution again, but it does provide me with a specific instance in support of my argument. Take the manufacture of glass bottles which at present is presumably conducted on a 56-hour week. If the hours there are reduced by 25 per cent. to 42, a slight gain in production per hour might result, but it could not possibly be expected to amount to anything like 25 per cent. In consequence, if it were possible to enforce the provision, regarding wages, there would have to be a great increase in the cost of the articles produced. Further, Sir,—and this is a most important point,—how is this maintenance of standard of living to be enforced? It would theoretically be possible to prescribe that the wages now being paid per shift of eight hours should remain the same on a

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six-hours basis, but how long is the owner to be compelled to maintain the existing rate? If, as is certain, he finds that his markets will be gradually curtailed if he does not get a reduction in wages, is he to be precluded for all time from seeking that reduction? It is clear that a reduction at present, on the conditions stated, is utterly impracticable on any large scale, and could only be applied in particular industries if the State were willing to subsidise the industries at the expense of the taxpayer. I have no doubt, Sir, that my friend, Mr. Joshi, when he moves his amendment, will argue that although the immediate reduction to 40-hours a week may be impracticable, we should ratify the Convention and move in that direction. It is true that the acceptance of a principle does not necessarily mean its immediate and universal application, but clause (b) of Article 1 has to be read with the words which follow which are in each case "to apply this principle to classes of employment in accordance with the detailed provisions to be prescribed by such separate Conventions as are ratified by that Member". While, Sir, in theory this leaves it open to country ratifying the Convention to decline to ratify any further Conventions, such a procedure would be entirely inconsistent with the acceptance of the principle. And I would suggest that the only consistent line would be to accept the subsequent Conventions except where in particular cases there were special reasons for declining to do so. It would not, in my view, which I trust will also be the view of the House, be consistent with the spirit of the Convention, and it would, I think, be doubtfully consistent even with the letter of it to accept it, and then state that we would be content for an indefinite period with a 48-hour week. Even a reduction to a 48-hour week is not at present practicable. I would remind the House, Sir,—and I cannot too strongly emphasise the fact,—that we have recently made reductions of hours in both factories and mines, and the dislocation involved in any further reduction at this stage would be injurious both to the industries and to the workers. I think, Sir, I should ask the House to think for a moment of the consequences which would be involved if we were to ratify and act on this Convention and other countries did not do so. The result obviously would be, Sir, that we should be flooded with cheap goods from other countries which had declined to adopt a 40-hour week. This would involve claims for ever higher and higher protection, and the result would be an intolerable burden on the consumer.

Another point to which I should like to draw the attention of the House is that a 48-hour week Convention was adopted at the Washington Conference in 1919 and that that Convention has not even yet been ratified by any of the leading European powers. And yet, Sir, the International Labour Conference is now asking us to adopt a Convention which goes much further, a 40-hour week Convention not a 48-hour week one. It passes my comprehension, Sir, I must frankly admit, that the International Labour Conference should not have endeavoured to stabilise the position or rather to reach the position laid down in 1919 before trying to proceed much further. If it has not succeeded in persuading the leading European countries to adopt a 48-hour week, what hope, I would ask, is there of persuading them to adopt a 40-hour week? I cannot help thinking that the International Labour Conference has been inoculated with a double dose of my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi's idealism. They

want, as he always does, to go the whole way at once instead of proceeding gradually. I would ask the House to appreciate the realities of the situation and to accept the Resolution which I have moved.

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

"That this Assembly, having considered the draft Convention adopted by the Nineteenth Session of the International Labour Conference concerning the reduction of hours of work to 40 a week, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he do not ratify the Convention."

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I move:

"That for the words 'do not' the word 'should' be substituted, and the following be added at the end:

'and take steps towards the reduction of hours by stages so that 40 hours a week may be established in India as early as practicable'."

The Honourable Member in charge of the Department of Industries and Labour in his preliminary remarks made certain statements from which I intend to dissent. The Honourable Member said that the record of the Government of India in the matter of ratifying Conventions is a very good one. I do not object to the Honourable Member saying that the Government of India has a very good record as regards the number of Conventions ratified but, Sir, the Government of India cannot show a good record by merely showing the figures of ratifications. Much depends upon what Conventions are ratified and what Conventions are not ratified. They may have ratified some Conventions which are not very important and they may have omitted to ratify Conventions which are very important. I shall only mention two or three Conventions which they have not ratified. They have not ratified the Convention for the establishment of some kind of unemployment relief. They have not ratified the Convention for the establishment of some kind of health insurance. They have not ratified the Convention proposing the establishment of some kind of invalid and old age pensions. These three things, which I have mentioned, are very important and the Conventions on these important questions are not ratified. Therefore, I do not think that the Government of India can say that their record is without any blemish in the matter of ratification, because they have ratified certain number of Conventions and other countries have not ratified an equal number of Conventions.

Then, Sir, the Honourable Member said, that the record of the Government of India, in the matter of labour legislation, is also a very solid one and he said that employers have begun to find fault with the pace with which the Government of India is moving. I do not know what the Government of India thinks about the views of the employers in this matter but I can tell them that the workers of India do not feel that the Government of India is going fast enough. Labour legislation in India is much backward as compared with most of the civilised countries in the world. Take any country. Our legislation is backward. I can realise that considering we started labour legislation later than other countries we should be backward for some years, but is India going to be backward for ever and, if we are going to come to the level of other countries, then we must quicken our pace. India cannot afford to be called a backward country in the matter of legislation for all time. Other countries have marched ahead and if we are going to reach their level and come into line with them, we must march very quickly indeed. Then the Honourable Member expressed opinions about the general policy

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of the International Labour Organisation. He said that the International Labour Organisation has become an idealist and is not a practical body. I am quite sure the International Labour Organisation will note the views of the Honourable Member as regards their policy. I would like to say a word and ask the Honourable Member himself what are the changes in the procedure which he contemplates. He said that in the matter of ratifying Conventions a change in the procedure will have to be made. It would have been better if he had suggested what change he contemplates. At present, when Conventions are or are not to be ratified the Government of India have been bringing forward Resolutions before the Legislature, and so far, they have been acting on the recommendation of the Legislature. I want to know whether the Government of India propose hereafter not to bring forward these Resolutions before the Legislature but to act in the matter of ratification by their own executive authority. The Honourable Member should have made his point very clear on this matter. If the Government of India is thinking of substituting the ratification by executive authority for ratification by the Legislature, I am quite sure the whole House will be with me in opposing the adoption of such a procedure. He suggested that the International Labour Organisation is passing so many Conventions that it is making a very great demand upon the time of the House. For instance, there are four Conventions to be considered by the Legislature today. I wonder what time the Legislature will take for the consideration of these four Conventions. The argument that the time of the Legislature will be taken up by the consideration of these Conventions does not hold water at all. I would like the Honourable Member to have a little more faith in the International Labour Organisation than he shows today. The International Labour Organisation may pass Conventions which the Honourable Member finds it difficult to ratify. At the same time, that organisation is laying down standards for the whole world and is doing lot of good work. I would, therefore, like the Honourable Member to show stronger faith in the good work that that organisation is doing, and, in order that India should participate more fully in the work of that organisation, I would suggest to the Honourable Member that he should send a strong and full delegation for the conferences of the International Labour Organisation. For some time the Government of India did not send any adviser to the delegates. Last year, they sent one adviser to each delegate. The agenda of the conference is a long one and various committees are appointed to consider the questions on the agenda. If the Indian workers' delegate is accompanied by only one they cannot take part in the work of several committees. I would, therefore, suggest to the Honourable Member that he should have greater faith in the work of that organisation and instead of sending only one adviser with each delegate, he should send several of them. This year there cannot be any complaint about lack of funds. There is a surplus of two or three crores of rupees and when there is such a surplus I am quite sure it will not be difficult for the Government of India to increase the number of the advisers.

Now, Sir, as regards the Convention itself, the Honourable Member pointed out that the Convention, though it merely accepts a principle, is worded in such a way that there will be a sort of moral binding upon the Government of India to give effect to the other Convention that may

be passed by the International Labour Organization as regards the establishment of a forty-hours week in particular industries. Well, Sir, if the Government of India had any objection of this nature, they should have taken that objection long ago. Sir, the Government of India already accepted the principle of a forty-eight hours week when they signed the Treaty of Versailles and at that time they did not bring forward the excuse that if they accepted the principle of a forty-eight hours week, there would be some moral binding upon them to introduce a forty-eight hours week in India. Sir, Article 427 of the Peace Treaty itself lays down the principle of 48 hours a week. I shall not read the whole but I shall read only the important portion :

"Holding as they do that labour should not be regarded as merely an article of commerce, they think there are methods and principles for regulating labour conditions which all industrial communities should endeavour to apply, so far as their special circumstances permit."

Then, Sir, one of the principles which article 427 lays down is this:

"The adoption of an eight-hour day or a forty-eight hour week is the standard to be aimed up where this has not already been attained."

Sir, the Government of India by signing the Treaty of Versailles did accept the principle of a forty-eight hour week and they have tried to give effect to that principle gradually. Similarly, I would ask them to-day to accept the principle of a forty-hour week and they should give effect to this principle by stages. My suggestion is that the Government of India should immediately inquire into the question of reducing the hours of work to forty-eight and after three or four years they should try and reduce the hours from forty-eight to forty. Sir, I am not asking that the hours of work in India should be reduced immediately to forty. At present the hours of work in factories and mines are fifty-four a week. My suggestion is that they should be reduced to forty-eight after investigation and after forty-eight hours a week are established, two or three years after that, they should try and inquire if the hours of work should not be reduced still further. I am, therefore, suggesting, that the Government of India should accept the principle of a forty-eight hour week and give effect to that principle by stages,—first from fifty-four, the hours should be reduced to forty-eight, and after about three years they should reduce the hours to forty hours.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only one minute more.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Well, Sir, the Honourable Member pointed out some difficulties. He said if the hours of work are to be reduced, the wages also will have to be reduced. Sir, it is not necessary that any reduction of the hours of work should be accompanied by a reduction in wages. As a matter of fact the Convention suggests that steps should be taken so that the standard of life of the workers should not be allowed to come down. Similarly the Conference passed a Resolution suggesting that steps should be taken so that the standard of life may be maintained. Moreover, supposing the hours of work in India are not reduced, is there any guarantee that the wages will not be reduced? As a matter of fact in the city of Bombay the wages were reduced by twenty-five per cent. long before the hours of work were reduced. Therefore, even if we do not reduce the hours of work, the reduction of wages will not thereby be stopped. If the workers cannot defend their standard of life and if

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their standard of living is attacked by the employers, the wages unfortunately will be reduced whether the hours of work are reduced or not. I, therefore, hope that the Legislature will accept my amendment which is a very reasonable one.

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

"That for the words 'do not' the word 'should' be substituted and the following be added at the end:

'and take steps towards the reduction of hours by stages so that 40 hours a week may be established in India as early as practicable'."

Mr. V. V. Giri (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural):

Sir, the Government of India is an original member 4 P. M. of the League of Nations for which the taxpayer in India pays many lakhs of rupees, but the Government of India persist in coming to this House, year after year, and telling us that they are not prepared to ratify some of the Conventions adopted though they are members of the League of Nations and of the International Labour Office. Of course, I do not expect the Government of India to straightaway say that they would ratify the Convention for a forty-hour week, without reducing the wages, because I know, as a matter of fact, in various industries where the workers demanded that there should be a reduction of the hours of work so that there may be employment for more workers, that was not done seriously, though the workers agreed to a reduction of wages; in fact there has been a long-drawn dispute for the last four or five years when the workers in some cases demanded lesser hours of work and lesser wages, the Government of India did not accept those proposals.

[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).]

Sir, our submission is this, that Mr. Joshi's amendment does not seek the immediate ratification of the Convention for forty hours. It merely urges the acceptance of the principle of the reduction. In fact, in most of the industries, as will be admitted without question, there is already a forty-eight hour week in existence. For instance, there has been a reduction from sixty to fifty-four hours in factories where there was a sixty hour week, and so it ought not to be difficult for the Government of India to accept the principle, though they may not immediately agree to put the same into execution. Sir, when there was a discussion of the Washington Convention about a reduction of the hours of work to forty-eight, great fears and doubts were expressed by the employer and I can quote a few lines from the speech of the workers' delegate from France, during the sittings of the International Labour Office, which discussed the question of the reduction to forty hours. He stated as follows. This is from the Proceedings of the International Labour Conference, Eighteenth Session, Geneva, 1934. At page 49, he stated:

"But let us go back to Washington. In 1919, when the employers were confronted with the question of the limitation of hours of work, the declarations made by the Employer's representatives were exactly the same in spirit as they are today. They uttered the same prophecies of evil and seemed even to predict that the

end of the world would come if hours of work were limited to eight in the day, as proposed at Washington. If you take these declarations and compare them with the declarations which the employers are making at the present moment you will find that they are identical in spirit and will give you an excellent idea of the employers' powers of prophecy."

Sir, after the Washington 48 hours a week have been adopted, today there has been a persistent demand on the part of the workers in all parts of the world for forty hours a week. In fact, if one goes through the proceedings of the International Labour Conference at its 18th Session, there was quoted the example of various employers who felt that the introduction of 40 hours week would do no harm but greater good to the industry even from the point of view of profits. I do not want to take time of the House by quoting what has been said by various employers of labour, for they will be found in the proceedings of the conference. So that I do not think there ought to be any difficulty for the Honourable Member in charge of Industries and Labour Department to accept the modest amendment of my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi. We do not desire the introduction of 40 hours week immediately, we do not even say that if forty hours week have not been introduced already, it must be introduced at once, our contention is that by accepting the principle contained in the amendment, there will be an incentive on the part of the Government of India if they consider at any rate immediately the introduction of 48 hours work in the industries where it is not in vogue. In fact there are certain industries, take for instance the Lillooah workshops, where there are 42 hours week and in most other industries the workers work 48 hours week. Therefore, our desire is that the Government of India should immediately consider the question whether they cannot introduce 48 hours week. After that is done, time will be after a few years to consider the question of 40 hours week. And it is only in that light that this amendment has been placed before the House by my Honourable friend and I hope the House will accept this amendment.

Sir H. P. Mody (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce):

Sir, for once I find myself whole-heartedly in agreement with the Government in a matter of labour legislation. They have very wisely decided on this occasion to refuse to ratify one of the innumerable Conventions which seem steadily to pour out from Geneva. I think my Honourable friend, Sir Frank Noyce, was very mild and a little too courteous when he gently protested that Geneva was going at too fast a pace. My own view is a little more downright, and I say that the recent career of Geneva is in the nature of the Rake's Progress, and if it is not checked in time we shall one day get up and say that we refuse to co-operate with the International Labour Conference. My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, from whom for six years I have in vain expected one word of recognition of the efforts of the Government of India to ameliorate labour conditions, with his usual charitableness, stated that India's record in the matter of labour legislation was most unsatisfactory and that India should not be kept backward for all time to come. I say exactly the contrary. I say that India's record in the matter of labour legislation is one of which she may feel legitimately proud. India was perhaps the first country or one of the first countries in the world to ratify the Washington Convention.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What was that convention?

Sir H. P. Mody: That convention was that the hours of work should be limited.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: That conference wanted 48 hours.

Sir H. P. Mody: . . . and that in respect of eastern countries certain concessions might be made. What happened? India ratified the convention and introduced accordingly a sixty-hour week and found herself faced with the competition of Japan which refused to ratify the convention for years together, though the workers there were working much longer, and labour conditions were generally inferior.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Not true.

Sir H. P. Mody: It is forgotten by my Honourable friend and those who are of his way of thinking that India is still in her industrial infancy, and if all these nostrums which are concocted in the laboratory of Geneva were to be poured down the throats of India the results would be disastrous to India?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: How?

Sir H. P. Mody: It will interest my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, to know what is at the back of the mind of some people in Geneva who go on supporting these labour conventions. I will read out something which I suppose my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, has not yet tumbled to, and I hope he will ponder over it in his calmer moments. This is from a note prepared by the Employers Federation of India:

"During the general discussion in the tripartite conference in 1933, when one of the delegates suggested that the proposed convention to restrict hours should first apply only to a few important industrial countries and the smaller countries could then examine the question, it transpired that the principal point causing anxiety to certain Governments' and employers' delegates was the application of the convention more particularly to eastern countries. They considered that Asiatic countries had no claim for special treatment and that it was most important to make a considerable reduction in the hours of work in those countries. The fact that they were serious competitors to the older industrial countries was stressed, and reference was made to the increase of industrial production in certain eastern countries."

That is really the motive behind the support given to these various conventions, not only on the part of labour, which, of course, is united on this question, but also on the part of some employers' delegates. They want that industrial legislation should be forced at an unnatural pace in this country so that the industrial expansion of India should be rendered very difficult. Well, Sir, I want to know whether any of my Honourable friends are prepared to subscribe to that position. I have during the last few years in this place noticed a great deal of agreement on the question of industrialisation of this country. I want my Honourable friends to understand that if that industrialisation is to proceed at a regular pace, then labour legislation should be checked.

An Honourable Member: Stopped.

Sir H. P. Mody: No, not stopped. There has been a great deal of labour legislation; nobody wants to stop it, but India must proceed gradually. Mr. Joshi asked why India should be backward, why India should

lag behind so many western countries in the matter of labour legislation. Has my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi ever got up at any labour meeting and said, "my comrades"—I do not know what he calls them—"you must put your shoulders to the wheel, and you must be as thoroughly efficient as the workers in the west, as the workers in Japan are. It is one way in which you can improve your standard of living and by which you can help in the industrialisation of the country". Has Mr. Joshi ever said that? No, comparison only comes in in the matter of labour legislation. When it comes to a question of efficiency, Mr. Joshi and those who represent the labour view point are entirely silent. It was only the other day that we introduced a 54-hour week. Are we to go on experimenting with hours of work? Mr. Joshi looked very innocent when he suggested "accept the principle and then gradually work it out".

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I inform my Honourable friend that in Bombay City itself there are several mills which are working seven hours a day, that is no more than 42 hours a week.

Sir H. P. Mody: If there are mills in Bombay working seven hours a week, that is due to the activities of men like Mr. Joshi, who have made conditions very difficult for us. I was saying Mr. Joshi put forward a very innocent-looking suggestion; I do not know whether he really hoped that he was going to take the Honourable Member in. He said, "accept the principle and gradually introduce the change". Why does he not lay down a time limit; the proper and more straightforward course would be to say, accept the principle and from the very next month reduce one hour a month, so that in a period of fourteen or fifteen months the forty-hour week would be introduced in this country.

I should like to see what country working under normal conditions has introduced the 40-hour week. It is all very well to subscribe to a principle. It may suit Italy for instance, but Italian conditions are abnormal, and it is notorious that wages in Italy are the lowest in Europe.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Not lower than ours.

Sir H. P. Mody: Relatively to output they are lower. I say that the time has not arrived for tinkering with the hours of work any further. I do not for a moment suggest that the 54-hour week is going to be our minimum for all time to come. By no means. I have sufficient confidence in the future of the world and the progress of humanity to believe that some day we shall work up to the 40-hour week. But conditions must *gradually* move up to that.

Then, Sir, there is another consideration which I have had to point out and emphasise on many occasions in this connection, and that is that every piece of labour legislation introduced into India is a nail in the coffin of Indian industries *vis-a-vis* the industries in the Indian States.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: That is a very old argument.

Sir H. P. Mody: But I hope that everything old is not to be put on the scrap-heap; otherwise we should probably find some of these Benches emptied out. (Laughter.) What I was saying was that we have no sort

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of authority over the Indian States. The worst or the best that the Government of India can do is to try and bring to bear their moral authority over the Indian States to follow in the wake of British India. Well, I have been at the Government of India on innumerable occasions asking them to try and induce the Indian States to adopt the same Conventions which India is adopting; but I do not think that the Government of India has met with success on all occasions. And if the Indian States which enjoy so many definite advantages over British India are to enjoy a still further advantage in the shape of vastly cheaper labour conditions, then I say the tendency towards location of new industries in Indian States will be accelerated, and most industries will find it more profitable to find a habitat in the Indian States rather than in British India with its novel ideas in the matter of labour legislation, and with its Joshis and the like.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What about the Federation? Labour legislation is a federal subject.

Sir H. P. Mody: No, labour legislation is going to be a provincial federal as well as a concurrent subject.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Exactly.

Sir H. P. Mody: Not "exactly"; that does not solve it. If it were only a federal subject it would be all right; but the States need not come into line with British India under Federation. I should like my Honourable friend to show me whether that is so or not.

Sir, for all these reasons I say that it will be extremely ill-advised on the part of the Assembly to say that the time has arrived for tinkering with the hours of work, and it should strongly support the motion made by my Honourable friend, Sir Frank Noyce, namely, that India do not ratify this Convention. I hope that when that is done, the International Labour Office will sit up and take notice of India's attitude towards some of its activities. I think we have suffered from Geneva's theorising a little too much; we do not want to suffer any more and I am whole-heartedly in agreement with the motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I am rather surprised that my Honourable friend, Sir Homi Mody, has thought fit to trot out a new enemy to our industrialism in this country. The other day, he was talking of foreign competition and today he is talking of competition coming from the Indian States. Sir, I would only like him to remember one thing, that, after all, Indian States are a part of India, and it really matters very little indeed to Indian workers and also to those Indians, who are anxious for industrial progress, whether this industrial progress takes place in British India or in the Indian States. Sir, he was talking of Japanese competition, having had to be experienced by our Indian industries because they came to accept the Geneva Conventions and also the Washington Conventions. He was talking of the generous manner in which the Indian employers have been co-operating with the Government of India in getting so many of these Geneva Conventions ratified in this House. Sir, I hope he himself as well as the House will remember the fact that at no time have Indian employers come forward readily with their offer of co-operation either with labour or with Government, for ratifying any particular Convention long before the Government of India itself took the initiative.

Sir, the history of Indian employers' relations with Indian labour is replete with instances of their attempts to sabotage Indian labour, to exploit Indian labour, and to suppress Indian labour. And I need only quote just a few lines from a speech delivered by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta at the Geneva Conference in reply to what the employers are saying about their own achievements in regard to these labour Conventions. He says:

"The Government of India" (as well as the employers) "take a great deal of credit to themselves, and point out again and again with pride that they have ratified the Washington and Geneva Conventions, and they say that, until others have done so, it is no use going any further. I am here to state that this boast of the Government of India is entirely unjustified. When they adopted the Washington Convention, the sixty-hour week was already an accomplished fact in a large number of industries. The sixty-hour week was an actual fact, which the Government simply registered in 1922. And when the Labour Commission in 1931 recommended the fifty-four hour week, the Government again claimed—and the Employers' Delegate was quite willing to associate himself with that—that fifty-four hours' work would be sufficient. But the Government knows very well that in Indian industries the fifty-four hour week is not the normal week; hours of work are less than fifty-four, and in having legislation for fifty-four they are not doing anything except registering the fact."

Similarly, in regard to this Convention of forty-eight hour week, Government have not so far done anything, but only paid lip sympathy by accepting the principle. Now, Sir, they are unwilling to accept the principle underlying this particular Convention merely because they do not wish to give effect to that 48-hours Convention in the near future or even in the distant future. It is a sort of pernicious attempt on the part of the Government of India, evidently supported by the Indian employers, which I am sure this House will be ready to protest against and also to vote down.

Then, Sir, the Honourable Member for Industries himself held out a sort of threat that, hereafter, the Government of India are not going to be so very ready and enthusiastic about accepting Conventions coming from the Geneva laboratory, as defined by my Honourable friend, Sir Homi Mody. That is the sort of attitude which is really very dangerous indeed in the interests of Indian labour. Sir, I wish to warn this Government as well as the employers that if they were to take the responsibility on their own shoulders of accepting or not accepting these various Conventions that are being passed and promulgated at Geneva in the minimum interests of labour and if they do not leave it to be decided by this House, then they will be running a very great risk indeed and they will be doing a very great injustice to Indian labour. Then, Sir, we are told that Geneva has become a hot-bed for idealists and the Geneva Labour Conference have bid good-bye to their ordinary practical common sense and are now thinking of manufacturing Conventions merely for their own sake, and in this connection the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour has a very strong supporter in the representative—the mouthpiece—of employers, Sir H. P. Mody. Sir H. P. Mody was even prepared to request the Government of India the other day that they should stop any further legislation in regard to labour, and the Honourable Member for Commerce also has made it perfectly clear that as far as railways are concerned, he was bent upon putting a stop to any further legislation. Sir, this bodes ill indeed to the Indian labour world, and it is necessary that this House should certainly suggest a means of protesting very vigorously against this reactionary attitude that the Government of India as well as employers of labour wish to take against Indian labour.

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

Lastly, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the fact that though some important countries in the West have not been able to accept this Convention of a 40-hour week, it is still true that India is far backward in her labour legislation. Our industrialists are very anxious that we should give them protection, that we should give them bounties and that we should give them every possible encouragement, and Indians have not been really miserly in their response to our industrialists and their needs. Rs. 54 crores are being paid every year by Indian consumers for the benefit of Indian industrialists. These Rs. 54 crores are being paid through the Government of India: in addition to this, another Rs. 108 crores are derived from Indian industries. The production of Indian industries is never less than twice as much as the imported articles on which import duty is being paid. In all, the Indian consumers are paying Rs. 162 crores in order to subsidise, in order to help, in order to foster the Indian industries, and is it not reasonable that these consumers should turn round and expect employers to make their contribution to some extent at least towards the maintenance of minimum standards of labour? Is it not reasonable that this House should expect them to try to improve the efficiency of their own labour—whose inefficiency they are themselves deploring—and to try to improve their standard of living. We are told by the Honourable Member in charge that if the hours of labour were to be reduced, the wages also might be reduced. I do not see any reason why the wages should be reduced if only Indian industrialists and Indian capitalists would set about improving their own internal organisation, improving their own management system and improving their own efficiency and the efficiency of their own workers by establishing a suitable industrial and educational system in this country. If only the Indian industrialists play their role properly and satisfactorily, I am sure it would not be impossible for Government to accept this 40-hour Convention and at the same time continue to pay the present level of wages. These wages are very very low. So low, that by raising the wages and by improving the efficiency of their labour, they would be making very good business. I, therefore, request this House to support Mr. Joshi's amendment and declare to the Indian labour world as well as to Indian consumers in this country that this House is just as serious about making employers discharge their duties as it has always been in providing them with the necessary help and assistance. In fact they are being pampered. If there is any party in this country which has been pampered most, it is the Indian industrialists. It is all very well for them to say that they are in their infant stage. I do not know for how long they would be infants. The Bombay textiles have had 60 years to live, and nearly twenty years of protection, and yet they exploit, not only the consumers, but also labour, after having had as much protection as they have desired for on the plea of their infancy. It is best that we should not have such an industry at all, and it is best that that kind of industry should be controlled and directed by the State rather than be managed by these inefficient industrialists, who at the same time are able to make millions and millions for themselves.

Sir Cowasji Jahangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Mr. Deputy President, if I have heard my Honourable friends correctly, including Mr. Joshi and Mr. Giri, they have not contended that they desire a 40-hour week immediately.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: No, they have not.

NON-RATIFICATION OF DRAFT CONVENTION CONCERNING HOURS OF WORK. 2033

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: My friend, Mr. Joshi, admits that. Now, the amendment that he has moved is that we do accept a 40-hour week immediately.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Principle.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: If we accept that, it would absolutely be the duty of Government to bring in a Bill for a 40 hour week.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: No, Sir.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: We are not accepting principles, we are accepting absolute facts. Here is a Convention in which it has been suggested that India should accept a 40 hour week. If the Government of India are not ready to accept that Convention immediately, but if they are to work up to it, it is their duty to refuse to accept that Convention. If next year or three or five years hence, Mr. Joshi comes to the conclusion that India is in a position to be able to carry out this Convention in its letter and spirit, it is his duty to bring it up before the Legislature for its acceptance. But you cannot ask Government to accept a Convention and then ask them not to give effect to it immediately. I cannot understand anyone admitting, on the one hand, that this is not the time when we should put a 40 hour week into effect, and on the other hand, saying that Government should accept the Convention. I presume that Geneva will expect India to carry out her pledge of having a 40 hour week within, say, a year's time if she accepted the Convention. Therefore, it appears to me that there is only very little difference of opinion. I cannot agree with either Mr. Joshi or Mr. Giri when they say that we are merely accepting the principle and we need not put it into effect for some years to come. What is the use of accepting a principle and then not putting it into effect? The Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, the Member of Government, is that the matter be postponed as they cannot accept it immediately. He has not said either in his speech or in the Resolution that Government should never give effect to it or should never accept it. That is the main point. Under the circumstances, I can see no other way but for this House to accept the Resolution placed before it by the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour.

There is just one more point to which I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable House. I need not draw the attention of my friend Mr. Joshi to it, because he knows it too well, and that is, that although nominally we have got a 54 hour week, how many hours do the workmen actually put in? How much do they actually work? Now, it is a notorious fact that in India, specially in my part of the world, although there may be a 54 hour week the workmen are not in the factory the whole time

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Therefore reduce the hours.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: A considerable amount of time is spent mooching about

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What does that mean?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: . . . knocking about, smoking *biris* and washing their faces: that is a notorious fact; and when the management try to bring about a little more efficiency, that is to say, try and get, if not 54 hours, at least 50 hours or 48 hours of real work out of the workmen,

[Sir Cowasji Jehangir.]

there is my friend, Mr. Joshi, and company to ask them to strike, because the rules, which are really meant to carry out efficiency, are supposed to be oppressive. Nobody knows these facts better than my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi. Let us forget about all these European ideas of having so many hours of work; let us concentrate and see how many hours the workmen will really work

Mr. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Let us discard European clothes first.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Before asking for a 50 or 40 hour week, suppose we ask for a retrograde step and ask for a 60 hour week, I contend we would get nothing out of it: the workman is not going to work: he will go outside the sheds for many more hours than he does at present; and if you make it a 40 hour week, I make bold to say that he will still continue to go out from the sheds, but perhaps a little less than he does now, because he will not have the time to do so. Therefore we have got to be practical in India and we have got to really make our laws and regulations suitable to our conditions. I trust that my friend Mr. Joshi realises this as much as anybody else. He told us just now that there are some mills in Bombay which have a 7 hour day. I would like to ask him which mills

Mr. N. M. Joshi: E. D. Sassoon's.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Double shift or three shifts: the cat is out of the bag.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What is the cat out of the bag?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: My Honourable friend did not tell the House that there is seven hours a day with three shifts working, 21 hours a day . . .

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I interrupt my Honourable friend and tell him that each workman works for seven hours: there may be three shifts: other people work in the other shifts.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: He works for seven hours and gets less pay . . .

Mr. N. M. Joshi: No, no.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: and, then, another shift comes and works for seven hours and gets less pay. If my Honourable friend had contended that there was more employment due to this three shift arrangement, I would admit it. But to come and tell this House that there are mills in Bombay who have seven hours work a day is an incorrect statement of fact, admitted by him

Mr. N. M. Joshi: No: not admitted: I have not admitted it.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Of course you cannot get more than 24 hours out of a day; you must reduce the working man's time if you introduce three shifts

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The machinery works longer.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: That is typical of the information that my Honourable friend is accustomed to give to this House. I am not going to say that he deliberately misleads, but he misleads himself, and, in his

attempt to mislead himself, he misleads others. I have said enough to show that we are all practically agreed that this Convention cannot be accepted today; and if my Honourable friend moves that it be accepted, I feel sure he would consider that it was his duty to bring in legislation at the earliest moment

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Quite so.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: and if he accepted it and did not bring in legislation at the very earliest moment, I would be the first to contend that the Government of India were acting dishonestly; and since I do not desire to see them act dishonestly, I will be only too pleased to support him on this present occasion; and as my friend, Sir Homi Mody, has said, that does not mean that a 40-hour week will never come to India: it will come in time, and perhaps champions of labour will draw the attention of this Honourable House when the time does come and will insist on seeing that the Convention is accepted and immediately put into practice.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the Honourable Member for Industries and Labour is an earnest Christian; and it would not be improper if I called his attention to an important injunction in the Holy Bible to the effect that we should do unto others as we wish that they should do unto us. As a public man, I have been used to very long hours of work and for no pecuniary reform; but since I became a Member of this Assembly, I find that four hours and three quarters of work per day makes people perspire; and that despite Rs. 20 a day!

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

Now, I should certainly suggest to the Honourable Member that he should not expect the factory labourers of this country to work more than he expects us to work here. I have worked out the figures and I find that our week is of 23½ hours. That may be the labourers' week also! The fear about cheap and nasty goods being dumped in our markets is not a very genuine fear; because, when we have such a cheap and inefficient Government in our country, we can afford to have cheap and bad things also. No harm will be done by our getting bad things if no harm has been done by getting a bad Government. I think the original sin on our part was to have got into these international obligations at all, and to have had anything to do with these international institutions in the past. Now that we have got tacked on to these international affairs it happens that every year the Honourable Member has to come to this House and ask that the various conventions should not be ratified.

Let us not forget that we are essentially an agricultural people; and agricultural people cannot be made to work to order. A number of agriculturists from my part of the country go down to the town which has the honour of having such distinguished Baronets and Knights as those who have already spoken: but though the Baronets and Knights are able to survive the climate of their City and come to this Assembly, both at Simla and Delhi, I find that my people never return: they all die there. The conditions of factory life apparently are so bad in Bombay that persons who go down there, from my part of the country, never live to come back. Therefore, something must be very wrong somewhere, and I think the long hours of

[Mr. Sri Prakasa.]

work in impossible conditions are responsible for their early death. Agricultural people, Sir, are used to work on an average about two hours a day. They have scarcely anything to do when it rains for about four months in the year; and sometimes, when they have very heavy work on hand, they work from early morning till late at night. I do not like the hours of work which are prevalent in factories, as they do not suit us. I have full sympathy with what my friend, Sir Homi Mody, said about the inefficiency and laziness of my people. I myself am often worried by the inefficiency and laziness of those with whom I come in contact, including Members of the Government. The cure for this disease is that our people should be given proper food, proper clothing, proper housing, proper domestic conveniences, and, above all, proper training. Unless our employers look after these essentials, they will never get an efficient and contented people. My great complaint against the Government and the employers, and against every person, who is in a position of authority in the country, is that they do not care what happens to the people in general so long as their own interests are satisfied. I am sure if these Bombay magnates saw to it that our people are properly looked after, properly trained, properly taught their rights and duties and fully assured of what is their due, we would have a happier and healthier people.

Therefore, Sir, if we are really serious, if we mean to improve both the industries of the country and the well-being of the people, then this aspect of the question should be given very particular attention. I agree with my friend, Sir Homi Mody, that we should not be tied to the apron strings of Europe or America or made to follow whatever they do. We seem to follow them in all that is bad, including putting on European clothes. (Laughter.) We do not care to follow them in all that is good, namely, efficiency, honesty, sincerity, hard work, devotion to duty and other things necessary for the uplift of the general mass of the people. So, Sir, if the Government and Bombay magnates alike combine to look in to this side of the question, we should be in a much better position. I certainly strongly recommend to the Government that they should do away with all these conventions, and put themselves out of the purview of these International complications, and look at the country as it is, examine the conditions of the people as they are, and use their resources and their sympathetic imagination to improve their lot in every possible way. If they do that, we shall not have to witness the scenes that we witness in this House and outside. I hope, Sir, my suggestion will be accepted by the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce, who as we all know, is a generous and kind-hearted man with a keen brain and sympathetic imagination; and who, if any one, can certainly help us and lead us along right lines in the matter of the equitable adjustment of the relations between Capital and Labour.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Sir, if my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi's amendment were accepted, it would mean:

"That this Assembly do recommend to the Governor General in Council that he should ratify the convention and take steps towards the reduction of hours by stages so that a 40-hour week may be established in India as early as practicable."

I know only too well, Sir, what the acceptance of Mr. Joshi's amendment would mean. Next year, at this time of year, he would be standing up in this House and asking in that voice that I know so well—"Mr. President, what are the Government of India doing to bring about

a reduction in the hours of labour from 54 hours to 48 hours?" I shall not be here the following year, but I have no doubt that, whoever is in my place, will be faced with the same question as again the following year, and so on, *ad infinitum* possibly. I have suffered, Sir, from those queries for four years. I shall suffer from them for another year, and I have no doubt that my successor will suffer from them too. But on one thing I am determined, and that is, to do my best to induce this House to accept this Resolution as it stands, so that he shall not be afflicted with at least one complaint. In all seriousness, Sir, I am profoundly disappointed, if I may say so, by the speeches from the Opposition Benches and also by the speech of Mr. Joshi himself in support of his amendment. The only argument which has been adduced is that it is a good thing for the workman to have his hours reduced from 54 hours a week to 40 hours a week. Well, Sir, that may or may not be the case, and I can only say that I profoundly wish that my own hours of work were reduced from something nearer 70 hours to 40 hours a week. My complaint is that no speaker has made the smallest effort to meet my point in regard to the effect of a reduction to forty hours on prices and wages. The point I endeavoured to make, Sir, was that unless a 40-hour week were universal and were generally adopted in all countries, it would mean that the countries which adopted a 40-hour week would be very heavily penalised at the expense of those who refused to come in. And again, unless the 40-hour week were universally adopted throughout all industries, the position would be the same. If particular industries were singled out for special treatment, that would mean that their costs of production would go up, that their prices would go up, and that they could not carry on. I entirely agree with my friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, that it would serve no useful purpose to adopt this convention, that it would in fact be a breach of faith to adopt it, unless we meant to bring it into actual operation at an early stage. As I have clearly said, if this country were to adopt this convention and other countries did not do the same, competition from outside must increase and prices must go up. Now, Sir, my friend, Mr. Ranga, was the only person who mentioned the consumer. He has, in past speeches, paid special attention to the interests of the consumer in this House, but I did not notice any sign, or, only a very faint sign, of his doing so today. The mass of the consumers in this country are agriculturists. The adoption of a 40-hour week in industries must send up the prices of all the goods they purchase, and the burden on them would be intolerable. I have, Sir, in my hand a number of resolutions passed by the Peasant Group of M. L. As. which was sent to me by my friend, Professor Ranga, some time back. The second of those resolutions runs as follows:

"While recognising the need for affording adequate and timely protection to Indian industries in order that such industries when properly and fully equipped may provide remunerative employment to the growing numbers of unemployed, this group is anxious to see that the masses are burdened by protective duties only for so long and to such an extent as will be demonstrably proved to be necessary."

Those, Sir, are very laudable sentiments, but I can assure my friend that if he works for the acceptance of Mr. Joshi's amendment, he will be doing singularly little to carry them into practice. The adoption of a 40-hour week in this country at this juncture would mean protective duties at a level which would be very much higher than that which exists at present and which would hit the masses very hard.

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, is not consistent. He says at one moment that Government should ratify the convention. At the next, he says "Well, you can only proceed by stages; 48 hours at once and perhaps after an inquiry you may adopt 40 hours". I would ask him, Sir, how can you ratify a convention if at some distant date you propose to have a further inquiry before you bring it into practical effect?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: You need not have the inquiry?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: My Honourable friend suggested an inquiry. Now, he is not so keen about it. Obviously, if you have an inquiry, the results have to be taken into consideration before you can take the next step. That is why I say that my Honourable friend is inconsistent. I would add one comment with reference to his contention that the Government of India have accepted the principle of the 48-hour week. That is not the case. The Versailles Treaty contemplated special provisions for special countries and the very Convention which adopted the 48-hour week allowed India 60 hours. All I would say in conclusion is that my Honourable friends, Mr. Joshi and Mr. Giri, must face the position. If we are only going to accept 48 hours now or in the near future, how can we possibly ratify this Convention? We are not accepting the principle of it. Finally, I would ask the House in all seriousness to consider what is really the crux of the whole question. Why should we now go to a stage which even Western countries are not prepared to accept? That, Sir, is my final, and, I hope, conclusive argument.

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

"That for the words 'do not' the word 'should' be substituted, and the following be added at the end:

'and take steps towards the reduction of hours by stages so that 40 hours a week may be established in India as early as practicable'."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—42.

Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Asaf Ali, Mr. M.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Bhagavan Das, Dr.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Giri, Mr. V. V.
Govind Das, Seth.
Gupta, Mr. Ghansham Singh.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Kailash Behari Lal, Babu.
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.
Pant, Pandit Govind Ballabh.
Parma Nand, Bhai.
Raghubir Narayan Singh, Choudhuri.
Rajan, Dr. T. S. S.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Sham Lal, Mr.
Shaikat Ali, Maulana.
Sheodass Daga, Seth.
Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Anugrah Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Shri Krishna.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.

NOES—48.

Abdoola Haroon, Seth Haji.
Acott, Mr. A. S. V.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
Aminuddin, Mr. Saiyid.
Ayyar, Diwan Bahadur R. V. Krishna.
Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama.
Bajpai, Sir Girja Shankar.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.
Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
Dalal, Dr. R. D.
Das-Gupta, Mr. S. K.
Dash, Mr. A. J.
DeSouza, Dr. F. X.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kumar Vijaya Ananda.
Gauba, Mr. K. L.
Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.
Grigson, Mr. W. V.
Hands, Mr. A. S.
Hudson, Sir Leslie.
Hutton, Dr. J. H.
James, Mr. F. E.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.

Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
Khurshaid Muhammad, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
Lal Chand, Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.
Leach, Mr. F. B.
Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
MacDougall, Mr. R. M.
Metcalfe, Sir Aubrey.
Mody, Sir H. P.
Morgan, Mr. G.
Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
Rau, Mr. P. R.
Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
Sale, Mr. J. F.
Sarma, Mr. R. S.
Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
Singh, Rai Bahadur Shyam Narayan.
Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
Spence, Mr. G. H.
Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.
Vissanji, Mr. Mathuradas.
Witherington, Mr. C. H.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair will now put the original Resolution to the vote. The question is:

"That this Assembly, having considered the draft Convention adopted by the Nineteenth Session of the International Labour Conference concerning the reduction of the hours of work to 40 a week, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he do not ratify the Convention."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 9th March, 1936.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 9th March, 1936.

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.

HEALTH OF MR. RAM KISHAN DETAINED UNDER REGULATION III OF 1818.

1002. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that Mrs. Ram Kishan, wife of Mr. Ram Kishan, B.A. (National), detained by the Punjab Government under Regulation III of 1818, has telegraphically applied to the Punjab Government for permission for examination of her husband by a board of doctors of her choice?

(b) Is it a fact that this request has been turned down by the Punjab Government?

(c) Will Government state the reasons for the same?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Government are satisfied that adequate arrangements have been made for the medical examination and treatment of the State Prisoner and do not consider it necessary to supplement these arrangements by seeking outside medical advice.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the health of this prisoner now, according to the latest information available to Government?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I answered that question on the last day when the Assembly was sitting. As far as I remember, it is fair. He is in hospital now.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Has he improved in health?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I cannot say.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government make enquiries, and find out whether his treatment in the hospital is resulting in improvement, and, if not, will Government allow the request to get outside medical help?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: If the Honourable Member will look up the reply I gave last day when the Assembly was sitting, he will find out what I said. I cannot now remember exactly what reply I gave on that occasion.

COUNTRIES BANNING OR RESTRICTING IMPORTS OF INDIAN GOODS.

1003. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) what were the countries that had banned or restricted imports of Indian goods before the Ottawa Pact;
- (b) what are the countries that have completely banned imports of Indian goods after the Ottawa Pact;
- (c) what are the countries that have restricted the import of Indian goods after the Ottawa Pact; and
- (d) whether any attempts have been made since the Ottawa Pact to make trade agreements between India and other countries; if so, with whom and with what results?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a), (b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the list of restrictive measures applied by various Governments against imports since 1927, a copy of which is in the Library of the Legislature. I may, however, repeat, what I have stated previously in the House, that these restrictive measures are not applicable only to goods coming from India.

(d) The Honourable Member is referred to the 'Convention and Protocol regarding the Commercial Relations between India and Japan'—copies of which are also available in the Library.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is that the only agreement, referred to in part (d)?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes, Sir.

PROTECTION TO THE COCOANUT INDUSTRY.

1004. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the action they have taken, or propose to take, with regard to the dumping of cocoanut, and copra and cocoanut oil, the facts regarding which have been placed before the Government of India and His Excellency the Viceroy by the deputation of some Members of this House along with the President of the Cocoanut Growers' Association of Travancore?

(b) Are Government contemplating the imposition of an import duty on cocoanuts and cocoanut products against importation into India, particularly from Ceylon?

(c) If an import duty is considered impractical, what other effective measures of protection do they intend promulgating to relieve the acute distress prevailing in the cocoanut industry in this country, particularly in South India and the States of Travancore and Cochin?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take with regard to the recommendations of the Sub-Committee of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research with regard to the question of protection of the cocoanut industry?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a), (b) and (d). I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given by me on the 6th February to Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliar's question No. 130.

(c) The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research will shortly undertake a marketing survey in the interests of the cocoanut growing industry. Other measures of assistance such as revision of rent and debt reduction are primarily the concern of the local administrations.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: May I know the present market price of cocoanut?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I would require notice of that question.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Since the last tariff value was raised, are Government aware of the price of cocoanut and cocoanut products?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: If the Honourable Member's question is whether variations in price come to the notice of the Government, the answer is yes; if the Honourable Member's question is whether at this moment I am aware of what the price of cocoanuts and cocoanut products is, the answer is no.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: What is the variation?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: As I have said, I would require notice.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Since Government have turned down the proposal to have an import duty for the present at least, may I know if Government have examined the possible effects of the other steps which the Honourable Member mentioned? Have they come to any conclusion to what extent, if any, such steps will relieve the distress prevailing among cocoanut growers?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: On the last occasion I replied that the present rate of tariff values was such that the Government imagined that a considerable amount of relief would result from it to the cocoanut growers in the Kerala country.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Honourable Member obtain information as to the exact relief obtained by the growers of cocoanut, and place that information on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The information will continue to come to the Government and the Government will continue to form their own opinion from time to time.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will they place the information on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: After sufficient time has elapsed to enable Government to collect all the information, and if a question is put, I will be very glad to furnish the information.

CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOWRAH BRIDGE.

1005. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) whether they are aware of the report regarding the new Howrah Bridge contract, published on page 1 of the *National Call* of the 6th February, 1936;

- (b) whether the Chairman of the Bridge Contracts proposes to give the contract to a British firm;
- (c) whether the report is true; and
- (d) whether they are prepared to use their influence to get the contract for an Indian firm?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a), (b) and (c). The Government of India have seen the report but are unable to say whether it is true.

(d) As I have explained previously, the Howrah Bridge Commissioners are, subject to the approval of the local Government, competent to accept tenders for the construction of the new Howrah Bridge. The Government of India have no statutory powers in the matter.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the reply to part (d)?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have already replied to that on several occasions.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What is the actual position with regard to this at the present moment?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I do not know what the actual position is at the present moment.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Has the Honourable Member passed on to the Port authorities, the substance of the representation made to him by Honourable Members from Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am sure the Local Government are fully aware of the feelings of this House with regard to this question?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Am I to understand that the Government have not passed on the substance of the representation made by Honourable Members from Bengal to the Bengal Government?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The Honourable Member may not understand anything further from what I have said. I can assure the House that the Government of Bengal are in full possession of the sentiments of Honourable Members.

CULTIVATION OF TEA IN THE NILGIRIS.

1006. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) whether it is true that they have allowed about four thousand acres of new cultivation of tea in the Nilgiris;
- (b) whether the permission for this fresh cultivation was given wholly to European planters;
- (c) whether small Indian estate holders have not been properly treated in this matter;
- (d) whether they have resolutions on this subject passed at public meetings of the small growers of tea in the Nilgiris; and
- (e) if so, what action they have taken in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). No, Sir. New cultivation which has been permitted in the whole of South India is as follows:

Indian-owned Estates	...	...	283.60 acres.
European-owned Estates	...	...	346.36 acres.

(c) Government have no reason to believe that small Indian estate holders have not been properly treated.

(d) and (e). Government have received from two gentlemen. Messrs. M. K. Bellie Gowder and H. B. Ari Gowder, copies of certain resolutions said to have been passed at meetings of small growers of tea on the Nilgiris and these resolutions are at present under consideration.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are Government in a position to state how much of this fresh cultivation is by the small growers and how much by the large growers?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I would require notice of that question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Then, from what material did the Honourable Member say that the small growers have been allotted their proper share?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: There is nothing to show that there was unfairness in the allotment. There is no specific allegation, nor any facts put forward from which an inference of unfairness can be drawn. No materials have been put forward to support such an allegation.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I take it that this answer which the Honourable Member gave was given without the matter being investigated and without making any reference to the local authorities in Madras?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: What local investigation does the Honourable Member mean?

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: To enquire in Madras whether the small growers have been allotted their proper share?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no reason to believe that small growers have not been properly treated.

MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL COMMITTEE OF THE NILGIRIS UNDER THE TEA CONTROL ACT.

1007. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) the number of members of the Local Committee of the Nilgiris under the Tea Control Act of 1933;
- (b) whether there is only one Indian on it;
- (c) whether there is no one to represent the small growers;

- (d) whether the small growers represent nearly one-fourth of the total tea growing area; and
- (e) if so, whether they are prepared to consider the advisability of giving representation to the small growers on the committee?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a), (b), (c) and (e). There is no local Committee of the Nilgiris under the Indian Tea Control Act, 1933. The South India Standing Sub-Committee of the Indian Tea Licensing Committee represents the whole of the South Indian tea interests and consists of four European and three Indian members. One Indian member specially represents the Nilgiri small growers being the head of the Badaga community.

(d) The small growers in South India represent only three per cent. of the total area under tea in South India.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that the small growers are not really vocal, will Government consider the advisability of making a machinery by which their views can be ascertained?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have already submitted that one Indian member specially represents the Nilgiri small growers.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is he elected by the small growers?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That I could not say; but he must be a small grower himself as he represents the interests of small growers.

MUSLIMS IN THE COMPANY-MANAGED RAILWAYS AND IN THE AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS SERVICE OF THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

1008. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim** (on behalf of Mr. M. Ghias-uddin). Will Government please state:

- (a) the number of Muslims in the superior and subordinate grades of the Company-managed Railways and the Muslim proportion with regard to other communities;
- (b) the number of Muslims in the Audit and Accounts Service of the Assam Bengal Railway;
- (c) if the number of Muslims is below the proportion fixed by them, what immediate steps they propose to take to redress communal inequalities?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). The information in the possession of Government, with regard to the actual composition of staff on the Company-managed Railways, including the Assam Bengal Railway, is contained in Appendix 'F' to the report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways, Volume I, for 1934-35.

(c) Government, as Honourable Members are aware, have fixed percentages for Muslims on class I Railways (excluding the Nizam's and Jodhpur Railways), so as to secure for them 25 per cent. in future direct recruitment on all these railways taken together, provided candidates possessing the necessary qualifications are available. It is not the intention of Government to make good the deficiencies existing prior to July, 1934, in the recruitment of any community.

CONTRACTS FOR ICE AND AERATED WATER ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1009. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim** (on behalf of Mr. M. Ghias-uddin): (a) Is it a fact that ice and aerated water contracts on the North Western Railway have again been given to those who held them during the last seasons?

(b) Is it a fact that applications were always invited for these contracts annually?

(c) Is it a fact that such applications were not invited this year?

(d) Is it a fact that since the introduction of the system of giving out these contracts, they have always been granted to approved contractors for one season only at a time?

(e) Is it a fact that, contrary to all precedents, these contracts have been granted this time for three years and that also without inviting applications?

(f) Is it a fact that there is no Muslim ice and aerated water contractor on the whole of the North Western Railway?

(g) Is it a fact that representations have from time to time been made by responsible Muslim Associations for the appointment of at least one Muslim ice and aerated water contractor on the North Western Railway?

(h) Is it a fact that such a representation was recently made to the Agent, North Western Railway, by the Muslim representatives of the North-West Frontier Province, through the Local Government? If so, what action was taken thereon?

(i) If the answer to parts (a), (b), (c), (d), and (e) be in the affirmative, will Government please state the reasons for their departure from the established practice?

(j) If the answer to parts (f), (g) and (h) be in the affirmative, will Government please state if there are any reasons for debarring the Muslims from the grant of such a contract and ignoring the representation of the Muslim community?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a), (c) and (f). Yes.

(b) No. Applications are invited only when it is considered necessary to make a change.

(d) The Agent states that the records available indicate that licenses were granted in 1918 for a period of two years, but usually the licenses have been for one year only.

(e) It was proposed this year to make the licenses cover a period of three years, but terminable by either party on three months' notice at any time, and by the Administration without notice if there was any failure on the part of the licensees to carry out the provisions of their licenses.

(g) As far as can be ascertained, only one representation from a Muslim Association was received, and that in December, 1935, from the President, Muslim Association, Peshawar.

(h) No, but the local Government asked the Agent to send them a copy of the reply that was sent to the President, Muslim Association, Peshawar. This was done; the reply reads as follows:

"That this Administration after due consideration has decided to renew the license of the present ice and aerated water contracts for a period of three years."

(i) It was represented to the Administration that licensees would be reluctant to invest the necessary capital for improving their services if their licenses were for a year only. It was, subsequently, decided, however, that the licenses should continue as heretofore to be for each season only.

(j) Licenses are given to those who, in the view of the Administration, are able to give the best service to the travelling public. No particular community is barred from getting any contract.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member said that licenses have been for one year only. Is it a fact that on the North Western Railway from Karachi to Lahore Mr. Bliss is getting a contract for this aerated water and ice for more than one year?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes, he has had this contract for more than a year.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Is it a fact that these contracts are being given only to those men who possess aerated water factories and can carry on the show?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I presume they are being given to people who can render the necessary service, but I do not know whether it is a condition that they must be owners of aerated water factories.

GRANT OF LICENCES FOR THE SALE OF CIGARETTES, PANS, ETC., TO MUSLIM VENDORS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1010. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim** (on behalf of Mr. M. Ghias-uddin): (a) Is it a fact that orders were issued by the Agent, North Western Railway for the grant of licences for the sale of cigarettes, pans, etc., to Muslim vendors at all important stations?

(b) Is it a fact that these orders have not been carried out by some of the divisions?

(c) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider the advisability of enforcing these orders without delay and remove the grievances of the Muslim public?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) No.

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

PAMPHLETS REGARDING THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY ADMINISTRATION.

1011. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim** (on behalf of Mr. M. Ghias-uddin): (a) Is it a fact that two pamphlets, stating certain facts regarding the North Western Railway Administration were brought to the notice of the Railway Board during the last year?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the facts stated therein are correct?

(c) If no enquiry has so far been made, are Government now prepared to enquire into the matter to see if these facts are correct?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government are unable to trace the receipt of the two pamphlets referred to in the question.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) Government are not prepared to make any enquiry. The matters referred to in the pamphlets concern the detailed administration of the North Western Railway, entirely within the competence of the Agent to whom a copy of the question has been sent for information and such action as he may consider necessary.

ALLEGED CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY PREVAILING IN CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY HEADQUARTERS OFFICE.

1012. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim** (on behalf of Mr. M. Ghias-uddin): (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the articles published in the *Weekly Union*, Lahore, dated 8th August, 1935, 22nd August, 1935 and 1st January, 1936, relating to corruption and bribery prevailing in the Acme Confidential and Personnel Sections of the Headquarters Office, North Western Railway, Lahore?

(b) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of enquiring into the state of affairs alleged to be prevailing in the said office?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) The Agent, North Western Railway, considered the allegations and came to the conclusion that no action was called for.

POST OF THE SUPERINTENDENT ON SPECIAL DUTY IN THE PERSONNEL BRANCH OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY HEADQUARTERS OFFICE.

1013. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim** (on behalf of Mr. M. Ghias-uddin): (a) Will Government please state how long the post of an additional Superintendent on special duty in the Personnel Branch of the Headquarters Office, North Western Railway, has been in existence?

(b) Will Government please state the duties which have from time to time been entrusted to the Superintendent on special duty and the work so far accomplished by the incumbents of the post?

(c) Will Government please state how long the post of the Superintendent on special duty is likely to continue?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Since the 6th October, 1933.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the information laid on the table of this House on the 18th July, 1934, in reply to parts (e) and (f) of Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad's unstarred question No. 272, asked on the 3rd April, 1934. Government understand that since that reply was given the same procedure has been applied to the remaining Divisional Superintendents' Offices, the Superintendent, Mechanical Workshop Office and to Sub-Divisional Offices on the Rawalpindi, Multan and

Karachi Divisions and the Superintendent is now employed on an examination of the procedure in Sub-Divisional Offices with a view to securing uniformity in these offices and although a considerable amount of information has been collected, much still remains to be done.

He has also been detailed to examine existing routine establishment procedure in the larger subordinate offices with the same object and is at present working on the offices of the Station Superintendent and Locomotive Foreman, Lahore, and after these will take the Train Examiner's office.

There are still a large number of extra Divisional Offices to be done and when all this examination work has been completed, it is anticipated that it will be possible to secure a much larger measure of uniformity than exists at present and obviate those cases of differential treatment which are now coming to light from time to time.

(c) No estimate can at present be made of how long the post is likely to be continued.

DISABILITY PENSION TO MILITARY EMPLOYEES INVALIDED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

1014. *Bhai Parma Nand: (a) Is it a fact that a civil subordinate who contracted disease on Field Service during the Great War of 1914—18 and eventually retired from Government service on a pay of Rs. 200 per mensem or more on account of the same disease is eligible to disability pension under chapter 38, Civil Service Regulations, in accordance with Government reply to question No. 592, dated 4th September, 1933?

(b) Is it a fact that the above question was raised again and again in the Assembly, as per questions noted below, and Government every time either confirmed their reply of 4th September, 1933 or called for particulars of the cases in order that action may be taken on the lines of their reply to question No. 592 of the 4th September, 1933:

- (i) question No. 1182-A, dated the 27th November, 1933;
- (ii) question No. 1263, dated the 1st December, 1933;
- (iii) question No. 31, dated the 6th February, 1934;
- (iv) question No. 32, dated the 6th February, 1934; and
- (v) question No. 33, dated the 6th February, 1934?

(c) Is it a fact that on account of continued refusal and non-compliance with the Government views and admissions in the Assembly by the Controller of Military Pensions, Lahore, the matter was again pointedly put in the Assembly, as per question No. 331 of the 2nd March, 1934, with a view to a clear, concise and final decision being reached by the Government as to whether the viewpoint of the Controller, Military Pensions or that of the Government was correct?

(d) Is it a fact that Government promised to go again very carefully and thoroughly into the points raised in question No. 331 of the 2nd March, 1934?

(e) Is it a fact that in the consideration of question No. 331 of 2nd March, 1934, Government felt that an anomaly had arisen in the application of the rules and wrote to that effect to some Members of the House?

(f) Is it a fact that to clear up the anomaly, Government referred the whole question to the Finance Department, Government of India, for a very clear, definite and final decision being reached on the subject?

(g) Is it correct that the point at issue was under consideration and continued discussion for over fourteen months, viz., from 4th September, 1933, the date of question No. 592, to 13th November, 1934, when Government arrived at a final decision in respect of question No. 331 of 2nd March, 1934?

(h) Is it correct that in the final reply to question No. 331 of 2nd March, 1934, Government admitted wrong assessment of disability cases for diseases and ordered the reassessment and readjustment of such cases?

(i) Will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) the number of cases affected by the final reply to question No. 331 of 2nd March, 1934;
- (ii) the number ordered for reassessment and readjustment;
- (iii) the number reassessed and readjusted up to date; and
- (iv) the number still remaining for reassessment and readjustment, and when this is likely to be completed?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 1014 and 1015 together.

The questions are being examined and a reply will be laid on the table in due course.

DISABILITY PENSION TO MILITARY EMPLOYEES INVALIDED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

†1015. *Bhai Parma Nand: (a) Will Government please state whether their replies to the following questions in the Assembly still stand as regards civil officers and subordinates who contracted diseases on Field Service in 1914—18 and eventually retired on a pay of Rs. 200 per mensem and over in 1928—30 on account of the same diseases:

- (i) question No. 592-A, dated the 4th September, 1933;
- (ii) question No. 592-B, dated the 4th September, 1933;
- (iii) question No. 1182-A, dated the 27th November, 1933; and
- (iv) question No. 331 of the 2nd March, 1934?

(b) If Government are not now prepared to act on their replies to the four questions referred to above in part (a) will they be pleased to give a fresh and complete reply to each of the questions referred to?

(c) In case of any alterations being made in the previous replies, will Government be pleased to specify the alterations made and the date of such alterations?

(d) Is it a fact that paragraph 741-A, Civil Service Regulations, stands as it was on 13th November, 1934, the date of final reply to question No. 331 of 2nd March, 1934? If not, will Government be pleased to state when the said paragraph was modified and what is its present modified and correct wording?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1014.

(e) Is it a fact that according to paragraph 738, Civil Service Regulations, an officer or subordinate is eligible to disability pension in addition to such ordinary civil pension as he may be eligible to under the Civil Service Regulations?

(f) Is it a fact that an officer or subordinate getting only the ordinary civil pension under the Civil Service Regulations is also eligible for the disability pension, if disabled on account of diseases contracted during the Great War 1914—1918 on Field Service?

(g) Is it a fact that in the case of those retiring on a pay of Rs. 200 per mensem and over, on account of the diseases contracted on Field Service, relative ranks are to be determined on the basis of permanent pay, drawn on the date of final retirement from the service, in accordance with the Government's final reply to question No. 331 of 2nd March, 1934?

(h) Are Government now prepared to act according to their replies now given to the above questions?

CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOWRAH BRIDGE.

1016. *Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the news appearing in the *National Call*, dated Thursday, February 6, 1936, from its Calcutta correspondent on page 1 under the heading "Howrah Bridge Contract for British Firm"?

(b) Is it a fact that the Chairman of the Bridge Commissioners communicated to the members that the contract should be offered to a British firm in preference to the "Indian Combine"?

(c) Will Government please state whether the Chairman of the Bridge Commissioners consulted the Government of India, or the Government of Bengal, before communicating his suggestion in this matter?

(d) If the Government of India were not consulted, do they propose to take steps to offer appropriate advice to the authorities concerned before any final decision is reached, in order to safeguard the interests of India?

(e) Are Government aware that there is a strong feeling in India against the contract being offered to a non-Indian firm?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take to insure that Indian interests are adequately safeguarded in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Attention is invited to the reply just given to the question asked by the Honourable Mr. Chettiar.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF INDIAN GOODS AND GOLD EXPORTED FROM INDIA.

1017. *Mr. S. Satyamurti (on behalf of Seth Govind Das): Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total export of gold from India till today, or as late as possible, since England abandoned the gold standard;

(b) what is the total quantity of gold exported out of India during the previous seven years;

(c) what is the present gold reserve in this country;

(d) what is the average amount of India's foreign obligations;

(e) what is the total import of Empire goods into India as apart from the United Kingdom, during 1933-34 and 1934-35 (value in crores of rupees);

(f) what are the total imports from non-Empire countries into India during these two years (value in crores of rupees);

(g) what are the total exports from India to non-Empire countries during the two years, 1933-34 and 1934-35 (value in crores of rupees);

(h) what is the value in crores of rupees of the total export of India's goods during the years 1933-34 and 1934-35 to the United Kingdom and the British Empire; and

(i) whether the exports of the United Kingdom to the Empire countries have increased by about £20 millions per annum in the two years following the Ottawa agreement?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) About Rs. 271 crores up to 1st February, 1936.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Annual Statements of the Sea-borne Trade of British India, for 1932-33 and 1933-34, Volume I, and the monthly Sea-borne Trade Accounts for March 1935, copies of which are in the Library of the Legislature.

(c) No information is available.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by the Honourable the Finance Member on the 2nd September, 1935, to Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar's starred question No. 8.

(e) to (h). The Honourable Member is referred to Table A in Chapter IV of the Review of the Trade of India in 1934-35, a copy of which is also in the Library.

(i) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Annual Statements of the Trade of the United Kingdom with foreign countries and British countries, and the Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for December, 1934, and 1935, copies of which are available in the Library.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government considered the question that today the balance of trade, favourable to India, is largely, if not wholly, being kept up by the export of gold, and have they considered any suggestions or methods by which the balance of trade may be kept up, independent of the export of gold?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The answer to the first part of the question is, yes. With regard to the second part, Government are continuously watching the situation and doing what they can to encourage a favourable balance of trade in commodities.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if the Honourable Member will be good enough to mention the main categories of the steps which Government have taken in the last six months, in order to encourage the export of commodities other than gold, to keep up the balance of trade?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That would require a very detailed statement to be compiled and read out. If the Honourable Member desires a statement of that kind and puts down a question, I shall endeavour to compile one.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are Government aware that various countries have imposed restrictions on the free export of gold as a commodity?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes, some have.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If so, why do the Government of India allow further export of gold? Do they propose to impose any restrictions?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The Government of India do not contemplate placing any restrictions.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why do not they think of imposing restrictions on the export of gold as other countries are trying to do?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: It is not always feasible to do what other countries are doing.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it in the interests of India to send out all this gold?

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

MOHANJO-DARO ANTIQUITIES.

1018. *Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: (a) With reference to a contribution from a special correspondent of the *Daily Gazette*, Sind, dated 31st January, 1936, regarding 'Mohanjo-Daro' antiquities, will Government be pleased to state if they have any intention to give any antiquities to the Bombay Government on the separation of Sind? If so, why?

(b) Is it a fact that the Bombay Government have made a claim for them? If so, for what reasons, and what reply have Government given to them?

(c) Are Government aware that the people of Sind are entirely against parting with any of the antiquities and desire the Museum at Mohanjo-Daro, which is being visited by persons from India and abroad, to contain all the finds?

(d) Are Government aware that on previous occasions when the question of either the removal or distribution of the finds has arisen in this House, Government's view has been reassuring and against the removal of the finds?

(e) Do Government continue to hold that opinion? If not, why not?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes, a selection from such of the duplicate antiquities as are surplus to the requirements of the local museum at Mohenjo-Daro. Government are of the opinion that the exhibition of such duplicate antiquities in the museum at Bombay will stimulate the interest of persons from abroad or from other parts of India, who have no time or opportunity to visit Mohenjo-Daro.

(b) No. The dependent parts do not arise.

(c) The Museum at Mohenjo-Daro will continue to house a complete and fully representative collection of all classes of antiquities found at Mohenjo-Daro.

(d) and (e). Government have in no way altered their previous attitude.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member if it is a fact that armaments which are not duplicates or triplicates will not be removed?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Whatever is not in existence in duplicates or triplicates will not be removed from Mohenjo-Daro.

CONTRACT FOR INSIDE BODY VARNISH BY THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1019. *Pandit Nilakantha Das: (a) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway authorities placed the requisition No. I. S. D.-22425/G.-165-est.-53, dated 7th November, 1930, for varnish hard drying inside against Indian Stores Department Contract No. H.-6040/10, dated 5th March, 1930, with Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson?

(b) Is it a fact that the actual supply was found unsatisfactory and unsuitable for use as an inside body varnish and was rejected being a rosin varnish whose appearance was turbid and gave brittle film, vide Government Test House Test Result No. 2629-0 of 19th December, 1930?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay a copy of Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson's reply, dated 8th January, 1931, to the Calcutta Controller of Inspection's letter No. HH.-45/24, dated 5th January, 1931, together with a copy of East Indian Railway Controller of Stores' letter of 20th November, 1930, to Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson?

(d) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway authorities on the 20th November, 1930 made Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson to return the original requisition or stores order for correction and change the store order from the quality supplied by Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson in accordance with the Indian Stores Department Rate Contract No. H.-6040/10, dated 5th March, 1930, to a special hard drying varnish for inside use?

(e) Is it a fact that on the request of Messrs. Jenson and Nicholson the certificate No. 2629-0 of 19th December 1930, was rescinded? If so, why?

(f) If the answer to the first portion of part (e) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the action was *ultra vires*? If so, who was responsible for this action?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) The varnish ordered was required to conform to a special sample approved by the East Indian Railway. Through a misunderstanding the Indian Stores Department Inspectorate tested this varnish against an

Indian Stores Department standard sample and as the varnish offered for supply did not conform to this Indian Stores Department standard sample, it was rejected. When the East Indian Railway pointed out that the varnish ordered was required to comply with an East Indian Railway sample which had been found satisfactory, it was re-tested by the Indian Stores Department and found to conform to this East Indian Railway sample, and was, therefore, accepted.

(c) Government are not prepared to lay the correspondence on the table.

(d) The original store order was corrected only in respect to rate per gallon and unit of supply.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

RATES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF AIR MAILS FROM KARACHI TO LAHORE.

1020. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Is it a fact that the Indian National Airways Co. has asked for a subsidy of a lakh and twenty thousand rupees in addition to the rate agreed upon at the beginning of the contract for carrying air mails from Karachi to Lahore?

(b) Is it not a fact that at the time of the original contract with the Indian National Airways, no tenders were invited and the rates demanded by the Company were accepted?

(c) Are Government aware that the Himalayan Airways Co. of Delhi is offering to carry mails for only Rs. 60,000 in addition to the rates fixed at so much per pound?

(d) What do Government propose to do in the matter?

(e) Are Government prepared to call for tenders and accept the lowest tender?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Indian National Airways, Limited, have asked for financial assistance, and it is proposed to grant them Rs. 1,12,000 for one year to enable them to maintain certain services required by Government. I place on the table a copy of the Memorandum submitted to the Standing Finance Committee fully explaining the proposal.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative, and to the second part in the negative.

(c) and (d). The Himalayan Airways Company has submitted several proposals which Government have not found themselves in a position to accept.

(e) As regards the first part, no occasion has arisen to call for tenders for the Karachi-Lahore service as the existing contract with Indian National Airways is still current. Government will consider the desirability or otherwise of calling for tenders should the occasion arise. As regards the second part, Government could not in any case give an undertaking to accept the lowest tender irrespective of other considerations.

CIVIL AVIATION.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR.

(CIVIL AVIATION).

No. T.-120.

Dated New Delhi, the 30th January, 1936.

MEMORANDUM TO THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE.

SUBJECT:—Financial Assistance to Indian National Airways.

Demands No. 23.—Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department and No. 63—Aviation.

1. Concise statement of the proposal and reasons therefor.

(1) *Formation and composition of the Company.*—Indian National Airways, Limited, was incorporated in May 1933 with the main object of operating internal air services in India. Of the authorised capital of Rs. 30 lakhs, Rs. 11·6 lakhs have been subscribed by 970 shareholders. Of these shareholders 885 (or 91 per cent.) are Indians whose holdings amount to Rs. 10·10 lakhs or 87 per cent. of the capital subscribed. Of the nine Directors of the Company five are Indians. The Company employ a staff of 91 persons of whom 71 are Indians. They provide facilities for the training of Indians both as commercial pilots and as ground engineers.

(2) *Activities of the Company.*—In December, 1933, the Company established a daily air service between Calcutta and Dacca and a weekly air service between Calcutta and Rangoon. Early in 1934 they opened a Flying School at Rangoon, and in December, 1934, began a weekly service between Karachi and Lahore to connect with the Croydon-Karachi Service. They hold a ten year contract from Government for the carriage of mail on the Karachi-Lahore route.

In addition to the operation of regular services, the Company maintain centres for charter work at Delhi, Calcutta, and Rangoon, and hold a contract from Government for the maintenance and operation of His Excellency the Viceroy's aeroplane and the Government of India Avro X.

(3) *Explanation of the Company's difficulties.*—The Calcutta-Dacca service received inadequate support from the public and was discontinued from the 15th June, 1935. The Calcutta-Rangoon Service showed some promise of success and was duplicated early in 1935. But the Company found it impossible to face the heavy recurrent losses required to establish the service on a paying basis, and discontinued it from the 9th August, 1935. The Karachi-Lahore Service must, under the mail contract, be operated with the same frequency as the Croydon-Karachi Service, and the Company were obliged to duplicate it exactly one month after its inauguration. The average load carried on each service was considerably reduced, and the revenue derived from the carriage of mails was insufficient to cover the increased operating costs. Charter operations have not proved remunerative, and the Company have represented that they are unable to maintain their organisation without Government assistance.

(4) *Reasons for grant of assistance.*—The Government of India have examined the Company's representation, and are satisfied that it is substantially correct. They are not prepared specially to subsidise the Rangoon Flying School or general charter operations, but they consider that the immediate failure of the Company might affect very seriously the future development of air transport in India. In particular, now that greatly increased frequencies both on the Trans-India route and on the two feeder routes are being discussed the closure of one of these routes and the discharge of a highly qualified and efficient staff before these questions are finally settled would be most embarrassing. An organisation such as that maintained by the Company cannot be built up at short notice, and emergency arrangements with a new concern might prove both unsatisfactory and expensive.

(5) *Measure of assistance to be granted.*—The Government of India consider that it will be sufficient to grant the Company during 1936-37 such assistance as is necessary to enable them to operate the Karachi-Lahore Service, and to maintain the

supervisory organization required for future development. The cost of the organization will be Rs. 2.14 lakhs as shown in the three statements appended. Against this the Company will receive approximately Rs. 70,000 under their mail contract, and Rs. 31,800 under their contract for the maintenance and operation of the two Government machines, leaving an uncovered balance of Rs. 1,12,000 roundly. It is proposed that the Company should undertake to maintain the organization up to the standard indicated in the statements and to fulfil their obligations under the two contracts, and that in return Government should pay them a grant not exceeding Rs. 1,12,000. This grant will be paid quarterly in arrears, by instalments of Rs. 28,000 each, and if the mail payments for 1936-37 exceed Rs. 70,000 the amount of the last quarterly instalment will be reduced accordingly. The arrangement will remain in force for 1936-37 only; at the end of that year the position will be reconsidered.

2. Is the proposal in respect of a new service? Yes.

3. Has the proposal or any part of it been considered already by the Standing Finance Committee? If so, with what result? No.

4. Financial effect of the proposal—

(a) Total actual expenditure involved—

	Rs.
(i) Non-recurrent—1936-37	1,12,000
(ii) Recurrent	Nil
(b) Receipts and recoveries anticipated in respect of the proposal	Nil
	But the total may be slightly reduced by a growth in the volume of mails.

5. Is the proposal final and complete in itself or will it involve further expenditure in subsequent years? If so, what is the extent and nature of subsequent commitments? The proposal is final and complete in itself.

6. Has any expenditure already been incurred in respect of the proposal in anticipation of the approval of the Standing Finance Committee? If so, how much and for what reasons? No.

7. In what manner is it proposed to meet the expenditure? By the provision of Rs. 12,000 under Demand No. 23 Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department and of Rs. 1,00,000 under Demand No. 63, Aviation, for the year 1936-37.

8. Supplementary information, if any, required to elucidate the proposal further? Nil.

E. M. JENKINS.

Offg. Joint Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Statement I.

Administrative Expenses.

Salaries, Wages and Office Expenditure.	Per mensem.	Per annum.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. Statistics	295	
2. Accounts	360	
3. Typists	200	
4. G. M. Department	1,480	
5. Managing Agents Fees (Charges waived as a special concession)	Nil	
Total	2,335	28,020
6. Directors Fees and Expenses		2,500
7. Audit Fee		750
8. Technical Advice		7,920
9. Postage and Telegrams		2,000
10. Telephones		2,000
11. Printing and Stationery		1,000
12. General Charges		1,000
13. Inspection and Travelling		4,000
14. Furniture Wear and Tear		400
		49,590

Statement II.

Delhi Base.

Salaries, Wages and Allowances.	Per mensem.	Per annum.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. First Pilot	850	
2. Second Pilot	650	
3. First Ground/Flight Engineer	750	
4. Second Ground/Flight Engineer	550	
5. Third Ground/Flight Engineer	400	
6. Fourth Ground/Flight Engineer	Two 460	
7. Wireless Operator	450	
8. Trainee Ground Engineers	Three 100	
9. Workshop Hands	Four 80	
10. Store Keeper	100	
11. 1 Stores Clerk	85	
12. Record Clerk	75	
13. Insurance—Pilots	180	
14. Home leave—Pilots	120	
15. Insurance Ground Engineers	130	
16. Home leave Ground Engineers	70	
17. Overseas Allowance—Pilots	600	
18. Overseas Allowance—Ground Engineers	650	
Total	6,300	75,600

Statement III.

Lahore Base.

SECTION I.

Salaries, Wages and Allowances.	Per mensem.	Per annum.
	Rs.	Rs.
1. First Pilot	650	
2. Second Pilot	650	
3. 1st Ground Engineer	450	
4. 2nd Ground Engineer	300	
5. Trainee Ground Engineer	25	
6. Workshop Hands—Three	60	
7. Store Keeper	60	
8. Stores Clerk	50	
9. Insurance Pilots	120	
10. Insurance Ground Engineers	25	
11. Home Leave Pilots and Engineers	90	
12. Relief Pilot for Local leave	200	
13. O. S. Pay Pilots	300	
14. O. S. Pay Ground Engineers	200	
15. Office Staff	50	
Total	3,230	38,760

SECTION II.

Direct Operational Costs and Traffic Running.

	Per annum.
	Rs.
1. Crews Expenses away from Base	4,800
2. Landing Charges	450
3. Hangarage	Nil
4. Publicity	1,500
5. Uniforms	200
6. Rents, Rates and Taxes	2,000
7. Accident excess	2,400
8. Carriage of Stores	1,200
9. Annual Certificate of Airworthiness	1,800
10. Insurance Fleet and property	2,800
11. Obsolescence engines and airframes	8,390
Total	25,540

SECTION III.

Engineering Running Costs.

		1,500 Hours Flying.	
Two Percival Gulls.		Per Hour.	Total Cost.
		Rs.	Rs.
Petrol and Oil		11.00	..
Maintenance		5.25	..
		16.25	24,400
			24,400
		GRAND TOTAL	88,700

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Now that an application has been made by Indian National Airways for a subsidy of Rs. 1,12,000 in addition to the amount fixed under the terms of the original contract, will Government consider the question of terminating the contract and calling for tenders for a fresh contract?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The reasons have already been fully explained in this House.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is it because Britishers are interested in this firm, and Government want to encourage them?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Was not a grant of Rs. 2 lakhs made to the Trans-Continental Airways, Limited, for carrying mails across India?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have already explained, in reply to previous questions in this House, the exact position in regard to Trans-Continental Airways, Limited.

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

HIMALAYAN AIRWAYS COMPANY AND THE INDIAN NATIONAL AIRWAYS.

1021. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Are Government aware that the Himalayan Airways Company is a purely Indian Company with Indian capital and Indian management, and that the Indian National Airways is manned mostly by Europeans?

(b) Are Government prepared to encourage the purely Indian Company?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The answer to the second part is in the negative; Government are informed that of a staff of 91 persons employed by Indian National Airways, 71 are Indians.

(b) If the Honourable Member is referring to financial assistance to the Himalayan Airways, the answer is in the negative. Technical advice and assistance will always be available to them.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are not all the 71 Indians employed as *chaprasis*, *mochis*, coolies and others of inferior rank?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there a single Indian Officer of any rank employed?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I should require notice of that question. I am prepared to obtain information as to the exact position which these 71 Indians occupy.

(Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar stood up to ask another supplementary question.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can wait till further information is available.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the total salary of these 71 Indians, and what is the total salary of the non-Indian employees of the Company?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I should require notice of that question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do or do not these 71 include what are called menials; if they do, how many are menials?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I should require notice of that too.

RATES OFFERED BY THE HIMALAYAN AIRWAYS COMPANY FOR THE CARRIAGE OF AIR MAILS.

1022. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Are Government aware that the Himalayan Airways Co. offers to carry mails to Lahore from Delhi at very cheap rates, so as to make the conveyance charges of mail from Karachi to Lahore via Delhi cheaper than the charges for direct conveyance from Karachi to Lahore?

(b) Are Government aware that the Himalayan Airways Co. undertakes to carry mails to Lahore and deliver there only a couple of hours later than the present time by the direct route?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) No. The Company offered to carry mail from Delhi to Lahore at Rs. 3 per lb.—the rate paid to Indian National Airways Limited for carriage from Karachi to Lahore. Their offer does not cover carriage from Karachi to Delhi for which roughly another Rs. 3 per lb. must be allowed.

(b) No. The Company suggested that they could deliver mail *via* Delhi about three hours later than the present time of delivery.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the total amount of the further grant at the rate of Rs. 3 per pound from Delhi to Lahore less than the proposed subsidy of Rs. 1,12,000?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Yes, but it would not include payment for other services which Indian National Airways are now rendering.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What are the other services which Indian National Airways are rendering for which payment is made?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The maintenance of two Government aeroplanes.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the amount spent on the Government aeroplanes?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I should require notice of that question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the value of these other services?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No, Sir. I am asking for the value of the services rendered in rupees, annas, and pies.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have already replied that I should require notice of that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When was this subsidy of Rs. 1,12,000 given?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: It has not yet been given.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do Government propose to give it?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I would refer my Honourable friend to a number of supplementary questions which were answered in this House on the 24th February, 1936, on that very point.

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

PROPOSAL TO SUBSIDISE THE INDIAN NATIONAL AIRWAYS.

1023. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to give a subsidy of eleven lakhs to the Indian National Airways to fulfil their Karachi-Lahore air mail contracts;
- (b) whether it is true that the Company was unable to fulfil the Calcutta-Dacca and Calcutta-Rangoon air mail services, previously given to them;
- (c) the object of giving subsidies now; and
- (d) whether any tenders have been called for; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply just given by me to question No. 1020 by Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.

(b) No contract was entered into with Indian National Airways, Limited, for the carriage of mails on the Calcutta-Dacca and the Calcutta-Rangoon services. These services were established for passenger and freight traffic and were utilised for the despatch of mails so long as they continued to operate.

(d) The reply to the first part is in the negative. No tenders have been called for as the contract for the conveyance of mails between Karachi and Lahore by Indian National Airways is still current.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are Government aware that Indian National Airways suffered a loss in the first year and have declared a loss of nearly Rs. 3 lakhs in the second year? If so, they may not be able to render these services.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Government have satisfied themselves that if the financial assistance, which is proposed to give to Indian National Airways, is given, they will be able to render these services competently and efficiently.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why did the two other services, the Calcutta-Dacca and the Calcutta-Rangoon services, break down?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I am sorry, Sir, that a reply to supplementary questions does not give me an opportunity of enlarging on the question of the reasons why the Calcutta-Dacca service was terminated. That service was started with every hope that it would be very largely used, but it was not very largely used. Very few passengers and a very small quantity of mails were transported between the two most important cities of Bengal. For that reason, the service had to be closed down.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are Government aware that almost the whole of the capital of this Company has been spent away?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir. I do not think that is quite correct.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are Government aware that Rs. 6 lakhs out of the Rs. 11 lakhs capital of this Company have already been spent out?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Apparently, even if my Honourable friend has not made a closer study of the balance sheet of Indian National Airways than I have, he evidently remembers more than I do.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In what respect is the Company national and in what respect Indian?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order; next question.

AIR MAIL SERVICE BETWEEN LAHORE AND KARACHI.

1024. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) whether the Quetta Head Offices have now been shifted to Karachi;
- (b) if so, whether there is any necessity for air mails to touch Quetta now;
- (c) if so, whether it is true that if the air mail between Karachi and Lahore goes through Delhi, there will be no loss of time; and
- (d) if so, whether they are prepared to consider the advisability of abandoning the service between Lahore and Karachi?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The headquarters offices of certain departments of Government have been shifted from Quetta, a few permanently but the greater number temporarily. Three such offices have been moved to Karachi, two temporarily and one permanently and the rest have been moved to places in the Punjab, Baluchistan or Sind

(b) The air mail service between Karachi and Lahore never touched Quetta. The mails for Baluchistan are landed at and collected from the aerodrome at Jacobabad, the conveyance beyond Jacobabad being done by train. The removal of certain headquarters offices from Quetta has not affected the volume of air mails for and from Baluchistan which have shown an increase since the earthquake. Government consider, therefore, that there is every necessity for continuing the service.

- (c) The reply is in the negative.
- (d) Does not arise.

APPLICABILITY OF THE PUNJAB EXCISE ACT AND EXCISE RULES TO THE DELHI PROVINCE.

1025. ***Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** (a) Is it a fact that the Punjab Excise Act, 1914, is applicable to the Delhi Province?

- (b) Is it a fact that Punjab Excise Rules are not applicable to the Delhi Province?
- (c) Is it a fact that Delhi Excise Rules are identical to Punjab Excise Rules?

(d) Is it a fact that the Financial Commissioner, Punjab through No. 1919-E. & S., dated the 29th March, 1930, realized the hardship on licensees holding licences in the form L-10 and said:

"During the last few years imports of cheap foreign spirit have been on a considerable scale, this spirit competes with Indian made foreign spirit and, to a lesser extent, also with country liquor, the result of this competition was that in certain cases licensees holding licences in the Form L-2 and selling cheap imported foreign spirit, were able to undersell licensees holding bazar licences in the Form L-10 for the vend of inferior foreign spirit, this inferior foreign spirit has previously been manufactured almost entirely in the Province, but, when cheap foreign spirit began to be imported, licensees holding licences in the Form L-2 with fixed fees were able to undersell licensees holding licences in the Form L-10, who had had to bid for these licences at the excise auctions and to pay vend fees with a fairly high rate of incidence, the severity of this competition was increased by the fact that the fees for licences in the Form L-2 were very leniently assessed, and, although according to the regulations laid down in Section 337 of the Punjab Excise Manual, Volume 1, the licence fee was to be calculated roughly on recorded sale figures, certain large consignments of imported foreign liquor were never entered in the registers of some licensees, and thus the licence fee were very much underassessed"?

(e) Is it a fact that licences in Form L-2 and Form L-10 are granted in the Delhi Province?

(f) Is it a fact that Indian manufactured foreign spirits are sold by licensees holding licence L-2?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 1025, 1026 and 1027 together.

The information is being obtained and will be laid on the table in due course.

GRANT OF LICENCES FOR VENDING FOREIGN LIQUOR IN DELHI.

†1026. ***Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** (a) Is it a fact that the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, has granted licences for the manufacture, supply, storage and sale of liquor in Delhi to the following firms and persons in Forms stated against each:

- (1) Messrs. Phipson & Co., Ltd., in Form L-1, L-2, & L-11;
- (2) Messrs. Spencer & Co., Ltd., in Form L-1 & L-2;
- (3) Messrs. R. S. Bhola Ram & Sons, in Form L-1, L-2, L-4 & L-11;
- (4) Mr. Ralia Ram Kapoor, in Form L-10;
- (5) Mr. Ramji Das, in Form L-10;
- (6) Messrs. J. Morton & Co., in Form L-1 & L-2; and
- (7) Messrs. Desh & Co., in Form L-1 and L-2?

(b) Is it a fact that the shops or offices of the said firms (1) to (5) are within the Municipal boundary of Delhi?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1025.

(c) Is it a fact that shops of the said firms and persons are located in Bazaars called (i) Kashmiri Gate Bazaar, (ii) Mori Gate Bazaar, (iii) Church Road Bazaar, (iv) Chowri Bazaar, (v) Connaught Place Bazaar, and (vi) Gol Market Bazaar?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of granting licences on a uniform basis to all and each for the vend of foreign liquor? If not, why not?

GRANT OF LICENCES FOR VENDING FOREIGN LIQUOR IN DELHI.

†1027. *Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya: (a) Is it a fact that the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, has promulgated rules for the grant of licences for the manufacture, supply, storage and sale of liquor in the Delhi Province?

(b) Is it a fact that the said rules provide grant and renewal of the said licences in forms L-1 to L-22-A?

(c) Is it a fact that a licence in Form L-2 does not authorize consumption on the premises?

(d) Is it a fact that a licence in form L-10 will ordinarily be for "off" consumption?

(e) If the replies to parts (a) to (d) be in the affirmative, will Government please state.

(i) the material difference between a licence in Form L-2 (wholesale and retail vendor of foreign liquor to the public only) and a licence in Form L-10 (retail Bazaar vendor of foreign liquor);

(ii) the substantial difference between a Civil Station or Cantonment or any other place and a Bazaar;

(iii) whether in a Civil Station or Cantonment or any other place a Bazaar is provided or no Bazaar is situated within the said boundary;

(iv) whether a Bazaar is ordinarily situated within population boundary or otherwise;

(v) whether the shops in a Civil Station or Cantonment or any other place or Bazaar are governed or controlled by rules uniform in each individual respects or otherwise;

(vi) whether a licensee is permitted to sell both imported foreign liquor and Indian foreign liquor on one licence in Form L-2; if so, under what rule; and

(vii) the reasons for the differential treatment, if any, to shops within a Municipal boundary or Bazaar?

(f) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the Financial Commissioner, Punjab's No. 5923-S.R., dated the 22nd December, 1928 containing the decision that no licences will be issued for the sale of foreign liquor in Form L-10? If so:

(i) why has the Delhi Province a Form of Licence—L-10;

(ii) what are the reasons for not adopting the said fundamental principle by the Delhi Province Administration; and

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1025.

(iii) are Government prepared to remove the anomaly created by the grant of licences in Forms L-2 and L-10 for the vendor of foreign liquor under two different styles and terms, when under licence Form L-2 the licensee is permitted to sell foreign liquor either imported or manufactured in India? If not, why not?

HINDUS AND MUSLIMS DISMISSED AND APPOINTED BY THE SENIOR SUPERINTENDENT, WAYS AND WORKS, MORADABAD DIVISION, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1028. *Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya: (a) Will Government please state the number of Hindus and Muslims, both non-gazetted and work charged, removed, discharged or dismissed from the service, by the Senior Superintendent, Ways and Works, Moradabad Division, on the East Indian Railway?

(b) Will Government please state:

(i) the number of Hindus and Muslims appointed;

(ii) the number of Hindus replaced by Muslims;

(iii) the policy of Government in this respect; and

(iv) whether they are aware of the impression that there is too much of communal prejudice in the management of this Department?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Only one Muhammadan head trolleyman was removed from service.

(b) (i) Three Muslims were appointed as tracers as substitutes in leave vacancies and one was appointed as *mistri* permanently.

(ii) No Hindu was either dismissed or discharged in order to make room for a Muslim.

(iii) It is not clear in what respect the Honourable Member wants to know the policy of Government. If he wants to know whether it is the policy of Government to replace Hindus by Muslims the reply is in the negative. The orders fixing certain percentages for Muslims and other minority communities relate only to direct recruitment.

(iv) Government do not think that there is any valid ground for the alleged impression.

FEE FOR THE SUPPLY OF TENDER SPECIFICATIONS.

1029. *Pandit Nilakantha Das: (a) Do the purchasing departments of Government including Railways, both State and Company-managed, charge a fee for the supply of tender specifications?

(b) If so, what is the charge in amount and how is it calculated?

(c) Is this charge for tender forms returnable?

(d) If not, what is the principle underlying this charge?

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.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE OF CANTONMENT BOARDS.

1030. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for each Cantonment separately the latest figures, of total income, total expenditure, the income from local taxes, the rates of local taxes (except the schedules of octroi and terminal and professional taxes), and the incidence of local taxation per head?

(b) What system is employed in the calculation of the incidence for civil and military population?

(c) Do Government make any contribution by way of grants-in-aid, subventions, allotment of Government land income, or otherwise, to these local bodies, where military interests are said to predominate? If so, what is the amount and the nature of contribution in each case?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) The collection of the information asked for by the Honourable Member would entail an expenditure of time and labour which would be incommensurate with the result.

(b) The incidence of taxation is not calculated for the civil and military population separately.

The incidence is calculated as follows:

- (i) Receipts from 'direct' taxes, such as house tax, are divided by the population excluding troops and authorised followers.
- (ii) Receipts from 'indirect' taxes, such as octroi, are divided by the local population including troops and authorised followers.

The sum of (i) and (ii) represents the incidence.

(c) Yes, Sir. In 1935-36, Government provided for Rs. 68,000 and Rs. 75,000 as ordinary and special grants-in-aid, respectively, for distribution during the year to those Cantonment Authorities who required financial assistance. The Cantonment Authorities also derive an income of about Rs. 4 lakhs as their share of receipts from Government lands managed by them. In addition, all proceeds from licences granted by Cantonment Authorities for the temporary occupation of Government land entrusted to their management are credited to cantonment funds. The 'Government of India' are in fact responsible for maintaining the financial equilibrium of cantonment funds.

INCOME FROM AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN CANTONMENTS.

1031. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that up to 1925, the entire income from agricultural lands in Cantonments, was allowed to the Cantonment local funds?

(b) Is it a fact that from the year 1925-26 up to 1934-35, one-fourth share of the agricultural land income in Cantonments was credited to the Central revenues?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, what was the total amount so credited?

(d) Is it a fact that since 1934-35, the remaining three-fourths share of the agricultural land incomes has also been taken away from the local Cantonment Fund?

(e) If the answer to part (d) be in the affirmative, what is the amount that each Cantonment has lost thereby, and how do Government propose to reimburse the local funds on account of this loss?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. This procedure is still being followed.

(c) The collection of the information required would entail an expenditure of time and labour which would be incommensurate with the result.

(d) No. The position is, that under the rules framed under the Cantonments Act of 1924, Cantonment Authorities are the agents of Government for the management of certain lands, including agricultural lands. As payment for the trouble, expense and responsibility of management Government allot a share of the proceeds from the lease of such lands to the Cantonment Authority. The allotment ordinarily made gives the Cantonment Authority the generous share of three quarters of the proceeds, but the Government reserve the right to vary that share, according to the real needs of the cantonment.

(e) This part of the question does not strictly arise but if the existing rules are changed, steps will certainly be taken to ensure that Cantonment Authorities are provided with sufficient funds to discharge their duties adequately.

GRANTS-IN-AID TO CANTONMENT FUNDS.

1032. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of grants-in-aid, recurring and non-recurring, and the purpose or purposes for which they were paid to each Cantonment Fund in the year for which latest figures are available?

(b) What amount out of the total grant-in-aid fund, represents the transfer back to Military Engineering Services for water supply in Cantonments?

(c) Is any amount of the grant earmarked for extending educational activities, among the civilian residents of Cantonments? If so, what is the total amount of money spent during the last year? If not, why not?

(d) Are there any rules regarding the distribution of grants-in-aid to Cantonment Funds?

(e) If the answer to part (d) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay a copy of the same on the table of the House?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) I lay on the table a statement showing the amount of grants-in-aid so far sanctioned to Cantonment Authorities during the year 1935-36. Grants-in-aid are of two classes, namely, ordinary and special. Ordinary grants-in-aid are those which are required to make up a more or less permanent deficiency of revenue as compared with expenditure on normal cantonment administration. Special grants-in-aid are those which are required for the financing of some desirable scheme of public utility which it is the legitimate function of a Cantonment Authority to undertake, but which cannot be financed in its entirety from the existing resources of the Cantonment Fund.

(b) I am afraid my Honourable friend is under some misapprehension. In cantonments where water is supplied by the Military Engineer Services, debits are raised against one head of the Defence Services Estimates for the total quantity of water supplied to paying consumers and the recoveries made by Cantonment Authorities from these consumers are credited to another head of the same estimates. The difference between the cost of water supplied and the recoveries made is at present about 5 lakhs per annum.

(c) No amount is so earmarked, but grants-in-aid can be given for educational purposes.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Special grants-in-aid so far sanctioned to Cantonment Authorities during the year 1935-36.

Rs. 2,822 to Cantonment Authority, Muttra	For construction of certain pucca drains.
Rs. 8,937 to Cantonment Authority, Benares	For resurfacing and asphaltting certain Cantonment fund roads.
Rs. 16,510 to Cantonment Authority, Kirkee	For payment of arrears of contribution due from the Cantonment Authority, Kirkee, to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Poona.
Rs. 5,150 to Cantonment Authority, Campbellpore	For drainage scheme for the village situated in the cantonment and for the construction of group latrines for that village and for the Sadar Bazar.
Rs. 6,500 to Cantonment Authority, Dharamsala	For the construction of a bungalow for the Executive Officer.
Rs. 1,350 to Cantonment Authority, Subathu	For paving of some bazar roads and construction of drains.
Rs. 3,180 to Cantonment Authority, Almora	For repairing the cantonment fund bungalow.
Rs. 1,800 to Cantonment Authority, Drigh Road	For provision of a level crossing.
Rs. 5,000 to Cantonment Authority, Mingaladon	For the maintenance of roads and for covering the deficit in revenue caused by the reduction in the annual rental value of officers' bungalows.
Rs. 10,000 to Cantonment Authority, Poona	For sanitary measures in Ghorpuri and Wanowrie villages.

Ordinary grants-in-aid so far sanctioned to Cantonment Authorities during the year 1935-36.

	Rs.
Campbellpore	4,213
Amritsar	4,685
Baroda	400
Jalapahar	6,447
Lebong	4,570
Almora	2,182
Mingaladon	22,693

FACILITIES TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA STAFF TO APPEAR IN THE EXAMINATION FOR CLERKS AND ASSISTANTS.

1033. *Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Was a representation made by the Imperial Secretariat Association that Government employees be given some concessions for appearing in the examination for Second Division clerks and Assistants, i.e., the age limit should be raised in their favour?

(b) Are Government prepared to accede to their request in connection with the examination to be held in 1937, if no notice has been taken of it for the present? If not, why not?

(c) Are Government aware that there is a large number of brilliant graduates who joined Government service as routine division clerks?

(d) If the answer to parts (b) and (c) be in the negative, are Government prepared to institute a departmental examination, as used to exist previously, so that the qualified candidates may have better chances of promotion?

(e) If the answer to parts (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of giving three chances to the Government servants instead of two?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Yes. In 1933 the Imperial Secretariat Association submitted such a representation which was rejected.

(b) to (d). To improve the system of recruitment in the Government of India Secretariat and its attached offices, orders were issued in 1928 laying down conditions for admission to the examinations held by the Public Service Commission and fixing percentages of vacancies to be filled by external recruitment and departmental promotion. The scheme was brought into operation from the 1st April, 1930, and persons in Government service, both permanent and temporary, prior to that date, were given a final opportunity of qualifying for promotion at special qualifying examinations held in 1929 and 1931. The age-limits and educational qualifications prescribed in the orders of 1928 were relaxed for these persons on the broad consideration that those who had been recruited before the new system came into force and had not, therefore, had an opportunity of qualifying for promotion should not be denied such an opportunity. Vested interests having thus been met, Government do not consider that there is any further necessity for relaxing the age-limit or for holding special qualifying examinations, especially as the age-limits are such as to permit candidates to sit either for the combined examination for the First and the Second Divisions or the separate examination for the Third Division or both. Those who take the latter examination only do so of their own choice and are not entitled to any special consideration.

(e) Does not arise.

EXEMPTION OF A CERTAIN CLASS OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS FROM THE OPERATION OF THE REVISED RATES OF PAY RULES.

1034. *Pandit Nilakantha Das: (a) Will Government please state the reason for exempting, in clause 3 (iv) of the Home Department Notification No. F-386/33 (Establishments), dated the 22nd September, 1933, from the operation of the Revised Rates of Pay Rules those Government servants who appeared in an examination held by the Public Service Commission before 16th July, 1931, but who entered Government service after the 15th July, 1931?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state why no provision for such exemption was made in the above notification for those Government servants whose appointments were not subject to Public Service Commission examination, but who likewise joined service after the 15th July, 1931?

(c) Are Government now prepared to amend these rules so as to provide for the exemption of the class of Government servants mentioned in part (b) above from the operation of the Revised Rates of Pay Rules? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) It was considered only reasonable that those who had studied for and passed an examination—not only an examination held by the Public Service Commission—before any warning was issued that the rates of pay would be reduced and who had, therefore, done so on the assumption that they would get the then existing rates of pay, should not be subjected to the revised scales of pay. That was regarded as a sufficient reason to make an exception in their case.

(b) As has already been stated the exemption is not limited to examinations held by the Public Service Commission. The orders in Finance Department Resolution No. D-4523-Ex. I./31, dated the 9th July, 1931, by providing for appointments to be made on a provisional footing pending completion of the review of expenditure of the Government of India then proceeding, were specifically intended to prevent the accrual of vested rights and these orders definitely implied that persons appointed on or after the 16th July, 1931, would be subject to the new conditions of service which might be imposed as a result of that review.

(c) No. The publication of the Finance Department Resolution of the 9th July, 1931, is regarded as having been sufficient warning.

EMPLOYMENT OF “DUFFERIN” CADETS.

1035. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of “Dufferin” cadets so far turned out after training;
- (b) the number of them employed; and
- (c) whether Government have taken steps to procure suitable employments for them?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 20th February, 1936, to parts (a) and (c) of Professor N. G. Ranga’s starred question No. 700.

(b) So far as Government are aware, of the 49 cadets who have taken their Certificates of Competency up to the end of January, 1936, 42 have found employment.

(c) Attention is invited to the reply given by me on the 24th February, 1936, to part (a) of Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant’s starred question No. 744.

INDIAN SHIPS IN THE OCEAN-GOING TRAFFIC AND CIRCULAR RE SUPPORT TO EMPIRE SHIPPING.

1036. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and tonnage of Indian ships in the ocean-going traffic;
- (b) whether the Government of India are prepared to take steps to see that much benefit accrues to the Indian ships as a result of the circular referred to in my starred question No. 24 which was answered on the 4th February, 1936; and
- (c) if not, whether they propose to withdraw their circular?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(b) In the circular letter referred to, Government have suggested the desirability of the greater utilization of Empire shipping and, as I stated in reply to the supplementary questions, arising from the question referred to by the Honourable Member, the term “Empire shipping” includes Indian shipping. In the circumstances, Government do not consider that any further steps are called for.

(c) No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government, as soon as they get the information, which they have promised to collect, inquire further, to what extent the benefit accruing from the acceptance of this circular by the Local Governments and local bodies will go to Indian shipping, and, then, on the basis of the results of that inquiry, reconsider the whole matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I do not think it will be possible in the first place to ascertain whether and to what extent the issue of this circular has benefited Empire shipping: if it were possible to ascertain that, it may be possible to ascertain to what extent it might benefit purely Indian shipping; but Government have no means of ascertaining the extent of benefit to Empire shipping.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government consider the issue of a circular to Local Governments and local bodies specifically to encourage Indian shipping, by importing their requirements through Indian ships?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: As Empire shipping includes Indian shipping, I have no reason to imagine that Local Governments and municipal bodies would not encourage Indian shipping as well as other Empire shipping.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government press upon them to give preference to Indian shipping, as opposed to non-Indian shipping, though it may be Empire shipping?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Would that not, to a very large extent, depend on the information which I have promised to collect?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government then consider it, after receiving the results of the inquiry?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That is a hypothetical question: let us first get the information under (a) and then see what is possible.

REPLACEMENT OF INDIANS IN THE PORT DIRECTORATE SERVICE IN IRAQ.

1037. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the communication from an influential Indian settler in Iraq to Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, published in the *Hindustan Times* of the 10th February, 1936 on page 3, column 1?

(b) Are Government aware that prompt measures are being taken by the Iraq Government to replace the few Indians in the service of the Port Directorate, though they are expert in their trade?

(c) Are Government aware, as is understood from the communication, that the next onslaught is going to be directed against Indians in commercial houses?

(d) As to the measures being directed against all foreigners alike, are Government aware that British residents are protected by treaties and that new treaty negotiations are proceeding with Arabs, Persians and other foreigners, as stated in the communication? If so, what are Government doing in this connection?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: (a) Yes.

(b) The Port authorities whose employees are Government officials are continuing the policy which they have followed for a number of years of gradually replacing Indians by Iraqi subjects as the latter become competent to hold such posts. But there has been no recent acceleration of the process nor any wholesale discharge of Indians still remaining in such posts, nor does it appear that any such steps are contemplated. It will no doubt be realised that the gradual replacement of British subjects and British Indian subjects in Iraqi Government service is a natural corollary of the termination of Great Britain's mandate over Iraq.

(c) Nothing is known of any action which could be held to be directed against Indians in commercial houses except the law restricting trades to Iraqis, which has not yet received the Royal Assent. This is still in the form of an incomplete law and the extent to which it may affect Indians cannot be calculated until regulations which are required to give effect to the law are issued.

(d) So far as the Government of India are aware British subjects enjoy no Treaty protection in this matter which is not also available to Indians. As, however, I stated in reply to part (b) of question No. 240 asked by Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon on the 11th February, 1936, further enquiries are being made on this point and the result will be communicated to the House in due course. So far as the Government of India are aware no Treaty is at present under negotiation between Iraq and any other State which secures any special rights in the matter of residence and trading facilities for nationals of other countries. The last part of the question does not, therefore, arise.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have Government now at least tried to ascertain what the amendments are that have been moved to the original Bill?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: Certainly, we are taking steps to ascertain exactly how the law will stand when it has received the Royal assent which is not yet done.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Do Government propose to intercede before it receives the Royal assent, so that suitable modifications may be made if they are prejudicial to the interests of Indians?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: Do Government propose to do what? I could not catch the Honourable Member's question.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Do Government propose to intercede before the Royal assent is received and is fixed upon the Statute-book so that suitable amendments may be made so as not to affect the Indians in Iraq?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: Government cannot take any action which they have not already taken. That action was, as I have explained to the House, to keep themselves thoroughly informed of the position and to ask His Majesty's Ambassador in Iraq to take every possible step to ensure that Indian rights are properly safeguarded.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How do the amendments affect the Indian rights?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: As I have said, the law is not yet finally passed. I hope to be able to lay a copy of the law as finally passed on the table of the House in the near future. It only now awaits the Royal assent, and, as soon as that has been received, I will lay a copy on the table of the House, and Honourable Members can then satisfy themselves exactly as to the terms of the law.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Is it a fact, Sir, that about two to three thousand Indians are trading in Iraq now, and recently the Iraq Government have introduced a rule not to issue new passports to new-comers? Every year, those Indians, who wish to trade in Iraq, have to appear before some officer and get their passports, but is it a fact that last year some small traders and artisans were refused passports and they were asked to return to India?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: That, Sir, is not my information, but if the Honourable Member will bring to my notice any specific case in which an Indian trader has been unfairly treated, I should be very glad to make representations on the subject.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: As regards the termination of the services of Indians, are their services terminated before their term is over?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I have given all the information that I could give in the main reply to the question. There is nothing more that I can add to what I have already said.

TRANSMISSION OF GOLD BULLION BY POST.

1038. ***Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji:** (a) Have Government received any complaints that the present limit of Rs. 700 in value for transmission of gold bullion by post is inadequate?

(b) Will Government please state when this limit was fixed and what the price of gold per tola in those days was?

(c) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider the question of increasing the limit?

(d) Are Government aware that, as a result of the appreciation in the price of gold, the quantity of gold that may be transmitted under the existing value limit is substantially reduced?

(e) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of refixing the limit in terms of tolas of gold, so that the quantity allowed to be transmitted may be the same as before 1931 and may not be affected by fluctuations in gold prices?

(f) Is it a fact that gold or silver ornaments can still be transmitted by post up to a maximum value of Rs. 3,000?

(g) If so, are there any special reasons for fixing a differential limit for gold bullion from that for jewellery?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The answer to parts (a), (d) and (f) is in the affirmative and to parts (c) and (e) in the negative. The answers to the other parts are as follows:

(b) 1st September, 1925. The price of gold per tola was about Rs. 21-7-0 in September, 1925.

(g) Yes. Gold coin and bullion ordinarily cannot be identified and their transmission therefore involves greater risk to the department and greater danger to the safety of mails than is involved in the transmission of ornaments.

RECRUITMENT FOR JUDGESHIP OF THE CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION, BANGALORE.

1039. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Is it a fact that the recruitment for judgeship of the civil and military station, Bangalore, used to be made from among the members of the Madras Judicial Service until recently?

(b) Is it a fact that the Munsif Magistrate of the said station used to be selected from the District Munsifs of the Madras Presidency and was included in the cadre of the Madras Judicial Service?

(c) Are Government aware that in view of the above fact, several graduates in law entered the clerical service in the courts of the said Munsif and Judge at Bangalore, in the hope of selection to the Madras Judicial Service?

(d) Are Government aware that recently the practice of selecting Judges and Magistrates for the station from the Madras Judicial Service has been given up?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: (a) The post of District and Sessions Judge, Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, was included in the Madras Provincial Civil Service from 1921 to 1926, since the latter year it has become a localised post, although it continued to be filled from the Madras Provincial Civil Service till 1933.

(b) The post of Munsiff-Magistrate, Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, remained on the cadre of District Munsiffs in Madras from 1923 till the beginning of 1933, since when it has been decided to fill it by Deputy Collectors of the Madras Presidency.

(c) Two law graduates entered the clerical service of the District Court at Bangalore—one in 1919 and the other in 1923. When the first candidate entered service, the post of Munsiff-Magistrate did not exist and that of the District Judge was not borne on the Madras cadre. As regards the second candidate, Government are not aware whether he joined service in the hope of selection to the Madras Judicial Service.

(d) The position has been explained in (a) and (b) above.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What are the rules now governing the selection of Judges?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I must have notice of that question.

ABSORPTION OF PERSONS SERVING IN THE CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION, BANGALORE, INTO OTHER GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

1040. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Is there any proposal for absorbing persons serving in the civil and military station of Bangalore into other Government services?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: The reply is in the negative.

DESPATCH RE FORMATION OF AN EMPIRE MARITIME POLICY.

1041. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** (on behalf of Seth Govind Das): (a) Will Government be pleased to state if their attention has been drawn to the following observations in regard to the formation of an Empire Maritime Policy, made by Mr. Runciman as President of the Board of Trade in the House of Commons on the 3rd July, 1934?

"I need not add that in considering these problems it is essential to have the co-operation of the Dominions and India. We must bear in mind not only the position of tramp shipping, but the position in some of the great liner trades especially those between different parts of the Empire which are menaced by subsidised foreign competition. We are therefore informing the Dominions and India of the position as we see it and seeking their views as to the possible lines of action."

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if it is not a fact that they received a Despatch on the subject of the Empire Maritime Policy from the Right Honourable Sir John Simon, then His Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in the last quarter of the year 1934?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Despatch referred to above?

(d) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the reply that they may have sent to the above Despatch?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state if they consulted the commercial and particularly the shipping interests in regard to the subject matter of the Despatch mentioned above?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government are aware of the statement made by the President of the Board of Trade in the House of Commons on the 3rd July, 1934.

(b) In pursuance of that statement a communication was addressed to the Government of India by the Secretary of State for India.

(c) and (d). I regret I am not in a position to do so, as the communications are confidential.

(e) No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Was any communication addressed to the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I said a communication was addressed to the Government of India by the Secretary of State for India.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government place a copy of the despatch on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The question relates to the despatch sent by the Foreign Secretary. I have said there was only a communication from the Secretary of State.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know, Sir, if the Government of India addressed the Government of Great Britain on this matter at all?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Does the Honourable Member mean in reply to the communication by the Secretary of State?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Or in connection with this matter, as a result of the communication from the Secretary of State or from any other source on this matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I believe, Sir, this is the same matter to which I have given replies previously regarding the circular letter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is that all?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know if the Government of India are aware that recently Indian lascars, employed on British ships, have been substituted by British seamen on British ships?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That does not arise out of this question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are the Government of India aware that recently the British Government have given a subsidy to tramp shipping, as it is called, and whether Government have considered taking similar action with regard to Indian shipping of different classes?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That does not arise out of this question.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know, Sir, whether Indian lascars, as members of the British Empire and subjects of the British Crown, have got no rights as regards employment on British ships when the British ships claim concessions in Indian waters?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It has nothing to do with the present question.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: It has something to do with this, Sir. In this way, that, as a result of the discussion in the House of Commons on the subsidy to tramp shipping, the British seamen's representative insisted upon British seamen being substituted for Indian lascars

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not think that arises out of this question.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: So far as India is concerned, it was only the circular that I mentioned in my answer that was referred to.

PROPOSAL FOR STARTING OF AN INDIAN PASSENGER SERVICE BETWEEN BOMBAY AND EUROPE.

1042. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** (on behalf of Seth Govind Das): (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they received any proposal on behalf of certain financiers in India for some help for the starting of an Indian passenger service between Bombay and Europe?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government turned down such a proposal?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) to (c). I received unofficially a communication from an Indian businessman, containing certain proposals which were subsequently the subject of conversations between us. These conversations were of a confidential character, and I regret I am not in a position to disclose their purport or their final outcome.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know at what stage the matter stands? I do not want the nature of the conversations, but is there any proposal now pending before the Government for starting an Indian Passenger Service between Bombay and Europe, in a formal or an informal manner?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No.

RESERVATION OF THE INTER-IMPERIAL TRADE TO THE BRITISH FLAG.

1043. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** (on behalf of Seth Govind Das): (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have received any Despatch from the Board of Trade in England in connection with the reservation of the Inter-Imperial Trade to the British Flag?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the said Despatch?

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the communication that they may have sent in reply to the said Despatch?

(d) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the commercial and the shipping interests were consulted by them before forwarding their reply to the Board of Trade?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) No.

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

STEAMER SERVICES ENGAGED IN PASSENGER TRAFFIC BETWEEN BOMBAY AND EUROPE.

1044. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** (on behalf of Seth Govind Das): (a) Will Government be pleased to state if their attention has been drawn to the following remarks made by Sir William Currie, Deputy Chairman of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company at the annual meeting of the Company held on the 5th December, 1934?

"British shipping serving India is grateful for the circular issued by the Government of India expressing the hope that the services of British ships should be sought by those travelling to and from India under the Lee Commission scheme. It was suggested to us the other day that the issue of this circular was a species of flag discrimination. But I do not agree that it comes within this category. On the contrary it is, I think, only an example of the old adage that 'he who pays the piper calls the tune'."

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether it is British shipping that pays for the passages under the Lee Commission scheme or whether it is the Indian taxpayers who pay for these passages?

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if it is not a fact that the largest number of passengers travelling to and from India and from and to Europe arrive at or depart from Bombay?

(d) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if it is not a fact that the Lloyd Triestino is the only regular passenger service other than the Peninsular and Oriental Line engaged in the passenger traffic from Bombay to Europe and *vice versa*?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government have seen the statement referred to.

(b) The passages in question are paid for from Government revenues.

(c) Yes.

(d) No. So far as Government are aware, the City and Hall Lines, the Anchor Line and the Dollar Steamship Lines also maintain a regular passenger service between Bombay and Europe.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know the reason why Government have insisted that British ships should be encouraged by servants who are getting the Lee Commission benefits?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I do not think they have insisted that British ships alone should be utilised for the purpose. I think they have suggested that that might be done.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why have they done that?

Mr. F. E. James: Why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: In order to encourage Empire shipping.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I know whether the Government of India would suggest to the British Government that they would not allow the replacement of Indian laskars on British ships by British seamen?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Well, it would be an embarrassing suggestion to have to make. I am almost certain that the reply would be that the British Government cannot control their shipping with regard to the employment of anybody whose employment is permissible.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the benefit to the Government of India by encouraging British shipping in this direction? May I know whether the Government of India get any benefit at all?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That question has been put by the Honourable Member on a previous occasion and answered.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the answer?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The answer was given on that occasion.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the answer now?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: In common with the rest of the Empire, India benefits.

Mr. F. E. James: The British Navy.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: May I know whether the Lloyd Triestino and other companies take Indian cadets in their service?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do the British ships take Indian cadets?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Some of them, yes.

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: Can the Honourable Member mention any case of service to India by this?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid I am unable to follow the question. Does the Honourable Member mean whether any cadets have been taken by any of the British ships?

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: May I know whether India has been benefited by any of these things, subsidies and so forth?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The Government of India are not giving any subsidies to these ships.

DECLARATIONS TAKEN FROM THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY STAFF TO
ACCEPT THE REVISED LEAVE RULES.

1045. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) With reference to Government's reply to parts (b) and (c) of Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney's unstarred question No. 205, asked on the 9th March, 1935, will Government be pleased to state why the North Western Railway Administration started taking declarations from the employees recruited on or after 22nd August 1927, though the Railway Board issued instructions on 1st April, 1928, directing the Agents of the State-managed Railways to get a declaration signed by the employees recruited on or after 1st September, 1928, to the effect that when the Revised State Railway Leave Rules were promulgated they would be liable to be brought under their operation?

(b) In view of the definite orders of the Railway Board issued on 1st April, 1928, referred to in part (a) above, do Government propose to give the employees of the North Western Railway, recruited after 22nd August, 1927, but before 1st September, 1928, the date fixed by the Railway Board, an option of electing the old or the revised leave rules? If not, why not?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if the North Western Railway Administration was competent to ask for a declaration from the employees to the effect that they agree to come under the revised leave rules, without receiving orders from the Railway Board? If so, will Government be pleased to quote the specific rule under which this power is vested in the North Western Railway Agency?

(d) If the reply to the first portion of part (c) above be in the negative, and if the power of the North Western Railway Administration for obtaining declarations from the employees was derived from the Railway Board's letter referred to in reply to Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney's question, do Government propose to rectify the mistake of obtaining declarations on the North Western Railway earlier than desired by the Railway Board? If not, why not?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the dates on and after which, the employees recruited on the various State Railways were called upon to sign a declaration to the effect that on promulgation of the revised leave rules, they agree to be governed by them?

(f) Is it not a fact that the policy of the Railway Board has been to frame a set of rules for application to all State-managed Railways, and to bring them into force from the same date? If so, why were the revised leave rules not brought into force on the various State Railways from the one and the same date?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) The North Western Railway started taking declarations from the employees appointed on and after the 22nd August, 1927, because they were aware that the introduction of the new leave rules was under contemplation, and it was intended that the newly appointed staff should be governed by them.

(b) No. In this connection I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the information laid on the table of the House on the 2nd September, 1935, in connection with parts (b) and (f) of Sir Henry Gidney's unstarred question No. 205, asked by him on the 9th March, 1935.

(c) The North Western Railway took action with the knowledge of the Board. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(d) In view of my reply to part (c) this does not arise.

(e) East Indian and Eastern Bengal Railways, 1st September, 1928.

Great Indian Peninsula Railway, 1st April, 1929.

North Western Railway, 1927.

(f) The New State Railway Leave Rules apply to all the State-managed Railways but for the reason given in Mr. P. R. Rau's reply to part (e) of Sir Henry Gidney's question No. 205, asked in this House on the 9th March, 1935, it was not possible to introduce these on the same date on the four State-managed Railways.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member why the orders that were first issued as shown in part (a) of the question were changed? What was the reason?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am not able to follow the question. Will the Honourable Member explain it a little more?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: From part (a) of the question, the Honourable Member will see that the Railway Board issued instructions on the 1st April, 1928, directing the Agents of the State-managed Railways to get a declaration signed by the employees recruited on or after the 1st September, 1928. If so, may I know why the declaration was being asked from men who were appointed before 1927?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The declaration has been asked for only from people who were appointed on or after the 22nd August, 1927.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: But, according to the orders, as stated in part (a) of this question, the declaration had to be taken from those who were appointed after the 1st April, 1928.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No. The declaration was taken from those who were appointed on or after the 22nd August, 1927, inasmuch as new leave rules were in contemplation then, and it was considered as a precaution that such a declaration should be obtained, so that, when the new leave rules were applied, nobody should have a grievance that they had no warning that it was going to be applied to them.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know whether those orders were or were not in effect?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: They were enforced against all those categories of staff from whom this declaration was taken.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Will the Honourable Member inform the House whether or not, when these new rules were started, they referred to all those employees who were engaged after 1928 and not those who were engaged after 1927? In other words, did they or did they not have retrospective effect for one year?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Although they were enforced on certain dates, they were made applicable to certain categories of staff from whom a declaration had been taken from a certain date in 1927.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: In view of the fact that it is the practice of the Government of India, in recent years, not to give retrospective effect to advantages such as increased pay, etc., why is it that the Government of India make an exception and have retrospective effect in regard to disadvantages?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: For the simple reason that when a change is contemplated,—and of recent years several changes have been introduced which may be more restrictive of the privileges previously enjoyed,—it is a precaution and a necessary precaution that the staff who are being employed then should be warned that when the new rules come into force they would be subjected to those rules.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: One more question, Sir. Is it or is it not a fact that those employees who were recruited in 1927 were never informed that in 1928, they would suffer all these disadvantages? If the answer is in the affirmative, I ask the Government of India, is it fair that they should do so?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Part (a) of the question says that declarations were taken from people who were employed from the 22nd August, 1927. One part of the grievance is, why did you start taking declarations from them, and the other is, why did you not warn them? I think the criticism is contradictory.

REVISION OF THE PAY OF CLERKS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1046. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Is it a fact that the maximum salary of grade I for clerical staff, either at stations or in offices on the North Western Railway is Rs. 60?

(b) Is it a fact that the Railway Board gave the All-India Railwaymen's Federation to understand in 1930, that the Railway Administrations had been asked to investigate into the scales of pay of subordinate staff on the Railways, who usually rose to Rs. 100 per mensem, with a view to improve them? If so, what was the result of the said investigations?

(c) Is it a fact that the Agent, North-Western Railway, *vide* his letter No. 501-E./39, dated the 22nd February, 1930, to the address of the Secretary, Railway Board, said that the maxima of the scales of grade I in offices and stations, etc., on the North Western Railway, ceased at a rate of pay that was unduly poor remuneration for services rendered?

(d) Is it a fact that the North Western Railway administration suggested in that letter that grades I and II be amalgamated without any delay? If so, what action did the Railway Board take or propose to take in the matter? If none, why not?

(e) Is it a fact that the maxima in the sister departments for lower class of clerks is above Rs. 60, for instance in the Postal Department it is Rs. 140 and for the Branch Postmasters who are recruited from amongst the inferior staff, the maximum of the lower grade is Rs. 90? If so, do Government propose to amalgamate grades I and II, for clerical staff on the North Western Railway to allow a clerk in offices and stations to rise at least to Rs. 90? If not, why not?

(f) Is it a fact that the Chief Accounts Officer, North Western Railway, Lahore, *vide* his Staff Order No. 6, dated the 4th January, 1935, has amalgamated grades II and III for the clerical staff under his control, thus introducing a combined scale of pay for the lower grade clerks, *viz.*, Rs. 40—4—80—5—90? If so, why are the employees of the same Railway under the control of the North Western Railway Agency treated differently from Accounts clerks?

(g) Is it a fact that a large number of employees in the North Western Railway subordinate clerical service retire on Rs. 60 for want of vacancies in the higher grades? If not, will Government please state the figures of the clerical staff who retired during the last five years, and the class in which they happened to be prior to their retirement?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes, except in the Accounts Department.

(b) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to the statement made by Mr. Hayman appearing on page 76 of the proceedings of the first half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation in June, 1930, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. If so, I would refer him to the opening sentence of his remarks which reads as follows:

"I wish that in any reply I give you you won't try to bind me down because difficulties arise sometimes which we cannot foresee."

Subsequent to this discussion, as a result of the fall in earnings and the necessity for curtailment of expenses, the general question of the wage standards was examined as a whole, with the result that the revised scales of pay were introduced.

(c) and (d). Government are not prepared to disclose the contents of the documents referred to which are intended purely for departmental use.

(e) As regards the first part, the duties performed by staff in the Postal Department are entirely different from those performed by railway staff and Government are not prepared to adopt the scales of pay of the Postal Department for railway employees.

As regards the rest the reply is in the negative. Government do not consider that the amalgamation of the two grades referred to is justified. The number of posts in the higher of the two grades is sufficient for normal grade to grade promotion on the occurrence of vacancies.

(f) Reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part the scales for the subordinate clerical staff in the Accounts Offices have always differed from those of the other departments on the North Western Railway because the duties are entirely different.

-(g) Government have no information and do not propose to collect it.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member, whether these lower subordinates, whose maximum pay is only Rs. 60 a month, start on Rs. 20 or 25 a month and retire after thirty years on Rs. 60 only?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: If the maximum is Rs. 60 and they are not appointed to anything else with a better pay, the inference follows.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether it is fair or not to amalgamate at least grades 1 and 2 to give them a little lift?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That is a question of supply and demand.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Will the Honourable Member inform this House whether there is any other Government of India Department which gives this meagre, miserly, starvation wage of Rs. 60 as retiring pay?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have no detailed knowledge with regard to other departments.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: If it is a question of supply and demand, may I know if it is applied to higher grades also where the officers get thousands of rupees a month?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes, Sir.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

LEAVE WITH PAY FOR INFERIOR EMPLOYEES IN THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

243. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Is it a fact that no inferior employee in the Transport Department on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway was granted leave with pay after the retrenchment of 1930?

(b) Is it a fact that many of these employees were getting leave with pay before the retrenchment of 1930?

(c) Is it a fact that under the Fundamental Leave Rules, no inferior employee on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway can be granted leave with pay and that this is due to the inadequacy of leave reserves?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to arrange for a sufficient number of inferior employees as a leave reserve on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway so as to facilitate the obtaining of leave with pay by such employees? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

COMPOSITION OF THE PERSONNEL OF THE INDIAN CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT AT THE VARIOUS PORTS.

244. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will Government lay on the table a statement showing information regarding the composition of the personnel of the Indian Customs Department at the various ports in a tabular form as below?

	Bombay.		Karachi.		Calcutta.		Madras.		Rangoon.	
	No.	Provinces to which they belong.	No.	Provinces to which they belong.	No.	Provinces to which they belong.	No.	Provinces to which they belong.	No.	Provinces to which they belong.
1. Superior Ser-vice.										
2. Appraisers										
3. Examining Officers.										
4. Preventive Officers.										
5. Apprentice Appraisers.										
6. Apprentice Examining Officers.										
7. Other Appointments.										

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The information is not available and cannot be compiled without a degree of labour and expense which is not considered to be justified.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW RULES REGARDING MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF RAILWAY STAFF WHO WERE NOT EXAMINED IN NIGHT VISION TEST PRIOR TO 1930.

245. **Mr. K. L. Gauba:** (a) Is it a fact that new rules, regarding medical examination of Railway staff who were not examined in night vision test prior to 1930, were introduced in that year?

(b) Is it a fact that after a strenuous agitation by the Carriage and Wagon staff, Fitters staff and the Engineering gang staff, the applicability of these rules was withheld in their case?

(c) Is it a fact that a good number of staff, in whose case these rules have been applied, have been discharged and demoted due to the night vision test, which was not the case before 1930?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) New regulations for the medical examination of candidates and employees, etc., were introduced by the Railway Board in June, 1930. I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the North Western Railway. If so, Government are informed that on the North Western Railway the revised rules were introduced from the 2nd February, 1931. Prior to the introduction of these rules the staff were, under the rules then in force, required to be medically examined but Government understand that due to an oversight certain Railway employees were not sent for medical examination.

(b) As a result of representations, the classification of certain Carriage and Wagon staff and Locomotive staff, including fitters, was modified.

(c) Government have no information and its collection will involve an amount of labour and expense not commensurate with the results likely to be achieved.

LIQUOR LICENCES IN DELHI AND OLD DELHI.

246. **Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of liquor licences in (1) Delhi, and (2) Old Delhi in the years 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934 and 1935?

(b) How many of them were licences for the sale of foreign liquor and how many for the country liquor?

(c) What is the increase in population of Delhi and New Delhi in the years 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934 and 1935?

(d) What are the grounds which justify the increase in such licences?

(e) Do Government propose to increase these licences in the year 1936? If so, how many and on what grounds?

(f) Are Government aware that the increase of licences for liquor shops has raised great apprehension amongst temperance workers?

(g) Did Government consult any public body, such as local bodies and temperance societies, before increasing this number? If not do Government now propose to consult them?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the table.

(c) Statistics are not available except in years when a census is taken.

(d) The growth of population, especially in New Delhi, where a large proportion of the inhabitants are accustomed to consume foreign liquor.

(e) The number of licenses is not fixed and fresh applications are considered on their merits.

(f) No complaints in regard to the increase in the number of foreign liquor licenses have been received from temperance workers.

(g) Local bodies are consulted before fresh licenses are granted except in the case of licenses for canteens which are granted on the recommendation of the Military authorities concerned.

Statement showing the number of Liquor Licences granted in Delhi and New Delhi during the years 1931 to 1935.

		1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
Delhi	{ Foreign Liquor . . .	38	35	34	32	33
	{ Country Liquor . . .	10	10	10	10	10
	{ Total . . .	48	45	44	42	43
New Delhi	{ Foreign Liquor . . .	18	18	18	18	25
	{ Country Liquor . . .	1	1	1	1	1
	{ Total . . .	19	19	19	19	26

FRAUD CASE DETECTED IN THE PREPARATION AND CHARGING OF GOODS HANDLING BILLS AT LAHORE GOODS OFFICE.

247. **Raizada Hans Raj:** (a) Is it a fact that a serious fraud case was detected in the preparation and charging of goods' handling bills at Lahore Goods office against Goods Supervisor in December 1934?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what action has so far been taken against the Goods Supervisor?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the negative, what is the reason?

(d) Is it a fact that the said Goods Supervisor has been transferred to Karachi?

(e) Is it a fact that the transfer orders were issued in October 1935?

(f) Is it a fact that the orders were not complied with up to January, 1936?

(g) Is it a fact that some of the Railway officers are putting unnecessary hinderance in the execution of his transfer?

(h) If the replies to parts (f) and (g) be in the affirmative, what action do Government propose to take against the above Goods Supervisor and the officers concerned?

(i) Are Government aware that his presence at Lahore Goods office is detrimental to the public, as well as to the interests of the Railway Department?

(j) Is it a fact that another case has been detected at the Lahore Goods office in connection with some 25 men amongst a list of van porters employed under this Goods Supervisor who were never used as van porters and never worked with any van train, but were employed as personal servants of the Goods Supervisor and some other Railway officers?

(k) If the reply to part (j) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if they are prepared to proceed criminally against these officials?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government are informed as follows:

- (a), (g) and (i). No.
- (b), (c), (h) and (k). Do not arise.
- (d) and (e). Yes.
- (f) The transfer ordered in October was postponed.
- (j) It was found on enquiry that some van porters were being used as peons—the necessity for which was subsequently established. It was not proved that any of them were used as personal servants.

LEAVE AND PENSION OF MILITARY EMPLOYEES INVALIDED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

248. **Haji Chaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether their replies to the following questions in the Assembly still stand as regards civil officers and subordinates who contracted diseases during 1914—18 on Field Service and retired on a pay of Rs. 200 per mensem and over in 1928—30 on account of those diseases?

(b) If Government are not now prepared to act on their replies to the questions referred to, will Government be pleased to give a fresh and complete reply to each of the questions referred to below:

- (i) question No. 592-A, dated the 4th September, 1933;
- (ii) question No. 592-B, dated the 4th September, 1933;
- (iii) question No. 1182-A, dated the 27th November, 1933;
- (iv) question No. 329, dated the 2nd March, 1934; and
- (v) question No. 331, dated the 2nd March, 1934?

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

(b) Does not arise.

FACILITIES GIVEN TO INDIAN SCHOLARS IN THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT FOR TRAINING IN EXCAVATION AND EXPLORATION OF ANCIENT INDIAN SITES.

249. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Are adequate facilities given to Indian scholars in the Archæological Department to get themselves trained in excavation and exploration of ancient Indian sites?

(b) Will Government place on the table a list of the scholars so far trained?

(c) Is the practice of giving such training to Indian scholars continued at present? If not, when was it stopped? What are the reasons for the discontinuance of such a practice?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of reviving such a scheme?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) and (c). Adequate facilities were provided for training suitable Indian scholars in the Archæological Department in excavation work until 1931, when such training was stopped as a measure of retrenchment.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

(d) Yes, when the funds permit.

Statement showing Indian Scholars trained in excavation work by the Archæological Department.

1. Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni	(late Director General of Archæology).
2. Late Mr. V. Natesa Aiyar	(late Superintendent).
3. Mr. K. N. Dikshit	(Deputy Director General of Archæology).
4. Late Mr. H. Panday	(late Assistant Superintendent).
5. Mr. M. B. Garde	(Superintendent of Archæology, Gwalior).
6. Mr. Mohd. Hamid Kuraishi	(Superintendent, Frontier Circle).
7. Rai Sahib M. Ghosh	(Curator, Patna Museum).
8. Mr. M. S. Vats	(Superintendent, Western Circle).
9. Mr. H. L. Srivastava	(Assistant Superintendent, Central India and Rajputana).
Deputed by the Varendra Research Society for training. Do. by Kashmir State. Do. Hyderabad State. Do. Ceylon Government. Apprentices retrenched before the completion of their terms.	10. Mr. N. G. Majumdar (Superintendent, Indian Museum).
	11. Mr. R. C. Kak.
	12. Mr. Syed Yusaf.
	13. S. Pranavitani.
	14. J. C. R. Jayasuriya.
	15. Mr. K. G. Goswami.
	16. Mr. L. Narasimhachar.
	17. Mr. M. A. Rahim.
	18. Mr. S. S. Sarkar.

PROVISION OF SAFEGUARDS IN GRANTING LICENCES TO PRIVATE ASSOCIATIONS OR BODIES TO CARRY ON EXCAVATION AT SPECIFIC SITES.

250. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** Will Government state whether in granting licences to private associations or bodies to carry on excavation at specific sites, adequate safeguards are provided, insisting on such associations or bodies maintaining a daily field record of the excavations, and noting the circumstances of each discovery? If not, do Government propose to insist on this as a condition precedent to granting the required licence?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Under the conditions for the grant of licences for archæological excavation, private individuals and bodies are required to make such photographs and other records and architectural plans of the area in respect of which the licence is held and of any antiquities found therein as may be specified by the Director General of Archæology.

PERMISSION SOUGHT BY THE CAMBRIDGE-YALE EXPEDITION TO VISIT PLACES OF ARCHÆOLOGICAL OR PRE-HISTORIC IMPORTANCE.

251. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of places of archæological or of prehistoric importance to visit, and to examine which permission was sought for by the Cambridge-Yale expedition or any member or members thereof?

- (b) Was the permission asked for granted?
- (c) What is the kind of work that this expedition or any member, or members thereof, are doing in these places?
- (d) Have they discovered anything of importance in these places? If so, where are those antiquities? Have they been removed out of India or are they still here?
- (e) Do Government propose to see to it that they are allowed to take, if they want, only such finds as are in duplicate?
- (f) Did the officers of the Archaeological Survey visit the places which the members of the above expedition are visiting? Did they make an exhaustive survey of those sites? If not, why not?
- (g) Is it a fact that some of the members visited Madras recently for collecting prehistoric implements? Were they able to discover any? If so, do Government propose to make sure that these finds are retained in India?
- (h) Did the Superintendent, 'Archaeological Survey,' visit the places where the members of the expedition had gone, and report to the Director General, Archaeological Survey, as to the antiquities and the need for their acquisition?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) and (h). The Expedition conducted a reconnaissance survey in the Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province, the Madras Presidency and Kashmir with the permission of the Government of India and the Kashmir Durbar.

(c) A search for fossil remains of early man and the primates and the determination of the geological epochs of North-West India.

(d) They collected a number of stone artifacts besides fossils, bones, etc., and fragments of pottery. The stone implements have been taken to Cambridge where they have been studied by experts and the results will be worked out by comparison with other specimens from all over the world. The pottery fragments have been retained in India.

(e) Government have taken steps to secure for India a full share of the articles collected by the Expedition.

(f) and (h). As the object of the Expedition was more akin to the work of the geological rather than the archaeological survey, a representative of the Geological Survey accompanied it. For this reason the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, did not visit the places in question or make a report to the Director General of Archaeology in India.

(g) Yes. During their tour in the Madras Presidency, the members of the Expedition collected a large number of prehistoric implements and steps have been taken to secure sufficient numbers of each variety of these implements for India.

APPOINTMENT OF A CIVILIAN CONSULTING ARCHITECT AT QUETTA.

252. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Secretary of State in Council invited by advertisement applications for the appointment of a civilian consulting architect;

- (b) whether the proposed appointment was in connection with the military engineering services in India in connection with the reconstruction of Quetta;
- (c) whether the advertisement stipulated that the candidate must be British and a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects;
- (d) whether this stipulation has led to protests from the Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors and the Institute of Registered Architects;
- (e) whether the protest was made on the ground that selection from one body would be most invidious;
- (f) whether qualified candidates in India are not available;
- (g) what they have done, or propose to do, in the matter; and
- (h) whether they are prepared to reconsider their attitude in the matter?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c), (d) and (e). The Government of India have no information.

(f) Enquiries showed that it was likely to be considerably more economical to recruit a man from England on a regular monthly salary, than to pay the fees of any of the architects in this country who possess the requisite qualifications.

(g) Government propose to take no action.

(h) No.

PROCEEDS FROM AUCTION OF STRUCTURAL MATERIAL IN QUETTA.

253. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have agreed to repay to land-lords, by way of relief from the Fund, the proceeds from auction of structural material in Quetta; and
- (b) why they have come to this decision?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the remarks on the subject contained in the Government of India's press communiqué, dated the 23rd January, 1936 (Copy attached).

Copy of Press Communiqué dated 23rd January, 1936.

It will be remembered that in the recent announcement published by the Government of India with regard to their policy at Quetta, it was stated that a Senior Officer of the Political Department had been posted to Quetta with instructions to organize the operations of Salvage and Clearance in such a manner as he might consider necessary for more rapid and efficient progress. That Officer has now been in charge at Quetta for several weeks and as the result of his investigations on the spot has put forward certain proposals for the consideration of the Government of India. After personal discussion with him various decisions have been taken which are now published for general information.

In the first place it has been decided that Wards Nos. 10, 11, 18 and 19 of which the salvage has already been completed should be cleared immediately and opened for temporary residence by former inhabitants of Quetta who desire again to take up their residence in Quetta and to re-start their businesses. Such persons will be permitted to build temporary huts, so far as possible, on their own sites and also lease out sites for residence by other persons whose land has not yet been cleared. No actual residence in these Wards will be permitted until the remaining and adjoining Wards have been completely salvaged and all corpses removed; but it is confidently expected that this operation will be completed at least by the end of March, 1936. In other Wards immediately after salvage and clearance has taken place sites will be allotted to the original owners in so far as that may be possible having regard to the necessity for widening certain streets and lanes to provide as far as possible against similar loss of life in case of another earthquake. For the present only buildings of a temporary character will be permitted, but owners will be allowed to erect permanent buildings on their original sites as soon as a Building Code has been prepared and plans of buildings considered technically proof against earthquake shocks have been devised and approved. The Government of India have also reconsidered the decision previously announced that all structural material of collapsed buildings would be taken into the custody of Government and disposed of at their discretion. In view of representations now put forward, it appears that it is practicable to permit the greater part of this structural material to be removed by the owners themselves in the course of salvage and clearance and to be used in the construction of temporary buildings for immediate occupation. The Officer in Charge has therefore been given discretion to make arrangements on those lines, which it is hoped will not only give considerable relief to those who have lost their houses by reason of the earthquake, but will also facilitate and expedite the work of clearance. Arrangements are also being made to establish special Courts of Justice to deal with cases arising out of the earthquake. These Courts will work under the provisions of the British Baluchistan Civil Justice Regulation and in order to minimize the expense caused to the parties by such litigation, orders will be passed by the Local Administration providing for a reduced scale of Court Fees in all such cases.

CHARGE OF PERJURY AGAINST THE SUB-REGISTRAR OF DELHI.

254. **Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a report published in the *Daily Tej*, on page two of its issue dated the 14th December, 1935, containing extracts from the judgment of Mr. David Fazuldin, a Delhi Sub-judge, making serious charge of perjury against the Sub-Registrar of Delhi?

(b) Are Government aware that the findings of the said court have excited much local comment?

(c) Will Government state what steps, if any, have been taken by them against the Sub-Registrar concerned?

(d) If nothing has been done so far, are Government prepared to order an early inquiry and to suspend the Sub-Registrar concerned till the investigation is complete?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have no information and have seen no comment except that referred to in part (a) of the question.

(c) and (d). I am unable to say anything as I understand that the case is still *sub judice*, an appeal from the Sub-Judge's order having been filed before the District and Sessions Judge.

RELATIVE MERITS OF MURAKA SPECIAL BLACK PAINT AND JENSON AND NICHOLSON'S BLACK ENAMEL PAINT.

255. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some time in the latter part of 1934, or in the beginning of 1935, a Committee consisting of Railway Officers and a representative of the Indian Stores Department, with Diwan Bahadur B. R. Singh, late Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway as President, was formed in order to examine the relative merits of Muraka Special Black Paint, a cheaper indigenous product, and Jenson and Nicholson's Black Enamel Paint, a foreign product, for painting Railway wagons?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if the Committee had submitted any report, recommending the use of one or the other paint, for consideration by Government?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the nature of the recommendation made by the Committee, and whether the same conforms with the principle laid down by Government to the effect that in the matter of purchase of stores for public services, preference should be given to indigenous articles, if they are found sufficiently good for the purpose? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes, except in so much that the Jenson and Nicholson black paint considered by the Committee was, as far as Government is aware, also an indigenous product and lower in price per gallon.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

RECRUITMENT OF ONE PARTICULAR COMMUNITY ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

256. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Is it a fact that the Railway Board has issued to the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, orders to the effect that no appointment must be made from any community except one particular community, until the 45 per cent. quota fixed for that community, so far as the Eastern Bengal Railway is concerned, is reached?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if such orders have been issued to other Local Governments? If so, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of revising their orders in special and exceptional cases?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) The Railway Board have not issued any orders to the Eastern Bengal Railway or any other Railway that members of any one particular community should only be appointed. The latter part of the question does not arise.

RECRUITMENT OF ONE PARTICULAR COMMUNITY ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

257. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that on the Eastern Bengal Railway, sons of railway employees, having requisite qualifications for ministerial jobs and having been selected, as approved candidates by the Railway Staff Selection Committee for future appointments, are not given preference over outsiders, in the matter of filling up any vacancy, including temporary leave vacancies, on the ground that such vacancies have been kept a close preserve for members of a particular community under the orders of the Railway Board;
- (b) whether it is a fact that sons of railway employees, who are approved candidates and who were working against temporary leave vacancies, have been discharged to make room for members of a particular community; and
- (c) if the replies to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, the reason which prompted the Railway Board to issue such orders to the Eastern Bengal Railway Administration?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) The placing of a candidate's name on the list of approved candidates does not constitute a promise of employment. The Railway Board have not issued any orders that all vacancies should be reserved for members of any particular community.

(b) The reply is in the negative.

(c) In view of my reply to parts (a) and (b) this does not arise.

ARTICLE IN THE RAILWAY LABOUR ENTITLED "RELIEVING ALLOWANCE TO TRAFFIC STAFF, UNIFORM PROBLEM AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT".

258. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article appearing at pages 2, 3 and 4 of the *Railway Labour*, for October 1935, published from Calcutta, under the auspices of the Eastern Bengal Railway Indian Employees' Association, regarding Relieving Allowance to Traffic Staff, Uniform problem and differential treatment?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state if any action has been taken thereon by them? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) Government are informed that the matters referred to have been considered by the Administration and where action was necessary it has either been taken or will be taken in due course.

ARTICLE IN THE RAILWAY LABOUR ENTITLED "A BIRD'S EYE VIEW".

259. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to an article entitled "A Bird's eye view", appearing in the *Railway Labour* for the month of November 1935, published from Calcutta under the auspices of the Eastern Bengal Railway Indian Employees' Association, in which certain comments have been made regarding medical aid, economy in the Electric Department, Water-Proof, Temporary Posting, Crew Staff?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state if any action has been taken thereon? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) The matters referred to are entirely within the competence of the Agent to whom a copy of the question has been sent for information and such action as he may consider necessary. Government do not consider their intervention is necessary.

RECRUITMENT TO STATE RAILWAY SERVICES.

260. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Railway Board in the year 1932, accepted the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Labour, *vide* item 118 of their report, to the effect that sons of Railway employees should have preference over outsiders in the matter of recruitment to railway services, and instructed the Agents of the State-managed Railways accordingly?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the same policy is still followed by the Railway Board? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) The orders issued by the Railway Board were to the effect that they were aware that arrangements in force on State-managed Railways provided for such preference as recommended by the Royal Commission on Labour to be given to the sons of Railway employees, but that they considered that the question of extending such preference to near relatives was a matter to be left to the discretion of individual Agents of Railways.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative and the latter part does not arise.

TRANSFER OF PROPERTIES IN CANTONMENTS BY SALE, GIFT OR MORTGAGE BY CIVILIANS.

261. **Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that under instructions from Headquarters, Northern Command, the Cantonment Boards have notified to the public that without first obtaining the permission of the Government of India, civilians cannot transfer their property by sale, gift, or mortgage?

(b) Is it a fact that in Rawalpindi Cantonment, the Cantonment Executive Officer has refused to register in his tax registers the transfer of properties, validly made under the provisions of the Transfer of Property Act?

(c) Is it a fact that he insists on realising cantonment taxes from the transferers, although the transferees are willing to pay the same?

(d) Is it a fact that he refuses to change the names of persons on whom property devolves by succession or inheritance?

(e) Is it a fact that in Amritsar the Cantonment Executive Officer has informed the Civil Registrar not to register transfer of properties without the sanction of Military Authorities?

(f) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, what step, or steps, do Government propose to take to stop this practice?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) The reply is in the affirmative, in so far as property valued at over Rs. 5,000 situated on sites held under the terms of the General Order by the Governor General in Council No. 179 of 1836 are concerned. One of the conditions of tenure under that Order is that transfers require sanction. The object of enforcing this condition is to preserve the title of Government in the land.

(b) No, Sir.

(c), (d) and (e). Government have no information.

(f) The matter is under consideration at present.

CONSTRUCTION OF QUARTERS FOR THE STAFF OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI.

262. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have selected any suitable site for the construction of quarters for the staff of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, Delhi, as promised in reply to starred question No. 630 of 1935?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state when the work of construction will begin?

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, what action is being taken to expedite acquisition of any such site?

(d) Are Government aware that it is not easy to obtain suitable cheap housing accommodation in Delhi, and if so, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of granting some house rent allowance to the staff of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, until such time as the quarters are constructed?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) A site which appears to be suitable has been found and is now under further examination.

(b) It is impossible to say when the work of construction will begin. The provision of funds has to be considered.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Government are aware that there is some difficulty in obtaining suitable, cheap housing accommodation in Delhi. Government are not prepared to consider the grant of house-rent allowance to staff of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONGST SEAMEN IN BOMBAY.

263. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they are aware of the wide-spread unemployment amongst seamen in Bombay;

(b) whether it has come to their knowledge that the Clan Line of Steamers, which used to employ Bombay crews for years, have been replacing them by Calcutta crews for some years past;

(c) whether they are aware that the Calcutta crews are brought down to Bombay at Company's expense and signed on in their ships in Bombay;

(d) whether they are aware that it is a fact that though the rates of Calcutta crews' wages are slightly less than those of Bombay crews, the Company does not materially gain anything, because it bears the passage expenses of the Calcutta crews both ways;

(e) whether it is true that the National Seamen's Union of Bombay has made representations to Government and their officers in Bombay to use their good offices to see that the Company signs Bombay crews on ships discharging crews in Bombay, and engages Calcutta crews on ships discharging crews in Calcutta; and

(f) whether they are prepared to use their good offices with a view to getting Bombay crews their share of employment with the Clan Line?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government understand that the position in regard to unemployment amongst seamen in Bombay has improved considerably in recent years.

(b) and (c). Yes.

(d) Government have no information. This is obviously a matter for the Company concerned.

(e) Yes.

(f) Government do not consider that it would be appropriate for them to use their influence to maintain or extend the opportunities of employment open to one section of Indian seamen at the expense of another.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONGST SEAMEN IN BOMBAY.

264. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to their knowledge that about four to five thousand Bombay seamen of the saloon section have been thrown out of employment during the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Bombay saloon crews have served City and Hall Lines passenger ships, as also Hired Transport ships of Government for several generations;

(c) whether they are aware that these seamen are holding certificates of service issued by the Government Shipping Office at Bombay;

(d) whether they are aware that during the last Great War, when seamen were reluctant to serve on merchant and Government chartered ships, they held out an assurance to Bombay saloon crews that in the matter of recruitment, war service rewards, etc. they would be treated on a footing of equality with British Indian Seamen;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Bombay saloon crews have been displaced by the Calcutta crews;

(f) whether they have considered the treatment meted out to Bombay saloon crews despite their long years of loyal service and in the face of the above assurance;

- (g) whether they are aware that a fairly big number of these saloon crews is either domiciled or naturalized in Bombay; and
- (h) if so, whether they propose to use their good offices to see that the Bombay saloon crews are not kept out any longer?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) I assume that by "Bombay seamen of the saloon section" the Honourable Member means Goanese saloon crews. So far as Government are aware, the number of unemployed among these men does not exceed 1,000.

- (b) No, not for "several generations".
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Government are not aware of any such assurance having been given. It is a fact, however, that, for the purposes of the grant of war risks compensation, Goanese seamen employed in British merchant vessels were treated in the same way as British Indian seamen.
- (e) Yes.
- (f) Government have considered representations in the matter.
- (g) Yes.
- (h) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (f) of his previous question.

ABOLITION OF SHIPPING BROKERS IN BOMBAY.

265. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have considered the desirability of abolishing the shipping brokers in Bombay, as recommended by the Royal Commission on Labour in India;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the shipping brokers' licences in Calcutta terminated over a year ago as the result of the Whitley Commission recommendation;
- (c) whether they are aware that the shipping brokers in Bombay ceased to function as suppliers of seamen about two years ago;
- (d) whether they are aware that the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., British India Steam Navigation Co., and several other Companies, have made their own arrangements to advance first month's wages to their crews, independent of the shipping brokers in Bombay, and that the other Companies can also make similar arrangements and save five or seven per cent. commission on the advances, if the brokers are totally dispensed with;
- (e) whether it is a fact that for making advances to seamen, no licence is necessary, and that the brokers' licence under section 24 of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act is meant only for the supply of seamen;
- (f) whether they are aware that the Seamen's Recruitment Committee presided over by Mr. A. G. Clow, I.C.S., in 1922, made scathing comments on the system of shipping brokers as being the means of continuance of bribery and corruption through their ghat serangs; and

- (g) whether they propose not to renew the shipping brokers' licence in Bombay, as recommended by the Whitley Commission, for the purpose of eradicating the evils of bribery and corruption from the ranks of Indian seamen and ships' officers; if so, when?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

- (b) The licenses in question terminated in June, 1935.
- (c) Government are informed that this statement is not quite correct.
- (d) The Companies named have made their own arrangements to advance first month's wages to their crews; but Government have no information whether other Shipping Companies can make similar arrangements or not.
- (e) Yes.
- (f) Yes; but in regard to the shipping brokers at Bombay the Committee referred to by the Honourable Member did not find any genuine evidence to show that they were guilty of corrupt practices.
- (g) No. Government do not propose to take any such step, because certain Shipping Companies still make use of the licensed brokers at Bombay for the recruitment of seamen and it is understood that the present licensees are working satisfactorily.

CONSTRUCTION OF A BUILDING FOR THE OFFICES OF THE PRINCIPAL OFFICER, MERCANTILE MARINE DEPARTMENT, BOMBAY, AND OF THE SHIPPING MASTER AND NAUTICAL SURVEYOR.

266. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that they have taken a site from the Bombay Port Trust, near the Alexandra Dock Red Gate to construct a building of their own to accommodate the offices of the Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department, Bombay and of the Shipping Master and Nautical Surveyor;
- (b) whether it is a fact that over Rs. 2,000 a month are paid as rent for these offices;
- (c) whether the proposal to have a Government building has been pending for several years;
- (d) whether plans for the building are ready; and
- (e) when it is proposed to carry the proposal into execution?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) No.

- (b) Yes.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Certain provisional plans for the building were obtained in 1931, but these have not yet been finally approved by Government.
- (e) The question is at present under consideration.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

[9TH MARCH 1936.]

REPAIR OF THE ROAD CONNECTING THE CIRCULAR ROAD WITH TURKMAN GATE IN DELHI.

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

- (a) whether they are aware that the *kacha* road connecting the Circular Road with Turkman Gate is in a very bad condition;
- (b) who is responsible for the upkeep of that road, whether the New Delhi Municipality or the Old Delhi Municipality; and
- (c) whether they propose to instruct the authorities concerned to repair the road at an early date?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The road is still in the jurisdiction of the Old Delhi Municipality who are, therefore, strictly speaking, responsible for repairing it. They have, however, not done so as the area through which the road passes is to be transferred to the New Delhi Municipality. There has been delay in effecting such a transfer owing to insistence by the New Delhi Municipal Committee on the removal of certain structures as a condition precedent. Measures are in train to expedite fulfilment of this condition and it is hoped that repairs to the road will be effected before long.

AMOUNTS REFUNDED UNDER SECTION 49 OF THE INDIAN INCOME-TAX ACT.

268. **Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving:

- (i) particulars of the amounts refunded under section 49 of the Indian Income-tax Act, year by year, for the last five years; and
- (ii) particulars of the corresponding refunds made to Indian assesses under section 27 of the English Finance Act, 1920?

(b) If the latter information is not available in any of the published reports, are Government prepared to take steps to obtain the same from the British Income-tax authorities?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) (i) I lay a statement on the table giving the desired particulars.

(ii) The information is not available.

(b) No.

Statement showing the amounts of refund granted under Section 49 of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, during the years 1930-31 to 1934-35.

1930-31	1,00,61,217
1931-32	1,13,59,857
1932-33	1,42,55,933
1933-34	1,03,50,401
1934-35	1,26,62,861

PAY OF ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT PLUS AVERAGE MILEAGE FOR THE TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS AND THEIR DIVISIONAL INSPECTORS ON TRANSFER TO OPERATING DEPARTMENT.

269. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Is it a fact that a meeting was held at Calcutta on 3rd May, 1927, the minutes of which are reproduced on page 45 of the Report by the Chief Operating Superintendent, on the experimental working of the crew system, dated the 5th January, 1928?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. G. J. Harris, Deputy Chief Operating Superintendent (Crews), was also present at the said meeting?

(c) Is it a fact that it was unanimously agreed at the said meeting that the Travelling Ticket Inspectors and their Divisional Inspectors on transfer to Operating Department will be paid the pay of Accounts Department plus average mileage?

(1) Is it a fact that the Deputy Chief Operating Superintendent (Crews) (Mr. G. J. Harris) subsequently recommended as under?

"It is therefore suggested that the Travelling Ticket Inspectors and their Divisional Inspectors whose appointments have been transferred to the Operating Departments should come on to the new scales of pay sanctioned recently by the Agent for the Crew system and to enable the administration to do so, the appointments of Travelling Ticket Inspectors and Divisional Inspectors transferred to Operating Department should be abolished. It would then be a case of abolition of appointments and offer of other suitable employment to the holders thereof."

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply questions Nos. 269, 270 and 279 together.

I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi's starred question No. 832 asked on the floor of this House on the 26th February, 1936.

CONTROL OF THE TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS BY ACCOUNTS.

†270. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Is it a fact that on the 13th and 14th November, 1930 a meeting was held at Calcutta to discuss the Moody-Ward Report and the Accounts Officers who attended the meeting were unanimous on the point of Accounts controlling the Travelling Ticket Examiners as a supplemental audit check?

(b) Is it a fact that this point was eliminated from the minutes of the said meeting and the Chief Accounts Officer drew the attention of the Deputy Chief Operating Superintendent, Crews, to this fact in the following terms?

"In acknowledging the receipt of the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th and 14th November I beg to point out that no mention has been made of the discussion that arose over the agency that was to control the Travelling Ticket Examiners. The representatives of the Accounts Department were definitely of opinion that the Travelling Ticket Examiners who will be doing the same duties as the Travelling Ticket Inspectors should be under Accounts Control and that the Operating Department should concentrate on the proper control, check and collections of tickets at stations."

"That before the abolition or disposal of the present staff of existing Travelling Ticket Inspectors are considered this matter be referred to the Railway Board. I shall be obliged if the minutes returned herewith are amended accordingly either at paragraph 2 or 7 to include this view."

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 269.

(c) Is it a fact that these views of the Chief Accounts Officer were never conveyed to the Railway Board, nor were they embodied in the said minutes by the Operating authorities?

(d) Is it a fact that the Director of Finance, Railway Board, also desired to have the Travelling Ticket Examiners under Accounts control and this view was expressed by him in his remarks on the Moody-Ward Report?

(e) Is it a fact that a Member of the Railway Board (Mr. Hannay) also recommended that the Travelling Ticket Inspectors must remain under Accounts, as per his remarks on the Moody-Ward Report?

(f) Were these views of the Chief Accounts Officer, Director of Finance, Member, Railway Board, discussed at the meeting of the Railway Board? If so, on what date, and what was the result of discussion, and if not, why not?

(g) Under what letter and on what date did the Railway Board order the control of the Travelling Ticket Examiners to be transferred from Accounts to Operating?

(h) If orders were not issued by the Railway Board on the subject of Travelling Ticket Examiners control, who was the authority on whose initiative the Accounts control of the Travelling Ticket Inspectors was abolished?

(i) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of appointing an Enquiry Committee, comprising of official and non-official members, to investigate the causes which have led to the abolition of Accounts control of Travelling Ticket Examiners and to consider how far check and counter-check are beneficial under one head, i.e., Operating, which have since times immemorial been separate, i.e., issue, check, and collection at stations by Operating and check in trains by Accounts? If not, why not?

CANCELLATION OF THE TEST OF THE TICKET CHECKING STAFF.

271. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Is it a fact that a printed appeal was submitted by over a thousand of the ticket checking staff to the Agent, East Indian Railway, on 24th May, 1935?

(b) Is it a fact that no reply has been received from the Agent?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the points raised in the appeal and cancel the test of the ticket checking staff?

(d) Is it a fact that the object of this triennial test is to ensure that the workers possess the required knowledge of the rules concerning their duties?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 271, 272, 273 and 274 together.

I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi's starred question No. 832 asked on the floor of this House on the 26th February, 1936.

TEST OF THE TICKET CHECKING STAFF.

†272. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) How many Ticket Collectors and Travelling Ticket Examiners have been reduced in pay and transferred to other posts as a result of failure in the written examination and how many of them passed in oral test and what was their length of service in the ticket checking branch and in what Divisions such cases have occurred?

(b) Are such tests held on other State Railways in India?

RESPONSIBILITY OF AN EMPLOYEE OF THE TICKET CHECKING BRANCH.

†273. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will Government be pleased to state.

(a) whether an employee of the ticket checking branch is held responsible for the proper knowledge of the rules concerning his duties and in cases of failure he is punished; and

(b) whether the Railway concerned ever suffered a loss for the action of the individual ticket checker, or he himself is held responsible?

TROUBLES OF THE TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS.

†274. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article under the caption of "T. T. Es. Troubles", as published in the *Mazdur*, the official organ of the East Indian Railway Union, dated the 31st December, 1935?

(b) Is it a fact that in other Divisions, too, similar pressure is being exercised on the Travelling Ticket Examiners to swell their earnings?

(c) Is it a fact that in some Divisions explanations are called for from the staff when their earnings drop and various kinds of punishments are awarded?

(d) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the following information according to each Division of East Indian Railway:

- (1) Travelling Ticket Examiners reduced as Ticket Collectors;
- (2) warnings given;
- (3) fines imposed; and
- (4) explanations called;

for the period 1st January, 1935 to 31st December, 1935?

(e) Do Government desire that the earnings should increase proportionately to the Travelling Ticket Examiners employed on each train?

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES SUBJECT TO ASSESSMENT UNDER THE INCOME-TAX ACT.

275. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) What are the various forms of travelling allowances which are subject to assessment under Income-tax Act?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 271.

(b) Will Government please state whether an allowance subjected to assessment and reckoned for leave salary, provident fund deductions and retiring gratuity comes within the definition of pay under Fundamental Rule 9 (21) (a) (iii)?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the negative, under what definition does it fall and under what authority is it assessed and considered as leave salary, etc.?

(d) Does the term "salary" include travelling allowance of any kind under the Income-tax Act?

(e) Can travelling allowance included in "salary" under the Income-tax Act be classed as pay under Fundamental Rule 9 (21) (a) (iii)?

(f) Can travelling allowance be assessed without being classed as pay under Fundamental Rule 9 (21) (a) (iii)?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) Liability to income-tax of any travelling allowance is a matter to be determined under the provisions of the Indian Income-tax Act, XI of 1922. Under section 4 (3) (vi) of the Act, any special allowance, benefit or perquisite specifically granted to meet expenses wholly and necessarily incurred in the performance of the duties of an office or employment of profit is exempt from the payment of income-tax.

(b), (d) and (e). The question whether such an allowance can be "classed as pay" within the meaning of the Fundamental Rules or salary has no bearing on the determination of liability to income-tax.

(c) Does not arise.

(f) Yes.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES TREATED LIKE PAY.

276. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** What are the definite considerations on which certain forms of travelling allowances are treated like pay for all practical purposes, and others are not so treated?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No form of travelling allowance is treated as pay for all practical purposes.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES TREATED LIKE PAY.

277. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Can travelling allowance, treated as pay for the purpose of assessment, leave salary, provident fund and retiring gratuity be classed as pay under Fundamental Rule 9 (21) (a) (iii)? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No. Because it is a type of compensatory allowance, *vide* Fundamental Rule 9 (5).

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES UPON WHICH LEAVE SALARY IS ASSESSED.

278. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will Government please state:

(a) the various forms of travelling allowances upon which the leave salary is assessed;

(b) the conditions for reckoning leave salary;

(c) whether leave salary is pay proper;

(d) whether leave salary is classed as pay; and

(e) the rule made under section 96-B of Government of India Act, under which leave salary is permissible and classed as pay?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) Leave salary is not assessed on any travelling allowance. Certain travelling allowances which are paid monthly are allowed to be drawn in addition to leave salary during leave subject to certain conditions which are briefly that the officer concerned continues to incur the expense to meet which the allowance is granted.

(b) and (c). The conditions for reckoning leave salary and the rules made under section 96-B of the Government of India Act will be found in Chapter X of the Fundamental Rules, and Part III of the Civil Service Regulations.

(e) and (d). No.

ABOLITION OF THE POSTS OF THE TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS AND EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN AND THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAYS.

†279. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Is it a fact that more than one Government have stated before this House that the posts of the Travelling Ticket Examiners on the North Western Railway and Travelling Ticket Inspectors on the East Indian Railway were abolished from the 1st June, 1931? If so, will Government please place before this House the notification declaring the abolition of the posts of the Travelling Ticket Inspectors and Examiners on the East Indian and the North Western Railways, respectively?

REDUCTION IN PAY OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS.

280. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Is it a fact that the pay of a Government servant is protected against reduction by Fundamental Rule 15 made by the Secretary of State for India?

(b) Is it a fact that pay can only be reduced in cases of inefficiency, misconduct and in anticipation of the abolition of a post?

(c) Is it a fact that abolition of post, within the meanings of Fundamental Rule 15, means that the post should cease to exist any longer and should be brought under reduction?

(d) Does a change in designation constitute abolition of post for the purpose of reduction in pay?

(e) What are the essentials of the abolition of a post for the purpose of reduction in pay?

(f) Can the post of an employee, whose designation is changed and who is made to perform the same duties and in addition other duties be said to have been abolished for the purpose of reduction in pay?

(g) Is there any statutory protection against abolition of a post, and on what grounds can it be abolished?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) Yes, except on the conditions mentioned in Fundamental Rule 15.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 269.

(b) Under Fundamental Rule 15 a Government servant's substantive pay can only be reduced on account of inefficiency or misbehaviour or on his written request.

(c) Fundamental Rule 15 does not refer to the abolition of a post, so the question does not arise.

(d) and (f). A change in the designation of a post usually implies the abolition of that post and the creation of a new post which may be on a lower rate of pay.

(e) If a post is abolished it ceases to exist and, therefore, no question of reducing the pay of that post arises.

(g) A post can only be abolished by a competent authority. The latter can abolish it if it is found to be no longer required or if it is found to be administratively convenient owing to a change in circumstances or the re-organisation of work to abolish it and create a new one in its place.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW PASS RULES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

281. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Is it a fact that new pass rules have recently been introduced on State Railways in India?

(b) Is it a fact that certain employees governed by the old East Indian Railway pass rules were allowed a second class pass when drawing Rs. 116 as pay, and now the standard has been raised to Rs. 126 even for the home line?

(c) Is it a fact that in this respect and in many other respects the new rules have adversely affected the privileges of the old employees?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of allowing the old employees to retain their old privileges?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) A revised scale of privilege passes over State-managed Railways has recently been authorised.

(b) Yes.

(c) The revised scales curtail privileges in some cases and extend them in others. This was unavoidable if some degree of uniformity was to be obtained.

(d) This consideration has not been overlooked.

AGE-LIMIT FOR RECRUITMENT IN WALTON TRAINING SCHOOL, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

282. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Is it a fact that the age for recruitment in Walton Training School, North Western Railway, is 21 years?

(b) Is it a fact that the age limit for recruitment in other services is usually 25 years?

(c) Is it a fact that, due to this restriction, most of the candidates are thrown out of consideration?

(d) Are Government prepared to relax the rules and extend the age to 25 years?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the North Western Railway Walton Training School's Calendar for 1935-36, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(b) If the Honourable Member will specify the services I will endeavour to reply.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) The Agents of Railways are empowered to relax or modify the rules if special circumstances or local conditions render it desirable. Government do not consider any further action is necessary.

TWENTY-ONE YEARS' AGE-LIMIT FOR CERTAIN POSTS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY AND THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

283. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will Government be pleased to state what are the various posts on North Western Railway and East Indian Railway, the age-limit for which is 21 years only?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the age-limit for recruitment. If so, I would invite his attention to 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.

CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE AMOUNT OF GRATUITY CAN BE REDUCED IN RESPECT OF STATE RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

284. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which the amount of gratuity can be reduced in respect of State Railway employees?

(b) Is it a fact that gratuity can only be claimed if the services rendered are efficient, faithful and continuous?

(c) Is there any other factor on which the admissibility of gratuity is based?

(d) On what definite records is the opinion based that the services rendered are efficient?

(e) Who is the competent authority who can reduce the amount of gratuity?

(f) Is the Chief Operating Superintendent, East Indian Railway, delegated with powers to reduce the amount of gratuity? If so, under what notification?

(g) In case the Chief Operating Superintendent reduces the amount of gratuity, what remedy is left for the employee to get full gratuity?

(h) Does an appeal against non-payment of full gratuity lie with the Railway Board?

(i) Can an employee declared inefficient get maximum gratuity?

(j) Can an employee, getting maximum gratuity, be held inefficient?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) When the employee's service as a whole is not considered 'good, efficient and faithful'.

(b) and (c). The conditions under which employees become eligible for the grant of gratuity are laid down in rules 1 and 3 of the State Railway Gratuity Rules, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(d) On the record of service and the opinion of persons who had opportunity of seeing his work.

(e) The Agent of the Railway.

(f) No.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) Yes.

(i) and (j). I am unable to reply to these abstract questions. If the Honourable Member gives me concrete instances I shall endeavour to give him a reply.

RE-APPOINTMENT OF A RAILWAY EMPLOYEE DISCHARGED ON REDUCTION OF ESTABLISHMENT.

285. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if a Railway employee who is discharged on reduction of establishment has any claim for re-appointment?

(b) Is it a fact that his name is to be kept on the waiting list and that he is to be offered the first suitable vacancy?

(c) Is it a fact that a suitable vacancy under the rules means a vacancy carrying equivalent pay?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). No. In connection with the retrenchments effected on Railways during 1931-32 Government, however, issued instructions that retrenched staff should be borne on a waiting list with a view to reappointment in suitable vacancies. In this connection I would refer the Honourable Member to the Railway Department (Railway Board) letter No. 1635-E.G., dated the 30th December, 1932, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(c) No.

CERTIFICATES GRANTED TO THE STATE RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

286. **Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether the certificate granted to the State Railway employees (form G/99-Revised—E.I.R.) is an authentic document in respect of the entries made therein;

(b) whether any other reason can be assigned by the administration subsequently (other than the one mentioned in the certificate); and

(c) whether it is a fact that confidential reports are not entertained by Government against the State Railway employees?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government are informed that when this certificate is executed and signed by an officer it is an authentic document.

(b) Yes.

(c) Confidential reports may be made about any railway servant when the necessity arises.

CENTRALISATION OF ACCOUNTING WORK BY MERGING ACCOUNTS SECTION AND PAY BILL SECTIONS OF THE DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICES WITH DIVISIONAL ACCOUNTS OFFICES.

287. **Mr. M. S. Aney:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the scheme of centralizing accounting work by merging Accounts Section and Pay Bill Sections of the Divisional Superintendent's Offices with Divisional Accounts Offices, as embodied in the "Memorandum by the Financial Commissioner, Railways, on the proposal to adopt as a permanent measure the system of separation of Audit from Accounts on Indian Railways," has been given effect to on the North Western Railway? If so, when?

(b) Is it a fact that some staff belonging to the Divisional Superintendents' cadre was taken over by the Accounts Department in this connection?

(c) Is it a fact that this staff has been entirely merged into the Accounts Department in respect of work, and there is no distinction in the duties entrusted to them and those of the staff borne on the cadre of the Accounts Department?

(d) Is it a fact that there is a considerable difference in the rates of pay of the two sets of the staff?

(e) Is it a fact that this staff has not yet been fitted by the Accounts Department into their cadre? If so, why?

(f) Is it a fact that some of this staff have passed certain departmental examinations of the Accounts Department but are debarred from the benefits attached to the passing of such examinations? If so, why?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Yes. The dates varied on different divisions and the transfer was effected between October, 1929 and June, 1931.

(b) Some of the staff of the Divisional Superintendent's offices were placed under the control of the Divisional Accounts Officers.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The clerks of the Divisional Superintendents' offices are doing the same duties as they were doing under the Divisional Superintendents.

(d) There is some difference in the scale of pay of the two sets of staff.

(e) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given on the 11th March, 1935, to part (iv) of starred question No. 817 by Mr. S. K. Hosmani.

(f) It is understood that a few of these men have passed the Appendix C Examination of the Accounts Department which merely makes a clerk eligible for promotion above Class II of the Accounts scale. No other special benefits are allowed to those who qualify in this examination. Moreover, as the clerks of the Divisional Superintendents' offices have to look for further promotion on the Divisional Superintendents' lists, the question of any benefit being given to them by the Accounts Department does not arise.

INTRODUCTION OF A COMBINED SCALE OF PAY FOR CLERKS UNDER THE CHIEF ACCOUNTS OFFICER, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

288. **Mr. M. S. Aney:** (a) Is it a fact that, by amalgamating two scales of pay, a combined scale, viz. Rs. 40-4-80-5-90, has been introduced for clerks under the Chief Accounts Officer, North Western Railway, with effect from the 1st January, 1935?

(b) Is it a fact that the existing corresponding scale of pay for clerks under the Agent, North Western Railway is Rs. 39—3—60?

(c) Is it a fact that after reaching the maximum of this scale these clerks have to wait for years, generally from five to ten, before they can step into the next?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the difference in the scales of pay prevailing in the two organizations of the same Railway?

(e) Is it a fact that the clerks under the Agent, North Western Railway, represented their case in the middle of 1935 for amalgamation of their two scales, viz., Rs. 39—3—60 and Rs. 68—4—80—5—95, as done in the case of clerks under the Chief Accounts Officer, North Western Railway?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether any action has been taken on the same so far? If not, when and what action they propose to take on the same?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes, by amalgamation of grade III (Rs. 40—4—80) with grade II (Rs. 60—5—90) with an efficiency bar at Rs. 80.

(b) The lowest scale of pay for office clerks, on the North Western Railway other than those employed under the Chief Accounts Officers, is Rs. 30—3—60 (old) and Rs. 30—5—50—5/2—60 (revised).

(c) The period of the waiting depends upon the occurrence of vacancies in the higher grade which in turn depends upon the age and retirement or of casualties amongst staff in the higher grade.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (e) of unstarred question No. 64 asked by Bhai Parma Nand on the 22nd February, 1935.

(e) Yes.

(f) No. Government do not consider that the amalgamation of the two scales referred to is justified. The number of posts in the higher of the two grade is sufficient for normal grade to grade promotion on the occurrence of vacancies.

CONTRACTS FOR THE SALE OF ICE AND AERATED WATERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

289. Seth Sheodass Daga: (a) Is it a fact that on all the State Railways except on the North Western Railway, there is only one contractor for the sale of ice and aerated waters on station platforms and in running trains during hot weather, and, that there are three such contractors on the North Western Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that ice and aerated water contracts on all State Railways, except on the North Western Railway, are given for more than five years at a time and on the North Western Railway they are given only for one year?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if they are prepared to arrange for only one contractor on the North Western Railway for the sale of ice and aerated waters in running trains and on station platforms during hot weather, such contracts being given for periods of five years at a time or as on the other railways?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) No: the practice varies. Generally, station vendors are licensed to sell ice and aerated water on station platforms. On running trains the Burma, East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula Railways have one contractor, the Eastern Bengal Railway two and the North Western Railway three.

(b) No. On the Burma and Eastern Bengal Railways no period is specified. On the East Indian, Great Indian Peninsula and North Western Railways the contracts are for one year.

INDEMNITY BONDS DUE TO ABSENCE OF THE RAILWAY RECEIPTS TAKEN FROM PERSONS WHEN GOODS OR PARCELS ARE DELIVERED.

290. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is it a fact that the Traffic Manager, Eastern Bengal Railway, has published the following in his Railway's Gazette No. 23 of 1935, dated the 30th November, 1935?

"Staff concerned are informed that when goods or parcels are delivered on indemnity bonds due to absence of the railway receipts, they must take action subsequently to recover the missing railway receipt from the consignee. If such receipts are not to hand within three days of the delivery of the consignment on indemnity bond, a definite statement in writing, stating the reasons why he cannot produce the receipt must be obtained from the consignee and submitted to the Claims Section of the Traffic Manager's office."

(b) Will Government please state:

(i) whether the indemnity bond takes the place of the railway receipt;

(ii) whether such condition prevails on the State-managed Railways; and

(iii) whether this is in contravention of the Agent's instructions published in that Railway's Gazette No. 22 of 1935, dated the 28th October, 1935 that:

"we must all remember that passengers and merchants are our customers, on whom we rely for the earnings of the Railway, and, therefore, also for our livelihood. If we do not treat them well and drive them to patronising other modes of transport, we will be the sufferers in the long run, and will have to bear the resulting burden in the form of cuts in pay and other kinds of retrenchment, including the discharge of surplus staff?"

(c) Do Government propose to take action that will not cause this additional declaration from merchants? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b), (i). An indemnity bond is taken only when a railway receipt has been lost, mislaid or is for any other reason not forthcoming. Railways, however, consider it desirable to endeavour to secure the railway receipts wherever this is possible.

(ii) The practice on the different railways varies, but, I believe, generally, the staff have instructions to arrange to obtain railway receipts when this is practicable.

(iii) No.

(c) Government do not consider that their interference is called for in this matter. The trade interests concerned can, through their organisations, arrange to discuss the matter with the Administration.

PASSENGER EARNINGS FIXED AT CERTAIN SUMS FOR EACH RAILWAY STATION ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

291. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is it a fact that the Traffic Manager, Eastern Bengal Railway, has issued a notice in his Railway's Gazette No. 22 of 1935, dated the 28th October, 1935, in which it is stated:

"As a result of special checks the minimum average daily earnings from passenger traffic have been fixed for the stations given below";

"Station Masters and Crew staff including Crew Inspectors and Traffic Inspectors will be held responsible for the fall of average earnings beyond the fixed minima";

"The action taken against the defaulting station where there is a fall"?

(b) Will Government please state whether the passenger earnings are fixed at certain sums for each station? If so, how?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) I am placing on the table a copy of the notice. It does not contain the last of the three extracts.

(b) Yes. The "minimum daily earnings" figure is based on the average daily earnings for the station calculated on the total passenger earnings for one year and during the period of special checks at different times throughout the year.

Eastern Bengal Railway Gazette.

No. 744.

Case No. 817 C/O-Check.

Pegging of passenger earnings at stations.—As a result of special checks the minimum average daily earnings from passenger traffic have been fixed for the stations given below. The average daily earnings from this source for other stations will be published in the Gazette from time to time.

2. Station Masters of the stations, as soon as the earnings have been pegged will prepare a statement in triplicate showing average daily earnings from the passenger traffic and fixed figure as shown hereunder, and give their explanation for any falling-off or exceptional increase in the remark column of the statement. The block foil is to be kept at the station for record and the duplicate and triplicate copies are to be sent to the District Traffic Superintendent concerned and DTS. Crews, respectively on the 2nd day of the following month.

3. The District officer will submit to the address of Dy. Traffic Manager (Commercial) by name a statement on the 10th of each month showing the names of the stations on his district where the comparative difference in earnings is either under or over 5 per cent. together with his remarks as to the reason for fall or increase and the action taken against the defaulting station where there is a fall.

4. Station Masters and Crew staff including Crew Inspectors and Traffic Inspectors will be held responsible for the fall of average earnings beyond the fixed minima.

5. Traffic Inspectors, Special Inspectors and Crew Inspectors will check the record foils of the statements submitted by the stations to see if there was any discrepancy in working out the average earnings from the Summary of Daily Trains Cash Books and report the result of their checks.

(Here follows a list of stations—Not printed).

PROVISION OF GARAGES FOR OFFICERS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

292. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will Government please state whether garages are provided at the head offices at Calcutta and in the districts of the Eastern Bengal Railway for the garaging of the motor cars of the gazetted officers?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether rent is charged for the use of the garages? If so, what are the rates?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the negative, do Government propose to consider exploring this avenue to increase the revenues? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no information. Enquiries are being made from the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway.

VICTIMISATION OF THE MENIAL STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY FOR DOING PRIVATE BUSINESS IN THEIR OFF DUTY HOURS.

293. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is it a fact that under the Government Servants' Conduct Rules the staff are not permitted to do any business in their off duty hours?

(b) Is it also a fact that this rule has been adopted by the East Indian Railway?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please state:

(i) whether the menial staff come within the purview of this rule;

(ii) whether the menial staff are supplied with copies of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules printed in the vernacular; and

(iii) whether the rules are explained to the menial staff?

(d) Do Government propose to take any action to prevent the victimization of the menial staff who are not made aware of all the rules and conditions that govern their employment? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes, except with the previous sanction of the Administration.

(b) Yes.

(c). (i). Yes.

(ii) and (iii). No.

(d) There was no victimization in this case. It was obvious that the peon knew that he was doing wrong as he took care to hide from the authorities in the Central Forms Store that he was an employee of the East Indian Railway and also did not inform the officers of the East Indian Railway Administration that he was serving in the Central Forms Store. The peon obtained service in the Central Forms Store under false pretence as he would not have been engaged there had it been known there that he was the servant of the East Indian Railway.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

[9TH MARCH 1936.]

WELFARE COMMITTEES ESTABLISHED ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

294. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will Government please state whether the following come within the scope of Welfare Committees established on State-managed Railways?

- (i) supply of wicks to Chitpore guards;
- (ii) suggestion that priority of passing the guards' examination should govern promotion to guards' posts instead of seniority on pay;
- (iii) handing over tokens to drivers by guards;
- (iv) eligibility of Booking Clerks and Ticket Collectors for promotion to Crew-in-charge;
- (v) inauguration of a temporary selection grade for 'A' class guards;
- (vi) base coins; and
- (vii) sanction for platform A. S. Ms. at Ranaghat, etc., etc.?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, are Government prepared to consider taking such action that will cause proper use being made of these committees? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). Government have no information. These are matters of detailed administration and I am sending a copy of the question to the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, for such action as he may consider necessary.

BOOKING OF SPECIALLY SELECTED GUARDS BY SPECIAL TRAINS.

295. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Is it a fact that the President, Calcutta District Welfare Committee of the Eastern Bengal Railway, has stated at the meeting held on the 29th November, 1935, that 'specially selected guards are booked by these specials' and has referred to the Traffic Manual, Part II, Chapter XVIII, page 279, in support of his decision?

(b) Is it further a fact that the special trains referred to are the Royal or Viceregal and Inspection trains?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please state what is meant by "specially selected"?

(d) Is it a fact that the rule referred to by the President of the Calcutta District Welfare Committee makes no mention of selected or specially selected guards to work these trains?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no information. These are matters of detailed administration which must be left to the local authorities to decide and Government are not prepared to issue any instructions.

RULES RE THE APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION OF GUARDS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

296. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Is it a fact that in the Eastern Bengal Railway Traffic Manual, Part II, rules have been framed regarding the appointment and promotion of guards?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state:

- (i) whether guards are appointed direct to either class A or class B;
- (ii) whether class B is the senior post and is better paid; and
- (iii) whether promotions from class A to class B are only made by the Traffic Manager?

(c) Is it a fact that men who have been appointed as guards class A and who have reached the maximum pay of that class have not been promoted to class B, although there are numerous vacancies in that class? If so, why?

(d) Is it also a fact that men who have been appointed as guards class B have on confirmation been retained on the minimum pay of that class and have been deprived of their increments? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b), (i). Government are informed that under the rules referred to by the Honourable Member, direct recruitment was permissible both to class A and to class B but direct recruitment to the highest class is no longer permissible.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) Yes, on the recommendation of the District Officers concerned and with the assistance of a Selection Committee.

(c) There are no vacancies in class B.

(d) No.

PROVISION OF QUARTERS OR GRANT OF ALLOWANCES FOR THE GAZETTED OFFICERS OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY EMPLOYED IN THE HEAD OFFICES AT CALCUTTA.

297. **Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya:** (a) Will Government please state whether the gazetted officers of the Eastern Bengal Railway employed in the head offices at Calcutta are provided with quarters, or are granted allowances in lieu of quarters, or are required to make their own arrangements?

(b) What posts carry such allowances, and what are the scales?

(c) Are those gazetted officers who live out of town and who travel by that Railway's trains to attend office permitted to do so on their duty passes? If not, what check is exercised to see that there is no abuse of the duty passes granted to them?

(d) Have any cases recently occurred where gazetted officers were noticed to have misused their duty passes to travel to office? If so, what action has been taken against them?

(e) What are the penalties for non-gazetted staff when they misuse their duty or privilege passes?

(f) Are gazetted and non-gazetted staff of Government treated alike in the matter of punishments when they breach the rules? If not, what is the reason for this discriminatory treatment?

(g) Are non-gazetted staff working in offices but residing at out-stations granted concession tickets and not the use of duty passes? If so, what is the reason for this differential treatment to the lower paid servants of the Crown?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government are informed as follows:

- (a) Quarters are provided in Calcutta for 18 officers only; the rest make their own arrangements and are given the house allowance permissible under the rules.
- (b) The 18 officers' quarters in Calcutta are allotted to various posts from time to time as found convenient and, with the exception of the Agent's house, no specific posts are permanently entitled either to the Railway quarters or to house allowances. In the cases of officers who are not provided with Railway quarters, an officer has to make his own arrangements and if the rent of the accommodation taken by him exceeds ten per cent. of his pay, an allowance is granted by the Railway equivalent to the amount by which the rent actually paid exceeds ten per cent. This allowance is subject to a maximum limit of 12½ per cent. of the officer's pay. If the officer takes furnished accommodation, he is required to pay 12½ per cent. of his pay instead of ten per cent.
- (c) and (d). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to Dr. N. B. Khare's unstarred question No. 61 asked in this House on the 4th February, 1936.
- (e) and (f). I lay a statement on the table giving the required information. The penalties apply to officers and subordinates alike.
- (g) The non-gazetted staff are granted concession tickets and not passes for daily travel to and from office. As regards the latter part of the question I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to Dr. N. B. Khare's unstarred question No. 61 asked in this House on the 4th February, 1936.

Penalties for irregular use or misuse and Loss of Foreign and Local Privilege Ticket Orders and Passes.

1. In future the penalties detailed below will be enforced in all cases where a Pass or Privilege Ticket Order is misused or irregularly used or lost either over the Home Line or over Foreign Railways.

2. Exceptions can only be granted in special cases under Agent's sanction. Where an exception is to be made (other than in the case of illiterate staff) the Head of the Department concerned will obtain the sanction of the Agent. In the case of illiterate staff, Heads of Departments are vested with discretionary power to inflict such punishment as may be thought fit. A monthly statement should however be submitted to the Agent of cases where the punishment awarded is more lenient than that provided for.

3. The staff should make themselves fully conversant with the rules concerning the use of Privilege Ticket Orders and Passes, as ignorance of the Rules cannot be accepted as an explanation when an irregularity is brought to notice. In the case of illiterate staff before Passes or Privilege Ticket Orders are handed over to them, they should be made aware of the limits of the concessions and what is generally required of them.

4.

Irregularity.	Penalty.
1. Obtaining a Privilege Ticket order or pass for any one who is not a regular member of the household and not actually wholly dependent on the employee.	First offence—full fare and penalty to be recovered and Privilege Ticket Orders or Passes to be stopped for two years. Second offence—summary dismissal.

Irregularity.	Penalty.
2. Obtaining Privilege Ticket Orders or Passes under false pretences or selling Privilege Ticket Orders or Passes.	Summary dismissal and liable to criminal prosecution under Section 420, I. P. C.
3. Travelling without authority in a higher class with a lower class ticket obtained on a Privilege Ticket Order, or with a lower class Pass, or by mail or by a train on which travelling is restricted.	Full fare and penalty to be recovered and Privilege Ticket Orders or Passes to be stopped for one year.
4. For altering or erasing dates or other entries on Privilege Ticket Orders Passes.	Full fare and penalty to be realised, stoppage of Privilege Ticket Orders or passes for one year and liable to criminal prosecution under Section 465, I. P. C.
5. Travelling on Privilege Ticket Order unexchanged for a ticket or tickets.	Full fare to be charged and Privilege Ticket Orders stopped for one year. If the journey is performed over a Foreign Railway, the full penalty will be enforced (on the matter being reported) less any penalty already enforced for the irregularity over the Foreign Railway.
6. Travelling on an expired date pass or prior to the period for which it is valid.	Full fare and penalty to be recovered and such disciplinary action as may be considered necessary by the Head of the Department concerned.
7. Travelling on Pass or Privilege Ticket not issued to the employee concerned.	Such disciplinary action as may be considered necessary by the Head of the Department concerned and liable for prosecution but the employee in whose favour such Pass or Privilege Ticket has been issued will be permanently debarred from all Pass and Privilege Ticket privileges in addition to such penalty as excess fare, etc., as may be imposed.
8. Travelling without a ticket or pass.	Full fare and penalty to be recovered.
9. Unbooked luggage on Privilege Ticket or Pass.	If not within the free allowance, freight to be realised on the whole weight.
10. Unused Passes not returned until a call has been made for them or failing to return receipts for collected passes to issuing office (Pass-holders must not therefore fail to deliver Passes at destination).	Stoppage of Passes for a period of six months.
11. The following penalties will be imposed for loss of passes.	

Nature of Pass.	Penalty.		
	Rs.	A.	P.
I. Gold pass	Cost of replacement.		
Silver pass	7	8	0
Nickel pass	5	0	0
Card (season) pass—			
First class	4	0	0
Second class	3	0	0
Inter. class	2	0	0
Third class	1	0	0
II. Duty and privilege cheque pass, privilege ticket order and concession—			
First class	3	0	0
Second class	2	0	0
Inter. class	1	0	0
Third class	0	8	0

Nature of Pass.	Penalty. Rs. A. P.
III.—Engine pass	2 0 0
Trolley pass	2 0 0
Luggage pass	2 0 0
Authority Card of T. T. E's.	2 0 0

NOTE.—1. A lost pass, if subsequently found, should be promptly returned to the issuing officer for cancellation. Penalty must be waived very rarely even if the pass be recovered.

2. In case of loss of receipt foil of duty cheque passes, the penalty is rupee one for superior staff and annas eight for inferior staff.

3. In case of loss of receipt foil of privilege passes, the penalty is stoppage of privilege passes for a period of six months, but this does not preclude the employees from getting school passes for their children over home and foreign lines.

4. The penalty for loss of a home line double journey pass will be as for one pass even when it covers both outward and return journeys.

5. The penalty for loss of Ad-interim card passes is the same as for card (season) passes.

12. Non-insertion of date of commencement of journey on cheque passes of all classes over the home and foreign lines:

(i) Pass holders must endorse their passes either in ink or indelible pencil or coloured pencil, before commencement of their journey, otherwise the pass will be invalid and the holder will be required to pay full fare and penalty for the entire journey covered by the pass. Ticket collecting staff must enforce the penalty or report all cases of passes not so endorsed.

(ii) Passes for illiterate staff may be endorsed by Ticket Collectors or any other Railway servant, who should give their designation in full when endorsing passes.

Inter and third class pass-holders, whether illiterate or otherwise, should be specially advised of this new rule when making over the passes to them for use. The penalty prescribed in rule (1) thereof applies equally to the illiterate staff.

13. Collection of Passes at Destination:

(1) It is incumbent on the holder of pass to deliver it up at the destination station and to obtain the Ticket Collector's receipt on the receipt foil: any omission on the part of the Ticket Collector to ask for and collect the pass and sign the receipt will not be taken as exonerating the pass-holder, who, if necessary, should report the non-collection of his pass to the Station Master and make over this pass to him, obtaining his receipt. Failure to comply with these instructions will render the employee, in whose favour the pass was issued, liable to the forfeiture of one or more of the passes for which he is eligible.

(2) This rule shall apply equally to the illiterate staff, who should be warned of their responsibility when passes are made over to them.

(3) The Ticket Collector should collect, sign and fill in all the columns of the receipt foil of the passes legibly, so as to ensure correct verification by the Chief Accounts Officer. Failure to comply with the above instructions will render the Ticket Collectors concerned liable to disciplinary action.

5. The above penalties will be enforced where applicable in the case of misuse or irregular use of concession tickets.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE REGISTRAR, JOINT STOCK COMPANIES, DELHI.

298. **Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the longest time taken by the Registrar, Joint Stock Companies, Delhi, in registering joint stock companies?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that Company promoters are harassed by the staff of the Registrar, Joint Stock Companies, while registering companies?

(c) If so, are Government prepared to take necessary steps to remove the grievances?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafarullah Khan: (a) The time taken for registration is dependent on the production of all necessary documents in proper form. Provided all documents submitted for registration are in order, registration is usually effected within a week.

(b) No, Sir. Government understand that every facility is given to company promoters in filing documents.

(c) Does not arise.

INDOOR PATIENTS TREATED AT THE VICTORIA ZENANA HOSPITAL, DELHI.

299. **Sardar Mangal Singh:** Will Government be pleased to place on the table of this House a statement showing the following details:

(a) the total number of indoor patients treated at the Victoria Zenana Hospital, Delhi, as private and as public indoor patients; and

(b) the amount of fees taken from private patients by the house surgeon during the years 1934-35-36?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) The numbers of indoor patients treated at the hospital were as follows:

	In paying ward.	In general ward.	Total.
1934	502	2,207	2,709
1935	720	2,531	3,251
1936 up to 24th February	86	389	475

No patients are treated at the hospital as private patients. Those patients who wish to have a private room or cottage ward have to pay for this special accommodation, and all payments received from these patients are credited in full to the hospital funds.

(b) Nil.

HARDER LABOUR GIVEN TO INDIAN PRISONERS THAN THE BRITISH PRISONERS.

300. **Seth Haji Abdoolah Haroon:** Will Government be pleased to state whether Indian prisoners are given harder labour than the British prisoners? If so, are Government prepared to equalize the labour in the case of both? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Tasks are allotted to prisoners after due consideration on medical grounds and with due regard to the capacity character, previous mode of life and antecedents of the prisoners. The rules made no racial distinctions between prisoners. The other parts of the question, therefore, do not arise.

DISABILITY PENSIONS TO INDIAN SOLDIERS.

301. **Seth Haji Abdoolah Haroon:** (a) Is it a fact that pensions to Indian military soldiers who were disabled in the field, foreign or military service is admissible from the date of their discharge, *vide* paragraph 84 of the Financial Regulations for the Army in India, Part I?

(b) Will Government please state whether under the Regulations for the Army in India, responsibility of allowing pensions rests with Government, and, whether no pension has been allowed to the numerous soldiers, entitled to pensions, and relatives of those who were killed in action, and died on Field Service, and died of wounds received in action or are missing? If so, why?

(c) Did not Army Instructions (India) No. 271 of 1920 provide continuation of family allotments, or an advance of at least six months' pension to the relatives of dead or missing Indian soldiers, till the final settlement of their pension claims? If so, will Government be pleased to state in how many cases advantage of these orders has been given? If not, why not? Are Government now prepared to give the benefit of these orders to the persons entitled to it?

(d) Is it not a fact that at the time of Indian soldiers' retirement or invalidment, promises were made (in the light of paragraph 84 of the Financial Regulations for the Army in India, Part I) to send their pensions at their home addresses, when settled by the pension sanctioning authority?

(e) Is it a fact that when such promises were not honoured and the pensioners applied for the same, they were allowed pensions either from the date of their first application, or from the date of their fresh Medical Boards? If so, why?

(f) Why were the soldiers, who were disabled in the field during the Great War and Waziristan Operations, 1919-1924, not allowed their pensions at the time of their invalidment and why, on their now applying for the same (after patiently waiting for such a long period), are they put before a fresh Medical Board (after the expiry of about 20 years)? Is it a fact that their disabilities are now being declared due to "Old Age" by the fresh Medical Boards and thus they are being deprived of their pensions? If the reply is in the affirmative, are Government prepared to reconsider such cases in the light of Army Regulations in force at the time of their discharge, if they are more suitable to the pensioners, and if not, why not?

(g) Why are Medical Officers instructed under paragraph 4 of Circular No. Z 945-1 (D. M. S.), dated the 24th July, 1924, from the Director, Medical Services in India, reproduced as an Annexure to India Army Order No. 939 of 1924, as under?

"4. As questions whether disabilities are attributable to military service or not are to be decided solely by medical boards it is incumbent on presidents and members of such boards to exercise their powers in these matters with due regard to the interests of the State."

(h) Is the advantage of paragraph 1077, Army Regulations, India, Volume I (1915 edition) being given to the claimants of family pension claims? If not, why not?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) to (h). Pensions are admissible from the date following that of discharge, if such discharge is accepted as being directly attributable to field, foreign or military service. There are no grounds whatever for the Honourable Member's apprehension, on which most of his enquiries seem to be based, that there are numerous ex-soldiers who are entitled to pensions under the rules, but who have not received them. In the circumstances, I do not propose to deal in detail

with these enquiries. If, however, he knows of any individual cases in which the rules appear to have been misapplied, and if he will be so good as to send them to me personally, I shall be quite prepared, as I have already told the House on many occasions, to look into them.

RECRUITMENT TO CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT IN THE OFFICES IN BOMBAY UNDER THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

302. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recruitment to clerical establishment in the offices in Bombay under the Central Government, such as the Posts and Telegraphs, Income-tax, Accountant General, etc., is made from amongst the candidates belonging to the Bombay Presidency;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the case of recruitment to the clerical establishment of the Statutory Railway Audit Offices, attached to the respective State Railways, the Auditor General has ruled that it should be made from amongst the candidates belonging to the Presidency in which the office is situated and to the areas through which the Railway runs;

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, whether they are prepared to issue necessary instructions to the Agents and the Chief Accounts Officers of the State Railways to follow the practice indicated in part (b) above in the matter of recruitment to clerical and allied establishments under their control; and

(d) if the reply to part (c) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) I understand this policy is followed in the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Office of the Accountant General, Bombay.

(b) Recruitment in the Statutory Railway Audit Offices is made in accordance with the instructions laid down in Article 43 D of the Audit Code, Volume I.

(c) and (d). I would refer my Honourable friend to the reply given to the starred question No. 311 asked by Sardar Sant Singh on the 22nd August, 1934.

SANCTION OF AN ADDITIONAL POST OF ASSISTANT ACCOUNTS OFFICER IN THE CHIEF ACCOUNTS OFFICE, GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

303. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an additional permanent post (gazetted) of an Assistant Accounts Officer has been sanctioned by them in the Office of the Chief Accounts Officer, Great Indian Peninsula Railway since about June, 1935; and

(b) if the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, the circumstances in which and the reasons for which the said post has been added to the cadre?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Permanent post of an Assistant Accounts Officer kept in abeyance during the economy campaign was revived in July, 1935.

(b) The post had to be revived as it was found that with the depleted strength it was impossible to carry out satisfactorily the work of the office and the inspections of administrative and executive offices of the Railway.

OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS SERVICE TRANSFERRED TO THE RAILWAY ACCOUNTS SERVICE SINCE THE SEPARATION OF AUDIT FROM ACCOUNTS.

304. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service transferred to the Railway Accounts Service since the separation of Audit from Accounts on the State Railways up to March 1935;
- (b) the total number of officers directly appointed to the Railway Accounts Service since the separation scheme;
- (c) the total number of subordinates promoted to the gazetted posts in the Railway Accounts Service since separation scheme;
- (d) the total number of officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts, taken in, as attached officers for training, and subsequently posted as permanent officers in the Statutory Railway Audit Offices and the period of training of each officer;
- (e) whether these officers were trained at the expense of the Railways, and if so, the total expenditure charged to the Railways up to March, 1935; and
- (f) whether both in the memorandum of the Financial Commissioner of Railways and that of the Auditor General on the scheme of separation of Audit from Accounts presented to and approved by the Railway Standing Finance Committee prior to the introduction of the scheme on the State Railways, no provision for the training of such officers at the expense of the Railways was made, and if so, whether the Standing Finance Committee which approved of the scheme was informed of the matter; if not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) 16 posts in the Indian Railway Accounts Service are reserved for officers of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service who are treated as on deputation while employed in the Railway Accounts Department.

(b) Ten including three officers directly recruited by the Auditor General for the Railway Accounts Service through the 1928 competitive examination for Indian Audit and Accounts Service.

(c) Nine.

(d) The total number of officers of Indian Audit and Accounts posted to Railway Audit Offices for training since the separation of Railway Audit from Railway Accounts to 31st March, 1935, was nine. The period of training varied according to circumstances of each case from two months to nine months.

(e) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The information for the second part of the question is not readily available.

(f) The expenditure in connection with such training is inconsiderable. It was not important enough to have found place in the memoranda referred to, and for the same reason specific approval of the Standing Finance Committee for it was considered unnecessary.

EXPENDITURE ON ACCOUNT OF THE VARIOUS ACCOUNTS MACHINES INSTALLED IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI.

305. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the total costs paid on account of the various accounts machines installed in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, Delhi;
- (b) on the basis of part (a) above, the average annual expenditure thereon;
- (c) the average annual expenditure on account of hand method if resorted to in place of machine method; and
- (d) whether they are prepared to consider the reversion to hand method in view of the impending expiry of the guarantee of the machine in the said office by the end of this year?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) From 1927-28 to end of March, 1936, the total cost in connection with machines installed in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office is Rs. 5,47,947.

(b) The average annual expenditure on the above basis works up to Rs. 60,883.

(c) The installation of machines was due to their being found cheaper than human agency but as the "Clearing House" and "other than Clearing House" traffic are dealt with on entirely different methods it is difficult to give definite estimates of the cost of dealing with the same amount of traffic by the two methods.

(d) In view of the recent reduction of scales of pay the possibility of reversion to the head and hand method of apportionment of foreign traffic earnings is being investigated.

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR CLERICAL APPOINTMENTS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

306. Mr. N. M. Joshi: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) how many men were admitted to the entrance competitive examination for clerical appointments in the office of the Chief Accounts Officer, Railway Clearing Accounts Office, held by him in his office in 1935;
- (b) whether it is a fact that a sum of Rs. 5 per candidate was collected as fee therefor;
- (c) the total amount collected on that account in 1935 and 1936;
- (d) the amount paid to the officers of the said office for work done in connection with the said examination in 1935 from out of the fees collected;

- (e) the balance left and how Government propose to utilise it;
- (f) whether it is a fact that the examinations were held on Saturday and Sunday;
- (g) whether it is a fact that on Saturday, the entire staff of the General Accounts Branch and that of the Statutory Audit office were given a full holiday;
- (h) the total wages of the staff, including officers, both of the Audit and Accounts offices, borne by the Railway for that day;
- (i) whether it is a fact that in other State Railways and Government Offices only a sum of Re. 1 or Rs. 2 is charged as fee for a candidate for such examinations; and
- (j) if the reply to part (i) above be in the affirmative, the reasons for charging a fee of Rs. 5 from candidates in the case of the Railway Accounts office?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) 636 candidates were admitted in the examination held in February, 1935, and 453 in the examination held in December, 1935.

(b) Yes.

(c) The total amounts collected in the two examinations were Rs. 3,050 and Rs. 2,265, respectively. No examination has so far been held in 1936.

(d) A sum of Rs. 740-10-0 was paid to the officers selected as examiners for the February examination. For the examination held in December Examiners were selected by the Delhi University and the payment made to them amounted to Rs. 539-6-0.

(e) The entire fees collected were credited to Government as 'miscellaneous receipts' and all expenditure in connection with the examinations debited to working expenses.

(f) The examinations were not held on a Sunday. One of the days on which the second examination was held was a Saturday.

(g) Yes.

(h) The question does not arise.

(i) In State Railway Account Offices the fee was Rs. 5 in all cases. In other Departments of State Railway and in other Government Departments fees charged for recruitment examinations vary widely.

(j) The fee was fixed at Rs. 5 to ensure that all expenditure in connection with the examinations, viz., fees to examiners, printing and stationery, invigilation and other incidental charges, should be fully covered by the amount realised. The question of reduction of the fee is under examination.

EXAMINATION FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE CLERICAL LINE HELD IN THE TELEPHONE REVENUE ACCOUNTING OFFICE, DELHI.

307. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Is it a fact that:

- (i) an examination for recruitment to the clerical line was held in the Telephone Revenue Accounting Office, Delhi, in June, 1935, which was subsequently cancelled by the Postmaster General, Punjab, and a second examination was held on 10th September, 1935; and

- (ii) one Muslim candidate, aged 27 years, was allowed to sit at both the examinations referred to in part (i) above and a Hindu candidate who was below 24 years of age at the time of the first examination, was not allowed to sit at the second examination for reasons of age?

(b) If the facts are as stated in part (a) (i) and (ii) above, will Government please state the reason for the differential treatment in the two cases cited above?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a), (i) and (ii). Yes.

(b) The Muslim candidate, who was a graduate, had already worked in the Telephone Revenue Accounting Office, Delhi, as a temporary clerk for over two years from September, 1932 and his work during that period was highly satisfactory. He was, therefore, allowed to appear at the examination as a special case although he had exceeded the age limit. There were no similar special features in the case of the Hindu candidate and, as his age had already exceeded 24 years and there was no prospect of his securing an appointment before he had exceeded the age limit of 25 years, he was not allowed to appear at the second examination.

UNHEALTHY NON-FAMILY STATIONS IN THE DERAJAT POSTAL DIVISION.

308. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Are Government aware that there are a large number of unhealthy non-family stations in the Derajat Postal Division, where staff of the Post Office are required to serve without their families for a term of two years?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government realize the hardships experienced by the staff in serving in such unhealthy and dangerous localities and on account of prolonged separation from their family members?

(c) Do Government propose to redress the grievance of postal staff of the Derajat Division?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Government are aware that there are a few notoriously unhealthy stations and a certain number of healthy and unhealthy non-family stations in the Derajat Postal Division. Staff are ordinarily required to perform a term of one year's duty in the notoriously unhealthy stations and of two years' duty in the non-family stations.

(b) Yes and I may add for the Honourable Member's information that Government have sanctioned compensatory allowances or special pay in order to compensate the staff for the hardships involved.

(c) The question of the possibility of modifying the existing orders in some respects is under examination in connection with a representation received from the All-India Postal and Railway Mail Service Union.

AGE-LIMIT FOR RECRUITMENT TO CLERICAL LINE IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

309. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Is it a fact that for recruitment to clerical line in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, the age-limit has been prescribed as 25 years and that the heads of Postal Circles are empowered to employ persons in special cases even up to the age of 27 years?

(b) Are Government aware that the Postmaster General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, has issued a general order that no candidate exceeding the age of 24 years be allowed to appear at examinations for clerical line, irrespective of his qualifications or family claims?

(c) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state why the general rule as given in part (a) above has been modified by the Postmaster General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, Lahore?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The fact is not exactly as stated by the Honourable Member. 25 years is ordinarily the maximum age limit to be applied at the time of actual appointment and Heads of Circles have discretionary power to appoint, only in exceptional cases, persons whose age exceeds 25 years but does not exceed 28 years. The selection of suitable and qualified candidates is, however, usually made some time before vacancies actually occur.

(b) The orders of the Postmaster-General to which the Honourable Member refers are to the effect that candidates admitted to the examination for recruitment to clerical posts should ordinarily be between the ages of 18 and 24 but that if there are exceptional cases in which the relaxation of the upper age limit appears justified they should be submitted to him for orders.

(c) Does not arise.

REMOVAL OF APPROVED CANDIDATES FROM WAITING LISTS BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, PUNJAB AND NORTH-WEST FRONTIER CIRCLE.

310. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Is it a fact that in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, a large number of candidates for clerical line have been waiting for employment for the last five to six years and that very recently the Postmaster General, Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle, has issued orders that all the approved candidates who have attained the age of 24 years be removed from the waiting lists irrespective of their family claims and long duration of candidature?

(b) Is the Postmaster General empowered to employ persons in the clerical line up to the age of 27 years?

(c) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state how far the action of the Postmaster General, Punjab, is justified and whether they propose to take steps to do justice to the approved candidates who have been removed from the waiting lists?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative.

(b) Yes, but only in exceptional cases.

(c) Does not arise.

TOWN INSPECTOR OF POST OFFICES AND CAMP CLERKS IN POSTMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICES.

311. Sardar Sant Singh: (a) Is it a fact that the appointments of Town Inspectors of Post Offices and Camp Clerks to officers attached to Post and Telegraph Circle Offices, though sanctioned in the ordinary clerical time-scales of pay, carry a special allowance with them?

(b) Is it a fact that tenure of charge in the case of Town Inspectors has been limited to three years in the case of any one official?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state why no such limit is prescribed in the case of Camp Clerks?

(d) Will Government please state if it is a fact that Muslims have alone been Camp Clerks in Postmaster General's Offices for the last four years? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Appointments of Town Inspectors of Post Offices in the ordinary time-scales of pay carry special pay; but camp clerks to officers in the Posts and Telegraphs Circle offices get no special pay.

(b) Yes.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a).

(d) No. The second part does not arise.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

SIGNATURES AND THUMB IMPRESSIONS OF VILLAGERS OF THE VILLAGES OF BARWADA TAKEN ON BLANK PAPERS.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether 12 Noon. it is true that the authorities are obtaining signatures and thumb-impressions from villagers of the 24 villages of Barwada on blank papers, which (villages) the Chief of Limbdi is claiming back from the British Government?

(b) Will Government please state whether the assurance given by the Government of India, that these villages will not be transferred back to Limbdi Darbar without the consent of the people concerned, holds good?

(c) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the allegations made in the issue of the 24th February, 1936, of the Gujarati daily paper *Janmabhumi* of Bombay, in which it is stated that the authorities are obtaining thumb-impressions and signatures as stated above?

(d) Have Government received any communication from the Barwada Praja Mandal, protesting against the action of the authorities concerned? If so, are Government prepared to issue necessary orders to restore confidence?

(e) Are Government prepared to obtain the consent of the people concerned by a plebiscite, supervised over by an independent judicial authority from British India?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: (a) The Government of India have no authentic information on the point.

(b) The assurance given in this House on the 30th March, 1935, holds good.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes, the communication is being passed on to the Government of Bombay who are the authority primarily concerned.

(e) Government cannot commit themselves to any particular method at this stage.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: May I ask a supplementary question? I am not asking about the method. Whatever method be adopted, will Government appoint an independent judicial authority to supervise over it?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: That would be part of the method regarding which I cannot commit Government at present.

MESSAGE FROM HIS MAJESTY THE KING EMPEROR.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received the following Message from Buckingham Palace in connection with the Message of Condolence which the House adopted the other day on the occasion of the death of His late Majesty King George V. The Message is:

(The Message was received by the Assembly standing.)

"His Imperial Majesty, The King-Emperor, commands me to inform you that He and Queen Mary have received with great appreciation the motion adopted on the 3rd February by the Indian Legislative Assembly sitting under your Presidency and forwarded through His Excellency the Viceroy, together with a copy of the official report of the speeches that were then made. His Imperial Majesty has been deeply impressed by the sentiments of His Indian subjects on this sad occasion which were so admirably reflected in the speeches of the Leaders of the Assembly. The devotion, of which The King is assured, will encourage Him in discharging the great responsibilities to which He has now been called.

28th February, 1936.

(Sd.) WIGRAM."

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS.

SECOND STAGE.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Before the House proceeds to deal with the Demands for Grants, the Chair might inform Honourable Members that it understands that an arrangement has been arrived at among the leaders of different sections of the House as regards the disposal of the cut motions relating to these demands. According to that arrangement, the Congress Party will have the whole of today and Tuesday till 4 p.m. to deal with their motions relating to these demands. On Tuesday, from 4 p.m. until Wednesday, 4 p.m., the Independent Party will move their motion. The Nationalist Party would move their motion from 4 p.m. on Wednesday to 3 p.m. on Thursday. The European Group will move their motion from 3 p.m. on Thursday till 12-45 p.m. on Friday, and the unattached Members from 2-15 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): May I point out to you in connection with this arrangement that it is not quite fair to the unattached Members. The number of unattached Members is quite large, about 20 or more. A party consisting of ten Members has got nearly a day. I

feel that you, as the protector of the rights of minorities, would see that justice is done to the unattached Members. I think it will be doing only bare justice to the unattached Members, if they get a day.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member knows that the Chair has not made these arrangements, and it understands that the arrangement was arrived at after conversation among the different Partly Leaders.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: We were not consulted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): As regards the unattached Members, the Chair knows there is always some difficulty or other. The position of those who belong to particular groups is quite evident. They have got Leaders who can speak for the Parties.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: They are misleaders.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The difficulty arises in this way that no one can speak for the others.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Let us have our time.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The time is not allotted according to the number of Members at all. There would not be sufficient time for distribution on that basis, and, of course, it is not for the Chair to enforce any particular arrangement. It is for the House. If they don't agree, then the Chair goes on with the amendments in the order in which they appear on the paper.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: You must protect the minorities.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): It has always been the practice in this House that, whenever the Party Leaders want to come to any decision of this character, they invariably consult somebody among the unattached Members and get their views. This time they have ignored the unattached Members, and, in these circumstances, we do not agree to any arrangement that they have come to behind our back.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not know how the arrangement was arrived at. Will the Leader of the Opposition explain?

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): In so far as the arrangements are concerned, it is no doubt true that it was not possible to consult the several Members in the unattached group—which is, if it can be so described, a contradiction in terms; but none the less the fact remains that in so far as the European Group and the Nationalists are concerned, the time-table as we suggested it gives them about 2½ hours each and an equal amount of time is left for the unattached Members. (An Honourable Member: "No, no.") It is from quarter past two to five o'clock. It is a matter of pure arithmetic, and Mr. Joshi, who is always keen on having his pound of flesh for labour, may at least recognise this, that he has had numerous opportunities already

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in this House and will have many more when the Finance Bill comes on, to ventilate the same grievances all over again; but, without referring to individuals in this matter, I do respectfully submit that the House should recognise the justice of the proper distribution of time and suitable arrangements in order to make the discussions have a real value, as under the present arrangements.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does hope the House will accept the arrangement that has been referred to, but the Chair would specially impress it upon Honourable Members, who do not belong to any particular party, that they will have an opportunity also of speaking on other motions. They are not shut out from speaking on the other motions. Otherwise, it will be very difficult for this debate to be carried on, with any result.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Sir, one would have expected that Party Leaders, when they were submitting cut motions, would submit only a few agreed cuts on behalf of the whole Party, but here we find the list contains numbers of cuts by different members of the various Parties?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): They do not propose, the Chair understands, to move all those motions.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: If they wanted to act as one Party, there should have been only one cut?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If Honourable Members, who do not belong to any group, are in agreement so far in objecting to this arrangement, why could they not suggest, by agreement among themselves, some other arrangement? (Hear, hear.)

As regards the time-limit, it has always been the practice for the House to agree to a reasonable time-limit, and, in the past, the practice has been to limit the time for the Mover to twenty minutes, for other speakers to fifteen minutes, and for the Government Member replying to twenty minutes. If that arrangement, which has really worked so well in the past, is accepted, it will perhaps facilitate the discussions of these demands.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): I suggest, Sir, that the Government Member ought to be allowed half an hour.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Government Member feels that he really cannot reply fully to the debate within twenty minutes, the House will, the Chair is sure, agree to allow him more time.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi (Dacca *cum* Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural). Sir, fifteen minutes is not sufficient, for the simple reason that this is a budget discussion, and.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The Honourable Member cannot argue the matter. The practice has been going on for such a long time that this is not a matter for arguing about.

DEMAND No. 32—HOME DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,72,000 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, 1937, in respect of the 'Home Department'."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,72,000 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, 1937, in respect of the 'Home Department'."

Bureau of Public Information—the Propagandist Activities of the Home Department through the Director of Public Information especially the Publication of "India in 1933-34".

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Mr. President (Loud Applause), I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair understands the Honourable Member gave notice of this only this morning.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Yes, Sir, and may I ask that you will be pleased to dispense with the rule.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Very well. A similar motion, word for word, was given in the name of the Honourable Member, Mr. Satyamurti.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Sir, the Publicity Department of the Government of India has somewhat of a chequered history, and, if you turn your attention to the Provincial Governments, Sir, you will find that they tried the experiment, but have now given it up in favour of a much better course to which I shall presently come. But the fact remains, that, so far as the Government of India are concerned, they, from the Publicity Department point of view, have, during the last three years, been engaged in activities to which it will now be my duty to call attention on this motion. Sir, they compile this information for the purpose of preparing what is described as the "moral and material progress of the people of India" for the particular year in question; and, in addition to that, they usually, in a belated and second-hand sort of way, issue certain communiqués for public information; and, at the end of that, there is nothing that one can see in the activities of that Department, whatever may be its internal combustion. (Laughter.) So far as any outside activities are concerned, they appear to be all which appeal to the public. So far as Provincial Governments are concerned, there was a time when Provincial Governments each had their publicity departments. Financial exigencies and other considerations have swept most of them away. The survival and the success of that department of the Bombay Government

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is to be attributed to the fact that it has been conducted throughout by a journalist of long experience who also happens to be a barrister and has, therefore, been able to combine with his publicity work the duties of Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, and the result has been both efficiency and economy, and, at a time when one looks for every avenue for reduction of taxation, it is no exaggeration to say that, not only the maintenance of this Department, but its augmentation and the continuous recurring expenditure involved is all very wasteful. Not only that, but it is my duty to call attention to the fact that the Standing Finance Committee, which has conducted itself, in so far as recommendations which came before it were concerned, with considerable restraint, with a great deal of moderation, and a wisdom which is unsurpassed, they still found it necessary to check at least the rake's progress so far as extravagance in this particular Department is concerned, but, disregarding all that, all the items which have been rejected still, Sir, form part of the demand under this head of the Home Department. It is easy to so organise its activity unless its purpose is something quite different to what I respectfully submit is legitimate under the Government of India Act. Under section 26 (3) of the Government of India Act, this is what is required as an obligation:

"The account shall be accompanied by a statement, prepared from detailed reports from each Province, in such form as best exhibits the moral and material progress and condition of India."

You have there, Sir, laid down the sources of information—the detailed reports from each Province—and it is a compilation which is a statutory duty for the purpose of presenting the moral and material progress of the condition of India for that particular year. In years past this used to be compiled, if dull, but at all events, in a much more straightforward and honest way. It presented the actual events of the year, the facts concerning its trade and other activities. But during the last some three years, the activities have taken an entirely different turn. It is a matter for which some justification is said to exist, but which, I hope and trust for the reasons which I shall presently give to the House, it is not possible to justify. It is said that the Government of India require publicity for their own activities. There are two answers to that particular claim. First and foremost is that on their own confession, they do not rely upon public support for their continuance (I hear, hear) or for their justification. So far as any response to public opinion is concerned, again, on their own confession, they absolutely are deaf if not dead. That is the attitude. In addition to that, I think it was admitted last year and also admitted during question time on several occasions, that there is a group of friendly newspapers always at their disposal, favoured if not supported, who carry on their propaganda in a manner which perhaps cannot be exceeded by any Government Department having to incur all the expenses which are incurred under this head. I, therefore, respectfully submit to the House that in so far as and until the Government remain what they are on their own confession, irresponsible and irresponsive to public opinion, this head of expenditure is entirely unnecessary and should be spared so far as public revenues are concerned. But, if it were merely that, if it were merely a matter of luxury and extravagance, one might have tolerated it along with numerous other larger extravagances. But when you come to its actual work for the purpose of the obligation that is imposed upon them under-

section 26 (3) of the Government of India Act, they have exceeded all bounds of propriety and decency and, if they had been private individuals, from the extracts which I propose to read and comment upon, the House will agree with me, that they had committed a really indictable offence and that they would be liable to action, so far as libel is concerned and in so far as their other activities are concerned, they tell their own tale, they do not see that they do not play even the game even of an irresponsible autocrat. It is that which is more important. It is for that purpose that in recent times the department has been strengthened. In particular, I instance the moral and material progress as it is called of India in 1933-34 which has been published by the Government of India. It is necessary to call attention, in view of the section that I have read, to the prefatory note which is somewhat important and valuable:

"This report which has been prepared for presentation to Parliament is issued by the Bureau of Public Information."

Then follows a somewhat amazing and astounding statement even by an irresponsible Government:

"This is compiled and published by the Government of India under the authority and with the general approval of the Secretary of State for India, but it must not be understood that the approval either of the Secretary of State or of the Government of India extends to every particular expression of opinion."

We have only to read the two parts together. They are performing a statutory duty to inform the Parliament correctly, accurately and honestly, what has been the moral and material progress of the country during the year in question and they alone can have the temerity to say that none-the-less it is not to be understood that the approval of either the Secretary of State or of the Government of India extends to every particular expression of opinion. If it is intended to guard against criticisms, if it is intended to protect themselves or hedge themselves against any liability, I can well appreciate what they would describe as the tactics of a rag newspaper, but for the Government of India to say that they are performing a statutory duty and lest it should appear that in the performance of that duty, they have committed any dereliction of duty, to attempt to hide themselves behind the statement that is made in the prefatory note is amazing. They further go and say:

"In so far as the first chapter on politics and administration is concerned, it refers to the calendar year 1934."

So much for the manner in which self-consciousness of guilt is written large on that prefatory note. However, if it were not so, there is not the smallest reason why they should not as straightforward men take the responsibility for their own compilation which they are called upon and required by the Act to do. But they are so conscious of having exceeded their rights, of having abused their privileges and having wasted public revenues that they themselves, from the start of the report, said, "but please take notice that we do not hold ourselves responsible at all", because the expression is such as to cover almost any attack that may be made on the opinions therein expressed. For indeed it says, that it must not be understood that either the approval of the Secretary of State or of the Government of India extends to every particular expression of opinion. That language

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is wide enough to cover every expression of opinion. They might as well have said, "we are placing this before Parliament under a duty imposed upon us, we have expressed many things, take them as true or false, we do not hold ourselves liable to you". In other words, to whom they owe allegiance and to those to whom they owe a duty, they do not perform that duty in good faith, because their sole and absolute purpose has been to depart from that duty for entirely different purposes.

There is one more observation which is necessary at the outset. If that book is carefully read, as it has been read by some of us, it appears that it is a hybrid product. There is internal evidence in that book of differences of opinion differently expressed in different language even on the same issue itself and the reason is not far to seek. It is almost common knowledge that while a regular report is compiled, so far as the materials are concerned with a view to general expression of opinion, there is added to it as a preface the first Chapter which is intended to do no more and no less than see wicked motives into every single movement which, during the year of report, has been conducive to the progress of India, the object being, it appears that they do not understand and they cannot conceive any goodness in others because looking into themselves they cannot find it in themselves. (Hear, hear.) Not only that, it is not merely a reflection of their own mind, but it is a feeling of apprehension that the good work done by those who serve the public should be a recurrent and daily commentary on the millions of this country wasted by them for purposes alone for which if they hold themselves to be trustees of taxes collected, they ought to be performing those tasks. It is for these two reasons that the first Chapter has been written with a venom, with a poison and with a directness which is yet to be beaten even by a party Press without attributing a single honourable motive in any single good thing that has been done throughout the year.

I will call attention during the short time at my disposal to only three or four of the outstanding features of the publication, leaving it at all events, to one more speaker belonging to this side who will be able to carry forward a few more further points which remain in the book. At the very outset of this book, it begins with 'Politics and Administration' and it warns the readers that political interest in 1934 centres once more largely in the Congress. That is on page 1. After trying to give the history of the Congress and its apparent solidarity, which they do not like, but which they wish to comment upon by saying that there are difficulties within it, and I make a present of that opinion of theirs to them,—they begin at page 4 by saying:

"It was at this stage that Mr. Gandhi undertook a tour intended to further the interests of the Depressed Classes. This he had set himself to achieve by appealing to Hindus to modify certain social practices, throw open temples to untouchables and contribute to a fund for the furtherance of his programme. His intention was to visit all parts of India As the tour progressed public interest in it, which at the outset had been considerable, appeared to wane: crowds still assembled at the places he visited", etc.

After saying all this, they say.

"Resentment over the constant calls for cash and misgivings as to the manner of its expenditure, did not seem likely to operate to the real advantage of the 'Harijans' but rather to pave the way for reaction."

And, at the end, they say:

"In the circumstances, it is natural that certain observers saw in the Harijan campaign motives other than a purely altruistic desire to remove social disabilities." (Cries of "Shame, shame.")

All that one can say is this that nobody ought to realise better than the Leader of the House that by saying that some observers saw in the Harijan campaign motives other than a purely altruistic desire to remove disabilities, in no Court of law and in no court of conscience can he be immune from the responsibility of that statement by merely attempting to say that some people observed it. For he knows as well as I do that whether he puts it in the mouth of some or few or none, the responsibility of the publication lies upon him, and, therefore, it is no use trying to take refuge behind vague expressions of that kind. Sir, in the name of the Party to which I belong, and not only that but in the name of any honest work in this country, we wish to repel with indignation, resentment and scorn the method in which and the manner in which they read in the great work that is being done in this country for the reorganisation and solidarity of those who belong to the Hindu faith and for the good and higher purification of the public life in general, in the eyes of some coloured observers, they say that there was no altruistic high motive, which they knew was there, or at least ought to have known of its existence if their conscience had not already been hardened, besmeared, if not dead. They could have easily seen in it the germination of one of the greatest movements of which even they, if they had undertaken it, would have been proud. Sir, Mahatma Gandhi, so far as this particular work is concerned, in the book that he published, "My Soul's Agony", has stated in very few words, but words that cannot possibly be improved upon, the object that he had in view:

"I have addressed this appeal to you, which proceeds out of my soul's agony. I ask you to share that agony and shame with me and co-operate with me, for I have no other end to serve than to see *Sanatana Dharma* revived and lived in its reality in the lives of millions who at present seem to me to deny it."

Sir, I have also the figures supplied to me by the Secretary of the Central Harijan Committee saying that that is an entirely false statement, both as to the funds and the demands for cash and also as to the misgivings as regards its expenditure. The tour in fact was marked by greater and greater success. At the end of the period of the tour there was a contribution given by pies and pice totalling no less than two lakhs of rupees. The accounts are published and audited; and it requires indeed no legal mind to be able to perceive that your comment cannot be fair if your facts are not accurate, and your comments are less than fair when you see wicked motives into a pure movement. That, Sir, is the method in which this report is prepared for the purpose of its presentation, to Parliament if you please. Parliament which is going to legislate from time to time, which is said to have the entire central power and responsibility for the progress and growth of this land. If they are doing their duty, at least on the meanest platform, they ought to have had the honesty and candour to say that India is progressing, instead of trying to whittle down, trying to lower the movement the value of which, the purity of which, the greatness of which, they could not otherwise deny. I pass on, Sir, to the next passage in that book:

"At this stage we must turn aside from discussion of Congress affairs . . ."

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

As a matter of fact, Sir, you will find that they have done nothing of the kind, in the next sentence that I read:

".....to describe briefly the outstanding event of the first quarter of 1934 and its political reactions. On the 15th January occurred the disastrous Bihar earthquake.....and local Congressmen generally co-operated with Government throughout the first stages of providing immediate relief.....Considered in retrospect, it is legitimate to say that Congress as a whole appreciated the opportunity provided by distress over so large an area to rehabilitate their prestige, not only by a vigorous show of interest locally in Bihar, but also by publishing reports tending to minimise the activities of Government." (*Cries of "Shame, shame."*)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. Honourable Members should not indulge in such exclamation.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: The nature and character of the mind that, standing in the face of such a great calamity, can make and attribute a motive of this kind exceeds at all events my powers of description. We might as well say that Government found another calamity, sometime following that earthquake, in order to rehabilitate, if they ever can, their prestige by excluding Congressmen from participation in relief at Quetta. But we certainly are not so mean as to read motives of that type. We will accept at their face value the assurance that it was in the interest of the Quetta sufferers that Government took the attitude they did, though there is evidence enough which was laid before this House in the Simla Session, pointing to the contrary, particularly the callousness to human life which resulted from that particular exclusion. But the fact remains that the whole idea of this report and the object of Government behind it is to see that those whom you cannot fight, those whom you cannot destroy, you might at least slander, standing and protecting yourself behind the supposed performance of a duty. The greater details I have no time to read but they have been all exposed in the public press. They went to the length of saying that so far as the Bihar Government was concerned, they expended Rs. 3,000 odd on administration of earthquake relief as against what they falsely alleged as a lakh and 28 thousand by the Central Bihar Relief Committee. They had soon to correct it by saying that the lakh was a mistake and 28 thousand was the actual expenditure. But they did not say what they ought to have said that in addition to the Rs. 3,000, all the officers and the whole of the machinery under them that took part in Bihar relief was paid for, paid for from the public revenues; whereas, every single co-worker in the cause of relief, whose services they have acknowledged in a later chapter, was a man who was a pure volunteer. And I am happy to be able to state that the rigorous economy which was exercised was such that I pleaded in vain for a pice worth of addition per day in order that the worker might get a little milk once in the day. Mahatma Gandhi with his austerity said: "We are here in the face of those who have lost all, and, therefore, we ought to economise to the last pie in order that every rupee that the public has voluntarily contributed and of which we are the trustees we may be in a position to save". Even in organising such relief as we have with reference to Quetta relief, we did not make it a matter of superior charity; we made it a duty of man to man. And it is on that basis that as president of the committee that we organised in the city of Bombay within less than two weeks, we got assistance amounting to a lakh of rupees for suffering men, on nothing but pure grounds of humanity, not

merely from those who threw crumbs, because they had plenty, not by way of charity of a superior and supercilious power but the assistance of the friendly hand to alleviate the sufferings of his own brethren. That is the spirit in which that particular organization has been worked, and it is a matter of sincere regret that this should be the attitude of any Government presenting, if you please, all the time under the statutory obligation a true and accurate report of the moral and material progress, and the condition, of India to Parliament. I can understand Miss Mayo's publication, I can understand many things of that kind being organised, in order to prejudice this country in a foreign land and particularly those who have legislative authority above us. But when openly and avowedly the Government of India wish to stand before this House and wish to support this kind of propaganda, all I can say is that they must have come to a very low level indeed.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only two minutes more.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: There is only one more point I wish to say. There are two more charges which are actually contained in the book, and I shall only call attention to them. The next charge relates to the motive behind the organisation of the All-India Village Industries Association, and the last but not the least, the successful campaign which they cannot stand day after day—the sight of us who are here as the result of the last elections. All I can say is this: that this House will mark its disapprobation of methods of this type, abuse of power and waste of public money. Sir, I move. (Applause.)

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

"That the demand under the head 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Sir, I listened with interest to the speech of the Honourable the Mover of this cut, and I wanted to know on what point really he sought the vote of this House. (Interruptions.) The only points to which he referred, as I understood him, related to the two passages which he quoted from this book and to which he took objection. The first passage was about Mahatma Gandhi's Harijan campaign, and it reads:

"In the circumstances, it is natural that certain observers saw in the Harijan campaign motives other than a purely altruistic desire to remove social disabilities."

My friend has tried to make out that it was not the case. The only thing about which this House can judge is whether there were certain persons who really believed what is embodied in this passage or not and whether the description, as given in the passage, represented the true state of affairs in the country. Nobody can doubt Mahatma Gandhi's motives and the high ideals which he carries about with him in the country, and nobody can ignore or minimise the great services which he has rendered to this country, but the point is whether the book contains a true description of what was felt and what was believed by certain people in India or not. Is it or is it not a fact that a number of people in India felt that the true motives were not as had been made out by my Honourable friend, the Mover of this cut? If my friend goes through the press comments of the time, he will find that there were really many people who

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

attributed these motives to Mahatma Gandhi in 1933. When he started the Harijan campaign, there were numerous people in the country who believed—and still there are people who believe even today—that his motives were not such as are made out by my Honourable and learned friend. People believe that Mahatma Gandhi's motives were not based on ideals and were not simply for the social uplift of the Harijans, but they were really a political move. Even leaders like Mr. Srinivasan who had been contributing articles after articles to various newspapers—and other Harijan leaders—questioned the true motives of Mahatma Gandhi. Their point was, why Mahatma Gandhi did not start this campaign until after the Communal Award was given after his visit to the Round Table Conference? If Mahatma Gandhi's motives were really the social uplift of the Harijans, he could have started the campaign long before the Communal Award was given in favour of the Harijans. This was what was felt by many people, that Mahatma Gandhi tried to kill himself by fasting just to do away with the little advantage that the Communal Award has given to the Harijans.

Some people in Bengal are not now satisfied with the Poona Pact. They say that the Poona Pact was entered into by Mahatma Gandhi, not purely in the social interest of the Harijans, but it was a political gesture to the Harijans. If my vote is to be obtained for this motion, I must be satisfied that the condemnation which the House wants to give to this book is really deserved. (Laughter.) It is also, may I be allowed to say, another propaganda for the Congress. You can have any views you like, and one may do a thing with whatever motive one likes, but he must have the boldness and courage to come forward and say "We did it, and we are doing it for this purpose". I do not mind if the movement for the uplift of the Harijans comes from any quarter, because I have been myself a worker for the uplift of the Harijans for a very long time. (*Cries of "Hear, hear."*) I have done some little work for the relief of the Harijans, and I would welcome such relief even if it comes from purely political motives. Everybody knows that the so-called Harijans are treated worse than an animal: there are some caste people who would touch any animal, but would not touch a man born in that caste. The fact remains that there are such people who have been treated in this manner for a long time, and if anybody comes forward, even from purely political motives, to help the Harijans, I would welcome him. As an Urdu poet says:

*"Tbn-e-marriam howa karay koi
Dukh ki meray dawa karay koi."*

which means: "whoever he may be, the son of Miriam, that is Christ, if he comes to rescue me, I will welcome him".

But, I say, we must not feel shy of admitting that there are those who still believe that the motive behind the movement is not the motive which my friend tried to make out. Another point my Honourable friend referred was the Bihar earthquake business. May I ask him, if even today, he is prepared to show this House how this money that was collected was spent? Has he got a detailed account?

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Absolutely: four detailed audited accounts: and I was present at the last meeting.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: That does not mean that they were published for information of the public

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: They have been published for public information: it has been published by thousands of pamphlets, thousands.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Who were the auditors? Probably the papers, my friend referred to, published their names; but my Honourable friend failed in his speech to name them. Now, he comes and says "thousands". I am not going to waste my fifteen minutes

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: Please do not: but do not ask such questions.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I would have liked very much that you gave out the list of papers in which these audited accounts were published. But he will realise that, in 1933-34, there were objections taken by a lot of people that the accounts were not fully presented and that the money was not properly handled. I remembered having read that money was spent from the fund for the propaganda work of the Congress. Whether that is true or not, there were articles published at the time saying what is said now in this book; and it was not by Englishmen, but by Indians who wrote in the papers at that time. It was challenged at that time in 1933-34 that three lakhs of rupees were to be given for *charka* by Mahatma Gandhi, and they objected to this kind of expenditure from money which had been collected for a totally different purpose. Whether that is so or not, I say that India in any year must be described impartially and that means that both sides of the question must be shown: it is not as if it should serve the Government or the Congress or any other political party: but whatever every portion of the country feels must be embodied. Babu Rajendra Prasad and the Congress came to do the work with good motives, and nobody can minimise the fact that they were very energetic and have done a great deal of uplift work; but every member of the public, who subscribes even a pie, or even those who do not subscribe at all (Laughter) is entitled to know how the money is spent, because it becomes a public question. This kind of objection was taken even at that time, and any man, who has to describe India in a particular year, must show that certain classes of people are feeling one way and certain other classes are feeling the other way. If objection was taken in the press, why should my friend feel shy that it is now embodied in this book? It shows the work done by the Congress, it also shows the criticism levelled by certain members of the public against the way the money was spent. So I see nothing in this to justify the condemnation of my Honourable friend or to do away with the whole Department. If my friend wants my vote, he must justify his motion, not in the interests of his party or any other party, but in the interests of truth. If the remarks he complains of are not true, then he will have my support. If any official of the Government embarks on a programme of maligning a particular party without any truth, then he will have my vote, if nobody else's. Unless he does that, I cannot give him my vote

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Therefore, there is nothing more to be said, and I conclude by saying that I am sorry I cannot support this motion.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Sir, I move that the question be now put.

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Only after one speaker has spoken from each side.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Never mind.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: The debate in the House cannot be regulated on the behest of the Congress.

Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Nominated Non-Official):

1 P.M. Sir, I welcome this debate specially for two reasons: firstly, it gives an opportunity to this House to place its views on an important question, like the Harijan uplift movement on record; and, secondly, the debate will show how political parties in this country are divided, and how much backing a certain party has behind it. The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, in his very able and learned speech, has drawn pointed attention to three items: firstly, the remarks contained on page 4 of the Report under discussion wherein the conclusion arrived at is:

"In the circumstances, it is natural that certain observers saw in the Harijan campaign motives other than a purely altruistic desire to remove social disabilities."

[At this stage, Mr. President (the Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Sir Cowasji Jehangir, one of the Panel of Chairmen.] (Cheers.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Go on: it is not for you: it is for the Chair! (Laughter.)

Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand: Secondly, that the Standing Finance Committee had rejected this particular demand; and, thirdly, the earthquake work done by the Congress leaders in Bihar. As regards the third, I have nothing to say. I have all praise for the social and relief work that was done in Bihar, both by the Congress as well as by other parties; but, as regards the Harijan movement, I have to say, a few words. I may point out at the outset that I am one of those who welcome this move. I myself was converted to this view in regard to Harijans or the removal of the ban of untouchability long long ago when I was a college boy.

An Honourable Member: You are still a boy.

Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand: I was a student in Delhi, and I then saw the noble work done by the Christian missionaries here like the Rev. Mr. Allnutt and Mr. Wright who were seen going about in the poorest of *bustees* in Delhi and doing social work there; and it was then that I got convinced about the humane nature of this work. Then, again, from 1915, for about ten years, I was practically in charge of one of the most forward District Boards of my province. My friend, Mr. Sham Lal, on the other side, will bear me out what a noble attitude our District Boards took in regard to the uplift of Harijans in our district. We placed

it on record about 20 years ago that all District Board schools should be thrown open to Harijan boys; in fact, long before the idea of removal of untouchability dawned upon the minds of our political leaders, the District Boards in our province placed it on record that depressed class boys should sit on the same floor, should live in the same boarding houses as are used by boys of the upper classes. Therefore, since 1915, in my district, the Harijan boys have been admitted to Government schools and District Board schools without any discrimination or restrictions, and all classes of boys have been living like brothers, Harijan boys enjoying all facilities with the other boys including Brahmin boys.

Then, again, Sir, I was for about ten years in charge of one of the best schools in my province, and, as an Honorary Secretary, I was managing the whole show. My friend, Mr. Sham Lal, knows this, and in our school we gave special facilities to Harijan boys, and we started this kind of uplift movement long before anybody else turned his attention to this question. (Interruptions.) I will give the whole story if you will only have some little patience. In that school, we admitted to the boarding houses boys of untouchable classes, and these boys lived in the same rooms which were occupied by boys of the upper classes; they took the same food as was served to boys of higher classes, and there was practically no distinction of any kind between Harijan boys and Brahmin boys or upper class boys. This was the same case, not only in our school, but also in the schools belonging to the most orthodox communities like the Mahajans and Agarwals, of which my friend, Mr. Sham Lal is a representative here. My point is simply this, that it was so far back as the last 25 years during the last century, that this movement was brought into prominence in the Punjab by that great leader, the founder of the Arya Samaj, *i.e.*, Swami Dayanand Saraswati. It was the Arya Samaj that started this movement in Northern India. It was the Arya Samaj that converted people to this view, and, on account of that healthy influence there has been no prejudice of any kind in Northern India, and as Delhi is part of Northern India and of the Punjab, the movement has gained strength to the same extent here as it has done in the Punjab. Besides that, the Sikh Gurus made it clear from the beginning that there should be no distinction between the upper classes and the so-called lower classes.

An Honourable Member: What has this got to do with the motion before the House?

Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand: I am coming to that. The reason why exception is taken or motives attributed to this new move is this. Northern India already stands converted to this view. There was no necessity for preaching to the people of these parts the necessity of this uplift movement, but still some people from other provinces have made Delhi their headquarters and go to villages like Narela and Bijwasen where no untouchability question exists at all and profess to preach to the people the necessity of the uplift movement.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Are we not citizens of India?

Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand: Yes, you are, but these people from Southern India go to villages like Narela and there preach to the Jats, who are admittedly a liberal community and who make no distinction of any kind between touchables and untouchables, the necessity

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of the uplift movement, and, afterwards, in order to get support for the Congress, they tell them what Congress leaders were doing in this line. This year, Sir, I had occasion to make a tour of Southern India in another connection, and there I saw . . .

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadian): Are these personal anecdotes relevant to the subject matter we are discussing?

Mr. Chairman (Sir Cowasji Jehangir): The Honourable Member may continue.

Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand: This year, in another connection, I had to go to Southern India . . .

Mr. B. Das: Don't come to Orissa. (Laughter.)

Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand: . . . and there I went to some backward villages and saw the condition of the peasants and Harijans. It was simply deplorable. And, yet, what do we find? Professor Ranga from Southern India, not caring for the peasants of Madras who are steeped in ignorance, goes to Lyallpur where every peasant is better off socially and educationally than even the big Landlords of Southern India (Laughter) and gives lessons to them on uplift movement. Their simple reply to him should be "Physician, heal thyself". ("Hear, hear" from Opposition Benches.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Go and heal thyself!

Another Honourable Member: Sardar Sant Singh comes from Lyallpur and he is doing nothing there for the Harijans.

Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand: Sikhs are already ahead of others. Sir, analogies are sometimes helpful. Only quite lately, our political leaders have hit upon this programme of doing some uplift work among the untouchables. About 15 years ago, they took it into their heads to go to the peasants and to the farmers and professed to organise them. I remember very well, and I can quote the testimony of my friend, Mr. Sham Lal, that in 1919, we held a political conference . . .

An Honourable Member: What about the Chamars?

Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand: I have been asked, what about the Chamars? I challenge anybody to come with me to any of the villages round about Delhi and to show if there is any distinction between Jats, who are proprietors, and Chamars so far as touchability is concerned. They will find in all District Board schools Jat and Chamar boys sitting side by side. There is no distinction of any kind in our schools in the Delhi Province. It is only in Bengal and in Southern India from where these political leaders come that this touchability question is very acute. Therefore, there being no justification for any preaching here, people are justified in attributing motives to the agitators who go about into these villages.

Sir, I was referring to the attention that was paid to the peasants 15 years ago. About the year 1919, there was a big political conference in my district. Mahatma Gandhi and Colonel Wedgwood were advertised to be coming there. They could not come for certain reasons but the late Lala Lajpat Rai came there to address a meeting of peasants. There were about 8,000 to 10,000 persons present, all drawn from rural areas, mostly cultivators. Honourable Members will remember that the prices were then very high, agriculturists were rolling in wealth. Their wheat and cotton were going out freely and there were many markets opened for Indian produce. Cattle were being exported in large numbers from those areas, and, over and above that, tons of money was coming from the military headquarters, because this was a military area where this political conference was held. So economically speaking, these people stood to gain by those high prices, but the late Lala Lajpat Rai while addressing them, said; "You, peasants, you are all deprived of your bread. What do you see? In this land of milk and honey, in this land where there was plenty of wheat, what do we see? All your wheat is being exported to foreign countries, and you are feeding the foreigners." In that strain, he appealed to them. He said: "These foreigners are taking away from you everything."

An Honourable Member: Is it not true?

Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand: The poor people did not know much of logic; they did not know that there was no logic behind all that speech, and, yet, a political appeal was made to them and what was admittedly a blessing for them was described as being a curse to them. This is the sort of exploitation that has been going on. It is in that strain that appeals are being made to Harijans by workers while going to villages. They only set up one party against another.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Cowasji Jehangir): The Honourable Member's time is up. The Chair will give him two minutes more and then adjourn the House. He cannot continue when the House resumes after lunch.

Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand: Sir, the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition referred to the refusal by the Standing Finance Committee. I was a member of the Standing Finance Committee when the Opposition Party first came to that Committee. It was on the 1st February, 1935, that the first meeting was held, and, with your permission I would read how they proceeded. The first note reads as follows:

"Certain members of the Committee wish to be recorded at the outset that, although in the course of the discussions they might accept some proposals as being justifiable on administrative grounds, this should not be regarded as debarring them from opposing grants relating to the same items on other grounds in the Legislative Assembly. They wish to reserve full liberty to deal with the proposals on the floor of the House."

What does this mean? It means that they were not open to conviction in the first instance; and even if some how convinced, they would oppose the grants agreed upon in the full House. If this is the sort of attitude they take in the Standing Finance Committee, to which my Honourable friend has referred with some pride, the value of their vote loses all weight.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Cowasji Jehangir): The Honourable Member must conclude his speech.

Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand: So, I have submitted that there are two different opinions about this Harijan work. There is a very strong section even among the Harijans themselves, who hold that there is a motive behind this movement. The workers in the movement are drawn from the Congress, and, when they go out into villages, they do not keep themselves aloof from Congress activities. Therefore, those remarks in the book are not without justification.

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. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): I rise to support the motion which has been moved by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. I have heard with great attention the speeches delivered by my friends, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan and Captain Lal Chand. With all my desire to understand precisely what they have to say, I confess I have not been able to understand the points which they pressed on the House for voting against the motion. The only thing that they said was that they were not convinced by the speech made by the Leader of the Opposition. I may tell them in return that it is the only reply they will receive from the other part of the House. There was something to be convinced in the speech of the Leader of the Opposition for any one who had an open mind, but there was absolutely nothing in the speech which they made to convince this side of the House. The question which is before the House is important for this reason. What is the exact duty of the Government in regard to the matter of publicity? It is a very important question. There is no doubt a Statutory obligation upon the Government of India to publish a report regarding the moral and material progress of this country for the information of Parliament. But what we have to consider is whether that Statutory responsibility also throws upon them any obligations of giving their own impressions along with the facts which they have to bring to the notice of the Parliament for their information.

In my opinion, the first blunder which the Government of India committed was to depart from the old policy which they pursued in this matter, of giving a faithful picture in the form of statistics for the information of Parliament of all the activities of the Government of India during the year. Till that time, that was a document which was considered as a very important one and a very valuable one, which was referred to for the sake of information by all those who were interested in the study of Indian problems. It was a document that was referred to by research scholars also but since they wanted to run away from pure facts into controversial regions and enter upon the game of propaganda the report had lost all its importance. It has become a document to which even the Government of India find it impossible to subscribe and, therefore, they write a little note in the report saying that everything contained in

this document need not be taken as the opinion of the Government of India. The members of Parliament, who have thrust this duty upon the Government of India, under certain provisions of the Government of India Act, do not want to know anything which is not the opinion of the Government of India. They want to know the facts about the activities of the Government of India in any particular year and it is with the opinions of the Government of India alone that the members of Parliament are really concerned. But we find that the Government of India is not prepared to formulate its own opinions. It permits, on the other hand, somebody, who is paid by them, to ventilate his own opinions and never takes the care of making a public denial before the document is published. It never says how many of those opinions are or are not subscribed to by them. They allow a good deal of wrong and mischief to be worked up in this country and then, if somebody raises a question, either on the floor of the House or in the press or on the platform, they come out with the stereotyped explanation 'we have already clearly said that what is written there is not necessarily our opinion'. A more timid, a more cowardly and a more senseless path could not have been pursued by any Government which calls itself a responsible Government. From the very beginning, somehow or other, I have had misgivings about this department. In 1924, when I came into this House for the first time and also in 1925, I put a few questions with regard to the working of this department and also had given a cut like the one which is now under consideration today. We could not then get an opportunity of moving that cut, but, Sir, you will find that times without number every year, immediately as this report is published, for some reason or other, there are a number of questions put on the floor of the House as regards the contents and the facts mentioned therein. Whenever Government enters upon propaganda, it means that it feels the keen necessity of counteracting some kind of criticism that is levelled against it. Then, the proper course for the Government is to come out with its own facts and issue a public statement and not to take shelter under certain writers who write under a pseudonym called the Director of Public Information or something else and not take the responsibility of the contents upon themselves.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I am not taking shelter under that.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Very well, we shall hear some defence today in that case. We know in what difficulties Government have found themselves this year. A similar report regarding Bengal had been published. Certain allegations were made and Government have found out ultimately that the officer in charge of the preparation of a document like that had made statements which were completely unjustifiable and even malicious and Government had to publicly withdraw the statements. Statements were made with regard to the activities of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru . . .

An Honourable Member: That was in an administration report.

Mr. M. S. Aney: It might be, but I am merely pointing out that Government allows its publicity department to work in such a way that it brings itself into trouble, lands itself in difficulties and forces itself to go down on its knees and apologize for certain statements made. This ought to put the Government on its guard in regard to this activity hereafter. I will try to show from this report that some ungenerous and misleading

[Mr. M. S. Aney:]

observations have been made in this report with regard to two activities, activities which I say, not merely ought to be above all cavil and suspicion, but for which those organisations which have carried them out undoubtedly deserve due recognition and credit at the hands of the Government, namely, the earthquake activities in Bihar and the Harijan activities.

Now, if there were any two questions about which there could be no difference of opinion whatsoever in the country, these are the two questions: and when these activities were conducted and led under the inspiration and leadership of a man of such unimpeachable character as Mahatma Gandhi himself, there could not possibly be the least doubt about the motive with which they could be conducted. (Hear, hear.) But here is a Government which is prepared to suspect everybody; and, in their usual attitude of distrust, they have made observations which clearly indicate that the Government suspect certain sinister motives in the minds of those who have taken upon themselves the responsibility of doing this humanitarian work. They are not prepared to make the admission, as they ought to, that, the Indian National Congress has stepped into doing a work, after all, which has remained utterly neglected for the whole of the last one hundred and fifty years that the British have been ruling over this country. The people are blaming them and rightly so for keeping certain classes behind. But the Government of India are blaming us for the people of India keeping certain classes ignorant and primitive, but may I ask a question? The Government of India have been ruling this country for one hundred and fifty years nearly, and still the Depressed Classes are there, with all the stark wretchedness, with all the misery, with all the ostracism and with all the odium that attaches to their position in life, but, alas, this Government have done nothing, nothing for them. Nay, when some organization, which for some reason or another is not liked by them, steps boldly into the field, then, in order to cover their own sins of the past, they, instead of giving their help in all these activities, try to find fault with those engaged in these activities! (Hear, hear.) Sir, is that the way to help the poor? And, consequently, may we not ask—is it possible that the personnel of a Government which has not the generosity to recognize the good motives of those who have taken upon themselves this humanitarian work are likely to do anything in a sincere way for the uplift of the poor and the backward and the depressed? Sir, the Government suspect political motives behind everything. It is true that the Indian National Congress has been their political opponent. That is the greatest institution, Sir, that opposes this Government at every step; and it shall oppose and oppose till this Government is replaced (Hear, hear): but when this Government wants the Congress to come and join hands with them and to work constitutionally, to carry on, in a spirit of co-operation, negotiations with them and conversations with them across the floor of this House, is it too much to expect that Government will try to observe parliamentary manners not only inside this House but also outside? Already, there is a great difficulty about that inside the House; we are preached sermons, and we are abused, and we have to tell them that this is not parliamentary, and there is not much improvement yet in that direction: how, then, Sir, can you expect us to believe any propaganda of the Government as genuine and sincere when the motives of men like Mahatma Gandhi even are openly questioned by them? I believe this is not the way to create that spirit in which a real spirit of co-operation

can come into existence. What pains me or rather confounds me, Sir, is the utter incompatibility of this attitude with the loud "profession" of the Government, the repeated calls made by them for the sake of securing our co-operation, and the frequent references in the speeches of responsible officers to invoke the assistance of the people. But all these look to me to be not at all actuated by any genuine spirit, when I find activities like the Harijan activities of the Indian National Congress and the "humanitarian" activities of the Congress for the relief of those who suffered in the two devastating earthquakes are openly questioned as being political rather than altruistic in documents which are published in the name of the Government of India. I only want to tell them, Sir, that there is a proverb in our vernacular which says that those who spit at the sun get their own faces ultimately besmeared. So they will see that men like Mahatma Gandhi cannot be ridiculed but those who ridicule him will themselves be ridiculed by the whole world (Hear, hear). Sir, Mahatma Gandhi is above all their mean and base criticism, because he has got nothing to gain, he has got no axe to grind, as they have. The Government of India certainly hope to gain something to save their reputation in the world by ridiculing those who oppose them. Sir, there is a Sanscrit proverb which I may quote in this connection. Somebody asked me why do you attach so much importance to this little and insignificant observations and I told him that my reason for supporting the motion is given in the famous couplet of poet Kilidas:

"Na kevalam yo mahatapashkate

Shrunoti tasmadapi yah sa papbhak."

"He who reproaches a great man is not himself the only sinner in this world, but the who is compelled to hear him has also to share the sins with him." (Hear, hear.)

Sir, we do not want to share those sins, and that is the reason why we say that the sin must remain on their head, and their head alone, they alone must suffer, and, if necessary, must pay the penalty for it,—and not we. With these words, I support the motion. (Loud Applause.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Sir, a good deal of indignation has been vented both by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition and by my Honourable friend, who has just spoken, on the note that appears on the title-page of this book, to the effect that:

"It must not be understood that the approval either of the Secretary of State or of the Government of India extends to every particular expression of opinion."

Now, Sir, that is a purely conventional statement, and, to the best of my belief, it has appeared in every single edition of this work since it began to be issued. I venture to think that some such qualification is, from the necessities of the case, required in the case of any publication of this character which is written very shortly after the events which it, recounts have taken place, which is necessarily based very largely on contemporary newspaper comments on those events, and which may have to be corrected later on, as all history written contemporaneously with the events has to be corrected, on a retrospect perhaps conducted a few years later. But I must say I was rather amused when my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, expressed his great

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indignation and his great contempt for anyone who could put such a note at the beginning of a publication—contempt as he put it for one who sheltered himself behind such a cowardly qualification—because, my Honourable friend may not be aware that an almost exactly similar note appeared, only the other day, in a Congress publication that has come to my notice. I have here a copy of the title-page of "Congress Golden Jubilee Brochure No. 5" on the Public Debt of India, by Mr. J. C. Kumarappa, published by the All-India Congress Committee, Swaraj Bhawan, Allahabad, and this note appears over the signature of the General Secretary of the Congress, Mr. Kirpalani:

"The Congress as an organization",

—it says—

"may be said to be in general agreement with the conclusions of the different authors of this brochure, although it may not be possible for it to subscribe to every detail that has been written." (Hear, hear.)

Now, does that differ very much from the note prefixed to "India in 1933-34"? (Laughter.) It does not seem to me to differ very materially. It goes on:

"There may be minor points of difference here and there for which the publishers or the Congress as an organization can take no responsibility."

Now, I ask, is that so very different, is the sense of that so very different, from the foreword behind which we are accused of sheltering ourselves? (Hear, hear.)

Now, Sir, in the first place, I want to make it quite clear that I do not intend to shelter myself under that at all. I stand here prepared to take full responsibility for what has been published. But I do want to make one point clear, and that is that though this motion has taken the form of a cut under the Department of Public Information—I am not complaining of that in the least, I know that it is the proper place,—but I want to make it quite clear that no one in the Department of Public Information, either the present Director or any of his assistants, had anything whatever to do with this report. The responsibility is mine, and it clearly is not theirs. I want all Honourable Members to realise that, and I want to make it perfectly clear that, if they consider that there is any personal bias or any unfairness in anything that has been said, the blame does not lie with the present Director or any of his staff. Their duties in connection with this work were purely mechanical.

Sir, my Honourable friend has raised a good many points, and he began, as he was entitled to do under the very wide wording of the cut motion, by criticising the work of the Department of Information Bureau as a whole. He spent only a few minutes on that topic and if I am not mistaken he based most of his remarks on an article which appeared in a Calcutta Newspaper, *Capital*, the other day. In fact, if I am not mistaken, he quoted the actual words of that article which was reproduced in several of the Delhi newspapers. I saw the article at the time, and I must say it struck me as a particularly badly informed article. That is a newspaper which, however eminent in its own sphere, has no

correspondent at the headquarters of the Government of India and is not in close touch with the activities of the Government and, as a matter of fact, it was completely wrong on one or two points of fact. One of these mistakes my Honourable friend himself repeated, namely that Local Governments have now practically given up Publicity Departments under the strain of financial stress. That is not correct.

An Honourable Member: They ought to give up.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Perhaps they ought to, but as a matter of fact, I think I am right in saying, they have done the exact opposite; publicity organizations now exist in more Provinces than they ever did before.

That, however, is only by the way. The main point of the Honourable Member's attack was on certain remarks made in this book regarding, first, Mahatma Gandhi's Harijan campaign, and, secondly, the Bihar earthquake. I must necessarily confine myself to these two main points.

But, before I go into details of these two points, I should like to say that I find myself in entire agreement with Honourable Members opposite in their dislike of this report. No one dislikes the task of having to prepare this report more than the Government of India. It is, however, a statutory obligation which is forced on them by section 26(3) of the Government of India Act.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Only report on the moral and material progress; not this propaganda.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I am speaking of the entire report. I am very glad to say that that statutory obligation disappears under the new Act. So I hope this is the last report but one. No one, as I say, dislikes it more than the Government of India. It imposes a considerable amount of labour on all the Departments of the Government of India, as each has to furnish its special material and the result is a patch-work or a piece of work which must of necessity be rather ill-balanced and lacking in that unity which should under-lie any book, even a Government publication. Now, I must say that I am rather surprised at the consternation and alarm which have been created by this particular report or rather by the first Chapter of it. I must say it does appear to me that we, like everyone else, have the natural right, how shall I put it, to say "boo to a goose", and I do not see why we should be deprived of that right. I am sometimes a little amazed at the indignation that is generated among the Congress Party, whenever anybody has the temerity to put forward the theory that there can be any other point of view than their own. Well, Sir, it seems to me that on every question of human interest in this world, there is more than one point of view. I have never known of a question on which everybody is agreed. But I would ask Honourable Members opposite to remember that we stand up here as the targets for a good deal of criticism, not always very good-natured criticism, and, on the whole, I think we submit to it with a fairly good grace. We do not squeal when we are hit, but as I say, we do claim our natural right to say "boo to a goose". I have read this report again since this motion was tabled, of course it was tabled a long time ago in the form of a motion for adjournment, but that was not

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moved. My own criticism of the report would be, that in his endeavour to retain a strictly impersonal character, the writer has produced a somewhat colourless, and, I may say, a dull account of what happened. There is really no expression, I do not think you can find a single expression of his personal views throughout the report if you read it attentively and impartially. It certainly gives a very great measure of prominence to the activities of the political party whose representatives sit opposite me. Indeed my own criticism of Chapter I would be that it is too much the history of Congress activities and not enough the history of India.

Mr. F. E. James (Madras: European): That ought to please them.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: As my Honourable friend says, it ought to please them, and may I say that, when the report first appeared, it did please them. May I refer for a moment to a very appreciative review of this report which came out in a strong pro-Congress organ, the *Tribune* of Lahore, as long ago as the 24th January, 1936. Really I almost blushed when I read the encomium. It says:

"Indeed, making allowance for the inevitable fact that the point of view from which these activities are reviewed is that of antipathy and not sympathy, the fulness and vigour with which they are dealt with could not easily have been surpassed by any Congress chronicler."

That is a review from one of your own papers.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It is not a Congress paper.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The article goes on:

"The writer does make an attempt to preserve a fair measure of impartiality."

The review then goes on to discuss the split in the ranks of the Congress party on the question of Communal Award, and it further says:

"But barring this one statement, the picture given in the report is substantially correct."

The review further goes on:

"One can see the same shrewd insight into Congress politics in the writer's statement of the reasons which led Mahatma Gandhi to issue his famous statement on September 17, 1934, in which, he indicated his intention to retire from the Congress after the plenary session at Bombay in October."

Then, finally, we get a pat on the back:

"On one thing, however, we can unreservedly congratulate the writer. We do not remember any previous occasion when the views of the Indian Press were quoted so largely in an official report as in the present case. The present report undoubtedly marks a whole-some departure from this [i.e., the past] unhealthy practice and precedent."

Now, coming from a Congress paper, I think the House will admit that that is a fairly appreciative review, and it was not till 3 P.M. the Members of this Assembly rolled up in their scores at Delhi looking for subjects on which to castigate Government that it occurred to anyone to pick out this report as a subject for attack.

Before I come to the precise points on which complaint has been made, let me just say this, that it does seem to me a little unfair to pick out an isolated sentence here and there and to condemn on that a long book of 200 pages, and still more unfair that having picked out an isolated sentence of that sort you should misquote it. The indignation of the press was largely worked up by a very serious misquotation of the sentence dealing with the Harijan campaign. It left out the words, "In the circumstances, it is natural that certain observers saw in the campaign"; it simply said that "the harijan campaign was actuated by motives other than a purely altruistic desire to remove social disabilities". In three newspapers, which I saw, that was the way in which the sentence was quoted as if it had been a positive statement of Government. That, Sir, if I may respectfully submit, is not a fair method of controversy. Government made no positive statement at all. I want to be perfectly clear on this, that I myself, and I think I can speak for Government as a whole, have not the slightest desire to throw any doubt, whatever, on the purity and entirely altruistic character of Mahatma Gandhi's motives. No body who is familiar with the social and other disabilities under which these unfortunate people suffer can help sympathising with any effort for their uplift; and the greater the man who starts that effort, the stronger must be our admiration. I hope my attitude and the attitude of Government in relation to that is perfectly clear, that we have not the slightest intention of casting any reflection on those motives. And I submit, Sir, that no reader of this book can honestly assert that there is the slightest aspersion in anything which is said there. The book says, and I submit, that it is justified in saying it, that "certain observers saw that there were other than purely altruistic motives". I do not know if the House wants me to justify that statement: I have ample material here, I have a number of press cuttings in which that opinion was expressed. I have made it perfectly clear that I am not in sympathy with them,—I hope I have made that clear; but I have no desire to inflict on the House anything that might cause pain to admirers of Mahatma Gandhi. The House can take it from me,—and I can assure them that they ought to take it from me,—that there is ample material before me here.—10 or 12 press cuttings, letters, leading articles, and so on,—in which this view was expressed. And not from one type of paper alone but from several types of papers. I will not weary the House by reading these papers

Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Are they from the "friendly press"?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, from every type of press, from Congress papers, from Sanatanist papers and even from Muslim papers. But, I take it, the House is ready to accept my statement that we had justification for what we said; and let me repeat that we said nothing more than that this type of opinion did exist and that it expressed itself in public. That is all that we said, and if we are to be condemned on that, I say we are being condemned for something for which we had complete justification. That type of opinion did exist and we merely stated that it did exist.

Now, I pass from that, Sir, to the other main section of the speech of my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, which dealt with

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certain remarks on the Bihar earthquake. The particular passages to which he referred were two and they both occur at page 5 of the book. He took exception to the statement that:

"There were criticisms that Government proposals, particularly with regard to financial assistance, were callous; outside Bihar sections of the pro-Congress press and nationalist politicians, who soon began to arrive in the earthquake area, endeavoured to exploit the effects of the earthquake for political ends."

As regards that, here again I do not want to weary the House with long quotations or extracts from newspapers, but there is one point to which I must refer, and that is that a series of statements were issued by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who visited Bihar twice, once about a week after the earthquake, and the second time, a few days later. He issued certain statements which I have here and which I do not want to quote, reflecting on the conduct of the local officials and the Local Government, and implying that they were lethargic and slow in getting to work. Those statements of his were contradicted in a statement published by a large number of local leaders a few days after his visit. It was published in the newspapers of the 7th February, *i.e.*, about a month after the earthquake. It was to this effect:

"In view of the opinion expressed in certain quarters that the local authorities of North Bihar failed in their duty, in giving relief to the distressed and the afflicted and also in getting into immediate touch with the outside world, we consider it our duty to correct the error underlying that view. . . . Considering the difficulties with which they were confronted . . . it is remarkable that the local officers, from the Commissioner down to the ordinary constables, continued to perform their duties and discharge their responsibilities in a manner which ought to evoke the admiration and gratitude of all of us. The signatories of this statement have no hesitation in declaring that considering the suddenness and intensity of the disaster no undue delay was made by the authorities either in getting into immediate touch with the headquarters at Patna or in giving prompt relief to those who needed it. We regret, that at a time when the whole province was suffering from the disastrous effects of a colossal cataclysm, a view should have been expressed which is not warranted by the facts and which may possibly hamper the good work which is smoothly being carried on with the fullest co-operation of officials and non-officials."

That was signed by a number of prominent people in Bihar, including Sir Sultan Ahmed, Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha, and various others, and, I think, there is no doubt that that did reflect the genuine feeling of the province and the widespread regret that statements of this nature should have been made. So much for that point.

The second sentence to which the Honourable Member, the Leader of the Opposition, objected, was the one at the bottom of page 5, which says:

"But of the desire for effective co-operation with the Local Government in its task of organizing relief measures there were few signs, and information as to the disbursement of the Congress relief fund of Rs. 24 lakhs was difficult to obtain."

Now, I submit that this book makes it perfectly clear that at the outset, that is immediately after the earthquake took place, there was every sign of co-operation between the Congress relief workers and the Government. That is explicitly stated both in the first chapter and later on at pages 67-8, where a long extract is given from the report of Mr. Brett, the Relief Commissioner in Bihar, and it is perfectly clear to any careful reader that this sentence, of which complaint is made, did not relate to the first few weeks after the earthquake, when co-operation was complete and effective. But I am afraid that this attitude was not maintained

throughout the year with which the report deals, *i.e.*, the year 1934. When the first necessities of the victims of the earthquake had been relieved, it was obviously necessary for those administering the Congress fund, which amounted to a very large sum of money, to draw up a concerted and well thought out programme of relief, and, I understand, that it was with that object that Mahatma Gandhi visited Bihar on the 11th of March. As the result of his visit, a large and influential Committee was appointed to administer the fund, and a resolution was passed advocating "respectful co-operation" with Government—that was carried, I believe, in spite of some opposition. Then Mr. Gandhi himself advised the Committee to adopt a certain programme which he put forward. The principal items in that programme were, first of all, advances for house building, either of a permanent or temporary character, and secondly, the clearance of sand. There were a number of others, but those were the leading two, and obviously the most important. Those were the ways in which relief was most urgently needed after the first necessities of the victims had been relieved, that is to say, by the distribution of blankets, food, shelter and so on. But shortly after that visit, the Committee themselves passed a resolution to the effect that the first two items, namely house-building and the clearance of sand, were beyond their capacity except by way of detailed investigation, that they were too big problems for them to undertake and that they had no agency to undertake them. I am not criticising that decision, but it had this unfortunate result, that for the next few months, *i.e.*, after the first two months after the earthquake, from say March till pretty nearly the end of the year, the Congress organization was able to do very little in the way of practical relief. That is apparent from their own reports and from the comparatively small amount that was spent out of their funds. I am not saying that they did not in a great many ways do useful work.

An Honourable Member: The Honourable Member has already spoken for 30 minutes.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: They did useful work during the floods, they did a good deal to improve water supplies that were damaged by the earthquake; but that was only sufficient to absorb a comparatively small amount of the very large funds collected. Indeed, by the end of the year, *i.e.*, a year after the earthquake, more than half the fund was still unspent. I think it is apparent for anybody who had seen and studied the correspondence between the Local Government and the Congress Relief Committee that the President of that Committee—Babu Rajendra Prasad, the Congress President, was himself uneasy as to the situation

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already spoken for 30 minutes.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I am very nearly at the end. Perhaps the House will bear with me for a few minutes. I think it is clear that he himself was uneasy about the working of the Congress organization, because he himself approached Government and made an offer to hand over Rs. 10 lakhs to Government to be used for house-building advances through Government agency. The exact plan he drew up was a little complicated and Government, though they welcomed this offer, wanted to make some modifications in the plan and suggested three

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alternative methods by which they could make use of this sum usefully. He acknowledged that offer, and I understand—though I have no inside knowledge—that he put it before his Committee. He clearly was keen on it himself and thought it the best way in which the funds could be spent, but, unfortunately, his Committee turned it down. Thus, we did get the unfortunate result that there was in the main a lack of co-ordination between the Congress and Government, with this further unfortunate result that a year after the earthquake more than half the Congress fund was still unspent. Here again, the justification for what is said in the report must be admitted, and here again, I must ask the House to take it from me that I have here a large number of extracts from papers, mostly from Bihar papers in which the absence of information as to the way in which the Congress funds were spent formed the subject of some fairly caustic criticism. Here, again, I do not wish to weary the House with reading all these reports, but they must take it from me that it is a fact that these criticisms were made. And that justifies what is said in this report, namely, that the publication of information as to the spending of the Congress funds was seriously delayed. I would only mention one article that appeared in the *Madras Mail* at the beginning of 1935—that was just after the first statement of expenditure had been published, but, even then, it only related to the first three quarters of 1934. As the Leader of the Opposition has said, there has since been published a large number of pamphlets in which full details of the expenditure have been given. But all we commented on and all that is contained in the report is that there was considerable delay about the publication. I am not saying that the delay might not have been justified, and I have no doubt that the accounts were difficult and complicated, but it is true that there was delay and we have said nothing more.

I have no time in which to deal with the other points of criticism. There were many not made on the floor of this House, but which have been made in various newspapers. I think I have said enough to show that nothing in this report was prompted by malice, that there is no attempt at propaganda, that the writer formed his opinions on an appreciation—and, I submit, I have shown it was a correct appreciation—of contemporary comments of the events which he described. In those circumstances, I think that I have justified what was said, and I think I have said enough to show that this is no case in which a censure should be passed on the department.

(Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai rose to speak.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Member want to reply?

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: I do not wish to reply, but I want to make a short statement in view of what I have heard, with your permission. I have here all the reports of the Bihar Central Relief Committee and the complete accounts: the first of them is for the period ending the 30th June, 1934, and published as early as it was possible to do having regard to the nature of the work on which they were engaged, and I ask leave that they should be placed on the table. There is one remark more I wish to say . . .

†The copies of the reports were placed in the Library of the House.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have seen them.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: If you have seen them, I wish you had mentioned that. I wish to say this: that irrespective of any difference of opinion as to the inferences to be drawn, I notice in the language of my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Craik, a consciousness that there may be a considerable amount of unconscious injustice done in the use of some expression, whereas all that was intended was that there was some dissenting note. And having regard to the expressions that he has used with reference to those who led both these movements, I do not think it would be graceful on my part to press this motion to a division.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Member want the leave of the Assembly to withdraw his motion?

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai: I merely said, Sir, that I will not press it to a division. If you wish to put the motion, you may.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The question is "That the demand under the head 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 100." The motion was negatived.

DEMAND NO. 31—FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Sir James Grigg—Demand No. 31.

(The Honourable Sir James Grigg not being in his seat.)

Mr. K. Sanjiva Row (Government of India: Nominated Official): May I have your permission, Sir, to move the demand on behalf of the Honourable the Finance Member?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable the Finance Member should move it himself.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are we doing now, Sir? We cannot wait for the Finance Member.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I must apologise for not being in my place, but I expected the crisis would take place at 4 o'clock and not at 3-30 . . .

Mr. M. S. Aney: Another case of under-estimation! (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,09,000 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, 1937, in respect of the 'Foreign and Political Department'."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,09,000 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, 1937, in respect of the 'Foreign and Political Department'."

Perilous Nature of the Forward Policy pursued by the Government of India.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, I move the following:

"That the demand under the head 'Foreign and Political Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The hesitation with which the Government has moved this demand indicates that they themselves feel that it is an unconscionable demand. It is a rather difficult subject which I have to tackle today in connection with my motion, for the simple reason that the Government in the plenitude of their exclusive wisdom generally draw a veil of secrecy across the frontier and seldom let us have a peep into affairs as they go on behind this curtain, and that puts us in a rather difficult position to have an accurate idea of things. But, at the same time, there are certain events which cannot escape notice. In so far as the foreign policy of the Government is concerned, one thing is beyond doubt, and it is that it is never dictated by India's interests. It is dictated by Imperial interests: in fact, it was admitted the other day by the Honourable the Foreign Secretary that he himself had scarcely any discretion in the matter of either formulating or guiding the foreign policy of our country. He had only to carry out the behests of the British Government. Now, it is rather unfortunate that the external affairs of India should not be the exclusive concern of our own country, that our external affairs should be the concern of another country, whose interests are in certain respects, in fact in many respects, so far from being identical with ours, are really in violent conflict with our interests. The Imperial interests of England have naturally committed England to very heavy responsibilities all over the world. There was a time when England's foreign policy with particular reference to India was influenced very largely by fear of Russia. At another time, it was influenced by England's view of German ambitions. There was another time, Sir, when French ambitions, in certain quarters, influenced England's foreign policy with respect to India, and today we find that all those old dangers have disappeared, but a new danger has appeared, namely, Japan's economic invasion of markets within British influence, particularly India. Now, that is a matter which can only be solved when India develops her own industries and when India can stem the tide of Japanese competition,—it may or may not be, a matter in which England may take interest later on, but India has got vital interests of her own. However, Sir, as I was trying to show, the foreign policy of India has been responsible lately for extending India's invisible frontiers to somewhere beyond India's natural frontiers. We find that India's invisible and political or rather foreign frontier, if I may put it that way, has now been extended almost to the other side of Suez. I should not be surprised, as it was pointed out by a friend among the European Group the other day, to me, if it was considered to be Massawa. For all we know this invisible frontier line passes through Aden, Muskat, Koweit, Balrein and so on, it goes further and further up and then it comes down again in a curve and it encircles Baluchistan, and then we find it proceeding along the Durand line and between the Durand line and the natural frontier of India, we find the Independent territory. Then it goes upwards. And quite recently, Sir, we find that the Government have found it necessary,—I do not know whether it is the Indian Government or the British Government, but the Government have found it necessary to take over what was known as the Gilgit agency,

and by taking over this area, they have really brought the Russian frontier right down to our own frontier, or to put it the other way about, they have pushed the Indian frontier forward to the confines of the Russian frontier. Contact, Sir, as we know, really means war, because all self-conscious nations have drawn round themselves a ring of fire. If you do not wish to have a conflagration in your own country, then keep out of these contacts. Let others have the contact. Let friendly powers be between you and those who are your real rivals. However, that is the position as far as the Gilgit agency is concerned. By taking over the Gilgit agency, they have not merely made the Russian and Indian frontiers co-terminus, but they have also made the Chinese, the Russian and Indian frontiers co-terminus with the result that if there is a conflict tomorrow between Russia and China in Sinkiang, India will find herself drawn into the conflict quite unnecessarily. And it does not stop there. We find that the Indian frontier goes further north, and passing somewhere below Tibet, it goes on to what I may call the Chinese frontier in the East of Burma through the Shan States. It is like framing the picture of India with a huge big border which is full of explosive ingredients. This is what I call the forward policy

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Law Member): Sir, may I rise to a point of order. I got a notice from my friend, Mr. Satyamurti, in which he said that the motion to be moved was to reduce this grant to Rupee 1. I had no idea that the present motion was substituted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair understood that the real intention was to discuss the policy of the Political Department and not to refuse supplies, which would mean expressing disapproval of the entire Department.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Then, the question will arise whether a cut motion is the proper thing to do.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is a token motion:

"That the demand under the head 'Foreign and Political Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I am only thinking of your ruling, Sir, or rather a previous ruling of the Chair. I did not consider this, because I was given notice at 11-25 A.M. today that something else would be moved.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member will find that has been the practice for a long time, and more than once it was pointed out that instead of giving all sorts of cuts in order to raise particular questions of policy, there ought to be one uniform convention by which the token cut will be a reduction by Rs. 100. That would indicate to the House and to the Chair as to what was intended was to discuss the question of policy of a particular Department.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I do not object to it, but I am drawing your attention to pages 83 and 84 of Part II of Decisions from the Chair.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: If the Honourable the Leader of the House thinks that I should move for the refusal of supplies, I have not the least hesitation to do so, I see no difficulty. You have had ample notice of what I proposed to do, and if I confine myself to something smaller, I don't see why there should be a grouse

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I am not talking of any grouse, but this notice was given to me at 11-25. And, what is more, I got an official letter from Mr. Satyamurti in which it was stated that something else was intended to be moved.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, as my name has been mentioned, I should like to say this. At page 27 of the printed agenda, which contains the final list of cut motions, you will see the same point is mentioned, to discuss the exact perilous nature of the forward policy pursued by the Government of India. The only change has been, instead of giving them one rupee, we give them the whole grant minus Rs. 100, I think he should be thankful to us.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I am quite aware that the object of both the motions is the same. One relates to refusal of supplies which was intended to be moved, and now the Mover has moved a cut motion. I am labouring under no misapprehension. May I draw your attention to page 84, Sir? This is what is stated here:

"All motions for practical elimination of the whole Demand will be entertained only on the ground that the Honourable Member wishes to refuse supplies because he does not approve of the whole policy underlying that Demand."

Then, again, if you turn to the third paragraph, on the same page, you will see it is stated:

"The third form is to move a cut motion for a nominal figure in order to ventilate a specific grievance. Honourable Members are entitled to fix that nominal or token cut at such figure as they like, but having regard to the ruling which I have given today, and in order to facilitate the arrangement of priority for such motions it would be desirable if Honourable Members adopted a uniform figure of cut, say Rs. 100. In that case they would be able to ventilate a specific grievance."

Now, it is not a specific grievance that the Honourable Member is discussing. He is discussing the whole frontier policy. If I am not mistaken, when my friend, Mr. Desai, was speaking on his motion, the Standing Order was suspended, but I had no notice that the same thing was done in this case also, nor was anything said that the Standing Order was being suspended, but there is no point of substance unless there is a difference in the matter to be discussed under one motion or another. If that is not so, I make no point about my getting the notice at 11-25, and so on.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not think anything else was intended. The idea was to discuss the policy of a particular Department under a cut motion. The Honourable Member, Mr. Asaf Ali, can have five minutes more.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Mr. President, I am very sorry that the Leader of the House thought it necessary to raise this point of order rather late in the day and interrupted me while I was going on with my arguments. However,

I was just saying that the pursuit of this forward policy by the Government has created a perilous state of affairs, because of penetration into this no-man's land, as I may call it, which lies between the natural frontiers of India and the frontiers of other countries—the penetration into this no-man's land in various ways leads to conflicts of all kinds, leads to commitments of all kinds, and leaves behind it a legacy of bitterness in those areas which may at any given time flare up into a terrible conflagration, may be at a critical time. The effects of this policy, in so far as the actual demand is concerned, are reflected in the rise of expenditure, not merely incurred on the Foreign and Political Department, but on what I may call the connected services, namely, the Watch and Ward, and the Defence Services, and I shall just try to indicate the excess which has occurred in these departments. Take, for instance, the Watch and Ward Department. We find that the difference between the expenditure incurred in 1935-36 and that proposed to be spent in 1936-37, is something like Rs. 8,16,000. Government now propose to spend Rs. 8,16,000 more on the Watch and Ward than they were prepared to do in 1935-36. Again, on Defence Services, they are certainly going to spend a great deal more this time than they did, we shall say, in 1933-34. This time it is Rs. 45.45 crores, and we must add to that 2 crores lost on strategic railways. Take, for instance, the Foreign and Political Department itself. The excess over the expenditure of 1933-34 is something like Rs. 1,60,000. This indicates that the work of the Foreign and Political Department has increased since 1933-34. In what respects has that increased? It has increased simply because the Government are pursuing a policy of greater and greater commitments from day to day. As I have said before, for instance, taking this Gilgit Agency, they have entered into commitments of a very grave nature, and I should not be surprised if the Additional Secretary, the temporary Joint Secretary, and all the other paraphernalia that they have now added to the Department are due to that. It may not be due to that; my Honourable friend, Sir Aubrey Metcalfe, says it is not due to that. Well, probably, he will be able to explain how these appointments have come to be made in the Department.

Sir, it is really the foreign policy of a country which dictates the defence plans of the country. If you are on friendly terms with your neighbours, you do not pile up armaments, but if you happen to be in a state of precarious relationship with your neighbours, naturally you think of piling up armaments upon armaments, and that is what has been happening in India for years and years and years, resulting in draining away the treasures and blood of the country. In all other countries we find that in peace times the army is kept on a peace establishment basis, but what do we find in India? Has India ever had any peace establishment basis at all? In India the army has always been kept on a war establishment basis. And why is it so? Simply because the foreign policy pursued is ruinous to the country, because it is not conceived in the interests of the country; it is conceived in Imperial interests.

The originating centre of India's foreign policy is Great Britain. They talk very glibly of collective security there. There was a time when they believed in the balance of power, secret treaties and pacts. Today they are talking of collective security. I respectfully submit that there can be no collective security without collective sacrifice. If the nations of this earth, if the powers of this earth, are not prepared to make collective sacrifices, they ought not to look forward to any collective security, but even taking them at their word, what does that collective security mean? That means

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the collective security of the possessions of aggressive powers throughout the world. It really means the security of their possessions, the security of their colonies, the security of their dependencies. It means an easy method of obtaining markets and obtaining countries from where they can draw raw materials. This is what they really mean by collective security. They do not mean the collective security of humanity. This collective security to which they refer is the fool's paradise—behind which I find a hell of distractive elements, destructive factors, which may one day probably bring about the ruin of the whole civilised world itself. It is in that centre that the foreign policy of India is being conceived, in their own interests, and not in the interests of India.

It has been proved time and again that the policy which the Indian Government have pursued with regard to the North-West Frontier is an intolerable burden on the taxpayer. It has also proved irksome and irritating to those brave and hardy tribesmen whose courage and whose love of independence cannot be denied and who must always be respected and are really respected as first class fighting soldiers. They love their independence and they prize it more than their lives. If you drive wedges into their territory, it naturally irritates them and that brings you into conflict with them. Why do the Government pursue this policy? An uncharitable critic might be prepared to say, it is only just to keep the armies in fighting trim. But that is not all. It is possible for the armies to keep themselves in good trim also by seeking all sorts of pretexts to find occasions to come into conflict with these tribes. Let us now cast a glance at the history of the operations on these frontiers. I may here just say a word about the ebb and flow of various policies during the last fifty years. There was a time when there was the forward policy, then there was the half forward policy. Then there was the close border policy, then hit and retire policy, all these are various phases of the one activity which the Government of India have pursued in that place, namely, seeking some opportunity or another to extend the natural frontier of India into the no-man's land.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair has already allowed the Honourable Member five minutes more.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am bringing my speech to a close. I was just saying that if we cast a glance at the operations of the Government on the North-West Frontier, we find that every time they have followed this forward policy it has meant ruination, it has meant destruction. Sir, I think it was on the 5th March, 1923, that Sir Denys Bray, the predecessor of Sir Aubrey Metcalfe made a statement of the Government's policy with regard to the Frontier. He definitely stated then that the Government were committed to a forward policy. Only he explained that the forward policy, to which the Government were committed, was one of civilising these uncivilised people. I leave it to the Honourable Member who represents the Frontier Province to justify the statement or contradict it as the case may be but that is what Sir Denys Bray said at the time. That policy has not been varied since then. The first circular road meant the quartering of troops in Waziristan. The second attempt meant the quartering of troops in the Mchmand territory and the proposed road which they are thinking of now may mean perhaps the revival of the bombing, bribing and browbeating of

these poor people again. That is a ruinous policy and all we can do in this House, helpless as we are, is to enter an emphatic protest against this policy by accepting the motion which I have moved.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Foreign and Political Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Maulana Shaukat Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I will not take very long in supporting this cut. I know nothing about other frontiers of India, but I know a little bit of the North-West Frontier, with which we are all familiar. I have been in touch with some of the brave tribes who live across the border, and I have been in touch with the present Government of Afghanistan, and I have come to this conclusion that, if Government insist on trying to civilise these people, browbeat these people and intimidate them and make them as weak as we are and emasculate them, then there is nothing else but a tremendous lot of trouble for which they alone will be responsible. And I wish to tell them this, that if they start to do what they did with Mohmands last year, when they forcibly built these roads, and if they want to deprive these brave people of their freedom and country, then the whole of the Frontier tribes, including Afghanistan, which is now strong and capable of taking care of its cousins, will be up for a tremendous fight. As a God-fearing Muslim, I will tell you that no God-fearing Muslim in India, soldier or civilian, who thinks of his eternal salvation, will be able to give any help to the British, if they keep up this policy. I want to tell them that, in all conscience, India is big enough and ought to be sufficient for them. Your natural frontier is the Indus. Stick to that. If the people of the five frontier districts—Peshawar, Abbottabad, and Dera Ismail Khan and other districts, want to be part of India, they are quite welcome, but I do know that no independent tribe likes to be under the British control. They like to have their money. Crores of Indian money have been given to them as bribes. The expenditure on this account has been enormous. I know the Khans have been paid to act as agents. There is no question or doubt about it. When I was last in the Frontier, I was in that Khajri plain and I saw the Afridis there, and the Afridi women in their winter quarters. When the Tirah, their country home, gets very cold and it is snowing there, they bring their families and their cattle to this huge plain which has been their winter quarters for centuries. I saw the Gurkha and British troops in camp there, and when the Afridi women were going about for grazing their cattle, 10 or 12 sturdy Afridis waited near by, looked after them and saw that they were not insulted by anybody. Those Afridis put their case before me and I could see clearly, that, when they saw an Army Camp on a football ground for the British and the Gurkhas, they flared up and they were very indignant. If you want to build up in that part a civilisation in future, then please go about it in the right way, and do not rub them up the wrong way. If England wants to spend English money there, she may do what she likes, but we Indians have no quarrel with them. We do not want one inch of their lands, that is not ours. If Afghanistan wants to attack our brethren in the Frontier province,—an idea which Afghanistan and its brave people resent and deny indignantly—and wants to attack India proper, it will be the duty of every Muslim, who calls India his home, to go and fight against his own Muslim brethren in defence of his country,—India, but it will be the greatest misfortune, if, in the name of India, these brave people are robbed

[Maulana Shaukat Ali.]

of their hearths and homes and, as far as I am concerned, I will declare that I will become an outlaw again and fight and die for my brethren there. I am a peace maker. People may laugh at it but I am. I must warn my English friends and my friend, the Foreign Secretary, for whom I have personal regard, that India is big enough and the British Empire is still bigger. You have got Canada, Australia and other places where millions of acres of land are lying fallow. Why do you go and trouble these people across the Frontier? In the last Great War, Arab lands and Turkish lands were involved. I do not want to bring in Palestine. I will have a talk privately with my friend, the Foreign Secretary, and tell him what Mussalmans feel about Palestine. I know there will be tremendous trouble one day on account of bringing in Jews from Russia and Eastern Europe . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair would ask the Honourable Member to confine himself to the motion before the House.

Maulana Shaukat Ali: Very well, Sir, but I will say this. We will beg this Government on our knees and ask them not to hanker after a few thousand barren acres across the Indian Frontier. At one time, British people were casting eyes on Afghanistan. They failed miserably. Afghanistan has now a strong and powerful Government, thank God, and they can take care of themselves. If Russia wants to attack India, Afghanistan is strong enough to stop Russia and the 350 millions of people in India must be strong enough to defend their own country. If this Government does not listen to us, then, certainly, I shall censure them and do my best to see that they fail in this forward policy which will be very injurious to the country and also very bad for the British Empire.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham (Secretary, Defence Department): If I intervene in this debate for a few minutes, it is because the Army is directly interested in the Frontier, and also because the Honourable the Mover and the Honourable Member who followed him both referred to the doings of the army in that part of the world. It may also be of use to the House if I place before them certain facts and figures as a background for this debate to show the way in which we, in the Army, look at this particular problem. All these facts and figures are contained in a pamphlet that we issued a few years ago and which, I am afraid, has not been read nearly as much as it ought to be, but I will, if the House permits, quote a few extracts from that pamphlet. I do not think it is a question of any desire on our part to expand our territory, as the last Honourable Member seemed to think: it is a question of giving protection and security to the inhabitants of British India. Now, Sir, this is what the pamphlet says:

"Between what is known as the 'administrative' border and the true frontier of the North-west of India, that is the Durand line, there lies a belt of tribal territory roughly one thousand miles in length (*I think that is possibly an exaggeration*), and inhabited by a population who, from time immemorial, have pursued 'the good old rule, the simple plan, that those should take who have the power, and those should keep who can'."

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is the British rule, isn't it?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham:

"Every grown man is a potential warrior: their combined fighting strength may be put at nearly half a million; and, they possess between them, at least 250,000 rifles, most of which are modern weapons of precision. The man behind the gun is probably as good a marksman as is to be found in any part of the world (*Hear, hear*); and the character of the country is such as to lend itself admirably to the guerilla warfare in which its inhabitants excel. The arid and rocky nature of the soil precludes the possibility of earning a livelihood from the pursuits of peace; and for centuries these men have looked upon their more wealthy, but less virile, neighbours in the plains of India as their legitimate prey."

That, Sir, is the main point. Then, so far as the army is concerned we are accused of spending enormous sums of money (unnecessarily no doubt), but the facts, so far as the North-West Frontier is concerned, are as follows, and this is again a quotation from the pamphlet:

"Against a menace of this character and extent is constantly opposed a force of about 42,000 regular troops. In addition there are the irregular formations—the various bodies of lightly-equipped and mobile Scouts and Levies—to whom a reference has already been made. The strength of these latter forces may be put at about 15,000 men; but, valuable as their work undoubtedly is, their training and organization impose obvious limitations on their utility; and it is on the regular armed forces that the ultimate responsibility for the peace of the Frontier must lie. That the menace is not an unreal one is proved by the fact that in the last 70 years there have been no less than 26 major campaigns on the Frontier, not to mention innumerable raids and small punitive expeditions."

And, now, this is the most important point of all:

"It is interesting to note in this context that the average cost of operations on the Frontier under the close-border policy from 1895 to 1919 was in the neighbourhood of Rs. 50 lakhs a year. The Third Afghan war and the occupation of Waziristan from 1919 to 1924 cost nearly Rs. 11 crores a year. Since 1924, under the present policy of civilization and the quartering of troops in tribal areas, combined with the existence of the air arm, the expenditure on operations up to April, 1934, had fallen to Rs. 12½ lakhs a year." (*Hear, hear.*)

An Honourable Member: What about the back to the Indus policy?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Well, Sir, Honourable Members are continually complaining that the Defence Budget is too high, and that we ought to reduce it, but Honourable Members, I do suggest, sometimes forget, that, however much it may cost to maintain an army, it costs a great deal more to use it. Honourable Members seem to think that the only possible way of reducing your army expenditure is to reduce the numbers of the army; but I suggest to them that there is another and a better method of reducing defence expenditure and that is to try and create such conditions, especially on the frontier, as will make it less necessary to use the army than it has been in the past. Surely, Sir, it is better to spend lakhs, quite a large number of lakhs, on building roads for the purposes of peace and civilization than to spend crores, and quite a large number of crores, on fighting people and dealing out death and destruction. That, Sir, is all I have to say on this motion.

Dr. Khan Sahib (North-West Frontier Province: General): Sir, I rise to support this motion and to submit to the House certain points specifically economical,—because you will all agree with me that the representatives of the moneylenders from England never do anything unless they can get gold out of it; and anything they touch is for this purpose alone, namely, to have money out of it. Now, if you examine this forward

[Dr. Khan Sahib.]

policy outwardly, you will see that there is no money. The Shylock cannot scent gold in the rocky and arid mountains of the Afridis or Waziris. Then, what is it which induces them to carry on this forward policy? Sir, you will note that after establishing the Razmak cantonment, as you call it, or a big place on which they have spent crores and crores of rupees, have they decreased any of the other bodies which are the causes of this expense? I think my Honourable friend from Karachi calls it "Watch and Ward"? It is for these things that they want to carry on the forward policy: they want to go there, and then create bodies, from which to draw money for this purpose. Sir, I shall mention to you only a few of these bodies: the Kurram militia, the South Waziristan Scouts, the Zhob militia, the Chitral and Gilgit Scouts, and so on, and these bodies are officered only by Europeans. No Indian is yet fit to be an officer of such a body, and the pay of a Lieutenant, that is, the most junior officer, you will be surprised to know, is Rs. 1,200, *actual pay*, and, on the top of it, he receives from Rs. 300 to 400 as allowances. Now, these are the real reasons which force them to carry on this forward policy; otherwise they cannot create bodies like that. Now, we Pathans on our side call this expense, "the mountain's account", the account of the dark hills. Nobody can ask them for this account and they are responsible to none. We have, as the Honourable Members know, time after time asked this Government to show us how they spend the money, but still we hear nothing. They say they want to protect us. (Laughter.) The Honourable Member who represents the army read out something as regards the policy but he did not give us a single point showing when the Afridis ever came and attempted to take India. When, I ask, did they ever come down on us, without provocation? As regards these little raids on the frontier which he mentioned, these are committed by people who have run away into the tribal territory and are outlaws, and they come back with the consent of the police and loot the people. There is no raid by the Afridis into India. Otherwise, let them give me an instance.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe (Foreign Secretary): What about 1930?

Dr. Khan Sahib: Because the Government were responsible for that. My Honourable friend has referred to the Peshawar firing, and I must clear that point. In the Peshawar firing, 250 innocent people were killed including some Afridis. That brought the Afridis down with a view to protecting the innocent. The Afridis are a very peaceful and honest people, and they only do certain things on provocation.

The other day, I mentioned about the Rs. 5 tax which the Government have imposed on those poor people. They put in three applications, one to the Deputy Commissioner, Kohat, who is the Political Officer, another to the Governor of the Frontier and one was sent to the Viceroy. Nobody takes any notice. The Government say they are living in those rugged mountains with nothing to feed upon. Yet, when these poor people cut a little firewood and bring it down, a tax is levied on them. Saying is one thing and doing is another with the Government. They have no sympathy. They have got only one purpose and that is, drinking other people's blood. The Government embarked upon the last Mohmand expedition with the intention of making a new road. They spent 12 lakhs over that. What is the advantage to India? We have lost 12 lakhs of money and many soldiers on our side lost their lives. On the other side

also we have killed our brethren. Everything must be judged by the result and the net profit gained. The net profit is that many innocent people lost their lives and a lot of money was wasted, and I do not know whether 50 per cent. of the money did not go into the pockets of these fortune hunters. They want to build another road from Landi Kotal to Lachi. I think there was a *jirga*, and I do not know whether this is going on even now. I think the Governor spoke to them and the Foreign Secretary also was there at the time. Then the Afridis, those section of them who are under the Government influence, have put in application which I will read out to the House:

"We, the Afridis, have listened to Your Excellency's speech very carefully; we have considered it and are very thankful to you for your keeping always in mind the improvement of our conditions. Your Excellency has further stated that on account of the last few incidents the British Government have no faith left in our goodwill and that is why the Afridis are expelled from the Army. Your Excellency says that if we regain your confidence and establish satisfactory relations with your Government, your Government will agree to enlist us again in the army. For establishing good relations you put forward a plan that a road should be constructed in Thera. To begin with, your Excellency proposes the following step, that in this winter a road should be constructed from Ali Masjid to Chura Khandawo; with the following conditions. We accept this:

(1) This will be our national road, no army or police will be allowed on the road without the consent of the Afridis. During war time the road will be free for the use of troops. This arrangement shall have no effect on our present allowance.

(2) No land revenue or water tax should be levied.

(3) On the construction of this road, the Government will have no right to interfere with the internal affairs of the Afridis. No road should be constructed beyond the Chura Khandawo without the consent of the tribe through whose territories the road passes.

(4) The contract for the construction should be given to the Afridis only and nobody else.

(5) On establishing good relations we hope the Government will consider and help in the improvement of our condition."

I am sure, Sir, you see the difficulties in this road. The people who have signed the application are not really the representatives of all the tribes of Thera, because some of the Afridi tribes do not come down at all. They have nothing to do with this Government, but they may be influenced by these tribes who are under the thumb of the Government. So, by making a road like that, I do not know how much it will cost. I assure the House that no Afridi will permit a road into Thera unless his life is taken first. As you know, last time, when I was speaking in this House I brought to your notice the application which they had sent to this House. I wonder why Government want to go to other people's country, and spend money on it. The Government are always alluding to the Russian bogey. Now, Sir, you know, as soon as the Bolsheviks came to power, the first letter which Lenin wrote to Amanullah Khan was that the Afghan territory in the hands of Russia will be returned and that the Russians would also financially help Afghanistan too.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney (Nominated Non-Official): Question.

Dr. Khan Sahib: I think my Honourable friend ought to read the manifesto of Lenin and Redek in which they described how the freedom of Persia was in jeopardy owing to the tyranny of the Czar on the one side and the tyranny of the British Government on the other, and how the two powers divided their spheres of influence in Persia between them.

[Dr. Khan Sahib.]

Practically, when the Bolsheviks came into power, they set free Persia. So you see who is guilty. The Bolsheviks have come to help the poor and to release people from their tyranny. On the frontier all these things are happening because of the Political Department. The Pathans are a humorous people. They understand the intrigues of the Political Department well. When they want to tell a man that he is not telling the truth they tell him, "Oh, you are a political man". The Pathans have got a very keen sense of understanding. I will read to you some opinions of a great Englishman which correspond with that of the Pathans. In his journal at page 158, General Gordon says:

"I must say I hate our diplomatists. I think with few exceptions they are arrant humbugs and I expect they know. I include the Colvin class."

In another place of the same journal, he writes:

"We are an honest nation."

—and I agree with him,—

"but our diplomatists are Conies and not officially honest."

Again, I agree with him too.

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan (Nominated Non-Official): He was a soldier and not a politician.

Dr. Khan Sahib: I like soldiers, and not politicians. So, Sir, I think I have made it clear to the House that this forward policy has got something else in view. Even the aeroplanes which fly there or the motor cars,—all these are for economic purposes. India loses everything and it all goes to the foreign countries. So, in forward policy, there is no gain for us. Apart from this money, we are always losing and will lose, still further, more lives. Let us protect from this Government the lives of our young people, which at least we can to a certain extent do.

Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur (South Madras: Muhammadan): Sir, in supporting this motion, I have to invite the attention of Government to the saying of one Persian philosopher who says:

*"Kar-e khud kun kar-e baigana makun
Bar zameen-e digaran khana makun."*

"You had better mind your own business: do not make inroads into the dominions of others, literally means that don't you put up any buildings on other's land."

(Interruption from Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan.)

If my Honourable friend, Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan, thinks my translation is not correct, let him come forward and challenge me. What is the use of whispering?

Sir, let me now come to the point. Last year, when a sum of 25 lakhs of rupees was set apart for putting up roads into the tribal area, it was urged by the Finance Member that there was a request made by the tribes to the effect that roads should be constructed in their land. That statement was refuted by my Honourable friend, Dr. Khan Sahib, then and there. He showed letters to the contrary duly signed by the Afridis

and sent over here. But even then the road was put up, and what was the result? As has been pointed out to the House, so many lives were lost and so much money was spent for nothing. This policy, as was pointed out by my Honourable friend, the Army Secretary, is said to be a civilising policy. This kind of civilisation is not at all relished, nor do the Afridis want this civilisation for even a single moment. Why do you force this civilisation upon them when they do not want it? And if you are so keen on this kind of civilising influence being brought about there, why do you not tolerate the same thing in the case of Italy who wants to civilise Abyssinia and is tyrannising there? This very Government has been applying the sanctions; therefore, there is no meaning in saying in one breath that the forward policy is intended to protect them, and, in another breath, that this is with a view to civilising them. We know what kind of civilisation they mean. Sir, intoxicating drinks and other concomitants are not at all wanted in the tribal area; they hate all these things from the bottom of their heart. I have visited these borders; I have gone as far as the Durand line, Kohat, etc. I have also seen the roads constructed by the Britishers; they are of no use either to us or to the Afghans. This year, again, they propose to construct additional roads for nothing. Then, there are agents of the British Government, many of whom are Muslims, who come over here and do propaganda in favour of the construction of roads saying that thereby so many Afridis will become bread-winners. They would rather like to starve than have roads of this kind which are calculated to encroach upon their liberty. Again, our Honourable friend, the Defence Secretary, said that the tribal people have got a force of 2½ lakhs. Where have they got this huge force from, and how is it that he proposes to have only 42,000 men, i.e., one-sixth of that number, to protect 350 millions? Sir, we, on our part, cannot be a party to this thing. So far as we are concerned, we have lost our freedom and are living here the life of slaves; we do not want to see them also losing their freedom. This kind of inroad into tribal area is calculated to bring about disorder and create unnecessary wars, etc. Therefore, I heartily support the motion.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, nearly all the speakers on that side of the House have tried to prove that the so-called forward policy of the Government of India is neither in the interest of India nor of the Frontier tribes, and that it is very expensive and is simply a waste of Indian money.

Several Honourable Members: Also Indian lives.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: That criticism is not correct and true. So far as my own personal knowledge and experience of the Foreign Office in India as well as in England go, I think, whatever steps the Government of India take in connection with the frontiers, in each and every question the foremost consideration is the safety and safeguarding of the interests of the Indian Empire. It is well-known that India is the brightest jewel in the Crown of England (*Cries of "Oh" and Laughter*).

An Honourable Member: You are the brightest jewel!

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): You are the Kohinoor!

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: . . . and that England, without India, cannot remain a first class power. (*Cries of "Hear, hear."*) Therefore, naturally and logically, it is impossible for England that in all imperial and other important questions, as Mr. Asaf Ali has said, the question of Indian interests should not arise. In each and every such question, the interest and safety of India is considered first.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: . . . and particularly Tank.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: It is a question of opinion. Some people have always a mentality of looking at the actions of Government with doubt and on one side. No reasons can convince them.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: But we have to pay for them.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: Sir, it was at the request of the people of the Settled Districts that Government made Razmak a cantonment in order to save them from the raids of the tribal people. The Hindus, the Muhammadans and the Sikhs of the Settled Districts of the North-West Frontier Province and the Hindus of Bannu sent applications to the then Chief Commissioner, Sir John Maffey, praying for stopping the raids, dacoities and kidnapping and the rescue of those persons who were kidnapped. The Chief Commissioner pressed the matter, but the Political Department in the Agencies complained that the people of the Settled Districts encouraged kidnapping by paying large ransom. The authorities informed the people that they should not pay ransom and should have no connection with the tribes and that the authorities would bring back those kidnapped. Naturally, in those days, kidnapping was greater among the rich Hindus than among the poor Muslims. The people whose relatives were kidnapped waited patiently. In the meantime, the kidnappers killed one out of the several kidnapped persons and sent his head to the relatives with a message that, if such and such a sum as ransom was not paid, similar treatment would be meted out to the others. They then went to the Deputy Commissioner, showed the head of the murdered person and asked how long they were to wait for the orders of Government. They said that if Government could not save them, they could not wait till every man kidnapped had been beheaded. The Chief Commissioner then issued a very strong circular letter to all the Political Agents and the Deputy Commissioners. There is an official circular letter which I can show to Honourable Members, and they will be quite convinced that it was a very strong letter,—can I ask my friend, Dr. Khan Sahib, and every other supporter of the cut motion, if they can show a stronger letter than this from a Chief Commissioner to all European Political Agents and the Deputy Commissioners of the North-West Frontier Province? He enquired why the districts were being looted, why these raids were taking place, and why, when the districts were a part of British India, the people should be treated in such a brutal way, specially when there were military cantonments in each district of the province. What for is the King's army then, and, why, if people were kidnapped in this manner, the Government should exist? The result was that the raids were stopped and kidnapping ceased as a consequence of this new policy which the Honourable Members criticise. You need not take this as a gospel truth from me: but you can ask your own men, the Hindus, the Muhammadans and the Sikhs.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is not a Mussalman question: it is an Indian question we are talking about.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: On account of pressure from people who said that if Government could not stop these raids properly, then they should leave this country and give it to Afghanistan or any other king who could manage it properly, that this policy of making Razmak a big cantonment was started by the Government. The Honourable Sir Muhammad Shafi, who was a Member of the Executive Council of the Government of India then, and Sir William Vincent, had toured in the North-West Frontier Province and actually discussed this matter on the spot with the people of the locality, and then this policy was started. This forward policy was not, as some Honourable Members and people think, for the greed or aggrandisement of the country. It is a barren country it does not pay the Government, it is a burden to them, but it is only for the protection and safety of the people of Settled Districts that the Government went there in the tribal territory, opened the country and established a cantonment. Now, the tribal people are so much benefited by this policy that they will not allow the Government to leave the cantonment.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): Would you allow me to ask a question? When was this policy started and when will it end?

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: It was started at our request when we were very much troubled

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: What year?

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: It was during the Great War: 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It was started in 1895, and it has gone on since then.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: What I was saying I meant that Razmak was started as a cantonment

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: When will it end?

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: It will be ended when there is no necessity for it. (Laughter.)

[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).]

The people of the Frontier, I mean the tribes, when asked as to why they commit these raids, dacoities and kidnapping, said that their country was too barren and that they had no means of living at all. Now, roads have been opened, and these people are allowed to bring whatever they produce into our markets. They are more rich and civilised, they are better off, and no raids and kidnapping take place. If Government were to tell them that they were leaving the country, they would say "For God's sake, do not do so, we will starve then or start the same old game". They

[Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan.]

have now various means of livelihood, as contracts, daily labour, trade, service, etc., and now they are good drivers of motor cars, and they are making their living. In addition to this, the Government, for providing some employment to the tribes, have started a sort of militia and frontier constabulary, and the tribal people do earn money there as *khassadars*. It is a very useful humane policy on the part of Government. If you remove all such sources of employment from the tribes, they will revolt and like to kill all the Members of the Legislature who oppose such a useful forward policy which saves them from hunger, starvation and death. I ask all the Muslim Members of this Legislature, is there any remedy if the Government, to stop all these raids and activities on this side, build a wall on our side, and the Afghanistan Government, on the other side, build a wall on their side, and then, between these two walls, how the tribes are to live? Sir, as for the expense of such a forward policy, the Defence Secretary has told us what a large amount was spent when we had a close border policy and had not penetrated the tribal country and now what a small amount is spent since we become tyrannical and oppressive as is alleged

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Major Nawab Ahmad Nawaz Khan: One or two minutes more, Sir. The other side of this House has not shown the real state of affairs. They have depicted the picture as if Government are tyrannical and greedy and have done everything against our rights: but it is not so. The Defence Secretary has shown that enormous money is saved by this policy. When we were fighting with the tribes, there was a great loss of life, loss of money and loss of everything. I cannot understand on what ground or arguments it is said that this is a forward policy of harmful penetration and what not. You know very well that the Government are not gaining even a penny and that it does not help the Englishmen or the English country in any way. With these few remarks, I oppose the motion.

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: Sir, the Mover of the motion took me slightly by surprise in extending the scope of his remarks so very widely. He suggested that India was extending her frontiers as far as the Suez Canal.....

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I said invisible frontiers, not the frontiers.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: They are certainly invisible: so far as I know, they are non-existent. There are no less than three foreign countries which lie between India and the Suez Canal, all of which would intensely resent any suggestion that India extended any kind of frontier, visible, invisible or otherwise, which included their territories. There are one or two points, I admit, which require answer, and I will deal particularly with Gilgit later in my speech: but so far even as Aden is concerned, as the House is aware, Aden has been for a great many years part of British India, and I understood that the only thing to which the Indian public took exception was the possibility of Aden ceasing to be part

of British India. There has been no extension at any rate in that direction, or in any other so far as I know, of the visible or invisible frontiers of India. Gilgit, as I say, I shall deal with later.

I should now like to come to the North-West Frontier, and I am grateful to my Honourable friend for having given me this opportunity of stating briefly some of Government's views and policies with regard to that much-discussed area. The last debate which took place, so far as I am aware, was in 1923, when, as the Honourable Member pointed out, Sir Denys Bray made a speech on the subject, describing what was going to be the policy of the Government of India from that date forward. Now, may I say, first of all, that as Government view the question, there are three ingredients in the frontier question? I may possibly be here repeating what is already familiar to a number of Honourable Members, but my excuse must be that it is possible that some Members have not, like my Honourable friend, the Mover, read this last debate and may not be so well up in the facts, which I am going to explain, as my friend, Mr. Asaf Ali. If I do say things which are already known, I must apologise for them.

The three ingredients, as we see them, are, first of all, the settled districts which, as you know, are fully administered under the ordinary law. They march with what is known as tribal territory which is for the greater part unadministered, though there are certain portions which have a loose administration. Beyond that tribal territory lies the independent foreign State of Afghanistan with which we are in treaty relations of friendship and of neighbourliness. That being so, Government have certain duties; they have duties to the inhabitants of the settled districts which are to protect them, so far as may be, from incursions and raids from the tribal territory which lies immediately on their borders. My Honourable and gallant friend from Dera Ismail Khan has told you something about the difficulties which he and other inhabitants of the settled districts have suffered from, and I can tell you from my own experience, as Deputy Commissioner, of the many raids which used to take place under the old system: at any rate, I think it will be admitted freely that Government have a duty to try and preserve the inhabitants of their settled districts, who pay taxes, from the dangers of raids, kidnapping, and so forth. Secondly, we have a duty to the inhabitants of the tribal territory. The duty, as we see it, is to try and provide them with some means of earning a reasonable livelihood, without resorting to raids and incursions, which have for many years been one of their staple means of livelihood. We have been attempting to do this in a very generous measure, as I shall hope to show to the House in a few minutes. Our third duty is towards Afghanistan. We have, as I say, treaty relations with Afghanistan, and there is a mutual obligation, both on the Government of India and the Government of Afghanistan, to prevent their subjects from raiding across the Durand Line and also to prevent their subjects from interfering in the internal and domestic affairs of the other country. I hope it will not be thought that this is a duty which we merely invent in order to justify our actions, because I can assure the House that it is a duty which we have had on more than one occasion in recent years to undertake and to try to fulfil. It is impossible to fulfil that duty unless we have some measure of control over the inhabitants of the tribal area which extends up to the Durand Line and is beyond the administered districts. It was only in 1933 that a very large body of our tribesmen did interfere in a domestic affair: it was a revolution of sorts—a rebellion shall we call

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it—against the Afghan Government, and some of our tribes did go across and join the rebels. We had to take action in order to ensure that they came back and did not cause trouble, embarrassment and danger to a friendly foreign Government. If we have no measure of control over the areas which extend between the Administered Districts and the Durand Line, I submit that it is not possible for us to fulfil the real duty which we owe to a neighbouring foreign Government.

I will now attempt briefly to describe how in past years Government have tried to fulfil these three duties. My friend, the Maulana, who seems to have left the House, appeared to suggest that we should go back to the Indus. Well, I do not know whether he makes the suggestion seriously, and I am not sure if I have the time to deal with it, but if he has made it seriously, I might venture to quote to the House a passage from Sir Denys Bray's speech which he made in 1923. It is not long. He says:

"I had thought that the old cry of 'Back to the Indus' had long since been silenced for ever. I was wrong. It has been re-appearing of late in our press; it even found its way into the evidence adduced before us on the Military Requirements Committee. Back to the Indus? Shall we betray our fellow subjects on the frontier? Shall we hand them over to the tender mercies of the independent tribesmen in the first instance, and thereafter to—who shall say? Back to the Indus? If India ever went back to the Indus, not all the five rivers of the Punjab would set the mark to the erosion of India's soil that would then ensue. Back to the Indus? Let the House say here and now whether India is ever going back to the Indus. In the domain of India's foreign politics, I know of one fixed and immutable rule only. What India has, let India hold. India is large enough to cover not a single square mile of ground that is not already her own. But India is not large enough to allow any invader of India—be he independent tribesman or foreign power, from south or north or east or west,—more of her soil than a plot of ground 7 feet by 2½ and 4 feet deep."

Well, Sir, I hope that is sufficient to do away with any idea of "Back to the Indus". The other two theories which have held the field in past years are firstly the close border policy,—which was abandoned about 1921, and, secondly, the policy which Sir Denys Bray defended in 1923 known as the "forward policy",—not quite an accurate name, but the label has been given to it. The closed border policy, Sir, has a number of disadvantages, and the only advantage that can be claimed for it is that it does to some extent enable us to fulfil our duty No. I, that is towards our settled districts. Even that is a very inadequate way of fulfilling that duty, because it still leaves us entirely without remedy for the outlaw question which, as every Deputy Commissioner on the North-West Frontier knows, is one of the chief difficulties he has to contend with. It does nothing to help us to fulfil our second duty towards our tribesmen, or our third duty towards Afghanistan. I will not say more about that.

I will now very briefly state what has been done since 1923 in the way of pursuing the "forward" or peaceful penetration policy. Sir Denys Bray fully described exactly what it was, and I may merely say that it consists mainly in the establishment of roads, the employment of tribesmen from among themselves to guard these roads, and giving opportunities of improving their economic and social conditions. I claim, Sir, that great success has attended these efforts. I have received not very long ago Notes, a copy of which I should be very glad to place on the table of the House if anybody was interested, from a Political Agent in South Waziristan who is unequalled in his sympathy both with the Mahsuds

and the Waziris, showing what he has been able to do among the Mahsuds and Waziris with their full consent and approval. He has succeeded in getting them to give him a certain portion of their allowances in order that he may organize for them irrigation schemes, vocational training, the supply of seed grains, forest assistance, instruction in agricultural methods, technical training in motor driving. A large number of activities of that sort have been started among Mahsuds and Waziris during the last seven or eight years which have been of material assistance and benefit to them in earning an honest livelihood instead of having to raid.....

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: What about the Mohmands?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: As regards the Mohmands and Afridis, we have still, to all intents and purposes, preserved the "closed border policy". We have not been able to go among them, because they have not desired our assistance.

Now, we come to the latest developments which only date back from last year. It is only an extension of the policy which has been tried in Waziristan and which, we maintain, has been a successful experiment. The fact is that the Afridis, with all respect to my friends on the other side, have largely themselves to blame for the present position where they find themselves in an extremely bad economic situation. They have always been extremely well treated by Government in the matter of allowances and in other ways also, in the matter of recruitment, and so on, but as they have themselves admitted in that agreement or rather petition which my friend from the North-West Frontier was good enough to read,—I meant to read it myself to the House, but he has saved me the trouble,—in that petition they have admitted that there were occasions when they had forfeited their right to the full recruitment which they had had before the war owing to difficulties of desertion and so on. Government's idea was that although the Afridis had been considerably to blame and were in a bad way, Government were anxious to help them. Negotiations were therefore started with the Afridis very largely at their own instance to ascertain if they would consent to have a road built through their limits which would bring them more closely in touch with civilization and would enable them to trade more freely with Peshawar and generally to enjoy more economic benefits than they had before. With this were also to be given educational and medical facilities and a certain amount of money for the development of the natural resources of their country. Well, for anything that may be said by my friends on the other side, the fact was that the largest Jirga of Afridis that had ever been collected came down to Peshawar about a year ago. They were allowed ample time for consultation, they were interviewed on more than one occasion by His Excellency the Governor himself, and eventually they freely signed the petition which my friend, Dr. Khan Sahib, has read out to you. He suggested that the signatories were not representative of the Afridis. I should like just to tell you, Sir, that the signatories included 125 Udredunke Kuki Tirah Wal Kuki Khel, 30 Malikdin Khel, 34 Qamber Khel, 79 Aka Khel, 43 Sepah, 63 Kamarai and 146 Zakha Khel. Well, Sir, if that is not a representative Jirga, then I do not know what is. Having signed that petition, what happened? The road was started without any particular difficulty, and a few days after it was started there began to be trouble from certain elements in the tribe which presumably

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did not think that they were going to get enough out of the arrangement. After the representatives of the tribe had given a definite petition to Government and everything was agreed, these hostile elements went back on their promise and proceeded, first of all, to burn a school which Government had built for their benefit. They proceeded then to build pickets in a place where they had no right to build them under their agreement and which prevented our *khassadars* from performing their duty of preventing smuggling and evasion of Khyber tolls. Several other offences have been committed since. One offence which is definitely traced to them took place in the Charsadda sub-division when they attacked a motor car occupied by a British lady and robbed her attendants of their revolvers. The revolvers have actually been recovered from an Afridi section. Another offence which was attributed to them is the attack which was made very recently upon our Honourable President.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is a fake!

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: That, Sir, my Honourable friend may know; I do not know it.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have you found out the culprits? Who are the culprits?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I do not say that it has been absolutely proved, but it is thought, almost beyond doubt, that that particular offence, in which the President very narrowly escaped with his life in the Peshawar district, was arranged by certain people from amongst the Afridis. Their general behaviour has been very unsatisfactory, with the result that for a short time their allowances were withheld, not on account of the road, but on account of their general behaviour.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Will the Honourable Member take some more time? It is now five O'clock. Will he take long?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: Not long.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Will he be able to finish his speech in two minutes?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I am afraid not.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Then the Chair will adjourn the House till tomorrow, and he can resume his speech then.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 10th March, 1936.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 10th March, 1936.

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.

PROMOTION OF CLASS I CLERKS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1047. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Is it a fact that a very small percentage of grade II posts exists on the North Western Railway for clerical staff in offices and at stations? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to provide chances for promotion by grade I clerks? If not, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the figures of sanctions on North Western Railway in grades I and II, for certain categories—say office clerks, goods clerks, booking clerks, luggage clerks, ticket collectors, shed clerks, train clerks, and works clerks?

(b) Is it a fact that a sub-committee of the Indian Railways Conference Association, under the Chairmanship of Mr. B. L. Cameron, Deputy Agent, North Western Railway, appointed by the parent body, had decided, *vide* minutes of the sub-committee meeting held in October, 1932, that the maximum of the lower grade for the office and station clerical staff be fixed at Rs. 85? If so, why was this over-ruled? Do Government, in view of the above-quoted decision, propose to revise the scales of pay of grade I on the lines suggested by the Cameron Committee? If not, why not?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the financial effect of amalgamating grades I and II for station and office clerical staff on the North Western Railway?

(d) Is it a fact that the revised policy of Government in regard to the interests on loans, for the railway purposes, as stated by the Board in their memorandum to the Public Accounts Committee, is likely to yield a saving of two crores of rupees during the next four years, and a further saving of three crores of rupees is expected from the operation of the revised scales of pay, recently introduced on the State Railways, and do Government in view of the expected savings, propose to afford relief to grade I clerks, on the North Western Railway, and immediately start with amalgamation of the grades I and II? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) I place a statement on the table of the House giving the information readily available. Government consider that the number of posts in the grade is sufficient for normal grade to grade promotions on the occurrence of vacancies.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The latter part does not arise. I would, however, refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to parts (a) and (b) of unstarred question No. 63 asked by Bhai Parma Nand on the 22nd February, 1935, regarding the scales of pay for the clerical staff in force on the North Western Railway.

(c) Government have not worked out any exact figures but consider that the cost of amalgamation of grades I and II for station and office clerical staff would be considerable; probably running into recurring expenditure of several lakhs of rupees per annum.

(d) Government regret they are not prepared to utilise savings towards expenditure which, they consider, is not justified.

Statement showing the strength of clerical establishment in grades I and II and certain other categories in 1935.

	II	I	Percentage of grade II to I.
Office clerks	1,064	1,141	93.2
Station clerks	662	5,469	12.1

The sanctioned strength of grades I and II of categories named below as it stood in 1935 with the exception of Works Clerks, information in respect of whom is not readily available, is given below.

	II	I
Office Clerks	1,064	1,141
Goods Clerks	156	1,392
Booking Clerks	67	1,061
Parcel and Luggage Clerks	53	492
Ticket Collectors	80	824
Shed Clerks	44	270
Trains Clerks	48	529

ASSESSMENT OF INCOME-TAX IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS OF THE PUNJAB.

1048. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) What were the respective amounts of income-tax to be levied in the districts of (1) Hissar, (2) Rohtak, (3) Gurgaon, and (4) Karnal, during the years 1931-32, 1932-33, 1933-34, 1934-35, 1935-36, and how much of these amounts was remitted every year?

(b) How many persons in the Hissar district were taxed on their estimated income, and how many of them had their account books properly admitted during the years 1933-34, 1934-35 and 1935-36?

(c) Are there any reasons for which the amount of income-tax in the Hissar district has been enhanced in 1935-36 over and above the amount levied in 1934-35?

(d) Are Government aware that the district of Hissar has been suffering from scarcity of food for the last five years, and that Government had to remit nearly twelve lakhs of rupees in their land revenue, and the people have been badly off during this period?

(e) Are Government aware that on account of the money-lenders indebtedness relief laws, the income of the money-lenders class has been much reduced?

(f) Is it a fact that several respectable persons of the money-lending class made a representation against the officers of the Income-tax Department, in December last? If so, how have Government considered that representation?

(g) Is it a fact that that representation says that the officers of the department advance the fact of large contributions towards the Silver Jubilee Fund as an evidence of their wealth?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) A statement is laid on the table. The information regarding the amounts remitted is not available.

(b) The information is not available.

(c) The year 1935-36 not being complete, the correctness of the assumption underlying the Honourable Member's question cannot be verified.

(d) and (e). Government have no information.

(f) and (g). Complaints in general terms were made in December, 1935, but the Commissioner's request for more detailed particulars has not been complied with.

Statement showing the assessment figures (Demand) for the years 1931-32 to 1934-35 in the Districts of Hissar, Rohtak, Gurgaon and Karnal in the Punjab.

Years.	Hissar.	Rohtak.	Gurgaon.	Karnal.
1931-32	1,72,053	1,28,008	79,851	1,48,968
1932-33	1,90,241	1,24,713	89,576	1,56,606
1933-34	1,62,145	1,05,993	66,821	74,734
1934-35	1,73,635	90,589	75,783	1,30,502
1935-36	The information is not available.			

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: With regard to part (d), did the Honourable Member's Department make an inquiry?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The matter is primarily the concern of the Local Government.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: After the notice of the question, did the Honourable Member inquire whether actually there were famine conditions prevailing there?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The Department of the Government of India concerned did not, I think, make any such inquiry, as the matter primarily concerns the Local Government.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Did not the Honourable Member enquire whether remission to the tune of 12 lakhs had to be made on account of scarcity?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: No, Sir.

NEW APPOINTMENTS TO BE CREATED IN SIND.

1049. ***Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) how many new appointments are proposed to be created in the Imperial, Provincial, subordinate and menial services in the separated Province of Sind;
- (b) the cost of the new appointments in these various services, separately; and
- (c) whether they have carefully considered the question of the extra expenditure involved in the creation of the new appointments in view of the fact that they will have to pass the Sind budget and give a subvention to the new Province of Sind?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) and (b). Although the staff necessary, to enable the Government of the new Province to start functioning on the first day of its existence, has to be provisionally settled in advance, in the case of a large number of appointments the power to continue, abolish or add thereto will lie with the new Government. It is not possible at present to give details of the number and cost involved.

(c) The necessity for keeping expenditure as low as possible consistently with due regard to efficiency has been, and will be, carefully borne in mind by the Government of India in the exercise of their powers of control and in view of the subvention from the Central Revenues.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: In view of the fact that there is enough material in Sind, have Government taken into consideration the fact that outsiders should not be imported into the Secretariat and other offices?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: My Honourable friend makes certain assumptions about certain materials in Sind. I have not applied my mind to that question. I have no information.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I inform the Honourable Member that he may take it from me that there is material there. Will Government give an undertaking that, if there is material in Sind, they will not import outsiders?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I can give no undertaking at present.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah: The Leader of the House has not replied to my question, which is a specific one—how many new appointments are proposed to be created in the Imperial, provincial and subordinate services. He has avoided or evaded the issue altogether.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I have already answered that. I said that it is not possible at present to give details of the number and cost involved.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah: Have the appointments not been made vet in the various services, Imperial, subordinate and provincial and clerical?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: No.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah: They have been made.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Can Government give a rough idea of the cost on account of the new appointments?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I can give no further information beyond what I have already given. If my friend wants any further information, I must ask for notice.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government have an opportunity of deciding this matter, before the appointments are actually created?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Yes, Sir.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How then is a deficit of one crore and one lakh arrived at with respect to the Sind Province?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I want notice.

THINLY POPULATED AREAS IN CERTAIN INDIAN PLAINS AND MOUNTAINS CAPABLE OF BEING FORMED INTO SETTLEMENTS.

1050. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in the Indian plains and mountains there are thinly populated areas capable of being settled in easily by people from the populous regions of this country; and
- (b) if so, whether any survey is intended to be taken in the matter?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) and (b). There are thinly populated areas in Indian plains and mountains, but whether settlement there of people from the thickly populated parts is practicable is open to doubt. In any case, initiative in the matter rests with Local Governments.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the desirability of laying down a uniform policy for the grant of these culturable waste lands which extend up to 154 million acres for settling upon it the depressed classes and other landless classes?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That question is a matter for the Local Governments.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government take into consideration this question of bringing more land under cultivation, before they make up their minds about birth control propaganda in this country?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: My Honourable friend asked a similar question about birth control the other day, and my answer was that it is a matter for the Local Governments, and not the Government of India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the calling of a conference of the Ministers of Agriculture from the various provinces with a view to make them arriving at a uniform policy for distributing these lands among the landless classes in the different provinces?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I doubt very much whether a uniform policy is feasible. Conditions vary from province to province, but, in any case, I can only repeat that, unless the Government of India are approached by Local Governments, the Government of India can take no action.

PROHIBITION OF MR. AMARENDRA NATH CHATTOPADHYAYA, M.L.A., FROM ADDRESSING ANY PUBLIC MEETING IN THE MIDNAPORE DISTRICT.

1051. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they are aware that Mr. P. G. Griffiths, District Magistrate, Midnapore, has issued a notice on Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, a Member of this Honourable House, asking him not to address any public meeting within the limits of Midnapore District;
- (b) whether they have considered the question that Members of this Honourable House should not be prevented from addressing their own constituencies and from ascertaining their grievances; and
- (c) what action they propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya was not prohibited from addressing any public meeting, but from inciting or encouraging others to oppose the peaceful application of the provisions of a law which had been lawfully put into force in prescribed areas.

(b) and (c). In view of the answer given to (a), these questions do not arise

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, may I ask for some further elucidation of the answer which I imperfectly heard? What was the actual order passed on Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, an Honourable Member of this House, by Mr. Griffiths, the District Magistrate of Midnapore?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I will read my answer again:

"(a) Mr. Amarendranath Chattopadhyaya was not prohibited from addressing any public meeting but from inciting or encouraging others to oppose the peaceful application of the provisions of a law which had been lawfully put into force in prescribed areas.

(b) and (c). In view of the answer given to (a), these questions do not arise."

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is that law?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I think it is the Village Self-Government Act.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the actual terms of the order served on Mr. Chattopadhyaya by the District Magistrate?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have given all the information I have received from the Local Government. I have not got a copy of the actual order.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Did Mr. Griffiths, or did he not interfere, with the right of an elected Member of this House to come into contact with his constituents who have sent him here?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, Sir.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know what was the exact scope of the order?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It merely prohibited Mr. Chattopadhyaya from inciting or encouraging opposition to the enforcement of this law which had lately been put into force in certain districts.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What particular overt acts of the Honourable Member did this order prohibit? Did it prohibit specifically his addressing meetings?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, Sir.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What did it actually prohibit?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It prohibited him from inciting or encouraging opposition to this law. There was no general prohibition of his addressing public meetings.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member aware that Mr. Chattopadhyaya, an Honourable Member of this House, first of all wrote to Mr. Griffiths, the District Magistrate of Midnapore, asking his permission to come to Midnapore and address his constituency, and, on receipt of the express permission of the District Magistrate, Mr. Griffiths, he went there, and, thereafter, when he wanted to go there a second time, he was served with a prohibitory order that he was not to address any public meeting?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: My information is quite to the contrary. There was no such general order.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Does the Honourable Member realise that I make a difference here? Mr. Chattopadhyaya twice visited the district of Midnapore. On the first occasion, he got a written permission from Mr. Griffiths. He had been in correspondence with Mr. Griffiths, and he told him that he wanted to visit his constituency. Mr. Griffiths made a condition precedent that he should not address them on the formation of union boards, to which Amarendra Babu agreed. He went to his constituency, addressed meetings, and he got his permission. He never talked about anything concerning the union boards. The second time, however, when he wanted to visit his own constituency, a prohibitory order was passed on Mr. Chattopadhyaya not to visit Midnapore, and an order of arrest was passed upon him. Then, the Government of Bengal, at the last moment, intervened: and when Amarendra Babu was about to land in Midnapore an order was passed and the order of prosecution was withdrawn.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have received no information to that effect. I asked the Local Government for information and for material in order to enable me to reply to this question. I have given all the material I have received.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: In view of the momentous issues involved in this matter affecting the privileges of Honourable Members of this House, did the Honourable Member make any specific inquiry as to the allegations made in this question?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, I did.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Did the Honourable Member satisfy himself that Amarendra Babu got his permission, that he never tried to incite or encourage anybody to commit any violent or illegal act, and that, in spite of that, Mr. Griffiths banned his entry into the district of Midnapore?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That point does not arise out of the question. What I was asked was—was he prohibited from addressing any public meeting? The information I have received is that that is not the case.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Does the Honourable Member know that the Government of Bengal had to intervene at the last moment and see that a complication is not created by reason of the arrest of Amarendra Babu at the time of his visit to Midnapore?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, Sir.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Does the Honourable Member not know that the Government of Bengal did intervene and tried to see that no complication was created by the arrest of Amarendra Babu, at the last moment?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: There is nothing in the question about that.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government send for a copy of these orders passed on Mr. Chattopadhyaya, and place them on the table?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member ought to have given notice of that question.

The Honourable Member did say that an order was passed but he has not got the text of it.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know whether Government will get the text of Mr. Griffiths's order and place it on the table of this House?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I am quite willing to do that.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it not a fact that a special messenger had to be sent to stop the arrest of Amarendra Babu? Did the Honourable Member inquire about that?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have already said that I have placed before the House the whole of the material at my disposal.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member ought to give separate notice of all these questions. Next question.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER FOR THE RURAL AREAS OF THE AJMER-MERWARA DISTRICT.

1052. ***Babu Baijnath Bajoria** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni): (a) Is it a fact that the Ajmer-Merwara district has got no Public Health Officer for the rural area?

(b) Are Government aware that the sanitary conditions in the rural area in this district are very deplorable and the death-rate is exceedingly high in many parts of the district?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of appointing a Director or Health Officer for rural areas for looking into the public health, hygiene and sanitary conditions of the district?

(d) Is it a fact that the population of Ajmer-Merwara district has been stationary during the last three decades?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) The sanitary conditions in rural areas in Ajmer-Merwara do not compare unfavourably with those in other rural areas. The death rate when compared with the figures for other parts of British India cannot be said to be exceedingly high. (Hear, hear.)

(c) Government are prepared to examine the matter.

(d) No. There was a temporary decrease in the 1921 decade due to the influenza epidemic.

POLICE INFORMERS UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

1053. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

(a) whether there are regular police informers under the Government of India;

(b) whether they are engaged full time or part time;

(c) whether they are paid monthly or in any other way; and

(d) from which funds they are paid, and whether the accounts of their payment are audited?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a), (b), (c) and (d). As I have explained in reply to a recent question, it is essential in India, as in all other countries, for the police to use informers in dealing with certain classes of crime, for confidential enquiries and in the interest of public security. It is, therefore, necessary for the police to have funds for this purpose. The Honourable Member will no doubt understand that further details cannot be given without prejudice to the purpose for which the funds are allotted.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know the answer to clause (d) of the question?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: My answer covered all the parts of the question.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are the accounts of these payments audited?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Honourable Member will no doubt understand that further details cannot be given without prejudice to the purpose for which the funds are allotted.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Under what head of the Budget are these amounts spent?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Secret Service. (Laughter.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there any class or community from whom these informers are normally recruited, and do they possess any minimum or maximum qualifications when recruited for that purpose? (Laughter.)

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

AFGHAN PRINCES DETAINED IN VARIOUS PLACES IN BRITISH INDIA.

1054. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- how many princes of Afghanistan are detained in various places in British India and for how many years;
- whether princes of any other country are detained here; and
- the total cost of maintaining these princes?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: (a) and (c). Presumably by the words 'princes of Afghanistan' the Honourable Member is referring to Afghans detained in India under Regulation III of 1818. If so, his attention is invited to the reply given to Seth Govind Das in answer to his question No. 569 on the 18th February, 1936. As regards the latter portion of part (a), necessary information specifying the date of detention in each case has been added in column 6 of the statement, a copy of which is placed on the table.

(b) No.

Statement showing the names of non-Indian State Prisoners who are not in Jails, but interned outside and their allowances.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Province or Presidency.	Serial No.	Name.	Allowance (Monthly).	Remarks.	Date from which detained.
Madras Presidency.	1	S. Abdur Rahman Khan.	Rs. a. p. 600 0 0	..	11-5-26.
	2	S. Ghaus-uddin Khan.	500 0 0	..	12-5-30.
	3	S. Abdul Hakim Khan.	150 0 0	..	6-2-30.
	4	S. Amin Jan .	250 0 0	Rs. 1,500	Do.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Province or Presidency.	Serial No.	Name.	Allowance (Monthly).	Remarks.	Date from which detained.
Bombay Presidency.	5	Khan Baba .	Rs. a. p. 60 0 0	Rs. 30 per mens allowance and Rs. 1 daily diet allowance.	21-9-34.
	6	Abdul Qadus .	73 4 0	Rs. 32 per mens allowance and Rs. 1-6-0 daily diet allowance.	Do.
	7	Mohd. Ibrahim .	73 4 0	Ditto.	Do.
Central Provinces.	8	Mohd. Hassan .	73 4 0	Ditto.	Do.
	9	Ali Ahmad .	73 4 0	Ditto.	Do.
	10	Mohd. Ismail .	60 0 0	..	23-8-34.
	11	Taj Mohammad .	60 0 0	Rs. 473	5-11-34.
	12	S. Abdullah Khan .	600 0 0	..	11-5-26.
	13	S. Abdul Hamied Khan.	500 0 0	..	Do.
	14	S. Abdul Quaum Khan.	450 0 0	..	24-7-34.
	15	Khawaja Abdul Karim.	86 4 0	Rs. 45 per mens allowance and Rs. 1-6-0 as diet allowance.	11-12-33.
	16	Mohd. Nasir .	86 4 0	Ditto	Do.
	17	Abdur Rahman Jan	86 4 0	Ditto	15-2-35.
Bihar and Orissa	18	Ata Mohammad .	60 0 0	Ditto	23-8-34.
	19	Sardar Abdul Khaliq	100 0 0	..	6-4-35.
	20	Sardar Ghulam Jilani.	60 0 0	Rs. 160	29-4-35.
Bengal United Provinces	21	S. Abdul Aziz Khan	250 0 0	..	30-3-17.
	22	S. Mohd. Azam Khan.	300 0 0	..	16-7-15.
	23	S. Mohd. Akram Khan.	400 0 0	..	Do.
	24	S. Mohd. Afzal Khan.	..	S/o S. M. Akram Khan.	14-1-29.
	25	S. Sultan Ahmad Khan.	300 0 0	..	20-3-17.
	26	S. Sher Ahmad Khan.	250 0 0	..	Do.
	27	S. Mohd. Sarwar Khan.	250 0 0	..	Do.
	28	S. Mohd. Umar Khan.	250 0 0	..	Do.
	29	S. Nur Ahmed Khan.	250 0 0	..	Do.
	30	S. Abdur Rashid Khan.	150 0 0	..	Do.
	31	S. Mohd. Hassan Khan.	200 0 0	..	14-1-29.
	32	S. Abdus Samad Khan.	..	S/o S. M. Hassan Khan.	Do.
	33	S. Abdur Rahman Khan.	250 0 0	..	Do.
	34	S. Mohd. Umar Khan.	100 0 0	..	Do.
	35	S. Gul Mohd. Khan	100 0 0	..	Do.

1	2	5	4	5	6
Province or Presidency.	Serial No.	Name.	Allowance (Monthly).	Remarks.	Date from which detained.
United Provinces —contd.	36	S. Abdul Ali Khan .	Rs. a. p. 350 0 0	..	14-1-29.
	37	S. Abdur Rahim Khan.	250 0 0	..	Do.
	38	S. Abdur Rauf Khan	..	S/o S. M. Hassan Khan.	Do
	39	S. Mohd. Azim Khan	100 0 0	..	Do.
	40	S. Mohd. Mohsin Khan.	100 0 0	Rs. 30 per month allowance and annas 10 daily allowance.	Do.
	41	Ghulam Nabi .	48 12 0	Ditto	2-11-33.
	42	Mohd. Din .	48 12 0	Ditto	Do.
	43	Mohd. Siddiq .	48 12 0	Ditto	Do.
	44	Abdul Hakim .	68 12 0	Rs. 50 per month allowance and annas 10 daily allowance.	Do.
	45	Abdul Majid .	68 12 0	Ditto	Do.
Ajmer-Merwara	46	Mohd. Jan .	60 0 0	..	Do.
	47	Syed. Muhammaed Alias Bang & Co., Companions.	400 0 0	..	March 32.
			8,595 8 0		
			Rs. A. P.		
Monthly cost			8,595 8 0		
Yearly cost			1,03,146 0 0		

RULES GOVERNING THE ISSUE OF FREE PASSES.

1055. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will Government state:

- whether free passes over Railways are issued to anybody;
- whether certain missionaries are given free passes;
- the rules that govern the issue of free passes?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, but only for the purpose of ministering to the spiritual needs of certain classes of railway employees.

(c) The rules for the issue of free passes are embodied in the State Railway Open Line Code, Vol. II, but these have been so materially altered from time to time by the issue of supplementary instructions as to necessitate the issue of revised rules which are now under consideration.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Am I to understand that the passes are confined only to Christian missionaries or that they are extended to the religious priests of Hindus and Muslims also?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Then, what does the Honourable Member mean by saying that passes are issued for the purpose of ministering to the spiritual needs of railway employees?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I said certain classes of employees.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why is it confined only to certain classes?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Because members of this particular class are sometimes posted in small numbers at such stations where the ordinary ministrations of priests of their own communities are not available to them, and, if this provision was not made, they would be left without any kind of religious ministration altogether. This does not apply to classes to whom such ministrations are in the ordinary course available.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What about the Hindus posted in Peshawar? Are they not inconvenienced for want of priests of their own community?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The Honourable Member does not appear to know that there are a large number of priests belonging to the Hindu community in Peshawar.

"DUFFERIN" CADETS.

1056. *Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will Government state:

- how many cadets have passed out of the "Dufferin";
- of these how many are now unemployed;
- whether any company refused to recognise the "Dufferin" training;
- if so, what steps they have taken in those cases;
- how many of the shipping companies engaged in Indian trade have Indian cadets on their ships; and
- whether they are prepared to consider the advisability of asking all companies engaged in the Indian trade to engage trained Indians in their services?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 20th February, 1936, to parts (a) and (c) of Professor N. G. Ranga's starred question No. 700.

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my reply to part (b) of Mr. S. Satyamurti's starred question No. 1035.

(c) So far as Government are aware no shipping company has refused to recognise the "Dufferin" training.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Attention is invited to the reply given by me on the 19th February, 1936, to part (b) of Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji's starred question No. 661.

(f) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 24th February, 1936, to part (a) of Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant's starred question No. 744.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will Government issue circulars to all the companies trading in India that they should appoint only the cadets trained in the training ship "Duferin"?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have already replied several questions on this subject put by my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, that Government are pursuing the matter.

SCHEME FOR THE INAUGURATION OF A PASSENGER SERVICE BETWEEN BOMBAY AND EUROPE BY CERTAIN INDIAN BUSINESSMEN AND FINANCIERS.

1057. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** (on behalf of Seth Govind Das): (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the speech made by Mr. Rahimtoola M. Chinoy, President of the Indian Merchants' Chamber of Bombay, at the last annual general meeting of the Chamber on the 31st January, 1936, wherein he referred to a scheme for the inauguration of a passenger service between Bombay and Europe by certain Indian businessmen and financiers?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the fact mentioned in the same speech that British shipping interests were not even prepared to discuss such a scheme with Indian businessmen?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take to assist the participation of Indian shipping in the overseas trade of the country in pursuance of their own promises in that respect?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government have seen a newspaper report of the speech referred to.

(b) No.

(c) In pursuance of their declared policy, Government will always be willing to offer their good offices, if invited, in removing difficulties and promoting a settlement of the problem of the participation of Indian shipping in the overseas trade by the method of negotiation and mutual agreement between Indian and British shipping interests.

TENDERS FOR WORKS AT TANDOADAM AND NAWABSHAH STATIONS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1058. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** (on behalf of Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha): (a) Is it a fact that the system of inviting tenders for Railway works, done by the Engineering Department of the North Western Railway, was introduced by the Railway Board in 1930, with a view to get works done economically?

(b) Is it a fact that during 1931-32, junction arrangement works at Tandoadam and Nawabshah Stations of the North Western Railway, Karachi Division, amounting to Rs. 50,000 approximately, were sanctioned by the Railway Board, and for such a big work the Divisional Engineer, No. 1, North Western Railway, Karachi, did not invite tenders? If so, why not?

(c) When were the Work Orders (i.e., agreements for works) of the contractor sanctioned, and when were these works finally completed and bills prepared?

(d) Is it a fact that all works at Tandoadam and Nawabshah were divided into sub-works to bring each sub-work, within Rs. 5,000, so that tenders may not be called and all works may be done by one contractor? Is it not against the usual procedure?

(e) Had this procedure, referred to in part (d) above, been only adopted by the Divisional Executive Engineer, No. 1, Karachi, or by other Divisional Executive Engineers on the North Western Railway?

(f) At what percentage, below or above, the schedule of rates were tenders for works at Tandoadam station sanctioned during 1931-32, 1932-33, 1933-34, 1934-35 and 1935-36?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes. This system was, however, introduced by the North Western Railway, not by the Railway Board.

(b) to (f). These questions are based on the allegations in the pamphlet published by a clerk named Isardass Chuhamal, on the Karachi Division, North Western Railway, who was discharged in 1932 for vilifying his superior officer. The pamphlet contains various accusations against railway officers which have been the subject of independent enquiries by the Divisional Superintendent, Karachi, and by the Statutory Audit. Both enquiries found that these charges were baseless. A third enquiry on the same subject was held in connection with a case instituted by Isardass Chuhamal before the Deputy Collector and Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Sehwan, which was dismissed on the ground that it was malicious and that the innocence of the railway officers concerned had been more than established.

In view of the above Government do not consider that it is in the public interest to enquire further into the matter, particularly as it is now nearly five years since the alleged incidents took place.

AMENITIES FOR PASSENGERS AT THE MAHENDRA GHAT STATIONS, BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1059. ***Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the average number of daily passengers booked from Mahendra Ghat, Bengal and North Western Railway, and also the monthly income from the said station?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what arrangement, if any, there is for the protection and temporary stay of third class passengers and also for intermediate class passengers?

(c) What is the dimension of the room which is used as the station office?

(d) Is there only one arrangement for booking of third class and the higher class passengers? If so, do the authorities concerned propose to take action for booking at separate places?

(e) Is it a fact that the booking office, the station master's office and the goods office at the said station are in only one room 10' x 10'?

(f) What arrangement is there, if any, for the purpose of latrine for third class and intermediate class passengers?

(g) Is there any telegraphic connection between the said station and the stations on the opposite side of the Ganges?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state if there is any verandah in front of the said station to protect the passengers from rain?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Passengers 393; gross earnings monthly average Rs. 12,973.

(b) There is a hall measuring 19½ feet by 13½ feet attached to the station office for third class passengers and a bench is provided in this hall for intermediate class passengers.

(c) and (e). The station office in which all work at the station is performed is 12 feet by 12 feet.

(d) Yes, but tickets for upper class passengers are issued from the door of the station office when so desired.

(f) A municipal urinal and a latrine are provided attached to the adjacent court situated near the Ghat, which are used by passengers.

(g) There is no railway telegraph connection, but there is a Government Telegraph Office very near to the Ghat.

(h) No. Passengers stay in the hall referred to in my reply to part (b) of the question. A new passenger shed is under construction.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is not separate latrine provided for third class and intermediate class passengers within the precincts of this particular station?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: For the reason given in answer to part (f) of the question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do Government realise that it is inconvenient for railway passengers to go out of the railway precincts and utilise the municipal latrine?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: As the municipal latrine is adjacent to the railway precincts, I do not think any question of inconvenience arises.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How far is the municipal latrine from the railway precincts?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The expression used in the reply is "attached to the adjacent court", that would mean not very far, probably a few feet.

SCHEME FOR DRIVING A ROAD FROM TURKMAN GATE TO JAMA MASJID, DELHI.

1060. ***Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** (a) Is it a fact that Government propose to drive a road from Turkman Gate to Jama Masjid, Delhi, to open up congested areas?

(b) If so, how far has this scheme progressed, and to what extent has the Municipal Committee of Delhi agreed to it?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) and (b). With your permission, Sir, I shall answer parts (a) and (b) together.

The Honourable Member is probably thinking of the proposal to construct a road from Connaught Place to Jama Masjid, I would invite his attention to the reply given by me to part (d) of Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar's starred question No. 502 on the 17th February, 1936.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Are Government aware that the municipality are prepared to reconsider this question?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have read a report to that effect in the Press, but, as I informed Mr. Muthuranga Mudaliar on an earlier occasion we propose now to await the report of Mr. Hume before taking up this and other connected questions.

NON-APPOINTMENT OF CIVILIANS OF THE PUNJAB COMMISSION AS DEPUTY COMMISSIONER AND CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF DELHI.

1061. ***Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raju:** (a) Will Government please state whether the local and special laws of the Punjab apply to the Delhi Province?

(b) Will Government please state whether the District and Sessions Judge and the gazetted police officers and members of Provincial Services serving in Delhi belong to the Punjab Services?

(c) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner belongs to the Central Provinces Commission and the Honourable the Chief Commissioner to the United Provinces Commission?

(d) If the answers to the preceding parts be in the affirmative, will Government please state the reason why civilians of the Punjab Commission have ceased to be appointed as Deputy Commissioner and Chief Commissioner?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) When Delhi was created a Province in 1912, all local and special laws in force in Delhi at that time continued, under the Delhi Laws Act of 1912, to apply to Delhi. Since 1912, such laws of the Punjab or other provinces as have been considered suitable have been extended to the Delhi province according as occasion or necessity demanded.

(b) Yes normally; but not necessarily.

(c) Yes.

(d) They are still eligible for appointments but the Punjab Government have been unable to spare officers for these appointments owing to shortage of its cadre.

CASES UNDER CERTAIN LAWS TRIED BY THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF DELHI.

1062. ***Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raju:** (a) Will Government please state:

(i) how many cases (1) under the Indian Penal Code and (2) under the local and special laws, have been tried by the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, himself during 1934 and 1935, respectively;

(ii) how many appeals in security cases, revision applications and transfer applications were heard by him during 1934 and 1935, respectively;

(b) If the figures be negligible, will Government please state the reasons for this state of affairs?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a), (i), (1) None under the Penal Code.

(2) One in 1934 and one in 1935, both under the Child Marriage Restraint Act.

(ii) In 1934 nil, in 1935 two appeals in security cases, two revision applications and one transfer application.

(b) The post of the Additional District Magistrate was created in Delhi in order to relieve the District Magistrate of as much magisterial work as possible, and for the same reason the Additional District Magistrate is invested with all the powers of a District Magistrate.

CASES UNDER CERTAIN LAWS TRIED BY THE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT MAGISTRATE OF DELHI.

1063. ***Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raju:** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state how many cases (1) under the Indian Penal Code and (2) under the local and special laws were tried by the Additional District Magistrate, Delhi, during 1934 and 1935 separately, and how many of them were summary cases?

(b) Will Government please state whether it is a fact that there is a Notification of the Punjab Government, embodied in the High Court Rules and Orders, to the effect that the appeals from the orders of first class magistrates shall be personally heard by the District Magistrate and not by the Additional District Magistrate?

(c) Why is this direction not being followed in the Delhi Province?

(d) How many transfer applications were heard by the Additional District Magistrate in 1934 and 1935, and how many of them were accepted during each year and how many rejected?

(e) Will Government please state whether acceptance of such applications is a rule, or rejection an exception?

(f) In how many such cases were the opposing counsels or the prosecuting inspector not notified, and the applications accepted in their absence?

(g) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of asking the District Magistrate to hear these applications himself? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a), (1) In 1934, 22; in 1935, 26.

(2) In 1934, 1258; in 1935, 1301.

Out of these 1252 in 1934 and 1288 in 1935 were summary cases.

(b) The Government are not aware that this is so.

(c) Any such direction would not apply to Delhi.

(d) and (e). The number of transfer applications which were heard and accepted or rejected during the years 1934 and 1935 was:

	1934.	1935.
Heard	156	175
Accepted	79	77
Rejected	77	98

(f) I have not the information but I understand that pleaders are heard as a rule.

(g) No. It is not the habit of the Government of India to interfere in such matters.

†1064*—1065*.

† These questions were withdrawn by the questioner.

EXEMPTION OF INCOME-TAX ON PENSIONS OF CIVIL OFFICERS AND SUBORDINATES WHO CONTRACTED DISEASES ON FIELD SERVICE DURING THE GREAT WAR.

1066. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** (a) Is it a fact that civil officers and subordinates when in Field Service Area during the Great War of 1914—18 were a part and parcel of His Majesty's Forces and held relative military ranks according to their substantive pay at that time?

(b) With reference to their reply to question No. 375 of the 16th September, 1935 in this House, will Government please state whether the pensions of civil officers and subordinates who contracted diseases on Field Service during the Great War of 1914—1918, and ultimately retired from Government service on the recommendation of Medical Boards on account of the same diseases, are exempt from the operations of the income-tax or not?

(c) Will Government please state whether a written certificate from a responsible and superior administrative officer of an individual's department, testifying to that individual's retirement from Government service on account of diseases contracted on Field Service, will serve the purpose? If not, will Government please state what course is to be followed in such cases for the exemption of income-tax?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) This was so in the case of certain members of some of the civil departments, but not of all.

(b) The question to which the Honourable Member refers was understood to relate to pensions granted to members of His Majesty's Naval, Military or Air Forces and was answered accordingly. The position in respect of civil officers and subordinates is that exemption from income-tax is given in respect of extraordinary pensions granted to such persons under Chapter XXXVIII of the Civil Service Regulations or under the Army Regulations, India, as the case may be, in respect of wounds or injuries received in the performance of their duties.

(c) Since the exemption from income-tax is limited in the manner just explained, a written certificate, such as is mentioned by the Honourable Member, would not serve to secure exemption in the absence of an order granting the pension under Chapter XXXVIII of the Civil Service Regulations or under the Army Regulations, India.

ASSESSMENT OF INCOME-TAX ON SUPPOSED INCOMES.

1067. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) With reference to their answer to my question No. 241, part (b) given on the 11th February, 1936 to the effect that the Honourable Member concerned was not aware of any case "in which the Income-tax Officers have not cared to comply with the orders of the High Courts", are Government prepared to enquire from Lahore Office regarding the case of one Mr. Badrinath?

(b) Is it a fact that in answer to parts (e) and (d) of the above question, the Honourable Member concerned said that even in cases of failure of prosecution, he is not prepared to issue any general instructions and that he is aware that there are cases in which no refund has been given, and if so, will the Honourable Member state any reason for letting this state of things go on?

(c) Is it a fact that in answer to parts (e), (f), (g) and (h) of the above question, the Honourable Member concerned said that he was not aware of any such case, and if so, is the Honourable Member prepared to enquire from the Lahore Office if there have been any such cases?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) The Government of India understand that the case of Mr. Badrinath has not been the subject of the order of any High Court but was disposed of in a Magistrate's Court.

(b) The reason is that it does not follow, because a prosecution for making a false statement or declaration has failed that the assessment concerned has been incorrectly raised.

(c) Enquiries had already been made from the Lahore office. In the case which the Honourable Member has in mind there was no charge of extortion.

INDIANISATION OF SUPERIOR APPOINTMENTS IN THE SECRETARIAT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

1068. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian and European officers in the Departments of the Government of India of and above the rank of Deputy Secretary;

(b) the percentage of Indian officers to the total number of officers of and above the rank of Deputy Secretary in the Government of India Secretariat, according to Departments, for each year from April 1921 to April 1935;

(c) what steps have been taken since the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri moved his Resolution in the Council of State in 1922 on the subject of Indianisation of the appointments in the Secretariat of the Government of India;

(d) the percentage of Indian Secretaries and Joint Secretaries (to be mentioned separately) in the total number of Secretaries and Joint Secretaries in the Government of India Secretariat in April 1921 and in April 1935;

(e) whether in the course of 1936 there will be a change in the incumbency of the post of Secretary or Joint Secretary in

any Department or Departments of the Government of India and if so, in what Departments;

- (f) whether there is any intention to take advantage of that opportunity to appoint Europeans in place of Indians;
- (g) the Departments of the Government of India Secretariat in which posts of and above the rank of Deputy Secretary were occupied during the last two years ending with 1st February, 1936 by Indians, but which are now occupied by Europeans;
- (h) their policy in regard to the appointment to these posts;
- (i) who is the appointing authority, whether the Governor General in Council, or the Governor General, or the Member in charge of the Department concerned, or the Member in charge concerned acting with the Governor General;
- (j) whether up to 1935 the tenure of the posts was three years; and
- (k) whether the tenure now is four years in regard to some of the posts, and if so, which are those posts and the reasons for the change?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) There are at present in the Government of India Secretariat 48 officers holding the posts of Secretary, Joint Secretary and Deputy Secretary, or equivalent posts, of whom 13 are Indians.

(b) and (d). I lay a statement on the table which gives the required information for the years 1921, 1925, 1930 and 1935, which I hope will serve the purpose of the Honourable Member.

(c) and (h). I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the explanation given on behalf of Government in connection with Resolutions by the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad and the Honourable Mr. Jagadhis Chandra Banerjee regarding Indianisation of the Indian Civil Service in the Council of State on the 10th February, 1934.

(e) and (f). It is not possible to anticipate exactly what changes in the incumbencies of these posts will occur during 1936 or how the posts will be filled. In making appointments to these posts the principle of selecting experienced and suitable officers will be followed and the claims of suitable Indian officers will be duly considered.

(g) A statement is laid on the table.

(i) The appointments rest with the Governor General.

(j) Yes, except that for the posts of Secretary in the Legislative and Foreign and Political Departments there was no specified period of tenure.

(k) In some cases the tenure has been extended for administrative reasons, but the whole question is under consideration of the Secretariat Committee.

STATEMENT I.

Statement showing the percentage of Indian Officers to the total number of officers of and above the rank of Deputy Secretary in the Government of India Secretariat, according to Departments, for the years 1921, 1925, 1930 and 1935.

Serial No.	Name of Department.	1921.			1925.			1930.			1935.			
		Total No.	Indians.	Percentage.	Total No.	Indians.	Percentage.	Total No.	Indians.	Percentage.	Total No.	Indians.	Percentage.	
SECRETARIES.														
1	Legislative	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	
2	Defence	1	...	...	1	1	100	1	...	...	1	...	...	
3	Military Finance	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	
4	Foreign and Political	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	
5	Finance	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	
6	Commerce	1	...	...	4	...	...	5	1	20	3	1	33	
7	Railway	3	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	
8	Industries and Labour	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
9	Imperial Council of Agricultural Research	...	...	...	...	1	100	1	1	100	1	1	100	
10	Education, Health and Lands	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	
11	Home	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	100	1	1	100	
12	Legislative Assembly	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Total		13	...	...	14	2	142 7	17	3	17.6	15	4	26.7	

JOINT SECRETARIES.

1	Legislative	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	1	50
2	Defence	2	1	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Military Finance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
4	Foreign and Political	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
5	Finance	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
6	Commerce	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	Railway	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
8	Industries and Labour	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Imperial Council of Agricultural Research	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	100	1	1	100
10	Education, Health and Lands	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
11	Home	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Legislative Assembly	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total		4	1	25	2	...	...	5	1	20	7	2	28.6

DEPUTY SECRETARIES.

1	Legislative	2	1	50	2	1	50	2	...	...	1	1	100
2	Defence	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
3	Military Finance	4	...	...	5	1	20	4	...	...	4	...	...
4	Foreign and Political	3	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	3	1	33½
5	Finance	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
6	Commerce	2	...	...	5	...	...	6	1	16½	6	3	50
7	Railway	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	100	1	...	...
8	Industries and Labour	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Imperial Council of Agricultural Research	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	100	...	...	...
10	Education, Health and Lands	2	1	50	1	1	100	1	1	100	2	1	50
11	Home	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	100	2	1	50
12	Legislative Assembly	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total		19	2	10.5	20	3	15	20	5	25	22	9	41

STATEMENT II.

Statement showing the Departments of the Government of India Secretariat in which the posts of and above the rank of Deputy Secretary were held during the last 2 years ending with 1st February, 1936 by Indians and are now occupied by Europeans.

Department.	Whether any posts of and above the rank of Deputy Secretary were held during the last two years by Indian and are now occupied by Europeans.
Home Department	The post of Deputy Secretary which was held by an Indian till May 1935 is now held by a European.
Foreign and Political Department	No.
Finance Department	No.
Military Finance Department	No.
Defence Department	No.
Legislative Department	No.
Department of Commerce	No.
Railway Department (Railway Board)	No.
Department of Education, Health and Lands	Yes. The post of Deputy Secretary which was held by an Indian during a portion of the period mentioned is now held by a European.
Department of Industries and Labour	The posts of and above the rank of Deputy Secretary were held substantively by Europeans during the two years in question, but two Indians officiated for some months.
Legislative Assembly Department	No.
Imperial Council of Agricultural Research	Yes. The post of Vice-Chairman, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, which has the status and pay of a Secretary to the Government of India and was occupied by an Indian fell vacant on the 26th October, 1935. Pending permanent arrangements which will be made during the current year, the post is held by a European in an officiating capacity.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: In view of the fact that the reply refers to answers given in the other House in 1934, of which we are not in possession, will the Honourable Member be pleased to cause the answers to be printed in the proceedings of this House?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It was not an answer to a question; it was a debate on a Resolution. It is too long to quote, but it is in the official report of the Council of State Debates of the 10th February, 1934, Vol. I, page 28.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have any of the posts of Army Secretary, Home Secretary, Finance Secretary or the Foreign and Political Secretary been held at any time by an Indian up till now?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That will be found in the statement I have laid on the table.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I take it that no Indian has ever occupied any of these posts?

Sir H. P. Mody: There was one in the time of Akbar. (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: As far as I can see from a perusal of the statement, these posts have not been held by Indians since 1921. I have no information earlier than that.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: How many Joint Secretaries have been Indians in these Departments?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: There have been some Indians as Joint Secretaries.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: How many?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Honourable Member had better read the statement; it is a long one.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has there been no Indian competent to hold any of these offices till now?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I cannot say; the best man is selected.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How is it that no Indian has been selected?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is a matter of argument.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the answer to clause (h) of the question?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It is in regard to that that I invited the attention of the Honourable Member to the speech in the other House.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I want to know what is the present policy of the Government of India with regard to appointments to these posts. Is it Indianisation, or is it Europeanisation?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It was stated quite clearly there that experienced and suitable men shall be selected; and, in the majority of cases, a previous training in the Provincial Secretariats is considered necessary.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it, therefore, that there is no definite policy of Indianisation in respect of these posts, that is to say, filling them by the best and most competent Indians?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: There is no preference.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why not, when this is India, and we are paying the money?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This cannot be carried any further. Next question.

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIAN AS DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

1069. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Is it a fact that no Indian has held the post of Deputy Secretary and above in the Finance Department since 1925? If so, what is the reason for it?

(b) What are the principles governing the appointment to these posts?

(c) Is it not a fact that for the post of Deputy Secretary a knowledge of accounts is essential?

(d) What are the qualifications of the present incumbent of the post?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) The answer to the first part is in the negative, and the second does not, therefore, arise.

(b) to (d). Appointments are and will continue to be made solely on grounds of merit. Beyond that, I have nothing to say.

CONSTITUTION OF THE POLITICAL SECTION OF THE HOME DEPARTMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

1070. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** Will Government please state:

- (a) the present constitution of the Home Department of the Government of India, and the subjects assigned to the different officers of and above the rank of Deputy Secretary;
- (b) if there is a 'Political section' and if so, the work done in that section, and the officer in charge of that section;
- (c) when it was constituted;
- (d) the number of clerks and Assistants, and how many of them are Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indians;
- (e) whether the present Superintendent is an Indian, or an Anglo-Indian, or a European;
- (f) whether since the creation of this section, the Superintendent has always been an Anglo-Indian or a European;
- (g) whether any special qualifications are required to hold the post of Superintendent, and if so, whether during all the years since its creation, no Indian has been fit to hold it; and
- (h) whether they are prepared to consider the advisability of posting an Indian Superintendent to that post?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) A statement containing the information is laid on the Table.

(b) and (c). Yes; the Section was created in 1907 and deals mainly with work of a political nature, *i.e.*, political movements, communal disturbances, passports, foreigners (so far as they come within the purview of the Home Department) and the Information Bureau. The Deputy Secretary is in charge of the Section, but many urgent and important cases are submitted to the Secretary direct.

(d) At present three Anglo-Indian assistants and five Indian clerks are employed in the Section.

(e) He is a European.

(f) Yes.

(g) and (h). No special qualifications are required and Government propose to observe, in the future, the same considerations as they have done in the past in filling the posts of Superintendent in the Department, namely, the suitability and past experience of the person concerned and the administrative convenience of the Department as a whole.

Statement.

The permanent staff of the Home Department consists of 1 Secretary, 1 Joint Secretary, 1 Deputy Secretary, 1 Under Secretary, 1 Assistant Secretary, 5 Superintendents, 26 First Division assistants, 38 clerks and 6 shorthandwriters. There are at present an additional Joint Secretary and an additional Deputy Secretary on a temporary basis. The work assigned to officers of and above the rank of Deputy Secretary is indicated in the list below which is not exhaustive.

1. *Additional Deputy Secretary.*—Questions relating to:

- (i) recruitment for the clerical staff of the secretariat and attached offices.
- (ii) communal representation in the services.
- (iii) High Courts, Chief Courts and Courts of Judicial Commissioners.
- (iv) Civil and Criminal Law.
- (v) The All-India and Central Services in general and the Indian Civil Service in particular.
- (vi) The Public Service Commission.

2. *Deputy Secretary.*—Questions relating to:

- (i) The general political situation.
- (ii) Control of arms and ammunition.
- (iii) The Indian Police, the military Police Forces and the police in minor administrations.
- (iv) The Intelligence Bureau.
- (v) The Bureau of Public Information and general questions relating to publicity.
- (vi) The office establishment of the Home Department.
- (vii) The admission of foreigners into India.
- (viii) The repatriation of Indians from abroad.

3. *Additional Joint Secretary.*—Questions relating to:

- (i) Constitutional matters.
- (ii) High Courts, Chief Courts and Courts of Judicial Commissioners.
- (iii) Civil and Criminal Law.
- (iv) The procedure of the Government of India,
- (v) Prisons.
- (vi) The Andaman and Nicobar Islands (excluding questions relating to forests) and Coorg and the general and judicial administration in Delhi.
- (vii) The Warrant of Precedence and ceremonial matters.
- (viii) Naturalization.

4. *Joint Secretary.*—Matters arising out of the introduction of the new constitution which include the drafting of rules and regulations under various sections of the Government of India Act, 1935, and of the Order in Council under the third schedule to that Act, the amendment of the existing rules relating to the All-India Services and the revision of the Warrant of Precedence.

5. *The Secretary,* is responsible for all the work of the department and in particular deals with all the matters in the Deputy Secretary's list and all the matters except Nos. (iii) and (iv) in the additional Deputy Secretary's list.

APPLICATION OF STATE RAILWAY LEAVE RULES TO THE TEACHERS IN CERTAIN EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SCHOOLS.

1071. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Railways be pleased to state whether by Railway Board's letter No. E.-34-S.C.—28 of the 11th May, 1935, teachers in the East Indian Railway Schools in the plains have been brought under the State Railway Leave Rules published with the Railway Department's Resolution of the 20th February, 1930 with certain modifications necessary for vacation departments?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes, Sir.

APPLICATION OF STATE RAILWAY LEAVE RULES TO THE TEACHERS IN CERTAIN EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SCHOOLS.

1072. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Is it a fact that by Rule 2(a), the State Railway Leave Rules, when they were introduced, were made applicable to employees appointed on or after the 1st April, 1930 and that they had no retrospective effect?

(b) Is it a fact that by Railway Board's letter of 11th May, 1935, all teachers, even though appointed long before 1st April, 1930, were brought under the new leave rules? If so, why was a departure made in the case of teachers appointed before 1st April, 1930?

(c) Is it a fact that the Railway Board's letter provided that, if there were any staff governed by other rules, they should be given the option of electing to come under the new rules referred to or of remaining under the rules by which they were then governed?

(d) Is it a fact that the Committees of several East Indian Railway Schools have throughout applied the East Indian Railway Leave Rules to the teachers employed therein? Are Government prepared to make enquiries?

(e) Is it a fact that the Superintendent, East Indian Railway Schools, in his minute sheet A. S. 136 of 22nd May 1935, refused to give the teachers the option which the Railway Board had directed, should be given to them?

(f) Are Government prepared to direct such enquiries to be made and, where it is found that certain rules were being applied to teachers, they should be given the option? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) These rules also apply to those employees who were appointed prior to 1st April, 1930, on the condition that when the revised rules for State Railway employees were introduced they would be brought under them. Other staff were, however, given the option to remain under the old rules or to elect to come under the New State Railway Leave Rules.

(b) and (c). Rules were made applicable to all staff who were not governed by any definite leave rules previously as Government considered that teachers in railway schools should be governed by definite leave rules. Staff to whom definite leave rules were previously applicable were given the option to remain on the old rules or elect to come under the new Leave Rules.

(d) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative and the latter part does not arise. Previously the Committees of Management of certain schools granted leave to teachers, at their discretion, to whom no definite rules were then applicable.

(e) Government are informed that the minute sheet in question referred to European and Anglo-Indian and Indian schools on the plains. As there had been no accepted code of rules for the grant of leave to teaching staff of such schools no question of exercising any option arose.

(f) Government do not consider any enquiry necessary.

APPLICATION OF STATE RAILWAY LEAVE RULES TO CERTAIN TEACHERS OF EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SCHOOLS.

1073. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Are Government prepared to direct that the State Railway Leave Rules shall apply only to teachers recruited on or after the 1st April, 1930, as in the case of other employees? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No. In this connection I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I have just given to parts (b) and (c) of his question No. 1072.

APPLICATION OF NEW LEAVE RULES TO CERTAIN TEACHERS OF EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SCHOOLS.

1074. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Is it a fact that the Railway Board has recently decided in letter No. E.-34-SC--28 of the 11th May, 1935, to run the Railway schools on the lines of the Provincial Government schools?

(b) Is it a fact that Provincial Governments have applied their revised leave rules only to teachers appointed on or after a certain date and to those appointed before, if they were appointed provisionally with a warning? Is it a fact that teachers appointed before that date are governed by the old rules?

(c) Are Government prepared to consult the Education Departments of the Provinces, which are also contributing towards the maintenance of the schools, as to whether they consider it reasonable to apply the new leave rules to teachers appointed long ago?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) The matter is still under consideration.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) No. I have already stated that the Government considered it necessary to have a set of rules for teachers employed in railway schools who were not previously governed by any definite rules.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: With regard to part (d), did the Honourable Member make any inquiry to ascertain whether the allegation therein is correct?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, Government do not think that any inquiry is necessary.

APPLICATION OF STATE RAILWAY LEAVE RULES TO TEACHERS IN THE EAST
INDIAN RAILWAY OAKGROVE EUROPEAN SCHOOL.

1075. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Do the new State Railway Leave Rules as modified for vacation departments, apply to teachers in the East Indian Railway Oakgrove European School? If not, why not? And why are they applied only to the Indian schools in the plains?

(b) Do Provincial Governments make any distinction between teachers in Hill schools and those in schools in the plains, or between Anglo-Indian teachers and Indian teachers? Why does the Railway Board make such distinction?

(c) What are the leave rules by which teachers in the Oakgrove European school are governed? Are they governed by the East Indian Railway Leave Rules? When were these rules first made applicable to such teachers?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of bringing under the same rules all the teachers in the Railway schools, whether for Indians or Anglo-Indians and Europeans, whether situated in the hills or in the plains?

(e) Are Government aware that teachers in the plains work under more trying climatic conditions than those employed in the hill schools?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes, to the teaching staff of the Oakgrove School appointed on or after 1st April, 1930. The Rules also apply to the teaching staff in European, Anglo-Indian and Indian schools in the plains.

(b) and (d). As regards the first part Government have no information. As regards the second part of (b) and (d) the rules now introduced are applicable to the teaching staff in all railway schools without any distinction.

(c) Teaching staff at Oakgrove School appointed prior to 1st April, 1930, have throughout been granted leave on the basis of the old East Indian Railway Company's Leave Rules on the merits of each case since 1921.

(e) Yes.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member, with reference to part (a) of the question, whether the Oakgrove European school is exclusively for Europeans?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I would require notice of that question.

LEAVE RULES OF TEACHERS IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SCHOOLS IN THE
PLAINS.

1076. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) What are the leave rules which govern State Railway employees recruited between 1925 and the 1st April, 1930, when the State Railway Leave Rules came into force? Are these governed by the Fundamental Rules?

(b) Is it a fact that teachers in the East Indian Railway Schools in the plains were first declared Government servants (and State Railway employees) only in June 1928, by the answer to Pandit H. N. Kunzru's question in the Legislative Assembly on the 1st February, 1928, and by the Railway Board's letter No. 6404-E. of the 26th June, 1928?

(c) Is it a fact that before June 1928, they were considered to be only servants of school committees? If so, why were they not brought under the Fundamental Rules (like other employees recruited at that time) subject, of course, to the provisions of Fundamental Rule 82 (b) applicable to vacation departments?

(d) Is it a fact that Mr. Smith of the Indian Educational Service was deputed in 1931 to inspect the Railway schools in the plains with a view to making recommendations for the introduction of improvements in the existing methods of administration of Railway schools?

(e) Is it a fact that in para. 89 of his report, Mr. Smith recommended that it is desirable that such of the teachers as have been declared to be Government servants, *i.e.*, non-gazetted Railway servants of Asiatic domicile (according to the declaration in the Assembly and the Railway Board's letter referred to above), be allowed to elect the old leave rules and be governed by Fundamental Rule 77 (a) (ii), 80, 81 (c) and (d), 82 (b) and 87 (b) (i), and that even in the case of those who were declared State Railway servants and who elected the new State Railway Leave Rules, a provision *similar* to (certainly not more rigorous than) rule 82 (b) should be added?

(f) Is it a fact that he did not recommend the provision abolishing leave on average pay even in cases of illness supported by a competent medical authority?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for which the recommendations were rejected?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government are informed that the subordinate staff, other than school teachers, recruited after the 1st January, 1925, and before the 1st September, 1928, are governed in the matter of leave by the Fundamental Rules. The subordinate staff engaged between 1st September, 1928, and 1st April, 1930, with a warning that they would be governed by the new leave rules when introduced, are governed by the new State Railway Leave Rules.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. The fact that they became railway servants even though engaged by Local Committees of the several schools did not necessitate altering their terms of service or granting them privileges to which they were not previously entitled.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes, with the exception of a few phrases.

(f) and (g). Government did not accept Mr. Smith's recommendation as they did not consider it necessary to bring under the Fundamental Rules staff who were not previously governed by any definite leave rules, and were prior to 1928 considered as servants of the Managing Committees of the several schools who had framed no definite leave rules and granted leave to teaching staff at their discretion.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Did Government apply their mind to the report of Mr. Smith?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes, Sir.

DISCONTENT AMONG TEACHERS IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SCHOOLS.

1077. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Were the teachers in the Railway schools Railway servants before the declarations of 1928, and will Government be pleased to state why such of them as had been recruited long before 1st April, 1930 were not brought under the old East Indian Railway Rules?

(b) Are Government aware that this action of Government has caused hardship to and has aroused great discontent among many old teachers?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to parts (c), (f) and (g) of his question No. 1076.

(b) No.

LEAVE ON AVERAGE PAY IN CASES OF ILLNESS FOR TEACHERS IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SCHOOLS.

1078. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Is it a fact that under the new rule 24 of the State Railway Leave Rules, teachers in the East Indian Railway schools in the plains, because they have ordinary school vacations, cannot be granted leave on average pay even in cases of *bona fide* illness certified by the Railway medical officers?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the principle behind the said rule?

(c) Are Government prepared to reconsider the position?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes, the staff availing of school vacation are not entitled to leave on average pay under Rule 24.

(b) Government consider that a deduction should be made from leave earned in respect of staff who enjoyed full vacation.

(c) No. Government consider that the requirements of the case are met by leave on half average pay which is admissible under the Rules.

SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS IN INDIA AND BURMA TO CERTAIN NEWS AGENCIES.

1079. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** With reference to the Honourable the Home Member's reply to Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar's unstarred question No. 295 on April 1, 1935, that a sum of Rs. 61,200 was provided in the budget to meet the cost of subscription to News Agencies, namely the Reuters and the Associated Press of India, will Government be pleased to state:

(i) the amount of such subscriptions, which each of the Provincial Governments in India and Burma pays to the same news agencies;

(ii) the terms of arrangement referred to in the Honourable the Home Member's reply to the unstarred question referred to above and the period for which such arrangement was entered;

(iii) whether they consider the desirability of obtaining some relief for the British Indian taxpayer; and

(iv) whether they are prepared to institute an enquiry into these subsidies?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (i) and (ii). Under the terms of the contract with Messrs. Reuters, Ltd., that news agency is required to supply their messages to such officers of the Government in British India as shall for that purpose be nominated from time to time by the Government of India in return for the payment of Rs. 49,200 per annum. No separate payment is, therefore, made by Local Governments for Reuters messages. As regards Indian News Agency telegrams, these are supplied to Government officials on ordinary commercial terms, namely, on payment of Rs. 30 per mensem for each copy of their news service supplied. The Government of India make provision to meet the cost of the Indian News Agency telegrams supplied to their own officers, while Local Governments make their own arrangements direct with the Indian News Agency regarding their own requirements. I regret that I am unable to give information regarding the amounts paid by Local Governments for this service.

(iii) and (iv). The payments are made so as to obtain for certain Government officers the telegrams issued by these news agencies. The question of reducing this expenditure was carefully examined in 1931 and I do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by a further enquiry now.

PASSES GRANTED TO REUTERS AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OF INDIA ON RAILWAYS IN INDIA AND BURMA.

1080. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of first class complimentary passes granted to Reuters and the Associated Press of India by the State and the Company-managed railways in India and Burma?

(b) Are Government prepared to grant a similar concession to the representatives of other newspapers and news agencies? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Since the 1st April, 1935, no passes have been granted to Reuters by Agents of State-managed Railways, but it is understood that the Agent of one Company-managed Railway, has given a card pass personal to the General Manager who supplies the Administration with news bulletins twice a day free of charge. The Associated Press were given one return journey pass on each of the following railways:

Burma, Eastern Bengal and South Indian.

The Railway Board have given the representative of the Associated Press, at the headquarters of the Government of India, a card pass over State-managed Railways, but have advised him that the privilege will be for a limited period.

(b) Railway Administrations have been advised that the Railway Board see no objection to their granting occasional cheque passes to press representatives provided, in the opinion of the Agent, the issue of such passes is in the interests of the railway. Passes have accordingly been issued to representatives of various other newspapers and news agencies, e.g., by the Eastern Bengal Railway to representatives of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and the United Press of India, in connection with excursion trains and for publicity purposes.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Will Government see that this privilege is extended to other news agencies and representatives of other newspapers?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I think that the policy of which Railway Administrations have been advised by the Railway Board meets the situation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware of the fact that no free passes are issued to the United Press on the South Indian Railway, while they are issued to the Associated Press?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am not aware of that, but I have read out in reply to part (b) of the question that Railway Administrations have been advised that, where necessary and where it is in the interests of the railway, check passes may be issued by them.

PRICE CHARGED AND ANNUAL RENT FOR THE PLOT OF LAND ON WHICH THE OFFICES OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OF INDIA AND THE REUTERS ARE SITUATED IN NEW DELHI.

1081. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the price charged by them for the plot of land on which the offices of the Associated Press of India and the Reuters are situated in New Delhi today and the annual rent charged from those agencies?

(b) Is it a fact that on account of these offices being in close proximity to the stone grinding machine at one time, a temporary reduction in the annual rent was made by Government? If so, have the rents been now adjusted to their normal level? If not, why not?

(c) Are Government prepared to grant similar concessions to other newspapers and news agencies?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) The plot has been leased on a premium of Rs. 15,000 with an annual ground rent of Rs. 750.

(b) The reply to the first two parts is in the affirmative. The third part does not arise.

(c) No concession was involved in the premium or ground rent charged for the site, and the operation of the stone-grinding machine, which was the cause of a temporary reduction of rent, has also ceased. The question of granting concessions to other newspapers and news agencies does not, therefore, arise.

PAYMENTS MADE TO THE DELHI/SIMLA BRANCH OF THE REUTERS AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OF INDIA FROM THE "REUTBUCK ACCOUNT".

1082. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the nature and purpose of the "Reutbuck Account", which is maintained by the Home Department of the Government of India, and out of which regular payments are made to the Delhi/Simla branch of the Reuters and the Associated Press of India?

(b) What is the total amount paid every year to these two agencies out of this fund?

(c) Are Government aware that Mr. Durgadas of the Associated Press of India is paid a regular salary out of this fund every month?

(d) Are there any other members of the Associated Press staff similarly benefited?

(e) Are Government prepared to make proper enquiries if they are not aware of these payments to individual members of the staff of these two news agencies?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member presumably refers to the Cable Service grant which is also known as the Reutbuck Grant and which is provided in the budget for the purpose of making payments to Reuters news agency to enable them to send to England and other countries messages regarding current events in India of greater length than commercial considerations would ordinarily permit. This system was started in 1921 and its justification is that it makes it possible for additional news to be sent to all parts of the world at press rates and at press speed and ensures its publication in a wide variety of newspapers. Prior to retrenchment in 1931 the grant was Rs. 9,000. The retrenchment Sub-Committee recommended reduction to Rs. 6,000 but actually a reduction was first made to Rs. 4,500 and later to Rs. 3,000, at which figure the grant now stands.

(c), (d) and (e). Government have no information about, nor are they in any way concerned with, the objects on which Reuters expends its income.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are these extra messages sent as a result of this concession, sent on the responsibility of the news agency, or are they censored by Government?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Government indicate on what subject they want more information sent, but the responsibility is the news agency's.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it, therefore, that, apart from indicating the subjects on which they want messages sent, they have nothing to do with the actual contents of the messages?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I think that is correct.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And what is the criterion by which they judge of the nature of the subjects, on which they want these extra messages sent?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Subjects in which the public in other countries are likely to take an interest or news which the news agency would probably not send in full unless it had some special payment for doing so.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it that these messages are not sent with any particular propagandist object?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, broadly speaking, that is correct.

"DROP COPY" OF REUTERS TELEGRAMS TO LONDON DELIVERED FREE OF CHARGE AT THE INDIA OFFICE OR THE OFFICES OF THE REUTERS AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OF INDIA.

1083. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether a 'drop copy' of Reuters telegrams to London is delivered free of charge at the India Office or the offices of the Reuters and the Associated Press of India?

(b) Are Government prepared to grant similar concessions to other news agencies?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Government have no information.

(b) The question does not arise.

ACCOMMODATION PROVIDED FOR MR. U. N. SEN, MANAGING EDITOR OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS OF INDIA IN THE WESTERN COURT AT NEW DELHI.

1084. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Western Court on Queensway is reserved for the Members of the Central Legislature and Government officials, and whether Mr. U. N. Sen, Managing Editor of the Associated Press of India, has also been given accommodation there for the last six years?

(b) Are Government prepared to provide similar accommodation to the representatives of other newspapers and news agencies? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Quarters in the Western Court, New Delhi, are reserved for Members of the Indian Legislature and Government officials, but any vacant quarters can be allotted to others subject to the condition that they are vacated at 24 hours' notice if required for an entitled person. Mr. U. N. Sen has been occupying accommodation in the Western Court on this condition since the winter season of 1933-34.

(b) Yes, if accommodation is available and the allottee undertakes to vacate it at 24 hours' notice.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS MAINTAINED BY RAILWAY ADMINISTRATIONS FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF THEIR EMPLOYEES.

1085. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number and location of educational institutions maintained

by the following Railway Administrations for the education of the boys and girls of their Indian, Anglo-Indian and European employees:

- (i) Eastern Bengal Railway;
- (ii) East Indian Railway;
- (iii) Bengal Nagpur Railway;
- (iv) Assam Bengal Railway;
- (v) Bengal and North Western Railway;
- (vi) Great Indian Peninsula Railway;
- (vii) Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, and
- (viii) Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the amount spent by each of these Railway Administrations on the education of the children of their Indian employees, as also of the Anglo-Indian and European employees during the last three years?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what control, if any, is exercised by them over the management of these educational institutions?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am collecting information and shall lay a reply on the table of the House, in due course.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE GIRLS OF INDIAN EMPLOYEES OF CERTAIN RAILWAYS.

1086. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that no educational institutions are maintained by the Eastern Bengal, East Indian, Bengal Nagpur, Assam Bengal, Bengal and North Western, Bombay, Baroda and Central India, and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Administrations for the education of the girls of their Indian employees?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government state the reasons therefor?

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the number and location of such institutions, and the costs incurred by the respective railways for their maintenance during the past three years?

(d) Do Government propose to take steps for the establishment of such schools? If so, what? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a), (b) and (c). Separate schools are not provided for girls but girls are admitted in the boys' schools.

(d) In view of the reason given in my reply to parts (a) to (c) it is not considered necessary to provide separate schools for the education of girls, and the policy of the Railway Department is not to incur further capital expenditure on the provision of additional schools.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS MAINTAINED BY CERTAIN RAILWAYS FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE GIRLS OF THEIR EUROPEAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN EMPLOYEES.

1087. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if educational institutions are maintained by the Great Indian Peninsula, Eastern Bengal, East Indian, Bengal Nagpur, Assam Bengal, Bengal and North Western, Bombay, Baroda and Central India, and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Administrations for the education of the girls of their European and Anglo-Indian employees?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the number and location of such institutions and the respective costs incurred by the Railway Administrations on their maintenance?

(c) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state why no such institutions are maintained?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (c). With the exception of the Bengal and North Western Railway, information regarding which is being collected separate schools for the education of the girls of European and Anglo-Indian employees are not maintained by the other Railways named, but girls are admitted in the schools maintained for boys.

(b) Does not arise.

PAUCITY OF QUARTERS FOR INDIAN TEACHERS OF RAILWAY SCHOOLS.

1088. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that all the teachers of the schools for European and Anglo-Indian boys maintained by various Railway Administrations are provided with quarters, while only a few of the Indian teachers of the schools for boys are provided with the same? If so, why?

(b) Do Government propose to provide all these Indian teachers with quarters? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) I lay a statement on the table of the House giving the required information so far as State-managed Railways are concerned.

(b) No. The present policy of Government is to provide quarters only where private enterprise has not adequately met the demand for housing and where the staff concerned are required to live near the place of work.

Statement showing the position as regards the supply of quarters to teachers in European and Anglo-Indian and Indian schools maintained by the State-managed Railway.

E. I.—At Oakgrove school which is a Boarding school all teachers are provided with quarters.

Schools on the plains both European and Anglo-Indian and Indian are day-schools and the policy with regard to the provision of quarters has been the same for both classes of schools. Quarters are ordinarily provided first for those teachers who have to do work in connection with the school outside school hours. Thereafter in certain cases quarters have been provided where railway quarters were available or where private enterprise had not adequately met the demand for housing.

E. I.—There are only four schools maintained by this Railway for the children of Railway employees and the four teachers of these schools are provided with Railway quarters. They are all European and Anglo-Indian schools. No other school for the children of employees is maintained by the Railway.

N. W.—On this Railway there is no European and Anglo-Indian school exclusively for boys. The three European and Anglo-Indian schools existing on this railway cater both for boys and girls. The teaching staff in these schools consists of eight lady teachers of whom five are provided with quarters attached to the schools.

With regard to Indian schools for boys, there are two such schools on this railway. The teachers of one of these two schools occupy railway quarters as no private quarters are available.

G. I. P.—All school teachers engaged on this railway prior to 1st April 1932, are provided with free quarters or an allowance of 10 per cent. of pay in lieu when quarters are not available. Those appointed after that date are not eligible for free quarters or any rent allowance. No schools are maintained on this railway for Indian children only.

Burma.—One teacher in European and Anglo-Indian school Yamethin and one teacher in each Anglo-vernacular school at Insein and Myitnge are provided with quarters.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Are Government aware that all the teachers in Anglo-Indian schools are provided with quarters, and, if so, do Government propose to supply quarters to every one of the Indian teachers in Indian schools?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Quarters are provided in pursuance of the policy which I have indicated in reply to part (b) of the question, both to Anglo-Indian as well as to Indian teachers.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is it not a fact that practically every Anglo-Indian and European teacher is provided with quarters, whereas many Indian teachers are not provided with any sort of quarters?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: With regard to that, I am afraid, I shall require notice.

CHURCHES ESTABLISHED BY CERTAIN RAILWAYS FOR THE USE OF THEIR EUROPEAN AND ANGLO-INDIAN EMPLOYEES.

1089. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** Will the Honourable Member in charge of Railways be pleased to state the number and location of Churches established by the Great Indian Peninsula, Eastern Bengal, East Indian, Bengal Nagpur, Assam Bengal, Bengal and North Western, Bombay, Baroda and Central India and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railways for the use of their European and Anglo-Indian employees and the total cost incurred by them on this account?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no information but are making enquiries.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know if the result of these inquiries will be laid on the table?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes: the information when available will be laid on the table.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEDICAL COLLEGE IN RAJPUTANA.

1090. ***Babu Baijnath Bajoria** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni): (a) Is it a fact that there is no medical college in Rajputana and the students from this province wishing to get medical education have to go to other provinces?

(b) Are Government aware that they are refused admission by the Medical Colleges of Lucknow and Lahore?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of providing facilities for their training in any of the above Medical Colleges?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The question of obtaining facilities for students from Ajmer-Merwara for medical education in graduate courses is under consideration.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Are Government prepared to open a medical school or college at Ajmer for the benefit of students in Ajmer-Merwara and Rajputana?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: No: I do not think that the number of students offering would justify such a step.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A TECHNICAL AND ENGINEERING COLLEGE IN AJMER.

1091. ***Babu Baijnath Bajoria** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni): (a) Are Government aware that there is no technical and engineering college in Ajmer, and the students from this province cannot get such education in institutions of other provinces?

(b) Are Government prepared to provide facilities to students of this province to get admissions in engineering or technical institutions?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes, but except at the Poona College of Engineering there is, so far as I am aware, no specific bar at any technical or engineering institution against the admission of students from Ajmer or any other part of India. At the Poona College only residents of the Bombay Presidency are admitted.

(b) The Government of India decided in 1925 that students resident in centrally administered areas, who obtain from the Minor Local Governments concerned permission to appear at the entrance examination of the Thomason Civil Engineering College, Roorkee, and are admitted to the College, may receive financial assistance from the Government of India. The local Administration have funds for the grant of occasional scholarships to students in other colleges. No further facilities seem to be required.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Are Government prepared to arrange or provide training facilities in the Loco, and Carriage Workshops in Ajmer, for students from Ajmer and Rajputana specially?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: In the railway workshops?

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Yes.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That is a question for my Honourable colleague, the Railway Member.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: If it is by reservation of certain seats for students from Ajmer, no.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Or in any other way, so that they may get training?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: In the usual way, Sir.

DISBURSEMENT OF THE AMOUNT SUBSCRIBED TO THE VICEROY'S QUETTA RELIEF FUND.

1092. ***Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount subscribed to the Viceroy's Quetta Relief Fund;
- (b) the amounts disbursed so far out of the above Fund under different heads, with special reference to the amounts given directly to Quetta sufferers by way of maintenance, business grants, relief to students, relief to orphans or reliefs to widows, etc.;
- (c) the amounts allotted to each district in each province under different heads;
- (d) how they propose to disburse the balance;
- (e) whether the money subscribed is for direct disbursement to Quetta sufferers or earmarked for other items also concerning Quetta earthquake, *e.g.*, railway expenses, military expenses, salvage expenses, building of Government buildings, etc.;
- (f) the amount spent, if any, out of the above Fund on the railway fare and ship fare of British soldiers or other Britishers from Quetta to Home and the amount, if any, given to them per head by way of relief;
- (g) the estimated loss of life and property, respectively
 - (i) of Britishers; and
 - (ii) of Indians;
- (h) the number of houses salvaged and the time taken in this work
 - (i) by Government, and
 - (ii) by private agencies; and
- (i) the amount, if any, spent by Government out of Government treasury, other than the relief money, on items concerning Quetta Earthquake under different heads?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: (a), (b), (c) and (d). The Honourable Member is referred to the Government of India's press communiqué, dated the 1st February, 1936, a copy of which is placed on the table.

(e) In regard to military and railway expenditure as explained in paragraph 4 of the Press Communiqué of the 6th September, 1935 (a copy of which is also placed on the table) and the 1st February, 1936, the Relief Fund is being asked to bear the costs of food, blankets, medical comforts, etc., supplied from military stores to refugees immediately after the earthquake and half the cost of railway passes issued to them at that time. The Railways are bearing the other half. As stated in paragraph 6 of the Press Communiqué of the 6th September, 1935, the Relief Fund will in no circumstances be devoted to the construction of Government buildings. This is a charge against Government revenues. Government are also bearing, as a measure of relief to property owners who suffered in the earthquake, a large part of the cost of salvage and site clearance operations, and the Relief Fund is not being used for this object.

(f) In regard to the first part, the only figure that can be given without lengthy enquiries is that of £46,000 quoted as the approximate cost of transport of Europeans to the United Kingdom in the reply given to question No. 633 by Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazani. Of this sum it is anticipated that considerably the larger share will fall to be borne by Government in respect of its own servants. In regard to the second part it is important to remember that the Fund is not being administered on a racial basis and that therefore separate accounts are not being maintained in respect of expenditure on Europeans and Indians. A sum of Rs. 54,000 has been placed at the disposal of the military authorities to enable the families of British warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men evacuated from Quetta to the United Kingdom to replace essentials such as clothing on their arrival in England, and a sum of between £1,200 and £1,300 has been spent on civilian refugees there. Expenditure on civilian Europeans has also been incurred in India, but to ascertain its amount and the figure per head would involve a detailed accounts enquiry which Government do not consider it necessary to undertake.

(g) The Honourable Member is referred to replies given in this House on the 10th September, 1935, to parts (a) and (b) of a question asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.

(h) In Quetta city approximately fifteen thousand shops and houses were destroyed or badly damaged. Systematic salvage thereof started on the 16th September, and is now substantially completed. Salvage by private agency did not commence till about the middle of December.

(i) Approximately Rs. 78 lakhs.

Press Communiqué.

In December last, the Honorary Secretary to the Viceroy's Quetta Earthquake Relief Fund intimated His Excellency's decision to close the collection of subscriptions at the end of that month. The receipts of the Fund amount to Rs. 51,77,910 to which is to be added the sum of £12,500 still to be received from His Majesty's Government.

2. Of this sum about Rs. 15 lakhs have been hitherto placed at the disposal of the local relief authorities. The amounts allotted to each, and the objects to which the expenditure is being devoted are shown briefly below:

(a) General purposes (temporary subsistence grants, medical comforts and appliances, educational grants, grants to restart in business):

	Rs.
British Baluchistan	3,00,000
Kalat State	10,000
Sind	3,34,000
Punjab	3,70,000
Khairpur State	21,000
N. W. F. P.	22,000
Military authorities	55,000
*Miscellaneous	31,000
	11,43,000

(b) Grants for house-building material—	
British Baluchistan—rural	1,50,000
Kalat State	1,00,000
	2,50,000

(c) Grants for purchase of plough cattle—	
British Baluchistan	25,000
Kalat State	25,000
	50,000

(d) Grants for clearance of irrigation channels (Karezes)—	
Kalat State	50,000
(In British India this expenditure is being met from Government revenues).	

TOTAL 14,93,000

3. Local relief authorities have also been asked for estimates of their total probable expenditure. These show that, apart from Baluchistan and the Kalat State, a further sum of about 1 lakh will be needed, but it is possible that this sum will have to be supplemented. It is certain that further grants will be necessary for measures of rural relief (e.g., housebuilding and purchase of plough cattle) in Baluchistan and the Kalat State.

4. The figures given above do not take into account the very substantial expenditure incurred on measures of relief in the Earthquake area immediately after the disaster, when food, clothes, medical comforts, blankets, etc., were supplied to a large proportion of the civil population. The cost of these measures has been roughly estimated at 15 lakhs, but it is not possible at this stage to give a final figure nor is it yet known what proportion of the expenditure is chargeable to the Relief Fund. Further the value of free railway passes issued at that time to refugees has been calculated at Rs. 4½ lakhs. It has been decided that this expenditure will be shared equally between the Relief Fund and the Railway Department, this decision involving in effect an addition of over Rs. 2 lakhs to Government's original contribution of Rs. 10 lakhs to the Relief Fund. The Relief Fund has also to bear the cost of passages of civilian refugees sent to their homes outside India. In respect of these no final account has yet been received by the authorities administering the Fund. The provision of transport facilities necessitated by the earthquake including the vessel 'Karanja', chartered by Government, cost, it is understood, about £47,000, but it is expected that considerably the larger share of this sum will fall to be borne by Government in respect of its own servants (civil and military).

5. It will be apparent that after meeting the liabilities against the Fund indicated above a substantial balance will be available for other purposes of relief. By far the most important of these is assistance in the shape of house-building grants to deserving persons who suffered in the earthquake and who desire to settle in the new Quetta. Help in such cases is the more necessary because in the interests of all

* This figure represents smaller sums for relief in this category remitted to the United Provinces, Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Kashmir State and the United Kingdom.

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(f) In regard to the first part, the only figure that can be given without lengthy enquiries is that of £46,000 quoted as the approximate cost of transport of Europeans to the United Kingdom in the reply given to question No. 633 by Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazimi. Of this sum it is anticipated that considerably the larger share will fall to be borne by Government in respect of its own servants. In regard to the second part it is important to remember that the Fund is not being administered on a racial basis and that therefore separate accounts are not being maintained in respect of expenditure on Europeans and Indians. A sum of Rs. 54,000 has been placed at the disposal of the military authorities to enable the families of British warrant officers, non-commissioned officers and men evacuated from Quetta to the United Kingdom to replace essentials such as clothing on their arrival in England, and a sum of between £1,200 and £1,300 has been spent on civilian refugees there. Expenditure on civilian Europeans has also been incurred in India, but to ascertain its amount and the figure per head would involve a detailed accounts enquiry which Government do not consider it necessary to undertake.

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3. Local relief authorities have also been asked for estimates of their total probable expenditure. These show that, apart from Baluchistan and the Kalat State, a further sum of about 1 lakh will be needed, but it is possible that this sum will have to be supplemented. It is certain that further grants will be necessary for measures of rural relief (e.g., housebuilding and purchase of plough cattle) in Baluchistan and the Kalat State.

4. The figures given above do not take into account the very substantial expenditure incurred on measures of relief in the Earthquake area immediately after the disaster, when food, clothes, medical comforts, blankets, etc., were supplied to a large proportion of the civil population. The cost of these measures has been roughly estimated at 15 lakhs, but it is not possible at this stage to give a final figure nor is it yet known what proportion of the expenditure is chargeable to the Relief Fund. Further the value of free railway passes issued at that time to refugees has been calculated at Rs. 4½ lakhs. It has been decided that this expenditure will be shared equally between the Relief Fund and the Railway Department, this decision involving in effect an addition of over Rs. 2 lakhs to Government's original contribution of Rs. 10 lakhs to the Relief Fund. The Relief Fund has also to bear the cost of passages of civilian refugees sent to their homes outside India. In respect of these no final account has yet been received by the authorities administering the Fund. The provision of transport facilities necessitated by the earthquake including the vessel 'Karanja', chartered by Government, cost, it is understood, about £47,000, but it is expected that considerably the larger share of this sum will fall to be borne by Government in respect of its own servants (civil and military).

5. It will be apparent that after meeting the liabilities against the Fund indicated above a substantial balance will be available for other purposes of relief. By far the most important of these is assistance in the shape of house-building grants to deserving persons who suffered in the earthquake and who desire to settle in the new Quetta. Help in such cases is the more necessary because in the interests of all

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concerned a safer and consequently more expensive standard of building will be insisted on than was adopted in the past. This form of relief was an outstanding feature of the earthquake relief operations in Bihar in 1934 and it is eminently desirable that as large a sum as possible should be kept in hand for this purpose. The distribution of this relief cannot of course commence until the salvage and site clearance operations now in progress are completed and measures have been devised to regulate private building in the new Quetta.

(Sd.) B. M. STAIG,
Relief Commissioner.

NEW DELHI;

The 1st February, 1936.

Press Communiqué.

1. In their communiqué of the 26th June, 1935, the Government of India intimated certain decisions of His Excellency the Viceroy in regard to the administration of his Quetta Relief Fund. These included a statement of the objects on which expenditure from the Fund could be appropriately incurred. Orders have since been issued to relief authorities which authorise them to employ the Fund in giving grants to enable deserving persons among the middle classes (both tradesmen and professional men) to make a fresh start in business, and also to artisans to buy tools and materials with the same object. It is hoped that in this way a large number of individuals who suffered in the earthquake will be helped to resume, in some degree, the normal tenor of their lives.

2. In the earlier communiqué on this subject, it was stated that temporary subsistence grants would be given where there was no other means of support for a period of three months in the first instance. This period has now been extended up to another three months in cases where for reasons such as injury or ill-health or old age the discontinuance of the allowance would involve very grave hardship.

3. Apart from the expenditure incurred from the Fund on the objects indicated in this and the earlier communiqué, grants have been made to the local authorities in Baluchistan and the Kalat State amounting to Rs. 2½ lakhs in all at present, to enable them to meet expenditure on the provision of housing materials for those in the devastated area whose homes are in ruins. A grant of Rs. 50,000 has also been made to the Kalat State for the reconstruction of Karezes (subterranean irrigation channels) a work of pressing urgency in the interests of the next harvest.

4. The total sum already placed at the disposal of local authorities from the Fund for the objects referred to above, including the sum of Rs. 1 lakh contributed by the Punjab Government, and returned to them shortly after the earthquake, for relief purposes in the Punjab, amounts to about Rs. 7 lakhs, and estimates of their further requirements will be dealt with when received. It should not however be concluded that this sum represents the total expenditure debitable to the Fund up to date. It takes no cognizance of the cost of relief measures adopted by the authorities in Quetta immediately after the disaster, (a) to provide food, shelter, clothing, bedding and medical care and comforts for the stricken community, and (b) to evacuate refugees from the devastated area. The measures under (a) involved very heavy draws on military stores of rations, tents, blankets, and medical appliances and drugs, and under (b) abnormal consumption of petrol supplied by the army in connection with transport for relief work in Quetta itself, and the liberal provision outside Quetta of facilities by rail and sea. For the present, all the above expenditure has been charged to the budgets of the departments of Government in which it has been incurred. No reliable figures of its amount are yet available but a very rough estimate of total military expenditure to date arising in connection with the earthquake is Rs. 40 lakhs, of which it is roughly calculated that Rs. 15 lakhs was incurred on behalf of the civil population. No figures have yet been received by the Government of India showing the cost of the free passes issued at Quetta to refugees to enable them to proceed to places where they had relatives or a prospect of employment. It is obvious that a considerable proportion of the expenditure on these relief measures is properly chargeable to the Relief Fund, and not to public revenues. A decision as to the precise allocation of this cost between Government revenues and the Fund cannot be reached until the facts and figures are more accurately known. But it will be apparent that the sum already properly debitable to the Fund is far in excess of the Rs. 7 lakhs placed at the disposal of local relief authorities. That sum

also takes no account of any future commitments that may have been entered into by local authorities in connection with educational facilities (which sometimes include maintenance) for children involved in the earthquake.

5. Detailed information as to the number of cases dealt with and the form of relief given is issued periodically to the press by local relief authorities and it is not proposed to reproduce statistics here.

6. From enquiries received by the Relief Commissioner based, it is understood, on statements appearing in the press, it seems necessary to reassure the public that the Relief Fund will in no circumstances be devoted to the reconstruction of Government buildings in Quetta. This work will be financed from Government revenues.

7. Certain criticisms of the administration of the Fund in regard to the extent of the relief given in individual cases, delay in giving it and the smallness of the total sum disbursed have been adduced in certain sections of the press, with special reference to Sind. Examination of these criticisms has disclosed that the relief given has been adequate and suitable with reference to the status of the beneficiary, and that any appearance of delay in affording it is attributable solely to the working arrangement arrived at between the local authorities administering His Excellency the Viceroy's Relief Fund and the Committee in charge of the Mayor's Fund in Karachi. It was definitely agreed between these bodies that the Mayor's Fund would be applied to immediate relief and the Viceroy's Fund to more permanent relief. Under this arrangement and owing to the existence of other funds in Sind for relief work, it would have involved a grave waste of available resources to have incurred expenditure from the Viceroy's Fund on cases which were being otherwise adequately assisted. The lack of foundation for the criticism as to the smallness of the total amount disbursed from the Viceroy's Fund to date will be apparent from the facts given in paragraph 4 of this communiqué.

8. In this connection it may be observed that some of the requests for assistance which have been received to enable persons to resume business refer to very large sums and appear to be based on the assumption that the Fund will be in a position to compensate the claimant entirely for the loss he has sustained. This assumption is unlikely to prove warranted. Where claims for help on a large scale are based primarily on the idea of compensation, and their examination discloses ground for the view that the claimant is not without other resources, the consideration of the claim must inevitably be delayed until fuller information is available as to the extent of the final demands on the Fund, in order that ultimately its resources may be distributed equitably among the genuinely deserving cases. In cases where pending final consideration the need for immediate help is established, temporary assistance will be given. This assistance will not be confined to refugees in India. The Secretary of State is already disbursing temporary relief to deserving persons who have been evacuated to England.

SIMLA;

The 6th September, 1935.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know what is the balance in the Relief Fund?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: The original receipts were Rs. 51,77,910 to which is to be added the sum of £12,500 still to be received from His Majesty's Government.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: May I know whether Government have decided in the case of people whose houses have been demolished by the earthquake, to give them any relief by lending money as in the case of the Bihar earthquake, on the property for rebuilding their houses?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: It is certainly the intention to give building advances. All that is fully explained in these communiqués which might have been read before and can be read now, because I am placing copies of both of them on the table of the House.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I wanted to know the balance of the money that is in the hands of the Government now, in the Relief Fund.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: Full particulars will be found in these communiqués: if you wish me, Sir, to read the whole communiqué to the House, I can do so. It is a very lengthy document.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I only wanted to know if the communiqué contains that figure. If not, I want to know what it is?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I must ask for notice of that question, because I have not got the figures with me.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Are Government aware that, in the view of some observers, the funds are not being properly administered? (Opposition laughter.)

(No answer.)

CASUAL LEAVE FOR THE STAFF OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1093. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Are Government aware that the staff of the North Western Railway generally does not get casual leave in time?

(b) What objection have Government in granting such leave by introducing twelve hours duty as done in sick cases?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

ADDITIONAL PASSES ENJOYED BY THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY OFFICERS.

1094. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** Is it a fact that the North Western Railway officers in addition to their metal passes on which they can travel with their families, get more passes than their subordinates?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: A metal pass covers the journey of an officer when on duty and of his family if accompanying him. If his family travels without him, a cheque pass counting against the number annually admissible to the officer must be obtained as in the case of all other staff.

ADDITIONAL PASSES ENJOYED BY THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY OFFICERS.

1095. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that the number of passes in the case of officers on railways has been increased from 16 to 24, while in the case of subordinates reduced from five to three?

(b) What principle has been adopted in introducing this change?

(c) Are Government prepared to give to the subordinate officers the same facilities of passes over foreign Railways as are given to officials and the staff of the Clearing Accounts Office?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by Mr. P. R. Rau to Bhai Parma Nand's question No. 65 on the 22nd February, 1935. No change has been made in the number of passes admissible to subordinates, but the number of passes admissible to officers has been increased to twenty-four single journey passes.

(b) Prior to 1st April, 1933, there was no limit to the number of passes admissible to officers, but as the principle of limitation had been adopted, it was considered that the subsequent limitation to twelve was somewhat drastic.

(c) I am unable to understand the Honourable Member's question. The number of passes admissible over foreign railways to the officials and staff of the Clearing Accounts Office is the same as the number admissible to other staff.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Is the Honourable Member aware that on 12 Noon, the North Western Railway so many passes are issued that passengers are not able to get accommodation even in second class compartments?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, Sir; passes are issued in accordance with the rules laid down.

RELIEF TO THE TRANSPORTATION STAFF ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

1096. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that the number of Transportation staff over the North Western Railway, who fail to pass in class 'A' but pass in class 'B' at the periodical medical examination, are generally discharged and not provided in other departments with 'B' class?

(b) Are Government aware that this practice involves great hardship to the Transportation staff who lose their health on account of night duty?

(c) Are Government prepared to amend the rule in such a way as to give relief to the Transportation staff in this direction?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). Government are informed that figures are not readily available to show the number of Transportation staff failing to pass in Class A, but found fit in class B, having been found alternative employment. Since the economy campaign started in 1931, requiring the absorption of surplus staff and the re-engagement of those retrenched, it has not been as easy to find alternative employment for this class of staff as it was prior to that date. Every endeavour is made to find alternative employment for the staff declared medically unfit for employment in their own category.

(c) If the Honourable Member will specify the rule to which he is referring I will endeavour to reply.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ROADS.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have to inform the Assembly that up to 12 Noon on Monday, the 9th March, 1936, the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committee on Roads, only seven nominations were received out of which one Member has since withdrawn his candidature. As the number of candidates is now equal to the number of vacancies, I declare the following Members to be duly elected, namely:

- (1) Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand,
- (2) Mr. Umar Aly Shah,
- (3) Mr. Sham Lal,
- (4) Babu Kailash Behari Lal,
- (5) Mr. G. Morgan, and
- (6) Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*DEMAND No. 31—FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT—*contd.**Perilous Nature of the Forward Policy pursued by the Government of India—contd.*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The discussion will now be resumed on the cut motion relating to the frontier policy.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe (Foreign Secretary): Sir, when the session was interrupted last evening, I was endeavouring to refute the suggestion which had been made on the other side that the Afridis never commit any offence of any kind and that it is entirely Government's oppression which leads to trouble with them. I mentioned several offences which they had committed, and I need only say further that the suggestion which was made that we have stopped their allowances is incorrect. The allowances were only held up for a short time, and they have now all been paid out and accepted. The only sum which is still held in reserve by His Excellency the Governor is of payments which are known as *lungis* and *maliki* which are payments intended as rewards to individuals

Dr. Khan Sahib (North-West Frontier Province: General): On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I never said that their allowances were stopped. I said they were going to be stopped, and that negotiations were going on. I never said that they were stopped.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: My Honourable friend is possibly better informed than I am as to the intentions of Government, but I hardly think that is the case. What I said was that allowances were held up only for a

short time and that they have now all been paid out. There are certain *maliki* allowances which are still held in reserve, and the question of their possible re-distribution is still under consideration. That is all that has been done, and I wish to make it quite clear that that has been done, not because they have so far refused to accept the road, but because their behaviour or the behaviour of the *Maliks* has not been sufficiently satisfactory to justify these payments being made immediately. We have no intention,—and I should like to make this quite clear,—we have no intention of pushing through that road by force. We have always said so and stick to that.

Before I leave the question of Afridis, Sir, there is one point which I should like to make, and that is, it has been suggested that the Government of India are entirely responsible for quickening the pace of this peaceful penetration policy. I should like to put a different point of view before the House which will perhaps lead them to take a different view of the reasons for any quickening of the pace that there may have been. Our idea is, and this has the support of a number of Indian gentlemen in the Frontier who have been intimately acquainted with the tribes for many years, that the advent of reforms in the North-West Frontier has reacted on the tribes. The tribes, including the Afridis who are very long headed people, observe the advance of education and democracy among the Pathan population of the settled districts, and the wiser people among the Afridis ask themselves what part they are going to play in these new developments. They realise that they cannot remain for ever outside this new democracy. With no posts for their sons and no tuning of their own democratic gifts to the orchestra of the new Councils, if they have no education, no motor cars, in a word no progress down the road marked out for India, what, they say, is going to happen to them? This feeling, I think, had expression in the agreement which the Afridis made with regard to the road, and although reactionary forces have triumphed for the moment, that feeling will, I think, persist. In the nature of things the new thought has come to stay, and the old belief in isolation is being affected. In any case, the Afridi awakening, however uncomfortable for the Afridis, is not the result of an aggressive policy of the Government of India. Nor is it true, in my view, that the Frontier is really unrestful at the moment. Force has been applied in more than one Frontier area during the past few years, but such force in the Mohmand or lower areas was necessary to resist the aggression of such persons as Badshah Gul and the Faquir of Alingar and to hold the tribes to their agreements. For evidence, that the old spirit of aggression is still in existence, we need go no further back than to 1930, and I maintain that any weakening of Government authority, any hesitation to inflict punishment for misdoing will still bring the tribesmen down in swarms into plains

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Has it ever done so before?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: The new idea to which I referred, if we do not use force when it is necessary in order to resist aggression, will fail, because the tribes will themselves feel that it is no use entering a civilization and a system which is unable to protect itself.

[Sir Aubrey Metcalfe.]

I now turn to one or two of the criticisms which were made by individual Honourable Members in supporting this cut motion. One was made by my friend, Syed Murtuza Sahib, who suggested that what we were doing on the Frontier was comparable to what Italy is doing to Abyssinia when we attempt to introduce civilization among the Afridis or others. I maintain, Sir, that that analogy is entirely unjustifiable. The Afridis and all the tribes who live in the tribal belt between the administered districts and the Durand line are subjects of India. They belong to India, and it is, I maintain, our duty, to give them some of the benefits which they cannot obtain elsewhere.

There is one point which I have not yet made which was made by the Honourable the Mover of this motion, and that was with regard to Gilgit agency. The Honourable the Mover said that our recent proceedings in Gilgit had brought us into direct and close touch with an Empire from which we had hitherto been separated by some belt or buffer State. Well, Sir, the facts are not so. It is possibly our own fault that we have not made facts clear, but I should like to take this opportunity of doing so. The Gilgit Agency and the Political Agent there have been in existence for the last fifty years. The Political Agent has always been responsible for the control of certain small principalities, such as, Hunza and Nagar, which march directly with the Russian Empire, and although those small principalities are under the suzerainty of the Kashmir Darbar and have always been, the political control over them for the last fifty years has been exercised by the Political Agent. There is another area which lies inside, that is, on the Indian side of those principalities, which is known as the Wazarat. That, of course, is under the sovereignty of the Kashmir State and still remains so, and it was administered, until last year, by a Kashmir official known as the Wazir. That system resulted in a good many difficulties of the kind which are perhaps invariably produced by dyarchy. There was a British Political Agent there who exercised political control and also a Kashmir official, and it was frequently difficult to reconcile the position of those two officials.

An Honourable Member: Is there no time limit for the Honourable Member?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: Do you wish me, Sir, to observe the time limit strictly?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair understands the Honourable Member took over fifteen minutes yesterday.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: It is very difficult in the space of a few minutes to answer all the questions.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair allows thirty minutes to the Member replying on behalf of the Government, and, if so, the Honourable Member has three minutes more.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I only wished to take this opportunity of explaining certain things which I had not had an opportunity of explaining before

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can seize another occasion for the purpose.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: The position about Gilgit, as I was saying is, that previously there was a Kashmir official side by side with the Political Agent. All that has happened now is that the administration has for a period of sixty years been handed over by the Kashmir Darbar to the Political Agent. It is purely a domestic arrangement, and one in which the Government of India, although they are faced with a certain amount of extra expenditure on civil administration, gained very substantially, and, in fact, even more substantially, on savings with regard to troops. There was previously in this area a number of Kashmir troops, two-thirds of the expenditure of supplying which was paid by the Government of India, and it was largely in order to save that payment that this new system was evolved. It adds no international responsibilities, whatever, to what we had before, and we only hope that it may result in the avoidance of friction when we administer ourselves. We also hope that it may lead to an increase of trade with Chinese Turkestan by providing an easier route from Abbottabad direct to Chilas and Gilgit, which will enable trade from India to some extent to compete with the Russian trade in Sinkiang. I feel sure that that is not a matter which the House will object to, seeing that they have themselves on more than one occasion impressed on the Government of India the necessity of giving assistance to Indian trade with foreign countries.

So much for Gilgit. I should like to have dwelt on the question of expenditure which my Honourable friend raised, but in the short time at my disposal, I am afraid that that will not be possible. I shall, therefore, now conclude with a very few general remarks on the subject of frontier policy.

I have endeavoured to impart information, but it has not been my intention to be dogmatic on the subject of our frontier policy. We fully realise that that policy is not a counsel of perfection. All that we claim is that it is the best, and, on the whole, the most economical solution that we have been able to find for what is admittedly an exceedingly difficult and contentious question. The policy has been evolved as the result of experiment, trial and error extending over a large number of years, and represents an honest and conscientious attempt to fulfil the obligations which we conceive we have to the various parties concerned, including the Indian taxpayer. It is based not at all on imperial considerations, but solely on what is believed to be the interests of India.

An Honourable Member: No.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I claim that and I shall continue to claim it in spite of negatives from the other side. It is subject to constant criticism, not only in this House, but in the press and in the various departments

[Sir Aubrey Metcalfe.]

of the Government of India, and I can assure the House that there is no more argus-eyed critic of our frontier policy than the Honourable the Finance Member himself. I should also like to assure the House that we welcome criticism, particularly, if it is of a constructive kind, and if there is any person within or without this House who can produce a better or a more economical solution for the frontier problem, I shall be only too happy to consider it.

Dr. Khan Sahib: May I say one word, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No. The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Foreign and Political Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—72.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.
Abdoolah Haroon, Seth Haji.
Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Asaf Ali, Mr. M.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Ba Si, U.
Badrul Hasan, Maulvi.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
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.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
Gauba, Mr. K. L.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Giri, Mr. V. V.
Govind Das, Seth.
Gupta, Mr. Ghansham Singh.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hidayatallah, Sir Ghulam Hussain.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
Jinnah, Mr. M. A.
Jogendra Singh, Sardar.
Kailash Behari Lal, Babu.
Khan Sahib, Dr.
Khare, Dr. N. B.

Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad.
Mudaliar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.
Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, Qazi.
Muhammad Ismail Khan, Haji Chaudhury.
Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nageswara Rao, Mr. K.
Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta.
Pant, Pandit Govind Ballabh.
Raghubir Narayan Singh, Choudhuri.
Rajan, Dr. T. S. S.
Raju, Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Saksena, Mr. Mohan Lal.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
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. Suryya Kumar.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Thein Maung, Dr.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Vissanji, Mr. Mathuradas.
Yakub, Sir Muhammad.
Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

NOES—47.

Scott, Mr. A. S. V.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
Aminuddin, Mr. Saiyid.
Ayyar, Diwan Bahadur R. V. Krishna.
Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama.
Bajpai, Sir Girja Shankar.
Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
Buss, Mr. L. C.
Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
Dalal, Dr. R. D.
Das-Gupta, Mr. S. K.
Dash, Mr. A. J.
Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kumar Vijaya Ananda.
Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.
Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
Grigson, Mr. W. V.
Hands, Mr. A. S.
Hudson, Sir Leslie.
Hutton, Dr. J. H.
James, Mr. F. E.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Khurshaid Muhammad, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.

Lal Chand, Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.
Leach, Mr. F. B.
Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
MacDougall, Mr. R. M.
Metcalfe, Sir Aubrey.
Milligan, Mr. J. A.
Morgan, Mr. G.
Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
Rau, Mr. P. R.
Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
Sale, Mr. J. F.
Sarma, Mr. R. S.
Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar.
Singh, Rai Bahadur Shyam Narayan.
Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
Spence, Mr. G. H.
Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.
Witherington, Mr. C. H.
Zafrullah Khan, The Honourable Sir Muhammad.

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 28—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Congress Party will move the next motion under Demand No. 28—Executive Council.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,49,000 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, 1937, in respect of the 'Executive Council'."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,49,000 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, 1937, in respect of the 'Executive Council'."

No Confidence in the Government.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I rise to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced to Re. 1."

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

Sir, I want to begin by submitting to the House that the constitutional significance of this cut motion is that we want to refuse supplies to the Executive Council. Unfortunately for us, the bulk of that demand is, so far as their salaries are concerned, non-voted, but, to the extent to which this House can constitutionally express its dissatisfaction with the work of the Executive Council today, I want the House to support this motion, and to refuse supplies to the Executive Council. It merely seeks to express the idea that we—I am speaking of the organised non-official Parties in the Assembly, excepting perhaps the European Group, although I shall watch with interest their attitude on this motion, "very interesting" I hope,—and we want to express the opinion that we have no confidence in this Government. (Hear, hear.) Sir, if this vote is carried by this House, and if then the Government be responsible, they ought to resign; but, since I know they are not responsible, I merely want that they should at least reform themselves, if they can.

An Honourable Member: They won't do either.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I recognise the limitations of the Government of India Act, 1919; I recognise that they cannot today accept parliamentary responsibility to this House; but, at the same time, reading that Act carefully, I have not read it to mean that the Act casts upon this Government the duty of being neither good, nor honest, nor efficient in the discharge of their duties. My challenge against this Government is, not that it is not responsible, because it is, parliamentarily speaking, impossible for them, but that, in the discharge of their duties, they have shown neither goodness, nor honesty of purpose, nor efficient management of the affairs of this country. (Hear, hear.) I want to know from the Government spokesmen themselves what they are here for; and I am willing to accept and apply that very test itself: are they here to serve the people? (Voices: "No, no".) If they are not, then I say that it is not a question of responsibility, but it is a question of their not doing the elementary duty of a civilized Government, responsible or irresponsible. Their attitude seems to be this:

"We know better than your leaders what is good for your people. Your leaders, are all wrong. We are your true leaders and your true masters. Follow us. Ask no questions. Move no resolutions. Move no cut motions, except what we like. And you will be all right."

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): You have left out adjournment motions. (Laughter.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, I ask this question—have they served the interests of the people of this country? I ask all non-official Members of this House to answer this straight question with a straight answer: have this Government truly and honestly served the supreme interests of the people? Sir, I have no doubt that the only answer can be an emphatic "no", to that question. This "responsibility", Sir, of the "grand-father" asleep, or dead, or awake, is over-done,—that of the Secretary of State for India. Now, they have themselves said that they won't even place on the table of the House the correspondence which passes between them and the Secretary of State.

Sir, I have been the supreme victim of question-time in this House. (Laughter.)

An Honourable Member: Supreme victim?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I say this, Mr. President, that, time after time, when we ask questions and supplementary questions, in the happy phrase of the Honourable the Home Member, in the manner of police-court cross-examination, we have to do it, because the Treasury Benches have today come to occupy the position of police-court witnesses who will not speak the truth unless they are cross-examined mercilessly. ("Hear, hear" and Laughter.) I know, our methods some times smack of police-court cross-examination, but what is the use? I get no results; they non-co-operate with us. First we are told, "I want notice", then "The question does not arise", then, a second's silence, and then the happy phrase for them drops from your august mouth, "next question, please". They are, therefore, saving themselves again and again by trying to evade answering straight questions with straight answers. Thus, I ask my Honourable friend, the Law Member—"when are the next elections for the Provincial Legislatures coming?", and he says, "I will consult public opinion, as and when we choose, and will tell you later on". Now, is that co-operation? Is that honesty? Is that goodness? Is that efficiency? Then, I ask a question about Indian shipping and what happens to it? My Honourable friend, another Indian Member,—and this is the worst part of it, I need not comment on that further—says: "I want notice. I will examine it, when I get the information. If you will put down a question, I will consider", and Indian shipping stands where it does! On the question of the exports of gold, there is my friend over there, the Finance Member, who assumes the God, affects to nod, and shakes the spheres, says, "No". Sir, I suggest that the Government have consistently ignored the interests of this country, and why? I know that; Britain must live: and, therefore, India must perish. Sir William Joynson-Hicks, now, I think, Lord Brentford

An Honourable Member: He is dead

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The late Lord Brentford spoke the truth when he said:

"I don't agree with the nostrum of these missionaries who say that 'we are in India for the good of the Indian people; we are there, because every fifth Englishman draws and earns his bread directly or indirectly from India.'"

That is, of course, true, and Government know it,—that they cannot serve the interests of the people of this country.

Now, I want to say a word about the Finance Member, but I shall not take long over it, I shall deal with it later on; I rather like the Finance Member, both he and I believe in calling a spade a spade and not a useful, agricultural implement that it is (Laughter); and he spoke, Sir, the truth when he said that he seeks to please nobody here, he seeks to please himself. Now, there, he was more frank than his colleagues. All of them exactly feel the same thing: they want to please nobody, they only want to "please" themselves. (Hear, hear.) Now, I draw their attention to a few tragic facts of Indian finance.

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

The military expenditure of this country now stands at Rs. 45 crores; but, if it includes all the items which it ought to include, particularly the two crores' loss on strategic lines, it is nearer Rs. 50 crores than 45 crores, and it is more than half the revenues of the Government of India: and, even then, we are told by the Commander-in-Chief, in another place, that that is a small estimate, it will go up hereafter, to 50 crores, 55 crores. God knows how much! And, do they spend that in their own country, even in their own country, or even in the dominions; and what is this army for? Not to protect India, but to protect British Imperial interests in India. So far as we are concerned, this army surely is not here to protect the skeletons in our villages who have nothing to live on, whose continual life is a dreary struggle with poverty, disease and ignorance, and the dominating features of which are only deaths from epidemics, gross infantile mortality, and the visitations of the exacting revenue officials. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, it seems to me that all this expenditure on the army is merely designed to protect British interests; and I want to say this, that if Britain has no interest in this, then we can cut down our military expenditure by half almost immediately, because we have no enemies and Britain has no friends. Mahatma Gandhi's indictment of the economics and finance of this country, wherein he has truly and significantly described the skeletons in our villages, is one for which this Government, and we, the townsmen, have got to answer. What is our average income? Two annas per head per day, at the most. What is our average life? Twenty-three or twenty-five years. What is the percentage of our literacy? About ten per cent. Where are our village communications and roads? What is the extent of medical relief given to us? What is the amount of water supply to our villages? Today, there are hundreds of villages in this country, for which there is no adequate, much less a protected, water supply, and I want to ask my Honourable friend who dreads the phrase "economic planning", if all the precious occupants of the Treasury Benches have ever applied their minds to these fundamental problems of life and death for this country. Have they framed a programme of universal primary education, a programme of public health and medical relief, a programme of water supply? Have they done anything like these? Have they made any estimate of the cost? My Honourable friend, who wants to play deputy-Providence to Provincial Autonomy, does not think it his duty to bestow any attention on the services which our villagers have a right to get, but which they do not get. Today, in the villages, our villagers pay the bulk of the revenue for provincial revenues. What do they get in return? Nothing, or almost nothing. Now, I want to say one word: look around yourself! Look at all this pomp and pageantry, look at the twenty odd crores sunk on this new Capital—New Delhi—a dead city half the year and half alive during the rest of the year; within ten miles of this very city, you have got villages where people live under conditions under which animals will not be allowed to live in Europe. Yet, the Government feel no responsibility, the Government have none for even thinking about these things.

Then, take the question of the higher national interests. Indian shipping, I have referred to: Indian banking, Indian commerce, Indian insurance, Indian industries: do these get any help from the Government? The Honourable the Finance Member says: "You shall not monkey with

the ratio", but he goes on monkeying with the tariff policy of this Government, limited as it is. Every time he gets a chance, he sheds copious tears for the consumers of this country, and threatens all and sundry that if he has his way, protection shall go. How can Indian industries grow under this withering threat of perhaps the most powerful Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council. Then, have this Government followed a consistent and generous policy of Swadeshi, protecting and encouraging Indian industries? I know they have been compelled by public opinion to adopt what is called the stores purchase policy, but I charge them that it is halting, inconsistent, and does not go the whole hog. Have they any policy of creating and developing industries in this country? All this plea of want of money is mere moonshine. They find 20 crores for Delhi and, out of his hat, the Honourable the Finance Member has produced or promises to produce something to the tune of nine crores for rebuilding Quetta on the present site—I am taking all the costs, including posts and telegraphs and railways, and money already spent, and future commitments. Where do they get all this money? When we ask for money for other Departments, the excuse of no money is put forward. But when the Government want money, it comes forth somehow or other.

Unemployment stalks the land. They may deny it, but a former Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, has produced a report which is at once a challenge and a rousing call to this Government. How do they propose to react to it? They will do nothing. I think the idea seems to be to this Government that India should be the happy hunting ground of foreigners; only they will guild the chains of some of us with titles, decorations and jobs, but we must all be political and economic slaves.

As for Indians overseas, I am glad to see the unfamiliar figure of the Honourable Member of Government in charge of this portfolio here, for whom, Sir, my Honourable friend his Secretary, deputises very efficiently here, if I may say so respectfully. But what has happened, in spite of his smiles, in Kenya, South Africa, East Africa, Zanzibar and even in the dominions? Sir, a man may smile, and smile and smile—I will not finish the sentence. But, Sir, the tragic truth was admitted by a distinguished holder of this portfolio sometime ago, I mean Sir Fazl-i-Husain, when he said truly, but tragically:

"We are all Asians, and, therefore, we cannot get proper treatment in these countries."

The Government might say: "What can we do." I make them a present of what a previous Viceroy did in Madras. When Indians were being persecuted in South Africa, and when Mahatma Gandhi was leading the magnificent Satyagraha movement, Lord Hardinge, the then Viceroy, said in a public speech in Madras:

"I approve of the movement of Satyagraha by Indians; no Government can help sympathising with it."

Will this Government have the guts to stand up to these Governments, and say: "We are not going to stand this nonsense any further, we shall not tolerate this treatment of Indians as inferiors in those countries".?

Then, Sir, when we take up any work of rural reconstruction, as by the all-India Village Industries Association, the contribution of this Government is the notorious Hallet Circular, warning officials against the

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

activities of the Association. Well, Sir, the Government have been complaining all along that we do not co-operate with them. But when we take up some work in which we can co-operate and we will co-operate with you, their prejudices are so great as to seek to non-co-operate with us. Indeed, if a Congressman says two and two make four, just for the fun of it, the Government will say "No, two and two make three and not four".

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): The parallel Government never says two and two make four, but they make twenty-two.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: My Honourable friend goes further than I thought. I said he would recognise that at least they would say two and two make three, while recognising we say four, but they will not even recognise that. The blindness of their prejudice shuts them to all sense of proper values and proper appreciation, they do not want to see even the right in others.

Take, then, the House itself. I am not now talking on Resolutions on which opinion was divided. This House was practically unanimous on the demand that Indo-Burman financial adjustments must be made, as a result of the deliberations of a Committee of this House. What has happened to it? It has gone into the waste paper basket. I should like to know who is responsible for it. We asked for the acquisition of Company-managed railways, and we are told by the Honourable Member that he is still considering it.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Sir Cowasji Jehangir, one of the Panel of Chairmen.]

He will go on considering it, until, I am afraid, it will be too late. Then, Sir, they certified the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1935, in spite of the predominant verdict of this House against that measure. Is that the duty of the Government that, in spite of the verdict of this House, they should certify an Act like this? They certified the Finance Act last year. I want to say, Sir, that taxation without representation is robbery. Last year when this motion was tabled before the House, my Honourable friend, Sir Joseph Bhore, then in charge of Railways, produced as an argument in favour of the Government accepting the verdict of the House with regard to the third class carriages, a future third class carriage. This has remained in the limbo of creation for a whole year; and yet we do not know when that carriage is to be put on the railway lines, if ever.

Then, the Government are detaining persons indefinitely without trial. On the ground of emergency, it may be necessary even for a national Government, to detain some people for a short time.

Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran: Non-Muhammadan): Is it in order, Sir, that you, Mr. Chairman, should preside over the Assembly when the Deputy President is present in the House?

Mr. Chairman (Sir Cowasji Jehangir): I do not know. The Honourable the President asked me to take the Chair. I am afraid he did not notice that the Deputy President was in the House.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable the President did not notice that I was here. Perhaps that must be the reason.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, the Government go on detaining persons without trial for years. I was saying that they can detain people in an emergency, but an emergency, when it becomes permanent, ceases to be an emergency. Moreover, take the position of Indian railways. Their finances are parlous, if not perilous; and yet no suggestion of this House is considered, although my friend has affected a new manner; "Oh, I understand your point of view, I entirely sympathise with it, and I will, of course, consider it"; but nothing happens.

Sir, as a matter of fact, this Government have no use for public opinion, unless it agrees with them. They think that those who differ from them must be wrong, if not malicious, in their views. And I want to say this, with regard to the Government of India Act of 1935, that even the memorandum submitted by leading Indians, headed by His Highness the Aga Khan, about whose moderation there can be no difference of opinion, was not so much as looked at by the British Parliament. Moreover, I want to mention, in passing, that the attitude of this Government towards the press is most dangerous. I want merely to refer to the attitude of the Local Government of the United Provinces in the *Abhyudaya* case. So far as this House is concerned, for the present we are bound by the ruling of the Chair; but, I am sure, every section of the House will agree with me when I say that, if we cannot republish our speeches in this House, in the press of this country, without inviting executive wrath of Government, our presence here is made almost a farce. After all, we are here to represent our electorate; they have a right to know what we say and what we do here; and if we are prevented from giving publicity to it, it seems to me that this Government is attacking the very fundamentals of even such forms of parliamentary Government as exist today.

Moreover, Sir, I charge this Government with having interfered in the elections in the provinces. I have known in some provinces Governors actually interfering in the elections. And I want to say this, Sir, that, so far as the next elections are concerned, 35 millions of our people are going to be enfranchised, and it seems to me that Government will have to be very careful that their servants do not interfere in those elections directly or indirectly.

Sir, yesterday, we had a question about the subsidy to the Indian National Airways. Even my Honourable friend, the Industries Member, who is the most polished occupant of the Treasury Benches, really lost his temper when we asked them why they were subsidising this company. And, yet, I am satisfied that the bulk of non-official opinion in this House does not like this subject. What about the Howrah Bridge contract? We are told . . .

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, may I know if the time limit will be observed? My Honourable friend has spoken for 25 minutes now.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Cowasji Jehangir): He has spoken for exactly 23 minutes. He should finish his speech as soon as he can.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I will not take more time than Government Members have done. It seems to me rather graceless on the part of the Leader of the House. My friend has given another argument in support of this motion. They will not even allow other people the latitude which they claim for themselves. We are already working against tremendous odds, as we are in the Opposition; and now my Honourable friend jumps up and tries to stop me.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, on a point of personal explanation, the Honourable the President said that the Government Member was entitled to 30 minutes. (*Cries of "No, no."*) He did. After he spoke for 27 minutes, one Member on the opposite side got up and asked whether the time limit would be observed. That is not repression, that is not bad manners, that is nothing. But just as he wanted to know whether the time limit will be kept, I wanted to know whether that will be done. The President had ruled that the Mover will get 20 minutes and then the Government Member will get 30 minutes.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Cowasji Jehangir): The President ruled that the Mover of a motion will get 20 minutes and he has also used his discretion in the case of the Leader of the Opposition who spoke for more than 20 minutes. And he ruled at first that a Member of Government should have 20 minutes, but, at the request of Members of Government, he said he would allow 30 minutes.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I will finish as quickly as I can. I am now coming to my Honourable friend. India is an impotent member of the League of Nations. When we ask any questions, we get no satisfaction and they do nothing. And, then, there is the Reforms Office joke. The Act has been passed, but still the office goes on, with a tremendous expenditure, and we are told that something or other is being done all the time. On the question of the customs revenue settlement with the Indian States, my friend, the Finance Member, says he has got a grievance, but when we ask what the Government of India, as a whole, are doing in this matter of customs negotiation with Indian States, we get no satisfaction, indeed no answer.

The last point I want to make is that, apart from the material harm this Government are doing to our country, in the moral sphere they are doing more harm. They have disarmed a whole nation, and they have tried to emasculate us. Thanks to modern nationalist forces, this nation is rousing herself from her sleep. They try to divide this nation and frighten the people, and, above all, Sir, in our own country, we are racially humiliated. If tomorrow the Congress restart the Civil Disobedience Movement, and if you join it, and if you are convicted and sent to prison, you will have to suffer the C class, unless the Local Government gives you the B or A class; whereas, a European murderer or thief will get the B class, because of his pale colour. And, in our own railway trains, there used to be separate compartments for them; there are separate conveniences now in the shape of refreshment rooms, retiring rooms, etc., for Europeans. In our Courts, they have separate trials. Do you think flesh and blood can stand it? Indians in those Benches may stand it, but I appeal to all self-respecting Indians in any other part of the House to consider whether it is right that this Government should perpetuate racial distinctions in our own country?

Then, they never try to appeal to our higher sense, and, according to their dictionary, patriotism is a crime, courage is treason, and nationalism is treachery. But I want to say this. After all, this Government will find that they are at the end of their tether. His Highness the Aga Khan's statement repeated more than once, that communal parties have no future in this country, and that we ought to form political and economic parties on such issues is the death-knell of this Government. The Hindu, Muslim and Sikh Members of this House have every reason to be proud of their record of work in this Assembly. In spite of tremendous odds, they have stood together, and I have no doubt that, in the years to come, they will increasingly stand together. Government feel that, by passing this Government of India Act of 1935, they have solved the Indian question, but they will find that they have not solved it. Government treat themselves as an armed camp in an alien country. Their only ideals are a well-fed and largely mercenary army with a strong British element, well-paid heaven-born and other services, and an army of retainers to repress all public opinion, to divide the people, and to rule as long as they can. A great Englishman said that little minds and great empires go ill together. He never thought of these little minds; and these little minds and even a decent Government go ill together. This motion is not moved, because this Government is irresponsible,—they cannot help it,—but because they have betrayed the trust of the people, they have not served the interests of the people, they have not promoted the greatest happiness of the greatest number. After all, they want to please themselves, but I want to leave them with one ideal, if I may, of even a benevolent despot:

"Yuktha prajanamuranjanesyah

Thasmadhyasho yah paramam dharam vah."

After all, even a benevolent autocrat must try to please his people, but this Government have not chosen even to serve the interests of the people. I ask this House to support this motion on the simple ground that, judged by any relevant test, this Government have not promoted the interest, happiness or the welfare of the people, but have gone on in their own sweet way. The passing of this motion will hasten the advent of Swaraj. Hence, I move.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Cowasji Jehangir): Motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced to Re. 1."

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the first I P.M. and the very relevant point that Mr. Satyamurti raised was the irresponsibility of the executive in this House. He has given several reasons and illustrations to show how Government are irresponsible to the Members on this side. He said that at question time the answering of questions was evaded, that the answers were flimsy on several occasions, and that no direct and clear answers were given. On that point, I join hands with the Honourable the Mover of this cut, and I submit that there is every justification for the House to join hands with him on this point. To the several reasons he narrated for Government's not giving proper and direct answers, I will add one.

[Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.]

Whenever any question is put, and it is inconvenient for the Member in charge or for the head of the Administration concerned to give an answer, they come forward and say that it is a matter of detail or a matter which they were going to send to the Agent or other officer to consider. When we ask for the replies to be placed on the table of the House, they say "No, it is a matter of detail". I submit that those detailed matters are very important for the public. I know there was a ruling in this House by the then President, Sir Shanmukham Chetty, that if any question was admitted by the President it must be answered, and if a reply had been asked for from an Agent or other subordinate officer, it should be obtained and placed on the table of the House. This is not being done. I submit that it is a great impediment in the way of our getting proper and clear answers and satisfying our constituencies. In such circumstances, how can we say that the Government are responsible?

The second question to which I shall refer is Indianisation. This morning, it was made clear to the House that there was no Indianisation at the top. When a question was put to the Honourable the Home Member today whether there were any Indian Secretaries in any of the several Departments of the Government of India, the reply was, first of all, "I do not know", and then he tried to evade an answer. Why not be frank and say that Government wish to act in their own way and not according to the wish of the public? Then, take the question of Joint Secretaries. I asked whether there were any Joint Secretaries who were Indians. The reply given was neither direct nor clear. Has it given us any idea as to how many Joint Secretaries are Indians? The Honourable the Home Member said that the reply was contained in a statement which he was placing on the table of the House. I asked him whether the specific answer as to how many Joint Secretaries were Indians was contained in the statement. A reply to that did not come. How are we to deal with such a Government? Shall we not, therefore, say that the Government are evading their duty and there ought to be a censure on them?

I now come to the question of the economic prosperity of India. The Honourable the Finance Member might think that he has given a subvention of Rs. 1,08 lakhs to Sind, and, therefore, I would give him credit for it. The subvention was given of necessity. It is Government who called for the tune, and they must pay the piper. Of course, they want to placate the majority community, but, all the same, they have ignored the insistent protests of the minority community. Why should I give him any credit for it? Of course, the matter is now over, and Sind has been separated. Let us not look at the gift horse in the mouth. But I may tell the Honourable the Finance Member that it is his duty to give more money to Sind in order to keep Sind in prosperity. All depends upon the Barrage. What are the conditions of the Barrage now? There is not much produce, because land is not being sold. Government want intending buyers to pay for land in the locality the price which was fixed long ago in prosperous days, and, until that price is given, they will not sell land. They are introducing another policy which is condemnable, and that is that they want to introduce foreigners into the area and allow them to form syndicates and take land,—not for cash, but on leases for 30 and 40 years. What will happen? They will have interest in the land only for that period. They will sap out the juice and go out.

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan (Nominated Non-Official): What do you know? You are not an agriculturist.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I know more than you do. I am an agriculturist also, and I am telling you about the difficulties of the agriculturists. Sind is not Punjab. You may come forward and give the grievances of the Punjab agriculturists. There are similar difficulties there also. So far as Sind is concerned, the lands should be sold to the indigenous people. Why should it be given to foreigners. How is the prosperity of Sind at a higher level than that of other parts of India?

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Are not aliens indigenous inhabitants of India?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: You are also an alien, I suppose.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: I am not.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The prosperity of India depends upon two things. One is the growth of agriculture. The agriculturists must be helped to grow more produce. There will be no prosperity until prices are raised. May I ask what effort has been made in this direction? Nothing has been done. The Honourable Member took shelter in his budget by saying that the economic prosperity of India was now on the rise. We won't be deceived. The Finance Member said that there was demand for more small coins, and that was a sign of prosperity. Does this demand mean that people got money from their produce of agriculture? No, they brought out distress money and purchased their necessities in order to make a hand-to-mouth living. This increase in prosperity is only fictitious and we won't be deceived. The second thing on which the prosperity of India depends is the growth of industries. What help are Government giving to industries? Take sugar, for instance. They gave some protection to it, and we know the reason for it. But I would ask my friends, the people in India, not to be like sheep; if one man starts a sugar factory, other people come and do the same blindly, with the result that you have too many factories and there will be no profit . . .

An Honourable Member: Are you interested in sugar?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am not: but my friend, Seth Abdoolah Haroon, is. Therefore, I submit that, so far as industries are concerned, they ought to be helped.

I come now to the question of spending money on the reconstruction of Quetta. I do not agree with the Honourable the Finance Member and the Honourable the Foreign Secretary when they say that Quetta must be rebuilt on the same spot. Public opinion is very strongly against it. Government have not told us what reasons they have: the earthquake has not occurred there only once, but it was affected very much by previous earthquakes also, and now there has been absolute devastation. To stick to the same place, and to rebuild Quetta there, is a grievous mistake that

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they will see hereafter and they will repent when it is too late. I asked the Honourable the Foreign Secretary, the other day, whether there were no other sites: he said: "Yes, there are many; but read my communiqué and see what there is in it." I do not know what they have written there and why other places are not acceptable. But, I ask, have they consulted public opinion?

Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Nominated Non-Official): Yes.

Mr. Chairman (Sir Cowasji Jehangir): Will the Honourable Member allow the Honourable Member (Mr. Lalchand Navalrai) to go on?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I say, no. We even put questions to the Honourable the Foreign Secretary

Mr. Chairman (Sir Cowasji Jehangir): The Honourable Member has got three minutes more.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am going to finish, Sir. The Foreign Secretary gave some replies: when I asked whether they have consulted public opinion, he said "no". There is the advisory committee, and there are Members of this House on it: will they say, they have been consulted? I say, they have not been consulted. Therefore, I submit that, without consultation of the people living in the neighbouring provinces of the Punjab and Sind, they should not have started rebuilding Quetta on the same spot. One word more, and I have done. I ask what justification they have for importing architects from England. Is it not adding insult to injury to reply that a man of that qualification could not be found in India? I submit, it is really wrong and irresponsible on the part of the Government of India to say that they are going to import people from England and other places in spite of the protest that is being made every now and then on that question from this side of the House. I, therefore, submit that they do deserve the censure on this cut, and I support it.

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 Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The discussion on this cut will continue.

Mr. F. E. James (Madras: European): Sir, when I listened to my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, this morning, I only had to close my eyes to imagine myself once more on the breezy beach of Triplicane at Madras where my Honourable friend has made so many of his speeches,

and where, I think, he has to some extent been forced to adopt his present style. My friend not infrequently loses in impressiveness by over-stating his case; here certainly has been a case in point. He has attacked the Executive Council for being neither good, nor honest, nor efficient. He has attacked them on various grounds and has invited us to join him in his attack and vote with him on his subsequent division. Now, Sir, I made a careful examination of the various grounds on which he attacked the Cabinet of the present Government. In the first place, he attacked them, because, in various spheres of social service, they had not done their duty. I would, of course, point out to him that education, public health and various other matters have for some time been in the hands of his own countrymen in the provinces, and it seems perhaps a little unfair to attack the Members of the Executive Council here for the sins and derelictions of duty of his colleagues in the provinces who are Ministers

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): But who controls the finances?

Mr. F. E. James: I would suggest that his colleagues in the Madras Legislative Council, as far as Madras is concerned, would be a much more appropriate mouthpiece for his point of view.

Then, he went on to say that the Executive Council Members,—and I take it that he was not speaking personally,—did not serve the interests of India, that they served the interests of some vague imaginary bogey which he calls, "British Imperialism". He did not define what he meant by that. The phrase "British Imperialism" is a phrase which is often used by the superficial, but what does it mean? What does he mean by it? Can he define what it is?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: You.

Mr. F. E. James: My friend, the Finance Member, says he means the Carlton Club; but my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, says he means me. But there is a world of difference between the Carlton Club and myself, which goes to show how confused his ideas are about the very phrases which he uses.

He then went on to attack the Executive Council on the ground that they did not disclose their correspondence with the Secretary of State. He knows perfectly well that they cannot disclose it.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: They can.

Mr. F. E. James: He knows perfectly well that, in any case, in the public interest, such correspondence should not be disclosed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Which public?

Mr. F. E. James: Now, I ask my friend whether he would be prepared to disclose the correspondence which passes between him as Secretary of the Congress Party and the President,

Mr. S. Satyamurti: They all know what we write. They censor all our letters.

Mr. F. E. James: Then, Sir, he attacked the Members of the Executive Council on the ground that they did not answer questions in the way he wished them to answer them. Those of us, who have had experience of Provincial Legislatures, know that the Members of the Viceroy's Executive Council here, as a matter of fact, go far more out of their way to answer questions than any Indian Minister in the provinces does. My Honourable friend knows it perfectly well. He cannot deny it any more than he can deny that when in Madras, he is in a position to answer questions on one or two bodies, he behaves like a hard-headed bureaucrat.

Then, Sir, he also adduced another reason for attacking the Executive Council, and that reason was some statement alleged to have been made by the late Sir William Joynson Hicks (who is now, of course, dead) in regard to what the British were in India for. May I suggest to him that the Executive Council was hardly responsible for what this late gentleman said in a moment of expansion

Mr. S. Satyamurti: He spoke the truth.

Mr. F. E. James: I am reminded that the late gentleman was a teetotaler. (Laughter.) That perhaps accounts for the austerity of his views on India. But I will give my friend all those things. He was not really serious when he was talking about minor matters for which the Viceroy's Executive Council are not really responsible. When he became serious, he got down to the things for which they are, under the present Statute, responsible. He talked about their military expenditure. He talked about their financial policy; he talked about their tariff policy; he talked about their defence of the interests of Indians overseas. He talked about the League of Nations. He talked about the Howrah Bridge. In fact, there were few things in this country that he did not talk about. I will deal with the main things he talked about, and, in doing so, I wish to remind him of his invitation, more particularly to us, that on this occasion we should join him in expressing our dissent with the very existence of the present Executive Council. Now, any one who offers that invitation to a party to co-operate with him must be open to a counter question. We have always, as a community, been described as being particularly cautious in various matters, and, therefore, before I should be prepared to co-operate with my friend and go into the lobby with him on this occasion, I have to look at the offer he is making. I presume that if we did agree to vote with my friend, we should not only be expressing our disapproval of the Members of the Executive Council and their policy, but we should be prepared, to be logical, to say that they should go, they should retire altogether, that they should actually resign if they could under the Statute. We should also be prepared, if we go with the Mover, to contemplate the possibility that he and his friends would take their places opposite. There is no use being entirely negative. If you want to drive these gentlemen away, you must be prepared to take their places.

Mr. S. Satyamurti and some Honourable Members: Oh, yes.

Mr. F. E. James: I should like to ask my friends exactly what policy they would pursue in regard to these major questions if they were in the places of my friends on my left. As I said, we are rather cautious, and,

therefore, we want to look at these offers, that are sometimes made to us, very carefully before we accept them. What will my Honourable friend do with regard to the military defence?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Cut down by half.

Mr. F. E. James: Immediately cut down by half?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have a five-year programme.

Mr. F. E. James: After a five-year programme, the military expenditure will be reduced by half, i.e., 22 crores. That, of course, is an extraordinarily impracticable proposition. Again, I take it that he will "monkey" with the ratio. . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No.

Mr. F. E. James: He criticises the Finance Member for saying that he refuses to monkey with the ratio, and from what my Honourable friend says, I assume that he would monkey with it. I am sorry to hear that suggestion from Madras. I thought that that desire was only particularly prominent in Bombay. With regard to the tariff policy, what would my Honourable friend do if he had control of the tariff policy of the Government of India? The country is entitled to know exactly what he would do.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Protect all Indian industries.

Mr. F. E. James: How and to what extent?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: By prohibiting competing British articles here.

Mr. F. E. James: Now we know. That is exactly the kind of programme which my Honourable friend really stands for; yet he has the effrontery to ask us to go into the lobby with him. He is not going to stand merely for discriminating protection; He is not even going to stand for full-fledged protection; he is going to stand for boycott and the forcible prevention of British goods from entering into this country.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: All foreign goods.

Mr. F. E. James: Then, in regard to Indians overseas, what exactly would he do? My Honourable friend has no particular specific to take the place of the policy which is now being carried out by the occupant of that portfolio. In India's present position, what policy would my Honourable friend put into effect in regard to protecting the interests of Indians overseas that is not at present being carried out with the utmost zeal by the present Member in charge of that portfolio? Take the League of Nations. The Honourable Member criticised the Executive Council, because, forsooth, India being an original member of the League of Nations, cannot yet act as an independent country, possessing its own army, possessing its own navy, and being entirely responsible for its own defence and foreign affairs. How does my Honourable friend propose to carry that out?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): How is it carried out at the present moment?

Mr. F. E. James: If my Honourable friend takes the place of the Government tomorrow, what policy would he pursue in regard to India's position in the League of Nations?

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty (Madras: Indian Commerce): On a point of order, Sir. I should like to know if the Honourable Member is in order in raising hypothetical questions. (Laughter.)

Mr. F. E. James: I am only making one hypothetical speech in reply to another hypothetical speech. My Honourable friend, this morning, waxed indignant, but he was talking with his tongue in his cheek, as he knows perfectly well. I am merely following his lead.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is very unfair.

Mr. F. E. James: My Honourable friend and myself come from Madras, and we understand what we say, but there are some Honourable Members who hail from other provinces, and they do not know. Now, in regard to the Howrah Bridge, what would my friend do if he was in charge of Commerce with regard to the Howrah Bridge?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Tell them to accept the Indian combine.

Mr. F. E. James: Suppose they do not?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Dismiss them.

Mr. F. E. James: How can you dismiss them?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Yes, I can.

Mr. F. E. James: My Honourable friend suggested that to carry this motion would hasten Swaraj in this country. Now, we would not wish to do anything that would retard the advent of Swaraj in its proper sense; but I would ask him seriously, does he really think for one single moment that the carrying of this vote in this House is going to advance India one inch further towards the fulfilment of her aims and ideals? No, Sir. I regard this particular motion and the speech which my Honourable friend made as beating the air. If he had come with some specific grievance on which he based his censure of the Members of the Executive Council, perhaps there would have been some rhyme or reason in this debate; but to blame the present Government for the sins and omissions of the provinces, for the constitutional position of the Government of India and for many things for which they are not in the least responsible, surely imparts an air of unreality to this debate and to this House which is very unfortunate.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

On an important occasion like this, my Honourable friend has invited us to associate with him in this motion. I am sorry that we must decline his kind offer, for the reasons I have stated—not that we have no grievance, but because this country needs to be saved from exploitation by superficialities.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, it is embarrassing to have to speak after a finished speaker like my Honourable friend, Mr. James, but my only reason for venturing to speak after him is that my Honourable friend, from the beginning to the end, put a series of interrogations and raised a series of hypotheses on which he demanded an answer from this side of the House, and by this he sought to create an impression that we had no answer to give to them.

Let me tell him that his speech really made us believe that we had been moving in an atmosphere of unreality. He indeed demanded from us categorical answers, as if we are here on the present cut motion to place before him our specific programmes on the various items raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti. That is no business of ours at the present moment. No challenge has ever been thrown out to us in that way. You have never asked us up till now,—“Here are our cards. We are playing them in this way. Come forward and take our place and play our cards in your own way.” If the Government can throw out that challenge to us in all seriousness, we shall be only too glad to accept it. You constantly raise the false plea of the defect of the present Constitution, and by that means you try to cover a multitude of sins of the executive. My Honourable friend stated that he would be willing to walk into the same lobby with us and vote against the Government, if we could satisfy him,—as if it is possible for any one on this side of the House to satisfy that side of the House—that the Government are really guilty of the charges we level against them. (Interruption.)

Take, for instance, the financial policy of the Government of India. My Honourable friend, Sir James Grigg, stated emphatically that this country is now on the high road to recovery. If we are really on the road to recovery, if the goal of prosperity is so near, and if it is visible, how is it that we yet see so much poverty, so much misery and distress in the country. You have to advance all manner of specious or plausible arguments to establish this theory of prosperity. If there is prosperity as claimed by you in your budget, that will be reflected in the provincial budgets, in the condition of the masses of the country, and in the lightening of your taxation,—but there is no such thing. You have not got the cheek to do that, or even to admit that. All you say is that there has been a surplus. If there is a surplus, we can legitimately claim that for the relief of the over-taxed poor. But you have not acceded to that. We know that, in the matter of financial policy, the Finance Member is not free. I am one of those who believe, and I think most of us on this side of the House do the same, that he, along with his other comrades in the Executive Council, have to obey the behests of Whitehall. However much they may deny it, the fact remains that they have absolutely no independence at all in the matter. That is the explanation of the whole thing.

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra.]

Sir, as regards financial matters, last year, on the floor of the House, we debated on the budget and on the Finance Bill. We debated the cut motions and amendments, in all possible ways. It cannot be said, with any show of reason, that we were out to destroy the Government's budget, to mutilate it without examining its merits and demerits. We gave every reasonable criticism, and what was the result? Did you accede to any single motion that we adopted in this House, or do you mean to say that you are so high in your superior wisdom that it outweighs the collective wisdom of the Honourable Members of this House? What is the position this year? In spite of the surplus, you have not been able to do anything. When there is no surplus, when the budget is a deficit budget, you are piling taxes upon taxes upon the people up to the breaking point. When there is a surplus, you give nothing to the people of this country. Do you expect any laudation or commendation from us on this account, or do you deserve censure?

Now, take the case of the Executive Council as represented by the Honourable the Home Member. What is his policy with regard to the country? We have a cut motion about it which will come up for discussion later. What is his policy in the matter of law and order, those two scared phrases which are so often prostituted by the executive in this country? My Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, has given a catalogue of grievances in this country. It is a gruesome catalogue which constitutes the greatest indictment against this Government. But my Honourable friend, Mr. James' grievance is that he has put in all sorts of things together. We must do it, because our grievances are so many and so numerous in character, that taken together they will constitute the most terrible indictment that one nation can draw up against another. For my part, I shall not, for the present, lay much stress on the financial policy. I will confine myself to one or two grievances on which I feel most.

In the first place, we, the Members of this Legislative Assembly, feel that we are not treated with that kind of consideration, that kind of courtesy which is our due, as representatives of the people and as Members of the Supreme Legislature. After all, most of us have come here after the Civil Disobedience Campaign. We had been seriously invited to come to this Assembly to try constitutional methods; and we came in only to see if there has been any real change of heart. But what do we find here? Last year, we carried as many as 28 motions and Resolutions. Would you tell us frankly and honestly and would you place your hand on your bosom and tell us, which particular cut, Resolution or policy you gave effect to? Do you mean to say that you can count on our willing assent and our uncritical acquiescence in all matters when you on your part refuse to give us any response? Do you mean to suggest that we will simply take all your *ipse dixit* without question? You cannot have that sort of assent from us. Take again, the case of my friend, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, who is an Honourable Member of this House. This morning, we had a question about the restrictions put upon him by that District Magistrate, Mr. Griffiths, who was for sometime a Member of this House, and whose first speech was applauded in such a way by his bosses and coterie of admirers and interested persons that it got his head absolutely turned. I see my Honourable friend, Mr. Morgan, snugly dozing. He remarked at that time that that was the best maiden speech he had ever heard in his life, but I do not think he has had many experiences in his

life of good speeches, and I pity my Honourable friend's poor experiences in that direction. What happened between this Mr. Griffiths and Amarendra Babu, of late, many in this House may not know. Of course, we will deal with it more fully when we come to deal with the other cuts. I will briefly narrate the facts. Amarendra Babu is the representative from the Burdwan Division constituency of Bengal. He went to see his constituents and speak to them. It must be definitely understood that he never went there to carry on any kind of political propaganda. There was a deliberate and organised effort made by Mr. Griffiths to foist on the people of the Midnapore district a set of institutions known as the union boards, a sort of rural self-governing institutions as they call them. In fact, the people were most unwilling to have them. Groups of villages rejected them. They said: "We will have nothing to do with these union boards. You want to thrust more taxes on us, but we cannot pay. We do not want these institutions." Well, Amarendra Babu wrote to Mr. Griffiths and said that he wanted to speak to his constituents. The reply he got was: "You can come here, provided you don't open your lips about union boards." He had to submit to this humiliation from the District Magistrate. He went there and made certain speeches. Of course, the speeches had nothing to do with high politics, which is a red rag to the opposite side. Thereafter, Amarendra Babu came back and sometime after he again wanted to visit his constituency and speak to his people. What was the result? Mr. Griffiths, the Hero of Midnapore, said: "You cannot come. If you come, you will be prosecuted." Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya took up the challenge and said that he had every right to visit his constituency and that it was a duty which he owed to his constituency. However, good sense dawned at the last moment, and a special messenger had to be sent to call off his arrest. If an Honourable Member of this House is to be treated in that way by a District Magistrate who was also an Honourable Member of this House some time ago, and if the Government of India, as represented by the Home Department and my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Craik, do not interfere in these matters, then where do we stand? Of course, my Honourable friend said this morning, that he had given all the facts in his possession. My grievance against him is that, even on a serious matter like this, he has not tried to elicit all the necessary information which we demanded from him, and that he has apparently not taken any serious view of it at all. It is a serious matter affecting the rights and privileges of the Honourable Members of this House, and this matter cannot be lightly passed over. He has promised us, however, fuller information and the copies of the orders passed by the District Magistrate, and we will have them. Take, again, another case, the case of my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishna Kant Malaviya, and the publication of his speech in the *Abhyudaya*. I am not going to criticise in the least, Mr. President, the ruling given by you, but the Government of India had a duty of their own in this matter. If an Honourable Member of this House makes a speech in this House, it only stands to reason that his constituents and people at large in the country should be in a position to know what their representative has said on a particular question or how he has been discharging his duties as their representative in this House. What happened in this case? A security was demanded from him and it was a huge amount. My grievance is that the Honourable Member, representing the Home Department, should have intervened and told the Provincial Government: "Look here. This is a matter in which you should not interfere." In these times of peace and tranquillity, the

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra.]

Honourable Member permitted the Local Government to infringe the elementary rights of a Member of the Legislature which no other country had done before, and, thereby, he has set up a precedent which is most damaging to the rights and privileges of an Honourable Member of this House. Then, there is another thing

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only two minutes more.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: and that is the increasing tendency of the executive to usurp the functions of the judiciary. You may not know how things are going on in my province, Bengal, but as an Advocate of the Calcutta High Court, I can tell you a lot about what is going on in the Calcutta High Court itself, which used, at one time, to be looked upon as the palladium of justice in this country. Besides, the High Court authorities have issued a series of circulars, published in two volumes, and they have also published one more volume called "Practical suggestions to the Subordinate Court". All these compilations, together with numerous unprinted and verbal instructions, have made administration of justice in the High Court and in the Subordinate Courts absolutely a farce. The position is that, in the province of Bengal, where appears a deliberate policy by the Britishers to crush it, administration of justice also has been cast to the four winds by this series of circulars, and there has been not a whisper of protest from the Honourable the Home Member to check the vagaries of the authorities of the Calcutta High Court in that direction. This is how justice is being administered now

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must not criticise the High Court in that way.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I am not directly dealing with the Honourable High Court. I am incidentally referring to the administration of justice which is said to be controlled by my Honourable friend, the Home Member, Sir Henry Craik; and my grievance against him is this, that he, as the man controlling the administration of justice in this land, should have interfered, and he should even now interfere, so that justice may not be butchered in the way it is suffered to be done now.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Sir, as my time is up, I will conclude
3 P. M. by saying that so numerous, so many are the grievances against this Government that I would ask every Honourable Member of this House, at least every elected Member, regard being had to his own sense of self-respect, to censure this Government, as censure is the only thing which this Government deserves. (Loud Applause.)

An Honourable Member: I move that the question be now put.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I promise not to take more than four or five minutes, as I do not wish to cast a silent vote, lest I should be misunderstood. Sir, there is not

a single Honourable Member in this House who is in any way satisfied with the present Constitution. There is not a single school of thought that is satisfied with the Constitution which has now been presented to us. (Hear, hear.) As you very well know, Sir, even a man like the Aga Khan, yourself and others made suggestions which were turned down. After all, the future Constitution is a constitution for which His Majesty's Government alone are responsible, it has not been framed by common consent, and, therefore, I do not think that there can be anybody in this House, whether on this side or on that, who can challenge the statement that there is no section of public thought in India, which has accepted the Constitution which we are going to work, I trust, in a very short time; and this is not the first time that these opinions have been expressed. They have been expressed on the floor of this House times out of number, long before my Honourable friends on my right had the honour of being amongst us, and they have been expressed from the public platform long before they ever dreamt of agreeing to come to this House. (Laughter.) Sir, the crux of the question is—under the Constitution under which we work, what is the position of the so-called Honourable Members of Government (Laughter)—I will repeat what I said—the so-called Members of Government? In the real sense, they are not Members of the Government of India. Their financial policy is not their own; their military policy is not their own; their tariff policy is not their own. (Hear, hear.) They hear our criticisms with great attention, and I feel sure they pass those criticisms on to the real Government of India—the Secretary of State for India: and if the Secretary of State for India is pleased to accept any of our suggestions, we hear that acceptance echoed from the Opposite Benches. Sir, I have known of a case where a Member of Government could not accept the change of a comma or a fullstop in a Bill without consulting the Secretary of State.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is that so?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Yes, I have known of such a case, as I sat on the Select Committee. Well, Sir, under these circumstances, what is the use of saying that it is your duty to move this vote of censure upon the Government?

An Honourable Member: Now the cat is out of the bag.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: What is the use of moving a censure upon the Government? What is the use of raising this sort of debate? My own view is—and I expressed it definitely last year—that it serves no useful purpose. Let us now forget the past, and let us look to the future. (Hear, hear.) Let our eyes be towards the horizon, to the future; the past is gone. (Hear, hear.) Sir, if there had been no new Government of India Act, I would have agreed that there would be some reason for this debate, but there is going to be a new Government of India Act; we are going to work it for good or for evil (Hear, hear), and we are going to extract from it (I speak for myself and my Party at least), whatever good we can get out of it. If we fail to get any good out of that Act, well, I will be, if I am still in the land of the living, a party to any censure motion that Honourable Members may bring up. But, at this stage, I desire to forget the past. I trust that, in a few years' time, I shall forget even what is going on today. I shall look to the future, and I would ask my

[Sir Cowasji Jehangir.]

countrymen to do the same. Sir, many of the defects pointed out by my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, may be correct, but they are the result of the present Constitution, the illogical and unreasonable Constitution under which we work, under which we are supposed to be the Opposition when we are no Opposition at all; under which the Government is supposed to be a Government when it is no Government at all. (Hear, hear.) The whole position is illogical. If we pass a vote of censure here it means nothing; if we cut off supplies, it means nothing (Laughter): under the circumstances, we try to do the best we can

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Namely?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Namely, to get whatever we can. (Laughter.)

An Honourable Member: Including kicks from the other side.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Including kicks from both sides (Laughter), but we may join one side or the other in the kicking. Under these circumstances, just as I did last year, I regret I shall not be able to vote in favour of this censure motion, as I see in it no real solid foundation.

An Honourable Member: We are sorry for you!

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I have no doubt that after my Honourable friend, the Deputy Leader of the Independent Party, has made his speech and explained his position, his conscience is clear. Sir, he is a businessman, and, therefore, I can quite understand his point of view, but we are in this Legislature *vis-a-vis* the constitutional position of the Government as well as of the Opposition, and let us get to the realities—not a business deal—what are we here for, and what is the Government here for?

Sir, we know perfectly well that we are censuring the Government of India in the form in which we propose to do it, namely, a vote of censure by means of withdrawing supplies. From whom are we withdrawing these supplies? Not from the executive, not from the Honourable Members who sit here, but from the Government; and what is the Government of India? Not merely the executive; they are only the agents; the Government of India means the Governor General in Council, the Secretary of State for India, and Parliament, that is ultimately responsible to this country; therefore, let us really get to that real issue before us: Now, if I am right in my position, that we have got to express our views as to what we feel, what we think as to the policy of the Government of India, as I have described it, undoubtedly this Constitution is one which is a very anomalous Constitution; it is not a full-fledged Parliament, far from it; I have always said over and over again that the position of the elected Members in this House is purely that of influencing the Government, advising the Government. But, Sir, when we have failed in any influence being felt, when we have failed in every advice that we have given, and when we have exhausted every avenue, every channel, and, at the end of the year, we stand *vis-a-vis* the Government as Opposition, have we not got to give our verdict? What is going to be the verdict of this House? It is said: "Oh! make a token cut". I cannot understand this coming

from the spokesmen of the European Group. There, again, it is a purely business mind that cannot understand this large issue that is involved and implied by this motion when they suggest a "token cut", but say let us examine the most extraordinary Constitution that we are working under. Let us examine this. If I am dissatisfied with the amount of the grant and I think that it ought to be reduced, because it is excessive on the ground of economy, then naturally my proper course is to say instead of ten lakhs, it should be nine lakhs, and I can then try and satisfy the Government that this is an excessive amount. Well, then I make the motion that it be reduced by one lakh on the ground of economy, on the ground that it is excessive. That is one method. If I have any specific grievance with regard to any particular Department in relation to the administration of one specific item, then I raise that issue, and I say that I move a cut of Rs. 100 as token cut, in order to raise that issue with regard to that one specific matter. But this is neither the one nor the other. I am not taking up my stand that I want this amount to be reduced, because it is excessive. I am not taking up my stand that I have got one specific grievance with regard to any administrative action of the Government, but my grievance is this, that the policy of the Government in every Department and the policy of the Government generally—when I say the policy of the Government, I mean the policy of the Government of India as I have defined—is one which compels me to resort to this very last course, namely, refusal of supplies. (Hear, hear.) (Applause.)

Now, it is, I admit, so far as this House is concerned and so far as this Legislature is concerned, it is a fiction, a pure fiction, I admit. But it is by means of this fiction alone that I can show to the world and show to Great Britain and the British Parliament the displeasure of the House. (Applause.) Now, Sir, whether I am justified or not depends upon the facts. What are the facts? Let us take every department. Let us take the British Parliament, let us take the Secretary of State for India. Is there—and I would be extremely grateful and I would stand corrected—is there one single first class issue, not the details—I do not care whether you treat me rudely or respectfully when I am asking questions, I do not care whether you answer these questions or not, that is a matter of indifference to me, that is nothing—and many other matters of details do not matter—is there one single first class issue on which the Government have not or acceded to the wishes of the Opposition? Will the Honourable Members who represent here the Government of India point out any such case or cases—and these are the only Members we can get hold of as accused in the dock and who are within our jurisdiction (Hear, hear) that we can deal with, I cannot bring the Parliament here, I cannot bring the Secretary of State for India here—I ask the Honourable Members sitting on the Treasury Benches who are on their defence to satisfy me and tell me whether, on any one single issue of first class importance, they met the wishes of this House. (Hear, hear.) Point that out to me, and I shall stand corrected.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): Banning of Miss Mayo's book. (Laughter.)

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Well, if I were the spokesman of the Government, I shall be ashamed of pointing out that instance (Hear, hear) as meeting the issue that I am raising. It shows that the Honourable Member has

[Mr. M. A. Jinnah.]

got no sense of proportion at all (Hear, hear)—that is all I can say. Please try and understand; if Government are not prepared to meet us or cannot do it, if you are helpless—I know the executive are helpless, I know that perfectly well, please try and understand my point and if you do not wish to do it or cannot do it, then we understand where we stand, but do not give silly excuses. I was going to say, Sir, therefore, how am I to show my displeasure at this Government? What is the method open to me to show this that I want to show? There is not a single Department—take the Army, take the Finance, the Commerce, the Industries and Labour, the Railways, there is not one Department, I venture to say, that has met the wishes of this House on any first class issue. But, then, it is said: “Oh! these Congress Benches are really most irreconcilable. It is so difficult for us to meet their wishes”. What my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, over there, meant when he said—I am putting it politely—that two and two never make four with the Congress, that means they are very difficult to meet. Well, it is no use putting forward that argument. Sir, in one breath it is said that the Congress is impossible, in another breath it is said that my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, is not reasonable when he says anything not palatable to Government, again when another section of the House says anything, which does not suit the wishes or the interests of Government they are quite wrong. Then, Sir, it seems to me that there is nobody in this country, there is no section which is right—we are all wrong in the eyes of Government. Can't you find anybody in this country that may be in the right? Have you met the wishes of anybody in this country? (Hear, hear.)

I do not wish to take up the time of the House, and I say, Sir, that I shall be perfectly justified in supporting this cut motion (Hear, hear), and that is the only way in which this House can express its displeasure with the Government of India. (Applause.)

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I move that the question be now put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This is a very important debate, and the Chair cannot stifle discussion by accepting the closure.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I was really very pleased when I heard this morning my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, on this cut motion. I think he ought to be congratulated for making a beautiful speech and for making the best out of a very bad case. This showed the marvellous capacity of my Honourable friend and also his ability in tackling a question on which he could not convince anybody even by making a very very good speech. There is really one great difference which I noticed in the arguments which my Honourable friend advanced this morning and in the arguments which have been advanced this afternoon by the Honourable and learned Leader of the Independent Party. Sir, there is a great deal of difference in the view of the two. The Leader of the Independent Party wants to refuse supplies on political grounds, and he said that he would not enumerate the grievances, he or the country felt, as he has none against the individual Members of the Government, while the Honourable the Mover of the

cut motion gave a graphic description of these grievances. Taking these two speeches, I think I can say that the two parties do not see eye to eye on this matter except that they must join hands against somebody.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Sir, I may just point out to the Honourable Member that he is quite right. My reasons may be different, but the conclusion is the same.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I never said the conclusion is not the same. I say the reasons are absolutely different. And I have to consider the merits of the question on the grounds urged by the Honourable the Mover of the cut, and not on the grounds given by the Leader of the Independent Party.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, on a point of personal explanation. I accept all the grounds urged by the Leader of the Independent Party as my own. I wish I had stated them myself.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I am glad the Honourable Member accepts his defeat.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: If he says that he accepts the grounds put forward by the Leader of the Independent Party, which are not based on the grounds put forward by the Honourable the Mover, then his case is absolutely destroyed. If the Honourable the Mover had moved a hundred-rupee cut and then enumerated those grievances, he would have been all right. But when he wants to refuse all supplies, he should have given reasons why the Executive Council should not exist at all. If he wants that they should not function at all, he would be justified in refusing supplies. But he only mentioned grievances. And what are the grievances? That certain railway compartments are reserved for Europeans. Can that be a reason for doing away with the Executive Council? And, I am sure, there is not a single line managed by Government on which that practice occurs at present. It used to be done in the old days, but it does not happen now. Then, another grievance on account of which he wants to get rid of the Executive Council is that he asked a supplementary question and the Government Member wanted notice.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should remember that Government will have to reply to the debate.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Yes, Sir, I will finish in time for them to reply.

Sir, I think, in ventilating these grievances, it would have been more proper for the Honourable Member to have moved a cut of Rs. 100. But when he wants to refuse all supplies, I do not think he can get the support of the House. And, then, my Honourable friend, Mr. Jinnah, came to his rescue by putting up a different case on political grounds saying that, because this Executive Council is really subordinate to the Secretary of State, therefore it must be taken as a censure on the whole Government

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

including the Secretary of State. A hundred-rupee cut would have served the purpose. This entire refusal of supplies will create no impression on those who really guide the destinies of the country. By carrying this, the House will not enhance their value or do any good. They may create some sensation in the country, but it will do no good to the country. Sir, I am unable to support this motion.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, it is rather difficult to reply to a debate on which is raised,—I do not say not legitimately raised,—all possible important questions. We had an attack on the financial policy, an attack on the military policy, an attack on the tariff policy, an attack on the question of treatment of Indians overseas, and what not. We got a notice yesterday signed by my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, to the effect:

"Congress desires and requests that there should be a division at 3 P.M., and the only speaker other than the Mover will be Seth Govind Das."

Sir, when you were not here, and before Seth Govind Das had spoken,—he has not spoken at all,—a motion was made for closure. I think it will be abundantly clear to the House that it is not really the idea of the Mover to have a debate on the questions he has raised.

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, on a personal explanation, because my name has been mentioned, let me tell the Honourable Member that I did not want to speak, because my son was seriously ill, and I was not, therefore, in a mood to speak. It was not in order to have an early division that I did not speak.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I am sorry to hear that my friend's son is ill, but I made no personal reflection on him. The point is that, so far as we are concerned, not knowing all the domestic arrangements, we could naturally believe that we were not to reply until Seth Govind Das had spoken. That is the position I was going to lay before the House, and I repeat that Congress Members do not want any debate. However, that is immaterial. No one is bound to speak. My Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, started the debate, first of all, which consists of violent and wild declamation, by referring to the Council and saying that, among other things, they are not honest. I believe that the book, with which my Honourable friend professes to be very familiar, is May's Parliamentary Practice, and I am sure that, if he turns up that book, he will find that that is not a parliamentary expression.

An Honourable Member: But that is true.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I would have made no reference to it, because we have treated abuse very often, and we shall often continue to treat it, with silent contempt; but it was only the other day that my Honourable friend said that whatever language they used was parliamentary. Now, having begun by pointing out that we are not honest, the specific grievance which he wanted to make, first of all, was that he never got a straight answer

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair thinks what the Honourable Member said, at least how the Chair understood him, was not that any Member of the Executive Council was not honest, but that the Government's policy was not honest in their policy. That is how the Chair understood him.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I respectfully say that that was my intention? Otherwise, I would not have used that word, except in that sense.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I am glad that he has taken the hint from the President.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: On a point of personal explanation, Mr. President. I used that word well knowing the parliamentary sense in which it should be used. I deprecate very strongly the idea that I took the hint from you. I think it is not right to cast such reflections on Honourable Members of this House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not think the Honourable Member did cast any reflection.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I do not know if to say "take a hint from the Chair" is another wild term of abuse. That shows how excessively touchy my friend is. However, I shall pass on. My friend's complaint was that he was never getting straight answers to straight questions. I will not pause here to argue if the questions were straight, but the answers were as straight as the questions permitted. You will remember the number of supplementary questions which are asked, and we try our best to answer them on the materials before us. My Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, said: "When I ask questions, I am told that this is a matter of detail, we are referred to the Agent and what not". I am sure, my Honourable friend never realises the situation which is created by some of these supplementary questions. If I may give a typical instance, when some questions are asked about a railway, my Honourable friend may get up and say: "Supplementary question; may I know why Mr. A. B. C. got an increment of only Rs. 3, whereas a foreigner, a Punjabee, who is not a Sindhi, got an increment of Rs. 5?"

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: When was that asked?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: We are not supposed to have all details of this type, and, therefore, it is inevitable that an answer of that kind is given, and the Honourable Member is referred to the Agent or asked to give notice of the question.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member should remember the ruling given by Sir Shanmukham Chetty.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, may I venture to state that if my friend has read it—I assume he has—he has not understood it? (Laughter.) He has not said anything of the kind which my Honourable friend told the House was the purport of the ruling. He could not have done that, he was an intelligent man—nor was he thinking of the situation I described.

[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

After the grievances of unfair treatment, there was a passing reference by the Mover to general dissatisfaction with the conduct of the Members of the Executive Council in their treatment of the inoffensive people who sit facing them. I would ask this House to remember that it is said—it has been reiterated times without number—that it is the one business of Members of the Executive Council to go on offering unprovoked insult to certain Members of this House. So often has it been repeated that I think in the end my friend will come to believe it, just as a man who had never been outside England, at the relevant time, by continual repetition, actually came to think that he took part in the battle of Waterloo—that was *His Imperial Majesty George IV.* (Laughter.) Sir, we indeed are wild people, we abuse, we lack in courtesy, we are arrogant, we have no consideration for feelings of others, and we do not know how to behave. But let me turn to the people who complain. I will not mention any names, because no point is gained by mentioning any particular name. One on the front Bench opposite—I am reading from official proceedings—made this statement:

“The Railway Member”,

—he was then Sir Joseph Bhore, not my friend who is here, who is supposed to be after all not half so bad as some of the others (Laughter)—

“has not thought of the 47,000 people thrown out of employment. Nothing can be more stupid, more irresponsible . . .”

May I remind you of the storm which raged over this House, because some officer used the word “stupid” in connection with his subordinate? I am not protesting against the use of this word at all, but I am pointing out that some of my friends on the other side think that the treatment which they mete out to others should not be dealt out to them. “Nothing more stupid, nothing more irresponsible” was said. Then, Sir, the Leader of the Nationalist Party came to the help of the speaker, from whose speech I was reading. I know that Mr. Aney’s interruptions are delightful, especially the one he made yesterday regarding “under-estimating” by the Finance Member. About the Railway Member Mr. Aney used the word “callous”. (Laughter.) Then the other speaker takes it up. After all, I am not complaining. The Nationalist Congress and the Nationalists mean one and the same thing: twin souls in double bodies. Their dispute is over a matter which is not only dead, but which has been cremated and the ashes have been thrown into the Ganges. (Laughter.)

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): My Honourable friend is mistaken in that: he will hear more about it tomorrow.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Mr. Aney said “callous”. Then, the other speaker said “callousness of the most brutal nature”. Of course, if the Finance Member on this side suggests that a Member facing him is guilty of irresponsibly circulating a rumour, that is wild invective, violent abuse, and so forth, but when language, a thousand times worse, is used on the other side, it is supposed to be parliamentary pleasantry.

Now, Sir, I have no desire to take any notice of my Honourable friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa, that amiable young person, who is so lovable outside, but who poses as a wild man inside this room. (Laughter.) I have no desire to go on quoting one abusive passage after another, used by Congress Members, but I hope what I have said will give some idea as to the high esteem in which some Members place themselves. The least breath of criticism is intolerable, hypersensitiveness has throughout marked some of my friends on the other side. At the same time, it has been open to those Honourable Members to behave in any way they like, and they are the people who complain of ill-treatment in the House. I believe it may be said of some Members that their idea of a fair fight is that a Congress Member should be armed with a bludgeon, while his opponent should be expected to fight with his hands tied behind his back. That is their idea of fair play, and the complaint is that they have not received that kind of fair play.

If my speech is discursive, the only reason is that nothing very coherent has been said by any Honourable Member opposite so far . . .

An Honourable Member: Thank you for the confession.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: It must be so, no thanks are needed.

Now, I got another very valuable information from my friend, Mr. Satyamurti, who said “India has no enemies”. I think he ought to have completed the sentence by saying “India not only has no enemies, but never had any, at any time”. For instance, when Darius and Alexander came to India, they were attracted by a violent desire to investigate the caste system on the spot as they could not find the system in force in any other part of the world. (Laughter.) I believe it will be said that Mahmud of Gazni’s one anxiety was to contemplate Southern Indian architecture of its Temples. That may be so. We never had any enemies: we shall have no enemies: our national solidarity is so great that we need not be afraid of any enemies. Talking of national solidarity, after my Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, had spoken and used the word “nationalist”, it rather jarred upon my ears when he talked of the “foreigner from the Punjab” (Laughter) . . .

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I never said that: I said foreigner from abroad.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I am extremely sorry that every one misheard him. The next point Mr. Satyamurti made—I am taking his specific complaint—was that he put a question to the Law Member, that is, his humble servant, as to whether he was going to consult public opinion, and the Law Member, as usual, would not give a straight answer. He said: “He will see what can be done: he will take proper steps and what not”, but he never got a fair answer. I say deliberately that this is a parody of the answer that I actually gave. But the trouble is that, whenever my friend talks of public opinion, he does not recognise as public opinion any opinion which is in the slightest way divergent from his: that is not public opinion at all. On another occasion, very recently, there was some interchange of pleasantry between my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, and the Home Member, as to

[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

who in the House represented public opinion. I gathered from him that he claimed—(if he did not use the exact words, that was the sense really of the observation)—that he alone claimed to represent public opinion.—and may I add—“and nobody else”. That is all very well. I know in public it is said that the Congress represents public opinion, and no other opinion need be seriously considered. But, in their unguarded moments, they sometimes disclose the real state of affairs as to how much of the public is represented by them. I read, I think, only two or three days ago, in the issue of the *Tribune* of the 4th March, a letter which purports to have been issued by Mr. A. Satyarthi, General Secretary of the Punjab Congress Nationalist Party, and I will read four or five lines from that letter:

“Punjab Muslims being deadily opposed to Congress politics can and shall never join the Congress for a long time to come. They cannot afford to incur the displeasure of their British masters.”

I stop here for a moment. This is the formula which we have heard repeated so often that whether the other fellow is a Muslim or a non-Congress Hindu or is a European or an Anglo-Indian, if he does not agree entirely—16 annas in the rupee—with the view of the Congress, then he must have sold himself to the British masters—he must be a traitor. That is the arrogance which leads some of the Honourable Members opposite to think that they and they alone represent public opinion. Once it is conceded that the Muslims are not in the Congress,—and it does not matter if 70 of them out of 70 millions have joined the Congress—if it is proved and admitted that the Europeans and Anglo-Indians are not in the Congress, that there is a large body of people who do not belong to the Congress and who are Hindus—I say it is fantastic to claim that if we have received other opinions, they are not to be regarded as opinions at all. Therefore, the grievance is not that public opinion is not consulted

Dr. N. B. Khare (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadian): On a point of order, Sir: is the Congress under discussion or the Executive Council?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): An attack was made on the Executive Council mainly on the ground that they did not heed public opinion as voiced in this House.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: May I remind my medical friend, Dr. Khare, that I think some of my friends said—at least I remember one speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, which is not surprising, knowing that he makes eight speeches outside the House every week, and I think I read in one of his speeches that his business was—I do not purport to give the exact words—to strengthen the parallel Government. Now, when this Government is attacked, is it so very irrelevant to show how the parallel Government is behaving? Congress, after all, claims to be the parallel Government. It cannot object to attention being drawn to its activities.

I think it was my friend, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, from Bengal, who had something very trenchant to say—that does not mean reasonable—about the question of privilege. He repeated language—which has been

repeated *ad nauseam* in the press—that what has been done here in this House, that is the purport of the ruling of the President, introduced a state of things which is unknown in any part of the world. That is absolutely wrong. My friend has got to devote a little time to read books of other countries to find out what the law there is, and he has to understand what Walter's case means.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend made an attack on the administration of justice being paralysed in Bengal by High Court circulars. Sir, this House has not been told how any circular has in any way paralysed the administration of justice. No indication has been given to show that a particular circular has in any way paralysed the administration of justice in Bengal

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Time was short. Circulars are published in two volumes by the Calcutta High Court. I could not refer to them in detail within the brief time at my disposal.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Circulars may be published in 95 volumes, but the point is, what is the circular which is paralysing the administration of justice? Some indication of that should have been given to the House if it was contended seriously that the High Court was interfering with the administration of justice in Bengal. (Interruptions.) I do not propose to give way now, as I have only ten minutes more left. I don't see the relevancy of the misbehaviour of the High Court in a particular way by reason of certain circulars being issued, being fastened on to the Members of the Executive Council.

Then, Sir, I think it was my friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, (Laughter),

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I am glad you are remembering me so often.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, how can I forget him? I can never forget the generous hospitality of my friend at Larkana. How can I forget him?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: This is the reward for it. (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: How can I be so ungrateful as to forget him? Moreover, Sir, he has been so much in the limelight recently and so many newspaper articles have been written over his remaining neutral in this Session on a certain division (“Hear, hear” from Opposition Benches), that I can forget everybody, but I cannot possibly forget my friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai. (Laughter.) But, Sir, I am really glad that my Honourable friend has spoken today. I am really glad that he has indicated that he is hostile to this Government, because, Sir, most baseless insinuations were made against him that he was after a Ministership in Sind, and that was responsible for his remaining neutral. (Loud Laughter.) I never for one moment believed in such false calumny, and I am indeed glad that my friend has now shown his tiger qualities by attacking this wretched Government. (Laughter.)

[Sir Nripendra Sircar.]

Now, Sir, before I resume my seat,—I have got only a few minutes left,—I would like to give a serious answer to a question which was put by my friend, Mr. Jinnah.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Don't become serious. You will spoil all the effect.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I cannot help it, as, now, I am coming to the man who dealt with the matter seriously. So far I have been dealing with Mr. Satyamurti, and I was compelled to adopt a style called forth by his incoherent and wild abuse. Now, my friend, Mr. Jinnah, I think, put a question,—I am not quoting his exact words,—and asked: Will you show me any single major issue

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: First class issue.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: first class issue on which you have accepted the verdict of this House? I think that is the purport, I may not be accurate. I don't mean to say that, whatever views the House has urged, Government have accepted them in their entirety, but the question is, whether, on any first class or major issue, the view of this House has been accepted by the Government. Speaking off-hand, I venture to give a few examples. I will take, for instance, the recent legislation,—when I say recent legislation, I am referring to legislation which has taken place during the last seven or eight years,—relating to factories, legislation relating to labour, mines, and so on, which affects the destinies of tens of thousands of workmen, labourers, industrialists. There, Sir, the views of this House were, I understand, generally speaking, accepted by the Government. Of course, the House is not expected to be unanimous on every question that comes up before it. Then, take another case, a very important matter of "indiscriminate protection", which was perhaps a slip of my friend, the correct expression being, I understand, "discriminating protection". That has been the view of this House, and whatever the personal view of any Member, who occupies the post of Executive Councillor, may be, the fact remains, that the principle has been adopted in this country, is due mainly to the influence of this House and to the views expressed in this House. If I may give smaller instances,—I won't say they are of first class importance in the sense in which my friend used an expression, even in smaller things like removal of income-tax from incomes

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: I am not disputing that there are very many matters relating to administration on which Government have, from time to time, tried to meet the wishes of this House. That was not my point. What I meant by first class issues was I meant issues which involved big policies, big principles. That is what I meant.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I do not think I misunderstood my friend. I still think, with all respect to my friend, the question of discriminating protection is a big issue, it is a major issue, and a first class issue. It involved big policy, big principle. It is not a minor issue which

can be brushed aside as trivial and not involving big policy. Labour legislation also involves a very big issue. I submit, when I made that statement, I was labouring under no misapprehension.

Then, I have one more word to say, Sir. It was said by Mr. Jinnah that this Executive Council, being part of the Government of India, is really a subordinate body in the sense that the Government of India is under the control of somebody else by reason of the provisions of the Government of India Act. That that is the correct legal position, I do not for a moment dispute, in fact, it was on that assumption that I addressed the House on the last occasion. Well, Sir, if that is so, then the grievance is not really against the Executive Council, but against this Constitution which, as is conceded on all sides, is unsatisfactory.

I am afraid, Sir, my time is up, and I must conclude. I submit that no case has been made out for refusing supplies to Executive Council, and, if carried, the motion will amount to a censure of the Government of India Act, and of nothing else.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Executive Council' be reduced to Re. 1."

The Assembly divided.

AYES—68.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.
Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Asaf Ali, Mr. M.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Auanthasayanam.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Ba Si, U
Badrul Hasan, Maulvi.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Bhagavan Das, Dr.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Das, Mr. B.
Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
Gauba, Mr. K. L.
Giri, Mr. V. V.
Govind Das, Seth.
Gupta, Mr. Ghansham Singh.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
Jinnah, Mr. M. A.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
Kailash Behari Lal, Babu.
Khan Sahib, Dr.
Khare, Dr. N. B.

Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Malaviya, Pandit Krishna Kant.
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.
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.
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.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Vissanji, Mr. Mathuradas.

Abdoola Haroon, Seth Haji.
 Acott, Mr. A. S. V.
 Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
 Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan
 Bahadur Nawab Malik.
 Aminuddin, Mr. Saiyid.
 Anwar-ul-Azim, Mr. Muhammad.
 Ayyar, Diwan Bahadur R. V.
 Krishna.
 Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A.
 Venkatarama.
 Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
 Bajpai, Sir Girja Shankar.
 Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
 Buss, Mr. L. C.
 Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
 Dalal, Dr. R. D.
 Das-Gupta, Mr. S. K.
 Dash, Mr. A. J.
 Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan
 Bahadur Shaikh.
 Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kumar Vijaya
 Ananda.
 Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.
 Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.
 Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
 Grigson, Mr. W. V.
 Hands, Mr. A. S.
 Hidayatallah, Sir Ghulam Hussain.
 Hudson, Sir Leslie.
 Hutton, Dr. J. H.
 James, Mr. F. E.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur
 Sardar Sir.
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
 Khurshaid Muhammad, Khan Bahadur
 Shaikh.
 Lal Chand, Captain Rao Bahadur
 Chaudhri.

Leach, Mr. F. B.
 Lindsay, Sir Darey.
 Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
 MacDongall, Mr. R. M.
 Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir
 Sayad Muhammad.
 Metcalfe, Sir Aubrey.
 Milligan, Mr. J. A.
 Mody, Sir H. P.
 Morgan, Mr. G.
 Muhammad Ismail Khan, Haji
 Chaudhury.
 Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
 Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya
 Charan.
 Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
 Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
 Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
 Rajan Bakhsh Shah, Khan Bahadur
 Makhdum Syed.
 Rau, Mr. P. R.
 Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
 Sale, Mr. J. F.
 Sarma, Mr. R. S.
 Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
 Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain
 Sardar.
 Singh, Rai Bahadur Shyam Narayan.
 Sircar, The Honourable Sir
 Nripendra.
 Spence, Mr. G. H.
 Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.
 Witherington, Mr. C. H.
 Yakub, Sir Muhammad.
 Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
 Zafullah Khan, The Honourable Sir
 Muhammad.
 Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Before the Independent Party is called upon to move their cut motion, I have to say a word about an incident that happened this morning. When I asked Sir Cowasji Jehangir to take the Chair, when I left at a quarter to one, I was informed that the Honourable the Deputy President was indisposed and I did not find him in his seat during the question hour, nor did I notice when he had come in.

DEMAND NO. 79—BALUCHISTAN.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 66,31,000, 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, 1937, in respect of 'Baluchistan'."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 66,31,000, 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, 1937, in respect of 'Baluchistan'."

Expenditure due to Earthquake at Quetta.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Baluchistan' be reduced by Rs. 27,69,100."

Mr. President, after the exciting debate we have had, I desire, with your permission, to bring the House back to a point which really touches the budget. We have heard from the Honourable the Finance Member that he proposes to finance the reconstruction of Quetta from loan funds

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No, from revenue.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I am sorry, from revenue, and I have contested that position when I had the privilege of speaking during the general discussion on the budget. We are not against the reconstruction of Quetta. There may be differences of opinion as to the site. I am not concerned just now about that. There may be differences of opinion as to how much should be spent. I am not concerned with that just now. The only point I am concerned with is how this amount is to be provided. We are told that out of the civil budget, about 40 lakhs will be required, of which 12 lakhs will go for clearance, etc., which is a legitimate charge upon revenue and that 28 lakhs will be used for reconstruction. That is the amount I have picked out of the budget and desire to delete. Now, Sir, I do not know really whether there can be any difference of opinion on a question which appears to me so simple and so plain. When you reconstruct a city, you should not place the burden upon one generation but you should spread that burden over several generations. I quoted certain instances when I last spoke on this point, instances in England. I gave the instance of a big public building. I gave the instance of a bridge. I was told that they related to local bodies and not to Government. While reading the debate, I noticed an interjection from my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, asking me to supply him with an instance for military works and I am surprised at that interjection, considering that just now the Government in England are considering the question of a big loan of 200 million sterling for the expansion of defence.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: They have not said so.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I read it in a speech. Reuters may be wrong but I read it definitely in the speech of Mr. Neville Chamberlain. I have not got the facts and figures before me. I shall give a better instance, a better analogy, the earthquake in Japan. The reconstruction in Japan was financed from capital, and I have got facts and figures about that before me. The reconstruction of all damage done by the earthquake in Japan was financed from a loan of 550 million yen and partly from another loan of 350 million yen.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Most of their budget is financed from borrowing. Half their budget is uncovered. Do you want that example followed?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: My Honourable friend, the Finance Member, wants to put me off my point. I am not going to do it. Because a country is financing some other projects from capital, he says that the instance I give of Japan financing this particular project from capital is not worthy of consideration. I consider the interjection not worthy of consideration. I contend most strongly that the Finance Member's proposal is bad budgeting and bad finance especially for a poor country like India. He wants us to pay out of revenues a crore a year for seven or eight years. It may be more. Your surpluses will be reduced by a crore, your deficits, when you have them, will be increased by a crore for some years to come. I do not think, Sir, that a poor country like India should finance big projects in this way. (Hear, hear.) I admit that, if you had enormous surpluses, if your people were not heavily taxed, you might be able to finance such projects out of revenue. Sir, a Government budget of this sort is very much like the budget of an individual. He builds a big house for himself, and if he cannot afford to build it out of his income—and very few men can—he builds it out of capital. My Honourable friend, the Finance Member, wants to build a city out of our income, and the worst aspect of it is that we are still suffering under a load of taxation which was thrust on to us in times of emergency and by this proposal of his he will continue that state of emergency for some time to come.

An Honourable Member: For seven years at least.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: After all, I would point out to this Honourable House that a crore a year is no small sum. Why, Mr. President, when my Honourable friend gave a crore of money for the relief of the agriculturist, he was proud of that fact, and perhaps rightly so. It was only one crore for one year that he gave. It may have risen through circumstances not under his control to a very much larger sum than one crore, as a matter of fact it amounted to 2 crores 81 lakhs. He desires that we should, out of revenue, pay the same sum for seven years to come, for the building of a city. That will show how big that sum really is in the Government of India's opinion. I know my Honourable friend has been accustomed to dealing in millions, he has had something to do with a budget of £800 million . . .

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What have we got to do with that?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: . . . but, after all, we are dealing in much smaller figures; a million sterling a year out of revenue is a great deal of money for us, and we desire, by this cut, to bring this pointedly to the attention of the Government and we desire that they shall build, if they choose to, a city anywhere they like—it may be on the same site or on any other site—but they shall divide the burden equitably. (Hear, hear.) That is all I have got to say at present. I know that this House cannot touch the bigger sum in the military budget, the bigger sum of fifty lakhs of rupees; it is really 60 lakhs, 50 lakhs for reconstruction and 10 lakhs for clearance; we cannot touch that, it is non-votable, but the same principle applies; we can get at this sum of about 28 lakhs, we can cut it out; we very much regret we cannot cut out the other, but when my Honourable friend moves his cut on the army, we shall have something to say about that fifty lakhs. For the present I trust the Honourable House will accept my argument as fairly sound and will insist on this money being financed out of capital.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Baluchistan' be reduced by Rs. 27,69,100."

Dr. P. N. Banerjea (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I rise to support this amendment, and I do so on two grounds. The Honourable the Finance Member, in the course of his budget speech, said:

"It is contrary to strict financial orthodoxy to borrow for expenditure which does not yield a cash return."

This, Sir, is not wholly correct. If my Honourable friend will read the literature on this subject, he will find that the great economists of his own country are divided in opinion on this question, and even the most orthodox amongst English economists admit the necessity, in certain circumstances, of incurring expenditure of an extraordinary character out of loan funds. I may mention J. S. Mill, who admits that there is such a necessity. Even Adam Smith does not deny such a necessity. Another economist, an eminent writer on Public Finance, Bastable, after pointing out the different aspects of the question, says that it is some times necessary. Coming to other countries, I find that the great American economist and writer on Public Finance, Professor Seligman, says definitely:

"In the case of non-recurring non-self-supporting capital expenditures the utilisation of public credit is clearly permissible",—

and he gives certain instances, such as the Chicago fire and the Boston fire. He then goes on to assert:

"Since the outlay needed to keep these communities alive or to repair the ravages of a conflagration may not be expected to occur again or certainly not for a long future, it would be manifestly improper to saddle the entire burden upon the unfortunate taxpayers of that particular year."

He also mentions instances like floods and famines. Therefore, this theoretical objection does not hold good. Sir, the other day, I had occasion to examine his proposal with regard to the provincial finances, which is his second ground for objecting to the incurring of expenditure out of loan funds. I pointed out on that occasion that provincial finances would benefit greatly if the Quetta expenditure was financed out of loan funds, because, during the first five years of the new experiment, provincial finances will have to stand a very great strain. Therefore, during these five years, it will be desirable not to burden the Central Exchequer with the whole of this amount at the rate of one crore of rupees a year. If the whole of this amount can be transferred to the Provinces it will do a great deal of benefit to them. Sir, on these two grounds, the grounds urged by the Honourable the Finance Member himself, I support this motion.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: Sir, I rise to support this motion as briefly as possible. I am rather surprised that the Honourable the Finance Member is a worshipper at the altar of orthodoxy, whether financial or otherwise. Our impression of the Honourable the Finance

[Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty.]

Member was anything but an orthodox man. We have all been the victims of orthodoxy of one kind or another, and this time financial orthodoxy has come to the rescue of the Honourable the Finance Member to put down the people of this country and to make them pay tax which is no more required for the purpose of revenue expenditure of the Government of India. Sir, if he is really a worshipper of orthodoxy, I would rather like that he should respect his promises before becoming so superstitious as to worship orthodoxy of this kind. On more than one occasion he assured the House that emergency taxation, which he had to resort to, on account of emergent circumstances, would be relieved the moment when that emergency ceases.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The Honourable Member cannot produce any quotation to that effect from my speeches at all.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: I thought the Government of India had a continuity of policy.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: When the Honourable Member says that I gave assurances he means my predecessor. I quite see.

Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty: Last year, he did say, in view of the promises made by his predecessor, he was restoring the cut, because the emergency had ceased to exist. I, therefore, take it that what his predecessor has said in respect of this emergency taxation, he had adopted at least last year. If he is willing to go back this year on what he said last year, that is a different matter. Sir, after having fulfilled one half of the promise which is advantageous to the services, he hesitates to continue the policy which has been promised to the people of this country by his predecessor. Apart from that, the new theory which he has propounded of the manner in which the loan funds should be spent and revenue amounts be spent is one at which I am rather taken aback, and it is like throwing a bomb shell on the people of this country. Sir, it is stated that, unless there is a guarantee of return of interest on the sinking fund of any project that would be undertaken, it would be far better to take that amount from the revenue. If that should be the policy of the Honourable the Finance Member now, the net result of that would be that there is no chance of any relief from this excessive taxation for at least eight years to come on account of Quetta. If one crore of rupees should be allotted every year and if the amount required would be about eight crores, it follows, as day follows night, that there cannot be any relief in taxation for the next eight years. I would like to ask the Honourable the Finance Member, if he is going to strictly follow the maxim he has now laid down, what would happen if there had been no surplus this year. Would he have levied fresh taxation in order to reconstruct Quetta? It is because there is a surplus, his theory or his maxim may have a plausible excuse. But, in case there is no surplus, would the Honourable Member be justified in asking this House to vote for increase of taxation? Today, if this House should accede to the demand that this amount should be taken from the revenue funds, it only means that this House is agreeing for increase of taxation, not only now, but also for all time to come. Whether the taxation is just or otherwise, it is a different matter. So far as emergency taxation is concerned, so far as that continues to be a source

of revenue to this Government, there is absolutely no justification for the Honourable the Finance Member to take this money from the revenue. Now, may I ask what was done in the case of the reconstruction of New Delhi? Was the amount taken from revenue or from capital? What is it that is being done in various Provincial Governments in respect of such big projects which would have a permanency at least for two generations to come? I suppose in several Provinces a development fund is being created and money put into it by way of loans and in the same way we pay in the course of years. With regard to Quetta, any reasonable man would take it that the life of the new City would be at least 100 years. Is it fair that a generation should pay in eight years for what would last about 100 years? This seems to be a very unreasonable financial policy. What he calls orthodoxy is not real orthodoxy, but unwillingness to part with public money. That is the bare truth of it. It is unfortunate and unjust that the Honourable Member should be still adhering to this excessive taxation and dissipate the revenues for the purposes for which monies should be got from other sources. The level of taxation is indeed very high, and it would have been in the fitness of things that the Honourable the Finance Member should be looking to reducing the burden of taxation; instead of that, he is piling up taxation, not only piling up, but laying down a rule which rather creates a great stir in the minds of the tax paying community. I think the vote of this House on the question of Pusa Institute should have been a sufficient warning for the Honourable the Finance Member to put down this money under capital expenditure instead of revenue. But the Honourable the Finance Member is not orthodox in the matter of observing due regard to this House, and, therefore, it is that he merely poohpoohed the verdict of the House. I expect that today at least he will change his so-called orthodox views and be more modern and be more up-to-date than to stick on to so-called orthodoxy which is merely superstition. (Applause.)

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I very much appreciate the arguments put forward by my Honourable friends, Sir Cowasji Jehangir and Dr. Banerjee, but there is one point to which I should like to draw the attention of the House. I think it is the earnest desire of the Assembly, and probably every economist would agree, that we should make every attempt to pay off our debt if we can possibly do so. This is a proposition which nobody would challenge. If, at any time, through economy, we can pay off our debt, I think we should always welcome it. My Honourable friend advocates that particular item should be debited to capital expenditure. I say, all right, let it be paid out of capital account, and pay so much money to the capital fund out of revenues of this money. So it is practically a question of plus and minus. We may pay so much money into the avoidance of Debt account in order to pay off our debt, which we borrowed for this purpose. Had the question been to avoid payment altogether, I think everybody would have welcomed it. To pay out of loan and provide so much money for the payment of loan is only a question of plus and minus. This argument, which has been advanced, resembles the argument which is advanced by certain educationist about examinations. It is said that it is useless to examine the answer book of a candidate. The roll number of candidates may be put on one side and all the marks in the other book and marks may be drawn by ballot. This appears to be a very hypothetical proposition, but it is based on the

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

following argument: when the same answer book is sent to different examiners, it is found that examiners give varying marks from 20 to 80 on the same answer. Why decide the luck of students by the choice of examiners, why not draw the lot of numbers, why introduce the bogus element of an examiner, why not give them marks by ballot at once? In the present instance, the argument appears to be of the same type. We first pay money under the head of "Reduction and avoidance of debt" account and then take it back in the shape of new loan. Why not remove unnecessary accountancy in the same manner as unnecessary factor of examiners in examination theory. Sir, it is a question of plus and minus and it does not substantially affect the pockets of tax payers.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I do not propose in this debate to go over again the remarks which I have already made at great length on this matter on two occasions. It is a very simple issue, and the Honourable the Baronet from Bombay put it very neatly in a sentence which I unhesitatingly accept. India is a poor country, and, therefore, it must borrow. That is exactly the point. We must go and borrow and derive benefit from expenditure and leave other people to pay for it. That has been the history of Indian finance, both Central and Provincial, for many years. That is the reason for half, if not more, of the financial difficulties of India. In my view, it is essential to the maintenance of the credit of India that orthodox finance should be preserved, and orthodoxy requires you to provide for a gradual reduction of your debt burdens year by year. And this is merely a proposal to increase the debt burdens when the provision for debt reduction is already inadequate. The provision laid down, when the present debt was much smaller and when the railways were paying, when the credit of India had far less risks ahead of it, was the figure of seven crores or round about seven crores. That was regarded as the requirement of the debt service of this country in order to maintain the credit of this country and to allow conversions taking place at the due dates with comfort and with profit. Now that the sinking fund has been reduced to three crores, on a very much larger debt, it is proposed that it should in effect be reduced still further, and all the excuse given is, India is a poor country, it cannot afford to pay for what it has got to spend, and, therefore, it must borrow; never mind who has got to pay for it; we cannot afford it, but never mind; let us have it and let somebody else pay for it. It seems to me absolutely essential for the maintenance of the credit of India that that doctrine should be exploded. And then the Honourable Member produced the case of Japan as an example. Japan borrowed for its earthquake expenditure. Japan is borrowing for about 60 per cent. of its present budget. Does he want that example followed? He would get a terrific lot of money to reduce taxation that way.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Why not take your own country?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The Honourable Member produced Japan, and I am entitled to ask him if he thinks that the financial policy of Japan is one which he wishes to see followed in this country.

Another thing that strikes me about the speeches that have been made is that, though there may be a certain amount of concordance as to charging this expenditure to capital, there is certainly no concordance as

to the object for which the money realised shall be used. The Honourable the Baronet from Bombay naturally wants taxation reduced; the Honourable Member from Madras, belonging to the Congress Party, also naturally wants taxation reduced; the Honourable Member from Bengal perhaps equally naturally wants the money devoted to the provinces, and so on. Of course, I do not know what decision the House will come to on this, but, before we finish with the budget debates, I have not the slightest doubt that these 28 lakhs will be made available about ten times over for serving various objects. The Honourable the Baronet from Bombay is himself a business man. I notice that in his analogies he did not use the analogy of business. As he is running a business, may I ask him if he would incur capital expenditure if it promised to make no return at all?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: If it was necessary for the business and if it were going to last for a hundred years, undoubtedly so.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: How can it be necessary for the business if it does not make any return and shows a loss?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Then the business would not undertake such a thing and you need not undertake it.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is exactly the point. Take, as an example, welfare expenditure which may be forced upon you by legislation. To do that out of capital

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: What an example! There is certainly a difference between welfare expenditure and building a new city?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Of course, welfare expenditure is a case where the question arises as to whether it is to be charged to capital or to revenue.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: You might as well say that my expenses on food should come out of capital.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Of course, there were various Honourable Members who quoted the precedent of New Delhi against me. I do not think it is a particularly happy one. They themselves are always bemoaning the extravagance of it, and I should have thought that people would want to pay for their extravagances out of revenue. But still, be that as it may, the question of the provinces was also brought up and the example of the provincial borrowings pointed out. Well, practically every province, except about two, are in deficit. Practically all of them have very heavy debt charges; and I personally think that one of the main reasons for their difficulties is improvidence in days gone by. And if the taxpayer of the present generation has got to pay for the expenditure, he will exercise a much closer check on it. The Honourable Member from Madras said that taxation is very high and it must be reduced. I think I am right in saying that where it is a question of protective taxation, where the burden falls on the consumer without any benefit to the exchequer at all, he has done nothing ever since he has come to this House, but demanded that it should be increased. So that he is not quite consistent in his demands for reduced taxation. Reduced taxation for me by all means, but let us increase it for the other fellow.

[Sir James Grigg.]

Dr. Ziauddin made a point which does seem to me to go to the root of the matter. He said that if you are going to charge this to capital,—as far as I understood his argument,—there is an obligation on you to increase your provision for debt redemption accordingly, because charging this to capital is merely an attempt to raid the sinking fund. This was the argument which I have tried to put before the House on two occasions now, and as I do not wish to keep the House from coming to an early decision on the matter, I will not repeat my argument. But it is, in fact, the crux of the matter that, by adding to your capital expenditure for Quetta, you will, in fact, be raiding your sinking fund and leaving the amount of that quite inadequate for the preservation of your credit.

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

“That the demand under the head ‘Baluchistan’ be reduced by Rs. 27,69,100.”

The Assembly divided:

AYES—73.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.
 Abdoola Haroon, Seth Haji.
 Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
 Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
 Aney, Mr. M. S.
 Asaf Ali, Mr. M.
 Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
 Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
 Badrul Hasan, Maulvi.
 Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
 Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
 Bhagavan Das, Dr.
 Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
 Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
 Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
 Chunder, Mr. N. C.
 Das, Mr. B.
 Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.
 Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
 Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
 Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
 Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
 Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
 Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
 Gauba, Mr. K. L.
 Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
 Giri, Mr. V. V.
 Govind Das, Seth.
 Gupta, Mr. Ghansham Singh.
 Hans Raj, Raizada.
 Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
 Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
 Jinnah, Mr. M. A.
 Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
 Joshi, Mr. N. M.
 Kailash Behari Lal, Babu.
 Khan Sahib, Dr.

Khare, Dr. N. B.
 Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
 Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
 Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
 Malaviya, Pandit Krishna Kant
 Mangal Singh, Sardar.
 Mody, Sir H. P.
 Mudaliar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.
 Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi, Qazi.
 Muhammad Ismail Khan, Hajji Chaudhury.
 Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
 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.
 Sham Lal, Mr.
 Shaikat 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.
 Umar Ali Shah, Mr.
 Varma, Mr. B. B.
 Vissanii, Mr. Mathuradas.

NOES—52.

Acott, Mr. A. S. V.
 Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
 Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
 Aminuddin, Mr. Saiyid.
 Ayyar, Diwan Bahadur R. V. Krishna.
 Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama.
 Bajpai, Sir Girja Shankar.
 Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
 Buss, Mr. L. C.
 Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
 Dalal, Dr. R. D.
 Das-Gupta, Mr. S. K.
 Dash, Mr. A. J.
 Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
 Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kumar Vijaya Ananda.
 Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.
 Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.
 Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
 Grigson, Mr. W. V.
 Hands, Mr. A. S.
 Hidayatallah, Sir Ghulam Hussain.
 Hudson, Sir Leslie.
 Hutton, Dr. J. H.
 James, Mr. F. E.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
 Khurshaid Muhammad, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.

Lal Chand, Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.
 Leach, Mr. F. B.
 Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
 Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
 MacDougall, Mr. R. M.
 Metcalfe, Sir Aubrey.
 Milligan, Mr. J. A.
 Morgan, Mr. G.
 Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
 Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
 Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
 Rajan Bakhsh Shah, Khan Bahadur Makhdam Syed.
 Rau, Mr. P. R.
 Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
 Sale, Mr. J. F.
 Sarma, Mr. R. S.
 Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
 Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar.
 Singh, Rai Bahadur Shyam Narayan.
 Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
 Spence, Mr. G. H.
 Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.
 Witherington, Mr. C. H.
 Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
 Zafarullah Khan, The Honourable Sir Muhammad.
 Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 11th March, 1936.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 11th March, 1936.

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.

RELEASE OF MR. SARAT CHANDRA BOSE.

1097. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose was imprisoned under Regulation III of 1818 and has now been released?

(b) For how long was he imprisoned? What, if any, was the allowance paid to him in the aggregate during this interval?

(c) How do Government justify the internment of a person without charge or trial for such a long time and the expenditure of public funds on him?

(d) Is it not a fact that Government have stated over and over again in this Assembly that he was a dangerous man and connected with terrorism, and that his being out of prison would involve danger to public peace?

(e) If so, why was he released at all?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Yes.

(b) He was in jail custody for one year, two months and 19 days, and detained at his own residence near Kurseong for two years, three months and three days. I lay on the table a statement showing the allowances that were sanctioned for Mr. Bose and his family during this period.

(c) to (e). Sarat Chandra Bose was placed under detention because of his connection with the terrorist movement and the answer to question (d) is in the affirmative. His case was, however, examined carefully from time to time and as soon as the Government of Bengal and the Government of India were satisfied that the terrorist situation had improved sufficiently to justify his release, orders sanctioning his release were issued. The payment of allowances out of public funds was in accordance with the specific provision of Regulation III.

Statement showing the Allowances sanctioned for Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose and his family during his detention under Regulation III of 1818.

While in jail custody.

Personal allowances.	Family allowance.	Allowances for other purposes.
Rs. 3-8-0 a day for diet. Subsequently increased to Rs. 5 a day. Rs. 32 monthly Rs 100 lump sum on first admission to jail.	Rs. 1,200 a month	Rs. 1,334 per annum on a policy plus Rs. 1,157-13-0 as a single payment in respect of another policy.

While detained at Giddapahar.

Personal allowance.	Family allowance.	Allowances for other purposes.
Rs. 150 per mensem. Enhanced to Rs. 225 a month from 1st March, 1934.	Rs. 1,200 a month. Increased to Rs. 1,500 per mensem from 1st March, 1934.	Same as above.

N.B.—Mr. Bose was transferred to Giddapahar on the 23rd April, 1933.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I know, Sir, if Mr. Bose was interned because of his own connection with terrorism or because of the general situation in Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have answered that question repeatedly on former occasions.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: The Honourable Member said that the Government are very carefully watching the situation in Bengal, and they released him when they thought that the situation had improved,—at least that is what I could hear,—but what I want to know is whether a man is interned because of the situation outside or because of his own complicity with any suspected crime?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have said he was placed under detention, because of his connection with the terrorist movement.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Sir, in view of the admission of the Honourable the Home Member that the situation in regard to terrorism has improved in Bengal, and in view also of the fact that nothing untoward has so far happened after the release of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, do Government propose to consider the cases of other State Prisoners and others who are detained without trial and release them?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That all depends. Their cases are reviewed from time to time.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Has anything happened since Mr. Bose's release, to make the Government feel that his release has in any way helped the terrorist movement directly or indirectly?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, nothing has happened.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: If Mr. Bose was interned because of his connection with the terrorist movement, why was he released, when his connection with the movement was there all the same? Did he give any undertaking that he would have nothing to do with it any more, or were the Government satisfied that he was really never connected with the terrorist movement at all?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Government were satisfied that the terrorist situation had sufficiently improved to justify his release.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know, Sir, what that sentence really means—"the situation had improved"? Does it mean that it had improved independent of Mr. Bose's release, or that Mr. Bose's activities would not aggravate the position, or does it mean that the situation as a whole had improved, justifying the release of even people who might otherwise be suspected to be connected with that movement?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The phrase I used means exactly what it says. The terrorist movement had improved sufficiently to justify his release. Several other detenus have also been released.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: In view of the fact that the terrorist situation has definitely and appreciably improved according to the Honourable the Home Member's own admission, do Government propose to take special steps to review the cases of people who are detained without trial and release them, if possible, at an early date?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Their cases are constantly under review.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: How many lives do Government compute have been saved by the timely internment of this dangerous man, and how many lives are now endangered by the untimely release of this innocent man?

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

FUNCTIONS OF A RAILWAY MAGISTRATE.

1098. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** (a) Who is the appointing authority of railway magistrates? What are the functions of such magistrates?

(b) Have they any direct rights of arrest, or have they only to decide cases when these are brought before them?

(c) Are railway magistrates provided with free passes to travel on the railway?

(d) What is the area in which the present railway magistrate of Allahabad has authority to act?

(e) Is he provided with a free railway pass; and if so, to what destination is he entitled to travel?

(f) Does this pass permit him to travel beyond the area in which he exercises his jurisdiction?

(g) Have Government received any complaints about the activities of the present railway magistrate of Allahabad, and if so, what action have they taken in that behalf?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by Mr. P. R. Rau to Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya's question No. 538 on the 25th February, 1935. The powers and duties of these magistrates are identical with those of other magistrates: the word 'railway' is added to their designation presumably because their jurisdiction is either wholly or mainly limited to cases arising within railway limits.

(c) The East Indian Railway Administration have issued passes available, except in one case, over the sections on which these magistrates hold their court.

(d) Mandah Road to Subadarganj.

(e) Yes; available over the whole of the East Indian Railway.

(f) Yes, but action has been taken by the East Indian Railway Administration to withdraw this pass and to issue instead one available over the section within his jurisdiction.

(g) I understand the Honourable Member made certain allegations about this magistrate and was told in reply that the Railway Administration had no *locus standi* in the matter.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: In view of the fact that ordinary magistrates in the country are not allowed any concessions in the way of railway passes, will the Honourable Member kindly explain why passes are issued to these gentlemen?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: To facilitate the quick disposal of railway cases.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: If that is so, is the Honourable Member aware that ordinary magistrates in the country, who have to expedite the work of criminal justice, are not given the same concessions as the railway magistrates are given?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I suppose they are not.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: As railways are a Central subject, does not the Honourable Member think that when complaints against railway magistrates reach the Central Government, they should get into communication with the Local Government and remedy the evils, if any?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, Sir, unless the complaints relate to some matter connected with the railways.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Are these magistrates paid out of the railway funds?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, Sir.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable Member aware that these magistrates are allowed to appropriate to themselves a part of the fines they impose on the people? I put some questions on this point some time ago?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: And a reply was given.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: But are they allowed to keep a part of the fines themselves?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Can these railway magistrates order arrests directly on the railway platform or they can only dispose of cases that are brought before them by the police?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: They have all the powers which are ordinarily possessed by magistrates.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What control is exercised by the Railway Board in the matter of their appointment and supervision of work?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The Railway Board have nothing to do with the matter.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is it true that these railway magistrates are given a part of the fines that they impose on people as punishment?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I believe the Honourable Member has heard the question put by another Honourable Member and the reply given to it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I did not hear it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): He has repeatedly answered that question.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The question was put on a previous occasion and an answer was given, and, if the Honourable Member is very curious to find out what the answer was, the answer was "No."

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Are all these Magistrates stipendiary or are they sometimes honorary magistrates as well?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That depends upon the choice of the Local Government. I have said that the Railway Department have nothing to do with their appointment.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: If complaints reach the Central Government against any particular magistrate, at least the Railway Board can prohibit the entry of these magistrates to the railway platforms as these are under their jurisdiction?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. Next question please.

AMERY TRIBUNAL'S REPORT ON BURMA.

1099. ***Pandit Nilakantha Das** (on behalf of Mr. B. Das): (a) Will Government be pleased to state what final decisions have been taken on the Amery Tribunal's report on Burma?

(b) Did Government forward a copy of the Assembly debate on the Amery report to the Secretary of State?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the recommendations they made in forwarding the copy of the Assembly debate?

(d) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence that passed between them and the Secretary of State on the report of the Amery Tribunal?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the Press Communiqué on the subject published on the 14th January.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it that the answer "No" to part (c) of the question means that they did not make any recommendations, or do Government refuse to state the recommendations that they made, in forwarding a copy of the debate of this House?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: It means exactly what I have said. Government are not pleased to state the recommendations they made in forwarding a copy of the Legislative Assembly Debates.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Did they make any recommendations at all?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: They are not prepared to answer that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What was the result of forwarding the discussion of this Assembly?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That may be gathered from the press communiqué.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Did Government support the view of this House that a fresh tribunal should be appointed to re-examine the whole matter?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is the same question in another form. I said that I was not prepared to answer it.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know the reasons why Government are not prepared to answer?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No, Sir.

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

CONTRACT FOR SUPPLIES REQUIRED BY THE ARMY SUPPLY DEPARTMENT.

1100. ***Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Bakhsh Shah:** Will Government please state the procedure adopted in the grant of contract for supplies required by the Army Supply Department and lay on the table the following further information in connection with the present contracts:

- (i) for how many years have the wheat and gram purchasing contracts, and also contracts for grinding wheat been with the present contractors;

- (ii) when were the latest tenders for grinding the wheat called and what rates were offered by the contractors;

- (iii) is it a fact that in response to the call of tenders, several contractors offered lower and more favourable rates for grinding and purchasing wheat, but the contracts were given to the present contractors on a very liberal and highest rates? If so, why were the lower rates offered by others not taken any notice of and the present highest rates accepted;

- (iv) if the difference between the present highest rates in force of the contracts and the lowest rates offered by others be taken, what amount works out for the whole year;

- (v) when is it intended to call for fresh tenders for further supplies?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: As regards the general procedure to be followed in making contracts for supplies required for military purposes I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraphs 112 to 129 of Financial Regulations for the Army in India, Part I, a copy of which has been placed in the Library. Whenever it becomes necessary to make special arrangements which are not specifically governed by those Regulations the orders of Government are obtained. Contracts are awarded to the lowest satisfactory tenders.

I lay on the table a statement giving the other information asked for.

Statement.

- (i) Since 1st June, 1926, in the case of the wheat and gram purchasing contract, and since 1st December, 1923, in the case of the contract for grinding wheat.

- (ii) and (iv). In July, 1933, I am not prepared to disclose the rates tendered.

- (iii) It is true that several contractors offered lower rates than the one selected, but the latter was the most favourable to Government in that it was the lowest rate at which the standard required was likely to be obtained.

- (v) It is impossible to give dates. Government consider whether fresh tenders shall be called for on each occasion before a "long term" agency agreement or contract terminates.

RAILWAY ENGINE AND MOTOR BUS COLLISION AT TINKONIAN LEVEL CROSSING ON THE GIRIDIH-DUMARI ROAD IN THE GIRIDIH COLLIERY AREA.

1101. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that there was a serious railway engine and motor bus collision on the 8th February, at Tinkonian level crossing on the Giridih-Dumari Road (in the Giridih Colliery Area) causing several deaths and injuries to many passengers on the bus, and if so, will Government be pleased to give a detailed report of it?

(b) Are Government prepared to direct the Giridih local colliery authority to station a watchman at the said crossing permanently to avoid any such accident in future?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) I am placing on the table an extract from the report of the Senior Government Inspector of Railways.

(b) The question of the action to be taken for manning the crossing is receiving attention.

*Extract from the report of the Senior Government Inspector of Railways.
Description of the accident.*

At 4-30 hours of 8th February, 1936, 'A' Pilot engine No. 1208 was pushing a load of 8 empties and one loaded wagon from Domohani to Kalimoran siding. Brake van with gunner and shunter being in rear of engine. As the leading vehicle No. B. N. R. 10688 passed over level crossing No. 20B on the Dumri Giridih Road it collided with a private motor bus No. SLI-217 which was travelling from South to North, having come from Pareshnath. The fore end of the motor bus evidently was actually across the track at the moment of impact. The first truck rode completely over the bonnet of the bus with both its leading and trailing wheels, the bus becoming jammed between the first and second trucks below the buffers. The first two trucks were derailed of all wheels and the third truck of its leading wheels only. The whole travelled a distance of 72' after the impact, the leading truck stopping with its off wheels in the side drain. The speed of the pilot was probably 3-4 miles per hour and that of the bus 10-15 miles per hour.

The motor bus was carrying 31 people of which three were drivers, the rest being pilgrims. Four of the occupants were killed instantaneously and 15 were injured more or less seriously. The bus was a private vehicle and belonged to Sigli State near Kolahpur in Bombay Presidency. It was said to be one of four buses conveying Jain pilgrims from Pareshnath to Bhagalpur via Giridih where the collision occurred.

The night was dark and drizzling and visibility was bad.

First to arrive on the scene of accident within an hour was the Assistant Surgeon who with Sub-Assistant Surgeon and dressers rendered first aid to the injured. These were removed to the Civil Hospital at Giridih.

Relief train from Madhupur arrived at 11-30 hours and the Divisional Officers by road from Asansol at about 12-30 hours.

Description of site of accident.

The Dumri-Giridih road is a main metalled highway and perfectly straight for a considerable distance on the side from which the motor bus was approaching the level crossing which is a right angle crossing. There are trees on either side of it but not a continuous avenue. Level crossing and road are practically at ground level. Warning crosses are erected at the roadside 208' from the crossing.

The coalfield siding is broad gauge and somewhat tortuous. The approach side from which the pilot was working is on an 8° curve and not one such as would obstruct the view but in this case, in which the engine was pushing the load, rather the reverse. The grade was uphill 1 in 100.

The crossing itself is B class and as such should have a minimum of one gateman. It is fitted with iron swing gates which can be closed across the road and also with side wickets for foot traffic. The surface of the crossing was not bad but the gates and fittings were in miserable condition not having been painted for a very long time. The roof of the gate lodge had fallen in and the building was uninhabitable. There were no brackets or means of erecting lamps at the gates.

Conclusions.

From the evidence it is quite clear what had happened. The level crossing though B class was unmanned. There was no sign of any gateman and it cannot be accepted that there was one appointed to this gate. I cannot consider seriously the evidence of the Colliery Management that the man Dhinoo Miah was the gateman. The man himself denies it and it is impossible for one man to be in charge of two level crossings 100 yards or more apart and yet be held responsible for an accident at either of them.

COLLIERIES WORKING IN THE GIRIDIH COLLIERY AREA.

1102. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: (a) What is the number of collieries at present working in the Giridih Colliery Area?

(b) What is the number of colliery managers, superintendents, foremen, overseers and sardars engaged in those collieries?

(c) Do the officials mentioned in part (b) keep diaries and if so, by whom are those diaries examined?

(d) What amount of time does each of the officials mentioned in part (b) spend in the mines?

(e) Does the Manager ever go inside the mines and if so, does he visit the mines daily, weekly or monthly?

(f) What is the total number of labourers working in those mines?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Six.

(b) Colliery Superintendent—1.

Colliery Managers—6.

Overmen and sirdars—137.

No information is available as to the number of foremen.

(c) Attention is invited to the provisions contained in Regulations 57, 58 (1), 66 (2), 70 (2), (5), (7), 72 (1), and 119 of the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926, which provide for the maintenance of records of inspection, etc.

(d) No record is available.

(e) Under Regulation 24(2) of the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926, the Manager is required to exercise personal supervision of the mine in his charge, and he no doubt visits the mine as often as he considers necessary.

(f) 7,148.

**REPORT OF THE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE ON THE JACOBABAD MINE
ACCIDENT.**

1103. *Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is the report of the enquiry committee of the Jacobabad Mine accident ready and if so, when will it be published and if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the report of the Court of Inquiry appointed by the Government of Bihar and Orissa under section 21 of the Indian Mines Act in connection with the accident which occurred on the 24th July last at the Kurhurbaree (Joktiabad) Colliery at Giridih. This report was published by the Local Government on the 5th February, 1936, and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

REVISION OF RULES RE CLASSIFICATION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS.

1104. *Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to the insistent demand throughout the country for a revision of the rules framed by them some years ago, for the classification of Political Prisoners;

(b) whether they have considered or propose to consider separate classification being given to prisoners convicted for political offences not involving violence to person or property, and

(c) if they do not propose to consider the same, the reasons why they do not propose to do so?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Government are aware that in some quarters there is a demand that certain types of prisoners should receive special treatment.

(b) and (c). The question was considered very fully a few years ago and the outcome of that consideration was the classification of prisoners as A, B or C which was introduced in 1930. No circumstances have arisen which would justify any change.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware of the hunger-strike of a prisoner in the United Provinces, which, I think, has been called off recently, and one of the demands of the hunger-striker was the classification of political prisoners as a special class?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, I am aware of that.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government consider the question from that point of view?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have said no circumstances have arisen which would justify any change.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware that in England all political prisoners are treated as special class prisoners?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, I am not.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know whether in England political prisoners, to the knowledge of the Government, that is, prisoners convicted of political offences not involving violence to person or property and not convicted of other offences, such as murder, theft, etc., are not treated as special division prisoners?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I do not understand that that is the case.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will Government consider the desirability of classification on the score of the nature of the crime, and not on the score of the financial position of the prisoner concerned?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The nature of the crime is one of the elements in the classification.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that persons convicted of even heinous offences who happen to be wealthy are classed B, while political offenders are classed C if they happen to be poor? That is a fact, the Honourable Member may take it from me. Will he remedy the evil?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Social status, education, habit of life, and the fact of being accustomed to a superior mode of living—that is one element in the classification, and the type of crime is another.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the nature of the circumstances which would influence this Government to abolish this classification into three classes for political prisoners?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That is hypothetical.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know the reasons why European criminals, even if they are convicted of worst offences, such as murder, are given B class, while Indian political prisoners are not given even that class?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The facts are not as stated by the Honourable Member.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know whether the European prisoners are not usually given the B class?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No; that is not the case, unless the circumstances are such as to justify it.

INDO-BURMA FINANCIAL ADJUSTMENT.

1105. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have received a telegram from the Committee of the Indian Merchants' Chamber protesting against the recent announcement made by the Secretary of State for India appointing a committee to consider the question of minor modifications and adaptations that may be found expedient regarding the Indo-Burma financial adjustment;
- (b) whether the recommendations of the Amery Committee have been accepted by them; and
- (c) the reasons why they have decided not to get the issues changed despite the Resolution unanimously passed by the Legislative Assembly demanding a fresh investigation by another tribunal consisting of Indians and Burmans?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) Yes.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is directed to the Press Communiqué published on the 14th January.

(c) The decision, as the Honourable Member is aware, did not lie with the Government of India.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Did the Government of India have any part or lot in this decision in the preparatory stages thereof?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is an extremely ingenious third alternative form of the question which the Honourable Member has put before, but which, I have said, I am not prepared to answer.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, may I know if Government can say that they are not prepared to answer without giving any reasons? Once a question has been admitted by you, and it satisfies the rules and Standing Orders, I submit we are entitled to an answer, unless Government urge before this House and before you that public interests demand that the question should not be answered. That is the utmost to which the Chair has gone.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): When a Government Member refused to answer a particular question, the Chair generally presumed that it was because it was not in public interest to answer the question. But it is due to this House that an Honourable Member of Government, refusing to answer a particular question, shall indicate the ground on which he refuses.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The ground is the general ground that it is not in public interest to disclose the nature of the communication, if any, that passes between the Government of India and the Secretary of State.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is too big an answer, that is to say,

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair cannot help it. Next question.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PROVINCES AND THE CENTRE ON DEFENCE MATTERS AFTER THE INCORPORATION OF THE PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY.

1106. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they are considering the question, in connection with the incorporation of the Provincial autonomy next year, of any changes in the existing relations between the Provinces and the Centre, on defence matters;
- (b) whether they are considering the question of agency for performing defence functions in the Provinces;
- (c) whether it is a fact that they are thinking of creating other agencies within Provincial Governments;
- (d) if so, what they are; and
- (e) what their proposals are with regard to the relations between Federal Finance Department and Army Department, especially with regard to the military expenditure?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) to (d). Government are naturally considering the effect of Provincial Autonomy on the relations between the Centre and the Provinces in all matters including those connected with Defence, and they are examining in particular the functions now performed by Provincial Governments on behalf of the Centre. At this stage I can only say that there is likely to be a decrease rather than an increase in these functions.

(e) The matter is under consideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the last answer of my Honourable friend, may I ask him to indicate generally the reasons why he thinks there will be a decrease and not an increase in these functions?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Under the new Constitution, as the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, there is a provision that, when functions are performed by a province on behalf of the Centre, in certain circumstances the province may charge for the performance of those functions. Therefore, necessarily we are considering whether it would be cheaper and equally satisfactory to perform any of those functions ourselves.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know whether Government are considering the withdrawing of those functions from the Provincial Governments, and using the Governor as opposed to the Provincial Government for the discharge of these functions?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: No, Sir. They are not considering that in the Defence Department.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the answer to clause (e) of the question?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The matter is under consideration.

ARTICLE IN THE FORWARD ENTITLED "POLITICAL PRISONERS".

1107. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the leading article in the *Forward*, dated 2nd February 1936, entitled "Political Prisoners";
- (b) whether they propose to take action suggested therein; and
- (c) if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Government have seen the article referred to by the Honourable Member.

(b) and (c). The general instructions regarding the classification of prisoners provide that classification should be made by the courts subject to confirmation or revision by the Local Governments. These instructions, as I have already stated in reply to another question by the Honourable Member, were issued after very careful consideration in consultation with Members of this Assembly and are considered sufficient.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government take an early opportunity of consulting this Assembly, which consists of a large number of ex-political prisoners, on this matter? (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I cannot give any undertaking.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government consider that matter, because we are the most competent to advise them on this matter? (Laughter.)

(No answer.)

MEMORIAL FROM THE SALT LICENSEES OF VALLUR, ATTIPUT, OF THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

1108. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have received a memorial dated 17th October, 1935, from the Salt (Monopoly) Licensees of Vallur, Attiput of the Madras Presidency;
- (b) whether they have considered or propose to consider their request for concession; and
- (c) what their conclusions on the matter are?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) Yes.

(b) Orders have been passed.

(c) The following concessions have been granted to the licensees of the Vallur, Attiput South and Attiput North salt factories:

- (i) payment of full compensation in accordance with the provisions of the Madras Salt Act, 1889,
- (ii) immediate reopening of the factories as modified excise factories and grant of licenses on this basis to all applicants who were licensees at the time of their closure as monopoly factories,
- (iii) free use of the Tondiarpet Depôt for storage of salt and the payment of the property tax to the Madras Corporation on the Depôt land and buildings by Government for a period of two years from the 2nd January, 1936, and
- (iv) advance payment of one anna per maund for salt that may be manufactured during two years from the 2nd January, 1936.

Further concessions have been refused.

RANGOON-MADRAS SEA MAIL SERVICE.

1109. *Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they consulted the Burma Indian Chamber of Commerce and Burma Indian Association and South Indian Chamber of Commerce, before they abolished the Rangoon-Madras Sea Mail Service;
- (b) whether they consulted the Local Government of Madras;
- (c) if so, whether it is a fact that they opposed the discontinuance of the service;
- (d) whether they are aware that there is a strong feeling in the matter in Madras Presidency; and
- (e) whether they propose to negotiate with Steamship Companies for the reduction of rates?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The public bodies consulted, before the abolition of the Madras-Rangoon sea mail service, included the Burma Indian Chamber of Commerce and the South Indian Chamber of Commerce. The Burma Indian Association was not consulted.

(b) and (d). Yes.

(c) The two bodies mentioned in the reply to part (a) of the question as having been consulted opposed the discontinuance of the service.

(e) In view of the representations made in this House and from other quarters Government took up the matter again and entered into negotiations with the British India Steam Navigation Company which, I am glad to say have, thanks to the ready co-operation of that company which I would take this opportunity of acknowledging, been brought to a successful conclusion. It has been decided to re-start, with effect from the 16th March, 1936, and to continue up to 31st March, 1937, the direct mail steamer service between Madras and Rangoon in accordance with the time-table in force prior to the cessation of the service. I

should and, that the arrangements now made with the Company will still secure to Government substantial economies. The whole question will have again to be carefully examined in connection with the contract to be entered into for the period commencing from 1st April, 1937.

POLICY RE RECRUITMENT TO THE ARMY.

1110. *Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the leading article in the *Hindu* of the 5th October, 1935 (copy† enclosed);
- (b) whether they have noticed the criticism that selection of certain classes and ignoring of others of the population of the country is likely to affect seriously the recruitment to the Army, especially in times of crisis; and
- (c) whether they propose to take steps to improve the position?

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

(b) The criticism was directed against an alleged "reiteration by persons in authority of the belief that aptitude for a military career is the exclusive monopoly of particular classes"; and the answer is contained in the opening words of the same leading article, which read as follows:

"We are glad to be assured by the Board of Selection of the Indian Military Academy that in no case was a likely youth who appeared suitable on personal, independent grounds refused a chance merely because he came of a class that had not previously engaged in military service."

(c) Government do not understand how the above position can be improved.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In view of the last sentence, but one, of my Honourable friend's answer to clause (b) of this question, may I know whether Government will consider abolishing all these distinctions, and leaving it to the Selection Board to select the very best candidates from whatever communities or classes they may come?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: There are no distinctions in force at present. We cannot abolish distinctions which do not exist.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it one of the conditions that a recruit to the Indian Army should be a meat eater?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: No, Sir.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I inform the Honourable Member that a Brahmin youth from the Chittore District in the Madras Presidency was rejected on the ground that he was not a meat eater?

Sardar Mangal Singh: Is it a fact that out of the Dehra Dun cadets, who have been turned out on account of inefficiency, 80 per cent. are from those classes who have not enlisted in the army?

†Sent to the Department concerned.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: If the Honourable Member is referring to those cadets at the Academy, who entered the Academy by open competition, I think his figures are probably correct.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member aware of the keen feeling existing in the minds of certain provinces that they are debarred from any sort of military career and that they are not selected in the Military Academy and for the fighting forces?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: If there is any such feeling, there is no ground for it, because entry to the Military Academy is open to everybody.

PROPOSAL FOR CHANGING OF PORTFOLIOS AMONG THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS.

1111. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) at what stage the proposal for changing of portfolios among the Executive Members stands;
- (b) at what stage the proposal to create a separate department for communications in charge of a separate member stands;
- (c) whether this proposal will be kept pending till the Federal Government comes into being?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: As explained by my Honourable colleague, the Railway Member, in the course of the discussions on the railway budget, the matter is still under consideration.

FEDERAL HIGH COURT.

1112. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have come to any decision as to the date when the Federal High Court is to be established;
- (b) what the qualifications of the Judges thereof will be; and
- (c) how they propose to recruit them?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) The date is still under consideration and no decision has yet been reached.

(b) The qualifications are laid down in sub-section (3) of section 200 of the Government of India Act, 1935.

(c) The appointment rests with His Majesty.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government decided to start this Court, before the end of this calendar year?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, Sir.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With regard to the answer to clause (c) of the question, may I know whether the Government of India propose to make any recommendations on this matter to His Majesty?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The appointment rests with His Majesty, and it is not the practice for the Government of India to make recommendations for appointments that rest with His Majesty.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there no recommendation made at all?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, not by the Government of India.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Is any inquiry made by His Majesty through the Indian Government?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That is not the practice.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How does His Majesty know whether A or B or X is qualified, among the 350 millions of people in India?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: From his constitutional advisers.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How do they come to know?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That is not my business.

RULES RE STORES PURCHASES.

1113. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) with reference to the new rules issued by them regarding stores purchases, why these rules are not applicable to printing and stationery stores;
- (b) to what extent preference is allowed in respect of price to articles produced or manufactured in India, either wholly or in part;
- (c) the reasons why tenders are to be invited from abroad also;
- (d) why lethal weapons, munitions of war, technical apparatus and equipment, and any other stores required by the Naval, Military or Air Forces of the Crown in India for which drawings, patterns, specifications or designs have been issued, prescribed or announced by the Admiralty, War Office, Air Ministry, Government of India, or Commander-in-Chief in India, shall be obtained by indent on the India Store Department, London, unless they are available in India in accordance with the prescribed drawing, pattern, specification or design?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The existing Stores Purchase Rules have been in force since the 1st January, 1931. Purchases of printing and stationery stores have always been governed by separate rules but these have recently been brought into general conformity with the general Stores Purchase Rules. Copies of both sets of rules are available in the Library of the House.

(b) No specific limits of price preference have been fixed. Each case is decided on its merits.

(c) It is permissible, under the Stores Purchase Rules, to invite tenders from abroad "when considered desirable". This induces wide competition and thereby ensures economical purchase.

(d) Uniformity of pattern or design is obviously desirable in the case of the articles mentioned, and when the conditions required cannot be fulfilled in India the articles have to be obtained from London. I would add however that practically all requirements in the matter of lethal weapons and munitions of war are manufactured in India.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there any or much difference between the rules applicable for the purchase of printing and stationery stores, and the rules for other stores?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I am sorry that my Honourable friend did not catch my answer to the first part of his question. I said that purchases of printing and stationery stores have always been governed by separate rules, but that these have recently been brought into general conformity with the general stores purchase rules. There is now very little difference between them except such as naturally arises from the nature of the articles purchased.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to clause (b) of the question, may I know whether, in determining the extent of preference to be granted, the need for encouraging certain Indian industries, more than others from the broad national point of view, is kept in mind?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I think it is correct to say that that is the case. In my reply to part (b), I have said that each case is decided on its merits. The whole object of the preference is to encourage Indian industries.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I merely wanted to know whether this factor which I mentioned, namely, the need for a particular industry to be encouraged, apart from the price factor, is kept specially in mind.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I think I can safely say that that is the case.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With regard to the answer to clause (c), may I know generally the countries from which tenders are invited, when it is decided to invite tenders from abroad?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I should require notice of that question. To the best of my knowledge, all tenders are widely advertised. There is no restriction on the countries from which tenders may come.

INDIAN SHIPPING.

1114. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the speeches made at the annual general meeting of the Bombay Indian Merchants' Chamber, published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated

the 2nd February, 1936, particularly that of Mr. Rahimtoola M. Chinoy, President of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, regarding Indian shipping;

- (b) whether they propose to do anything by way of helping Indian shipping; and

- (c) whether they have considered the criticisms by Mr. Manu Subedar, the retiring President, regarding gold export?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government have seen the speeches referred to.

(b) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the replies recently given by me to his starred question No. 754, and to part (c) of Seth Govind Das's starred question No. 1057.

(c) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by the Honourable the Finance Member on the 3rd instant to part (c) of starred question No. 958.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I ask a question about part (b)? I dare not ask about (c)! Do Government propose to convene a conference, as early as they can, of Indians interested in Indian shipping and have the whole question re-examined—both coastal and ocean going—in view of the present state of the need for encouraging Indian shipping?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: There is no such proposal before Government.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government consider the proposal?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I do not think the need for such a conference has been established.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government satisfied that the protection given to Indian shipping today is adequate and satisfactory?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: In reply to previous questions by the Honourable Member, I have detailed the steps taken by Government so far to encourage Indian shipping.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In view of the fact that, so far, the results which have been obtained are not as satisfactory as one would wish them to be, will Government consider the question of convening an early conference, as was done some years ago, with Indian ship-owners and others interested, in order to evolve an agreed plan for a further and more rapid development?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: It is a matter of opinion whether the steps so far taken have led to an adequate encouragement of Indian shipping or not.

REFUSAL BY THE INDIAN TEA LICENSING COMMITTEE OF TEA EXPORT QUOTA TO THE TAWNPENG STATE IN BURMA.

1115. ***Dr. Thein Maung:** (a) Are Government aware of the fact that there are about 32,000 acres under tea in the Tawnpeng State, in Burma.

and that she produces over 14 million pounds of green and black tea per annum?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that although attempts have been made by the Tawnpeng State, in Burma, to obtain tea export quota, no export right has been granted by the Indian Tea Licensing Committee? If so, will Government please state the reasons for refusing the quota applied for? If not, are Government prepared to enquire and state the reasons?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). Representations with regard to the area under tea in the Tawnpeng and other Shan States and the annual production therefrom have been received. The original applications for the grant of export quotas to these States were refused as they did not comply with the requirements of the Rules issued under the Indian Tea Control Act, 1933. The matter is at present under reconsideration.

REPRESENTATION OF BURMA ON THE INDIAN TEA LICENSING COMMITTEE.

1116. ***Dr. Thein Maung:** (a) Has Burma been represented on the Indian Tea Licensing Committee? If not, why not? If so, who is the representative for Burma?

(b) Are Government prepared to amend section 3 of the Tea Control Act, 1933, allotting to Burma two or more seats on the Indian Tea Licensing Committee? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) No. Burma interests were not considered important enough to justify separate representation.

(b) The question of the amendment of the Indian Tea Control Act, 1933, so as to make it applicable to Burma, after separation, is now under consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are the small tea-growers represented on this Committee, especially those in the Nilgiris, etc.?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: What has the Nilgiris to do with Burma?

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

TEA ESTATES IN THE SHAN STATES IN BURMA.

1117. ***Dr. Thein Maung:** Are Government aware of the fact that tea estates have been in existence in the Shan States, in Burma, for the last 800 years or so, and that tea seeds for India and Ceylon were originally supplied by the said States?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government are not so aware.

STAMP VENDORS IN THE TOWN SUB-OFFICES OF THE BOMBAY GENERAL POST OFFICE.

1118. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the work at present done by the stamp vendors in the town sub-offices of Bombay General Post Office is proposed to be framed out on contract?

(b) If so, what are the special reasons for such a course?

(c) Have the present stamp vendors been served with a notice that their services will be terminated as a measure of retrenchment?

(d) Have Government given definite assurances, times without number, that no official would be made to lose his appointment under any scheme of retrenchment?

(e) If the reply to parts (c) and (d) be in the affirmative, what are the special reasons for giving such notices to the stamp vendors which are not in keeping with those assurances?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the number of such men with their length of service, and whether their services are pensionable or otherwise?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state whether the pay given to the men engaged on selling stamps by the Contractor in those town sub-offices of Bombay is about Rs. 25, whereas the pay of the departmental stamp vendors is Rs. 60—100?

(h) Will Government please state whether they have included in the present and proposed terms of contract the 'Fair Wage Clause'?

(i) Will Government be pleased to state whether as a measure of retrenchment, one of the dufftries of the office of Postmaster General, Bombay, was provided in the Bombay General Post Office as a second grade clerk without any examination?

(j) Will Government please state whether they would provide the stamp vendors in the same manner as the dufftry? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) A proposal to give out on contract the work of selling stamps in the remaining town sub-offices in Bombay City is at present under consideration.

(b) It is anticipated that the introduction of a contract system would result in substantial savings to the Department.

(c) The existing departmental stamp vendors were given two opportunities to pass a simple test in order to qualify for appointment as lower division clerks but they were all unsuccessful. They have now been given a further opportunity to qualify themselves by passing the test examination which will be held after nine months and they have been warned by the Presidency Postmaster that if they fail to qualify there is a likelihood that on the abolition of their posts they will be compulsorily retrenched under the provisions of the Civil Service Regulations. In this warning the word "retrenched" has been wrongly used for the word "retired".

(d) No. I have given no assurance "times without number". But I did say in reply to a question by Mr. Giri on the 11th March, 1935, relating to the withdrawal of retrenchment concessions that the general retrenchment then in progress would have been completed by a certain date and that such decreases in staff as might be justified in future as the result of re-organisation, changes in methods of procedure, fall in traffic or for other reasons would be carried out in the ordinary course as vacancies occurred. That answer was intended to relate to the change in

procedure which would result when the general retrenchment was completed. But it is obviously impossible for me to give an assurance for all time that no employee in this or any other Department will ever be obliged to retire on the abolition of his post. It is, however, the intention, on the present occasion, to make every effort to find employment for the men in question and to refrain as far as possible from compelling them to retire.

(e) This does not strictly arise. But I might add that I hope the stamp vendors will profit by the warning to make every effort to qualify themselves for appointment as clerks.

(f) A statement is laid on the table.

(g) As regards the first part of the question, Government have no information. As regards the second part the old scale of pay for stamp vendors in Bombay is as stated by the Honourable Member. The new scale of pay is Rs. 35—2—55.

(h) No.

(i) No, but before the existing orders regarding qualifying examinations were issued some record suppliers were appointed as lower division clerks without passing any examination.

(j) Government are unable to make any statement until the results of the test which will be held nine months hence, are known.

Statement showing the length of service of the stamp-vendors.

						Number of stamp- vendors.	
(a) Pensionable superior service.							
24 years' service	.	.	.	.	.	1	
17 "	"	.	.	.	.	1	
13 "	"	.	.	.	.	3	
12 "	"	.	.	.	.	5	
							10
(b) Non-pensionable inferior service.							
10 years' service	.	.	.	.	.	3	
9 "	"	.	.	.	.	2	
8 "	"	.	.	.	.	3	
6 "	"	.	.	.	.	1	
5 "	"	.	.	.	.	2	
							11
						Total	21

APPOINTMENT OF UNQUALIFIED HANDS IN THE OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, CENTRAL REVENUES, NEW DELHI.

1119. *Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Is it a fact that the Accountant General, Central Revenues, New-Delhi, held a competitive examination in February, 1931, and promised to engage the passed hands in his office?

(b) If so, how many of them have been engaged in the vacancies which occurred up to now?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state:

(i) the number of unqualified hands recruited; and

(ii) under what circumstances they were given preference over the qualified hands?

(d) Are Government prepared to provide the qualified hands in the next vacancies which will occur?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The information is being obtained and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

APPLICATION OF NEW STATE RAILWAY LEAVE RULES TO MEN IN THE RAILWAY DEPARTMENT RE-APPOINTED AFTER RETRENCHMENT.

1120. *Dr. N. B. Khare: Will Government be pleased to state the number of men who were governed by the Fundamental Leave Rules prior to retrenchment on account of economy campaign in the Railway Department in 1931 and were given new State Railway Leave Rules on their re-appointment?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no information and its collection will involve an amount of labour and expense not likely to be justified by the results.

RESERVATION OF VACANCIES IN THE SUB-HEADS' GRADES IN THE STATE RAILWAY ACCOUNTS OFFICES FOR APPENDIX "D" MEN.

1121. *Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Is it a fact that 50 per cent. of the vacancies in the sub-heads' grades in the State Railway Accounts Offices are reserved for Appendix "D" men?

(b) Are Government aware that the number of Appendix "D" men is very small, as compared with the men otherwise qualified for Sub-headship?

(c) If the reply to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider the question of reducing the percentage mentioned above to the proportion the Appendix "D" men bear to the otherwise qualified men?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Promotions are given in the Railway Accounts Department on merit with due regard to seniority. Considering the small proportion of unpassed men suitable for promotion to sub-head's rank the percentage of 50 for Appendix D passed men is not considered too high.

PROMOTION OF APPENDIX "D" MEN IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE TO CLASS I OF CLERKS.

1122. *Dr. N. B. Khare: (a) Is it a fact that Appendix "D" men are being promoted in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office out of turn to class I of clerks in permanent as well as temporary vacancies? Is it in contravention of Controller of Railway Accounts' orders?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken or propose to take to see that the orders referred to above are observed by the authorities in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) Promotions in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office are being regulated in accordance with Rule (2) of the Seniority Rules (a copy of which is available in the Library of the House) and not merely because of passing the Appendix D Examination.

(b) Does not arise.

LIGHTING UP OF TRAINS PASSING THROUGH A TUNNEL BETWEEN THE STATIONS OF JAMALPUR AND BARIARPUR ON THE SAHIBGUNJ LOOP OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1123. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** (a) Are Government aware that between the stations of Jamalpur and Bariarpur on the Sahibgunj Loop of the East Indian Railway, trains have to pass through a long tunnel and that no lights are lit in the compartments when the trains so pass, resulting in pitch darkness?

(b) Are Government prepared to recommend to the railway to light up the trains between the two above mentioned stations?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) No.

(b) I am conveying the Honourable Member's suggestion to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for consideration, but the Honourable Member may be interested to know that the length of this tunnel is about 190 yards, a distance which would ordinarily be covered by train in about twenty seconds.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that pitch darkness even for twenty seconds is unpleasant?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, Sir. (Laughter.)

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Am I to take it in view of his answer, that while conveying this question to the Agent, the Honourable Member has also given his opinion that no hardship is being suffered?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, Sir. It is quite possible the Agent might agree with the Honourable Member and might not agree with me.

SYSTEM OF HAVING A SECOND GUARD IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PASSENGER TRAINS.

1124. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** (a) With reference to the answer to starred question No. 891 on March 21, 1935, is it not a fact that second guards are employed on the Moradabad section of the East Indian Railway and that such second guards standing in the middle of the train signal to guards behind that all are on board before that guard gives the final signal for the starting of the train from stations?

(b) If so, are Government prepared to recommend to the railway to extend this system to prevent accidents?

(c) What reply have Government received from the Agent, when asked to consider the matter of ensuring that all passengers are in before the train moves off, as promised by the Financial Commissioner in the course of his answer to the question mentioned above?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) No. An additional guard accompanies Nos. 5 Up and 6 Down Mails between Moradabad and Saharanpur in the capacity of a conductor guard.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Agent states that no further action is necessary as the Standing Orders to the staff already provide for the necessary precautions to be taken before the guard gives the starting signal.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: If this extra conductor guard is necessary on these particular trains, why is not an extra conductor guard similarly necessary on other trains?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The conductor guard's business is to assist the head guard with regard to conveniences for passengers, and, this being a fast mail train, having regard to the class of passengers and the numbers travelling by it, an extra conductor guard was found necessary—which is not found necessary in other cases.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Do not these trains travel on other sections also, where many accidents occur because of the lack of this facility?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: It depends upon the number of passengers travelling on certain sections.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Sir, a second guard or conductor guard is necessary on all trains, so that he may signal from the centre of the train to the guard in the rear that all passengers are on board; and is it not a fact that because of the lack of a proper signal from the centre of the train, accidents do occur, and will the Honourable Member take steps so that the danger may be obviated?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid, the Honourable Member entirely misunderstood my reply. It is not the business of the conductor guard to signal from the middle of a train that all passengers are safely on board; that is the duty, under the present regulations, of the station staff.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that the station staff does not do this duty, and, therefore, some extra arrangement is necessary?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not arise out of the question.

OPENING OF A PASSAGE DIRECT TO THE DHARMASHALA OUTSIDE THE ETAWAH RAILWAY STATION IN THE BOUNDARY WALL.

1125. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** With reference to the answer given to starred question No. 892 on March 21, 1935, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of recommending to the East Indian Railway authorities to

permit a passage direct to the Dharmashala outside the Etawah Railway Station in their boundary wall, recently raised shutting out the frontage of the said Dharmashala?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No. Such matters are within the competence of the administration to decide.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Was this plot of land, on which this wall has been erected, acquired by Government for the railway after the station was constructed, or was it a part of the original land that was acquired for the railway?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Sir, I gave a very detailed reply regarding this matter in one of my speeches when the railway budget was under discussion.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: And from that reply I gathered that this land was particularly acquired, if I heard the Honourable Member aright, afterwards in order that this wall may be built?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have no such recollection. The wall has subsequently been built in order to stop the free access of people to this particular plot of land in the vicinity of the railway station, as the uses, to which they put it, made it extremely obnoxious to the people who came to the station.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: When was this plot handed over to the railway? That is an important question, Sir, because such plots are not the property of railways at other stations, and they are not, as a rule, part and parcel of the railway?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: If the Honourable Member wants the exact date, I shall be very glad to furnish him with it if he will put down a question.

RIFLE FOUND TO BE PRACTISED BY THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE HINDUSTANI SEVA DAL.

1126. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** With reference to the statements of the Honourable the Home Member that volunteers of the Hindustani Seva Dal were once found practising with a rifle, will Government state whether the rifle has been discovered? If so, will they lay it on the table of the House? If not, what punishment, if any has been meted out to the official who found the rifle in unauthorised possession of persons and took no steps to recover it from them?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: If the Honourable Member will refer to the speech made by me in this House on the 8th March, 1935, and to the answer given by me on the 9th March, 1935, to Mr. Satyamurti's question on the subject he will find that I stated that the use of the rifle was taught. I did not say that anyone had been found practising with a rifle.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I take it that the use of the rifle is taught with an ordinary stick? (Laughter.) The Honourable Member says that the use of the rifle was taught, but there was no rifle.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is a matter of inference.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I ask what the information is at the disposal of the Government? Was there a rifle, or was there something else? What is the information on which the Honourable Member made the statement?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the information, Sir, on which the Honourable Member made the statement—whether there was a rifle in the possession of this organisation, or none?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Where is the trigger in an ordinary stick?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: What I said was that the use of the rifle was taught, that was on the information then available, and I find on making inquiries that that information was strictly correct—the use of the rifle was taught.

Honourable Members: How? How? How?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: With an air gun—the use of the rifle can be taught with an air gun.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is there a difference between using an air gun as an air gun and teaching the use of the rifle with an air gun? I have had the use of both, and I do not see how this can be done?

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

RULES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY RE ALTERNATIVE ROUTES FOR THROUGH TRAVELLING AND BREAK OF JOURNEY.

1127. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** (a) Are Government aware of the exceedingly complicated nature of the rules on the East Indian Railway regarding alternative routes for through travelling and break of journey?

(b) Are Government aware that not only passengers but even railway officials are often confused as to the exact implications of the rules and much unnecessary inconvenience is caused both to the traveller and the railway official?

(c) Are Government prepared to recommend to the railway to permit break of journey on routes that have been recognized as alternate for through travelling?

(d) If not, are Government prepared to recommend that the time-tables that mention alternative routes, should also mention which route is longer or shorter to enable passengers to take tickets expressly by the longer route to avail themselves of the facilities of break of journey?

(e) Are Government also prepared to ask the railway authorities to make sure that tickets are given at the Booking Offices for the routes asked for without any excuse or delay?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) The rules are not complicated.

(b) No. A railway official should have no difficulty in giving the information required.

(c) No.

(d) I understand the Administration is taking action on the lines suggested by the Honourable Member.

(e) The suggestion has been brought to the notice of the Agent, East Indian Railway.

UTILISATION OF A RETURN TICKET FOR BREAK OF JOURNEY ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1128. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Are Government aware that on the East Indian Railway, return tickets, even though originally meant for a longer period, can be utilized for break of journey on the return journey only at the rate of a day for every 100 miles, if the destination is left earlier? Is it a fact, for example, that a return ticket from Benares to Delhi, taken on the first of a month and meant for completion of journey in 18 days. i.e., by the 19th of the month, cannot be utilized for break of journey say at Cawnpore on the return journey for ten days if Delhi is left say on the 5th, as in that case the journey has to be completed by the 10th?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes, under the rule applicable for break of journey when a single journey ticket is taken; each half of a return ticket being considered for this purpose as a single journey ticket. Similar rules are in force also on most other railways.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will Government recommend to the railway authorities so to change the rules that a passenger might be allowed to break his journey on his return, anywhere on the way, provided the same is completed within the time permitted on the ticket concerned?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Sir, I have explained the position. The return ticket is treated as a single ticket from the date on which the journey on that ticket is commenced. I do not think there is anything unfair in that.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What is the exact point in insisting on the passenger spending all his time at the destination, and not utilising the ticket by breaking journey for a longer period on the way? What is the exact gain to the railway in insisting on a man holding a return ticket from, say, Benares to Delhi, spending all the fifteen days at Delhi, instead of his breaking his return journey at Cawnpore for instance?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The exact point is that once the return journey commences, the journey is expected to be completed within a certain time, as otherwise the system might be liable to abuse.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will Government consider this point more seriously, because I see no possibility of abuse or anything like that occurring. My suggestion is only to meet the convenience and comfort of passengers concerned?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid the railways have found in actual practice that there is abuse.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Is not a break allowed on the return journey?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That the Honourable Member recognises. There is no complaint on that point.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE BETWEEN BENARES CANTONMENT AND STATIONS ABOVE ALLAHABAD TOWARDS DELHI.

1129. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** (a) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 535, given on February 25, 1935, will Government state what reply they have received from the Agent, East Indian Railway, to their representation as promised in the answer, regarding the alternative route between Benares Cantonment and stations above Allahabad towards Delhi?

(b) What is exactly the point in permitting the route between Benares and Allahabad to be alternative either *via* Janghai or *via* Moghalsarai, but not giving the same facility when tickets are taken between Benares and stations above Allahabad on the Delhi side?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). The Agent, East Indian Railway, explained that passengers are given the alternative of travelling by either route between Benares Cantonment and Allahabad in competition with the Bengal and North Western Railway section between these two stations. This element of competition does not arise to the same extent for passengers travelling between Benares and stations west of Allahabad. The matter is, however, being examined further.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I take it that the matter will be sympathetically examined and that Government will recommend to the railway the desirability of extending this convenience?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I can only repeat that the matter is being examined.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRIVACY OF PASSENGERS USING LATRINES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY AND THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1130. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** (a) Are Government aware that both on the East Indian Railway and the Bengal and North Western Railway lines, the latrines on the platforms have no doors and that men using them sit exposed, causing them great inconvenience and embarrassment?

(b) Are Government prepared to impress upon the railway authorities the necessity of making proper arrangements for privacy for passengers using such latrines?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Old pattern latrines on the East Indian and Bengal and North Western Railways are provided with screens, although individual compartments have no doors or shutters. In the present standard type a door is provided for each compartment.

(b) None of the old pattern latrines have been built for some years past. However, a copy of this question and answer is being forwarded to the Agents concerned, but Government consider it is a matter best dealt with by the Local Advisory Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How many years it will take before the last of these types of latrines will be taken out of use?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: These are not latrines in railway carriages.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Are the new type of latrines supplied with doors?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That is what I have said.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How are these latrines kept there without any screens, and I want to know how long will these types be kept in use?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is not a question. It is an argument. Next question.

INCONVENIENCE FELT BY A RETURN JOURNEY PASSENGER ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1131. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Is it a fact that on the North Western Railway, when a passenger is compelled to travel, owing to overcrowding, on his return journey in a lower class than the one for which he holds a return ticket, the guard declines to give him a certificate to this effect which prevents him from recovering his due?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No. Guards and Special Ticket Examiners have been authorised to issue certificates in such cases.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: May I inform the Honourable Member that I myself found, when I was last travelling between Simla and Kalka, that the guard refused to give the certificate on the ground that the rules of the North Western Railway Administration do not provide for the issue of such certificates?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: If the Honourable Member states that as his experience, I must accept it as a fact.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I too had the same experience that the guards on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and on the South Indian Railway refuse to grant these certificates on the plea that there is accommodation in third class and that people should somehow squeeze themselves in?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: If the guards on those railway lines, having been authorised to do so, refused to give certificates, then the best thing for the Honourable Member would have been to report the matter at once to the proper authorities, pointing out the dereliction of duty on the part of the railway servant concerned.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: How at once? When the trains running?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: There are telegraph offices available on the line at frequent intervals and he could have sent a telegram.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No such offices are available.

PLATFORM TICKETS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1132. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** (a) Is it not a fact that platform tickets have to be taken at many stations on the East Indian Railway when a person desires to visit the platform?

(b) Is it true that the rules make no exception for anyone?

(c) Will Government state if exceptions are made for certain Government officers or on occasions of visits of high personages, like Governors, etc.? If so, under what rule or authority, is this done?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) An exception is made in favour of officers or Non-Commissioned Officers in uniform, deputed to receive or despatch a party of military personnel.

(c) The issue of platform tickets is intended to restrict the admission to platforms of people who do not intend travelling, in order to prevent overcrowding and consequent inconvenience to passengers entraining and detraining. It also facilitates a check on passengers leaving the platform through the exits. It is, however, within the discretion of the Administration to relax the rule for the purchase of platform tickets whenever it is considered desirable to do so.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that soldiers have free access to the Benares Cantonment station for no other purpose than of taking their constitutional?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, Sir.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Do the soldiers, who go to the platform at the Benares Cantonment station in the evenings, take any platform tickets? Is it the contention of the Honourable Member that they take platform tickets?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: My contention is that they are not permitted free access to the station. Under the circumstances, mentioned by the Honourable Member, the rules require that they should purchase platform tickets.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member instruct the railway authorities that, in the matter of permitting people to visit platforms, they should use their discretion with a little more sympathy and consideration?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am unable to follow the question.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member instruct the railway authorities to allow persons to go to the platform without platform tickets in cases of necessity like posting a letter or buying a newspaper?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, Sir, I am afraid I cannot do that. I have explained the circumstances under which they are permitted to go on to platforms.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Do not the railway authorities allow a large number of persons to go there without platform tickets to receive Governors or other high personages? Why should they not ordinarily allow persons to go to the platforms when they go there to receive marriage parties, for instance?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: As I have said, that is a matter within the discretion of the railway administration.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Then, what are the functions of the Railway Board? Should they not perform some useful functions?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Railway Board cannot look into all matters of detail.

ABOLITION OF MILITARY CANTONMENTS AT BENARES.

1133. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** (a) With reference to the answer to starred question No. 890 on March 12, 1935, regarding abolition of Military Cantonments at Benares, have Government decided how they intend to dispose of the lands surplus to requirements for the Military Cantonments at Benares after the transfer of certain units from Benares to Agra?

(b) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of utilizing the extensive lands that may thus be available for purposes of town improvement and relief of congestion in the old city of Benares?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) As the barracks in Benares are being used for the temporary accommodation of certain personnel previously stationed at Quetta, no land will be available for disposal for some years.

(b) The matter is primarily the concern of the Local Government, but the Honourable Member's suggestion will be brought to their notice in due course.

ACTIVITIES OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENTS MEN ON RAILWAY STATIONS.

1134. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** (a) Is it a fact that members of the Criminal Investigation Department are posted at various stations and that these have the right of entry to the platform without any platform tickets, even where it is incumbent under the rules on persons going to the platform to take platform tickets?

(b) If so, under what special or secret rule of the railway are they so exempted?

(c) Are there any instructions given to the railway staff that they are to examine tickets of particular passengers at the bidding of the Criminal Investigation Department men and inform them of the contents of such tickets? If not, are Government prepared to assure ticket collectors that no harm will come to them if they do not consider themselves to be subordinate to the Criminal Investigation Department?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes, if they have platform passes.

(b) It is within the discretion of Railway Administrations to issue platform permits.

(c) Government are not aware of any instructions having been issued, but railway employees are expected to assist police officers in the execution of their duties. There is no question of their being subordinate to the Criminal Investigation Department.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that sometimes railway ticket collectors really resent this intrusion on the part of the C. I. D. men?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am not so aware; if the C. I. D. men are there in the course of their duty, the railway ticket collectors have no business to resent their presence.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: Are Government aware that last year, when I was travelling from Bombay to Delhi, I was myself troubled at each and every junction by the C. I. D. men and by the railway ticket examiners as well. At all odd hours of day and night, they were knocking at the door of my compartment for tickets?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Does the Honourable Member mean to say that they were doing so because he was travelling in that particular train?

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: Yes, the ticket collector used to come with a telegram accompanied by a police constable and used to knock at the door of my compartment.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid that question concerns my Honourable colleague, the Home Member.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: To what class of people, are these platform passes issued?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have said that it is a matter within the discretion of the railway administration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are no general rules laid down by the Railway Board in regard to this matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: If the Honourable Member will put down a question, I shall enquire and give him a reply.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Can railways refuse to give passes to these men?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That is a hypothetical question.

CONSTRUCTION OF WIRE BOUNDARIES AND MAKING PROPER ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE OPENING AND SHUTTING OF LEVEL CROSSINGS ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1135. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: (a) Are Government aware that there are no wire boundaries by the side of the Bengal and North Western Railway lines over large portions of their tracks and that there are no arrangements for the proper closing of their level crossings, resulting in many accidents?

(b) Are Government prepared to impress upon the authorities of the Bengal and North Western Railway the desirability of constructing wire boundaries and making proper arrangements for the opening and shutting of their level crossings?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government are aware that the Bengal and North Western Railway is largely unfenced. They are not aware that the level crossings do not conform with the standard specifications, which include gates or chains except in the case of unimportant tracks and cattle crossings, where experience shows them to be unnecessary. They are not aware that many accidents result.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement explaining the views of Government on fencing which was laid on the table of the House on the 2nd September, 1929. I am forwarding a copy of the question to the Railway Administration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do Government publish annual statements regarding the accidents that take place when trains are running from station to station?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: With regard to this matter, I may draw the attention of Honourable Members to the statement which I have read out which shows curiously enough that there are fewer accidents in places where there is no fencing than in places where there is fencing.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any statement at all published regarding the accidents that do take place?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am not aware whether any statement is published, but there certainly must be information, because that statement shows that during three years such accidents were 26 per mile per year, in the case of fenced lines, and 17 per mile per year, in the case of unfenced lines.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do the Railway Board get periodical reports regarding these accidents that take place on the various railways that are under their management?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that between Benares and Allahabad a number of men have been killed? I am not referring to cattle, I am referring to human beings. The railway line passes through thickly populated villages, and, because there is no fencing, many accidents take place. I have myself seen two such accidents.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: There may have been accidents. I am not denying that accidents occur. I say, experience has shown that they are not necessarily diminished by fencing railways.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of publishing a statement in the usual annual report of the Railway Board regarding the accidents that take place on these various railways under their management?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes, they will consider the advisability of the suggestion.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: In view of more accidents taking place where there is fencing, will Government recommend to the railways, that have such fencing, not to waste their money over these fencings?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Is the Honourable Member quite serious about that suggestion?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Yes, very serious. If there are a less number of accidents where there are no fencings, why put them up at all?

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

PUBLICATION OF ADVERTISEMENTS OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION EXAMINATIONS IN NEWSPAPERS.

1136. *Dr. Thein Maung: (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House, a list of newspapers, both English and Indian, to which the Public Service Commission send advertisements?

(b) Have Government supplied any list of recognised newspapers to the Public Service Commission?

(c) Is it a fact that in some provinces, only Anglo-Indian newspapers have been selected for advertisements?

(d) Is it a fact that even important papers, some of them the only Indian-owned newspapers in their respective provinces, have been excluded and not given advertisements by the Public Service Commission?

(e) Is it a fact that the advertisements by the Public Service Commission are mainly intended for Indian candidates, who generally read Indian dailies in the English language? If so, are the Public Service Commission prepared to see their way to insert their advertisements in all important Indian-owned newspapers, especially English dailies?

(f) Are Government aware that it is likely that advertisements published in Anglo-Indian newspapers only may escape the notice of Indian candidates, a large majority of whom read Indian newspapers only? Have any complaints been received from candidates in this respect?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) to (d). To ensure that vacancies in services recruited on an All-India basis are made known to candidates belonging to the minority communities, a list of newspapers in which such vacancies should be advertised has been drawn up in paragraph 8 of the

Supplementary Instructions issued in connection with the Home Department Resolution of the 4th July, 1934. A copy of these Supplementary Instructions is in the Library of the House. The Public Service Commission also sends advertisements at times to newspapers published in other places besides those mentioned in this list.

(e) and (f). If the list of newspapers were extended as suggested by the Honourable Member, the cost of publishing these advertisements would be considerably and unnecessarily increased. The newspapers included in the list are such as educated young men of all communities, who desire to enter services recruited on an All-India basis, might be expected to read, and no serious complaints have been received from would-be applicants that they failed to see the advertisements of vacancies. The number of applications received by the Commission would indicate that their advertisements receive adequate publicity among candidates of all communities.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Are not these advertisements meant for giving the widest publicity to the activities of the Public Service Commission? If so, why are not these advertisements given to widely read newspapers?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The object is to secure the widest publicity among would-be candidates for appointments to the services, and my reply indicates that the widest necessary publicity is given.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: Is it not a fact that, in the Bombay Presidency, the *Bombay Chronicle*, which is the only Indian-owned daily is not given any advertisements by the Public Service Commission?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The *Bombay Chronicle* is not mentioned in the supplementary rules. As I have stated, the Public Service Commission also sends advertisements at times to newspapers published in other places outside those mentioned in the list.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the name of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* mentioned in the supplementary rules?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It is not mentioned as one of the papers in which their advertisements are issued. But the rules leave discretion to the local head of the department in the case of local recruitment to send advertisements to other papers.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it not a fact that this right of advertising is used rather to patronise and not to advertise?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, Sir.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is the *Searchlight* of Patna in that list?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, Sir; no Patna newspaper is here.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the Indian-owned papers in that list?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Honourable Member had better read the list.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is it a long list?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes.

CLOSING DOWN OF THE INDIAN STUDENTS' HOSTEL IN CROMWELL ROAD.

1137. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the reply given by the Under Secretary of State for India in the House of Commons with regard to the closing down of the Indian Students' Hostel in Cromwell Road (published as a special cable in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 13th February, 1936)?

(b) Is it a fact that the Under Secretary of State pointed out that the decision rested with the Government of India and the Local Governments?

(c) What led Government to advise the closing down of the Hostel? Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of reviving the Hostel?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Government decided to close the hostel because it was insufficiently supported by Indian students in England, many of whom now prefer to make their own arrangements. The reply to the second part is in the negative.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: What are the arrangements Government have made now?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Government have made no arrangements; the students make their own arrangements.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will not Government do anything for them as before?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have already said that it is no longer necessary to make those arrangements.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Will Government explain why this hostel became unpopular with the Indian students?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That question ought to be addressed to the students.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware of the fact that the Indian student population in England and particularly in London considered this particular institution in Cromwell Road as a loyalist home?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Government have no information of that kind.

VOLUMES OF THE SALT MANUAL.

1138. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Salt Manual is published in four volumes and whether only the first volume is made available to the public, and the other volumes are treated as confidential?

(b) Is it a fact that the entire working of salt factories is based on the rules and regulations contained in all the four volumes of the Manual?

(c) Are Government aware that licensees find it very difficult to conform to the rules of a Manual which is not made available to them for study?

(d) Are Government aware that severe punishment is meted out to the licensees for non-compliance with the rules of the Manual?

(e) Are Government aware that the non-availability of the Manual containing the rules to the public leads to a lot of corruption among the subordinates of the department in administering the rules?

(f) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of making all the volumes available to the public?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) Yes. It is presumed that the Honourable Member refers to the Madras Salt Manual.

(b) No. Volume I contains the relevant Salt Acts and the Notifications and rules issued thereunder relating to the working of salt factories, etc. Volume II reproduces the rules and notifications contained in Volume I, and also departmental orders issued solely for the guidance of the officers of the department. Volume III contains forms and registers, and Volume IV standard estimates and type designs for the construction of buildings, etc., in salt factories with which the licensees and merchants have no concern.

(c) All the rules and regulations to be observed in the working of factories as far as licensees are concerned are contained in Volume I. Moreover, the rights and obligations of licensees are fully stated in the conditions of their licenses.

(d) Licensees are liable to severe punishment for breach of the conditions of the licences issued to them or of the Act or rules published in Volume I.

(e) No.

(f) In view of the answers to parts (b) and (c), Government do not consider it necessary to make Volumes II to IV of the Manual available to the public.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Are Government aware that many of these officers constitute themselves as prosecutors and judges of infractions of these rules?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: If the Honourable Member is referring to punishments imposed by the Courts under the Madras Salt Act, the answer is obviously in the negative. It is perfectly true that, in certain cases, where the punishment takes the form of the resumption of pans, officers of the department have to be both those who give the information of the offences committed and the persons who award punishment. But not the same officers; obviously the higher officers are not the ones who go round and discover the offences.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: Are Government aware that these higher officers simply dot the i's and cross the t's of their lower officers?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: No, Sir.

PROTECTION FOR THE HOSIERY INDUSTRY.

1139. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a communication appearing in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 13th February, 1936, regarding protection for hosiery?

(b) Is it a fact that the protection granted applies only to cotton under-vests, cotton socks and stockings and cotton knitted fabric?

(c) Is it a fact that the representatives of the industry made representation at the time when protection was under contemplation that under-vests with collars and sport shirts would escape the higher duty by being treated as apparel?

(d) Is it a fact that the Central Board of Revenue assured the representatives of the industry that the articles referred to in part (c) above would be assessed at the rate of 25 per cent. or 12 annas per pound, whichever is higher?

(e) Is it a fact that owing to a difference of opinion among the Customs authorities at various Indian ports, under-vests with collars attached to them, although made of knitted fabric, are now freely passed at all Indian ports at 35 per cent. duty, whereas the fabric of which they are made is assessable to duty at 50 per cent. or 12 annas per pound, whichever is higher?

(f) Is it a fact that a number of representations were made during the last two years to Government to rectify this anomalous position?

(g) What action have Government taken to rectify this defect in the working of the protection afforded to the industry?

(h) Are Government aware that large quantities of under-vests with collars or sport shirts have been dumped from Japan, owing to the great advantage in duty during the last two years?

(i) Is it a fact that the Fiscal Commission recommended that industries for which all materials are available in India should get full protection?

(j) Is it a fact that the hosiery industry completely satisfied all the conditions laid down by the Fiscal Commission?

(k) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of remedying the defect in the protection afforded to the hosiery industry by levying a duty of 50 per cent. or 12 annas per pound, whichever is higher, on all cotton knitted fabrics?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a), (b) and (f). Yes, Sir.

(c), (d) and (e). Government received representations to the effect that the protective duty on cotton under-vests might be evaded by the importation of such vests with collars and pockets attached. The trade was informed that such garments would still be assessed as under-vests. Genuine sports shirts and pullovers are assessed as apparel and are liable to duty under item 52 of the Import Tariff Schedule.

(g) and (k). The matter is receiving the consideration of Government.

(h) Government are not so aware.

(i) No, Sir.

(j) I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraph 192 of Chapter IX of the Report of the Indian Tariff Board, 1932, regarding the grant of protection to the cotton textile industry.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Independent Party will now move the next motion relating to the demand.
12 NOON. for grants. Which is the motion they want to move?

Mr. K. L. Gauba (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Demand No. 39, motion No. 465.

DEMAND NO. 39—DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,25,000, 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, 1937, in respect of the 'Defence Department'."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,25,000, 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, 1937, in respect of the 'Defence Department'."

Defence Policy of the Government of India.

Mr. K. L. Gauba: Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Defence Department' be reduced to Re. 1."

Sir, I deem it an honour to sponsor the main cut of the Independent Party on this budget. It might be asked why the Independent Party have for several years in succession sponsored a cut relating to defence? One might equally ask why the Military Junta, represented by my friend, the Army Secretary, year after year, raids the Central Revenues to the extent of 50 per cent.? One might equally ask why the grievances voiced in this House year after year pertaining to Indianisation, the excess of expenditure and various other matters are not put right by the Defence Department? This year there are several reasons in particular—and I shall briefly indicate them—why this cut should be considered by the House as more important than ever. *Firstly*, we have had the retrenchment of the war block in which several Indian King's Commissioned Officers have left or have been removed from the effective services in the Army. *Secondly*, we have had an amazing revelation made by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, that the right material for the Academy is not forthcoming.

Thirdly, we have an excess in the military budget and indications that the military budget of the future will even exceed the proportions and limits which it has reached today. *Fourthly*, we have had the employment of Indian troops on Imperial ventures during the year without the sanction of the Indian Legislature. *Fifthly*, we have continued extravagance in almost every department of the Army. *Sixthly* we had the refusal of the Army Secretary the other day to agree to the Indianisation of Gurkha regiments. *Seventhly*, we had the use of troops against unarmed crowds last year and the refusal of Government to enquire into the circumstances and the extent of force used in each case. *Lastly*, we have the international situation and its bearing on the military budget and the burdens of the future.

I will, first of all, refer to the speech of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in its relation to the Indian Military Academy. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief said that the right material for the Indian Military Academy was not forthcoming. It must be remembered that in the formation of this Indian Military Academy, in the framing of the rules, in the selection of candidates that are admitted into the Academy, our class—the politician class—is not taken into confidence by the military authorities. If, after all these years, they now find that the quality of the material which they have in the Indian Military Academy and which is forthcoming for the Indian Military Academy is not satisfactory, I submit that they themselves are to blame.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham (Secretary, Defence Department): Could the Honourable Member refer me to the actual speech in which His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief is said to have made that statement?

Mr. K. L. Gauba: His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief made a statement at the Military Academy, and it was referred to in a question in this House.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): It was the late Commander-in-Chief.

Mr. K. L. Gauba: Yes, the late Commander-in-Chief.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I know perfectly well that the late Commander-in-Chief never said that the material at the Academy was not satisfactory; what he said was that the competition was unsatisfactory.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): They know it.

Mr. K. L. Gauba: The Defence Secretary can now tell us whether he is satisfied with the quality of candidates at the Indian Military Academy and with the material forthcoming for the Academy. The question is perfectly clear—and they themselves admit—that the quality of material is not satisfactory. Now, that was—I might in passing say—even admitted on the floor of this House. The reasons for these are three-fold: firstly, the method of recruitment, secondly, the very large percentage of Y cadets that are admitted to the Indian Military Academy, and thirdly, the inadequacy of pay for those who pass out, so that the Academy does

[Mr. K. L. Gauba.]

not attract the very best quality of persons in the country. Regarding the first, namely, the manner of recruitment and selection, I would remind you, Sir, what Sardar Sant Singh stated in this House the other day—how at the Selection Board his son appeared and it was indicated that he was the son of an anti-Government man. I do not wish to go into any particular personalities: all I say is that I know of several cases where candidates got marks for the deeds of their fathers, either a *plus* or a *minus*.

An Honourable Member: Deeds or misdeeds.

Mr. K. L. Gauba: Yes, deeds or misdeeds—a *plus* or a *minus*. The second reason why there is unsatisfactory material at the Indian Military Academy is this very large percentage of Y cadets. It is an unheard of thing that 50 per cent. of the candidates for Sandhurst should be recruited from the ranks of the British Army, and yet that is the percentage of entrants into the Academy from the ranks of the Indian Army. At the Indian Military Academy, you have an attempt made to make into officers persons who, obviously by reason of their status in life and otherwise, are meant to be of the Viceroy's Commissioned class of officers. These persons who come from those classes, unless they have very large means of their own, obviously cannot even after passing out keep up the position and status of good officers. As regards the pay and status of these persons who pass out of the Academy, the other day, my friend, the Defence Secretary, stated that it was based on the scales of pay which are admitted to persons of like grade who pass out in England. If one sees those salaries (I have not very much time, otherwise I would take my friend through the figures, which I have here), there is a big difference, and the difference in India is marked, amounting to well over Rs. 100. between the young Second Lieutenant who comes out from England and the man who passes out from the Indian Military Academy.

I briefly pass on to the question of the retrenchment of the war block. You will remember, Sir, that there were several Indians who were granted King's Commissions soon after the war, and the reason given by the Army Department for retrenching these persons is that they were too old and unlikely to be able to command their regiments. I submit, the real reason is that a very large number of these officers were not attached to Indianised units, but to British units, and the fear was, not that they would not be able to command their regiments but, that they were reaching an age and position in their regiments when they would be in a position to command British officers there. We know there are several cases where Indian officers with King's Commissions have been weeded out on one excuse or another, sent to the Remount, into the Political, into the Transport, into the Territorials—anywhere where they will not command British officers. This war block retrenchment is nothing more or less than a continuance of the same policy.

In the few minutes time at my disposal, I will briefly refer to the military budget. The purpose of the military expenditure in India, the reason of the large amount spent on the army is stated to be two-fold—firstly, the maintenance of internal security, and secondly, to defend India's frontiers. Now, I ask you to consider that these two criteria are nothing new in the administration of the Army in India. The Army in India has

been performing these functions for years. Therefore, if the budget in 1913-14, which was not an abnormal year, was 30 crores, why should it be 45½ crores today? One can say that in certain branches, say, the Air Force, there is considerable development: very well, take one crore or 1½ crores for the Air Force: but how do you make up the difference of 15½ crores between 1913-14 and 1936-37? We found that in 1922-23, the budget had risen to 62½ crores and the explanation then given was increase on account of various extraordinary charges, status and position and various other matters on account of the war. Those price levels have fallen all round, and there is absolutely no reason why the budget cannot be brought down to a figure round about the pre-war figure. I believe, in another place, the other day it was mentioned that the military budget could be reduced to nine crores, but that is a ridiculous suggestion. All I say is that there is ample scope in this budget; and if one goes through it one will find many items, which if you are interested and if you sincerely mean to cut down expenses, you can certainly do it. It is stated that the military budget has been reduced to below possible proportions and that there can be no further reduction and that, in the future, there may even be an increase. If one looks carefully into the Army budget, I do not think, you can find that there has been a very sincere or painstaking reduction in the expenditure even in the last few years, and I will tell you why. You have had in the last few years the military budget *plus* the surplus stores which you have been consuming. You have not continued your construction. You have had the emergency salary cut. If you had a normal military budget all these years with all these three items you would still have maintained the figures very much around the post-war figure. Therefore, I submit, that a real attempt to reduce the army budget has not yet been made.

Last year, Mr. Tottenham went into a little mathematics on a debate of this kind. He calculated that £150 millions is the total amount spent on defence in the British Empire. He also, by a process of mathematics, arrived at the conclusion that £150 million was equal to Rs. 200 crores; by the same process of mathematics he arrived at the conclusion that the share of Great Britain was 11 annas in the rupee, that of the Indian tax-payer three annas, and of the dominions tax-payer two annas. I say there is no greater condemnation of the Indian military budget than those figures. If all the dominions pay only two annas in the rupee and India alone is saddled with three annas, I do not think any further comment is necessary on it

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): What is the average income of the people of India?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has two minutes more to finish.

Mr. K. L. Gauba: I will not, therefore, go very much more into the details of the question. I will only say this, that the figures given so far as the military expenditure is concerned are not correct. There are several items which appear in other items of the budget—for instance, ten lakhs of rupees as presents to the Government of Nepal, no doubt for the use of Gurkha regiments in this country.

[Mr. K. L. Gauba.]

In conclusion, I will only say this, that we see from the newspapers that the international situation is really serious. The clouds of war are gathering in several parts of the world. I say to the Members opposite that a disappointed and discontented India is a thing which Members opposite should in their own interests endeavour to avoid. So far as the army is concerned, we have had promises of Indianisation. We have had promises of reduction in military extravagance. We have had various other promises which yet remain to be fulfilled. Now, Sir, what happens when a pledge is broken? We have a defeat of the Government in the lobby. We had three defeats of the Government in the lobby yesterday. But, Sir, I say, if war breaks out, the broken pledges of Government may have other and more serious consequences.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I rise to oppose the motion that is before the House . . .

Some Honourable Members: The amendment has not been put yet.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Defence Department' be reduced to Re. 1."

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Sir, I rise to oppose the motion which, I believe, is now before the House. I listened with deep interest to the speech just delivered by my Honourable friend, Mr. Gauba, and whilst I listened to the many points he raised, especially to the concluding part of his speech, I thought that the latter part of it absolutely threw out of account and contradicted the former part. He started, Sir, with a catalogue of complaints against the Defence Department, and he ended by striking a note of warning regarding the international situation. Sir, I am one of those who has studied the military situation in India with some considerable care.

Some Honourable Members: Oh, Oh!

Mr. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): How?

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: I know more about the army in India than you do. I have served in the army, while you have not.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should address the Chair.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Very well, Sir. Let me, through you, state that I have served in the army, while Honourable Members opposite who shout have not. Sir, I am one of those who strongly believe that India today cannot afford to reduce the army by even one single man or rifle, but that does not mean that the cost of the army cannot, in certain matters, be reduced. I do not want reduction in expenditure of the army at the cost of efficiency. I want that clearly to be understood in the beginning. When an Honourable Member of this House gets up in all seriousness and states that the military expenditure of this country has not been reduced, it is, Sir, to say the least, an outrage on truth and a

travesty of facts. No one can deny, looking through the former military budgets, that the former Commander-in-Chief, Sir Phillip Chetwood, displayed not only the qualities of a great soldier, but of an able administrator. For it was he who, against the advice of his experts, reduced the military budget by nearly ten crores during the five years he was Commander-in-Chief. That reduction was made at a time when India was more or less free from foreign aggression. Today, Sir, India, in common with all countries in the world, is faced with an international peril. Let us not forget that the Far Eastern question looms large in the horizon, of international affairs, and at any moment, India may be dragged into the conflict in the event of a war in the Far East and even the West. We must not be blind to that fact, and, I submit, if you have a Commander-in-Chief in whom responsibility has been placed in regard to the defence of India, it is the duty of this House, which is unfamiliar with such matters, to assist him. The Commander-in-Chief is certainly in a better position to express an opinion on and to control military matters, to some of which reference has been made by the previous speaker, than any other Honourable Member of this House. You cannot make, nor can you play with an army on paper. A paper army may be the play mate of politicians, but is not one that can be used for the defensive and offensive purposes of a country, especially of India, rife as it is with communal dissensions. Times have changed, and India has perilously gone down to a low level in regard to her armaments, I mean the quality of her armaments, such as is needed to defend it against a first class power. The Commander-in-Chief himself stated in another place that the army in India today was not adequately armed with modern equipment to enable it successfully to withstand an attack by a first class power.

Then, Sir, there are other points the Honourable the Mover brought forward, so far as the motion before the House is concerned. He referred to difference in the treatment meted out between Indian Officers and British Officers, who have been recently retrenched owing to the war block promotion. I am not sure whether he refers to Indian officers holding the King's Commission; if he does, then, I think, it is the duty of the Government to remove the difference and to give equal attention to Indian officers as they are giving to British officers. If the Defence Secretary will only show to this House that the Government of India and the Defence Department will extend to Indian officers the same terms and concessions as are being given to British officers, I am sure, there will be no room for complaint.

As regards the remarks made by the late Commander-in-Chief regarding the Indian Military Academy, I have nothing to say, because that is his opinion and he has every right to his views.

As regards the employment of Indian troops outside India without the consent of this House, I believe that this took place when the House was not sitting, but I feel that the Defence Department should, in future, consult this House, whenever it is possible, indeed I feel it is a privilege to which this House is entitled before the Indian army is sent outside the shores of India.

Sir, the Honourable Member then tried to make a comparison between the military budget of 1913-14, with the military budget today. I was surprised to hear what he said, because, surely the position in 1913-14, is not comparable with the position today, both as regards the size of the

[Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney.]

army, the mechanisation of the army, the cost of food supplies, the standard of living and the prices of various classes of raw materials required for the army. Why attempt to sacrifice efficiency for economy? Why not help the Defence Department by advising them in very many matters? We can here move the Government to realise that, if India is to continue to be the country for garrisoning 60,000 British troops, mainly for Imperial purposes and needs, if India is to continue to pay for the upkeep of these 60,000 British troops,—as she has been doing so for years —(apart from the two millions recently returned on account of decapitation charges),—the time has come when this House should demand that this expenditure should be met or shared by the Imperial Government, and that India should be afforded opportunities of manufacturing her own arms,—indeed to supply the needs of the army in every respect, rather than indent for these from another country. This is one way in which we can reduce the army expenditure.

There are one or two other ways I might suggest to reduce the army expenditure. There are certain departments of the army, such as the Medical Department which, I maintain, without any doubt, can be run at a lower cost. The Honourable the Defence Secretary knows my views on this matter, particularly in certain sections of the Army Medical Department,—I refer in particular to the Royal Army Medical Corps (Ranks). There are a few hundreds of these soldiers who have been brought here as trained nurses to do the work of male nurses in British military hospitals. Sir, I consider this as nothing else but a luxury, a financial extravagance. There is no need for these men in these hospitals, and, if there is any need, that need can be supplied locally.

Another matter, that I again wish to stress, and, with greater emphasis than I did in previous years, is the recruitment of British nurses in England for British military hospitals in this country. Sir, I am told that there is a military policy that the British soldier must receive the same medical advice in this country as he would receive in England. I asked at the 1932-33, Military Retrenchment Committee, what was this policy, and I was told that the medical officer who treated the British troops had to be registered in England. Sir, there are any number of medical men in this country who are registered medical practitioners in England. Again, when I asked, why hundreds of nurses were brought from England at such high cost, (at 3 or 4 times the salaries they get in England) to this country to supply the nursing needs of the British military hospitals, when there are hundreds of first class fully qualified nurses in this country who were searching for work, I was given no reply, except that it was the policy and that it could not be altered. Here are instances where lakhs of rupees, which are being squandered on what I would call a nursing luxury, not a professional necessity, but financial extravagance.

These are some of the practical items in which real economy could be effected in the military budget, but to which the Defence Department turns a deaf ear. If my Honourable friend had confined himself in his cut motion to such questions of economies, I should have supported him. But when he brings up the points that he did, I am sorry I cannot do so. Sir, I oppose the motion before the House.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I wish to support the motion that has been moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Gauba. I am not surprised that the motion has been opposed by my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Gidney. When I read that Anglo-Indian community was going to be the second line of defence for the Empire in India, I am not at all surprised at the attitude that my Honourable friend has taken up in this debate. But inasmuch as the position that has been enunciated at the several Round Table Conferences is that the defence of India is increasingly the concern of Indians, I feel I am justified in participating in the debate that has been started.

Sir, I wish to attack the policy, the purpose, the personnel, and the proportion of the army. It has been laid down by this Legislative Assembly, long ago, that the policy, so far as the defence of India was concerned, should be: "the defence of India against external aggression and the maintenance of internal peace and prosperity". That is the only criterion by which we have to judge the strength, the structure, the organisation and the expenditure of our army in India. But, as a matter of fact, it has even been suggested now that the Far Eastern situation is developing fast, and that there are war clouds in Europe. It only means that the policy is to be governed not by what has been laid down in this Resolution of the Assembly, but by the world situation; in other words, by the imperial considerations of Britain. I do not agree for a moment that the Indian Army should be taken away from the Indian soil for the purpose of Imperial Britain. If we confine ourselves to the criterion laid down in this Resolution, I submit, in the first place, that the strength of the army, assuming for argument's sake that it is sufficient for these two purposes,—still the cost has been very excessive. That point has been to some extent conceded by my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Gidney. If it is only a question of internal peace, I think it is largely the function of the police, and taking a rough estimation of the police forces, both armed and unarmed, in India, it is over three lakhs. Taking that factor into consideration, I submit, that even this strength of the army is excessive. But to prevent external aggression,—I would, for argument's sake, agree that that portion of the army which is to be reserved for this purpose may be accepted to be correct for the time being, and yet we can effect financial savings to a very large extent. Is it seriously contended at this stage that the Indians are not capable of defending their own frontiers? Whatever may have been in the past, although I do not agree with that also,—it is not the capacity, it is the opportunity that is wanted. If the Government are serious that it is really the concern of India herself to defend and to chalk out a policy of her own, not lakhs, but according to Townshend, every year, if we apply the method of Prussian conscription, eight lakhs of people are available for military service. Can we not replace these 66,000 Britishers? Is it seriously contended that man to man the British soldier is superior? I can quote a hundred passages on the inefficiency of the British soldiers, but that is not the point today. Since the Mutiny, on fourteen occasions, the Indian Army has been used outside the Indian frontiers, and on all those occasions, if the Government was successful, it was mainly and entirely due to the intervention of the Indian Army. (Hear, hear.) It is not that I say so, but I am prepared to quote chapter and verse from British observers, publicists, and even British military men. If we want

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and if we have the right to determine the defence policy of India, it should not be the concern of anybody else but of Indians themselves. India should not be, in the words of Lord Salisbury, the Eastern barracks for the Britishers and a training ground for the British boys with occasional picnics on the frontiers. But the only consideration that should weigh with us should be whether they are absolutely necessary today.

It has been pointed out on several occasions, that because of internal disputes between Hindus and Muhammadans, British troops have to be called. But I honestly feel that it is because of their presence that the disputes have continued and will continue. Leave us alone. You have come here with a definite policy of divide and rule. That has been frankly admitted by Elphinstone, the first Governor in Western India, down to General Coke. I do not want to take the time of the House by quoting chapter and verse. If you want to continue that policy—you may not say so, you do not want to give up the policy of counterpoise that is really at the bottom of keeping 66,000 Britishers and not having an army of one united and homogeneous type. Very recently it was pointed out that Gurkhas are Indians and that they have been employed as such. There are 76 battalions excluding Gurkhas, and 20 battalions of Gurkhas in India. It is a misnomer,—and when I say that, I fully know my responsibility as a Hindu—it is a misnomer to call Gurkhas as Indians. What is at the bottom of this policy? They want to exclude every community in India which will develop a sort of political consciousness. They are gradually excluding the Punjab Muhammadans and Sikhs and Hindus, and recruiting Pathans and Muhammadans from the frontier and much beyond that, and Gurkhas from the other side. They want to keep the army away from political influence so that the tragedy of 1857 may not be repeated. I assure them that a worse tragedy is in store for them. It is not by strength of arms that you are going to hold India any longer. Do you realise what are the implications of your policy? Do you realise that lakhs and lakhs of young men come out of the universities with legitimate channels of employment blocked? Are they to remain what their forefathers were—mere slaves and Babus like Piche Lal? Even the Bengali race—which was called a race of cowards by Lord Macaulay—whatever may be the motives and methods of the bomb throwers in Bengal—has developed a courageous psychology. I do not approve of their methods, but I do not question their patriotism all the same. Today I want to point out that they have developed a psychology, and if you do not take advantage of that and use this precious material for the army, I am not a prophet, there is no need of a prophet to tell you that your days are numbered. It is the same thing in my part of the country. I give you one example. The community to which Dr. Ambedkar has the honour to belong was the community that supplied soldiers for the Britishers in the early years of the 19th century, and they won for the Britishers the whole of Western India. There are still the stone monuments to evidence this because the Government will give you nothing but raise stone statues. Today that community of 36 lakhs of men can surely give you two lakhs of soldiers but you will not have them. The Mahrattas, both the Brahmins and non-Brahmins—where are they—dock workers, mill workers, *chaprasis* and clerks—working hard so that Mr. Modv may become a knight and Sir Cowasji may become a Baronet. We, who created that Maratha Empire and ruled that Empire

—where are we? Mind you, although you have disarmed us, we have developed a technique of mass action, whereby, without resort to arms, we will put an end to your rule and it is no wonder that the whole of Western India is socialist today. Just as the Mahrattas conquered the whole of India 150 years ago, today they will conquer the whole of India on the ideological front and make the whole of India socialist. You are not using that material. Why quote from history? I am not a believer in history and tradition as the repository of title deeds for present power and patronage. I am my own ancestor. May I give my personal example. In 1914, as soon as the war started, I offered myself as a recruit at Neemuch where the military station was. I was hardly 18. I was told: "You are a Brahmin". No fault of mine. Then, in 1917, when the Government knew perfectly that it could not do without widening the scope of martial classes, I offered myself as a recruit. I served in the army for six months as an N. C. O. I have justification for participating in this discussion, I assure Sir Henry Gidney. I can tell you further that I was recommended for King's Commission at the Military College at Indore. I had an interview with His Excellency then. I do not want to name him. I was told this, that and the other. The reason was that I was a Brahmin connected with all political workers in my province. I am proud that I was not given the Commission. Today I am an N. C. O. in a different sense—non-co-operator. Sir, it is not the capacity; it is the opportunity that is needed. Even today, although I have not handled a rifle for 15 years, I can shoot the Frontier Pathan a straight bull's eye. I can shoot Mr. Tottenham where he is safely sandwiched between Mr. Joshi, my townsman, the champion of the proletariat and the representative of bourgeois culture, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: But, Sir, I do not want to do either. It may be daring sport but it is not a paying proposition. My point is that it is not the capacity but the opportunity. We are told that we have not got enough competition for the entry into Sandhurst. Will you put me in charge of your department for five minutes? I will give you 300 boys from Poona and the same number from every university town in India but your methods of recruitment are such, that if I were to expose you, I am sure you, Sir, will rule me out and I do not want to take that risk.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must now conclude.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: Will you give me five minutes more?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair is not allowing that concession. This is by arrangement.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: If we replace the British element by the Indian element, we can certainly effect a saving of 13 crores. That is exactly what has been stated in the Capitation Report.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Not 13 crores?

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: I won't quote this, unless I am certain.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Rs. 13 crores was stated to be the cost of the British Army, not the amount that might be saved if it was replaced by Indian troops.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: The statement here is "the extra cost of maintaining the British troops in India over the cost of maintaining a corresponding number of Indian troops is estimated at £10,000,000" and without monkeying with the ratio it comes to Rs. 130,000,000.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must now conclude.

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: I only wish to add this. These 13 crores can be saved, and I assure my Honourable friend, Mr. James, that it will be used, not for exploitation by the superficialities, but will be used by those who are sincere, who have thought deeply and honestly for the equitable distribution of national wealth and income, including the European Group, provided they accept the responsibility of Indian citizenship and help us in driving out these men. Sir, I support the motion.

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I had made up my mind to support this motion if the Mover of the motion would have talked sense and not attacked the martial races, but as the last speaker and the Mover of this motion have spent a lot of their time in attacking the martial classes, I rise to oppose the motion.

Mr. K. L. Gauba: On a point of personal explanation. I did not say a word about martial or non-martial classes.

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan: I will just prove what you have said. I will first take the Mover of this motion. He said that the best material is not coming up in the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, because of the large number of army cadets being admitted in the Academy. May I ask him, is there any country in the world where some classes are taken in the ranks and not taken as officers? Would he like the enlisted classes, who have been tested for the last one century all over the front, to remain in the ranks, while they are officered by classes who have never been tested and have never commanded even three men? Would he like all Sikhs and Mussalmans, Pathans and Gurkhas who have proved gallant soldiers to be officered by some other classes who never joined in the ranks? Is there any country in the world where we find such a state of things, where some classes are taken in the ranks, and not in the rank of officer? Why, be simply grudging, I think, the fifty per cent. of the commissions that are being given to the Indian Army.

Mr. K. L. Gauba: Mr. President, I am sorry to again interrupt the Honourable Member. On a point of personal explanation, may I say that the speaker is entirely misrepresenting what I said. I never said anything about fifty per cent of the commissions being taken away by the Indian Army.

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan: You have said that large numbers of the army cadets are being taken by the Indian Army.

Mr. K. L. Gauba: All I said was that you are recruiting officers for the present Indian Military Academy to the extent of fifty per cent. from the ranks in the Indian Army. I did not say anything about the classes. (Voices: "Yes, yes".)

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan: You said that the rank and file of the Indian Army, who are not well-educated, are, therefore, not fit for command. Now, may I tell you that Field Marshal Robertson rose from the ranks to be the Chief of the Imperial General Staff and his services, during the Great War, are well-known. I myself joined the Army as an Indian officer, and when I was given a commission at Indore, I passed at the top of your Oxford and Cambridge B. A.'s and I got a senior commission. (Voices: "Very good!") No doubt many men join the Army, but it is not all who prove themselves to be satisfactory. In our Indian Army, there are particular classes who are enlisted because they have been serving the army for centuries and that is the reason why we are getting such good material, so far as they are concerned, in the Army. I am very sorry to say that there are classes, who are not enlisted in the army, because they have never joined the army, and have no tradition behind them, that is not producing good material in the Army . . .

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): But they won't let you command a regiment.

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan: When the time will come, they will do so.

An Honourable Member: The time will never come.

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan: Certainly it will. Now, Sir, another point my friend raised was about the war-block officers. There is no doubt that about 400 officers had to be retired from the service because during the War when these officers were taken, all these 400 officers had not been sent away and there was a great block to promotions and that is why that scheme was adopted. Now, with regard to the military budget, my friend really contradicted himself. He referred to the international situation in the world

Mr. K. L. Gauba: Sir, I referred to "extravagance" here—I did not say anything else.

Captain Sardar Shér Muhammad Khan: My friend knows that Japan is spending on her army 46 per cent. of her total revenues, and Russia has more than doubled her army since 1923 and 1925, and she can within two months mobilize an army up to six million men. Now, my friend must know that India has to take her part in the international situation. If there comes to be another war in which Russia is involved, then she can mobilize six million men, and why India with a population of 350 million men could not raise about seven million or eight million men?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Let us have conscription then.

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan: My friend, Sir, who last spoke

Mr. N. V. Gadgil: I am not your friend.

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan: My "Honourable friend", I mean—the parliamentary language used in the Assembly, is probably a Mahratta in the general sense, I do not know if he is a Brahmin Mahratta, but he said that he is a marksman and can shoot a Pathan from a hundred yards,—probably so, in this House when Pathans are absolutely unarmed and sitting in the front Benches. My friend also said he has served six months in the army. Well, I am reminded of one rule in the army that, if within six months a recruit is not fit (Laughter), he is discharged as being unlikely to be an efficient soldier. (Laughter.) Then, he says something about political influence in the army. Well, there should be no political influence in the army, let me tell him that. Honourable Members must by now have known of the happenings in Japan and they can well imagine what political influence in the army can do. (Hear, hear.) You have seen big politicians killed in Japan, where the army is now out of hand; and that is the result if the army is put under any sort of political influence. So I say for God's sake keep the army absolutely away from political influence. (Hear, hear.)

An Honourable Member: Why are you here then?

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan: I am no more a soldier now. (Voices: "Oh, oh!") Now, Sir, with regard to the question of enlisting particular classes in the army, well, no doubt there are some classes who have been taken into the army for the last sixty or seventy years and they are the tested classes. Sir, India is a very big country. I have no grudge against anybody, against any class coming up and joining the army; they must be given the chance; but India is a very big country, a vast sub-continent, and England or Japan are very very small countries, and there, there is conscription to join the army and fight, but in India, with her population of 350 million, you can keep separate the truly fighting classes, as during the Hindu kingdom also there used to be Khatriyas, Rajputs, etc., and that is why here we must leave the martial classes absolutely separate, simply to fight, and you go on and run the mills or the railways and other civil administrations. Let us, therefore, carry on the army side, because we are the tested soldiers

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): Do you include the British people also as martial classes? (Laughter.)

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan: Well, they are not Indians: I am talking about India. I do not think that all the other classes that are not now enlisted in the army cannot fight; if they will join the army, they will probably learn within fifty or sixty years and they will no doubt create a reputation, but taking now straightaway those classes who have never been enlisted before and have never been known to fight, well, I am reminded of a story in Kashmir. Sir, there was an attempt made to enlist the Kashmiris in the Kashmir army. Formerly, His Highness the

Maharajah of Kashmir never took them except the Dogras and Muslim Rajputs. Now, after he raised a Kashmir battalion in Srinagar for his army,—they were transferred to Jammu, the Commanding Officer of the Kashmir battalion came up and said: "I am marching with my whole battalion, Sir, with all their rifles," etc., and he said, "he wanted some police". The General asked, "Why?" He said; "to guard us and our rifles on our way from Srinagar to Jammu". (Laughter.) Sir, that was the result of the experiment, Sir, I think I have done enough.

An Honourable Member: Yes, more than enough.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I rise to support the motion that has been moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Gauba. It may appear a little strange that when the war clouds are gathering on the east and west and when the other nations are increasing their armaments and military expenditure, we, in India, are pressing the Government to decrease their military expenditure. But the situation here, Sir, is different. The army policy of the Government of India is one of those first-class political issues on which a consistent and persistent agitation has been carried on in the country by the public, and equally persistently and consistently public opinion has been flouted by the military authorities. Our grievance against the military policy has been there for the last eighty years and the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 was one of the phases of that agitation, but the Government of India have been treating the military as an excluded subject altogether and no suggestion that has come forward from this side of the House has ever been accepted by the Government. I am referring to the demand of this House. Recently we passed a Resolution, practically unanimously, that Government should appoint a Standing Committee to consult whenever Indian troops are to be sent out and when the Legislature is not in Session. But, in spite of definite assurances, the Government have now come forward with the lame excuse that such a proposition is unheard of in any other country in the world.

I propose to confine my observations to two aspects of the Indian Army, namely, Indianisation and the military expenditure. By 1 P.M. Indianisation, I mean, firstly, the transfer of the control of the military administration to the people of India; secondly, replacing the British officers by Indian officers and thirdly, replacing the rank and file of the British Army by Indian nationals. As regards the first, the Round Table Conference Defence Committee insisted and they laid down a definite policy that henceforward the defence of the country would, to an increasing extent, be the concern of the Indian people and not of the British Government alone. That policy has been accepted by His Majesty's Government and, I understand, that it has been incorporated in the Instrument of Instructions to the Governor General. That being the case, I ask the Government of India how they propose to carry out that policy. On the other hand we fear some deterioration. At the present time the defence is under the charge of the Governor General in Council and Members of the Council are able to influence the military policy, but under the new constitution, Defence has been entirely excluded and in future, it would be the concern of the Governor General alone. Moreover the Finance Department and the Military Accounts Department are to be separated from the General Accounts Department. The policy of

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increasing association of Indians with the Defence is gradually receding to the background and, in this matter, there is a definite deterioration and the curve of Indianisation is definitely moving downwards.

As regards Indianization of the officer rank, this is a subject which has so often been discussed in this House, but it is so important that it would bear a repetition. There are more than 7,000 British officers in our army and we have to replace them by Indian officers. That was the question before the Defence Committee in England and that question has been discussed by several expert committees. Those expert committees have decided this much that Indianisation is possible and that it is a practicable proposition and that it can be carried out within thirty years. It was in 1922 that the military experts committee decided that the Indian army could be completely Indianised within thirty years and that, by 1952, the last British officer will have left this country.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It was 25 years according to the Rawlinson Committee.

Sardar Mangal Singh: My Honourable friend, Colonel Gidney, although he served in the army, does not know which committee has decided this.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Which committee recommended this? None as far as I know. Though one of the members had drawn up a scheme showing that such replacement was possible within a certain number of years.

Sardar Mangal Singh: For his information I will refer him to Shea Committee Report.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: No, it is the Rawlinson Committee.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: That committee made no such recommendation.

Sardar Mangal Singh: But the Government of India took more than ten years to decide their course of action. In 1932 they decided, that by 1952 they will not Indianise the whole of the Indian army but that they will Indianise only one division consisting of 12 infantry regiments, three cavalry regiments and some ancillary services. Now, they propose not to replace the British officers alone; they are at the present moment replacing Viceroy's Commissioned Indian officers by Indian officers and they call this Indianisation. In all seriousness and in all humility, I put it to the Army Secretary whether this is Indianisation. They are Indianising a complete war division and, for this, we have to produce about less than 200 Indian officers. But under their scheme we will have to produce about 500 Indian officers because we will first replace the Viceroy's Commissioned officers and, after that, we will begin to replace the King's Commissioned officers. I may tell the House that it would probably be in 1942 that the first British officer would be replaced by an Indian officer in this division which we are going to Indianise. If I am wrong, I stand corrected. In this matter I have to submit that this method of Indianisation is entirely wrong and their manner of proceeding is further defective. I quite agree, although for different reasons, with

my Honourable friend, Mr. Gadgil, that their method of recruitment to the Military Academy, Dehra Dun, is defective. I, of course, do not agree with my Honourable friend, Mr. Gauba, that this breakdown of the scheme is due to the recruitment of "Y" cadets from the army. For aught I know of the inner conditions of Dehra Dun Academy, the nominated cadets from the army are doing much better than the competition. (Hear, hear.) I submit that we should press that the number of "Y" cadets should be increased in future (Hear, hear), so that the right type of men may come to take the place of the British officers. In this respect, I would remind the Honourable Members and my Honourable friend, the Defence Secretary, that when they say definitely that they would not take soldiers from certain classes, because they are not good soldiers, I would ask the Army Secretary how can he prove that if they are not good soldiers, they will make good officers.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham (Secretary, Defence Department): When did I say so? Will the Honourable Member refer me to any statement that I have made to that effect?

Sardar Mangal Singh: The Honourable the Defence Secretary has several times, in answer to questions on the floor of the House, said that they were not recruiting from certain classes, because they would not make good soldiers.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: All that I said was that we recruit from certain classes, because they make better soldiers than other classes.

Sardar Mangal Singh: That is the same thing. I do not suggest for a moment that the military authorities are doing it deliberately with the object to make this scheme a failure, but if they were to do it deliberately they would proceed exactly in the way in which they are proceeding now. In the Dehra Dun Academy they are taking men about whom I can say definitely that they would not prove good soldiers. The figures that I have collected definitely prove that out of those cadets who have been turned out of the academy on account of inefficiency, about 80 per cent. of those people come from the non-listed classes. Again, when the successful cadets go to the army, there is a tendency amongst officers from the non-listed classes to leave the army and join the Political Department and other departments. Sir, I respectfully submit to the army authorities that they should take only those men who are anxious to make the army their profession for the rest of their life. I would not allow the army to be used as a stepping stone to secure employment in other departments. I am sorry for my Honourable friend who, although he declares definitely today that he is no longer a soldier but represents the soldiers in this House, has, whenever any army question comes up in this House, betrayed the interest of the army. And I request the army authorities to nominate only such officers here who would stand by the army, who would stand by the men and officers and would guard their interests.

Then, Sir, in the third place comes the replacement of the rank and file of the British Army. I do not expect that the military authorities for a moment doubt the courage, the loyalty and the bravery of the Indian soldier. And when they dare not say that, I would ask them, why

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not remove the British soldier from the soil of this country? What are they here for? Why should they be paid from the Indian exchequer when we can have equally efficient, equally brave and equally courageous soldiers at four times cheaper rates? Incidentally I may also mention that the British Army at least is maintained here for Imperial purposes. And such being the position, the British Government should pay a large share of the expenditure of the Indian army. This has been admitted in this pamphlet which has been distributed officially:

"It is a plain fact that the focus of world unrest has shifted eastwards and ever further eastwards since the great war, and that the army in India at present occupy the front line of resistance to any threat to the Empire as a whole."

When this is the position, why should not England pay a substantial share of the military expenditure of the Indian Army? I submit, that either they should withdraw the British Army and replace it by Indians or at least they should pay the full cost of the British Army, that is stationed in India. That would satisfy public opinion in this country in this respect.

Sir, I have, during the course of my observations, shown that without reducing the efficiency and without reducing the strength of the Indian Army the expenditure on the army can be considerably reduced, if Government would only consider it proper to trust the Indian soldier and no longer want that counterpoise which was put into force after the mutiny of 1857.

Sir, I support 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. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Mr. President, it is one of the great tragedies of this country that we should discuss a vital issue like this in an atmosphere of unreality. Sir, it is an atmosphere of unreality for this reason, namely, as the House very well knows, whatever we may say or we may do, it is not going to make a pennyworth of difference to the budget. If some more proof is wanted of this, one of the Commander-in-Chiefs of this country has already said that it is not left to the Government of India, not even to the Indian Army Authorities, either to increase the Indian Army or to reduce the British Army in India. That being the case, it might be thought that it is absolutely useless to discuss this proposition here. But, whatever it may be, this drama is played every year in this House, and it would not be fair for us, who have been elected as representatives of the people, not to take part in this farce that goes on year after year. We have been well accustomed to the policy that robs us of the promises which have been given to us, for what is the vital issue that is before

the House? I refuse to think that it is a question of Rs. 8 crores, or Rs. 10 crores, or Rs. 30 crores or Rs. 40 crores. Sir, the vital issue before the House is the defence of the country. And who is going to defend? That is the vital issue. After all, points of honour cannot be settled by economical principles. One of the great English writers has said that an Englishman always does things on principles. If he wants to cheat, he will cheat on commercial principles (Laughter), and here we are going to be persuaded that the defence of the country, which is a point of honour and which ought to be a point of honour with every nation and every people on God's earth, is going to be settled by economical principles. It cannot be. After all, Indianization was accepted, not by the Government of India, but by the British Government, and it will not be amiss to go into the history of this Indianisation, so that we may realise that whether it is on the Civil side, whether it is on the Dominion side or whether it is on the Indianization side we have always been cheated. After the principle of Indianization was accepted, we had an era of Committees as usual. We had the Shea Committee, we had the Skeen Committee, we had a number of Committees . . .

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: The Military Requirements Committee.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: The Indianisation of the Indian Army Committee, the Military Requirements Committee, and, on the top of that, we had the Capitation Tribunal—and the Rawlinson Committee. But what is the moral of all this? The moral and the substance of this is that Indianisation was accepted. Some committees were favourable to us, other committees were unfavourable. Now, the reports of those committees which were favourable to us—the committees which said that complete Indianisation was possible, the committees which said that within the next 20 years, 50 per cent. of the Indian Army should be indianised—were never presented to some of other committees which came subsequently. If this is not downright fraud, what is it? I suppose in military language it is called a strategy, a strategy of acquiring everything without undergoing any expense or firing a shot. Wellington is supposed to have displayed the greatest strategy at the campaign of Telavera, because he won the campaign without firing a shot. I say that those who are responsible for our military policy, for what in popular parlance would be called fraud, but which in military language would be called strategy, are even better than the Duke of Wellington. Eventually, this indianisation became the indianisation of units. From the indianisation of the army, we came down to the indianisation of officers, and then we came down to the indianisation of units, and we have had opinions offered in this House, so that we may be reasonable enough to understand that complete indianisation was impossible. Now, there is one advantage in discussing this question today, and it is this. We have always been charged with making destructive criticism. But when we make a constructive criticism, we are told that it is an arm-chair criticism, that this criticism is not made by people who hear the whine of bullets in a frontier valley, that, this criticism is not made by people who see faces going black when death takes its toll in the ranks. Therefore, when we do make our criticism, if it is constructive criticism, we are arm-chair critics. If, on the other hand, we are not in a position to make constructive criticism—because, whenever we make constructive criticism, it will not be followed and cannot be followed—then:

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our criticism is supposed to be destructive. Therefore, heads they win, tails we lose. It is always India that loses and it is the other side that always wins. This is so far as the principle of indianisation is concerned.

Now, the military are those who are responsible for military policy, and I do not want to blame the Government of India, not even the Indian military authorities, because I know that they are absolutely powerless. The Commander-in-Chief himself has said that the policy is laid down by the Imperial Defence Committee who are in consultation with the Cabinet. They lay down the policy. Whatever show the Government of India may put up here, they cannot change a letter, they cannot change a comma, they cannot reduce a rupee, and, therefore, my criticism is not directed towards the Official Benches. But what I feel about it is that it is a distinct tragedy for the nation and that it is a distinct tragedy that the Government which is supposed to govern us and which is supposed to be responsible for the welfare, for the discipline, for the character, of the people, arrogates to itself the authority for everything without educating us for the responsibility that we are to assume in this life.

After the strategy come the tactics. After all, I am in sympathy with the Army Department or those who represent the army here when I see that they have to find out some kind of excuse for the policy that is denied to them, but I hope that they will also have sympathy for us when they see us utterly disgusted over a vital question like this. Year after year we put up these legitimate claims—elementary claims of the nation which may be considered as their absolute birthright, because if defence is not the birthright of the nation, I fail to see how any other claim or any other right can be the birthright of any people. I am not criticising, therefore, except the tactics that were followed. And what were the tactics that had to be followed? We have a kind of Military Academy, and because you cannot have indianisation, the rate at which indianisation is going to take place is to be extremely slow—I think you yourself pointed out that it will take something like 700 years for indianisation. Therefore, the admissions to the Academy must be cut down. The admissions to the Academy cannot be more than 60 per year. The admissions to Sandhurst, Woolwich, Cranwell, have to be limited. It was not merely by means of restricting admissions that the rate of Indianisation was retarded, but in many other ways, the tactics were followed so that Indianisation may not go forward at a rapid pace. One of the most diabolic ways of preventing Indianisation is the division of Indian races into martial and non-martial races, because it creates dissension. Even in this very House today we saw that over an innocent remark of my friend, Mr. Gadgil, Captain Sher Muhammad Khan took umbrage and said why should a man from the ranks be prevented from accepting commissions? I will be false to history, I will be false to my own opinions which I have always held, that traditions have nothing to do with the matter at all, that this stress on traditions is absolutely false and is inerey an excuse to keep away the people from their legitimate rights. I have no objection to officers being taken from the ranks. I can point out to you that it is not merely the scions of great families and prominent families and educated people who have become great generals. Look at Napoleon's generals: look at the republican generals—Marshal Ney and Marshal Murat and others: anybody who is conversant with history will tell you that they

were taken from the ordinary people and they proved themselves to be the ablest generals of the times. Therefore, I do not object to the officers being chosen from the ranks. But this I do say, that by putting unnecessary importance on martial and non-martial races unnecessary divisions have been made. By putting unnecessary importance on officers chosen from the ranks as against officers directly recruited, there again another dissension has been made; and I say that it is absolutely unnecessary to make all these dissensions. What I would say is this: if a boy is capable, if he proves himself capable in a competitive examination—because after all there cannot be a better test of competency than competition and not relying merely . . .

Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Nominated: Non-Official): Arithmetic and Mensuration?

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Yes, yes: I know all that, because if that were so, my Honourable friend could not have been a Captain and there might have been better Captains of the people. (Laughter.) I say you should rely on competency alone, not because it affects the eye, or something else; I have had a little experience of this in my own line—the I. M. S. where the competitive examination has been abolished and selection has taken its place: I fail to see how you can get competent material for officers by a slipshod, neopotic method, a method of favouritism like this: and the only reason that I can think of, why this method is followed, is that competent boys will be rejected and all kinds of excuses put forward and I can say that those boys of parents from the ranks, whose cause the Honourable Member is championing, if they have a little self-respect will not get admission: what the Government want is that even the parents of these rankers must be absolutely docile—in common parlance we call them toadies—who will say "yes" to everything that their superior officer says. The subject is a very large one, I know . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only one minute more. (Laughter.)

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: Sir, I want to make only one point: what are the traditions on which they lay so much stress? Take your air force. In 1914 what traditions had you? Do you forget, that for the defence of London you had to request the French Government to come forward and lend their assistance for the aerial defence of London? And your air traditions, if there are any, can only have been built after 1914. If that is the case, in this country, could not the same traditions have been built up? Could not your air force have been manned by Indians? And yet what is happening today? There are 2,000 officers in your air force. How many of them are Indians? Hardly 100. -

Coming to the Navy, this country had a navy at one time. If you will permit me, I can prove that there was a navy at one time: it is immaterial whether it was a regular navy or not, but we had a naval tradition. That tradition was completely killed and annihilated by this Government. I will read the resolution of the Surat Council in 1651—and this also relates to my race and Mr. Gadgil's race or the Mahratta race—but I do not want to be misinterpreted by my other non-martial or martial friends in this House—I make no distinction. I say it is environment and nothing else

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and all this talk of tradition is pure bunkum: in the Surat Council this was the resolution:

"So long as that pirate and universal robber lives who has no regard for friend or foe, God nor man, there can be no security in any trade in this country."

And the Surat factory had to be closed down by the greatest power of our own day—that is the British nation. Therefore, to say that we had no navy and there cannot be any naval traditions in this country and, therefore, we should not have a navy, is, I repeat again, utterly false. I find, that out of 114 men or personnel of the Royal Indian Navy, only four are Indians. This is the respect which is paid to the traditions. Therefore, it all comes to this. We have been cheated out of the regular Indianisation on excuses which have been put forward, which are absolutely flimsy and flabby,—I may say even mean and fraudulent; and because we have been cheated out of our birthright, that is the defence of our own country; I oppose this grant and support the amendment.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Sir, may I rise to a point of order? Formerly it was the practice that the Government Member used to give us a summary of what had been done in the course of the year on the budget speech: and very often it was the Commander-in-Chief. Since then, also the Secretary in the Army Department during his speech on the budget used to give us a resume of what had been done in the course of the year. I speak subject to correction, because I was not present here at the time of general discussion—no such thing has been done in this House up to the present moment, and I want to know whether it is the desire of the Government that we on this side should express our opinions first and then they should give a reply to our criticisms. Is it not fair that we should know something from them also before any debate, worth the name of a debate, can take place in this House?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: May I say, Sir, that I am not aware of the practice, to which the Honourable Member refers, when he says that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief or the Army Secretary used to give a summary of events that have taken place during the year in the course of the budget speeches. That was probably before my time.

Mr. M. S. Aney: That is a fact.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: You may take it from me that that is so.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Last year, I intervened in the debate at an earlier stage, and I am prepared to do so now, if Honourable Members wish.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Yes, I do wish it and I am sure the House would welcome it. I was speaking for myself.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I would also say that, even if we have not given in a speech a summary of events during the year, we do now publish and place in the hands of Honourable Members a written summary of the important events that have taken place during the year, and that has already been placed in the hands of Honourable Members.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does the Honourable Member wish to speak now? Does any other Member of Government wish to speak now? The Chair takes it that the Defence Secretary will reply to the debate.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): Yes, he will reply to the debate.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I am quite prepared to reply to the debate now.

Several Honourable Members from the Opposition Branches: No, no, not now.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: No, no, you cannot make the final reply. If the Government really wish to take up the position that they must have the last word, then, Sir, there is no debate in this House at all.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair cannot force any Honourable Member to speak on the debate, Government have certainly a right of reply. If any Honourable Member representing Government wishes to take part in the debate at this stage, certainly he will be allowed to do so.

(At this stage, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan rose to address the House.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti and other Honourable Members of the Opposition: Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan does not represent the Government. He cannot address the House.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Sir, I am in possession of the House. I raised the point of order, and I take it that the Government do not wish to take part in the debate at this stage, but would resort to the last word. If that is so, then I would avail myself of your permission to speak.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair cannot ask the Honourable Member to reply, because it has considered all the rulings on the point and has come to the conclusion that the practice of treating this as an amendment is a right one, and, therefore, the Chair cannot allow the Honourable Member to make the final reply.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: The motion is moved by the Honourable the Finance Member. He asks for the grant on behalf of the Government. That is the motion. To that motion, an amendment is moved. Therefore, the only Member who is entitled to reply is the Mover of the motion, and that is the Finance Member. Any other Member, whether on the Government Bench or on the Opposition Bench, I say, Sir, with great respect, can only take part in the debate. That has been the practice all along. There is no question about it. The Mover of the motion is the Finance Member, the Mover of the amendment is my friend, Mr. Gauba. Then, it is open to any other Honourable Member to participate in the debate as a Member, but one would have expected that the Government would put up their spokesman to place their case at an early stage of the debate. As the position stands, this is all one-sided expression of views, and I don't think it is fair or it is even regular.

An Honourable Member: There is no fairness.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: As regards the fairness, I cannot pronounce an opinion on it. Apparently, there is only one Honourable Member who is in a position to speak on this subject, and that is the Defence Secretary. The debate now is on the amendment to the motion moved by the Honourable the Finance Member, and, so far as this debate is concerned, I will allow the Defence Secretary to reply, but I do point out that it is extremely desirable that some other Member of Government, if possible, should intervene in the debate and state the Government case so that other Honourable Members may reply.

(Again, at this stage, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan stood up to speak.)

Honourable Members of the Opposition: You are not a Member of the Government. You cannot speak now.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Does Mr. Jinnah want to speak now?

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Yes, certainly, Sir. Only I wanted to make the position quite clear. (Applause from the Opposition Benches.)

Sir, I enter my most emphatic protest against the attitude that the Government have adopted in this matter. I think, Sir, it is this sort of attitude which reduces this Legislature to an absolute farce. ("Hear, hear" from Opposition Benches.) Just imagine, Sir, speaker after speaker has put the case from the Opposition Benches. We are told there is only one man on the Treasury Benches who has got the entire store of knowledge with regard to the army, and nobody else. Sir, I can quite understand the Defence Secretary taking part in the debate and if any new points are raised by speakers thereafter in the debate, surely some other Member of the Government should be competent enough to reply to those points. Really, Sir, I must enter my most emphatic protest against this practice, because this is really getting worse and worse. I shall not say anything more now. Let me get to my speech, because I have got very limited time.

Sir, this question has been debated on the floor of this House for many years now, and I am one of those who had taken some part in the debates on previous occasions on this subject. The position, when boiled down, comes to this. The policy of the Government is that the army in India is a garrison, and it shall remain a garrison, that the British Raj is the occupation of India, supported by a garrison. We on this side desire that that occupation should cease and the army should be truly national and peoples' army.

An Honourable Member: The British will then have to pack off.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: These are two opposite policies, they are like poles asunder. How is it then possible for us to meet the Treasury Bench or for the Treasury Bench to meet us? I have felt that it is useless, it is hopeless to argue on the floor of this House, because, when, after years and years of struggle, we have forced them morally, when they have exhausted every plausible excuse, they make some sort of a declaration of policy similar to the one which we heard the other day, that the British Government is solemnly pledged that the ultimate goal of India is Dominion Status

and responsible Government. So, in this matter, the ultimate goal is the Indianisation of the army, the ultimate goal is that the occupation will cease and the garrison will be nationalised army. That is the ultimate goal. Well, some of us are pleased and say: "We are on the right lines, Oh, we shall get something". We have taken the horse to water, but he does not drink. What are we to do? Sir, I have said over and again, and repeat again before this House, that the total number of vacancies per year, so far as the officer rank in the Indian Army is concerned, is about 120. It was with the greatest difficulty that we were able to induce Government to give some sort of a number at the Round Table Conference, and it is round about 120. Now, I ask the Treasury Bench, and I ask you, Sir, can't we give 120 youngmen from amongst a population of three hundred and fifty millions of our countrymen? We are told that suitable material is not forthcoming. But mind you, 120 vacancies are not all allotted to us. That is the total number we are recruiting, I don't think it is one third even that is assigned to Indians. Therefore, it means about 30 at the utmost.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: 60 a year.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Of course, I stand corrected, but I am not really sure that that is the correct figure.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: There are sixty candidates taken every year into the Indian Military Academy, and about sixty cadets pass out every year.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: I say, the number passed and admitted as King's Commissioned Officers—we want that number, and not the total number at the College. It means it is not the same. My Honourable friend has forgotten his finance. (To Honourable Sir James Grigg.)

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I see all right. But he did not say what you said he said.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: I understand the Defence Secretary, but the Finance Member does not understand. He is out of it. The Defence Secretary and I understand. What the Defence Secretary means is this. We have got the full number at the College, 60, but, out of those 60, you see there is a course of $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 years, every year the number that actually obtains the Commission is about one-third.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The actual number that obtain commission every year is 60.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: I beg your pardon. I say, I am not prepared, unless I am satisfied, I will not agree with that. I say, the total number of vacancies that occur in the course of a year is 120, and I refuse to accept that out of 120, 60 Commissions are given to Indians every year. I refuse to accept that. If the Defence Secretary will quote to me the authority and the figures, then I shall consider whether he is right or not.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I can explain the position.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: I do not want his explanation. (Laughter.) I want a straight answer to a straight question. Does the Defence Secretary say that last year 60 Commissioned Officers passed and were given their Commissions in the army—Indians?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Yes.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: I still say no. I do not believe that unless I see the record. It is impossible to believe that.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Viceroy's Commissions included?

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: That may be so.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: If I may say so, where the Honourable Member has gone wrong is in saying that the total number of vacancies is 120. The total number of vacancies for the Indian Army at present may be 120. The Indian army, as he is aware, consists of infantry and cavalry only. The programme of Indianisation now in the course of progress includes other arms, artillery, engineers, and so on, which hitherto have been parts of the British Army. Therefore, the requirements for our Indianising division are greater proportionately than they would be if it was a purely infantry and cavalry formation.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Now, I understand. I was talking of Sandhurst; I was not talking of anything else. I was talking purely of Sandhurst, and I repeat again, and I say, unless my memory betrays me,—I say, and I have no doubt with regard to the statement that I am making, that the total vacancies for Sandhurst—I repeat that again,—we found after great difficulty, were 120, and the number allotted to Indians every year that will obtain the King's Commission is not even one-third of it, I repeat that again. That is my point. But this is merely going away from the real point. The real point is this. Take 60 if you like, take 100, take 120. My point remains, I refuse to believe this, only the man, who believes that is fit to be in the lunatic asylum,—to say that India cannot give you 120 men fit to have the King's Commission out of 350 millions, I cannot believe it, it is impossible for me to believe it. What happens? We have now got the horse to the water. The horse does not want to drink. (Laughter.) Put a little whisky. (Laughter.) Rub his nose. (Laughter.) Therefore, we are merely beating the air. The policy is fundamentally different—their policy and ours. For the first time we heard on high authority from the *ex-Commander-in-Chief* that suitable materials were not forthcoming, the national leaders of the country were not forthcoming to take the responsibility of the defence of the country—men who ought to be in the army. That is one accusation. The other accusation is, an insinuation is made that the martial classes—we have committed ourselves to give them a fairly large number—are such a poor material that really it is not satisfactory. It is in order to set up the non-martial classes against the martial classes, and my Honourable friend, Mr. Gauba, happened to make that statement *bona fide*, with a *bona fide* impression. That perhaps is the real reason, and he quotes it, because it is put into his mouth by a high authority. Up jumps my Honourable friend there—Captain Sher Muhammad Khan,—and protests against it, and, on that ground, says that he will not support this motion. Sir, that is the old game. If there is no class, they create a class; if there is a class; they keep them separate and divide them. They give us enough work to go for each other, and fight against each other, and the Treasury Bench is quite happy. I appeal to my Honourable friends on the Opposition Bench. It is the Government's policy, we know it. The Englishman does not say it in so many words. That is his great characteristic. He

understands what he is doing, he does not want to tell you what he is doing. It is for you to understand what he is doing and find a remedy. Let us also search our own hearts. My Honourable friend, Mr. Gadgil, made a splendid speech, but he wound up with the fervour of the Mahrattas. Where do I come in?

An Honourable Member: You are a Mahratta. You live in Western India.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Unfortunately I am not. Where do I come in? The Mahrattas to rule India. Let us also search our own hearts? Let us also analyse our own weaknesses, our own faults, and create that sanction behind, that the Treasury Bench may understand your language also. But unfortunately that is wanting at present. May I also tell the Treasury Bench that the more you go on with this policy—it may be, temporarily, provisionally you are scoring, but you are making a great mistake, the greatest mistake. If you really wish to remain friends with India—there is a long way yet—if you really think of the future, I appeal to you, if my appeal can be of any value to you, don't treat India like this. Be honest and straightforward in your policy. If you wish to Indianise the army, if you want to Indianise the officer rank, believe me, you can do it, and there is no obstacle in your way, unless you want to make excuses. It is for you to decide, but I have no misgivings that at the present moment you do not wish it. That is not your policy and you want to make every possible excuse that you can and try to put us off the scent. Do it if you want to do it.

Then, with regard to the British troops, it was said, if I remember rightly, at the Round Table Conference, that the British troops must be reduced gradually, and again there is an admission that they must be reduced or that they may be removed altogether in course of time, *but gradually*. Who is to decide what is the meaning of "Gradually"? After that pronouncement of policy in the Round Table Conference by His Majesty's Government,—they were a party to it—I was horrified to hear here a pronouncement made by the Commander-in-Chief that it was impossible to reduce or do away with any portion of the British troops. I hope I am not misquoting.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: He never made such a statement.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Not a violent statement. He politely told the Council of State that it cannot be done.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: He said that it cannot be done immediately.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: That is it. That is exactly what I said—gradually. I understand your language perfectly, but the misfortune is that my countrymen do not understand your language. That is my misfortune. I have said enough to show where we stand. It is up to us to do the needful. Let me appeal to you, my countrymen, and say that it is in your hands. Can you do it? If you can unite, it will be done.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, it is no use avoiding the issue or ignoring the facts. It is an admitted fact that in this country there is nobody who agreed with the military

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

policy of the Government. The military policy, which has been pursued by the Government, had been criticised ever since the present Reforms came into existence, and Government have been sleeping on the demands which have been consistently made every year on the floor of the House for the Indianisation of the Indian Army. In 1923, I had moved a Resolution that all future recruitment of British officers for the Indian Army should be stopped and the officers in the Indian regiments should be recruited from amongst Indians. When I moved that Resolution, it was about five in the afternoon, and, after I had moved that Resolution, the debate was adjourned for about a week or so. Next day, the then Commander-in-Chief, the late Lord Rawlinson, came with his suggestion which acted like a bolt from the blue. He announced that eight Indian units would be Indianised at once, and the result was that the House, which was with me in the morning, left me, and I had only 16 votes left with me. They wanted me to withdraw, but I did not withdraw, because I knew that there would come a day when I would stand justified.

An Honourable Member: You have grown wiser since then?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Shut up please. Those Indianised units today are like the depressed classes and no officer of that regiment is feeling happy. I think, Sir, according to the policy which is being pursued by the Government in the matter of Indianisation, it will take not decades, but centuries to Indianise the whole of the Indian regiments. Leaving aside the British troops, what we wanted as a first step was that at least our own Indian regiments should have their own officers. When India can produce soldiers, when India can produce, as in the War, even good officers, when we had even Indian officers who were commanding British troops during the War, why should not Indians be given the chance to become officers? In the War, there were several cases when no British officer was left to guide the British troops, the Indian officers took the command and distinguished themselves. When we have known that even people from the ranks rose to great distinction, what is the justification for not giving us a proper chance to defend our own shores? I do not minimise the good work which has been done by the British officers in the Indian regiments, but whatever they might have done, they are not to be expected to continue to be officers of the Indian regiments, simply because at one time they were very useful. An Indian can hold charge of a big province. An Indian, not of the millowner class, to which my friend, Captain Sher Muhammad Khan, referred, even of the same class as my friend can go up to command an Indian regiment. People, who started in the army with a low position, have risen to very high position. We have got an example in the Marshal of our Assembly who distinguished himself in many spheres. He started with a very small position, and he rose to be a Captain with great distinction. There is no argument in the Government saying that recruits will come little by little or in a progressive manner, and that it cannot be done immediately. When my friend, Mr. Jinnah, asks "Cannot India produce 120 men who can take up positions as recruits for Sandhurst", Government come up and say "there are not sufficiently qualified people and that sufficient material is not forthcoming". It is the fault of the Government that they are not getting people who will be suitable for the Indian Sandhurst. If they say that they are not going to have recruits from the other classes

except those classes who are called the martial classes, and if these martial classes are poor people, if the Indian officers holding Viceroy's Commissions are, in fact, poor people, then they cannot afford their sons to be educated at Debra Dun; and, if that is so, then it is the duty of the Government to give them proper subsidies and scholarships so as to be trained properly (Hear, hear), and they should do something material to educate them. When, Sir, we find that the Indian Government are sending some people to be taught abroad as mechanical and electrical engineers, and when we find them awarding scholarships in other cases, then, I ask, why should not scholarships be given for the benefit of the poor Indian officers holding Viceroy's Commissions who cannot afford to send their boys up, but who nevertheless can accomplish great things and who will be a credit to this country? (Hear, hear.)

Sir, a great deal has been made out on the political ground. My friend says that he should come up and everybody must come up and allowed to be made an officer. I say, Sir, this is not the time that the other classes should come up and seek to join the army by reason merely of the fact that they are not now allowed to, when people who ought to get it, who have been serving this country in the military sphere, the truly martial classes, are not getting the King's Commission in sufficient numbers; this is not the time for you to get the principle accepted that those classes, whose profession was never to go into the military profession, should be taken up as officers. That would be inconsistent, because, Sir, the soldier, whoever he may be, likes to be officered and to be commanded by a person who really belongs to his own class, the fighting and martial class, who can, in fact, prove himself to be as brave as he is. You must remember there are so many other difficulties. Thus, everyone knows that, so long as the caste system remains in this country, you are bound to have this result that there will be separate military castes. The martial and non-martial classes must exist as long as the caste system exists in this country; and, if that caste system is done away with, then and then alone will the martial classes disappear at once.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: May I know from the Honourable Member whether all the Mussalmans belong to the martial races?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: There are many classes of people who cannot be called to belong to the martial classes among the Mussalmans. I do not say that all the Mussalmans belong to the martial classes.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: What class do I come from?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Jinnah, asks me whether he belongs to the martial or non-martial class. The simple question is this: has anybody of Mr. Jinnah's class or of his community served as a soldier or not? If he tells me that there is a single soldier of his class in the army, then I would include him.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: One soldier will do, one soldier will do?

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: One good soldier will do. If my Honourable friend can furnish one man from out of his class as an ordinary soldier, as a private, then he is entitled to make good in his profession and come up as a General, and I do not mind it, but the creation of Generals on paper won't do.

[Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan.]

Here, Sir, I have got a grievance against the Government, namely, that they are flouting the opinion of this House. Last time they carried one Bill and they made it into law, which was not desirable from many points of view. That was, of course, carried by the votes of the Assembly, and nobody can say that was not carried constitutionally, but I must say today that that law is not justified, that is not a law which is wanted in the country, no "martial class" man is pleased with that, and the greatest mistake, the greatest blunder Government are making is this, that they are alienating the sympathies of the martial classes and they are not pleasing the other classes, and thus they are losing both sides at the same time. (Hear, hear.) They must have somebody who must be satisfied at least; the martial classes have got their grievances on account of the policy which is pursued in recruiting the officer-class at Dehra Dun; so they are not satisfied. I think I am right in voicing the feelings of all the martial classes in this country. Then, I think, my Honourable friend, Mr. Gadgil, represents the "other class", and, well, he has shown that they are not satisfied too. Then, my Honourable friend, Sardar Mangal Singh, coming from the martial classes, has voiced their feelings perfectly correctly. . . . (Interruptions.)

Sir H. P. Mody (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Our community is also greatly dissatisfied. (Laughter.)

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I would like the Bombay Knight certainly to come up and command a big regiment of Parsis who should get themselves enrolled as a reserve force of India.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): The martial classes will wipe them out in one battle! (Laughter.)

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I agree that the Bombay Parsis will be a very good substitute for the martial classes in India. (Hear, hear.) They are all financiers of course.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How are you going to vote—tell us that?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let the Honourable Member proceed with his speech.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: (Interruptions.) Sir, I object to these interruptions; if people want that parliamentary language must be used, they must behave in a parliamentary manner; if they cannot do so, they must know that they will be treated, as they deserve to be. (*Ironical cries of "Hear, hear."*)

Sir, there is one thing on which I want to lay a great emphasis, and that is this, and here I think I am voicing the feeling of the whole country, that the British troops ought not to be paid from the Indian exchequer. I do not say that the British troops should not remain in this country. There are many considerations on account of which British troops cannot be sent away, but the British troops in this country are not the permanent soldiers of India. The troops that are stationed in India come out here for a few years, and then they go away to some other country. They do not develop any sympathy for India, they do not stand as an Indian army, while our Indian regiments are the true Indian army.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: I will conclude shortly. Therefore, if these troops are stationed in India simply to serve the purposes of the Imperial Government, then it is but right that this country must not pay for them and the country whose interest they are serving should pay for them. (Hear, hear.) Sir, these are the two points which have been pressed year after year in this country, and as Government have never listened to our voice, and although I am generally against every motion of that kind which merely discusses a policy and then seeks to refuse a grant, although I have never supported that kind of cut so far, yet, in this case, I think it is the duty of every Indian to support this cut motion. (Applause.)

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Sir, once more it falls to my lot to oppose a motion which is intended as a general censure on the defence policy of the Government of India, but the only practical effect of which, if it were passed and if the cut were not restored, would be to deprive a certain number of hard working and innocent clerks in my own Department of their livelihood.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: You take four lakhs from the amount provided for Quetta.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: It would have no effect whatever on the defence budget proper. I wonder how Honourable Members would give their votes today if I were to tell them that Government have no intention of restoring this cut, if it is passed.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: We shall congratulate ourselves.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: They may say that it would place them in a very unfair position, if Government were to resort to tactics of that kind. I do agree with a great many Honourable Members who have spoken today that we are discussing this matter in an air of unreality and it is in many ways an anomalous position. But I do wish to point out that the unfairness is not altogether on one side. There are other means open to Honourable Members for voicing their disapproval of particular aspects of defence policy. I do not think they can deny that their real object in moving a cut motion of this kind is to force the Governor General to use his special powers to restore the grant.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: That is the intention.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: That brings me to the first main point that I have to make. As various Honourable Members have said, year after year we have exactly the same discussion on general lines on this subject. Year after year, the same old arguments are trotted out, some true, some half true and some not true at all; and year after year, I am expected to get up and within the short space of half an hour to cover the whole range of the defence budget and incidentally to provide a target for the big guns opposite. I really do not quite see why I should do so.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Because you are paid to do it.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: We never get down to any details in this discussion on army expenditure. We very seldom hear any really constructive criticism. I do not object to that so much, but I do say that this annual debate on policy serves very little purpose. I know, Sir, that Honourable Members may say: "That is not our fault. All we know about the army is that it costs a great deal too much and that it is being Indianised much too slowly. We do not know anything about the details of defence administration because you will not let us". That also is a contention which I should like to challenge today. I do say, that during the last four or five years, Honourable Members of this House have been given ample opportunities to learn a great deal about the details of defence administration. But, somehow, Honourable Members do not seem to trouble their heads very much about the details of defence administration from year's end to year's end; and then, just on one occasion, once a year, they concentrate their forces, they put down a verbal barrage of great intensity, they deliver a crushing blow and they cause the Viceroy to restore the cut: and then, Sir, they sink back into contented apathy for the rest of the year until the Budget Session comes round again.

An Honourable Member: What is the alternative? You go on in your usual way in spite of our protests.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Does the Honourable Member know that a non-official Member moved in the other House that a Committee should be appointed of both Houses but that the Commander-in-Chief turned it down.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Even this year, we passed such a motion in this House.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I know such a motion was moved today in another place.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: This very Session we passed a motion in this House for the appointment of a committee.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: May I also remind Honourable Members that the argument put forward in favour of appointing a Committee to advise the Government was that Honourable Members of this House at present do not know anything about defence and that they would like to learn?

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Quite so.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: That does not seem to be a very good argument in favour of a claim to give advice.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Otherwise we will never learn.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I may point out that Honourable Members could have learnt a good deal more about defence if only they had taken advantage of the opportunities offered to them.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: If you like, we will go to a school to learn.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: We laid before the Retrenchment Committee of this House the most detailed information on all subjects under the Defence head. We have appointed Members of this House to be Members of the Military Accounts Committee which reports to the Public Accounts

Committee. Our Financial Adviser has taken a great deal of trouble in preparing explanations on interesting subjects such as Military Engineer Services expenditure and administration, or on the working of our Ordnance Factories but the Members of the Military Accounts Committee, who have taken part in its proceedings, I am afraid, pay comparatively little attention to those interesting and complicated matters. They prefer to concentrate their attention on individual cases of financial irregularities. In addition to that we have issued, during the last few years, pamphlets and reports, many of them at the wish of this House; and we have been taking special steps recently to get into closer touch with the Press and to give them information on many controversial matters connected with Defence. All that work that we have been doing entails a great deal of labour and trouble for the staff of my Department whose fate is now hanging in the balance; and that, Sir, is the sort of atmosphere in which we have to work. I do suggest that we have some reason to complain on our side and some reason also not to take quite at their face value the protestations of certain Honourable Members who say that their one object is to learn more about Defence so that they may help instead of hinder the administration.

Now, Sir, I do not propose to follow today those who have spoken in general terms as usual on the subject of Indianisation or those who have spoken in similar terms on the general level of defence expenditure. I dealt very fully indeed last year with our policy of Indianisation and I could not do justice to that subject again this year without repeating wholly what I said last year, and that would take far too long. If Honourable Members are interested in this subject, they will find all that we have to say about it in the debate that took place on the 12th March, 1935. All I can say, as I have said before, is, first that we are now working out a definite experimental policy for the Indianisation of the army on a fairly large scale, based on the complete substitution of Indian for British officers in a very considerable part of the army; secondly, that there can be no alteration or extension of that policy until a sufficient number of Indian officers have successfully reached the position of commanders of companies and squadrons; and, thirdly, that that position cannot, in the nature of things, be reached for another two or three years. Whether that policy is a good policy or a bad policy—and I do honestly believe that very few Honourable Members have really taken the trouble to understand it—whether it is a good policy or a bad policy, Government, I submit, would lay themselves open to a charge of singular inconsistency and vacillation if they were to agree at this stage to alter it in any material particulars.

Now, Sir, in the speeches that have been made by Honourable Members today, as usual, the arguments have gone a long way to cancel each other out. One Honourable Member wants us to confine the recruitment of officers to the martial classes. Other Honourable Members complain that we are taking far too many cadets from the Indian Army. We have also heard criticisms of our methods of recruitment and we have also had allusions to what Sir Philip Chetwode said last year on the subject of the material at the Academy. Now, Sir, these methods of recruitment, I would remind the House, are the methods that were definitely approved and recommended by the Indian Military College Committee, which contained representatives of this House; that is to say, half the vacancies are offered to open competition, irrespective of caste, creed or anything else, at an examination which is conducted by the Public Service Commission;

[Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham.]

and the other half are reserved for cadets from the Indian Army. And, as I said only this morning in reply to a question of my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, the Public Service Commission are satisfied that no likely candidate is refused a reasonable chance at the open competition, from whatever part of the country he comes and whatever may have been the traditions of his family. Next, Sir, as regards what Sir Philip Chetwode said, or what Honourable Members say that Sir Philip Chetwode said, I think there is some misapprehension. Sir Philip was at that time dealing with a Resolution recommending an increase in the number of vacancies at the Indian Military Academy. What he said was that he was perfectly satisfied with the material at the Indian Military Academy; he thought it was the best possible material and that it was good. But what he was perturbed about was that there was not more competition for the 15 vacancies which are offered every half year. He said, and it is perfectly true, that we get at present just about enough really good men to fill these 15 vacancies, and what he would have liked to see was at least 30 or 40 good men coming forward to compete for these 15 vacancies. At present a large number compete, but a great many of them, obviously, have no qualifications or any real desire to take up a military career.

Now, Sir, I think that between these conflicting points of view our present policy may before long be proved to have followed that middle course which is so often correct. If that policy can be given a reasonable chance of working itself out and, if there could be a respite from political criticism of it for a short time,—and after all, Sir, such political criticism must have a depressing effect upon the young men at the Academy itself,—I do think that, in course of time, the necessary educational adjustments will be made in this country, and from whatever source we get them we shall get the best men in India to fill our vacancies in the army. I may add that in a few years, I believe, these young officers who are now passing out from the Indian Military Academy will themselves form the best possible advertisement of our present policy.

Now, Sir, that is all that I have to say at the moment about the general policy of Indianisation. There are three further points that I must take up arising out of the speech of the Honourable the Mover of this motion. He said that we were getting rid of Indian officers in the war block in order to prevent them from commanding their battalions. He suggested, secondly, that we were turning Indian officers out of their regiments into departments, like the Indian Army Service Corps and so on, in order to prevent them from commanding British officers and British personnel; and he added, thirdly, that we were offering these Indian commissioned officers far too low a scale of pay. As regards the first, the war block, I can assure the House that the Honourable Member is not correct. We have had to choose out of the officers of a certain seniority in the army as many as four hundred, who had to be transferred to the unemployed list for no real fault of their own, but for reasons which have been explained before to the House. And if we have included in that number a small number of Indian officers, I can assure the House that that was done with no political bias whatever.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Why was it done at all when you knew that you wanted all your Indian officers for your own army and they were not blocking any one's promotion?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: We want to have less officers of a certain seniority and we have to choose, out of the officers recruited during the years in question, a certain number to be axed and placed on the unemployed list; but the selection of those officers is purely a question of comparative efficiency and has nothing whatever to do with nationality. I can assure the House that these few Indian officers who have been placed on the unemployed list will receive exactly the same terms as British officers and they will be given every opportunity, just as much as is given to any British officer, to secure employment elsewhere if they wish it.

As regards the second point that he made, that we were getting rid of Indian officers from their battalions in order to prevent them from commanding British personnel, I would only point out that the particular example that he selected was the very worst possible example that he could have selected from his own point of view. He seemed to think that Indian officers would lose the chance of commanding British personnel if they went into a department like the Royal Indian Army Service Corps. The facts are precisely the opposite.

The Indian Army Service Corps cannot be Indianised by units as we can Indianise the infantry; that is to say, if any Indian officer goes into the Indian Army Service Corps he becomes automatically senior to a number of junior British Officers who follow him at a later date. He also automatically commands a number of British non-commissioned personnel in the Indian Army Service Corps, a thing that he has no chance of doing if he remains in his own battalion.

Thirdly, about the question of pay, all I can say is that the pay of these Indian commissioned officers is based on the pay that British officers receive when they serve in England. It is exactly the same pay as British officers in England get,—if anything, slightly more than that. And in view of the opinion held by Members of the Opposition Party as to the general level of salaries in this country, I really do not think there is any justification for increasing those scales of pay. At any rate

Mr. K. L. Gauba: Sir, on a point of personal explanation, I did not complain about the pay of the persons being retrenched on the war block. I complained of the pay of those persons who pass out of the Indian Military Academy.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: That is what I was referring to. The pay of the cadets who come out from the Indian Military Academy is exactly the same as the pay of British officers serving in England.

Mr. K. L. Gauba: No, Sir, it is not.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: It is of course a fact that British officers in the Indian Army get more and British officers of the British service serving in India receive more pay than they would if they were serving in England. But the pay of the Indian commissioned officer, coming out of the Indian Military Academy, is the same as that of the British officer serving with a British unit in England; and that, Sir, is a perfectly fair basis on which to put their pay.

That, I think, is all I have to say at the moment about Indianisation. I should like, if I could, to have a talk with the Leader of the Independent Party on this subject and try to clear up the difficulty about the figures

[Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham.]

into which we got at the beginning of his speech. It is a complicated matter and I do not think I could explain it clearly here without a little more notice. But I should be very glad to have a discussion with him at some later date, if I can, and see if I can explain the position to him.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: I may explain to the Honourable Member that I have understood his point,—of course not the exact figures, and so on. I am extremely obliged to him that he will give me the information, but I was thinking of the number which we fixed at the Round Table Conference, namely, how many vacancies there were from Sandhurst. Of course, now we have got an Indian Sandhurst as well as a British Sandhurst, and, therefore, my number related only to that and not to Woolwich or Cranwell.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I can understand that. The position is complicated by the fact that the Indian Army hitherto has contained only of officers who have come from Sandhurst, that is for infantry and cavalry, whereas, in the future, we hope it will contain other units of different arms. And also there is another point which I omitted to mention when I interrupted before, that the number of officers per battalion in future is to be on the British scale, that is to say, 28 officers per battalion as against only 12 at present, and that naturally would affect the total number required as compared with the present output from Sandhurst.

Now, I should like to turn to the question of the general level of Defence expenditure, and here also I must confine myself to only one or two remarks. The first is, that probably India is the only important country in the world which is not, at the present moment, engaged in materially increasing both the numbers and the cost of its defence forces. If it were really a fact that the level of defence expenditure and the strength of the Army in India were dictated by Imperial and not by Indian considerations, I cannot imagine any moment at which the effects of that dictation might more obviously have been expected to show themselves; and yet, what is the position? Since 1914, we have reduced the strength of the Army in India by some 60,000 fighting men, including some 20,000 British troops. We are still further reducing the number of British troops gradually as we proceed with the programme of Indianisation, which involves the formation of Indian artillery units in place of British.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: At what rate?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Slow rate.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Are you mechanising the Indian units?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I may say a few words about that later. The point is, we are not today increasing the strength of the army by one single man, and the reason is—and I hope Honourable Members will reflect on this carefully—that India at present does not require such an increase.

The only other points I have to make on the general level of defence expenditure are to try and meet to some extent the arguments of the Honourable the Mover when he complained that there was no reason whatever why we should not return to pre-war levels of expenditure, and also attempted, I think, to belittle the success of our efforts in the direction of

retrenchment. If the Honourable Member will read Chapter V of this pamphlet "Facts and figures about defence", he will see there a very full exposition of the reasons why it is impossible to expect a return to pre-war levels of expenditure. I cannot go into all those reasons now, but the most obvious of them is that there has been a rise in wages all round—a general rise in pay. The pay of the British soldier has been doubled, the pay of the Indian sepoy has been more than doubled, the pay of British Service officers has been greatly increased, and the pay of British officers serving in the Indian Army has also been increased. Whatever may be the case as regards the fall in the price of commodities, you cannot expect a fall to take place in wages corresponding to the fall in prices. I might incidentally mention that, so far as the actual price of commodities is concerned, we were, before the War,—in 1914—paying somewhere in the neighbourhood of Rs. 1½ crores a year for provisions for the army, and that, at a time when we did not ourselves provide the sepoys with rations. We are now actually spending less than that amount—I think the amount is now about Rs. 1¼ crores.

Then, the Honourable Member seemed to think that whatever retrenchment we may have carried out in the last few years was all coming back again because the saving was due purely to temporary causes such as cuts in pay, fall in prices, and so on and so forth. The plain facts are that in 1930, the Defence budget stood at Rs. 55 crores; today it actually stands at Rs. 45½ crores. That is an actual reduction of Rs. 9½ crores. Two years ago, the expenditure was about Rs. 180 lakhs less than it is going to be this year. To that extent it is perfectly true that some of our retrenchments are no longer holding good, but if Honourable Members wish to have an explanation of that increase of Rs. 180 lakhs, I can give it to them. It is mainly made up of about Rs. 70 lakhs on the return in the pay cut, about Rs. 60 lakhs on special expenditure on Quetta, about Rs. 25 lakhs on a return to more normal expenditure on Military Engineer Service buildings, and about Rs. 20 lakhs on an increase in Ordnance supplies, owing to the fact that we cannot go on any longer living on our own fat, as we were compelled to do during the period of extreme financial depression.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: May I interrupt for a moment? You said that the expenditure is now Rs. 9 crores less than it was some years ago. Does that include the loss on strategic railways, does that include watch and ward, and other departments?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I am comparing like with like absolutely. In 1930, the heads of our budget were exactly the same as they are now. We have never paid for watch and ward; we have never paid the loss on strategic railways. When Honourable Members complain that the defence Budget ought to be increased by debiting to it the loss on strategic railways, I might equally well reply that on the expenditure side of our budget there are a number of items which appear as receipts under some other heads of the budget. For instance, we pay out about one crore of rupees for railway transport, we pay Rs. 70 lakhs by way of income-tax, we pay Rs. 10 lakhs for customs duty, we pay Rs. 12 lakhs or so to the Printing and Stationery Department. If you add all these figures, you will find that there are nearly two crores which, so far as the taxpayer is concerned, are not real expenditure.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: For services rendered.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Sir, I have already detained the House too long, and I have not said as much as I should have liked to say. I wanted to say a few words on mechanisation, but at this stage I am afraid it is impossible for me to do so.

There is one point I should like to make clear. The Army authorities, just as much as anybody else, recognise that Defence is a very expensive business and that the defence of India costs a great deal of money; but I can assure the House that the Defence authorities are not anxious to add one pie to the cost of that defence beyond what they themselves honestly consider necessary; and even if the cost of the defence of India is large, I can honestly tell the House that they are getting full value for their money.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Defence Department' be reduced to Re. 1."

AYES—79.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.
Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Asaf Ali, Mr. M.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Ba Si, U.
Badrul Hasan, Maulvi.
Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Bhagavan Das, Dr.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachelam.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.
Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
Gauba, Mr. K. L.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Giri, Mr. V. V.
Govind Das, Seth.
Gupta, Mr. Ghansham Singh.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hidayatallah, Sir Ghulam Hussain.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
Jinnah, Mr. M. A.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Kailash Behari Lal, Babu.
Khan Sahib, Dr.
Khare, Dr. N. B.

Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Malaviya, Pandit Krishna Kant.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Sayad Muhammad.
Mody, Sir H. P.
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.
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.
Sham Lal, Mr.
Shaukat Ali, Maulana.
Shcodass 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. Suryya Kumar.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Thein Maung, Dr.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Vissanji, Mr. Mathuradas.
Yakub, Sir Muhammad.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.

NOES—46.

Acott, Mr. A. S. V.
Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan Bahadur Nawab Malik.
Aminuddin, Mr. Saiyid.
Ayyar, Diwan Bahadur R. V. Krishna.
Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama.
Bajpai, Sir Girja Shankar.
Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
Buss, Mr. L. C.
Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
Dalal, Dr. R. D.
Das-Gupta, Mr. S. K.
Dash, Mr. A. J.
Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kunar Vijaya Ananda.
Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.
Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
Grigson, Mr. W. V.
Hands, Mr. A. S.
Hudson, Sir Leslie.
Hutton, Dr. J. H.
James, Mr. F. E.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Khurshaid Muhammad, Khan Bahadur Shaikh.

Leach, Mr. F. B.
Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
MacDougall, Mr. R. M.
Metcalf, Sir Aubrey.
Milligan, Mr. J. A.
Morgan, Mr. G.
Muhammad Ismail Khan, Haji Chaudhury.
Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya Charan.
Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
Rau, Mr. P. B.
Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
Sale, Mr. J. F.
Sarma, Mr. R. S.
Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar.
Singh, Rai Bahadur Shyam Narayan.
Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
Spence, Mr. G. H.
Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.
Witherington, Mr. C. H.
Zafrullah Khan, The Honourable Sir Muhammad.

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 32—HOME DEPARTMENT.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Now, it is the turn of the Nationalist Party to move their cut on the demand under the Home Department.

Mr. M. S. Aney: The demand has been moved, Sir, and I wish to move the motion that stands in my name, with your permission.

The President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Which one is that?

Mr. M. S. Aney: It is on late list No. 3 at page 2 under demand No. 32, motion No. 19.

Repressive Policy.

Sir, I beg to move the motion that stands in my name, namely:

"That the demand under the head 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

My object in moving this motion is to raise a discussion on the repressive policy that is pursued by the Government, and to censure them for the same. I moved a similar motion last year in this House, and, in so doing, I laid particular emphasis on the fact that there was a change in the political situation in the country and that change demanded a change in the policy of the Government also and that they should stop the policy of repression. I gave a good many reasons in support of my proposition,

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

and I shall try to avoid a repetition of what I said then. The policy of the Government, as it has been explained to this House more than once, for the last so many years, is generally known as the dual policy. By this dual policy what the Government proposes to do is to repress what they consider as elements of lawlessness on the one hand and at the same time make some concession towards broadening the field of democratic institutions in this country. I do not want to enter into the merits at this stage of the wisdom of pursuing a policy like that. By this time, I believe, the Government would have seen that it is better to concentrate on the policy of reform than to think of repression. That will at any rate prove in the long run a wiser and a safer course to pursue. However, as I said, I do not wish to repeat what I said last year.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, one of the Panel of Chairmen.]

I will merely try to explain in very few words what I stated last year.

[At this stage, Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) having entered the Chamber, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President.]

Sir, my main reason for bringing forward this motion again this year is this. Last year this motion was carried by an overwhelming majority of this House. I find that during the last twelve months Government has done practically nothing in my opinion to give effect to the opinion which was then expressed by this House in such unequivocal manner.

An Honourable Member: Question.

Mr. M. S. Aney: You can question it in your own speech if you like, and even if you question it now, I don't mind it. My position is this. Because my statement has been questioned I want to explain in as few words as possible what were the main things to which I drew the attention of the Government last year. By repressive policy I meant particularly the policy pursued by the Government with regard to the following matters.

I demanded then the release of Civil Disobedience Prisoners and Political Prisoners.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): That has been done.

Mr. M. S. Aney: I am going to admit what has been done, and to attack only things that have not been done so far.

Secondly, I demanded the repeal of the extraordinary repressive measures which were only justified by exceptional circumstances which existed in the country at a certain time . . .

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi (Dacca cum Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural): What is the second thing please?

Mr. M. S. Aney: I do not want to repeat, because my time is limited. Repeal of repressive laws is the second thing.

The third thing was the removal of the ban on certain political organizations affiliated to the Congress and which were working in a constitutional manner.

The fourth thing was some relaxation of rules relating to the treatment of political prisoners so that they may not feel extremely miserable when in jail and they may feel that they are being treated as political prisoners in the true sense when inside the jails.

These were the four main points to which I drew the attention of this House in my speech last year.

As regards the first point, I confess even on the last occasion when I made my speech I was told that the total number of Civil Disobedience Prisoners, then undergoing imprisonment, was only 69, and, I am sure, that during the past 12 months, some of them must have already finished their term of imprisonment and gone out, and new Civil Disobedience Prisoners of course have not gone in, and so the number 69 must have come down. I would like to know how many have been released by the Government of these 69 by giving some substantial remissions. So far as that portion of my demand is concerned, I do not think that there is now much ground for me to make any grievance of. But, in that connection, I shall try to bring to the notice of the Honourable the Home Member and the Government of India one point. There were certain men who were convicted of offences involving violence. They began the Civil Disobedience Movement, but, under strong provocation, at times certain things were done and a little violence here and there took place. The cases of those persons were under consideration then. To my knowledge there are prisoners like that still rotting in jail in my provinces. I would like the Government to make enquiries and see how far the Local Governments have considered their cases. It is true, I do not deny the fact, that they were convicted of crimes, involving violence, but if their cases are properly looked into, Government will find that the conditions under which they had committed violence and to some extent abjured their pledge of strict non-violence were such that even a man of extraordinary character would not have stood the test of standing to the pledge of non-violence. If there are cases like that and the prisoners are still undergoing punishment, I think now, in view of the altered position and in view of the conditions that prevail at present, the Government can certainly take their cases into consideration and release them and allow those persons to be free citizens. I do not know what is the number of prisoners like that in other provinces, but in my province, there are cases of certain Gond prisoners in Betul and Chhindwara districts to whom I particularly refer. They joined the satyagraha movement, but, unfortunately, they took up an attitude of retaliation as soon as lathi charges and other things were made. There was some bloodshed and violence was committed. But in view of the long terms of imprisonment that they have already served, I think that Government should take into consideration their cases and release them.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: How many?

Mr. M. S. Aney: According to my information, there are five or six. I am not quite sure of the number, but this is the suggestion I am making. Later on, I may give the correct information. Five or six Gond prisoners in Betul and Chhindwara districts.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Five or six in the Central Provinces?

Mr. M. S. Aney: Yes. Last time I also drew the attention of the Government to the condition of the detenus of Bengal. Sir, the position of detenus of Bengal is something which is extremely deplorable in my opinion, but that is a question on which, unfortunately, I think the Honourable the Home Member is also very touchy. Immediately somebody asks any question regarding the problem of detenus of Bengal, he feels, or he smells, if I may say so, a sympathy for terrorism in those who put the question or speak anything about it. In a way he assumes an air of intense indignation and tries to hush up discussion altogether. I want to tell him—to use the exact language which he used last time in reply to the criticism made by some Members on this side of the House on this point—he said:

“With them I have no sympathy. I say that the Government are entitled to take any measure, even more severe measures than they have taken hitherto, to stamp out this terrible evil.”

There were some other things which he said also, but I do not want to quote them. In order to fortify his position, he quoted an extract from the Royal Proclamation issued by His Late Majesty King Edward VII some years ago. He reminded the House of the words in the Royal Proclamation ostensibly in support of the attitude of the Government of India towards the detenus:

“It is a paramount duty (*that is, of the Government*) to repress with a stern arm guilty conspiracies that have no just cause and no serious aim. These conspiracies are abhorrent to the loyalty and faithful character of the great host of my Indian subjects and I will not suffer them to turn me aside from my task of building up the fabric of civilised security and order.”

I believe there is no person in this House who can take exception to the proposition or principle so eloquently put in here, but the point is this. There is no Member so senseless as to construe this as constituting a charter as conferring unfettered discretion on the executive to treat all those persons about whom they have got suspicion and to treat their life and property, with scant respect. If the policy to stamp out the terrible evil of terrorism from this land, which is no doubt a laudable object, with which every right thinking man is bound to be in full sympathy, results in establishing a reign of terror itself where the liberties and properties of the people are in jeopardy and where the careers and prospects of hundreds of youths are altogether blighted owing to detention without trial for a number of years inside jails and detention camps, it will lead to a situation which is fraught with elements of danger which can be better imagined than described.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Whose speech are you reading from?

Mr. M. S. Aney: I am reading the notes I have made. I believe the remedy will prove worse than the disease in that case. The situation in Bengal has become something like that today. None will blame Government for dealing with persons proved to be convicted of terrorist activities, with a strong arm, and even a stronger arm if they choose. They have a right to claim the support of the public in that matter, but the case of detenus stands on a different footing altogether. There is no sanction

of a judicial verdict to justify the conduct of the Government. It is a question of suspicion and the only sanction is the rectitude of the informant who supplies information to the Government in the matter. It is a case of suspicion and indefinite suspicion. I can understand a person being detained on suspicion for some time, but there must be a limit at which the Government ought to be able to make up its mind to produce the person so suspected before a Court of justice for trial under the ordinary law, or they must release him even at some risk. The power of indiscriminate arrest and indefinite detention without trial can be used, and, the public opinion is, it is being largely abused, without proper justification. The situation in Bengal cannot improve unless the Government take courage in their hands and boldly release all those detenus against whom they have no reliable evidence to prove their complicity in the terrorist movement, and place for trial before a Court of law all those against whom they have got such evidence to prove. Even the Government of Bengal think that the mere pursuit of a policy of repression of this nature is barren and fruitless. In order to entirely eradicate the evil of anarchy and terrorism in that unfortunate land, a serious effort is being made by that Government to tackle with the root causes of the evil. If I mistake not, the Government of Bengal has in contemplation a scheme of some kind of technical education.

An Honourable Member: They have already given effect to that scheme.

Mr. M. S. Aney: I am not wrong in mentioning it. It is intended to partially meet the problem of the unemployment of educated youth. The success of such a scheme will largely depend upon the spirit in which that scheme will be received by the youths whom it concerns most.

An Honourable Member: They have received it very well.

Mr. M. S. Aney: I do not know about that. Therefore, I appeal to the Government of India that they should impress on the Government of Bengal the advisability of creating a proper atmosphere for the success of a scheme like that by taking the steps I have suggested before. During the last year, I do not find any substantial steps taken by the Government either towards the release or bringing to trial before proper Courts of the 1,600 detenus in Bengal and elsewhere.

Turning from the case of the detenus, I shall refer to a few other matters with which I shall deal briefly. I find that the Government of Bengal is peculiarly anxious that no public man from other provinces should go and discuss any question with regard to the political situation there. If anybody goes there he has to do it at great risk. During the last one year we have had at least two or three prosecutions for seditious against persons who have gone and delivered lectures on the present political situation there. They want to make this a secluded area as against all other public men outside the province. My friend, Mr. Ruikar, has been prosecuted there and sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment the other day. I am not saying here anything as to whether the prosecution was justified or not or whether the conviction was right or wrong. That is not my point. My point is this. Similar speeches made in other provinces would not have been taken notice of by the Provincial Governments for the purpose of launching any prosecution at all but the Bengal

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

Government will not allow any public man from other provinces to come and do that thing. I consider that a policy of repression. They are trying to smother the voice of free criticism in this ruthless way. There is another way pursued by the Government of Bengal with regard to those whom they suspect. There is method of internment, and also a counter method which is called externment. A man living in a particular town or a particular district is asked to go out of that district. In that way, hundreds of persons, who are otherwise enjoying liberty, are not allowed to go back to their own district and carry on their professions and earn their livelihood in an honourable manner. In that way also, several hundreds of men are, I am told, suffering today. My information is there are a number of people suffering like that today. They cannot earn their livelihood. No charges have been framed against them and they have not been told what the charge against them is. That is another way in which repression is going on in Bengal.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member has got one minute more.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Then, Sir, in that one minute I shall only say this. There are other things to which I referred last time, for example, the removal of ban on institutions. Only a few days ago, questions were asked in this House with regard to the jirgas and the Congress organisations in the North-West Frontier Province and I intervened with an interjection asking the Honourable the Home Member what are the activities which he knows in which these organisations have been engaged after February 1935 up to this day, which will justify the continuance of the ban on these institutions. The reply was that the question has been already answered. That was the reply given to me. My point is this. Government have no justification to continue the ban and yet the Local Government, in its haughtiness, in its superior zeal for prestige, is not willing to do it and the Honourable the Home Member does not want to bring home to them the necessity of removing the ban in order to allow these bodies to function. Similarly, the ban on the Hindustani Seva Dal still continues there. Now, I shall leave aside those things, for there is no time. A man like Barrister Savarkar who has served his full sentence is kept in Ratnagiri and not allowed to move about for the last 12 years. He has been carrying on propaganda only of a social and religious nature in the Ratnagiri district. The Government knows it but the suspicion in the mind of the Government is so deep-rooted that his open activities for the last 12 years are not sufficient to eradicate that suspicion and he is not allowed to gain the freedom to which he is entitled. I shall conclude my speech by saying only one thing more. The whole attitude of the Government, with regard to the repressive policy, is more or less born of a strong distrust and suspicion of the people. They are anxious to bring into existence a ponderous structure known as provincial autonomy. The new reforms consist of provincial autonomy and a superstructure which will be raised upon it later on, which will be known as the Federal Legislature. Is Government going to base this structure on the sandy foundation of suspicion? If they are going to do that, a slight rise in the state of popular feeling will wash away the fleeting foundations of that structure. If the Government want to have this structure on a stable basis, they must make an attempt to remove distrust and suspicion and that can be done only by responding to

the various demands made on the floor of the House with the aid of an overwhelming majority. The repeated rejection of these demands can only perpetuate this suspicion which will prove in the end a canker and eat into the very vitals of whatever reforms you may have in mind. Suspicion begets suspicion. Trust begets trust. Suspicion and slavery go together. If you want to build a temple of peace, build it on the foundation of trust. It is for you to choose the way. The path of trust will lead to a condition of mutual cordiality, harmony and happiness between India and England. The path of suspicion will lead to chaos and anarchy. It is for you to choose the way. We have shown you what the difficulty is and we have tried to explain to you the way in which you can get out of this morass. I expect that next year at least there will be a better response to our demands if we carry this cut this year and in that expectation I ask all my brothers here to vote for the cut I am moving.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Cut motion moved.

"That the demand under the head 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to support the motion so ably moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Aney. My Honourable friend has detailed at considerable length his arguments, his point of view and the reasons by which he supports this motion; so I will not traverse them over again. I propose to cover a different ground, in a different way. I know, Sir, I lack the moderation and sobriety of Mr. Aney, and, when I am on this subject of repression by Government, I must tell you that I feel it impossible to speak either with moderation or with restraint. (Laughter.) I find my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Craik, uttering something which I cannot catch, probably he means that that is just what is expected. But, Sir, do Government really realise the volume and intensity of public feeling in this country over the repressive policy, which they have systematically pursued all these years throughout this continent of India in general and in Bengal in particular? I am sure, the blood of any honest Indian will boil in indignation over this policy of wholesale demoralisation of the people. I will try, however, to avoid using strong language. What are the criteria . . . (Interruption.) I could not follow the Honourable the Law Member. What did he say?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: The blood is always boiling.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Sir, if their blood has gone down to such a temperature that it cannot be raised, and I know there are Honourable Members on that side whose temperature has so much fallen that it cannot be raised even by powerful stimuli, if their temperature has gone down to that freezing point, we still maintain normal.

Now, about the policy that the British Government are pursuing in this country. From our early boyhood, we have been taught to value four things, being bred on English literature, English history and English constitutional law. These are the four great things,—freedom of association, freedom of speech, including the liberty of the press, freedom of movement and freedom of thought. Of course, in no civilised country freedom of thought has been banned. I will show how this freedom of thought also has been banned in this country. It is no use going into what will be called debatable questions, as to whether there has actually

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra.]

been a policy of repression going on. I know there will be differences of opinion. Some friends on that side, particularly I believe my Honourable friend, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, and my Honourable friend, Mr. Sarma, will at once jump up. Sir, I will take specific instances, I will place instances which cannot be or have not been disputed or denied. Let us take the question of the freedom of movement. My Honourable friend, Mr. Aney, telling a lot about it,—about what happened with some people in distant provinces, I will come nearer home. Sir, yesterday, I narrated the case of my Honourable friend, Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, and how he, in his own constituency, was treated. Let me now take the case of my friend, Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena, who is also another Honourable Member of this House. Sir, as you know, a committee was formed by the Congress Party to investigate the question of oppression and repression in Bengal, and my Honourable friend, Mr. Saksena, as the Secretary of the Committee, was asked to go to Bengal and gather the facts. My Honourable friend went to Bengal to visit certain districts. Now, it cannot be said that Mr. Saksena had any object of addressing any political meetings or carrying on any political propaganda. Neither is it contended that Mr. Saksena has any record of terroristic activities behind him or any inclination towards terroristic activities, but what did we find? As soon as my Honourable friend, Mr. Saksena, reached Comilla, he was at once served with an order purporting to come from the District Magistrate saying that he was to leave the district of Comilla within 24 hours. Sir, is it to be seriously argued that Mr. Saksena is such a dangerous man, such a pestilential creature that his presence, even for a few hours, would have polluted the entire atmosphere to such an extent that the entire administration of the country would have collapsed? Sir, that was what we found in the case of my Honourable friend, Mr. Saksena, last summer. When we used to talk of the repressive policy which is being pursued with such intensity in the province of Bengal, I know there were a few friends who really did not believe that such things could actually take place under a civilised Government in a province like Bengal. Sir, I believe, my friend, Mr. Saksena, when he came back, came back a sadder and wiser man, and he saw things with his own eyes, how Bengalis are being subjected to a process of slow political death

Mr. R. S. Sarma (Nominated Non-Official): Without inquiry, he came to that conclusion?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: How could he make any inquiries? It is your bosses who stood in his way. But, was not this one executive fiat enough to reveal to him the realities of the situation?

Now, turn to another great man, the Rev. Ottama of Burma. Sir, the Rev. Ottama had been to our district. Now, everybody knows that he has no personal or political axe to grind and he, as the President of the All-India Hindu Mahasabha, wanted merely to address certain meetings on religion and on the cultural unity between Hinduism and Buddhism, and other social matters. I had also the privilege of addressing meetings with him and the meetings were purely for the discussion of religious or social matters. In some districts, the matter went on quite well, but in some districts in the Province of Bengal, particularly in Jessore, the hot-headed District Magistrate and his deputies at once

served a notice on him that he should leave the district and that he was not permitted to make any speech. Later on, he went to Barisal, and I happened to be there on professional business at the time, but I was told that, as soon as he landed in the district town of Barisal, a gentleman came and said: "Here is an order from the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police asking you to leave Barisal and asking you not to make any speech at all". Sir, the Rev. Ottama, who is a Buddhist monk, was going to preach nothing but religion

An Honourable Member: He did not preach religion

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi (Dacca cum Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural): He was speaking on terrorism, communalism, and so on

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Sir, he did preach religion. Sir, this is the kind of freedom of movement we have got in this country. I only give a few instances which cannot be challenged. I am not going to quote numerous instances which occur every day in our experience. Daily, the executives are piling repressive measure after repressive measure, until they have wiped out the last vestige of liberty which we happened to possess in this land, and they have reduced us to this helpless position that the most elementary right of citizenship, the least modicum of individual liberty that we possessed is all made to depend now on the fickle breath of executive favour! The press is gagged, public voice stifled and political life strangled. Sir, this state of affairs is absolutely intolerable. Sir, I am one of those who never believe in eleemosynary politics, I do not believe that, if I can get a chit from the Honourable the Home Member, everything will be set right in Bengal. I believe that if we cannot succeed in changing the policy of the Government by making appeals, we will give this matter an exposure to an extent that if they have any sense of self-respect, any sense of honour or prestige still left in them, they will try to correct themselves. That is the utmost we can do. Beyond this, we are powerless at present.

Take the question of freedom of speech; there have been so many penal laws on the Statute-book, that, practically, we cannot open our lips, unless it be a chat on the value of potatoes or market commodities. Even religious meetings are banned under the pretext that they will create communal trouble. That is going on everywhere. Take the question of freedom of association. We had already a crop of repressive laws, and, to crown them all, in the last Simla Session, we had the Criminal Law Amendment Act certified by the Viceroy in spite of the clear verdict of the House to the contrary. According to the Government's own admission, the Civil Disobedience Movement is in a state of suspended animation or in abeyance, call it whatever you like. The Civil Disobedience Movement is not there; the terroristic activities, even according to the Honourable the Home Member, are on the wane. Even today, in answer to certain questions, the Honourable Member himself admitted that the situation has much improved. May I ask why, in spite of these things, after the lapse of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, it has been placed permanently on the Statute-book by certification? By one single stroke of the pen, every vestige of right has been wiped out. We now stand in this position that for any little thing that we want to do, we have to depend on the favour of the executive. I raise my emphatic protest against this.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

[11TH MARCH 1936.]

[Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra.]

I will now turn to another thing. I will turn to the question of detenus, people detained without trial for a number of years in my province. I understand my Honourable friend, Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena, has got a Resolution on the subject which will come up for discussion very soon, and, therefore, I will defer my detailed observations to that occasion.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The discussion has begun on that Resolution.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: If it has begun, I will not prolong it. I believe, there are at the present moment as many as 2,000 detenus, some of the best flowers of the youth of Bengal silently languishing for years, in the different detention camps and jails in Bengal. Sir, I believe there has not been any outbreak of terroristic activities during the last three years. Why then are they not released? How long are their agonies to be prolonged?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The Honourable Member has exceeded his time limit.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I would ask your indulgence for a few minutes more, because, after all, this question of repressive policy is one which solely concerns my province of Bengal. I can give you this assurance that nobody else from Bengal, belonging to my Party, will take part in the debate. There are only five minutes more left to adjourn the House, and I shall finish by that time. Besides these detenus in jails, there is a class of prisoners, they are living like prisoners, who may be called home internees. They are interned at particular places at the houses of their relations. No allowance of any kind is granted to them. There is another class of detenus, I mean externees who are under the orders of externment from their native place, and the result is that they also do not get any allowance. They have to hang about constantly dogged by the police. Besides, there are a number of women detenus who have been detained for four years and more, and they have not been brought up for trial by Government. May I ask the Government whether they apprehend that if these ladies are released, Government would collapse or that the Heavens would fall over their heads?

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

I will now come to the question of indirect repression by elaborate espionage—the hounding by the C. I. D. and the police—which has made the ordinary existence miserable

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already spoken for 15 minutes.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I would ask your indulgence for a few minutes more. I have got so many things to narrate, because my Province is the most affected by these repressive laws.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): There may be other Members desiring to speak. The Chair cannot allow the Honourable Member any more time.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: In that case, I will conclude by saying that this policy of repression, which the Government have pursued, will not pay them in the long run. They have alienated every section of public opinion in the country. I can understand the position of the Honourable the Home Member. But, I am afraid, he is kept absolutely in the dark about all that is taking place in Bengal in connection with the detenus. I notice that he is supplied with very meagre data

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must now conclude.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Therefore, I would appeal to every section of this House, at least to the elected Members of this House, to realise the most miserable plight of my unfortunate province, Bengal, a province which in tears, a province which in distress, appeals to every sister province for sympathy and support, and I hope they will, in sympathetic response, support this motion and give the Government a censure which they richly deserve. (Applause.)

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Mr. President, I have listened to the speech of the Mover of this cut, my Honourable friend, Mr. Aney, with very great care. In his excitement, without giving specific reasons and in absolute ignorance of the facts prevailing in Bengal, he stated many things. I will only take up what he said about Bengal and give him some facts to prove that what he and what the Honourable Member, who followed him, said about Bengal is not correct. Sir, the first point that the Honourable the Mover of this cut motion made out was that, last year, when he moved this motion, he wanted the release of the civil disobedience prisoners. The Honourable the Home Member said that they have been released. So they have got no grievance whatsoever on the first point.

Then, his second point was the repeal of the repressive laws. No sane person, who wants law and order to be the first thing which a Government should administer would suggest the repeal of the repressive laws. On the top of that, only the other day, this House has made it abundantly clear by its vote that it does not want the repeal of the repressive laws. He said what a serious thing it was to detain the detenus of Bengal without giving them a trial purely on suspicion without nothing on record to show that they should be so detained, and that for a number of years. First of all, as regards the detenus in Bengal, I can give the House my own experience

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Your own experience as a detenu?

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: My experience about these detenus and the way they are treated by the Government of Bengal. Sir, during the last three years, we have seen—I have seen—the Government of Bengal did

[Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi.]

show me the records of certain detenus where I had my own suspicion or where the parties came to me to approach the Government to bring the matter of their sons, or their brothers, or their nephews to the notice of the Government. I can give you a number of cases which were brought to the notice of the Government of Bengal. The special officer who deals with the cases of these detenus is Mr. S. N. Roy, and I can tell this House that the parents of the detenus, the friends of the detenus in Bengal are in every case fully satisfied with the way in which their cases are being dealt with. (*Cries of "No, no" and "Question".*)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can continue his speech tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 12th March, 1936.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 12th March, 1936.

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.

COMMUTATION OF PENSIONS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

1140. ***Mr. Suryya Kumar Som:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the amounts which were granted as commutation of pensions to Government officers since 1930, up to December, 1935, by the India Government?

(b) On what principle this commutation is granted? Is it based on the principle of profit and loss or for helping the officers in their distress?

(c) Are Government aware that these sums are spent either to increase the bank balance of the retired officers, or in building palatial buildings in towns leaving their village residences?

(d) Is not the reconstruction of villages the present policy of Government, and have they not granted a crore of rupees for improving the conditions of villages? If so, have they considered how this policy is affected by the grant of commutations and the way in which such amounts are spent?

(e) In these days of stringency in the Government Exchequer, have Government considered the question of withholding the grant of huge sums in cash in granting commutation except in the case of proved necessity of the pension-holders?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to his starred question No. 407 on the 13th February, 1936.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) and (e). These are matters of opinion.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Majtra: May I know what is the present policy of Government in the matter of commutation of pensions?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: To preserve the existing rules.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the answer to part (e) of the question?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Part (e) also raises questions which are matters of opinion. We have considered the questions raised therein, but we cannot do anything.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: When did they consider it last?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: When the first question was put on the paper.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government considered that there will be no gain to the exchequer by accepting the suggestion contained in part (e) of the question, or have they come to the conclusion that the gain which is likely to accrue is not worth accepting it?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Speaking offhand, I think that commuting pensions, when interest rates are rather low, is probably profitable at the moment.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government, therefore, come to the conclusion on a consideration, from the financial point of view, of all the circumstances that the present system is better for the Government exchequer, than the system of not commuting pensions at all?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: They have considered that the present rules are the best on the whole.

SCALES OF PAY OF THE GOVERNMENT OFFICERS IN SUPERIOR AND INFERIOR SERVICES.

1141. ***Mr. Surya Kumar Som:** (a) Are Government aware of the impression that the scales of pay of the Government officers in superior and inferior services are too high for India, the poorest country in the world?

(b) Are Government aware that these scales of pay were introduced during the most prosperous period and that the whole world, and particularly India, is now passing through a crisis and there is widespread unemployment in the country?

(c) In view of the above facts, are Government prepared to appoint a Committee to investigate into the scales of pay in vogue at present and to recommend drastic reduction of the present scales consistent with the efficiency of the services? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: As a result of the recommendations of the General Purposes Sub-Committee of the Retrenchment Advisory Committee the scales of pay of future entrants into most of the services under the control of the Governor General in Council have, after very careful consideration, been revised during the last few years and in the majority of cases very appreciable reductions have been made. Revised leave rules considerably less liberal than the old leave rules have also been issued for new entrants. Both the revised rates of pay and the revised leave rules have been drawn up with a view to placing new entrants to Government service on as economic a basis as possible, and all new entrants since the 15th July, 1931, to services under the Governor General in Council are now governed by these new rules. In view of the action as mentioned above, which has only been recently taken by Government, it is not considered necessary that another committee should be appointed as suggested by the Honourable Member.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if the scales of pay have been revised after 1931?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I cannot say the exact date when the revision took place, but I have said that all new entrants since the 15th July, 1931, are now governed by these new rules.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: The Honourable Member said that the scales of pay have been revised within the last few years. I am, therefore, asking if they have again been revised after 1931.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I think the revision did take place since 1931, but new entrants since the 15th July, 1931, will all come under the new rules.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: -Are these rules now in force?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government made any calculation of the financial benefit to Government, by giving effect fully to all these revised scales of pay?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I am actually in the process of considering it at the present moment. To do it accurately, of course, would involve an enormous amount of work and probably would not be worth while, but I am preparing at the moment an approximate estimate of actual savings over a period of years, of course, for railways and everybody else.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: When Government have completed this enquiry, will they be good enough to place the results of the enquiry on the table of the House, and also approximately the time when they expect to obtain the full effect of these revised scales of pay?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: If the enquiry produces any worthwhile results, I will certainly place them on the table.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government make every effort to produce worthwhile results?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: It is setting off the value of the information against the amount of time and labour spent in obtaining it. That will be the criterion in pressing the enquiry, and it won't be undertaken unless the results are worth while.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to part (e) of the question, have Government considered, or will they consider, the question of revising the scales of pay even for existing Government servants, in view of the fall in prices on which alone some of these scales of pay were based?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, I do not think that can be done. You cannot revise the scales of pay of existing Government servants without making a breach of contract.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I ask Government whether they have taken legal opinion on the question whether they cannot take steps to revise the scales of pay of even the existing Government servants, and are they satisfied that they cannot do it at all under any circumstances?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have no doubt that that was considered at the time, but it is not within my personal knowledge.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government appeal to their own servants, in view of the state of finances, to agree to a reduction in their salaries proportionate to the fall in prices, on the ground that some of the salaries were raised to their higher scale, on account of the rise in prices?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Honourable Member wants to know if Government propose to appeal to Government servants?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Ask for their co-operation.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No such thing is under contemplation.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the promises made by the Secretary of State, is the revision of the scales of pay of the Indian Civil Service and other Imperial Service Officers under consideration?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, I have answered several questions on that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that the Federation is far off, will they consider the question immediately?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The decision rests with the Secretary of State, who is already in possession of the views of the Government of India.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the views of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That is too long a matter to be stated in reply to a supplementary question.

EVICTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BURMA OF NATTUKOTTAI CHETTIARS FROM THEIR LANDS IN MINBU DISTRICT OF UPPER BURMA.

1142. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Have Government received any representation from the South Indian Chamber of Commerce, Madras, regarding the proposed eviction by the Government of Burma of Nattukottai Chettiars from their lands in Minbu district of Upper Burma?

(b) Are Government aware that these Chettiars of Madras were obliged to take these lands in settlement of their just dues from their debtors or in execution of court decrees obtained by the said Chettiars against the debtors?

(c) Are Government aware that by such eviction the Chettiars would be put to a loss of more than two crores of rupees?

(d) Are Government prepared to direct the Government of Burma to take prompt and immediate steps to stop the expropriatory measures and proceedings and to secure peaceful enjoyment to the Chettiars of their lawful possession of lands in Upper Burma?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b)–(d). Government have no information beyond what is contained in the memorial but have made enquiries from the Government of Burma. On receipt of the Local Government's reply the question whether any action by the Government of India is desirable or feasible will be considered.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In the meanwhile, will Government request the Government of Burma to suspend the forfeiture of these lands?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The parties concerned have already been given time till 1937.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the separation of Burma and the fears entertained among the Nattukottai Chettiar community in particular, will Government see that more time is allowed to them?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: My Honourable friend has made a suggestion. I have already told him that on receipt of the Local Government's reply the question whether any action by the Government of India is desirable or feasible will be considered.

TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AS A SEPARATE CLASS.

1143. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they have considered, or are considering, the question of treating Political Prisoners as a separate class?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I have given to parts (b) and (c) of his starred question No. 1104.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In view of the advent of what is called Provincial Autonomy, will Government be prepared to reconsider this question?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I do not think that the introduction of Provincial Autonomy is a particularly relevant consideration to this question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do Government realise that the political prisoners of today will be the Ministers of tomorrow, and the Ministers of tomorrow will be the political prisoners of day after tomorrow?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That involves a very considerable hypothesis. (Laughter.)

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether the Government of India are aware that, if a separate class of political prisoners is created, the condition of ordinary prisoners may not receive the same attention from the public as it does today? (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That, again, is a hypothetical question.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Is the Honourable Member satisfied with the attention which is given to the ordinary prisoners today?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Even that much attention will not be given.

ESTABLISHMENT OF PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY.

1144. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his attention has been drawn to the statement of the Secretary of State for India, published in the *Hindustan Times* of the 15th February, 1936, that he saw no reason why the Government should not be in a position to ask the Parliament to consider the establishment of Provincial autonomy in the spring of 1937;
- (b) whether this statement was made on any information supplied or after any consultation with the Government of India;
- (c) whether Government have been consulted either by the Secretary of State or by the Local Governments about the dates of election to the Provincial Legislatures under the Government of India Act, 1935;
- (d) whether Government are considering the holding of elections on one day simultaneously or on different dates in different provinces; if so, what the tentative programme is;
- (e) whether Government have come to tentative conclusions on these matters at all;
- (f) whether Government are aware that great public inconvenience will be caused to the voters and the candidates if election be not held either at the end or after April 1937;
- (g) whether Government are aware that the months of January and February are highly inconvenient in several parts of the country, as voters will be busy with harvest operations, and so cannot be persuaded to come to the polling booths; and
- (h) whether Government are prepared to consider the public opinion before they come to any conclusion on this matter?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) Yes.

(b) The Secretary of State's statement was not made after consultation with the Government of India or after the supply of *ad hoc* information, but the Secretary of State is of course kept continuously informed of the general progress of preparatory work here and in the provinces.

(c) There has been no formal consultation of this nature with either the Secretary of State or the Local Governments, but the Reforms Offices here and in the provinces are in close informal touch.

(d) and (e). No decisions have been taken, but the present intention is to leave Local Governments, in view of their varying circumstances and the fact that elections to a Provincial Legislature are a provincial subject, liberty to fix the dates of their elections.

(f) Government are at present not so advised.

(g) and (h). It will be in the first instance for the Local Governments to consider public opinion and the convenience of electors.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I ask this question with great trepidation, in view of the statement about public opinion: may I ask my Honourable friend, the Law Member, whether the Government of India propose to give any instructions, formally or informally, to Local Governments on the question of their duty to consider public opinion, in a matter which affects millions of voters?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I answer with great trepidation. (Laughter), Sir, and my answer is that we do not propose to do anything until we see the opinions of the Local Governments. It is quite possible we shall find in the opinions that this identical matter has been considered by them.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Namely, public opinion?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Yes.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to clause (f), if I did not mishear my Honourable friend, I think he said that they are not at present so advised. May I know what is the advice in the possession of the Government with regard to the most convenient date for these elections?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I think I have already answered that: what dates are convenient, in the first instance, are left to the Provincial Governments, because it is a provincial subject and the circumstances differ in different provinces. Therefore, we are waiting to see what the Local Governments think about a convenient date in the respective provinces.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am asking about the specific answer to clause (f) of the question: my Honourable friend said that they are not at present so advised. If that is so, may I know the basis on which that answer is given and whether they have any opinions of Local Governments in their possession, to the effect that particular dates will be either convenient or inconvenient?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: If my answer conveyed the idea that the Government of India are of opinion that some other date is convenient and not what is suggested here, that is not what I intended to convey. At the present moment I have not received the opinions of the different Provincial Governments. We have formed no opinion as to what date is convenient in a particular province.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: After the receipt of opinions from the various Local Governments, will Government be good enough to consult this House, so as to find out what is the most convenient date for these elections?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I do not know at what time the opinions will be received or whether it will be possible to consult this House. I am unable to give any undertaking at the present moment, but I shall certainly bear that in mind and find out if that is possible.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government expedite their decision in this matter, and announce these dates as early as possible, in order to enable organised parties to start their work with some definite date in front of them?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Yes.

Dr. Khan Sahib: Will Government be pleased to state whether, in the coming elections, they are going to act as a party against the Congress or they are going to act just like umpires?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not arise.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: That does not arise, and I repudiate the insinuation which is contained in the question.

Dr. Khan Sahib: May I put another question, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If it is of a different character.

Dr. Khan Sahib: It is based on this: it is as regards the elections.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Only as regards the date of the elections.

Dr. Khan Sahib: Very well, Sir: then I do not put any question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In expecting the Local Government to consult the local public opinion regarding the date of the elections, do Government expect Local Governments to take in consultation the Congress Party also?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I believe that the Local Governments are quite competent to judge what public opinion has got to be consulted.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware of the fact that the Madras Government propose to extend the life of the present Legislative Council till March next, and, in doing so, they have not taken the Congress in consultation at all?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: The extension of the life of the Madras Legislative Council has nothing to do with question No. 1144.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. A. S. BOKHARI AS DIRECTOR OF BROADCASTING, DELHI.

1145. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** (a) What are the qualifications of Mr. A. S. Bokhari which weighed with Government in appointing him as Director of Broadcasting, Delhi? What is his present salary in Government College, Lahore and what will be his salary as Director, Broadcasting?

(b) Was the post advertised in all the newspapers in India? If so, how many candidates applied for the post? Was the Public Services Commission consulted in making the appointment?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Mr. A. S. Bokhari is a member of the Punjab Educational Service, Class I. His present salary is Rs. 680

per mensem, and he receives an allowance of Rs. 200 per mensem for his work on the Text Book Committee. He is being offered at Delhi his own pay *plus* special pay of Rs. 100 per mensem *plus* compensatory allowance of Rs. 100 per mensem so that his total emoluments would be the same at Delhi as in the Punjab.

(b) No.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: May I know what the salary of the previous incumbent of this post was?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I am afraid I should require notice of that question. The present incumbent of the post holds the permanent post of Director of Broadcasting, Bombay.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar: May I know if a brother of this gentleman, Mr. Bokhari, is already a Deputy Director in the Department?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair cannot allow that question; it does not arise out of this: and such questions have been disallowed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know the reasons why the post was not advertised, and why the Public Service Commission was not consulted in making this appointment? The single answer to all these is "No".

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: This was a question of a transfer of an officer from one Government Department to another; and, in such circumstances, there is no necessity to advertise the post or consult the Public Service Commission.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is it the rule of the Government of India that, when an officer is transferred to another Department, there is no need for advertising or inviting applications? Is that the rule of the Government of India?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That is what the Honourable Member has said.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That is the position.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if it is the idea of Government to train this gentleman to take the place of the non-Indian who is now Director of Broadcasting here?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No; not necessarily; doubtless when, in due course, the post of Controller of Broadcasting becomes vacant, his record will be duly considered. It is impossible for the Government to give any undertaking at this stage.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is anybody specially trained to take the place of the Director of Broadcasting who has been brought from England, after he is sent away?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir. There are at present three Broadcasting Stations in India, one at Delhi, one in Bombay, and one in Calcutta. Doubtless, before Mr. Fielden's term of office expires, there will be others the Directors of which will gain the necessary experience to enable a selection to be made of an officer to take his place when the time comes. The experience which they are gaining at present is all training.

1146. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** I do not wish to ask this question in view of the answer given to question No. 1142.

HIGH TENSILE STEEL REQUIRED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOWRAH BRIDGE.

1147 ***Pandit Nilakantha Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether in the proposed construction of the Howrah Bridge the condition is that high tensile steel should be used in it?

(b) Is it a fact that Dorman Long & Co., (England) has a patent for high tensile steel?

(c) Is it a fact that this Dorman Long & Company applied for patents in this country for high tensile steel, setting up a branch in India for the purpose under the name of Dorman Long & Co. (India), Ltd.?

(d) Is it a fact that the Tata Iron & Steel Company opposed this application in court, contending that in India the patent granted would be inequitable, because the Tata Iron & Steel Works can themselves manufacture the same steel, i.e., high tensile steel?

(e) Is it a fact that on this contention, no patent was granted in India to Dorman Long & Company for high tensile steel?

(f) Is it a fact that the Chairman of the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta intends giving the Howrah Bridge contract to a German firm?

(g) If so, are Government aware that the German firm in question has already entered into an agreement with Dorman Long & Company, for the supply of high tensile steel required for the Howrah Bridge?

(h) Is it a fact that the contract is going to be given to the German firm?

(i) Are Government aware that this steel alone will cost about Rs. 2 crores in the construction of Howrah Bridge?

(j) Have Government considered the possibility of the Tata Iron and Steel Company supplying all this high tensile steel, if the order is placed in India?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government have no information.

(b) Government are aware of one British patent held by Messrs. Dorman Long and Company, Ltd., for an invention relating to alloy steel for structural purposes. They may or may not have others.

(c) They recently applied for an Indian patent for an invention of this character. Government have no information regarding the latter part of the question.

(d) and (e). The application for the patent was opposed by Mr. J. C. Mahindra of the Tata Iron and Steel Company before the Controller of Patents and Designs *inter alia* on the ground that the invention had already been publicly used and made known in British India and was anticipated by a prior British patent specification. A patent was not granted.

(f), (g), (h) and (i). Government have no information.

(j) No. The matter lies entirely within the competence of the Howrah Bridge Commissioners and the Government of Bengal.

APPLICATION FROM THE TRAIN LIGHTING STAFF OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY FOR THE GRANT OF THE BENEFITS OF PROVIDENT FUND.

1148. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Is it a fact that the Train Lighting Staff of the North Western Railway have been applying for the grant of the benefits of Provident Fund for the last nine or ten years?

(b) Is it a fact that every time an application is submitted by the said staff, the reply given is that the matter is under consideration?

(c) If the replies to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please state how long more will it take to arrive at a final decision?

(d) Is it a fact that the staff attached to all other sections, e.g., Power House, Shade and Workshop enjoy the benefits of Provident Fund?

(e) If the reply to part (d) be in the affirmative, will Government please state the reason for this differential treatment so far as the Train Lighting Staff is concerned?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government are informed that the first memorial from the Carriage and Wagon inferior staff was received by the North Western Railway in 1928.

(b) and (c). Government had under consideration that question and find that the extension of benefits of Provident Fund to the inferior staff who are not entitled to it under the present rules will involve a recurring expenditure of over a quarter of a crore of rupees per annum on the State-managed Railways alone and the Government have postponed consideration of this matter on financial grounds.

(d) Yes. In this connection I would refer the Honourable Member to rule 6 (d) of the State Railway Provident Fund Rules, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(e) The staff classified as inferior (menial) are not allowed to subscribe to State Railway Provident Fund under the Rules. Categories of staff referred to in part (d) are treated as workshop staff and not as inferior servants and are, therefore, entitled to the benefits of Provident Fund.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are all the train lighting staff invariably classified as inferior staff?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes, I have said so.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Do Government propose to revise the provident fund rules relating to the higher paid staff with a view to reducing the expenditure?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That does not arise out of this question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I put questions Nos. 1149—53, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member got any authority?

(No reply.)

GRANT OF EXTENSION OF SERVICE TO THE HIGH OFFICERS AFTER THEIR PERIOD OF RETIREMENT IN THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT.

1149. *Seth Govind Das: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) their policy with regard to the grant of extension of service to the high officers after their period of retirement in the Income-tax Department;
- (b) whether they have extended the services of the present Income-tax Commissioner of Bihar and Orissa, even after his completing the age-limit of 55 years;
- (c) for how long his services were so extended;
- (d) the special reasons for so extending his services, even after the completion of his age-limit;
- (e) whether they are aware that he is very unpopular in the province;
- (f) whether they are aware that they are blocking the chances of the prospective Commissioners;
- (g) whether they propose to make the present Commissioner retire after the completion of this one year extended to him after his age-limit; or
- (h) whether they propose to extend a further service after the expiry of this one year already extended;
- (i) their reasons for further extending his services, if they desire to do so;
- (j) whether they are aware of the resentment expressed by the public for the extension of this officer's services after the expiry of his age-limit;
- (k) whether they propose to see that he retires?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) to (k). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave to Sardar Mangal Singh's question No. 819 on the 25th February, 1936.

ASSESSMENTS MADE BY THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENTS OF BENGAL AND BIHAR AND ORISSA, ADOPTING THE FLAT RATES OF PROFITS.

1150. *Seth Govind Das: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether assessments have been made by the Income-tax Departments of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, adopting the flat rates of profits; and

- (b) the number of cases in which such assessments were made in Bengal and Bihar and Orissa (separately) during the years 1933-34 and 1934-35?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) Yes.

- (b) The information could not be obtained without the expenditure of an amount of time and trouble which would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

PUBLICATION OF DAILY STATISTICAL ACCOUNT OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS BY THE CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES OF CALCUTTA, MADRAS AND RANGOON.

1151. *Seth Govind Das: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a daily statistical account of exports and imports is being published by the Customs authorities of Calcutta, Madras and Rangoon Ports;
- (b) whether this publication is merely intended for the information and benefit of the mercantile public in particular and the general public in general;
- (c) whether such a statistical account is being published and circulated to the subscribers by the Bombay and Karachi authorities also;
- (d) if the answer to part (c) be in the negative, who does the publishing and circulating for the mercantile public;
- (e) the total number of subscribers for the Calcutta, Madras and Rangoon Trade return publications;
- (f) whether the enterprise of publishing and circulating to the subscribers by the Calcutta, Madras and Rangoon Customs authorities has proved self sufficient;
- (g) the reason for supplying such information;
- (h) the position with regard to the publishing and circulating trade returns at the Bombay and Karachi Ports;
- (i) whether they have allowed private and commercial bodies to publish and circulate the statistics;
- (j) since when private enterprise has taken up this work;
- (k) the difficulties for the Customs authorities in not doing this work under their administration;
- (l) whether they have received any complaints, against the system and the results of this work being conducted by the Customs authorities in Calcutta, Madras and Rangoon;
- (m) whether they are aware that the present concerns at Bombay and Karachi are carrying on the publication of the trade returns at a profit or at a loss; and
- (n) if the present concern is doing it at a profit, why they cannot do it themselves?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a), (c), (d), (f), (h), (i), (k) and (n). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to question No. 187, asked by Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji on the 6th of September, 1935.

(b) and (g). The lists are published mainly for the benefit of the local commercial community.

(e) Approximately 100 at Calcutta, 70 at Madras and 70 at Rangoon.

(j) The Bombay Chamber of Commerce has done this work for over eighty years and the Karachi Chamber of Commerce for over forty years.

(l) No.

(m) Government have no information

PUBLICATION OF THE "SEA-BORNE TRADE AND NAVIGATION ACCOUNTS".

1152. *Seth Govind Das: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the approximate total cost of getting up the Government "Sea-borne Trade and Navigation Accounts" per year;
- (b) the total revenue derived by the Department in the way of sales of that publication per year;
- (c) the total loss thereto;
- (d) whether they have examined and found out the deficiencies in the returns supplied by the private concerns at Bombay and Karachi in comparison to those supplied by the Customs authorities at Madras, Calcutta and Rangoon;
- (e) the policy of Government for having entrusted so important a function to a certain section of the mercantile community, involving the interest of the entire mercantile community of the country;
- (f) whether they received representations from mercantile individuals or institutions, protesting against the present system of the Bombay and Karachi publications of trade returns got up by private concerns, pointing out their inefficiency and high price of subscription, etc.;
- (g) whether they are aware that the present concerns, to whose charge the publication of the statistics is entrusted, have been exploiting the non-members of those organisations by charging a higher price for the benefit of their members who are supplied with the returns at half the price;
- (h) whether they are aware that the present trade returns published from Bombay do not contain returns of many articles, some published without their values, dimensions, contents of each package and such other details of essential particulars; and
- (i) whether they are aware that a certain section of the mercantile public in this country find themselves at a great disadvantage for the incomplete information supplied by these Bombay and Karachi concerns?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a), (b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) No.

(e) I have nothing to add to what I stated in my reply to the immediately preceding question.

(f), (h) and (i). Government have received representations to this effect.

(g) I lay on the table a statement showing the prices of the returns issued by the Bombay and Karachi Chambers of Commerce.

List of statistical returns with the annual subscriptions payable for each return.

	Members.	Non-members.
	Rs.	Rs.
<i>Bombay Chamber of Commerce—</i>		
Daily Trade Return (Exports and Imports)	160	320
Daily arrivals of cotton, wheat, seeds, etc., by rail and sea	192	360
Import Manifests	200	325
Export Manifests	200	325
Current quotations, weekly	Free	40
Detailed monthly return of principal imports from Europe and elsewhere	32	96
Monthly statements showing the exports of cotton, wheat and seeds from India	32	40
Monthly returns showing the stocks and deliveries of piece-goods, yarns, copper, yellow metal sheets and aluminium	24	36
Monthly return showing the clearances of seeds, wheat and sundry articles from Bombay	64	84
Monthly return of imports of piece-goods and yarns into Bombay	30	36
Monthly return of exports of cotton by sea from Bombay	24	36
	(Postage extra in all cases).	
<i>Karachi Chamber of Commerce—</i>		
Monthly statements of imports and exports	80	100
Export manifests issued after clearance of the steamer		
Monthly statements of arrivals by rail		

PUBLICATION OF THE "SEA-BORNE TRADE AND NAVIGATION ACCOUNTS".

*Seth Govind Das: Will Government be pleased to state:

- a) whether they are aware that the concerns at Bombay and Karachi that publish daily returns, also publish weekly and such other returns in which are included such items as are not available in the daily returns;
- b) whether they are aware that in order to have full information, one has to purchase these other returns beside the daily returns at a price of Rs. 350 per annum;
- c) if these concerns cannot provide exhaustive information in their daily returns, why such monopoly has been given at all;
- d) whether they are aware that to subscribe for all these daily, weekly, and other publications of the Bombay concern, for such information as they supply, one has to pay to the amount of Rs. 1,700 per annum;
- e) whether they are aware if those returns, supplied by the Bombay and Karachi concerns, contain such items as (i) imports of sugar by a firm called Messrs. Ralli Brothers, Ltd., (ii) of steel or iron, (iii) of machinery, or of (iv) hosiery;

- (f) whether they are aware that the daily trade returns supplied by the Customs authorities at Calcutta, Madras and Rangoon, while being exhaustive in information, cost only Rs. 100 and Rs. 90, respectively;
- (g) whether they have any control over these private concerns, whom they have entrusted with this work;
- (h) if they hold the power of compelling these concerns to publish exhaustive and elaborate daily returns and reduce the price of the publication, and if so, what are the reasons for their not having exercised their powers, in spite of representations made to intervene in the matter;
- (i) whether in addition to the staff and representatives of the concerns that are entrusted with this work, other commercial individuals or the accredited representatives of any other commercial institutions can have access to the relevant documents pertaining to trade information at the Bombay and Karachi Custom Houses;
- (j) what action they have taken on the representations made to them from time to time complaining against the present unsatisfactory system at Bombay and Karachi with regard to the complicated system of publications, inexhaustive in their character and the high price placed on its availability; and
- (k) if they have not taken any action, their reasons and difficulties therefor?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a), (b), (c), (d), (f), (g), (h), (j) and (k). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji's question No. 187 asked on the 6th of September, 1935, and to the statements laid on the table in connection with that question and in connection with the immediately preceding question.

(e) So far as Government are aware, the returns contain information regarding all imports of importance.

(i) The Custom Houses supply on payment of small fees any special statistical information which may be required.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF TASK WORK PEONS SANCTIONED IN THE LAHORE GENERAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE.

1154. *Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: (a) Is it a fact that out of 39 task work peons sanctioned in the Lahore General Telegraph Office, there is not a single Muslim?

(b) Is it also a fact that the Postmaster General and the Director of Telegraphs Engineering, while inspecting the Lahore General Telegraph Office, remarked that the preponderance of one community should be avoided and Muslim element should be introduced in future vacancies?

(c) Is it also a fact that in spite of these orders, all vacancies, officiating and permanent, have since been given to non-Muslims and that there is not a single Muslim Task Work Peon employed in Lahore?

(d) If the facts are as stated above, will Government state what action they propose to take in the matter against the officials who did not promptly carry out the Government orders?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes, except that the sanctioned number of task work peons is 36 and not 39.

(b) No such remarks by the Postmaster-General are traceable. As regards the remarks of the Director of Telegraphs the facts as stated by the Honourable Member are substantially correct.

(c) The fact is not as stated by the Honourable Member. I may add for the Honourable Member's information that vacancies in the cadre of task work peons are filled by the promotion of suitably qualified boy peons and other inferior servants and outsiders are taken only when suitably qualified boy peons or other inferior servants are not available.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (c).

DELAY IN THE CIRCULATION OF RESOLUTION RE COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN SERVICES BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

1155. *Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: (a) Is it a fact that Government Resolution regarding communal representation in services was announced on 4th July, 1934, and that this Resolution was circulated by the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, after about a year on 13th June, 1935?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether this delay to give effect to Government orders has damaged the interests of the Muslim community and if so, to what extent?

(c) Are Government prepared to compensate the Muslim community for the loss sustained by them on account of this delay, and if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The facts as stated by the Honourable Member are correct except that the Resolution was not merely circulated by the Director General in June, 1935, but was accompanied by detailed instructions as to the manner in which it was to be carried out.

(b) So far as the year 1934 is concerned, the reply is in the negative. Muslims have secured 30.97 per cent. of vacancies i.e., more than the 25 per cent. reserved by the Government orders referred to by the Honourable Member, as he can see from Appendix XVII of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department Annual Report for the year 1934-35, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. As regards the period from the 1st January to the 13th June, 1935, Government have at present no precise information but they have no reason to suppose that the interests of the Muslim community have been deleteriously affected by the delay in the circulation of the orders.

(c) Does not arise.

POSTAL OFFICIALS PUNISHED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POST OFFICES, SIALKOT DIVISION.

1156. *Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: Will Government be pleased to place on the table a list of the officials, including extra departmental sub-postmasters punished by the officiating Superintendent of Post Offices, Sialkot Division, for a short period from 10th December, 1934, to 31st May, 1935? How many of them were Muslims and how many non-Muslims?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: A statement giving the information required by the Honourable Member is placed on the table of the House.

List of Officials punished by the officiating Superintendent of Post Offices, Sialkot Division, during the period 10th December, 1934 to 31st May, 1935.

No.	Designation.	Community.
1	Clerk, Badomali	Muslim.
2	Mail Overseer, Sialkot	"
3	Sub-Postmaster, Samba	"
4	Sub-Postmaster, Chawinda	"
5	Sub-Postmaster, Batote	"
6	Extra Departmental Sub-Postmaster, Uberoi Post Office	"
7	Extra Departmental Sub-Postmaster, Regimental Bazar Post Office	"

DUTY HOURS OF THE BOY PEONS, MEERUT COMBINED POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS OFFICE.

1157. ***Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon:** Is it a fact that the Postmaster, Meerut, ordered that the duty hours of the Boy Peons, Meerut Combined Office, be fixed for eight hours in contravention to Rule 62 of Volume 9th, of the Posts and Telegraphs in April, 1934?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I regret the information required by the Honourable Member is not available, but I may state that Rule 62 of Volume IX of the Posts and Telegraphs Manual applies only to the case of posts of boy peons who are employed in departmental telegraph offices.

ABOLITION OF THE SURCHARGE ON SALT.

1158. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Is it a fact that to make up the deficit budget in 1930, a surcharge of five annas per maund was levied on salt over and above the duty of one rupee four annas?

(b) Is it a fact that a ten per cent. cut was imposed on the salaries of Government servants?

(c) Is it not a fact that when there was a favourable budget in 1933-34 and 1934-35, the salary cut was fully restored?

(d) What are the reasons for not abolishing the surcharge of five annas per maund, which was a distress measure, simultaneously with the restoration of salary cuts?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Half the cut was restored in 1933-34 and the other half in 1935-36.

(d) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to paragraphs 69 to 71 of Sir George Schuster's speech introducing the budget for 1933-34 and paragraphs 14 and 38 of my last year's budget speech.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Does the Honourable Member accept Sir George Schuster's views on all matters?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: If you will refer to the two quotations I have mentioned, you will see the extent to which there is continuity of policy.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the fact that it is all a matter which affects the poorest people of the country, will Government consider the advisability of removing the surcharges even this year?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I have already laid my proposals before the House for this year. The Honourable Member knows the answer to that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When will it be possible for the Government of India to remove the surcharge on salt?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I am not a prophet.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of giving satisfaction to the widespread public opinion in this country in favour of the removal of the surcharge on salt at the earliest possible moment?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Earliest possible moment is rather a vague phrase. All relevant considerations will be taken into account in preparing the next budget.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government recognise the priority of claim on the removal of the surcharge on salt, over the many other claims which are receiving their consideration?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No, Sir; I am unwilling to admit any priorities beyond those which have already been specifically accepted by Government.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do Government recognise that this surcharge falls very heavily on the poorest of this country?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is, if I may say so, a matter of argument.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the budget for last year as well as for this year was prepared by the Honourable the Finance Member in order to give satisfaction to the public opinion prevailing among the income-tax payers by the removal of their surcharge, do Government consider the advisability of giving satisfaction, first of all, to the payers of this salt tax surcharge when the next budget is prepared?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: My efforts to give satisfaction have not met with much success even from the income-tax payers.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Therefore, Government are getting angry and refuse to give satisfaction to anybody?

CANCELLATION OF CONCESSIONS GRANTED UNDER THE IRWIN-GANDHI PACT IN THE AREA COMPRISING THE SALT SWAMPS OF VEDARANYAM IN THE TANJORE DISTRICT OF THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

1159. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Were concessions granted under the Irwin-Gandhi Pact cancelled in the area comprising the salt swamps of Vedaranyam in the Tanjore District of the Madras Presidency?

(b) What are the reasons for the cancellation?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) Yes.

(b) Abuse of the concession.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are Government continuing any concessions in the Madras Presidency which were granted under the Irwin-Gandhi Pact?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I believe there are still parts of the Presidency where the concessions are still in force.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know the names of those places?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The answer to that will be given in reply to question No. 1167 which will be reached shortly.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know if these concessions have been removed in the Bombay Presidency also?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: In certain parts of the Bombay Presidency, yes.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Is depriving the whole people of that privilege the only way of remedying the evil abuses of the concession by a few people?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to what I said in my speech on the Indian Finance Bill at page 3319 of the Official Report of the Legislative Assembly Debates for Monday, the 1st of April, 1935.

Mr. Sami Vencatachelam Chetty: Has the cancellation of salt concessions been uniform in all provinces?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Considering the differing circumstances, the answer is obviously in the negative.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware of the fact that on the alleged plea of two or three instances of misuse of these concessions, the local authorities are cancelling these concessions from the general public there?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: No, Sir; the concession is not cancelled unless the abuse is widespread.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Do the Government of India review their orders in respect of these concessions from time to time?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Reconsideration has taken place.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are they uniformly taking action in this matter?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: We have no regular procedure for the purpose.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: What prevents the Government from taking action uniformly?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I would again ask my friend to refer to my speech last year on the Indian Finance Bill.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the conditions imposed differ from district to district and from province to province?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: No, Sir, not in substance. Where circumstances differ, they naturally differ in detail.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have Government received complaints about the improper cancellation or withdrawal of these concessions?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Certainly, such complaints, as my Honourable friend is well aware, have been raised in this House from time to time.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has even a single complaint been disposed of favourably by the Government of India up till now?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Yes, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Where the concessions have been cancelled, has it been done once and for all, or if the villagers asked for the concessions once again, were they given a chance a second time?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: It is not the case that once a concession has been withdrawn, under no circumstances will it be restored.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the steps that the villagers should take to get the concessions again?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: In the first place, it is for the local inhabitants to move in the matter.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Can the Honourable Member point out any instances where concessions, which had been withdrawn once, have been reinstated after consideration?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Yes.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: In how many places?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: That I cannot answer without notice.

LEVY OF A SPECIAL CESS OF TEN PER CENT. ON THE MANUFACTURERS OF SALT TO COVER ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES BESIDES THE SALT TAX.

1160. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Is there a special cess of ten per cent. levied on the manufacturers of salt to cover establishment charges besides the salt tax?

(b) Is the salt tax a net revenue tax, besides which two different kinds of cess are levied on the produce of salt?

(c) If so, what are the reasons for such a procedure?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I presume that the reference is to the cesses levied in the Madras Presidency. If so, the answer is:

(a) No.

(b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to section 43(i) B of the Madras Salt Act, 1889, under which two cesses may be levied in addition to the ordinary excise duty. One represents the rent or assessment of land occupied by the factory, and is credited to the Government of Madras. The other cess is a payment for services rendered, being imposed with a view to recovering the expenditure on work incurred by Government and also establishment charges in excess of eight per cent. of the duty on the salt sold from the factory.

FREIGHT RATES FOR SALT ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA AND THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAYS.

1161. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) What is the haulage charge on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway per maund per mile and for distances exceeding 100 miles?

(b) What is the rate charged on the South Indian Railway for the corresponding distance of one mile and over 100 miles?

(c) Is the low rate on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway meant to facilitate the transit of imported salt from the Bombay Port to South India?

(d) If not, how do Government explain the difference in the schedule of the rates?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). I presume the Honourable Member's question has reference to the freight rates for salt. I am placing on the table a statement showing the rates charged on the Great Indian Peninsula and South Indian Railways.

(c) No.

(d) There is no material difference between the schedules charged by the two Railways for distances up to 250 miles. The 'K' schedule charged by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway has been found suitable for the salt originating from the salt pans in the vicinity of the stations from which this schedule applies.

Statement.

The Great Indian Peninsula Railway quote schedule K rate for salt in wagon loads when booked from Bombay and other salt booking stations. This schedule is on a telescopic basis as follows:

Miles.	Rate per maund per mile (pie).
1st 300	.35
301—400	.30
401—500	.25
501—600	.20
Above 600	.10

On the above basis, the rates (without terminals) are as follows:

Miles.	Rate per maund.	Rate per maund per mile (pie).
	Rs. A. P.	
100	0 3 11	.35
200	0 6 10	.35
300	0 9 9	.35
400	0 12 3	.34

The South Indian Railway quote schedules C/A and C/K rates for salt in wagon loads. The bases of these schedules are as follows:

(i) C/A35 pie per maund per mile.

i) C/K (telescopic)—

Miles.	Rate per maund per mile (pie).
1st 150	.38
151—250	.25
251—400	.125
Above 400	.115

On the above basis, the rates (without terminals) are as follows:

Miles.	Rate per maund.	Rate per maund per mile (pie).
	Rs. A. P.	
100	0 3 11	.35
200	0 6 10	.35
300	0 8 4	.29
400	0 9 5	.25

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Without seeing the list that is to be placed on the table of the House, may I ask whether the freight on the G. I. P. Railway for transport of salt is cheaper than that charged on the S. I. Ry.?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Some difference begins to arise after the first 300 miles, but these rates apply not only to salt, which is despatched from Bombay, but also to other stations from where salt is despatched.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Does not this variation in rates encourage the importation of salt from abroad?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That is a matter for argument.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: On the face of the figures, does it not help the imports?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I do not think it affects the position very materially. It helps the despatch of salt taken from pans in the vicinity of the stations to which the rate applies.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Does it not help in preventing the movement of salt from South India to other provinces in the country?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I do not know whether the Honourable Member expects that I should be able to give answers to questions relating to matters of detail in supplementaries.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a fact that the railway freight for salt from Madras or Vedaranyam in the South to Bengal is much more than the steamer charges from England to Bengal?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That does not arise out of this question.

INDIAN STUDENTS' HOSTEL IN LONDON.

1162. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** I put only clause (b) of the question. Will Government state:

- (b) what was the amount of money that Government was spending on the Indian Students' Hostel in London?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (b) The average annual expenditure in recent years has been approximately £2,270.

ATTACK MADE ON A GINNING FACTORY OWNED BY AN INDIAN AT NAIROBI.

1163. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) whether they are aware of the news published in the *Hindustan Times* of the 10th February, 1936 that an attack was made on a ginning factory owned by an Indian at Nairobi;
- (b) the cause of such attacks on Indian lives and property there; and
- (c) whether they have taken any steps to protect Indian lives and property there in future from such attacks?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) to (c). The Honourable Member presumably refers to an incident which occurred in the Busoga district in Uganda. Government have seen the report referred to by him. They await the official report of the incident for which His Majesty's Government have been asked.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the delay that it takes for any information concerning Indians overseas to reach the Government of India, will Government consider the advisability of having direct connection with some of these places where Indians have colonised?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I do not, in the first place, admit that there is delay in getting information. Only the other day, I was able to get information quickly about the riot in Zanzibar. In this particular case, the report, to which my Honourable friend has referred in his question, says that the natives returned to the marketing after the incident. So, it does not appear to have been very serious.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Do Government get the information direct from these places, or do they get it through the Colonial Secretary?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: It depends on the nature of each case. Sometimes we will go to the Colonial Government and get the information, but if it is a matter, which involves a question of policy, we go through the Colonial Office.

SHIPPING COMPANIES ENJOYING MAIL CONTRACTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

1164. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) what are the shipping companies that are now enjoying mail contracts with the Government of India;
- (b) when the contracts are to be renewed;
- (c) whether any of them are employing "Dufferin" trained Indian cadets in their ships; and
- (d) in view of the Honourable the Commerce Member's answer to starred question No. 456 on 14th February, 1936, are Government prepared to consider the advisability of approaching these companies even now to employ "Dufferin" trained Indian cadets?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). I lay on the table a statement giving the information asked for.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government have recently addressed shipping companies engaged in the Indian coastal trade on the general question of the employment of ex-"Dufferin" cadets as officers. The companies addressed include certain companies holding contracts with Government for the carriage of mails.

Statement.

Names of shipping companies having mail contracts with the Government of India.	Date of expiry of the contract.
1. British India Steam Navigation Company	31st March, 1937.
2. Bengal Burma Steam Navigation Company	31st March, 1937.
3. Irrawaddy Flotilla Company	28th February, 1938.
4. Indo-China Steam Navigation Company	After six months' notice
5. Bombay Steam Navigation Company	31st May, 1936.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will the Honourable Member place the replies he gets from these companies on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No. But Government will continue to pursue the matter with them.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will Government take some opportunity to place the information that they receive from these companies on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: With regard to the position that may arise from the replies of those companies, if the Honourable Member puts down a question, I shall be glad to give a reply later on.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With regard to the answer to clause (c) of the question, may I know how many of them are employing *ex*-“Dufferin” cadets, and how many are not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: There are altogether five such companies. Two of them are employing them, and, as regards the third, the managing agents are employing them in other companies. I am not sure whether the company itself has employed any *ex*-“Dufferin” cadets on their steamers. One of the companies is only a river company.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How many cadets on the whole are employed in these two companies?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I believe I have given that information in answer to some question on a previous occasion during this Session.

EXAMINATION BY SIR JAMES PITKEATHLY OF THE WORKING OF THE LONDON STORES DEPARTMENT.

1165. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) whether Sir James Pitkeathly has finished the examination of the working of the London Stores Department;
- (b) whether he has submitted a scheme for the amalgamation of the London with the Indian Stores Department; and
- (c) if so, whether they have considered his report, and if so, with what result?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Sir James Pitkeathly sailed for England on the 22nd February last, to undertake the investigation referred to by the Honourable Member.

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

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When is he supposed to finish his report and submit it to the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: As soon as he is in a position to submit it. (Laughter.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti: When does his leave expire?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I think that this work is expected to occupy him somewhere about three months, but I am not quite sure.

REPORT OF THE WHEELER COMMITTEE.

1166. **Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) when the Report of the Wheeler Committee will be ready;
- (b) whether it will be published; and
- (c) whether it will be placed before this House for consideration before its provisions are given effect to?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) It is expected that the Report will be submitted to Government shortly.

(b) and (c). I cannot give any undertaking to that effect.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What are the terms of reference to that Committee?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: They have been published.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: When were they published?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: A long time ago. I think about October or November last.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has any interim report been sent already to the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No.

POLICY WITH REGARD TO THE SALT CONCESSIONS GIVEN UNDER THE GANDHI-IRWIN PACT.

1167. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) whether they have changed their policy with regard to the salt concessions given under the Gandhi-Irwin pact;
- (b) whether they still stand by the Honourable the Finance Member's assurances given during the Budget discussions last year; and
- (c) if so, how many areas are still allowed to manufacture salt under the Gandhi-Irwin pact?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) The concession is allowed in all parts of British India where salt can be obtained except in the areas from which it has been withdrawn on account of breaches of the conditions attached to it. A list showing these areas is laid on the table.

List of areas from which the concession relating to private manufacture and collection of salt has been withdrawn.

Northern India.

- (1) Whole of the Salt Range Division.
- (2) Bahadurkhal Circle of the Kohat Mines Division.

Madras Presidency.

- (1) Nellore District.
- (2) Ramnadi and Mudukalattur Taluks of the Ramnad District.
- (3) Cuddapah District.
- (4) Anantapur District.
- (5) Bellary, Seriguppa, Allur, Adoni and Royadrug Taluks of the Bellary District.
- (6) Kurnool, Koilkuntla, Cumbum, Markapur, Sirvel, Nandyal, Dhona, Pattikonda and Nandikond Taluks of the Kurnool District.
- (7) Tiruthoraipundi and Pattukkottai Taluks of the Tanjore District.
- (8) Chingleput Taluk of the Chingleput District.

Bombay Presidency.

- (1) Area within eight miles of the Sanikatta Salt Works in the Kanara District.
- (2) Area within one mile of the licensed salt works at Shiroda and the Vengurla Mahal Taluks in the Ratnagiri District.
- (3) Desert Division of the Thar Parkar District in Sind.

Burma.

- (1) Thaton District.
- (2) Hnitkarok village tract in the Yo Township of the Amherst District.
- (3) Ashebet and Kalayaung village tracts in the Taungup Township and Khayanmaw village tract in the Sandoway Township of the Sandoway District.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware of the fact that in several places in the Madras Presidency,—I need not trouble the Honourable Member with names—there are villages,—some of them are Nayudupet and Vallapalem in Nellore district, Devarampadu and Ganapavaram in Guntur district, and Oravakonda in Anantapur district—a date is fixed usually by the officers there, the Collector of Salt, I believe, beyond which the peasants are not allowed to gather salt, although it is a fact that the peasants have demarcated their portion with salt beds and have not gathered their salt by that time and would not be able to gather their salt before the date fixed by the local officers?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The Honourable Member seems to be giving a considerable amount of information and not asking for it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that when these concessions were granted, no dates were expected to be fixed before which these peasants should gather their salt, and that the peasants were expected throughout the year to be free to collect salt whenever they found it possible to get some salt on their salt beds and salt pans?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I am not aware of that, but I am grateful to the Honourable Member for giving the information.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government re-examine the question and lay down a liberal policy for Local Governments and point out that this concession ought to be very generously worked, and should not be withdrawn unless there is gross abuse which Government cannot control?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The sting of that question is in the last few words. Obviously Government cannot control the abuse unless they employ additional staff. If you leave out those words "which Government cannot control" and substitute "cannot easily control", I think that represents the policy of the Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware of the fact that, in spite of several petitions sent by the peasants round about Nayudupetta, many of them have been arrested again and again and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Again the Honourable Member is giving me information. In point of fact, there were a considerable number of questions on this subject last Session, and I made it clear that generally speaking we propose to leave the question of the restoration or withdrawal of the concessions to the local authorities.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know whether the area in which concessions are withdrawn is approximately about three-fourths of the area in which the concessions are given?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: There, again, the Honourable Member is giving me information.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: I am not giving information. I am asking for it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are there any fresh places to which the concession has been extended during the last year?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The concessions apply to the whole area except the places where they are withdrawn. Whether there have been fresh activities on the part of local inhabitants in the last year, I cannot say.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the total area or extent of the withdrawal of the concessions, since the concessions were originally granted?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I want notice of that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government be prepared to consider any fresh petitions from the peasants of those places to which the concession has been granted till now?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I think I made it clear in my replies to previous question that if the inhabitants of any village or district want these concessions, they should apply to the local authorities.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: May I know whether this concession will be allowed to indigenous fishermen in Sind and are they allowed to salt the fish there?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I want notice of that.

RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF THOSE ALREADY IN SERVICE AFTER THE SEPARATION OF RAILWAY ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT.

1168. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Is it a fact that on the separation of Accounts and Audit, the then Financial Commissioner, Railways, Sir Allan Parsons, in his memorandum, gave an assurance that the rights and privileges of those already in service would be duly safeguarded?

(b) Is it a fact that some Inspectors of Accounts, who had duly passed their departmental examinations and were temporary prior to the introduction of the separation of Accounts and Audit, were, instead of being allowed to retain old scales of pay of Inspectors which they were drawing, fixed in the revised scales of pay? If so, why?

(c) Is it a fact that certain clerks who, too, were temporary at that time, and were fixed in revised scales of pay, have recently been given option on the North Western Railway to elect old or revised scales? If so, why can the Inspectors not be given the same option?

(d) What was the old scale of pay and what is the revised scale of pay for clerks and Assistant and Inspectors, respectively?

(e) Were these Inspectors allowed option permissible under Fundamental Rule 23, to elect old or revised scales? If not, why not?

(f) Is it a fact that this rule also applies to officiating and temporary incumbents, *vide* Audit instructions? If so, why were these men not given benefit of Rule 23?

(g) Do Government propose to direct the North Western Railway Agencies and those of other railways, where the employees have suffered in this manner, to give the option of electing between old and revised scales under Fundamental Rule 23? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The assurance is applicable only to men who were holding substantive appointments in the combined Audit and Accounts Offices.

(b) Yes. With the separation of Audit and Accounts the appointments in the combined offices ceased to exist and these temporary officers were freshly appointed to new posts on new scales of pay.

(c) Clerks who were recruited direct in Class I in the combined Audit and Accounts Offices and who under their terms of appointment were eligible for confirmation in that class against every third vacancy, but could not be confirmed as such before separation were allowed to retain their old scales as a special case.

(d) I lay on the table a statement showing the old scales in the combined Audit and Accounts Department and the scales introduced on separation in the Accounts Department.

(e), (f) and (g). Fundamental Rule 23 does not apply. This is not a case of revision of the pay of the same appointment.

Designation.	Statement.	
	Old scales.	New scales.
Clerks	Class I.	Class I.
	60—4—120—5—145	100—5—120
	Class II.	Class II.
	39—3—69—6/5—75	60—5—90
Inspectors of Station Accounts		Class III.
		40—4—80
	Senior.	Senior.
	300—20—500	290—20—450
	Junior.	Junior
	120—15—270	Grade I.
		150—15—270
		Grade II.
		130—8—170

ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE PRESENT NEW DELHI RAILWAY STATION BUILDING AND THE UNCOVERED PLATFORM.

1169. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Do Government propose to make additions and alterations to the present New Delhi Railway station building and the uncovered platform? If so, when and in what form?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of having waiting rooms and lavatories at this station, especially for ladies? If so, when, and if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government are not aware of any such proposal.

(b) A copy of the question is being forwarded to the Agent, North Western Railway, for consideration.

STOPPING OF THE DOWN FRONTIER MAIL AT THE NEW DELHI RAILWAY STATION.

1170. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state why the downward Frontier Mail does not stop at the New Delhi Railway station?

(b) Are Government aware that many persons are unaware that the Frontier Mail does not stop at New Delhi and are, therefore, carried to Faridabad—the next halting station?

(c) Do Government intend to consider the desirability of stopping all trains at New Delhi? If not, what is the objection?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) I understand this point was discussed at a meeting of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway's Local Advisory Committee when the Chairman explained that a trial had been made early in 1930, by stopping the train at New Delhi and that as the total number of passengers that entrained at the station, during one month, was only four second class and eight intermediate class, the stoppage was discontinued.

(b) The Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, states that no case has been reported of passengers being overcarried to Faridabad.

(c) The Honourable Member's suggestion is being considered by the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Administration.

CONDITION OF THE COAL INDUSTRY.

1171. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Are Government aware that the present condition of the coal industry in this country is very critical? If so, will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken to help this industry?

(b) Do Government propose to help this industry?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). I am aware that the coal industry has been passing through a period of depression. A statement containing brief references to the more important steps taken by the Central Government to help the coal industry is laid on the table.

Statement.

Measures taken by the Central Government to help the coal industry.

(1) *The Coal Grading Board Act, 1925.*—This is intended to foster the sale of Indian coal in overseas markets.

(2) *The Indian Soft Coke Cess Act, 1929.*—This is designed for promoting the sale and improving the methods of manufacture of soft coke.

(3) *Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad.*—This institution has been established partly with a view to securing a supply of well qualified Indians for the mining industries.

(4) *Research.*—A special survey of the coalfields was carried out by the Geological Survey between 1925 and 1930. Research work on coal is carried out at a number of institutions e.g., the Geological Survey of India and the Government Test House, Alipore. In 1923 the Government of India subsidised certain experiments for investigating the possibility of improving low-grade coals by the froth flotation process but the results were not encouraging.

(5) *Reduction of surcharge on railway freights for coal.*—From 1st April, 1935, the basic percentage of surcharge was reduced from 15 to 12½ per cent. and subjected to a maximum of one rupee per ton irrespective of distance.

(6) *Freight concessions to ports, etc.*—The Bengal Nagpur Railway and the East Indian Railway allow a rebate of 37½ per cent. of the freight charge on graded coal and 25 per cent. on other than graded coal booked to Calcutta for export. These consignments, as also coal for bunkering at Calcutta, are also exempt from the surcharge of 12½ per cent.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government considering the question of their attitude to the railway collieries not working up to the maximum capacity but continuing to work to a limited extent, with a view to helping private owned collieries?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I would point out that my Honourable colleague, the Railway Member, had that question before him recently.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is it not one of the ways of helping the industry—by the under-working of the railway collieries?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have had a deputation on that matter recently—I believe, after the move to Delhi, and this question was discussed with that deputation at length.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether Government are aware that the miners working in these railway mines will not like the change which the Honourable Member is suggesting?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I note the suggestion.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government considered this question, or are they considering this question from all relevant points of view—not working the railway collieries to the maximum capacity?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I believe that matter was discussed fully with that deputation. The deputation were told what the view of the Government was.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the conclusions to which the Government of India have come?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: It will take a long time to explain that. In any case, I would require notice.

COAL TENDERS ACCEPTED BY THE RAILWAY BOARD.

1172. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Will Government state on what principle coal tenders are accepted by the Railway Board? Is price the chief consideration in accepting such tenders, or are there other considerations?

(b) Will Government state the principle followed by the Railway Board for the allocation of quantities to different successful tenderers? Are the same quantities allotted in cases of collieries producing the same quality of coal, having equal raising capacity, quoting the same rate, and against whom there has been no complaint in regard to their supplies to the Railways in the past years? If not, what are the reasons?

(c) Will Government state whether, at the time of allocation of quantities, the recommendations of their experts and Fuel Officers are accepted? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and first part of (b). The principal considerations influencing the acceptance of tenders are:

- (i) where coals of equal quality are tendered the tendered price is the principal factor in the allocation of orders;
- (ii) the capacity of each colliery satisfactorily to supply the quantity offered and the quantity allocated;

- (iii) fair distribution of orders on previous performances; and
- (iv) the distribution of the requirements over as many collieries as possible consistent with quality of coal and economic prices in order to keep as many collieries working as possible during the current depressed state of trade.

Last part of (b). The raising capacities of collieries are so flexible and indeterminate that it is impossible to make a strict comparison on the basis suggested by the Honourable Member in the second part of this question.

(c) Not entirely, but due weight is given both to the recommendations of the Chief Mining Engineer and the Fuel Officers of Railways.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Have the principles enunciated by the Honourable Member been always given effect to?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I believe so.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is any foreign coal used in the railways?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That does not arise out of this question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: But is it used?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I cannot say without notice.

JOINT TENDERS FOR SUPPLYING COAL TO THE STATE AND COMPANY-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

1173. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** Is it a fact that since last year joint tenders for supplying coal to the State and Company-managed Railways were called for the purpose of giving equal opportunities and benefits to all the tenderers offering the same kind of coal?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No. During the past two years Company-managed Railways have been invited to participate in joint tenders for the supply of coal in the belief that more favourable prices would be obtained by so doing.

PRINCIPLES OF ALLOCATIONS FOR SUPPLYING COAL TO THE COMPANY-MANAGED RAILWAYS AS WELL AS TO THE STATE RAILWAYS.

1174. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** Are the principles of allocation for supplying coal to the Company-managed Railways the same as adopted in the case of State Railways? If not, what are the reasons?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The acceptance of tenders for the supply of coal to Company-managed Railways rests with the Company-managed Railways concerned and Government has no reason to believe that such acceptances are not made in the best interests of those Railway Administrations.

TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN RAJAH MAHIP NARAIN AND GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

1175. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** (a) With reference to the answer to starred question No. 1618, asked on April 6, 1935, laid on the table of the House; relating to the terms of the agreement between Rajah Mahip Narain and Governor General in Council, are Government prepared to call from the Provincial Government for an account showing (i) the approximate annual income from the tract taken from Raja Mahip Narain and forming part of British India, under the Agreement of October 27, 1794; (ii) the approximate amount annually spent on civil and judicial establishments in that tract; (iii) the amount spent every year on the maintenance of any pathshala or Hindu College; and (iv) the amount spent so far on roads, bridges and promotion of cultivation, etc., and lay the same on the table of this House?

(b) Do Government propose to see that full accounts are published?

(c) Do Government propose to ask the Local Government to prepare the accounts and submit the same to the Government of India?

(d) Are Government prepared to suggest to the Local Government that in view of this Agreement, they should seriously consider the necessity of giving substantial grants to the Municipality of Benares and other boards in that area so that the terms of the same may be properly fulfilled?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: With your permission, Sir, I will answer, parts (a), (b), (c) and (d) together.

As already stated in my reply of the 4th February, the Government of India do not admit that there has been any breach of the Agreement, and they do not propose to obtain from the Local Government statements of accounts of the nature desired by the Honourable Member which cannot be compiled without undue labour and expense; nor do the Government of India propose to make any suggestion to the Local Government in regard to grants to the Benares Municipality and other Local Boards which are primarily the concern of that Government.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is not the Local Government an agent of this Government in this particular matter, when the administration of these tracts have been transferred to the Local Government and when definite conditions were made in the contract between the Maharaja of Benares and this Government?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I shall have to have notice of that question.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Sir, I simply asked whether the Local Government is an agent of the Government of India in this matter or not. Does the Honourable Member want notice for that simple question? Will not the Honourable the Law Member help us, because it is a legal matter?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Perhaps he will consult the Honourable the Law Member.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does Raja Mahip Narain of Benares receive any political pension?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not arise out of this question.

SCHEME PROPOSED BY THE SHRADHANAND DEPRESSED CLASSES MISSION TO ESTABLISH A DEPRESSED CLASSES SETTLEMENT IN DELHI.

1176. ***Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta:** (a) Is it a fact that the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Delhi in his letter No. 830, dated the 9th February, 1926, addressed to the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, approved of the scheme proposed by Shradhanand Depressed Classes Mission to establish a settlement for persons whom the mission seeks to assist and give a plot of land for that purpose?

(b) Is it a fact that Government further approved in the letter referred to above that the plots will be leased out by Government to the members of the depressed classes upon the recommendation of the mission and a deed clause to that effect was included in the lease?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government, having stopped the allotments of those plots to the depressed classes, intend to put them to auction?

(d) Are Government aware of the anxiety being caused to the depressed classes on account of this decision of Government?

(e) Is it a fact that a deputation of the depressed classes mission waited upon the local authorities to ask them to reconsider their decision?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state their policy in this matter, and lay on the table all the correspondence on the subject?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) to (f). Enquiries have been made and the result will be communicated to the House in due course.

Mr. Ghanshiam Singh Gupta: When will that be? What is the likely time?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I hope very shortly—about a week perhaps.

IMPORT DUTY ON LINSEED OIL IN BRITAIN.

1177. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

(a) whether they are aware of the article on the "Import duty on linseed oil" (in Britain) published on page 11 of the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 20th February, 1936;

(b) whether the facts contained in it are true;

(c) whether the drawback system mentioned in the article is existent in England;

(d) in the case of articles for which preference has been given under the Ottawa Pact, over how many articles this drawback system has been exercised; and

(e) whether this does not nullify the preference given under the Ottawa Pact?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (c). Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have no reason to doubt the truth of the fact set out in the article but they do not admit the correctness of the deductions made therefrom.

(d) The drawback system applies *inter alia* to linseed, linseed oil, castor seed and wheat.

(e) No.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I have the answer to (d) again, as it is rather an important matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:

"(d) The drawback system applies *inter alia* to linseed, linseed oil, castor seed and wheat."

NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND DENMARK FOR THE CONCLUSION OF A TRADE AGREEMENT.

1178. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

(a) whether it is true that the United Kingdom Government are carrying on negotiations with Denmark for the conclusion of a trade agreement;

(b) whether the United Kingdom Government are making negotiations with a view to the revision of the Anglo-Argentine convention;

(c) whether the Government of India have been consulted over these matters and whether they have expressed their views; and

(d) whether in doing so, they have consulted the commercial interests of this country?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (c). Government understand that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom intend to take up the revision of the Anglo-Danish Commercial Agreement of 1933. This agreement does not apply to India. There has, therefore, been no occasion for the Government of India to express any views in the matter.

(b) Government have no official information.

(d) Does not arise.

RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ABOUT THE EXCLUDED AND PARTIALLY EXCLUDED AREAS.

1179. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they have forwarded the Resolution passed by the Assembly on the 18th instant about the Excluded and partially Excluded Areas to the Secretary of State for India and if so, when and with what remarks or recommendations thereon?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: The resolution as adopted by the Legislative Assembly on the 18th February, was communicated to the Secretary of State for India on the next day, i.e., the 19th February, 1936, along with a summary of the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly relating to the resolution. The Government of India made no comments or recommendation in regard to the Resolution. A full record of the proceedings will be forwarded to the Secretary of State in due course. I

would like just to add that the statement I have made is that the full record of the proceedings will be forwarded to the Secretary of State in due course. I believe, since the answer was framed, this has been done. I shall be able to give my Honourable friend the information tomorrow if he will kindly ask me.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: When is the Order in Council in respect of that matter expected to be passed?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I cannot give the information just now; I have not got it before me.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government satisfied themselves that their communication was in time for His Majesty's Government to look at it, before they made up their minds?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Yes, Sir, the Resolution was passed on the 18th February and we forwarded it on the next day, i.e., the 19th February, and it reached His Majesty's Government quite in time.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government any information with regard to any changes made in the Orders in Council, as a result of the Resolution of this House?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Sir, I cannot give that information just now; I have no objection to accepting a short notice of that question.

†1180*.

RECOMMENDATION IN THE MONTAGUE-CHELMSFORD REPORT TO PLACE LAND REVENUE ON A STATUTORY BASIS.

1181. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Montague-Chelmsford Report has recommended to the Provincial Governments to place the Land Revenue on a statutory basis;
- (b) what action was taken by the Local Governments on this recommendation; and
- (c) whether they called the Local Government's attention to this recommendation?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) No such recommendation is contained in the Montague-Chelmsford Report. Presumably the Honourable Member has in mind the recommendation of the Joint Select Committee on the Government of India Bill of 1919 to the effect that steps should be taken to embody in the law the main principles by which the land revenue is determined.

† Disallowed.

(b) Legislation has been passed in the United Provinces, the Punjab, the Central Provinces, Berar and the North-West Frontier Province. In Bengal and Bihar and Orissa, which are for the most part under permanent settlement, legislation has not been considered necessary. No legislation has been passed in Madras, Bombay, Burma and Assam.

(c) Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Government Order of 1905, passed at the time of Lord Curzon's viceroyalty, laid it down specifically that in no case should land revenue be made to exceed fifty per cent. of the net revenue from land, will Government consider the advisability of calling for a conference of the Revenue Members of all the various Provinces to see whether that particular recommendation has been adhered to, and whether systems of land assessment have not been introduced which tend to absorb for the State more than fifty per cent. of the net income from the land?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I am rather doubtful whether that arises out of this question, but, in any case, I can inform my Honourable friend that the instructions of Lord Curzon's Government regarding the fifty per cent. assessment were observed by all the Local Governments.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is it a fact that the Government of India declined to give permission for a land revenue Bill sought to be introduced in the Council by the Madras Government some years ago, in pursuance of this recommendation of the Joint Select Committee of Parliament?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I would like to have notice of that question.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Is it a fact that, five or six years ago, a land revenue Bill was prepared for the Bombay Presidency?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have said that the Government of Bombay has not passed any legislation; I dare say they have had legislation under consideration.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Is it not a fact that a Berar Land Revenue Code was passed by the Berar Legislative Committee twice, but was turned down by the Government of India who introduced their own principles in spite of the recommendations of that Committee?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The question is whether certain Provinces have taken action on that report. I have pointed out that Berar is one of the provinces where legislation has been undertaken. As to whether, in regard to any particular point, the Government of India made any suggestions of principle, probably my Honourable friend will appreciate that I cannot say that now.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What action do the Government of India propose to take in order to see that in those provinces where legislation has not

been undertaken, proper legislation is undertaken at least before the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Sir, I do not think that improper legislation has been attempted in any province; and, so far as proper legislation for the future is concerned, I think Provincial Autonomy is too near for the Government of India to suggest that fresh attempts should be made now.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: So far as Delhi and other Centrally administered areas are concerned, have the Government of India taken any steps to place land revenue on a Statutory basis?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: So far as the Delhi Province is concerned, according to the nature of the area, either the legislation of the Punjab or the legislation of the United Provinces applies.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What about other Centrally administered areas?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I answered the question sometime ago, namely, that for Ajmer-Merwara the question of having something done in regard to land revenue is under consideration by Government.

RULES GOVERNING THE ALLOTMENT OF GOVERNMENT QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

1182. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether under the rules governing the allotment of Government quarters in New Delhi, an applicant of the non-migratory department, whom no quarter could be allotted first year due to his being junior in pay, will be given priority over new non-migratory applicants getting higher pay during subsequent years?

(b) Will Government please state whether any particular area has been fixed for the allotment of quarters to migratory and non-migratory staff attached to the Imperial Secretariat and Attached Departments?

(c) If the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, are Government prepared to take necessary steps for the protection of the rights or claims of those old applicants who are deprived of the quarters every year, merely because they are junior in pay than the new applicants of higher pay in subsequent years?

(d) If the reply to part (c) above be in the negative will Government please quote the particular paragraph of Supplementary Rule 317 E. II(2), or Industries and Labour Department (Public Works Branch) Office Memorandum No. P. 28(2), dated the 10th February, 1933, under which such preference is prohibited?

(e) If the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing particulars of areas reserved for migratory officers and the other for non-migratory

officers, i.e., such and such Squares or Places have been reserved for migratory officers and such and such for non-migratory officers?

(f) What ratio has been fixed for migratory and non-migratory officers and on what principle has the fixation of ratio of quarters been made?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes. Within each class old applicants are given priority over new applicants.

(b) and (e). Quarters have been assigned by groups to non-migratory and migratory personnel in the orthodox classes "C", "D" and "E" only. Two statements giving particulars of these quarters are placed on the table.

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

(f) No ratio has been fixed. The shares in the accommodation available to non-migratory and migratory personnel are determined when allotments are made on the basis of the actual demand in each class.

List of "C", "D" and "E" Class Orthodox Clerks Quarters which constitute the Non-Migratory Area in New Delhi.

Name of Area.	Class of Quarters.		
	C.	D.	E.
Diaz Square	1	12	..
Pershing Square	2	14	..
Rama Place	..	8	..
Joffre Square	..	48	..
Edward Square	..	48	..
Lumsden Square	..	23	..
Sumru Place	..	8	..
Taylor Square	..	36	..
Wilson Square	2	34	..
Sivaji Place	..	18	..
Nicholson Square	4	28	..
Dalhousie Square	4	28	..
Ranjit Place	2	14	..
Clive Square	4	48	..
Outram Square	4	48	..
Lawrence Square	..	42	..
Cornwallis Square	..	36	..
Roberts Square	4	28	..
Sikandar Place	..	16	..
Lake Square	3	59	..
Havelock Square	20	..	..
Baird Road	12	..	..
Market Road	8	..	..
Tughlak Place	..	31	..
Minto Road Area	..	117 to 155 West = 39	1 to 66 } West 79 to 116 = 104
		14 to 35 } East 44 to 55 = 34	
Chitragupta Place	..	..	9
Chitragupta Road	..	..	18
Dilkusha Square	..	..	26
Punchkuin Road	..	..	25
Rajabazar Square	..	..	18
	70	700	200

List of "C", "D" and "E" Class Orthodox Clerks' Quarters which constitute the Migratory Area in New Delhi.

Name of Area.	Class of Quarters.		
	C.	D.	E.
Diaz Square	1	12	..
Pershing Square	2	14	..
Rama Place	..	8	..
Foch Square	..	56	..
Haig Square	..	49	..
Ganesh Place	..	23	..
Albert Square	3	24	..
French Square	4	28	..
Rajabazar	..	48	..
Market Square	20	81	..
Baird Road	12	..	..
Baird Square	24	..	..
Irwin Road	102	..	..
Minto Road East	90	199	..
Aram Bagh	..	..	22
Minto Road East	..	..	13
Circular Road	..	..	21
Minto Road West	..	..	12
	258	542	68

SUPPRESSION OF HINDI AND GURMUKHI AS THE MEDIUM OF SCHOOL EDUCATION IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

1183. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Is it a fact that the North-West Frontier Government are trying for the increase of subvention from the Central Revenues?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, are Government aware of a great agitation and consequent resentment amongst the Hindus against the policy of the Minister of the Province, about his attempt to suppress Hindi and Gurmukhi as the medium of school education in that Province?

(c) Are Government prepared to have due regard for the Hindus' feeling and not to have any enhancement in the subvention?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) Government have seen and read various public pronouncements in the matter, which is one primarily for the Government of the North-West Frontier Province.

(c) The question of enhancement of subvention at this stage awaits the recommendations of Sir Otto Niemeyer. The Honourable Member does not seem to appreciate that the action proposed by him would be inconsistent with the spirit of the present constitution.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know from the Honourable Member whether the Provincial Government has got any authority to go into that religious question?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: It is not a religious question, but a linguistic question.

Sardar Sant Singh: May I ask if the ban imposed on two vernaculars of the province entitles them to any relief from the central funds, when those central funds are contributed mostly by the Hindus and Sikhs?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I do not know whether that question arises, Sir. They have asked for an increased subvention, not specifically for the purpose of education, but for the purposes of administration of the province.

Sardar Sant Singh: Will Government ask them to change their policy in view of the fact that they want subvention from the Central Government?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have already explained that, under the present Government of India Act and Devolution Rule 49, the Governor General in Council has no power to intervene in the administration of what is a transferred provincial subject.

Sardar Sant Singh: Are the Central Government prepared to grant them the subvention under the circumstances indicated?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The Government of India cannot, at the present moment, anticipate consideration of the recommendation of the Otto Niemeyer Committee.

Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya: Are we to understand that the Government of India have no power of superintendence, direction and control over the North-West Frontier Province?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The Government of India have no power of superintendence, direction and control in regard to a transferred provincial subject.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Is it not open to the Government of India to impose certain conditions with regard to the protection of linguistic rights of minorities in the provinces?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Under the present Constitution, if my Honourable friend will look up Devolution Rule 49, he will find that the Government of India have no such power.

Sardar Sant Singh: Have not Government the power to refuse to give subvention under the circumstances?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have already said that the Government of India cannot consider on what conditions the subvention will be given before the question of subvention is before them.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Will the question just now asked apply only to Punjabi and Gurmukhi in the North West Frontier Province or is it equally applicable to Urdu in Bengal, Madras, Bombay and everywhere else?

Sardar Sant Singh: But those provinces do not ask for subvention from the Central Government.

Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya: Do the North West Frontier Province Government ask for an increased amount of subvention?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I do not know. Their recommendation is before Sir Otto Niemeyer.

AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORTS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEES.

Standing Order 7-A.

Mr. G. Morgan (Bengal: European): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the proposed amendment of Standing Order 7-A.

Standing Order 17.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the proposed amendment of Standing Order 17.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—*contd.*

DEMAND NO. 32—HOME DEPARTMENT—*contd.*

Repressive Policy—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume consideration of the following cut motion moved by Mr. Aney regarding repressive policy:

“That the demand under the head ‘Home Department’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi (Dacca *cum* Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, since talking on this cut motion yesterday, I have had the advantage of reading the speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Aney. He said that he brought this cut motion, because, notwithstanding a similar motion which he moved last year which was carried, the Government have done nothing during the last twelve months in respect of the complaint. Sir, if I may say so, that statement is not correct. The Government have done and are doing, and I shall presently show what they have done and what they are doing. He said that he demanded release of Civil Disobedience prisoners. That was his first complaint. But we heard yesterday from the Honourable the Home Member that they had been released. His second demand was the repeal of the extraordinary repressive measures. As regards that, I have already said that this House had given a verdict, and surely the Government cannot be condemned for not repealing these repressive laws in the face of the verdict of this House. Particularly, as we know the circumstances of Bengal, at any rate they seem admittedly to call for some of them. His third point was the removal of the ban on certain political organisations affiliated to the Congress. As regards the repeal of ban on certain political organisations affiliated to the Congress, in a large number of cases, I understand, the ban has been lifted.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): Not after last year; it was before that.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Government, if I may so, have good reasons to continue the ban on a few. But it will be lifted as soon as circumstances permit. That has been the Government policy, and it will continue to be so. His fourth demand was that there should be some relaxation of rules relating to the treatment of political prisoners. As regards this point, Honourable Members may be aware that the whole question was taken into consideration at the instance of the Swarajist leaders in 1929-30, and the new rules of classification of prisoners and treatment were introduced. We are now told that they are unsatisfactory. Political prisoners are claiming separate jails for themselves where they are to be allowed to associate with each other all the time they are there. Those, who like my Honourable friend, Mr. Aney, consider that the existing rules ought to be modified should approach the Honourable the Home Member with their suggestions, and I feel sure that where they are just and reasonable they will be given effect to.

As regards the treatment of detenus, if one thing is true, it may be truly said that since His Excellency Sir George Anderson arrived as Governor of Bengal, three things were attended to. Firstly, the combating of terrorism, secondly, humanitarian treatment, as far as possible, of detenus detained without trial, and, thirdly, an attempt to go to the root cause of the matter which was largely economic. The Government of Bengal have gone even further. Each and every case is periodically examined and re-examined

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Question.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: The Honourable Member questions, because he is ignorant of the facts, whereas I know the facts. Each case is examined at the instance of the relations or the guardians of the detenus whenever they desire it. In suitable cases, liberty is restored. As an intermediate measure, home and village internments have increased and are increasing, useful industrial and agricultural training is being arranged for the detenus in camps and outside. Industrial concerns are being induced to give living wages and employment to detenus with a view to starting them in life as good citizens.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: How many persons have been conditionally released?

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Therefore, the Honourable the Mover's information about the detenus in Bengal is far from correct. Since last year, many have been released. Both the Government of India and the Government of Bengal were very anxious to release Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, but circumstances came in the way. He is now a free man. And the House will also be pleased to hear that, so far as Mr. Bose was concerned, a very fair financial treatment was accorded to him.

Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Yes, Rs. 1,000 a month.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: It was Rs. 2,000 a month *plus* 1,000 for insurance.

Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya: And what were his earnings?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let the Honourable Member go on without interruptions.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Let us see what is the treatment that was accorded to Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose. As soon as his medical advisers found that he must go abroad, he was allowed to leave India and go to the Continent for treatment, and every facility was accorded to him to go there. Sir, as I said yesterday, it is within my knowledge that for the last three years Government have made every effort to satisfy the parents and guardians about the conditions of the detenus. It is not true, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Maitra, said yesterday, that during home detention the detenus do not get any allowance. In proper cases, it is allowed.

Now, Sir, as I said yesterday, in several instances parents and relations have come to me, and I have brought their cases to the notice of Government, and in every case, the guardians were satisfied as to the treatment of their wards. It would not be proper to disclose the names of the parents or the guardians who saw me and came to me; but lest it may be said that there is no foundation for this statement of mine, I have got with me a few letters from the parents and guardians in my possession which I received in Delhi, and I shall be prepared to show them to my Honourable friends if they like. Sir, an *ex-Member* of this Assembly, Mr. S. C. Mitra, brought to my notice the case of a relation of his who it was thought was losing his mental balance. I brought this case to the notice of Government and Mr. Mitra thanked on the floor of this House the authorities for the immediate action that was taken on the representation made by him. He was released on condition that Mr. Mitra gave an undertaking. He became so violent later on that Mr. Mitra himself asked that he might be taken back and placed in the Mental Hospital.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: I will finish in two minutes.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair cannot allow him any more time.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Then, after his treatment and cure, he began to go the same old way and had to be taken back. Sir, I submit that no case has been made out for this cut motion, and I, therefore, oppose it.

Dr. N. B. Khare (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support this motion. I associate myself fully with my Honourable friend, the Mover, in regard to the cases of the political prisoners that he brought before this House, namely, the case of the Chhindwara and Betul prisoners as well as the case of my friend, Mr. Ruikar, and also the lot of the political prisoners generally in India. But, Sir, I am not going to attack this question from this point of view. This policy of Government, or what is called the repressive policy, is styled as a dual policy. It is not a dual

policy at all. It is a singularly plural policy which is in evidence in every department of Government from A to Z, from the Army to Zoological Gardens. As a result of this policy, the whole country is reduced to a sort of zoological garden where all kinds of beasts are put within cages. Sir, this policy is but a symptom, and these symptoms vary,—fines, detentions, imprisonments, externments or internments, *lathi* charges or even shooting. These are all symptoms of one disease. In dealing with this disease and these symptoms, as an orthodox physician, I propose to deal with them in the right royal orthodox fashion, and I am in good company in this House, because orthodoxy is liked here, and it has even got a financial backing. I can only probe into this question. Unfortunately at present I am not able to apply my scalpel, because I have not the power to do it. What is the disease of which this is a symptom? This disease is called Indo-phobia and the symptoms are these various manifestations. Sir, as an orthodox physician, in order to diagnose the disease, I must follow the method of interrogation and psycho-analysis. While going through this process,—I will not weary this House by going fully into it,—what do we find? What are the predisposing causes? The predisposing cause is the ever present desire in the minds of those who sit opposite to perpetuate domination and exploitation; and of course the immediate cause is anything which may occur in the meantime showing resentment. They may deny this desire of domination,—some may deny honestly and some may deny dishonestly. But there is one thing which must be remembered. There is such a thing as the sub-conscious mind which is in evidence everywhere although it is very difficult to observe. What is the situation? The situation is a struggle between the haves and the have-nots. The have-nots like curselves want to repossess what we have lost and the haves do not want to part with it. They want to put off the evil moment as long as they can do so. Therefore, in the nature of the things, the whole fabric of this Government of India, which is the agent of its master in England, is based upon three factors, three human sentiments with regard to India. One is distrust, another is fear, and the third is hatred. All these follow in the natural order of things. Therefore, the only purpose for which the Government exists in this country is, to do what? According to them, to maintain law and order. Sir, the law in this country is an ass ridden over by Satan, and order is gas and nothing more. What does this law do? It goes on kicking people with its hind legs indiscriminately in the most promiscuous manner. And what is order? It is that when superficial calm is established people go about gassing in this House as well as outside about their exploits. And, Sir, they extol their superficial efficiency to the skies. As a matter of fact, law and order should be based upon progress, happiness and contentment, but are they to be found anywhere in India? Absolutely nowhere. I shall tell you what an eminent Englishman thinks about the English themselves—George Bernard Shaw.

An Honourable Member: He is an Irishman.

Dr. N. B. Khare: That does not matter—he lives in England. He says: "We, the English, are the wickedest nation on earth and our success is moral horror". That is what Shaw says; let alone ourselves. Much is made in this country of terrorism. I know it is an evil, I recognise it is an evil. But after all, if you look upon it dispassionately, what do you find? It is a reaction to the situation created by Government; and is used as an excuse for repression and the so-called maintenance of law and order and

[Dr. N. B. Khare.]

to create troubles and all sorts of things. What is terrorism? After all, what is life itself? Scientifically viewed, life is nothing else but adaptation to environment, or what you call reaction to stimuli. Everybody in this country, whether he is a loyalist or a terrorist, reacts to stimuli, and, therefore, is an anathema to Government, because he wants to possess what they possess and what belongs to him although methods may be different; therefore, whether he is a loyalist or a terrorist, it does not matter to the Government at all. Let not loyalists lay the flattering unction to their soul that they are beloved of the Government. I warn them, they are not. Whenever we talk of terrorists or ask any questions about them, the Government think that we have sympathy for them in our hearts. But I say in this House that even the Government and even high Government functionaries have got a sneaking regard for terrorists. The late Lord Morley, who was long ago Secretary of State for India, when he wrote to Lord Minto, the then Viceroy of India, before or at the time of the inauguration of the Morley-Minto Reforms, said that the Morley-Minto Reforms were a concession to the Bengal bombs and not the constitutionalists.

An Honourable Member: Hear, hear.

Dr. N. B. Khare: They think that by this counter-terrorism or by this repression, they will succeed. They will not. They have failed, and, as evidence of their failure, I will cite some few facts. When the Bengal Partition was promulgated in 1905, there was a great row about it. It was the beginning of the awakening of national consciousness in India—the National Renaissance. What has happened? In spite of repression, the Bengal Partition had to be annulled. A settled fact was unsettled, not due to constitutionalism, but to some other kind of agitation. Similarly, there was a time in the old days when the word “Swadeshi” was an anathema to Government. What do you find now? “Support Indian industries” is printed on the envelopes of Government post offices. The song “Bande Mataram” was supposed to be seditious. What do you find now? At least in my province, when at a public function the song “Bande Mataram” was sung, even the Governor, an European Indian Civil Service official, gets up. So also, to utter the word “Swaraj” was treason in the old days; now we get the word “Swaraj” even in the messages we receive from no less a person than His Majesty the King-Emperor. We were told, when we were boys in schools, that Sivaji was a marauder or a plunderer, and his pictures were prohibited. But what do you find in 1922? The then Prince of Wales, while unveiling a memorial statue of Sivaji, described that hero of Maharashtra as the greatest soldier and statesman of Maharashtra. After all, what has happened to this repression? In spite of this terrible repression, they had to yield. Of course, they yielded without any grace as is their wont, but they had to yield. I must tell them and tell the House that this yielding process was not due to any constitutionalism, not due to any constitutional method, but due to other things, which cannot be described as constitutional. How can you describe this policy of Government? I am reminded of the story of a monkey—not monkeying with ratio this time—not a fake monkey, but a real live monkey. That monkey got drunk once, and, while drunk, it got stung by a scorpion, and in that very condition, it got possessed of a ghost. (Laughter.) What mortal on the face of this earth can describe the

pranks of that monkey? This is the mentality of the Government which rules over us. (Cries of “Hear, hear.”) They can either carry on their policy or change their policy, and restore the lost faith in constitutional methods. They can choose whichever they like. I am not here to tell them what they should do. But what do you find even in these days of comparatively calmer atmosphere? You find that this policy still persists. There is an institution in Poona called the Maharashtra Bhagini Mandal, exclusively for ladies. Apparently they do nothing but discuss about kitchen hygiene and infant welfare, but this institution is still under a ban, probably because the husbands of these ladies are politicians. Similarly, there is a Ram Mandir in Talegaon, near Poona, which is still under a ban, because some political workers go there. Again, at Asoda, in Khandesh, there is a spinning school which is under ban. There are several such institutions still under ban, about 130 of them in Maharashtra, which have no connection with the Congress. During the Congress Jubilee celebrations, our flags were torn, processions were interfered with, meetings were disturbed, and some people, who took out *Prabhat Pheries*, were arrested. The *Loka-Shakti* of Poona wrote an article propounding that India should not take part in Imperial wars in future. It was purely an academic discussion. But the Press Act was applied and a security of Rs. 4,000 taken. This is Press Act in operation with a vengeance! It is for Government to choose. They may choose the way they like. This is the parting of the ways. I may remind them of what one of their illustrious countrymen—Marquis of Lothian—says about the situation. He says:

“Nationalism is the strongest political force in the modern world. It is growing with immense rapidity in India. It is said communalism cuts across nationalism. So it does as between Hindu and Moslem, but both are for nationalist as against alien rule.”

He, further on, says:

“We certainly could not govern a unitedly hostile India with our present methods. But, no doubt, if we adopted the methods of modern dictatorship and took over the press, purged the Universities, created a secret Oppu police, nullified all civil liberties and created a ‘strong arm’ political party to smash up every kind of political opinion not friendly to our rule, and paraded military force and ruthless executions in sufficient numbers, India could probably be kept quiet for a time.”

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member's time is up.

Dr. N. B. Khare: This is exactly what they are doing. They are creating a strong pro-British party, consisting of paid and unpaid, honorary or otherwise, knighted and benighted personages to smash the advanced political opinions as represented by these Benches. People of this category—strong arm political party—how do they argue within themselves? They say:

“Ae Hind tujko khak men kyon na milayenge ham,
Izzatko tere shauqse kyon na ghatayenge ham,
Taleem jaisi patenhai us rah jayenge ham.
Apne watanse nafrat kyon na karenge ham.
Khairkhwah englishstan ke kyon na banenge ham,
Sahibne dee khatehain roti dabel jo ham.”

[Dr. N. B. Khare.]

"Oh, India, why should I not reduce you to ashes,
Why should I not assail your honour with pleasure?
I will go the way pointed to me.
Why should I not hate my own motherland,
Why should I not be an henchman of England?
Do I not eat the double *roti* given to me by the Sahib?"

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must now conclude his speech.

Dr. N. B. Khare: In the end, I will say: "Do not mind their ways, let us go on strong; the eternal law of retribution will be enforced, and people will sing:

"India was India when England was a pup,
India will be India when England is broken up."

(Laughter.)

Mr. R. S. Sarma (Nominated: Non-Official): Mr. President, though this political bubble, namely, the frequent demand for the repeal of all repressive laws and release of all political prisoners has been pricked only a few days ago, as was pointed out by my friend, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, when this House rejected Mr. B. Das's Bill

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): On a point of order, Sir, is the Honourable Member entitled to use the casting vote of the President, constantly as the vote of the House? You gave your vote merely for the *status quo*: your vote was not a political vote at all.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is perfectly right: the President is also a Member of the House, and, in that capacity, he gave his vote.

Mr. R. S. Sarma: Sir, when, on a previous occasion, last year, the opposition won a victory with the casting vote of the President, the whole Opposition cheered, but on this occasion

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is discussing the casting vote of the President.

Mr. R. S. Sarma: I was going to say that the speeches of that particular Member were frequently quoted on the floor of the House with approval, and, as such, I am entitled to say that your casting vote on this occasion carried an implication far more important than the 64 votes cast in favour of Mr. Das' Bill. In spite of that, I am one of those

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): I understood that the casting vote was given by the Chair on the well-known principle of *status quo*, and not because you exercise your free judgment.

Mr. R. S. Sarma: Anyway, you said, Sir, that you gave it as a Member of the House.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Of course he is a Member of the House.

Mr. R. S. Sarma: He never expressed his opinion

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member had better come to the motion now.

Mr. R. S. Sarma: As I was saying, I most honestly welcome this cut motion, if for no other reason than that it gives another opportunity for people like myself and Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi (Laughter)—(because we are not as ignorant about these affairs as some of the Members opposite)—who have a much livelier appreciation of the dangers of this great monster of terrorism and subversive movements in Bengal—it gives us an opportunity once more to warn this House against the danger of acceding to this sentimental but dangerous demand frequently made for the release of all terrorists

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: Who is asking for that?

Mr. R. S. Sarma: My friend, Dr. Banerjee, remarked yesterday and also today that I was a nominated Member; but I may say, Sir, that I have a greater representative character than my Honourable friend, because I know that I was nominated by the Government and I know my constituency; but if I remember aright, my friend got in because the nomination paper of his rival was declared invalid and his constituency did not even have the chance of exercising their franchise.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadan Urban): That does not take away my representative capacity.

Mr. R. S. Sarma: Anyway, your constituency did not know that you were coming: I think you owe your seat to the returning officer more than to anybody else. (Interruptions.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should go on without minding such interruptions.

Mr. R. S. Sarma: If I am attacked personally, Sir, I hope you will allow me to reply. As regards the repressive legislation, which Mr. Aney referred to, I should like to know the exact meaning of the words "repressive laws". If by repressive laws is meant the powers in the possession of this Government to prevent terrorists from going on with their agreeable occupation of shooting people from behind, the powers in their possession to check the press from carrying on propaganda for subversive movements, and by publishing articles eulogising murder, if these powers of the Government are to be considered as repressive laws, I think that even under a Congress Government in this land these repressive laws will find a place on the Statute-book and you will find such repressive laws will find a place in the Statute-book of every civilized country in the world.

Mr. Sri Prakasa (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadian Rural): You will find yourself in jail!

An Honourable Member: And in "C" class too!

Mr. R. S. Sarma: Though this motion was moved formally by my friend Mr. Aney, the pride of place in the discussion was given to my Honourable friend, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, who comes from Bengal: and if I understood his speech aright, he confined himself to two particular subjects: one, the restraint existing at the moment on the freedom of speech and the freedom of writing in this country, and secondly, the detention of a large number of people in prison without trial. Sir, with regard to the freedom of speech, that exists in this country, and the restraints that Government have put on it, I shall give this House only one instance and that a very recent instance. Only the other day the Bombay Socialist League and many speakers of that League violently condemned people who took part in public meetings throughout this country for offering the present King condolences on the death of His Majesty King George V and offering greetings to him on his accession to the throne: nobody was more criticised than the present Leader of the Opposition for giving the weight of his support in this House. Can you conceive that even in a freedom loving country like England any speaker could have got up on any platform and made a speech of that sort?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Go to Hyde Park and see.

Mr. R. S. Sarma: I have been there very often and I have listened to a great many speeches there. In any case after listening to Mr. Satyamurti's speeches so often, I would not have missed much in Hyde Park even if I had not gone there. But I have been there and I have addressed meetings also there. Sir, I am not concerned with the good or bad taste of speeches of the members of the Bombay Socialistic League. It is a base and bigoted mind that will not sorrow with the dead or join in rejoicing over the fortunes of the living: but it gives a very good illustration of the latitude that has been given to freedom of speaking in this country. (Interruption.) I have been so often interrupted that I do not mind. I say it only affords another illustration of the great regard for the freedom of speech that my friends have got! In Bengal, some time ago, one Dinesh Gupta, a terrorist, was sentenced to death for an anarchical crime which he himself admitted and he was hanged on a particular day: that news was sent by the Government to the press and it was featured in some of the papers in Bengal—"Dauntless Dinesh dies at Dawn."

An Honourable Member: Very stale!

Mr. R. S. Sarma: I may assure my friends that it was no love of alliteration that inspired those headlines. (Interruption.) I am quite willing to be interrupted so long as the interruptions are intelligent and understandable. I have now given another illustration of the freedom of press in this country. In England, or in any other country, would this sort of thing be permitted, a man who has committed a murder and who has admitted a political murder being extolled in a newspaper headline like this

"Dauntless Dinesh dies at Dawn"? As I said, it is not love of alliteration but a definite encouragement to murder in my opinion. This shows that the press in India enjoys more freedom than it is even good for them. Sir, among the various points that were made yesterday, the main charge against the Government was that this repressive legislation is keeping under restraint a large number of youngmen without trial, and that they are all quite innocent. Arising out of that, two distinct points were mentioned and here I say the Opposition Members are totally ignorant of the actual state of affairs. (Opposition Members: "Oh! Oh!") It was said that most of these unfortunate youngmen were kept in detention relying solely and entirely upon what my friend, Mr. Aney, said, the rectitude of the informer and on no other evidence. This is entirely wrong. Both Mr. Aney and my friend, Mr. Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, said that these detenus should be released wholesale. Did not the Government of Bengal try this experiment as soon as Sir John Anderson arrived in Bengal? (An Honourable Member: "No".) And how did the people of Bengal reciprocate? The first gesture of gratitude which the Bengal anarchist showed towards Sir John Anderson's new policy of releasing the detenus was by making a dastardly attempt on His Excellency's life at the race course at Lebong. Still His Excellency Sir John Anderson did not desist from pursuing his policy of gradual release of political prisoners in Bengal. It has been said that these detenus have been kept in detention without a scrap of evidence and it is being frequently asked why not publish all the documents, why not bring them before a Court of law? This point was raised by almost every Honourable Member on the Opposition side and in the press also. Sir, I may tell my friends that this terrorist organization is an underground organization. The methods adopted by the terrorists are all secret, and therefore all activities directed towards fighting this terrorist movement must necessarily be kept secret and cannot be made public. It should be remembered that the terrorists take every care to conduct their activities in secret. The informations that Government obtain regarding them have naturally to be secret also. It will never do to expose their sources of information without seriously running the risk of drying up the channel of information altogether. To share these secrets with the public would be to destroy their secret nature, and, therefore, to that extent to weaken the fight against terrorism. Once it is admitted that secrecy of knowledge obtained about revolutionary activities and of methods by which it has been obtained is essential, it follows that in the present state of feelings in the country when public opinion is not actively opposed to those who believe in violence to the extent desirable—though it must be admitted that a change for the better is noticeable in this respect—the enquiry into allegations made about any particular person have to be held *in camera*. From such an enquiry all from whom any information on these points may in any way, through their inadvertence or otherwise, leak out, must be shut out. As an off-set against the disadvantage of an inevitable camera enquiry the next best thing that can be done is to have the proceedings and the informations scrutinised by persons who have no executive bias and are used to examine things in a judicial spirit. On this point the importance of the services of a Sessions Judge is certainly unquestioned and as the combined wisdom of two ensure greater correctness of the decision, Government have done the right thing in invariably laying before two Sessions Judges the proceedings in each case. To this extent, therefore, it has to be admitted that consistently with the claim of secrecy, Government have

[Mr. R. S. Sarma.]

done the best that could possibly be done to see that no one suffers, by reason of an error in decision. How scrupulously fair this examination of the cases of detenus has been is strikingly borne out by the opinions of Mr. Justices Beachcroft and Chandavarkar, two High Court Judges who had occasion to examine these records once. To quote on this point from a speech Sir Hugh Stephenson made in the Bengal Legislative Council, "Mr. Justices Beachcroft and Chandavarkar examined some 600 or 700 individual cases and in only 6, and those minor cases, did they find the evidence fall short of practical proof. As I know that even High Court Judges are found fault with when their decision does not concur with the wishes of the critic I will, therefore, appeal again to the evidence of the persons principally concerned, namely, the revolutionaries themselves. The 1,200 men who at one time or another had been placed under restraint have now been free men for at least three years. They have been back to their family and amongst you all and are removed from any control of the police or Government, yet there has never been a serious allegation that Government dealt with the wrong men. Take their writings in the press, take their books, they give a full history of the revolutionary conspiracy, some of them glory in their part in it and not one of them ever asserted that either he or any of his companions who were dealt with by Government were not concerned in a revolutionary conspiracy". Sir, do my friends know that not one of the hundreds of detenus released has protested that he had been unfairly detained. On the other hand their memoirs and personal experiences contributed by them to the press from time to time reveal an admission that they were misled into paths of violence by the propaganda of unscrupulous men . . .

An Honourable Member: Are you innocent?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must conclude his speech. His time is up.

Mr. R. S. Sarma: Very well, Sir, I shall finish presently, but before I do so, I want to make one personal appeal to my friends that if they are really sincere in their request for the release of these prisoners, I say that the solution lies in their own hands. Let me tell them that, to none more than to His Excellency Sir John Anderson,—I am saying this because I have had the honour of discussing this with H. E. on several occasions—(Some Honourable Members: "Oh! oh!"), is it hateful to keep men in continued loss of freedom. It is absolutely embarrassing to the Government to keep these people under detention, but there was no option but to have recourse to this preventive detention in the interests of peace and order in the country. Mr. Aney complained that since he moved his cut last year Government have done nothing to give effect to the wishes of the House. In the first place it is a wrong statement. Government have been releasing large number of detenus—consistently with safety. But, let me ask had any Honourable Member gone back to his constituency after this motion was moved last year and tried to help the Government by telling the people of the enormous loss of money, men and reputation that the country in general and Bengal in particular suffered by the folly of terrorism? It was for these gentlemen to go to the country and say that the terrorist movement was fatal to Indian interests . . .

An Honourable Member: Did you go yourself and say that?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must conclude now.

Mr. R. S. Sarma: Very well, Sir. In reply to my friend, I may say that I have done it. I have taken up the question as a life mission.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must conclude his last sentence.

Mr. R. S. Sarma: So long as my friends do not do it, so long as they merely express indignation at the policy of detention without expressing a single word of condemnation of the terrorists and their methods or without attempting to raise a little finger telling the country about the disastrous consequences of terrorism and if you do not do that, you open yourself to the interpretation that while you deplore the results of the terrorist activities you secretly sympathise with them, and thus you are delaying the release of political prisoners.

Mr. N. C. Chunder (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, if my friend, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, had concluded his speech, I would not have got up to break through the silence which I have hitherto observed. Sir, let me assure my friend, Mr. Sarma, that I do claim to represent my constituency, because, in that constituency, nobody came forward to contest me, although there were six other candidates in the field. It was unfortunate that my friend, Dr. Banerjea, had not to go through a contest, and, therefore, his credentials could be challenged. I come with credentials which, I take it, even Mr. Sarma will not challenge.

Sir, as I understand the scope of the motion, the question before us is, not whether the repressive laws should stand on the Statute-book or not, but whether the repressive laws should be administered as they have been administered by the Government of Bengal and by other Provincial Governments. The way in which the repressive laws have been administered, an investigation into that, is, as I understand it, the scope of this motion.

An Honourable Member: We are discussing the policy.

Mr. N. C. Chunder: In other words, the policy underlying the administration of the repressive laws is under discussion. We had occasions before this to express our views on the question whether the repressive laws should be on the Statute-book or not. But I take it that for the present we need not bother about that question. The way the repressive laws have been administered certainly has excited a great degree of dissatisfaction . . .

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: The Mover demanded the repeal.

Some Opposition Members: Go on.

Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi: Only the repeal he wanted.

Mr. N. C. Chunder: In his speech he may have raised that question, but I am going to vote on this motion without considering the question whether the repressive laws should be on the Statute-book or not. Assuming for the moment—because it does not affect me in the least how I am to vote on that question—that the Provincial Governments will have to be armed with the giant's strength,—I am considering here whether in using the giant's strength they should not be human and humane. They should use it humanely, like human beings. That is the point which weighs with me. You do not burn your house because mud has been trodden into the floor. You do not emasculate the youth of the country, because there have been some misguided youths, who have taken it into their heads that, with a few massacres or murders of policemen and Government officials, they can achieve freedom for their country. The tragedy of the thing lies in this. While you stop Congressmen from going and enquiring even into the circumstances, while you stop them from doing that, you put in your administration report a fling at the Congress for not having done anything to wean away these terrorists from their violent ways. Sir, it is all very fine to screen oneself behind an administration report and say:

“While the Congress politicians were indulging in misguided efforts to secure the general release of all detenus and to excite sympathy on their behalf irrespective of the merits or demerits of individuals and were cheerfully oblivious of the public danger involved by the proposal to flood the province with potential anarchists, the Government began to develop a policy”

All honour to Sir John Anderson, if he, after a quarter of a century of repression in Bengal, thought that mere repression would not do, if the futility of the Black and Tans has convinced him that you cannot, by military demonstration or by physical coercion, convert the revolutionary into a sensible citizen. All honour to him. But that is one thing and this is another. After a quarter of a century of repressive laws, it required a gentleman who had the experience of Ireland to change or at least try to change the method and the policy of Government with regard to these detenus. And they are taking credit for it. It is still in an experimental stage, and the way in which Government carry on their experiments, when they deal with public questions, does not fill us with any very great hope that the experiment will succeed, because they never take the public into confidence, they never take the people who could, if they were given an opportunity, control and convince these young men, into confidence. It may be that the file would be laid open before Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, but the file will never be laid open for Mr. Bhulabhai Desai. And yet a word from Mr. Bhulabhai Desai will go a greater way than a volume of speeches by Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi. (Hear, hear.) He has not their confidence; he may have the confidence of the Government. But Mr. Bhulabhai Desai has the confidence of the people, he has the confidence of these young men. (Cheers.) Government will not give him an opportunity, Government deny to Mr. Saksena an opportunity to go over to Bengal just to find out why or how these revolutionaries came into being. When people act under the pressure of moral privation, you cannot, by mere military coercion, convince them; because they go beyond even moral persuasion if you make them desperate. You may send soldiers to villages, but you will not frighten them. But if you want soldiers to be sent there, send soldiers like Mahatma Gandhi, send people who do believe in non-violence, with whom non-violence is an article of faith, and see the result. You won't do that. You carry on experiments and you take those people

into confidence who have not the confidence of these younger men. That is not the way to tackle the problem, but still, as I said, all honour to Sir John Anderson, that he, of all others, after a quarter of a century, had the courage to lay it down that mere repression would not do. He is tackling the problem of education. All honour to him for it. As I said, the only reason is that he had the experience of Ireland. And if he could rise higher, if he could rise beyond the limitations which the Civil Service would try to impose upon him, if he could see beyond the limits that the Civil Service would allow him to be laid bare before him, if he would have confidence in the trusted leaders of the people, I have no doubt that he will solve Bengal's problem. But will he have the courage? And until he has it, how can you say that you should not condemn the Government for their repressive policy? You talk of the Congress doing nothing. But do you allow the Congress to do anything? Your laws are so framed, your powers are so wide, that a raveling caught in the repressive gears may drag the whole garment along. Are we so cussed that we, whose children it is that are victimised by these revolutionaries, are dragged into the revolutionary fold, and pay for their violence by their blood—are we so cussed that we have no sympathy for the Government which is trying to prevent it, that we do not come forward to co-operate with that Government which try to save our own children? Why don't we do it? Because we know that if in one case the Government are right, in nine cases they go wrong, because we know that Government proceed in the wrong way, because they do not take the trusted leaders of the people into their confidence. Government move in a narrow groove, and so long as they do that, Government and the people will always have to go their own separate ways, and God take care of the consequence. (Loud Applause.)

Maulana Shaukat Ali (Cities of the United Provinces: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I have spoken in the discussion over these repressive laws in the last Delhi Session, and more forcibly and in more plain language at Simla. I do not think I can add anything further to what little I said then. What I said in conclusion was that as long as these repressive laws existed, and having regard to the way in which they were worked, no decent Indian, who loved his country and his faith, could ever vote for this Government. I am not voting for this Government, simply because, when we advised them in the past, they did not listen to us, and they think that all wisdom is their monopoly, and the rest of us only come here to badger them, and ask questions, wasting their time and taking them away from their wonderful files through which they carry on the work and the administration of this country. I do not wish to say any unpleasant things.

I was watching this debate very earnestly, and when my friend, Mr. Aney, mentioned the cases of Chhindwara and Betul detenus,

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I was personally interested. For four and a half years, myself and my brother, Maulana Muhammad Ali, were interned in Chhindwara, and when they found later that four and a half years' internment had not cured us who had felt for their faith and their country, they locked us up in the Betul Jail under Regulation III of 1818. When my friend, Mr. Aney, mentioned Chhindwara and Betul, I roused myself, and I felt really happy when the Honourable the Home Member took notes of the complaints of Mr. Aney, and gave me a ray of hope. I had said rough things about the Home Member and his Department in my speeches,

[Maulana Shaukat Ali.]

because we felt bitter against these repressive laws and their administration. Now, I would earnestly request him not to listen to the advice of my friend, Mr. Sarma. I think that advice will not help him in any way. I will remind him of what Mr. Jinnah said yesterday. I think the time has come when we should really stop this wastage of energy and time on both sides. We have had enough of abusing each other and of trying to pick holes in each other. If we indulge in this kind of language further, then there will be no more clothes left on the person either of the Leader of the House or the Leader of the Opposition, and there will be no more beautiful clothes which we all admire on the person of Mr. Jinnah. They will all be torn to pieces and we will all stand before the world naked and discredited. This kind of talk does not lead us anywhere. You have tried enough of repression, and if you continue this policy without trying to find out other and more proper remedies for this evil, then you will only hasten a revolution, a very bloody revolution, when even Mr. Gandhi will not be able to help you and will be forced to hide himself in the Himalayas. You do not listen to the voice of the people. I am a very poor man, and not used to such luxurious surroundings. I came to this Assembly to see if I could be of any use to my people, but I find we are wasting a lot of time about points of orders and sections of this Act or that. I really do not pay much attention to them. Honestly, I should like to go back and address thousands of my countrymen and travel in Muslim countries and then talk to them and serve them in my own way. Then, there will be some work. I am a fighter if you will force a fight on me, but I am really at heart a man of peace in spite of my rough and fierce appearance. I love my brave brothers in the Frontier, and you, looking at my voluminous clothes, may probably feel that I was carrying inside them a few bombs or at least Pathan knives. I assure you, I am a man of peace. I am easy going; I love games; I love all good company; I love children; and I love women. (Loud Laughter.) I also love nice food. I like garden parties and dinner parties, and I am having a lot of them here. I love the company of good friends. Now, I say, let us sit down as friends and find out a solution for all the troubles that beset us. These your men in Bengal and elsewhere are taken away from their homes and locked up in jails or internment camps. Let us try to make them happy also. They have been feeling very sore about the treatment you have been giving to them. I also sympathize with you and know your feelings. I served this Government for 17 years. We are really well meaning people, but our services are not properly appreciated.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Will the Honourable Member say something about the motion before the House?

Maulana Shaukat Ali: Every word I have spoken is on this motion and is an earnest appeal to the Government. My friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, told me one day: "Please don't talk any more of your having been an outlaw and a rebel in your speeches." Sir Muhammad Yakub laughs at me and at my efforts at peace making. Only yesterday, I asked the Members, who wanted my support for the Government, to pay me my price for my vote and support, and the Honourable the Finance Member wanted to make an offer of two annas only, even less than what he offered to our millionaire friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir. I only want to make life in India a little better and happier. Let us work the new Constitution in a new

spirit of friendship and amity. It does not satisfy us. We want changes in it to improve it to satisfy us. You ought to help us. Let any impartial observer from outside come and watch this House at work. I do not mention such names as Mr. Desai, Mr. Jinnah or Mr. Satyanurti, our show babies who work hard, but even ordinary Members like us discussing our affairs and talking in a foreign language too, I am sure he will recognise that we were honest, capable and deserving people. I also want your assistance, Sir. You are holding the responsible position of the President of the Assembly. I wanted your assistance. In fact, I wanted to see you in Simla and seek your intervention and request you to calm down both sides. Owing to these acrimonious discussions, people in England have come to hate India and people in India have come to hate England. So much bad feeling has been created. Let us wipe out the slate and start on a clean account. New powers are going to be given to the people of this country, and I do say that this is the time for you to earn the confidence and goodwill of the people; and you cannot do it by resorting to all these repressive laws. Therefore, I am looking forward for a new spirit, and I do hope, the Honourable the Home Member will not disappoint me.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): Sir, my Honourable friend, the Maulana, addressed a fervent appeal to me to listen to him. I can assure him that I listened to him with great interest and attention, and I can also assure him that his speech gave me great pleasure. I only hope that what I have to say will give him equal pleasure. But I am afraid I have to turn from the attractive subject which formed the principal part of his speech, namely himself, to a somewhat grimmer subject, the motion before the House. I do so with regret. (Laughter.) Now, Sir, this motion is, if I may say so, of the nature of those hardy annuals that bloom amid the somewhat piercing winds of a Delhi March. There is one point about the steady recurrence of this motion which I would like the House to consider. Let it, I beg, come to its verdict today, not on the past record of repression, if you can call it that, for the last ten years, but let it give its verdict on the record of what has happened since this motion was last discussed, that is, on the record of the last year, because I think and hope I shall be able to show that the last year has not been one of repression at all; and that, so far as the policy of the Government is concerned, there is really no element of repression entering into it. We have had to administer special laws, I grant, but I think I will be able to show that those laws have been administered in no spirit of repression, but only in a spirit of prevention. (Hear, hear.)

Sir, last year, my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Nationalist Party, in moving this cut, confined himself for the most part to the case of persons who had offended against the law in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement and to their treatment. I remember myself calling attention to the fact that he had omitted from his speech all reference to the Bengal detenus, whose offence or whose suspected offence, is, of course, of quite a different character. This year, I regret, my Honourable friend should have devoted the greater part of his speech to the case of the detenus and should only have made a brief reference to civil disobedience. Sir, I will deal very shortly with the Civil Disobedience Movement and then perhaps we can go and have some lunch before I come to the more serious part of my speech. I do claim that so far as

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civil disobedience is concerned, that subject is now out of the picture altogether. I have ascertained, Sir, that there are, in the whole of India, only five persons in jail in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement; and I have no doubt at all that all those committed offences either with some element of violence in them or after the Civil Disobedience Movement had been withdrawn by its leaders. My Honourable friend has spoken particularly about some civil disobedience prisoners from the Betul and Chhindwara districts who are in jail in his own province. Now, I have made the best endeavours, but I cannot trace such people at all. I think my Honourable friend has been mistaken, and I think that no such persons exist! (Laughter.) Sir, his claim reminds me of a silly story about two men meeting in a bar and one says to the other: "Didn't I meet you in Chicago?", and the other says, "No, I have never been to Chicago". Then the first one said, "Nor have I, it must have been two other chaps." (Laughter.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member may 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.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Sir, I was saying, when the House adjourned for lunch, that so far as the Civil Disobedience Movement was concerned, that movement from the point of view of so-called repression, I can fairly claim, is out of the picture. There are practically no civil disobedience prisoners left, and I am glad to say that there has been no sign of any intention to revive the Civil Disobedience Movement. So, I hope that it will not be necessary to start any further measures in that connection to enforce law and order.

Now, I pass from that to a subject that has taken up the greater part of this debate, namely, those persons who are detained without trial in Bengal on account of their terroristic activities. Before I deal with them, I think the House would perhaps like to have a picture of the present conditions in Bengal so far as the terrorist movement is concerned. I have here quite a recent letter from the Local Government which contains the following information about what happened during the year 1935. It is true that no major outrage took place during the year—I am speaking only of Bengal—but there was plenty of terrorist activity in the shape of the distribution of terrorist leaflets and posters, minor outrages, the murder of suspected police agents, the possession of unlicensed arms and other such incidents. Some important absconders, who were engaged in establishing a widespread organization, were arrested and put on trial. But there are other equally important absconders who are still at large and have so far managed to elude the efforts of the police to arrest them. This shows that police vigilance cannot be relaxed and that the special weapons which Government have taken cannot at present be discarded.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Was it in 1935 or 1936?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I am speaking of 1935. One of the most disquieting incidents was one which took place only the other day when a search was conducted of a vessel that had recently arrived at Calcutta and was lying in the docks. There, in that ship, most carefully concealed, most laboriously concealed—I think it took three days search to find them—there were no less than forty automatic pistols, 29 spare magazines and no less than three thousand rounds of ammunition for those pistols. I would like the House to appreciate just what that means, just what that indicates of the scale on which arms are being smuggled into Bengal. I consider that one of the gravest pieces of evidence that terrorist conspiracies are still in existence and that there is still a market for those murderous weapons.

Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya: How does the Honourable Member know that these arms are smuggled for the terrorists and not for others in the land?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That is a perfectly legitimate question.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): It might be the work of smugglers.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: We do know this, that smuggling has been going on for terrorists on a considerable scale for some years past and that small seizures have been made from time to time. This incident only happened less than a month ago and I quite agree that I am not in a position to say definitely that these arms were intended to be sold to the terrorists.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Hear, hear.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: But knowing the conditions in Bengal and knowing how arms have been smuggled in the past and what a very large profit there is in that business, it is difficult to draw any other inference than that they were smuggled in order to be sold to terrorists.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Mere suspicion!

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Let me go on with my description of the state of affairs in Bengal during the last year. I have given so far the black side of the picture, outrages, the distribution of pamphlets and the discovery of arms, efforts being made to revive the activities of the terrorist groups and so on. On the other hand, it is admitted, there has been a welcome improvement in the public tone and feeling during the past year in regard to terrorism and the Government of Bengal acknowledges that. But this improvement in tone must take a considerable time to have its full effect on the general terrorist situation. It is the sort of thing that permeates gradually down from the more responsible and educated section of opinion to the less responsible and wilder sections. There are influences at work which, if not checked, might do a great deal to prejudice that improved tone. As I have said the need for continued

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vigilance remains, but the improvement has enabled Government to grant more liberal relaxations of the restraints on detenus and also has enabled the Government to embark on the scheme for training detenus in useful trades which has been discussed a good deal in the public Press. I find that the total number released unconditionally or on money bonds, which comes to much the same thing, last year, was 217 and in addition 101 were placed in home domicile. I think the detenus hitherto selected for the scheme of industrial training number—I speak here from recollection—somewhere about 80. That makes a pretty considerable total of about 400. There are still something under 1,400 in some form of detention, but the number of arrests is steadily, I am glad to say, declining. The average arrests in 1935 was only 18 per month as compared with 52 in 1934 and 44 in 1933. Thus the number of arrests per month has dropped to half of what it was in 1933. I think, Sir, that shows that Government have not been indulging in indiscriminate repression and that as the situation improves they are doing all in their power to relax, so far as they feel justified in relaxing, the precautions they have been taking.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: On a point of information. What about the female detenus?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The same thing applies—I am afraid I have no statistics as regards the number of female detenus, but I would remind the Honourable Member that some of the worst outrages in Bengal were committed by female terrorists. And I cannot accept the position that because a terrorist is a woman she is any less dangerous than a male terrorist.

Now, I should like at this stage to try my best to remove certain misapprehensions as regards the information which is in the possession of Government before orders are passed restraining these terrorists without trial. Honourable Members will understand that the organisation which we are up against is a secret one working underground and to combat it we have to employ equally secret methods which I cannot reveal in full. In fact, I do not know them in full. But I can say this, that the idea that a man can be imprisoned merely on the information of a paid police informer alone is entirely erroneous. The police do not employ professional spies. The information which we get about these people almost invariably starts with some kind of a confessional statement, not by the person himself, of course, but by a person in his confidence. Now, even that is never accepted until it is cross-checked by at least one other statement of a person in the inner circle. Very often, in fact, usually, those two statements would be by people entirely unknown to each other and entirely unable to put forward invented stories as corroboration. Even so, two statements of that kind would not in themselves be considered sufficient evidence for interning a man. These are re-checked in many cases by letters which are intercepted, because, when you have reason to suspect a certain person it is easy enough to intercept his correspondence; secondly, by documents, cyphers, etc., discovered in the course of house searches; thirdly, by the discovery of concealed arms or ammunition; and fourthly, by checking up the statements of accomplices by means of a watch on the movements of the person reported against.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Then why should they not be put on trial, when you have got all the evidence against them?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, I will answer that question; let me come to that in time. The evidence is then most carefully sifted and tested by a high police officer.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: And all is done behind the back of the victims?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I think it is only fair that Honourable Members should not interrupt me. I do not interrupt them.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair hopes the Honourable Member will not be interrupted.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: I am sorry, but I only wanted information.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I take the House into my confidence more fully than it has ever been taken before, and it is only fair to let me tell my story in my own way. This evidence is then very carefully checked and sifted by a high police officer, not an officer on the spot but an officer of the central organisation. The checking is so careful that I may tell the House that a great many people pass through the net who never ought to. It will be within the recollection of the House that one of the three District Magistrates of Midnapur who was murdered was Mr. Burge. Only a few weeks before his murder the complete dossiers and evidence against three persons came before the police. They were highly suspicious but the authorities did not consider that there was enough to justify their internment. These three persons were subsequently convicted and hanged for the murder of Mr. Burge; and I think, that shows, that the utmost care is taken to see that persons are not interned without due care and full scrutiny of their cases. Before the order is passed, the whole evidence, the whole dossier, is submitted to two judges; and I have here a long note written by two judges who have worked in that capacity, too long to read, but explaining the methods in which they work, the careful way in which they test the information in the dossier and the scrupulous care with which they go into any doubtful point. Except that the accused is not present, the thing is conducted entirely as a judicial trial.

Mr. Ghansham Singh Gupta (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadian): Will the Honourable Member lay that on the table?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must not interrupt.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I now come to the point raised by Mr. Asaf Ali,—why we do not put these people on trial. I have explained that our main sources are confessional statements. If the persons making those statements were put into Court they would be in very grave danger of their lives; in many cases they have been murdered. Almost the last major terrorist outrage was the attack in the cricket ground at Chittagong on the Europeans of that station, when I think four terrorists armed with bombs and revolvers got in among them shooting and throwing bombs;

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and it was only by the grace of God that they failed to kill anyone and also owing to the gallant conduct of a police officer, Mr. Cleary. Four terrorists were captured on the spot,—one of them was I think killed on the spot. The day after that incident a man who was equally in the plot was murdered, not because he had given information to the police because he did not, but because he was suspected of having given information to the police. Now even if these witnesses escaped that very grave danger,—and it really is a grave danger,—it would mean that the sources of information would absolutely dry up if we put them in the witness-box. I do not mean to suggest merely that a man who has once made a statement implicating somebody else would never make another statement if he is put in the box. What I mean is that none of these statements would be made unless the people making them knew perfectly well that it was not the intention to produce them in open Court.

Now, Sir, I hope I have succeeded in clearing up some misapprehensions that exist as to these points. But I want to reiterate, first, that the police do not employ professional spies or informers. The information is always, in the first instance, obtained from within the circle of the plotters themselves. Secondly, no one is ever sentenced to detention on the uncorroborated statement of a single source. It is invariably checked and counter-checked by the methods which I have described. Thirdly, in most—I cannot positively say in all—cases, there is corroborative material evidence either in the shape of incriminating documents or arms or ammunition.

Now, let me take one other point. We are often asked when there will be a general amnesty for these detenus. There have, in the history of terrorist crime in Bengal, been three such general amnesties. On every occasion when these people were released, there was an immediate and serious recrudescence of terrorist crime. That seems to be a most vital point which the House is bound to take into consideration when you press us to give a general amnesty: and it is a most vital point in another way. When you deny the guilt of these people, when you say that they are innocent people imprisoned on the word of an informer, how do you explain that every time they are let out there are more terrorist outrages? There is no answer to that; the facts are conclusive.

Sir, I was glad to hear from one of the speakers, Mr. Chunder, on the other side, a testimony of his admiration for the administration of Sir John Anderson. I was glad to hear that, because I think it is important that the House should recognise, not only the great improvement as regards the terrorist outrages that has taken place since he assumed charge of the province of Bengal, but also—and this, I think, is very largely due to his own efforts—the great improvement in the general tone of the province towards terrorism. I was glad to hear from that quarter such a fair verdict on one who is undoubtedly a very great and very successful administrator and one in whom I believe all sober sections of opinion in Bengal repose real confidence. It is a curious thing, it is a noticeable thing, that while year after year we have in this Assembly a motion of this kind and year after year—and day after day almost—I am bombarded with questions about the terrorist detenus, and a motion of this kind was carried in this Assembly, by, what my Honourable friend, the Mover, described as, “an overwhelming majority”—as a matter of fact it was a majority of five in a House of 121—there has never been any such motion even put forward

in the Bengal Legislative Council. That is a thing that I would ask the House carefully to consider. And further, I would ask them to consider this, that when Government takes the action of which you are complaining—detention without trial—they are acting under a law passed by their Legislative Council by, what I am fairly entitled to describe as, an overwhelming majority. The Act was first passed in 1930 after the Chittagong Armoury Raid. It was passed by 61 votes to 15. It was then enacted for five years. In 1932 another Act, Act XII of 1932, the Suppression of Terrorist Outrages Act, which tightened up the law, was passed, again by a very large majority—58 to 12. In 1934 an Act giving permanence to these two measures, or at any rate to the first measure, was passed by 61 votes to 16. I am entitled, I think, to describe these as overwhelming majorities, and, if we can take them as indicative of what public opinion in Bengal itself feels—and mind you, they are the people who have felt the pinch, they are the people who are in the best position to realise the misery, the sufferings, the loss of life, the economic loss, caused by this dreadful movement—then, Sir, I would ask the House to pause very carefully before it passes what will in effect amount to a vote of censure, not on us, because we are not responsible for this measure, but a vote of censure on the Bengal Government, the Bengal Legislature, and the public opinion behind them both.

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

“That the demand under the head ‘Home Department’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

3 P. M.

The Assembly divided:

AYES—63.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Asaf Ali, Mr. M.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Ba Si, U.
Badrul Hasan, Maulvi.
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Bhagavan Das, Dr.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chetty, Mr. Sami Vencatachalam.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Das, Mr. B.
Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
Giri, Mr. V. V.
Govind Das, Seth.
Gupta, Mr. Ghansham Singh.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
Joshi, Mr. N. M.
Kailash Behari Lal, Babu.
Khan Sahib, Dr.
Khare, Dr. N. B.
Lahiri Chaudhury, Mr. D. K.

Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.
Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Malaviya, Pandit Krishna Kant.
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.
Parma Nand, Bhai.
Raghubir Narayan Singh, Chou-
dhri.
Rajan, Dr. T. S. S.
Raju, Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami.
Banga, Prof. N. G.
Saksena, Mr. Mohan Lal.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Sham Lal, Mr.
Shaukat Ali, Maulana.
Sheodass Daga, Seth.
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.
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Vissanji, Mr. Mathuradas.

NOES—62.

Abdoola Haroon, Seth Haji.
 Acott, Mr. A. S. V.
 Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
 Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan
 Bahadur Nawab Malik.
 Aminuddin, Mr. Saiyid.
 Anwar-ul-Azim, Mr. Muhammad.
 Ayyar, Diwan Bahadur R. V.
 Krishna.
 Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A.
 Venkatarama.
 Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
 Bajpai, Sir Girja Shankar.
 Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
 Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.
 Buss, Mr. L. C.
 Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
 Dalal, Dr. R. D.
 Das-Gupta, Mr. S. K.
 Dash, Mr. A. J.
 Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur
 Shaikh.
 Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kumar Vijaya
 Ananda.
 Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
 Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.
 Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.
 Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
 Grigson, Mr. W. V.
 Hands, Mr. A. S.
 Hidayatallah, Sir Ghulam Hussain.
 Hudson, Sir Leslie.
 Hutton, Dr. J. H.
 James, Mr. F. E.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur
 Sardar Sir.
 Khurshaid Muhammad, Khan Bahadur
 Shaikh.

The motion was adopted.

Lal Chand, Captain Rao Bahadur
 Chaudhri.
 Leach, Mr. F. B.
 Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
 Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
 MacDougall, Mr. R. M.
 Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir
 Sayad Muhammad.
 Metcalfe, Sir Aubrey.
 Milligan, Mr. J. A.
 Mody, Sir H. P.
 Morgan, Mr. G.
 Muhammad Ismail Khan, Haji
 Chaudhury.
 Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
 Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya
 Charan.
 Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
 Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
 Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
 Rau, Mr. P. R.
 Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
 Sale, Mr. J. E.
 Sarma, Mr. R. S.
 Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
 Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain
 Sardar.
 Singh, Rai Bahadur Shyam Narayan.
 Sircar, The Honourable Sir
 Nripendra.
 Spence, Mr. G. H.
 Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.
 Witherington, Mr. C. H.
 Yakub, Sir Muhammad.
 Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
 Zafrullah Khan, The Honourable Sir
 Muhammad.
 Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

DEMAND NO. 36—FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,16,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Finance Department'."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,16,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Finance Department'."

Retention of Emergency Taxation of 1931 and the Urgent Necessity of its Abolition.

Sir Leslie Hudson (Bombay: European): Mr. President: I have risen this afternoon to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Finance Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

For the purpose of ventilating once again, in this House, the question of the retention of the Emergency Taxation of 1931, and the urgent necessity of its abolition.

We are dealing today with Emergency Taxes imposed for emergency purposes in a time of national crisis. If Government are entitled to expect us to make a supreme effort to help it through a crisis, we, in our turn, are entitled to expect Government to make a supreme effort to remove such emergency taxation at the earliest possible moment and to do so before any fresh expenditure is embarked upon.

What are the pledges of Government in this matter? The emergency surcharge of 25 per cent. on income-tax and super-tax was imposed under the Supplementary Budget introduced in the Autumn of 1931—4½ years ago. Political memories have a reputation for being short. Let me, therefore, refresh the memory of the House with the actual words used by Sir George Schuster in recommending the imposition of the surcharge in the September of 1931, and I ask the House to mark particularly the principles which he then laid down:

"Relief must come first in restoring the emergency cuts in pay and secondly in taking off the surcharge on Income-tax now to be imposed. I think we may predict with as much certainty as is possible for any such forecasts that these special impositions will not in any case be extended beyond March 31, 1935."

When the time came for the Budget to be introduced in 1933, we found that the crisis had not lifted sufficiently to enable Sir George Schuster's forecast to be realised, but we were reassured by the emphasis which Sir George Schuster then laid upon the temporary character of these surcharges.

Last year, Sir James Grigg, re-emphasised Sir George Schuster's pledge and fully accepted the principles which had been laid down as to the order in which relief should be given when conditions improved. In the course of the subsequent discussions on the Finance Bill, my Honourable friend, Mr. James, moved an amendment increasing the reduction of the surcharges, and on that occasion Sir James Grigg said:

"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."

These then are the pledges that have been given to us during the past four and a half years, and I trust I have said sufficient to prove to you, Sir, and to the House, how heavily Government is committed in this matter.

How have these pledges been redeemed? The first part of the undertaking, that is to say, the part relating to the pay of Government servants, has been honoured in full.

So far as the Income-tax payer is concerned he has, after four and a half years, secured relief in two instalments each of which reduced the surcharge by one-third. Last year the Honourable the Finance Member told us that the removal of the surcharges altogether would cost Rs. 3.34 lakhs and with an estimated surplus of only Rs. 1.42 lakhs. He could not do more than remove one-third of the surcharges at a cost of Rs. 136 lakhs. The net cost of that concession must now be reduced for we know that the Honourable Member expects to receive an excess of Rs. 40 lakhs in the Income-tax receipts and part of that excess must, of course, be off-set against the loss he suffers on the remission of one-third of the surcharge.

The concession of one-third was based on an estimated surplus of Rs. 142 lakhs whereas, the Honourable the Finance Member now expects the outturn of the year to give him Rs. 266 lakhs more, so that, the actual

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[12TH MARCH 1936.]

[Sir Leslie Hudson.]

amount of pre-budget surplus receipts he had for disposal last year was Rs. 408 lakhs—a sum Rs. 64 lakhs in excess of the total cost of the remission of the entire income-tax surcharges. These calculations I need hardly say leave untouched the Honourable gentleman's surplus of Rs. 500 lakhs in the previous year.

In these circumstances, we can hardly be expected to be convinced that the retention of the surcharges, even last year, was an unavoidable necessity, and the Honourable gentleman will have to exercise a considerable amount of ingenuity to convince us that he has done all that he could and should have done to honour his own and his predecessor's pledges.

Moreover, we have no assurance, no pledge, no indication of any sort or kind, that next year we are to be relieved of the remaining third of these taxes. We look in vain through the Honourable Member's Budget statement for some sign that final relief is in sight. If the Budget statement is all that can be offered to us, we might well give up hope altogether. The Finance Member has balanced his budget not only next year, and the year after, but three years ahead, to March, 1939. I understand that we are to have a bare balance in 1937-38, and an expansion of Rs. two crores in the revenue receipts of 1938-39, but the Honourable gentleman has mortgaged that expansion by his proposal to allocate it to a revenue reserve fund. I ask the Finance Member: does this mean that, so far as he can see, we shall still be bearing emergency taxation in 1940, eight years after the crisis which justified its imposition. I venture to think, Sir, that the House is entitled to some further explanation from the Finance Member in respect of this sinister forecast.

I have already made it plain that the European community in India and the important Industrial and Commercial Interests which we represent, and, I may add, Indian Commercial and Industrial opinion, are very far from being convinced that the Finance Member has done his best to relieve the tax-payer of these emergency taxes towards which we are now inviting the House to direct its attention. Numerous telegrams and letters have reached me, during the past ten days, from all parts of India, without exception, all of which voice the same keen disappointment, if not resentment, at the failure of the Finance Member to secure the total remission of the emergency surcharges. The business community in India takes the strongest exception to what has perhaps not incorrectly been described as a breach of faith.

Let me take another point. My Honourable friend, Mr. Morgan, drew attention last week to the statement in which the Finance Member invited us to take note of "India's Marvellous Power of Recuperation from Economic troubles". There is no doubt that the relief of one-third which was given to us so grudgingly last year has been partly responsible for the fresh impetus to trade which the Finance Member was able to record, and we now hear that notwithstanding this concession the Income-tax returns are greater by Rs. 40 lakhs than was anticipated. We, on these Benches, have little doubt that if the Honourable Member had the courage to abolish the remainder of the surcharges he would be further rewarded by an increase in the yield of Income-tax as a result of the additional stimulus to trade which would follow from such an action. Conversely, we are satisfied, that the Honourable Member by retaining the emergency taxes is holding up the full extent of trade recovery in India. A fact which His

Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom realised from the very outset and which we should like to see realised to a greater degree here, is that emergency taxation aggravates and prolongs the emergency in so far as that emergency is due to trade depression. It is to us a matter of great regret that the Finance Member has decided to buttress his Budget, until next March, at any rate, by crisis taxation which is artificial in the present circumstances and the continuance of which gives neither himself nor the Government a fair chance of seeing how conditions can be brought back to normal.

Now, Sir, we are perfectly well aware that the Finance Member's policy has strengthened and consolidated the credit of the Government of India. Up to a point measures which achieve that important end warrant our unqualified support, but it may well be that the credit of the Government of India is becoming an embarrassment to the trade and industry of the country. Government stocks are continuing to rise and money which should be circulating in Commerce and Industry is being locked up in Government securities. From the point of view of the Finance Member's credit that is an advantageous development, though it is by no means an unmixed blessing for the industrial and commercial economy of the country, and what is required today is a similar rise in industrial equities, a feature which would indicate the confidence of the people in the soundness, I might say in the permanence, of the country's recovery.

I come now to my final observation. It is a well-known fact, and I need not labour the point, that throughout the long negotiations for constitutional reform, negotiations which are now on the very eve of fruition, we have made it abundantly plain, at the Round Table Conferences, at the Joint Select Committee, and on all occasions when Government has sought our advice or support, that we consider it a cardinal prerequisite for the success of the reforms that they should be launched in normal financial conditions. In fact, we suggest, that the success of the new constitution will be very seriously prejudiced if it is floated on emergency taxation. What is the position in which we find ourselves today?—Twelve short months from the inception of provincial autonomy. The position is one which we cannot view with other than great anxiety. The Honourable Member's Budget calculations are inclusive of the emergency surcharges on Income-tax and Customs and Excise duties. The strength of his Budget is still being secured by these adventitious aids. Where are the funds to meet the additional expenditure involved in the Reforms? Possibly in a general rise in prices and in an increased demand for India's export commodities. But, Sir, both these circumstances are dependent upon the favourable course of world economic conditions which cannot be influenced by India alone. It is here then that we see the significance of emergency taxes. These surcharges are to be held in reserve, in the future Federation of India, as a margin of taxation for emergency measures. Surely it is unwise for the Government of India to approach the very threshold of the new constitution with any of that margin already in use.

We are not unaware, Sir, of the fact that the whole question of the finance of the new constitution is at present under the examination of Sir Otto Niemeyer, and, in that connection, I am bound to say that I am in some doubt as to whether Government is justified in providing

[Sir Leslie Hudson.]

Rs. 158 lakhs by way of subvention to Sind and Orissa before Sir Otto Niemeyer's enquiry is completed. Moreover, the Finance Member's own observation that the sums he has provided for Sind and Orissa "do not purport to provide any substantial margin for new schemes of expenditure, and apart from furnishing small opening balances, they are intended to do very little more than enable the provinces to balance their budgets during their first year's working" is not in itself a very hopeful commentary as to the possible future requirements of these two provinces from the central revenues. What is the extent of these "possible future requirements"? Are they, too, to be financed from emergency taxation? If so, then these subventions are likely to prejudice fair financial settlements in regard to the other provinces. If that is the case then when can Bengal hope to get the whole of the jute tax?

Let me in conclusion summarise the main points. The pledges of Government committing them to the removal of the emergency surcharges are on record, and when I say emergency surcharges, let it be clearly understood that I do not confine myself to the surcharges on Income-tax only—though in that respect the pledges of Government are most precise—but I include also the surcharges on customs and excise duties which formed a definite part of the scheme of crisis taxation imposed four and a half years ago. The time has arrived when we must speak plainly. We take a most serious view of this matter. For too long we have pleaded in vain for full and honest recognition of the just claim of the taxpayer for the removal of the emergency taxes which he is still bearing notwithstanding the fact that the emergency has passed. We are not convinced that his claim for consideration is impossible of fulfilment. We consider that this relief could be granted without in any way impairing Budget equilibrium, and ought to be granted in the interests of a sound budgetary position before the reforms are inaugurated, and in common justice to the taxpayer. I beg to move.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Finance Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir H. P. Mody (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Mr. President, I hope my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, will not regard this motion as yet another example of legislative perversity. Some years ago, I had occasion to remark on the agonised expression which Sir George Schuster habitually wore during budget discussions. We all know that Sir James Grigg is absolutely incapable of such a purely passive attitude of mind, and if we could occasionally catch what he mutters beneath his breath, sometimes for his own benefit, and sometimes for the benefit of his immediate colleagues, this House would be a very much livelier place to work in than it is now. (Laughter.) I do feel, when we are talking of balancing of things and cancelling out of arrangements, that in view of the fact that the Finance Member very often relieves himself in this fashion, he might adopt a more tolerant attitude towards the unfortunate representatives of the much abused, depressed, so-called capitalist classes.

Some Honourable Members: Oh!

Mr. S. Satyamurti: We will change places.

Sir H. P. Mody: Probably we will some day. Sir, what are Finance Members the world over for, if not to be told by their critics that they do not know their jobs and that their critics know it better? We have no part or lot in the framing of the budget. We have no part or lot in the shaping of it. Well, we must get something out of budget discussions, and if we are not even to criticise the Finance Member even when he has produced a surplus,—and I am free to admit, distributed the surpluses, on the whole, and I put emphasis on the words, on the whole, wisely and fairly—I do not know what we are here for.

An Honourable Member: Question.

Sir H. P. Mody: I say that even though he has produced surpluses, he must not expect that we are going, continually, to throw bouquets at him.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I don't.

Sir H. P. Mody: I am very glad. It seems the Finance Member is a very quick and apt pupil, and I am glad he has sized up the atmosphere of this place. What, Sir, is the object of the motion? It is purely this, that Government having imposed additional taxation, of a most onerous character in order to tide over a crisis, must remove that taxation when the crisis is past. If Government want more money—and they are always wanting money—then I am quite sure that they will come forward with fresh proposals, and as it is the fashion nowadays everywhere that the rich are to be pauperized by more and more taxation heaped upon them. I have no doubt that if additional taxation is wanted, the Finance Member will put his hand in the pockets which he thinks will bear that burden. Well, all I can say is that if and when additional taxation is required, and if we find that there is a necessity for it and also that the burden is sought to be distributed fairly and evenly and that every interest is going to be equally taxed, then I for one shall certainly support the demand for additional taxation, even though it falls upon the classes whom I represent. My Honourable friend seems to think that a great joke.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Yes, I do.

Sir H. P. Mody: Well, all I can say is "wait and see". Do not produce surplus budgets; produce deficits and come forward with additional demands; distribute them fairly and evenly, and then, if I don't support you, come and say what you like to me.

Now, Sir, the capitalist classes in this country, the propertied classes, are under no delusion as to what is awaiting them under the new dispensation. The hand of most men is against them, and, recently, I have found some very exalted quarters lending support to the ranks of the Socialists in this country. We shall meet that situation when it confronts us. We are not under any delusion about it.

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Do you mean that Sir Cowasji is going to join the Socialist side?

Sir H. P. Mody: He will be the last but one man, and I shall be the last. (Laughter.) I was going to say that when that situation faces us we shall know what to do. Either we shall take a leaf out of the book of our esteemed friends here and offer non-violent non-co-operation, or it is just possible we may offer something which may be much less virtuous but more effective.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: He is a terrorist. Intern him!

Sir H. P. Mody: In the meantime, Sir, my position is that we must have the right to live, and while we are allowed to live by the grace of my friends on this side and of the Government Members on the other, the pledges which have been given should be carried out, and, as Sir Leslie Hudson has pointed out in a very effective and well-reasoned speech, when there are surpluses no one can possibly say that the emergency which brought about additional taxation is any longer there. That being so, there is no reason or justification, whatsoever, for retaining these additional taxes. I repeat, so that my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, may not misunderstand me, that what we want is the carrying out of pledges as we have understood them. If the financial position of the country demands any additional taxation, we shall meet it on a direct straight issue. Sir, we have been told in these last few days by the Honourable the Finance Member that he is an orthodox financier. Well, that is about the only orthodox thing about him, I should think. He is a Brahmin of Brahmins, so far as financial orthodoxy is concerned. But if he is orthodox to the extent to which he imagines he is, then I say that one of the things that that orthodoxy demands is, that when you label an additional exaction as emergency taxation, then, as soon as the emergency has passed away, you must tear off the label and.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Tear off the label and call it permanent legislation.

Sir H. P. Mody: I am glad to find the slow drift of my friend, Mr. Satyamurti, to the Right crystallising into a sort of alliance with the Finance Member. Am I to take it that my Honourable friend agrees with the position taken up by the Finance Member, namely, that he will tear off the label 'emergency legislation' and substitute for it the label 'permanent legislation'?

Sir, on all these grounds which I hope I have put forward as briefly as I could, I support the motion.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I do not intend at this stage to go into any intricate questions of financial policy or principle or the details of the budget and the estimates that were presented by the Honourable the Finance Member. I am one of those who believe that the country is heavily taxed and that it has been cut to the bone, and I cannot possibly over-emphasise the need of urgent relief to the taxpayer. During the last 20 years, if my memory does not fail me, taxes have been piled again and again on more than nine occasions, with the result that their incidence today is much heavier than at any time previously. I join hands with all those who want relief in taxation. I also hold that at present the

Government, as they are constituted, do not, in fact, deserve any assistance or co-operation. The House has, by refusing supplies to the Executive Council and to the Military Department, established conclusively that, if it had rested with this House, it would not give them any funds as it has no trust in their policy or in their methods. So positively as well as negatively, I am for reduction of taxation. I also hold that there is enormous extravagance today and India could get equal and better service perhaps for half of the money that it has to pay today for keeping this unwanted Government in power. So far, I think there is common ground between me and those who want relief in taxation. I repeat, Sir, that the emergency taxation was obviously meant for emergency purposes alone. We should now consider as to what were the taxes that were imposed at the time and which of these taxes should in equity be taken off first of all and should have priority. That is the question which I would like Honourable Members sitting there to apply their minds to. The Government have never been worried by anything like a pledge in these matters. A pledge was given when the income-tax was imposed in this country, and we know how it was respected. And I know of a good many other pledges. (Laughter.) I think the House remembers what one of the Secretaries of State once said: "It has been our vocation to make pledges and to break them, and it would have been more honest and more honourable if, instead of deceiving the people, we had behaved frankly with them"; so this is not the solitary occasion when a pledge had been made.

I might remind Honourable Members, and some of them might be remembering it, that Sir Basil Blackett, while presenting his budget for 1928-29 in 1928, did indicate that he had every hope that taxes would be taken off next year, as he was fully conscious of the fact that the country had been over-taxed. And, Sir, how many more taxes have been levied since 1928-29! I need not enumerate them, because they are recent events, and everybody here must be aware of these burdens. I will go back to these emergency taxes. What were they? Well, there was the sur-charge of 25 per cent. on income-tax and super-tax, on salt tax, on excise duties, on customs duties and also an increase in postal rates and railway freights and fares. All these things contributed towards the funds that were raised in September 1931 by means of the emergency financial scheme of Sir George Schuster. Well, Sir, the question that now confronts this House is, while the emergency taxes should be removed, which of these should have priority? Well, the Government, of course, are very just and they began first of all by taking off the Rs. 5,000 per month which His Excellency the Viceroy had been contributing by a self-denying ordinance imposed on himself. In the case of the Governor-General, it was 20 per cent. and, in the case of others, it was 10 per cent., so it came to Rs. 5,000.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: 15 per cent. for the Executive Council.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: So far as you are concerned, Sir James, you have regularly got your full pay since a few months after your arrival here, and your predecessor had to bear the major portion of the cut. He is lucky, I think he has been so all his life. However, leaving that alone, what I am concerned with here is that first of all the Government was struck by the penurious, the precarious and the hard lot of the gentlemen sitting opposite (Laughter), and the Honourable the Finance Member

[Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant.]
 thought that the first, and the most urgent step that was called for was to restore their salaries lest they should die of starvation, and luckily none of them died and they have been all saved, and all congratulations are due to them. Next they thought of another community with whom perhaps they had something in common because they also were affected by the increase in super-tax and they thought that the poorest and the weakest folk were the gentlemen sitting there in the European Group (Laughter), and then they followed by taking off one-third from the income-tax and super-tax for the relief of that hard-hit lot there (Laughter), whose difficulties, perhaps, are not as intelligible to us as they are to those opposite with whom they have an actual, solid, genuine sympathy because of a more or less common outlook. So they were considered to be most deserving of the next stage of relief in the order of relief of taxation. Sir, I remember the Finance Member making a speech on a Resolution that was moved here as to the policy of taxation that should be observed in this country. I gathered then from what he said, and he will correct me if I am wrong, that he is against indirect taxation and in favour of direct taxation. Now what is happening? What is the actual result of the relief that he is giving? Last year the proportion of indirect to direct taxation was raised because the indirect taxes went up while the direct taxes went down because of the first cut of one-third in the emergency increase on those taxes. This year again there is a similar step taken, with the result that the ratio of indirect to direct taxation will go up, naturally higher than what it was last year. Now, I do not know really how far this is in consonance with the principles that were enunciated by the Finance Member here last year. He assured us that he is an orthodox economist. Well, I will have to deal with his orthodoxy on some other occasion but here I wish he had stuck to his own enunciation of policy as orthodoxy at least implies and involves consistency; but, Sir, he thought that those who deserve relief were those who would have more left with them after the payment of any taxes that might be claimed from them than those who had less and much less indeed. Well, it is I think the Christian maxim—"give to those who have still more and take away from those who have but little the little they possess". Well, Sir, that is the principle that was adopted by the Honourable the Finance Member. I remember, I am not mistaken, that the Honourable Baronet from Bombay while speaking the other day laid emphasis on the fact that he wanted relief for the poor and not for the rich. (An Honourable Member: "Quite right"), and I believe one eminent person, greater perhaps than many of those who are sitting here, His Highness the Aga Khan, has been making speeches all over the country to the effect that the time had come when the richer classes in this country should be taxed for the benefit of the poor (Hear, hear), and he is a man in whose shrine many people literally worship. He is perhaps the man who receives the greatest amount of friendly homage, shall I say, because he is a religious preceptor, at the Viceregal Lodge, and I, Sir, would have thought the Government would take a leaf out of His Highness the Aga Khan's book and be guided by it at least in this small matter. So, Sir, while I would not oppose the relief of taxation in any case, I think it is but just and fair that those who stand most in need should be considered as primarily deserving of relief at this time. And who does not know that the entire trouble today is due to the abrupt collapse in the value of the primary agricultural products? If that is so, can anybody deny that those who deserve this relief are

primarily those who have primarily to depend upon agriculture? For, their incomes have all of a sudden collapsed by about fifty per cent. to half. So, Sir, if the Government cannot do more, can they not at least remove the surcharge on salt? It will not cost more than a crore and a half. It was part of the emergency taxation. If you take away five annas per maund from the duty imposed on salt, my Honourable friends over there and there and in all parts of the House will all have the benefit of it as much as the poor. But the fairness of the arrangement lies in this that every one will have the benefit of it and not any particular class, not that the richer will be excluded, but that the poorer will be included. When you grant relief to those who pay income-tax alone, then you shift the burdens to the poorer classes and make it easier for the richer classes. When you relieve the masses by taking away the surcharge on salt tax you give relief to every single individual in this country. (Hear, hear.) What is more just and fair, that relief should be restricted to a few thousands who alone pay super-tax or that it should be given to every one of the 250 millions of people contributing to the exchequer in British India?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has exceeded his time limit.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: As I have exhausted my time, I do not like to take up any more time. I hope my Honourable friends will, therefore, realise that, after all, all the profits they enjoy they eke out of others, and if they do not extend their hand of friendship to those under and around them, then certainly the days ahead may bring greater trouble than many of them imagine.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah (Sind Jagirdars and Zamindars: Landholders): I generally agree with the previous speakers that our country is heavily taxed, and, therefore, there ought to be reduction of taxes. I heard the Mover of the cut and his supporters with great attention, but I am not at all convinced by their arguments. Both of them were harping on the surplus. But they have not realised how the Honourable the Finance Member has achieved this surplus. One of the methods by which he has achieved that is that he has made dangerously inadequate provision for the redemption of a debt of 1,200 crores. What is the provision he has made? He himself admits that a provision of three crores for the redemption of 1,200 crores is dangerously inadequate. That is, we will be able to redeem our debt in 400 years. He has departed from the old convention of 1924, according to which he ought to have provided eight or nine crores. By putting off this liability, he has produced a surplus budget. Therefore, there is really no surplus at all. My Honourable friends, the Mover of the cut and his supporters have absolutely no case. How can the Honourable the Finance Member fulfil the pledge, if there was any pledge given, if he has not got a surplus budget? Again look at the finances of the Government of India? On Railways we are incurring loss to the tune of four to five crores a year; then there are the additional liabilities of subventions to Orissa and Sind; and then every year the Honourable the Finance Member has to provide a crore for rural uplift, which he must provide every year; otherwise people will say that Government, in order to combat the popular movement, made provision for two or three years and afterwards gave it up. I may tell him that if he does

[Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah.]

not provide a crore every year, then all the money that has been spent will be wasted. So, by not taking into account these liabilities and postponing the redemption of debt, he has produced this surplus. If we take the taxation of the provinces as well as the Central Government into consideration, what are my rich friends paying in the shape of taxes? In the provinces, except the surcharge on electricity, they do not pay any other tax. I am referring to the capitalists.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Where?

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah: What do you pay to the municipalities for the services rendered to you? So, Sir, except the income-tax to the Government of India, and the surcharge on electricity to the provinces, they pay nothing else. What have the Government done for them? Government have protected their industries to the disadvantage of the consumers. The mill industry, the sugar industry, the steel industry, all have got protection and on that score the Government are losing in the shape of customs to the extent of four crores.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Much more than four crores.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah: Much more than four crores, as the Honourable the Finance Member points out. They are getting money by putting an excise on matches and on the necessities of the life of the poor man. Therefore, I am sorry, I cannot support the motion that the surcharge should be reduced.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria (Marwari Association: Indian Commerce): Sir, I rise to support the motion. The emergency taxation was imposed in September, 1931, when the Government budget was faced with a large deficit. At that time by one stroke of the pen, Sir George Schuster, the then Finance Member, increased all the customs and excise duties as well as taxes on income by 25 per cent. and the salaries of all Government servants were subjected to a cut of ten per cent. These emergency measures were taken to balance the budget under exceptional circumstances. This House was also told at the time that these increased taxations as well as the pay cut were of a temporary character and will be removed when the emergency ceased. It was at that time expected that the emergency will cease at the end of March, 1933, and these fresh taxations will also be removed by that time. Sir, the burden of taxation in a poor country like India was already very high when these new taxations were levied and these fresh taxes involving as they did several crores were the last straw on the camel's back.

Fortunately, the financial position of the Government of India has been improving during the last few years and with the first signs of improvement, the Government hastened to restore first, the five per cent. of the pay cut of their servants and then, next year, the balance of five per cent. of the pay cut was restored in spite of protests from all sections of people. Even my friends, of European Group, joined in this protest.

Sir, now, the Honourable the Finance Member in his budget speech informed us that there was a surplus of 495 lakhs in 1934-35 and there are prospects of a surplus of 242 lakhs in 1935-36 and of 205 lakhs in

1936-37. All credit is due to the Honourable the Finance Member for this happy state of affairs. But his credit would have been ten times more if he would have reduced expenditure considerably and reduced the burden of taxation considerably and then produced a surplus budget or even a balanced budget. Sir, as no emergency exists at present, there is no justification for continuing the emergency surcharges and it is high time that they are removed altogether. I am grateful to the Honourable the Finance Member for removing two-thirds of the income-tax charges in two years but the mercantile community confidently expected that with the improvement of the finances of the Government of India the entire surcharges on taxes on Income will be removed this year. In this, they have been partially disappointed and I have received representation from various Chambers of Commerce to press for their total removal and I urge the Government, with all the emphasis at my command, to remove the surcharges altogether immediately.

Sir, when there are deficit budgets fresh taxations are levied and we are told that these taxations are only temporary and will be removed as soon as possible. When there are surpluses we are told that these are non-recurring surpluses and, hence, cannot be utilised for reduction of taxation and the major portion of the surpluses is spent away on construction of cities, on broadcasting, and so on. It is a policy of "Heads, I win; tails, you lose". I cannot agree to such a policy. Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member hopelessly under-estimated the import duty from sugar last year inasmuch as he got more than double his estimate. I submit that his estimate of revenue from this source this year is also at least an under-estimate of one crore of rupees. This sum would be approximately sufficient to take away the balance of the surcharges on income, which I request him to remove altogether. Sir, I support this motion.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Sir, the debate today is to a certain extent a repetition of the debate on the general discussion of the budget and some of the points made by my friend, Sir Leslie Hudson, were points that I had brought to the attention of this House during the budget discussion. But one or two points have been made during this discussion which have rather surprised me. I do not find my Honourable friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, in his seat, but I am afraid I must say a word or two during his absence. I thought all along that he and his Party were foremost in reminding Government of their pledges, of their supposed pledges, of imaginary pledges; but when it comes to a pledge given in black and white and only two or three years ago, my Honourable friend has the temerity to say that it does not matter if Government do not fulfil that pledge. Such an argument not only surprised me but it surprised me more, coming as it did from my Honourable friend who is so scrupulously honest in all his arguments and who has reminded Government on more than one occasion of the pledges given 50 or 60 years ago. Sir, I am very glad to be able to believe that Government have not repudiated that pledge. It was repeated last year. We are complaining of the delay in its fulfilment and we have grave apprehensions that there will be unnecessary and unjustifiable delay. We readily admit the relief that has been given to the poorest class of income-tax payer; those whose salaries only amounted to Rs. 1,000 a year. We gratefully appreciate that relief to the poorest class of income-tax payer, but let me remind my Honourable friend that that relief was obtained after Resolution after Resolution

[Sir Cowasji Jehangir.]

had been passed by this Honourable House for three or four years. But it has been given and we gratefully admit it. Let us also say candidly that it was long overdue and we apprehend that the other relief, included in that pledge, is likely to be unnecessarily delayed. I drew the attention of the House to the forecasts made by the Finance Member, not for next year but for the year to come, in which he gives us no hope of further relief. He shows an actual deficit of two crores and he proposes to use the surplus of last year to make good that deficit in 1937-38. Well, Sir, all I can say and repeat is that with the conditions in Europe and conditions in the Far East, my Honourable friend is a bold man. He again forecasts for 1938-39 where he believes he will be able to balance his budget without further taxation. He believes there is going to be a betterment of two crores. I honestly hope that his belief will come out to be true, but there is going to be no relief for us. And his budget is based on one argument and one argument alone. He will not increase the capital charge of this country because he believes that his predecessor made a mistake in reducing the seven crores that was put aside every year to three crores. And when I read out his predecessor's arguments for doing so, I expected at least to be informed as to how Sir George Schuster was wrong in his arguments and his logic. But there was not a single word of explanation. I also took the opportunity to point out that provision was being made in the Railway budget and the Posts and Telegraphs budget. But that did not seem to appeal to the Finance Member at all. If facts can be turned down in this way I am afraid . . .

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah: Will the Honourable Member kindly state where is the provision made for the redemption of railway debt?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Well, 13 crores a year are put aside for replacements and depreciation.

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah: Replacements and renewals do not mean redemption.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: My Honourable friend who was once the Finance Member of the Government of Bombay has still a lot to learn. This is a commercial department and in a commercial department when you set aside 13 crores of rupees a year for replacements and renewals, you are keeping your stock up to scratch. I also pointed out that ample provision was made in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, but still we hear this argument trotted out that Sir George Schuster was completely wrong; all his arguments that I read out should be put in the waste-paper basket and we should be made to pay out of revenue a crore a year what ought really to be charged to capital.

And then, Sir, there was one argument in the Finance Member's speech which struck me as rather extraordinary,—I was not able to understand it. He said that if he did charge that one crore for Quetta to capital it would cost 75 lakhs a year.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I might take this chance of explaining that; the Honourable Member misunderstood me completely. What I said was, that the saving to the budget would be of the order of 75 lakhs a year. The Honourable Member misunderstood my argument at the

time and if he looks at my words carefully he will see that I meant that the charge on the budget in respect of borrowing would be about 25 lakhs a year and the saving would be of the order of 75 lakhs a year.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I do not see the figure of 25 lakhs anywhere in the budget.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: You work it out and it will come to that.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: It is 24½ lakhs.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is roughly 25, isn't it?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: Yes, all right. Then, where does the saving of Rs. 25 lakhs come in?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The normal expenditure on Quetta in future years will be a crore a year.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I see what my Honourable friend meant to say.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I did say it.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: That we would have to pay Rs. 25 lakhs in interest if it was borrowed money, whereas if he paid it out of revenue, it would be a crore. Therefore, the extra saving to revenue every year would be only Rs. 75 lakhs. That is the argument.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is what I said.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I am glad of the explanation, because I really could not understand it. It is perfectly correct. We shall call it Rs. 75 lakhs a year, not a crore. You take Rs. 75 lakhs a year when you ought to take 25 or 26.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: You have still got it wrong. I am presenting you, for the purpose of your argument, with a saving of Rs. 75 lakhs a year on the budget, not 75 less 25, but Rs. 75 lakhs nett.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: A crore minus Rs. 25 lakhs.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: You just said 75 minus 25.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I say that we ought to get Rs. 75 lakhs more in the budget than we have got. We have cut out Rs. 28 lakhs.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: That is your argument.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: And the rest is in the military budget which we cannot touch, but we shall take it into our calculations when we come later on to discuss the Finance Bill.

[Sir Cowasji Jehangir.]

Now, I do not believe along with my friend, the Leader of the European Group, that further relief could not have been given. I believe it could have been given. I come to the question of the income-tax payer. I know that there are many in India who believe that the income-tax in India is not so very heavy after all. On certain incomes, it is higher than the income-tax in England.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The lower ones.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: On the highest, you are paying much less.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: No, it is not so. The income-tax is a very onerous tax on people who make a fairly big return indirectly to the revenues of this country through trade, industry and commerce. The more you go on taxing these people, the less commerce there will be, the less industry there will be, and the less will be the indirect returns to your revenues. The more loss your industries make, the less revenue to the country as a whole. Discourage your commerce, you will have much less revenue to Government. It is a vicious circle which people in England have learned to realise, a vicious circle which enables the Finance Member to show that he is bringing in a bigger income for the time being by increasing the income-tax, but which, finally, he finds has so reacted on the general revenues of the country that he finds it wiser and more advisable, in the interests of all classes, to reduce.

An Honourable Member: Not of all classes.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: I should have thought that the Finance Member had realised that fact, but evidently he has not, but he will realise it or will be made to realise it in a very short time. All we complain about just now is that he has gone beyond the scope of a Finance Member in trying to predict what is coming to this country two or three years hence, when we know very well that every one of his forecasts are likely to be upset, and if I have the privilege of being a Member of this House two or three years hence, I feel confident that I shall be able to point out to the Honourable the Finance Member, whoever he may be then, that the forecasts made by the Finance Member in the year of grace 1936 have—what shall I say?—met with disaster. I have seen such forecasts before and I trust he will give us credit for a little common-sense and not ask us to believe in his betterments and in his deficits in the year 1938-39 and 1939-40. By such forecasts he has utilised two crores of the surplus for the last year by locking it up in his safe. Sir, we are passing through dangerous times. I appreciate caution, I appreciate it more today than I did when I spoke a week ago. There has been a considerable change in a week's time, leaving aside a year or two or three years hence. A great change has taken place in the last week in the world situation, and I appreciate caution more today than I did even a week ago (Hear, hear), but caution based on some logical facts, caution based, I will say, on common-sense—a trait which his countrymen possess to larger extent than any people in the world. His forecasts are neither based on logic or on common-sense. Whatever the future is going to bring us, let him be as cautious as he likes, but let him also be fair and equitable to all classes of taxpayers; and above all, let him not forget pledges given by

the Government of India, regardless of who the Finance Member was at the time. A pledge given by a Government is no less sacred because one Member of Government is changed. It remains as sacred as it was on the day it was given, and we shall insist upon its being fulfilled, or know the reason why.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Sir, I fully endorse the general principle laid down by the Honourable the Mover of this amendment, namely, that taxes levied in an emergency should be withdrawn when that emergency is over. But I must record my emphatic dissent from his view, when he seeks to apply this general principle to his particular proposals. His proposals are, that the surcharge on the income-tax and the surcharge on the super-tax be removed. But may I point out to you the various items of taxation levied in this country as emergency taxes since the beginning of the European War? It was during the War that the salt tax was raised from one rupee to Rs. 1-4-0. Then, during the years 1921 and 1922 a large amount of additional taxation was levied in the shape, largely of customs duties. In 1931, at the time of the general budget and again at the time of the supplementary budget, a large amount of additional taxation was levied, and the surcharges which were imposed at that time were surcharges not merely on income-tax and super-tax, but also on customs and excise duties; and such articles of absolute necessity for the poor as kerosene and salt were subjected to this emergency taxation. This being the position, what are the taxes which ought to be removed first, which should have priority at the time of remission? I submit that the taxes which fall very heavily on the poor should be first reduced and remitted. My Honourable friend, Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah, has just pointed out that the richer classes bear a very small proportion of the burden of provincial taxation. He is perfectly right, and if we take provincial and central taxation together, we find that the burden of such taxation on the poorer classes is immensely heavier than the burden which falls on the richer classes. (Interruption.) I have not the time to go into the details, but anybody who is acquainted with the tax system of the country knows that the burden of taxation in India falls far more heavily on the poorer classes than on the richer classes. That being so, I insist that the taxes which press heavily on the poor should be taken off first. And what are those taxes? First comes the salt tax: the surcharge should be taken off first, and then the original tax should be gradually reduced. Then comes the tax on kerosene and matches. These should be reduced immediately in order to afford some relief to the poorer classes, and when the budget of the Government shows a further surplus these taxes should be taken off altogether. Then we shall think of the income-tax. The super-tax should come last; for, who are the payers of the super-tax? They are persons with incomes of Rs. 30,000 and above: they can easily bear the burden and afford to pay the tax. If we act on the principle of ability to pay, their burden should not be relieved before the burden on the poorer classes is relieved. I insist, therefore, that the proposals which have been made by my Honourable friend, Sir Leslie Hudson, should not be accepted by the Finance Member: he is right in his general proposition that taxes levied in times of emergency should be remitted as soon as the emergency has passed away, but the application should be made in a different way. The burden which falls on the poorer classes of the population should be lightened immediately.

Mr. F. E. James (Madras: European): Sir, I should like to clear up one or two misapprehensions under which Honourable Members in different

[Mr. F. E. James.]

parts of the House appear to be suffering. In the first place, I think it is not altogether fair to represent that we are speaking here merely for what are somewhat loosely described as the capitalists

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: I did not use that word.

Mr. F. E. James: I did not accuse my Honourable friend of using it; but it has been used by other Members in different parts of the House. As a matter of fact, take my own constituency alone. It is principally a middle class constituency, consisting of people who are drawing medium and somewhat low salaries. They are mainly engaged either in agricultural industry on plantations where salaries are comparatively low, or they are engaged in import and export trade, where, even the Honourable the Finance Member must admit, owing to international conditions, their prosperity has been very much reduced in recent years; and there are of course a few industrialists such as are represented on the other side of the House, who have to some extent, benefited by schemes of protection. My point is this: that when we represent this view to the House we represent it, not on behalf of what some of my friends described as the wealthier classes, but, on behalf of the middle classes in our community and generally speaking in this country. That is the first point.

The second point is this: that I do want the Honourable the Finance Member to realise the strength of feeling, certainly as far as our community is concerned, on this matter. I wish he could find more time to visit the provinces and get into direct touch with the people we are now talking about. It is an astounding fact to have to say it, but we have not had the advantage of the presence of a Finance Member in the Madras Presidency for nearly ten years; and I ask my Honourable friend to take the earliest opportunity of coming down because I think it is sometimes difficult to realise in this atmosphere of Delhi and Simla the extent of feeling on certain questions in the provinces. Not only is the feeling on this matter strong, as far as my own community is concerned, but also it is strong among the middle classes of the Indian communities. I would call the attention of my Honourable friend to the published opinions of the Federation of Indian Chambers and I would also call his attention to the view expressed by the *Hindu*, the leading nationalist daily in South India, which has a circulation—a very wide one—even outside the Presidency. This is what the *Hindu* said:

"The emergency which called forth the surcharge disappeared long ago, but Sir James Grigg has nevertheless decreed that industrial production and business activity shall bear the extra burden as though that emergency continued. So far as we are able to see there is absolutely no justification for this persistent denial of substantial relief to the taxpayer. For two consecutive years there have been supposed surpluses, but the orthodox financial conscience of Sir James Grigg does not permit him to hold that this presages similar surplus in the years to come justifying the surrender of the present revenues."

Then, they go on in a subsequent paragraph to say:

"Sir James Grigg's apprehension that the surpluses may prove to be temporary is utterly unfounded. This will become clear to 'all fair minded' people whose support he besought, if they examine the course of the principal sources of the Government's revenues in the past three years. Customs revenue in 1934-35 showed an increase in actuals over budget by no less than a crore and a half; in the current year, the revised estimates show an improvement of over 2.87 crores over the Budget estimate."

And I would like to ask the Honourable gentleman if he could tell us, at this precise moment on the latest information he can possibly obtain, by how much do customs receipts up-to-date exceed even the estimates he gave us the other day

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Then be grateful to the poor.

Mr. F. E. James: Now, Sir, my Honourable friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, spoke on two main points, first of all, on the question of priorities in the removal of the surcharges, and secondly, on the general question of the re-distribution of taxation, and the rival advantages or disadvantages of direct and indirect taxation. Now, Sir, as far as priorities are concerned, we take this view: that the pledge in regard to the removal of all the emergency taxes is implicit from the very beginning in Sir George Schuster's plan

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: It is explicit. He said that all emergency taxes would be removed.

Mr. F. E. James: Exactly; what I mean is that by the very fact that it was described as an "emergency plan" there is an implicit avowal that as soon as the emergency is over, those taxes must come off. We are there at one with him. As far as the Posts and Telegraphs are concerned, I would put this point to him. We do not regard the postal rates as a tax. We regard the postal rates more as a payment for services rendered, and really the only question that arises in regard to that matter (for, after all, the Posts and Telegraphs Department, is a commercial department), is this; whether we are getting the cheapest and most efficient service for the money we pay

Pandit Nilakantha Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadian): Is not all taxation for services rendered?

Mr. F. E. James: I do not include the postal rates and the railway freights as part of the emergency surcharge plan in the same way as surcharges on salt duties or excise or customs duties are. But as far as income-tax is concerned, we feel,—and I think we have grounds for feeling—that there was a most explicit pledge in regard to that matter, and that is why our motion refers to the whole of the surcharges. We call particular attention to this, which we regard as a most flagrant breach of the pledges which were given in the past and by which, on the Honourable the Finance Member's own showing, he regards himself as today bound.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party, referred to the question of direct and indirect taxation. I agree with him that to some extent, at present, it is a somewhat academic issue. I would of course remind him that there are many forms of indirect taxes, and that the policy of protection itself is an indirect taxation on the poor. What I am somewhat sceptical about is the assertions which have been made, generally speaking, without concrete evidence, that the burden of taxation on certain classes of the community is far greater than the burden upon other classes of the community. I would welcome in fact an inquiry into the incidence of taxation in this country. I am perfectly sure that if an inquiry were held, we should find

[Mr. F. E. James.]

that, as far as the middle classes are concerned, whether Indian or European, it would be proved that they do pay a very large burden of the taxation in proportion to their revenue. Those of my friends, like Mr. Ranga, who believe in the policy of "soaking the rich" at all costs would not subscribe to that view, but I can assure him, so far as the middle classes are concerned, both Indian and European, if he inquired into the incidence of taxation upon them, he would find that very heavy indeed. These people not only pay income-tax, but a large proportion of the customs duties, they pay a large percentage of the excise duties, and they also pay a high proportion of provincial taxation, all of which has to be included when we are looking at the incidence of taxation generally. I feel, therefore, that there is need for a scientific inquiry into the incidence of taxation. As far as my own community is concerned, we are not afraid of such an inquiry, because we are convinced that it would show that in fact we are paying a very large proportion of the country's taxation

Pandit Nilakantha Das: Why don't you propose an Economic Inquiry?

Mr. F. E. James: As far as the general taxation policy is concerned, we have welcomed the abolition of the income-tax on assesses below Rs. 2,000 a year, but I would remind the House exactly what that means in regard to relief. When my friends talk about soaking the rich, I would also invite their attention to what precisely that means, for the rich in this country are not too numerous. Now, the total number of assesses to income-tax, at present, is in the region of 660,000. The number who are assessed to income-tax up to Rs. 2,000 a year are 387,392. So that more than half that figure of 660,000 now get relief. Above the limit of Rs. 2,000, therefore, the number of income-tax payers is 278,537, and if, as has been suggested from the other side of the House, you raise the limit still further to, for example, Rs. 3,500 a year

Some Honourable Members: Who suggested it?

Mr. F. E. James: It has been suggested.

Some Honourable Members from Congress Benches: Nobody from this side.

Mr. F. E. James: My friends' memories are short. They should look up the debates in the House last year on the Finance Bill, and they will see that the suggestion to raise the limit to Rs. 4,000 was made. But even so, above Rs. 3,500 per annum the total number of assesses is only 148,569, and the number of assesses to super-tax is only 3,407. You may soak the rich as much as you like, but I doubt whether my friends will get as much out of that as they expect to get at present. I am quite aware that there is a suggestion which has come from different parts of the House for a re-grading of the income-tax. May I suggest that that is not at present the question at issue? We are not dealing with the redistribution of taxation policy. We are dealing merely with this question of the emergency surcharges, and we claim that they should be removed. That is the one and only meaning of our motion, and I trust that on that basis the House will

divide in our favour, and will not obscure the issue by voting on a basis which involves not only the application of an extreme form of communism but also the application of a very radical type of socialism.

An Honourable Member: Let the question be now put.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: This debate has been epoch-making in that it has marked the inauguration of a new campaign in relief of Harijans, but it is a different kind of Harijan, namely, those who live in Bombay. (Laughter.) I really think that this will, in days to come, be marked down in our annals as a red letter day.

Of course, the main purpose of the debate has been an attempt, apart from this inauguration of the new campaign has been an attempt to try and unite all parties in this House against the Government on the question of surcharges generally.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: No. All parties will not be united.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I said it was an attempt; I will come to the success of it later. But it cannot be denied that by using the formula surcharges in the general sense, it has been hoped that all parties would unite against Government. It rather to my mind resembles an attempt to stop a knife gash from bleeding by sticking a piece of stamp paper on it. (Laughter.) But that attempt, judging by the chorus of disapproval which has just been voiced, has failed, as indeed it was bound to fail, and you have got ranged on one side speakers like Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant and Professor Banerjea, and on the other side, the Baronet from Bombay, Sir Hormusji Mody, Sir Leslie Hudson, and Mr. James. Mr. James at the end has made a very praiseworthy effort, if I may say so, to stick another piece of stamp paper on, but, I think, again, judging from the chorus which greeted my opening remarks on this subject,—I think that the wound is still bleeding away wildly.

Before I come to deal with the purpose of the debate as a whole, with the real subject matter of the debate, I should like to take up one or two points which are incidental to the debate but not fundamental. Sir Leslie Hudson said quite rightly, that the reduction of taxation, and, in particular, direct taxation, is a stimulous to trade. That is undoubtedly true, but I do not think that he can afford to over-state his case. It is necessary to have some sense of proportion about it, and if I may be allowed to rake up my hideous past once more, I have had some experience in this matter. In 1922, I think it was, the income-tax in England was reduced by one shilling in the pound, which represented giving back to the taxpayers of the United Kingdom £60 millions in one year. The improvement in the yield of the income-tax in the following year—and how much that was due to the remission of taxation or how much was due to natural recovery, it is quite impossible to say—but the improvement in the yield of income-tax in the following year was of the order of five per cent. So that it is no good over-stating the argument. I mean, after all, it is no good copying the advertisement of 'Kruschen salts' which give you such a healthy feeling that they turn the poor invalid immediately into a giant weight lifter. It is necessary to bear in mind the magnitude of

[Sir James Grigg.]

the amount involved. A remission of the remaining one-third of the income-tax and super-tax surcharges means giving back to the taxpayer something under a crore and a half a year. To say that the difference between one and a half a crore and nothing (Interruption) is the difference between wild prosperity and the present position of only slow improvement in India is not true.

Mr. F. E. James: I did not say that.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I will put it in another form: I do not think it is wise to over-state the exhilarating effects of a remission of taxation to the extent of something like under a crore and a half.

My Honourable friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, expatiated on the general question of the burdens on the taxpayer, and of course he was making a more general statement of the case than my Honourable friends, Sir Leslie Hudson and Mr. James, have been trying to make. I agree with him that the burdens on the taxpayer in India are heavy, taken as a whole. Some speakers referred to the burdens as heavy if you take the income-tax and super-tax by themselves. One Honourable Member made a direct statement that this form of taxation in India was higher than it was in the United Kingdom. I will, therefore, give a few illustrative figures, but I may say that I do not attach very much importance to arguments based on such figures, because the comparative weight of taxation, unless it is considered in relation to the general level of income, is not of no value. Take the case of a man with an income equivalent to £150 a year. In the United Kingdom he pays no tax; in India a little over £5. £500 if it is earned income in the United Kingdom, he pays £6, and if it is unearned, about £20. In India the corresponding figure is something over £25. £1,000 a year, earned income in the United Kingdom, about £88, and unearned income, £133. In India something like £68. I now come to the really big people, men with an income of £10,000 a year. Earned income in the United Kingdom, taxation paid is £3,610, and if it is unearned income, £3,677. In India £2,157. So that, taking income-tax taxation by itself, it is not true to say that the burdens in India in the upper ranges at any rate are much heavier than they are in the United Kingdom. (Interruption). I am not going to give way. But there is no doubt to my mind that the general burden of taxation in India is very heavy, talking of taxation all round. If my Honourable friend, the Pandit, will forgive me, I think he was a little inconsistent in this matter, seeing that, as my Honourable friend, Mr. James, has pointed out, protective taxation is also a burden.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: King Charles's head!

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: There are two King Charles's. You can have one King Charles's head but leave me the other. (Laughter).

An Honourable Member: Honours easy!

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Protective taxation puts a burden on the community which is out of all proportion to the amount that it yields to the exchequer, and it is no good Honourable Members opposite coming forward, even my Honourable friend, Prof. Ranga, gets up . . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I know you have got some motions down for increasing the duty on rice, the duty on coconuts. Does that not hurt the consumer? You are all tarred with the same brush. There is no doubt that you are inconsistent.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: I am not. I will demonstrate that.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The Pandit produced a quotation from Sir Basil Blackett. I know, Sir Basil Blackett's view very definitely was that the revenue tariff which was then 15 per cent. in this country was much too high, and I have no doubt that his desire for a reduction of taxation had reference primarily to that, and if, as the Pandit says, orthodoxy means consistency, then I will accept the Pandit's dictum and I will follow it up with another: "Physician, heal thyself". I illustrated this inconsistency on the part of those opposite in some figures which I gave last year. I have not had them brought up to date and it does not matter very much because the same general order of figures, I have no doubt, prevails today. If you will compare the case of salt and the case of two protective taxes together namely, the duty on cotton piece goods and the protective part of the duty on sugar leaving out of account on both sides, in this latter instance, the amount of the excise, I think, if my memory does not play me false, I said last year that the burden on the consumer by the two protective taxes was of the order of 34 crores a year. The amount of that which comes to the exchequer and is available for expenditure, whether wasteful or benevolent, is about seven crores a year. Now take the salt duty, leaving out of account the commercial part of it the actual tax I think, yields something over seven crores a year, so that the salt duty and the two protective taxes I have mentioned yield to the exchequer about the same amount. But, in the one case, the burden on the consumer of salt is seven crores a year, the burden on the consumer of the other goods is 34 crores a year. If you really want to have yourselves taken seriously as voicers of the grievances of the taxpayer you must make up your minds where you stand on this question of protective taxation. It is no good talking about the terrible burdens on the community and, their pressing for more and more protection. The policy may be right or wrong—I am not arguing that at the moment but you cannot leave it out of account when you are assessing the burdens on the taxpayer.

As regards the suggestions of the Honourable the Baronet from Bombay, we have all heard every word of them before two or three times already this year and if I may say so without misunderstanding, I do not propose to go on answering him over and over again in more or less the same terms. His former colleague in the Government of Bombay seemed to me to completely destroy his argument but not only that, he completely destroyed it himself. He said: 'I am all in favour of caution. Look at the terrible conditions all round us. There is gloom everywhere. Of course your estimates for future years are hopelessly wrong. Of course they won't be realised. Of course they are bound to prove much worse than you have made them out to be' and simultaneously his argument is 'You have got lots of money to give away in relief of taxation. What is the good of looking forward to the future. You might just as well splash

[Sir James Grigg.]

the money about now'. In the light of that surely it is not unfair on my part to describe him as having completely exploded his own theories.

Professor Banerjea, I think, first somewhat seemed to show some signs of joining in this Agape or love feast, at which all are to unite in drinking out of the cup called "emergency taxation", but he soon walked out of that particular parlour. He agrees that emergency taxes should go when the emergency is over but he says, of course salt is much more urgent than the income-tax and super-tax surcharges. But even here there is a certain inconsistency, for, again, if my memory does not play me false, I think only two days ago, he joined the Honourable the Baronet from Bombay in a successful effort to remove from the budget the provision for the reconstruction of the civil buildings in Quetta. The Honourable the Baronet repeated his little game today and he was so pleased that he keeps on repeating: 'Here you are. We can get something out of this. Utilise it for surcharges'. Well, the Professor from Calcutta wants it for surcharges, though different ones, but only two days ago, he wanted it for Bengal.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: I said: "all provinces including Bengal".

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: He wants it for all the provinces. This old game is going on merrily and we are going to use this 28 lakhs for ten different purposes all at the same time.

Now, let us come back to the point which, after all, is the main purpose of this debate. I have read the pledges on this question. I have studied them rather carefully and I do not think it would be unfair to say that the specific pledges—I use the word 'specific' designedly—are confined to the pay cut and the surcharges on income-tax. The pledge in relation to the other taxes is only in so far as there is a pledge implicit in the use of the word 'emergency'. Sir Hormusji Mody used a very pregnant phrase 'pledges as we have understood them'. I think this is how he understands them. Leaving for the moment income-tax surcharges, let us come to the rest, which is admittedly included in the category 'emergency taxation'. Sir Hormusji Mody said that the emergency was past. His Honourable colleague from Bombay contradicted him, saying 'who can say that the emergency is past, with the war clouds which are gathering over Western Europe and Eastern Asia now'. And I ask, has international trade been restored to normality? Have the currency troubles of the world been settled? Emergency in that sense of the word is still in existence and in any case I think it is part of the stock in trade of Honourable Members opposite to proclaim that the emergency is co-eval with the British occupation of India.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: It is a chronic emergency.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: What is the amount of emergency taxation still outstanding? Mr. James made it clear, 5 P.M. at the end, that he is asking the House to divide on emergency taxation as a whole. Emergency taxation, broadly speaking, is something well over ten crores a year, of which something under a crore

and a half represents the emergency surcharge and income-taxation. Sir Leslie Hudson in this connection said that what they objected to and objected to all along was the floating of the reforms on emergency taxation. Well, taking the figure of something over ten crores, I ask the House to consider, in its present quieter and more studious mood, how long we shall have to wait for the inauguration of the reforms if, besides seeing our way to providing for the devolutions of taxation which are an integral part of the reforms, we have first got to remove ten crores of taxation at the centre. Sir, in this matter I have a good deal of sympathy, as I said before, with those Members of the House who desire to see taxation reduced. I quite understand that hope deferred maketh the heart sick, but I am sure, in view of the situation as we see it today, in view of what is around us, and what is ahead of us, that it would be the path of wisdom to make no new pledges, and to make no attempt to create new priorities. (Laughter.)

Mr. M. S. Aney: You must redeem the old pledges first.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I repeated that pledge last year, and the old pledges are there.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: For once you did a good thing and you regret it now?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: But don't forget that I gathered from some of the Honourable Members in the House—I don't remember which side they came from—that it would be quite proper to remove the emergency taxation and put it back again under some other name. (Laughter.) Whether I have been offered that in good faith or not I do not know, but I don't wish to pursue that now. As I said I have every sympathy with the desire of those who wish to see the tax burdens reduced; in particular I have a good deal of sympathy with those who represent the interests to whom specific pledges have been given. But I am quite sure the House will agree with me if in this instance—certainly for the first time and possibly for the last time in my life—I follow the advice of the Honourable the Baronet from Bombay and restrain myself from making any attempt to look into the future. (Applause.)

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

"That the demand under the head 'Finance Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—17.

Abdoolah Haroon, Seth Haji.
Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
Bhagchaudh Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.
Buss, Mr. L. C.
Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry.
Hudson, Sir Leslie.
James, Mr. F. E.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
Leach, Mr. F. B.

Lindsay, Sir Darcy.
Milligan, Mr. J. A.
Mody, Sir H. P.
Morgan, Mr. G.
Muhammad Ismail Khan, Haji
Chaudhury.
Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
Vissanji, Mr. Mathuradas.
Witherington, Mr. C. H.

NOES—34.

Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
 Acott, Mr. A. S. V.
 Ahmad Nawaz Khan, Major Nawab.
 Allah Bakhsh Khan Tiwana, Khan
 Bahadur Nawab Malik.
 Aminuddin, Mr. Saiyid.
 Ayyar, Diwan Bahadur R. V.
 Krishna.
 Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A.
 Venkatarama.
 Bajpai, Sir Girja Shankar.
 Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
 Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
 Dalal, Dr. R. D.
 Das-Gupta, Mr. S. K.
 Dash, Mr. A. J.
 Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Bahadur
 Shaikh.
 Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kumar Vijaya
 Ananda.
 Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
 Grigson, Mr. W. V.
 Hands, Mr. A. S.
 Hidayatallah, Sir Ghulam Hussain.
 Hutton, Dr. J. H.
 Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur
 Sardar Sir.

Joshi, Mr. N. M.
 Khurshaid Muhammad, Khan Bahadur
 Shaikh.
 Lal Chand, Captain Rao Bahadur
 Chaudhri.
 Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
 MacDougall, Mr. R. M.
 Metcalfe, Sir Aubrey.
 Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
 Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur Sir Satya
 Charan.
 Noyce, The Honourable Sir Frank.
 Rajah, Raja Sir Vasudeva.
 Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
 Rau, Mr. P. R.
 Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
 Sale, Mr. J. E.
 Sarma, Mr. R. S.
 Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain
 Sardar.
 Singh, Rai Bahadur Shyam Narayan.
 Sircar, The Honourable Sir
 Nripendra.
 Spence, Mr. G. H.
 Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.
 Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
 Zafrullah Khan, The Honourable Sir
 Muhammad.

The motion was negatived.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 13th March, 1936.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, 13th March, 1936.

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.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDIA.

1184. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the quarterly statistics collected by the International Labour Office at the end of December, 1935, which show that registered unemployment has declined in all European countries as compared with the corresponding figures for the previous year?

(b) Is it a fact that India is not mentioned in the list given in these statistics?

(c) Will Government be pleased to make a statement regarding unemployment in India during the year 1935?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) I have seen the figures in question. They show that unemployment has decreased in some European countries and increased in others.

(b) Yes.

(c) Unemployment statistics are not collected and figures of employment for 1935 are not available. But the total figures of employment in factories, mines and railways for 1934 showed an increase of about five per cent. above the figures for 1933 and I shall be disappointed if those for 1935 do not show a further increase.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are any steps being taken to collect statistics of unemployment among the educated classes in this country?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Several questions on this subject have been answered in this House in the course of this Session and previous Sessions.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has any beginning been made in that direction? No answer to such a question has yet been given.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Answers to similar questions have been given on several occasions. The difficulties in the way of collecting unemployment statistics have been pointed out, and it may also be repeated that attempts were made at the last census to collect them for middle-class unemployment, but unfortunately they proved fruitless.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Has unemployment, generally speaking, increased or decreased?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I am unable to answer that question except in regard to employment in factories, mines and railways. I have said that the figures showed an increase in 1934 over those of 1933, and that I have little doubt personally that the figures of 1935 will show a further increase.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the gravity of the situation caused by unemployment, will Government seriously consider the question of creating a machinery to collect statistics on this point?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have explained the difficulty, Sir. Government are unable to obtain figures except for employment in factories, mines and railways, that is to a limited extent in regard to industrial employment.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: But do not Government agree that these difficulties ought to be faced and solved and not shelved?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: My Honourable friend is, if I may say so, introducing an argument.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has any attempt been made to ask the several universities which are turning out graduates and undergraduates, year after year, to collect these statistics?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: As far as I know, the Universities do not maintain any record of the employment of their graduates.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Will Government consider the desirability of taking steps to relieve unemployment?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That, Sir, hardly arises out of the present question.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: At least to collect statistics?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: In view of my Honourable friend's derisive laughter, I may say that a very important report has recently been received, and that, although it is a report to a Local Government, the Government of India will also consider it.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Will they place the result of their consideration of that report on the table of the House?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: It is quite impossible for me to give any undertaking of that character at this stage. If their consideration of the report yields any useful results, these results will, of course, obviously, in due course, be communicated to the House.

AMOUNTS RECEIVED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL FROM THE REVENUE COLLECTED ON ACCOUNT OF THE SALT (ADDITIONAL) DUTY ACT.

1185. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the total revenue collected on account of the Salt (Additional) Duty Act, since the imposition of the Duty;
- (b) the amounts collected year by year at the Bengal ports;
- (c) the amounts made over to the Government of Bengal; and
- (d) the manner in which the amounts received by the Government of Bengal have been spent by them?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) The total amount collected up to the end of January, 1936, was Rs. 41,86,660.

(b) The collections at the Bengal ports in the same period were Rs. 28,79,674.

(c) A sum of Rs. 15,34,000 has been made over to the Government of Bengal up to the 30th of September, 1935.

(d) The amounts have been used to strengthen the general financial position of the Province.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: What was the special purpose for which this tax was levied?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The tax was imposed in order to give assistance to the Indian salt industry.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Has that been done in Bengal?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The tax was not imposed in order to give assistance to the Indian salt industry in Bengal, but to the salt industry in India; and undoubtedly it has given very considerable assistance to the Indian salt industry in India.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: But will Government consider the desirability of requesting the Government of Bengal to lend some assistance to the salt industry in Bengal?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: That matter has been very fully debated in the House on repeated occasions.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the upshot?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The Government of India are not prepared to make any such recommendation.

INCREASE IN THE IMPORT DUTY ON NON-EMPIRE LINSEED OIL.

1186. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the decision of the House of Commons in approving an increase in the import duty on non-Empire linseed oil from 70 shillings to 100 shillings per ton?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether any drawback is allowed if the linseed imported into the United Kingdom is crushed within the country?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether with the increase in the import duty from 70 shillings to 100 shillings per ton of linseed oil, the drawback will also be increased?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Government have at present no information.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are Government aware that this drawback system virtually cancels the preference given to Indian linseed?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, Sir. It operates to a very small extent with regard to that portion of linseed which is crushed into oil in the United Kingdom. But it is a very small proportion of the total imports of linseed into the United Kingdom.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: What is the effect of the system of drawbacks on the Ottawa Agreement?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Will the Honourable Member kindly explain his question a little further?

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: How has it affected, for better or for worse, so far as India is concerned—this system of drawbacks?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: As I have said in reply to the previous question, to the extent to which the drawback is given to that extent, the preference is affected. But, as I have said, it is a very small proportion of the total imports of linseed that are crushed into oil and exported from England. It is only upon that portion that drawback can be asked for.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the percentage of imports crushed into oil?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I cannot say exactly, but I think it could not be very much more than 10 per cent. My impression is that it is even less than that.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Is such drawback permissible under the Ottawa Agreement for articles other than wheat?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I answered that yesterday in reply to question No. 1178.

TRADE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND DENMARK.

1187. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement recently made by Mr. Malcolm Macdonald, Secretary of State for the Dominions, to the effect that the United Kingdom had informed the Dominion Governments of its intention to conduct trade-

negotiations with Denmark so as to give these Governments an opportunity of expressing their views, if they thought that their interests were affected?

(b) Has a similar communication been sent to India? If so, will Government be pleased to place this communication before this House?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) The India Office were informed at the same time and in the same terms as the Dominions Office by the Board of Trade and the information was passed on to the Government of India by the India Office. Government do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by the publication of the letter. I would also invite the attention of the Honourable Member to my reply to parts (a) and (c) of Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar's question No. 1178 on the subject.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government considered this communication, and come to the conclusion that their interests were not affected?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are they asked to give any preference to any goods from Denmark into India?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, Sir.

AMOUNT SPENT ON MAINTAINING THE OFFICES OF THE POSTMASTERS GENERAL IN DIFFERENT CIRCLES.

1188. ***Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what amount they have to spend on maintaining the offices of the Postmasters General in different circles?

(b) Is it a fact that the amounts spent are charged in the postal side of the accounts? If so, why?

Mr. G. V. Bhowor: (a) A statement giving the required information is placed on the table.

(b) No. The expenditure being of a general nature is divided between the various branches of the Department concerned as explained in footnote (d) on page 6 of the Posts and Telegraphs Detailed Statements in support of Demands for Grants for 1936-37. The second part of the question does not arise.

Statement showing Expenditure incurred during 1934-35 for the Offices of the Postmasters General and the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Sind and Baluchistan Circle.

Name of Circle.	Expenditure. Rs.
Bengal and Assam	6,42,209
Bihar and Orissa	2,05,923
Punjab and N. W. F.	4,96,007
United Provinces	4,22,200
Burma	2,92,627
Madras	4,74,216
Sind	95,971
Bombay	5,85,381
Central	2,28,484
Total	34,43,918*

* N. B.—This excludes a sum of Rs. 324, lying unallocated to a particular circle

ERECTION OF A BUILDING AT RAMNA (DACCA) FOR ACCOMMODATING THE RAMNA POST OFFICE, DACCA TELEGRAPH OFFICE AND THE DIVISIONAL TELEGRAPH ENGINEER'S OFFICE.

1189. *Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: (a) Is it a fact that Government contemplate erecting a building at Ramna (Dacca) for accommodating Ramna Post Office, Dacca Telegraph Office and the Divisional Telegraph Engineer's Office?

(b) Is it a fact that the proposal is pending for the last 20 years?

(c) Is it a fact that during the last 20 years, some 20 schemes were prepared for the building?

(d) Is it a fact that in connection with the proposal during the last 20 years, all the Postmasters General and Deputy Postmasters General and the Director of Telegraph Engineering visited Dacca?

(e) Is it a fact that these officers spent Rs. 20,000 as their travelling allowance?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) The fact is, that a building to house the offices of the Divisional Engineer, and of the Sub-Divisional Officer, Telegraphs, is already under construction. Government propose to construct, during 1936-37, another building to accommodate the Dacca Telegraph Office and the Ramna Sub-Post Office.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. Three different schemes were proposed at different times, but these did not mature for various reasons.

(d) Dacca is an important centre and the officers mentioned would visit it in the normal course of their duties. Government have no information whether any of them did so specially in connection with the building proposals. I may add that Dacca was for many years the headquarters of a Deputy Postmaster-General.

(e) Government have no information nor would it be possible to collect it.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the amount or proportion likely to be obtained by letting out the building to others, compared to the amount to be invested in this building? I ask this, because it is again and again said that the Postal Department is a commercial concern.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The building is not intended for letting out; it is intended to accommodate a departmental office.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: With reference to part (e) of the question, is it a fact that Rs. 20,000 were actually spent as travelling allowance?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I have already said that we have no information. We cannot collect this information for the last so many years; it is not possible to collect it; the documents are not available.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: I have got the information that Rs. 20,000 were spent as travelling allowance. When it was possible for an outsider like me to get the information, it should be possible for the Honourable Member to get the details. Will he kindly take the trouble to enquire into the matter?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: If the Honourable Member will supply me with the information which he has collected, I will have it checked to see if it is correct.

CONSTRUCTION OF QUARTERS FOR THE STAFF OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

1190. *Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) With reference to the answer given to starred questions Nos. 622 and 630 on the 27th February, 1935, will Government please state if any site has been selected for the construction of quarters for the staff of Railway Clearing Accounts Office?

(b) Has the building of quarters been taken in hand? How long will it take to complete the buildings?

(c) Are Government aware that the staff is being put to a great hardship for want of quarters, and are they prepared to expedite completion of the quarters?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). No site has been definitely selected. In view of the present financial situation, I am unable to say when the building of quarters can be taken in hand.

(c) This consideration has been kept in view by Government.

EXEMPTION OF THE STAFF OF THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, TAKEN FROM OTHER RAILWAYS, FROM EXAMINATION FOR PROMOTION TO HIGHER GRADES.

1191. *Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni: (a) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 627, have Government considered the advisability of exempting the staff of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, taken from other Railways, from examination for promotion to higher grades?

(b) Is it a fact that the staff taken from the Great Indian Peninsula and East Indian Railways has been exempted from such examinations whereas the staff taken from the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway has not yet been exempted?

(c) Are Government prepared to exempt this staff from examinations for promotion to higher grade and give promotions to such staff which has hitherto been withheld for want of examinations?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a), (b) and (c). Orders have been issued to the Director, Railway Clearing Accounts, that the ex-company staff of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway who held permanent posts substantively on that railway when they were transferred to the Railway Clearing Accounts Office along with the foreign traffic work may be exempted from examination restrictions for promotion to higher grades if such examinations are not in force on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway.

RETENTION OF CERTAIN ARMY HEADQUARTERS OFFICES IN SIMLA DURING THE WINTER.

1192. *Mr. S. Satyamurti: (a) Is it a fact that on the grounds of Simla being the Headquarters of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief

(where the Commander-in-Chief does not however stay during winter), certain military offices are retained there during the winter? If so, is it a fact that the great bulk of the Indian clerks of Army Headquarters are kept to winter at Simla, while the Commander-in-Chief, his principal staff officers with the great bulk of British clerks, and the Defence Secretariat are in New Delhi? If so, what are the reasons underlying this?

(b) Will Government please state (1) the total clerical strength of Army Headquarters, (2) the number of British and Indian personnel making the total of (1) above, and (3) the respective strength of the two categories at (2) that are brought to Delhi and kept at Simla during the winter?

(c) Will Government please state the allowances that are given to Superintendents and Assistants of Army Headquarters during the winter at Delhi and Simla? Is it a fact that no allowances are given to Superintendents and Assistants remaining at Simla? Are Government aware that the latter is the costlier of the two stations named, and the men are put to extra expenditure incidental to keeping off the extreme winter of Simla? If so, why?

(d) Will Government please state the reasons for which the Delhi clerks of Army Headquarters are given large allowances in addition to the opportunity to escape the Simla winter?

(e) Are Government aware of the grave resentment felt by Simla clerks in consequence of their having to spend the Simla winter without any compensatory allowances which are given to the Delhi clerks? If so, what steps have they so far taken to remove their discontent?

(f) Will Government please state the amenities afforded to the Simla winter clerks in comparison to those provided for those brought to Delhi during the winter?

(g) Are Government aware of the absence of any educational facilities at Simla during the six winter months for the children of those Government servants who have to stay there? If so, what steps have they so far taken to remove this particular handicap from which the staff suffer?

(h) Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the amount of travelling expenses incurred by each of the Simla winter clerks in connection with the removal of his family out of, and bringing it back to, Simla for the winter months, during the last five years?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) to (f). Simla is the official headquarters of the Army, and, chiefly owing to lack of accommodation in Delhi, it is at present necessary, at the cost of considerable inconvenience, to retain a considerable proportion of the Army Headquarters staff there all the year round. This proportion includes at present 71 out of 175 British clerks and 479 out of 662 Indian clerks. The sections of Army Headquarters which move to Delhi are chosen according to the nature of their work and the importance attached by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to having them with him in Delhi. In the case of sections not so selected all the personnel, whether British or Indian, remain in Simla for the winter. The Master General of the Ordnance Branch accounts for the largest number of those who stay there, and out of a strength of 314 only 24 move to Delhi. Of these nine out of 39 are British and 15 out of 275 are Indians. Those who move to Delhi receive allowances to compensate them for having to leave their headquarters for half the year,

while an allowance is also granted to the lower paid clerical establishment of those offices that remain in Simla as compensation for any additional expenditure that they may have to incur on fuel, etc. I think I have answered the Honourable Member's other enquiries sufficiently in the replies I gave on the 4th September, 1935, to Mr. Asaf Ali's question No. 87.

(g) No. I understand that, except during the usual vacation, several schools remain open in the winter months at Simla.

(h) No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know what is meant by the phrase "lack of accommodation in New Delhi"?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Lack of accommodation in New Delhi means that there is not sufficient accommodation in New Delhi to accommodate them.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know whether Government have considered, or are considering the question of providing increased accommodation for these people who are left behind in Simla, admittedly at great inconvenience to members and to the Department?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The question is under consideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How long has it been under consideration?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: For about seven or eight years, I think.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Has any estimate been formed of the cost required for providing additional accommodation for transferring all these people to Delhi?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Yes, Sir.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the estimate?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: About Rs. 40 lakhs.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And have any attempts been made to find that money?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Not yet.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why not, Sir?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Because there are other more important measures, I presume.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to part (d) of the question, may I know why the Delhi clerks are given large allowances, while they escape the rigours of the Simla winter?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I gave the answer to that in my reply. I said that those who move to Delhi receive allowances to compensate them for having to leave their headquarters for half the year.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the total amount of these allowances?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I could not give the figures. I have a list here of the rate at which allowances are given, but I do not know what the total amounts to.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to part (g) of the question, may I know if the Honourable the Army Secretary has satisfied himself after enquiry that there is adequate provision for the education of the children of all those left behind at Simla by this Department during the winter months?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I received a list of the schools that remain open in Simla during the cold weather, and there were four or five of them. I think that is sufficient.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to clause (h) of the question, has any statement been compiled?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: No, Sir.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government be good enough to compile a statement?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I do not think we could afford the time or trouble involved in asking every clerk to send in a bill. It would take a great deal of time and trouble, and it is very doubtful whether the result would be of any value, as the clerks themselves would still have to send their families away and get them back.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And, therefore, it is not worth their while to examine this question from that point of view!

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: We have examined it from that point of view.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And are they satisfied that there is no inconvenience to them?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: We have to take a great many considerations into account in examining this question. There is the fact that the clerks who remain in Simla during the cold weather probably do not give us as much value for our money as if they were in Delhi, the additional expenditure that would be involved in taking them to Delhi, and so on. The most important is the fact that to bring them down would cost a very large sum of money.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government considering the question of permanently transferring the Army Headquarters to New Delhi?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: No, this question has not been definitely considered.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know, with reference to part (d) of the question, whether there is a large difference in allowances between those who remain in Delhi and those who remain in Simla?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I think the Delhi moving allowances are on the whole less than the Simla winter allowances. But the Simla allowances are only given to the more subordinate members of the office establishment. They are not given to the more highly paid members, such as Superintendents.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Is there any special point in keeping the Army Headquarters at Simla? Is it only to keep up the old tradition or is there any special convenience?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I do not think there is any special point. In the old days, the headquarters of the Army were fixed at Simla.

Qazi Mumammad Ahmad Kazmi: When the staff of the Army remain for about six months in the plains and for about six months in Simla, is it not proper that both the places should be headquarters?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: This is a question of opinion.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government calculated the extra cost involved in the present arrangement by the location of the Army Headquarters, part being in Simla, and part being in Delhi?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I do not quite understand what the Honourable Member means by the extra cost of the present arrangements. There is no extra cost.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am asking whether the Army Headquarters, by keeping a portion in Simla all the year round and by bringing down to Delhi a portion for six months and taking them back, are not incurring extra expenditure, compared with other departments which move out to Simla once in six months and come back again. I am referring to the extra cost involved by these dual arrangements.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: In the actual moving?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And keeping a portion there, and keeping a portion here.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I still do not quite understand what the Honourable Member means. It would cost probably something in the neighbourhood of between one or two lakhs a year to move them up and down; it would cost somewhere in the neighbourhood of about Rs. 40 lakhs to provide the full amount of accommodation in Delhi to receive all these people, if they did come down from Simla to Delhi.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why are they not considering the question of permanently locating the Army Headquarters in New Delhi, all the year round?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: When the Civil Departments make up their mind, we shall follow suit.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And they will wait till you make up your mind!

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

[13TH MARCH 1936.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: So far as the civil departments are concerned, is it not a fact that only a portion of them goes to Simla, the remaining part remaining on at Delhi?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: No, Sir.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: In the case of the Army, the lower subordinate staff remains at Simla. If they are also kept at Delhi, instead of at Simla, and only a part of the staff goes to Simla, would it not be much cheaper and more convenient to the staff?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: Whether it will be more convenient to the staff is entirely a question of opinion.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: A question of expense and a question of convenience, not a question of opinion.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: It would cost the same amount of money to build new quarters in Delhi, whether the staff remained there the whole year round or not. The initial expenditure would be very great in either case.

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

MOVE OF CERTAIN OFFICES FROM AND TO SIMLA.

1193. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government please state why the offices enumerated at (A) below (whose headquarters is also Simla) must come down to Delhi during the winter, while offices at (B) below, must winter at Simla?

(A) Public Works Branch.	(B) Military Works Branch.
Solicitor, Government of India.	Judge Advocate General.
Indian Stores Department.	Director of Contracts.
D. G., I. M. S.	Director of Medical Services.
Archæological Department.	Director of Farms.
Department of Commercial Statistics.	Director of Remounts.
Intelligence Bureau.	Director of Veterinary Services.
Civil Aviation Branch.	Director of Ordnance Services.
Public Service Commission.	Director of Ordnance Factories.
Director of Army Audit.	Director of Artillery.
Military Accountant General.	

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The material necessary for an answer is being collected and will be laid on the table when ready.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there any method behind this madness, or is it merely decided from time to time, at the will and pleasure of those who are in charge of these Departments?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have to ascertain the reasons from a large number of Departments: I have not yet had time to do it.

TURNING OUT OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS FROM HIRED PREMISES IN NEW DELHI BY THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1194. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Are Government aware that certain recognised and aided schools have rented buildings in New Delhi, as they have no buildings of their own?

(b) Is it a fact that the landlords of such buildings have been called upon by the Central Public Works Department, Delhi, to get them vacated by the schools and utilise them for residential purposes only?

(c) Is it now the intention of Government that the schools affected by the notices issued by the Central Public Works Department, Delhi, should hold open air classes, or should be closed for want of their own buildings?

(d) If the answer to part (c) be in the negative, are Government prepared to cancel the notices issued by the Central Public Works Department, Delhi, until such time as private schools are able to find their own buildings in New Delhi?

(e) Are Government prepared to allot suitable sites to private schools?

(f) If not, are Government prepared to provide at their own expense the required number of schools to meet the growing needs of the residents of New Delhi before turning out private schools from hired premises?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) The Central Public Works Department is in no way concerned. The position is that sites in New Delhi have been leased out for specific purposes and if the terms of the lease are violated by the lessees, notices are issued to them by the Delhi Administration in order to secure conformity with the terms of the lease.

(c) Government desire the schools to be located in suitable areas.

(d) Government have already shown such leniency as was possible in the matter.

(e) The question of providing sites for school buildings, of privately managed schools, is at present under the consideration of the Delhi Administration.

(f) Does not arise.

INDIAN AFFAIRS IN FIJI.

1195. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Has the attention of Government been drawn to the editorial article appearing in the *Hindustan Times* of the 23rd February, 1936, entitled "After Kenya, Fiji" in connection with Indian affairs in Fiji, and if so, will Government be pleased to make a full statement on all points raised in that article?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: With your permission, Sir, I shall reply to questions Nos. 1195 and 1196 together.

The attention of Government has been drawn to the article in the *Hindustan Times* referred to by the Honourable Members. They have also seen the report of the Tavua Development Committee which recommends that the establishment of a Government controlled township at Tavua is desirable in the interests of the community and of the public health and

that, as part of this township, a section of high ground, unsuitable for business purposes, should be reserved for European residential sites. Government have made suitable representations to His Majesty's Government.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Have Government till now taken any other steps than making suitable representations?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The occasion has not arisen to do anything else.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In any matter concerning Indians overseas?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That is a very large question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to clause (c), may I know what is the latest information in the possession of the Government with regard to the matter actually?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The report came to our notice on the 9th of February: we sent a telegram to His Majesty's Government on the 2nd of March: there has not been time enough to learn very much.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it, therefore, they have not heard anything in reply?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: No, we have not heard anything.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do telegrams take ten days?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: No: telegrams do not take ten days; but it takes something over six weeks for a report of this kind to go from Fiji to His Majesty's Government. It is quite possible it has not even reached them.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is Fiji outside telegraphic communication with the world?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: A recommendation has been made to the Fiji Government that there should be reservation for Europeans: the Government at Fiji will doubtless forward this recommendation to His Majesty's Government in England. My Honourable friend does not wish that we should ask the Fiji Government to take a decision in this matter very early: we are quite satisfied with things as they are.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am simply asking whether Government are taking all necessary steps to prevent a final decision being taken by His Majesty's Government over their heads?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I do not think that His Majesty's Government will take a decision in this matter over their head, because, when in Kenya, a similar question arose—I am not now talking of the reservation of the highlands, but the reservation of residential sites in townships—His

Majesty's Government gave the fullest opportunity to the Government of India to consider the matter, and, as a result of that consultation, they refused to let any segregation exist for residential purposes in Kenya.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is it not a fact that racial discrimination is also the policy of the Fiji Government and that the British Government approve of it?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I am really not aware of any racial discrimination in Fiji.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: How is it that on the Tavua Inquiry Committee no Indian was represented?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That in itself is not a sign of racial discrimination, because the Tavua Committee was not primarily for the purpose of developing the township for residential purposes, but for the development of a wharf.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is it not a fact that one Mr. Barton is an expert in the science of racial discrimination, and he was, therefore, brought from Kenya and appointed as Colonial Secretary of Fiji?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I am not aware that Mr. Barton is an expert in racial segregation, nor am I aware that he was introduced into Fiji for the purpose of introducing racial segregation.

INDIAN AFFAIRS IN FIJI.

†1196. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) whether they are aware of the sub-leader in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 23rd February, 1936, entitled 'After Kenya Fiji';
- (b) whether the facts contained in it are true;
- (c) whether the Tavua Development Committee has recommended that a section of the highland unsuitable for business purposes should be reserved for European residential sites; and
- (d) if so, what action they have taken in the matter against this discrimination against Indians?

DISCRIMINATION BY COUNTRIES AGAINST INDIANS.

1197. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) what countries have discriminated against Indians;
- (b) what steps they have taken against those countries which have discriminated against Indians;
- (c) whether similar restrictions are placed upon the nationals of those countries in India;
- (d) how many countries have prohibited employment of Indians in their services; and
- (e) how many men belonging to those countries are in Government service in this country?

†For answer to this question see answer to question No. 1195.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) A statement showing the countries in which Indians are subject to certain disabilities is laid on the table.

(b) and (c). None, so far.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given by the Honourable Sir Henry Craik to question No. 803 on the 11th March, 1935, and question No. 696 of this Session and the supplementaries thereto. As regards countries outside the Empire information is not available.

(e) The information is not readily available.

Statement showing the Countries in which Indians are subject to certain Disabilities.

1. South Africa.
2. Canada.
3. New Zealand.
4. Australia.
5. Southern Rhodesia.
6. Kenya.
7. Zanzibar.
8. Ceylon.
9. Malaya.
10. Fiji.
11. United States of America.
12. Portuguese East Africa.
13. Panama.
14. French Indo-China.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With regard to the answers to clauses (b) and (c), may I know what action it is proposed to take?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have explained that no action has been taken so far.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Or whether they ever propose to take any action at all?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I do not think so; not at present.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know what are the kinds of racial discrimination that are meted out to Indians in those countries of which my Honourable friend has placed a list on the table?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: If my Honourable friend will look at the list of countries here, he will find the number of such countries as 14; I cannot, in the course of a supplementary answer, give him information as to the nature of the discrimination to which Indians in all those countries are subjected; but I may inform him that a statement is being laid on the table of the House, if it has not been laid already, in reply to another question asked by Mr. Husenbhai Laljee, and there my Honourable friend will find such information as we have.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Will Government be prepared to take steps to prevent discrimination?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That is a hypothetical question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if Government are considering any steps to prevent actual discrimination against Indians in these countries, fourteen in number, and if they are not considering any steps, why they are not considering any such steps?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That, again, is rather a large question. Take, for example, South Africa. I have answered questions about that from time to time: that is the country where discrimination is most acute. In the other countries, it is not possible, in the first place, to say that discrimination is against Indians alone: it is discrimination against people who are not inhabitants of the country; and I may inform my Honourable friend that this question of retaliatory action against countries like South Africa has been considered by Government, and the position is that, as against more than 200,000 Indians in South Africa, there are even less than a 100 South Africans in this country; and it is not really that you can take retaliatory action with any effective results.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is that the reason? Will Government examine the whole question as a self-respecting Government interested in the welfare and dignity of its nationals abroad, and lay a statement on the table as to the reasons why they feel that they can take no steps in this matter?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have broadly explained the reason now, namely, that the disparity in numbers between Indians in those countries and the nationals of those countries in India is such that retaliation instead of helping the Indians in those countries is likely to hurt their best interests: that is the main reason.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Does it apply to all the fourteen countries? Is this the considered opinion of the Government of India?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I have answered in regard to countries within the British Empire with which I am primarily concerned. I think the Honourable the Foreign Secretary will be able to answer in regard to countries outside the British Empire.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if Government will be good enough to collect information with regard to the countries outside the British Empire where discrimination is practised against Indians, of one kind or another?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: That information is already being collected in answer to another very voluminous question put down by another Honourable Member.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Are Government aware that there are other States against whose nationals we cannot take any action, but as against whom other action can be taken, for instance, the boycott of Zanzibar cloves?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: So far as the cloves question in Zanzibar is concerned, we discussed the matter fully in Simla, and I have answered a number of questions on that subject here. I am hoping that it will not be necessary to resort to retaliatory action, but that we shall have a settlement which is satisfactory and honourable to all the parties concerned.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: May I know whether the Government of India have considered that they have any sanction that they can apply?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: It depends: is my Honourable friend referring to Zanzibar or to other countries generally?

Mr. M. A. Jinnah: My question is this: I am using the word "sanctions" in the latest sense of its meaning; just as the sanctions are being applied against Italy as an aggressor, are the Government of India prepared to consider whether they can apply some sanctions to redress these grievances?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Well, my Honourable friend will appreciate the fact that the question of sanctions will depend upon the magnitude of the interests involved, and I can give him this assurance that, if Government come to the conclusion that in certain circumstances sanctions can be effectively enforced and that there is no other way of achieving the object, the question will undoubtedly be considered.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: As regards the answer given by the Honourable the Foreign and Political Secretary, may I know, Sir, when he expects to be in a position to place the information on the table of the House?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I cannot exactly say, Sir. I have forgotten when the question will come up, but it is a matter of the whole world, and it is natural that it will take some time to collect all the information. As I explained to the House, I think, the other day, in answer to another question, the immigration laws of America, which contain certain discriminations against what is known as the barred zone, not only in respect of India, but also in respect of a large number of other countries in Asia, these regulations alone fill two large volumes, and the American Government themselves express their inability to give us a memorandum which would explain exactly what are the disabilities applied to Indians. All they say they can do is to take each particular case of an individual and say whether or not that individual is permitted and on what conditions to enter and reside in the country. I merely quote this to show the complexity of the information asked for and that it will take a long time to ascertain exactly what are the various disabilities applied to Indians and to other foreigners in all the countries of the world.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government consider the question of placing before the House the information in parts as they receive it from the various countries, and not wait till the last of the countries sends information?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: Certainly, I am prepared always to give information about particular countries, but the Honourable Member, whom I am referring to, has placed a question on the Order Paper which concerns every country in the world.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government, therefore, consider that question in parts and place the information as they get it on the table of the House, and not wait till the last of the countries sends information?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Sir, my Honourable friend's request is being complied with. We are placing on the table such information as is available.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Is there any country in the world which does not apply any kind of discrimination so far as Indians are concerned?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: I can mention several.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Outside the British Empire?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Yes, I can read out the names of the countries. There is the United Kingdom; there is France.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know, Sir, if the United Kingdom does make discrimination in Cypher Bureau?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Cypher Bureau is not a country.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Yes, they do make discrimination.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STRAIT SETTLEMENTS TRADE COMMISSION.

1198. ***Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar:** Will Government state:

- (a) whether they are aware of the sub-leading article of the *Hindu*, dated the 20th February, 1936;
- (b) whether the facts stated in it are true, and what is the extent of the decline; and
- (c) what were the recommendations of the Straits Settlement Trade Commission?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Government have no official information regarding the appointment of the Straits Settlement Trade Commission or the meeting of the Indian Chamber of Commerce at Singapore. As regards the trade between India and the Federated Malay States, the Honourable Member is referred to Volume II 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 Legislature.

DELHI FORT GARDEN IN THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AREA OF THE CITY.

1199. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the average daily and annual income from visitors or otherwise of the Delhi Fort garden in the archaeological area of the city;
- (b) the total annual expenditure of the upkeep of the said garden; and
- (c) the surplus, if any, and ways of its expenditure?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) There is no income from visitors to the Delhi Fort Garden as such. The admission fee that is charged admits a visitor to all the monuments within the Fort area, and averages Rs. 49 daily and Rs. 18,000 yearly.

(b) The expenditure on the upkeep of the garden was Rs. 8,631 in 1934-35.

(c) There are no separate receipts for admission to the garden. The question of a surplus from garden fees does not, therefore, arise.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that there is a system of taking *bakshish* there by the servants?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: No, Sir; I have never been asked for *bakshish* myself but if my Honourable friend will bring any specific instance of that kind to my notice, I shall look into the matter.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: Is the Honourable Member aware that when big people visit the place, employees there come forward and show them things, and explain to them their historical importance, and, at the time of their departure these employees ask for *bakshish*, and it is given?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: There are guides in any case. My friend does not probably appreciate the fact that there are certain individuals whose appearance is so generous that it invites supplications for *bakshish*.

1200. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** I am not putting this question, Sir.

RECONSTRUCTION OF QUETTA CANTONMENT.

1201. ***Mr. Sham Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that Government contemplate spending enormous amounts of money, ranging to crores, on the reconstruction of Quetta Cantonment?

(b) Is it a fact that Government propose to grant the reconstruction contracts to some British and foreign firms and ignore Indian interests?

(c) Is it a fact that some British firms have actually been approached by the officials concerned in the reconstruction to put in their tenders?

(d) Is it a fact that the official in charge of these contracts has decided to grant Quetta reconstruction contracts to British and foreign firms in preference to Indian contractors and firms?

(e) Will Government please state their policy on the basis of which these contracts are to be granted?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: (a) The information asked for was given by the Honourable the Finance Member in his budget speech, to which the Honourable Member is referred.

(b) No.

(c) All invitations to tender have been advertised through the public press.

(d) No.

(e) By selection of the lowest tender received that complies with the conditions laid down.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, has Government's attention been drawn to a statement published in this morning's papers that a foreign expert has arrived in India, and is now on his way to Simla to direct the Quetta operations, and that they have decided to use materials which are likely to be foreign materials rather than Indian materials?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: No, Sir, I have not seen the statement referred to.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government come to any conclusion with regard to the type of materials, which ought to be used in the reconstruction of Quetta?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: No, not so far as I am aware. I think the only conclusion they have come to is that in most cases it will be necessary to build what are known as earthquake-proof houses on earthquake-proof lines.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government examined the question from the point of view whether that decision means the non-encouragement of Indian products, and the encouragement of non-Indian products?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I hardly think that could be a point of view which would affect the matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government re-examine the matter, and decide it after taking into full account the imperious need for encouraging Indian industries, wherever possible?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I think, Sir, the House may be quite sure that, if materials of the necessary kind are available or can be manufactured in India, they will certainly be used.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In fixing those materials, will Government consider not only the question of earthquake-proof,—which is very important, I grant,—but also the question that, in place of foreign goods, equally good substitutes may be manufactured or found in India?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I think that is a hypothetical question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am asking whether, in coming to their conclusion on this matter with regard to materials used for reconstructing Quetta, they have taken or will take into consideration the question whether the expenditure of money on such a large scale for rebuilding Quetta is not to be diverted to Indian pockets as much as possible, by considering whether Indian products may be used for the purpose of rebuilding Quetta against earthquake shocks?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I have already said that I feel quite sure that, if materials of the required type can be found in India, they will certainly be used.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How does the Honourable Member feel quite sure? Has he any information that this matter has been or will be considered?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: Is this a cross-examination, Sir? I have stated the position of Government, and I cannot say anything more about it.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government state whether they will pass on to the authorities who are in a position to decide this question, and impress upon them the imperious need for encouraging Indian industries in the rebuilding of Quetta?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I feel quite sure that the authorities will consider the question fully.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government forward this information to that quarter?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I am not sure what quarter the Honourable Member is referring to.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is to say, the authorities who decide this question, and impress on them the great need for encouraging Indian industries when spending Indian tax-payers' money?

(After a pause.)

May I know, Sir, what the reply to my question is.

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: What information does the Honourable Member require?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I want information on the action proposed by the Government of India in forwarding to the authorities who will decide the manner of spending these seven crores, and if they have impressed on those authorities the imperious need—I think I speak for a large section of this House—of spending the Indian tax-payers' money on Indian industries, wherever possible?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: The Government of India will themselves decide the matter. There is, therefore, no occasion for them to forward their views to any authority.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have any plans and estimates for the purpose of reconstruction been already prepared?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I understand that they are under preparation.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: May I know when the work will begin?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: As soon as it has been given to contract which has not yet been done.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are Government aware that, so recently as a week or so ago, there were earthquake shocks round about Quetta, and that it is useless to build there?

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

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: May I put a supplementary question? Have any Japanese experts been consulted as regards earthquake-proof houses, because, I understand, that they possess the best knowledge on the subject?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: I think they have, but if the Honourable Member wishes for actual information on that point, I shall have to ask for notice.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is it a fact that plans are not to be prepared by Government, but the contractors have to do the same and submit them to Government?

Sir Aubrey Metcalfe: That, I believe, is incorrect, but I shall have to ask for notice if the Honourable Member wishes for accurate information on the point.

STOPPING OF CERTAIN FACILITIES BY THE STATION MASTER OF LAWRENCEPUR.

1202. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Is it a fact that the Station Master of Lawrencepur has suddenly stopped facilities in the matter of clearing and forwarding goods, which had been afforded for the last fifty years?

(b) Are Government aware that such a step involves great hardships to customers and is detrimental to the Railway?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) I understand that under instructions from the Divisional authorities, certain irregular practices have recently been stopped.

(b) No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What were the irregular practices?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The Station Master has been instructed that he must not accept endorsements on railway receipts purporting to have been made by consignees, whereas, in point of fact, they had been made by a forwarding agent. Secondly, he has been asked to stop pack animals coming on to the goods platform, on both sides of which there are railway lines on which shunting is frequently performed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Was corruption one of the reasons why these were stopped?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No.

Bhai Parma Nand: May I know whether these so-called irregularities have been in existence for the last fifty years or not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am not aware of that.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will some bridge be constructed in order to facilitate people going from one side of the platform to another, when, as the Honourable Member said, there is some danger in passing to the other side?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have said nothing about passing from one side to the other. Has the Honourable Member been to Lawrencepur at all?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: No. I need not go there. I understand from the Honourable Member's reply.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have said nothing with regard to passing from one side of the platform to another.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: What is that passage that has not been given?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have read it out.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I would like to know that.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The Honourable Member should have listened to it when I was reading it.

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

HARDSHIPS OF GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY STAFF RE-APPOINTED AFTER THE STRIKE OF 1930.

1203. *Bhai Parma Nand: (a) Is it a fact that a number of employees took part in the strike of March, 1930 on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that they offered themselves for duty when the strike was called off and that as a punishment some of them were sent away far from their homes to work on the North Western Railway?

(c) Is it a fact that these people have been applying to the authorities of the North Western Railway for the transfer of their services back to their homes and that their petitions have been rejected?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider their case sympathetically?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway ex-strikers were not sent away to work on the North Western Railway as a punishment. In accordance with the terms of the Government of India communiqué, dated the 1st March, 1930, a copy of which is in the Library of the House, each of those ex-strikers, who offered to return to duty within the prescribed period and whose name was borne on the list maintained by the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, were, *inter alia*, to be offered the first

refusal of employment in the same or in a corresponding position to that which he held, when he proceeded on strike, against vacancies occurring on the Great Indian Peninsula, East Indian and North Western Railways. The Eastern Bengal Railway was subsequently added to these railways.

(c) and (d). The reply to the first part of (c) of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part of part (c) and part (d) I would refer the Honourable Member to part (c) of the information laid on the table of the House, on the 3rd September, 1935, in reply to starred question No. 160, asked by Mr. V. V. Giri, on the floor of this House on the 12th February, 1935.

EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTION TOWARDS THE INDIAN INSTITUTE, DELHI, BY THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

1204. *Bhai Parma Nand: (a) Is it a fact that a certain amount is deducted from the monthly pay of all the employees of the Divisional Superintendent's Office, North Western Railway, Delhi, as their monthly subscription towards the Indian Institute, Delhi?

(b) Is it a fact that this practice has been introduced without getting the consent of the employees themselves and are Government aware that on that account much discontent prevails among them?

(c) Is it a fact that quite a few hundred of them have applied to the Agent, North Western Railway, for exemption from the payment of this subscription? If so, are Government prepared to look into their case and stop this compulsory practice?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given to starred question No. 439 asked by Sardar Sant Singh on the floor of this House on the 17th September, 1935.

(c) As regards the first part Government have no information. As regards the latter part the matter is still under consideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I ask for some elucidation of answer to clause (c)? I take it that the answer to the first part is,—they have no information, but they are prepared to look into their cases.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have said with regard to the latter part that the matter is under consideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Which matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: As a matter of fact, the position is that the Payment of Wages Bill might render it altogether illegal to make any deductions, and, therefore, the matter is receiving consideration as to whether any general orders should be issued that, if any such practice does prevail anywhere, it should be stopped.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS INTO THE COMMISSIONED RANK OF VETERINARY CORPS.

1205. *Bhai Parma Nand: (a) Is it a fact that the Army Department have begun taking Indians into the Commissioned rank of Veterinary Corps?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am not aware of that.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will some bridge be constructed in order to facilitate people going from one side of the platform to another, when, as the Honourable Member said, there is some danger in passing to the other side?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have said nothing about passing from one side to the other. Has the Honourable Member been to Lawrencepur at all?

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(c) Is it a fact that these people have been applying to the authorities of the North Western Railway for the transfer of their services back to their homes and that their petitions have been rejected?

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The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the Great Indian Peninsula Railway ex-strikers were not sent away to work on the North Western Railway as a punishment. In accordance with the terms of the Government of India communiqué, dated the 1st March, 1930, a copy of which is in the Library of the House, each of those ex-strikers, who offered to return to duty within the prescribed period and whose name was borne on the list maintained by the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, were, *inter alia*, to be offered the first

refusal of employment in the same or in a corresponding position to that which he held, when he proceeded on strike, against vacancies occurring on the Great Indian Peninsula, East Indian and North Western Railways. The Eastern Bengal Railway was subsequently added to these railways.

(c) and (d). The reply to the first part of (c) of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part of part (c) and part (d) I would refer the Honourable Member to part (c) of the information laid on the table of the House, on the 3rd September, 1935, in reply to starred question No. 160, asked by Mr. V. V. Giri, on the floor of this House on the 12th February, 1935.

EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTION TOWARDS THE INDIAN INSTITUTE, DELHI, BY THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

1204. *Bhai Parma Nand: (a) Is it a fact that a certain amount is deducted from the monthly pay of all the employees of the Divisional Superintendent's Office, North Western Railway, Delhi, as their monthly subscription towards the Indian Institute, Delhi?

(b) Is it a fact that this practice has been introduced without getting the consent of the employees themselves and are Government aware that on that account much discontent prevails among them?

(c) Is it a fact that quite a few hundred of them have applied to the Agent, North Western Railway, for exemption from the payment of this subscription? If so, are Government prepared to look into their case and stop this compulsory practice?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given to starred question No. 439 asked by Sardar Sant Singh on the floor of this House on the 17th September, 1935.

(c) As regards the first part Government have no information. As regards the latter part the matter is still under consideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I ask for some elucidation of answer to clause (c)? I take it that the answer to the first part is,—they have no information, but they are prepared to look into their cases.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have said with regard to the latter part that the matter is under consideration.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Which matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: As a matter of fact, the position is that the Payment of Wages Bill might render it altogether illegal to make any deductions, and, therefore, the matter is receiving consideration as to whether any general orders should be issued that, if any such practice does prevail anywhere, it should be stopped.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS INTO THE COMMISSIONED RANK OF VETERINARY CORPS.

1205. *Bhai Parma Nand: (a) Is it a fact that the Army Department have begun taking Indians into the Commissioned rank of Veterinary Corps?

(b) Is it a fact that a number of Indians, who passed the M.R.C.V.S. Examination in England, have been waiting for employment for some years?

(c) Is it a fact that the Army Department have now fixed twenty-eight as the age-limit, thus ignoring the claims of all those who qualified some years ago, and have passed that age-limit?

(d) Are Government prepared to raise the age-limit of the candidates at least for the appointments created for the first time?

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

(b) to (d). If the Honourable Member is referring to employment in the Indian Army Veterinary Corps, there was only one case in which Government held out hopes of employment to an individual before he proceeded to England to study for the M. R. C. V. S. On his return to India this gentleman was employed by the military authorities in a civilian capacity until the scheme for the admission of Indians to the Commissioned ranks of the Corps was introduced.

The age limit for entrants has been fixed at 28, and it is not proposed to change this so long as enough suitable candidates can be obtained below that age.

Sardar Sant Singh: Is it a fact that the candidates employed in this Department have not been employed to the full strength which was required by the Government? There are certain vacancies yet?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I do not know how that arises out of this question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How many Indians have been taken so far?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I should require notice. I laid some information on that subject on the table, or I gave information in reply to a question some time ago. The total number of appointments available is fairly considerable considering the size of the Corps, but I think so far we have got about eight or ten.

TRANSFER OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES FROM QUETTA AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE.

1206. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Is it a fact that practical sympathy was shown by the Railway and other departments to their employees at Quetta by transferring them after the last earthquake from Quetta to their home-districts?

(b) Is it a fact that the Posts and Telegraphs Department have failed to do so and that the representations of the employees applying for a similar concession have been disregarded?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider their case?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Information has been called for and a reply will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

(b) and (c). The Posts and Telegraphs Department has also shown practical sympathy in this matter and I lay on the table a copy of the orders issued on the subject. The cases of some employees who have applied for transfer to the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle are under consideration.

INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

Memorandum No. Es. B. 72-15/35.

Simla, the 29th July, 1935.

SUBJECT:—*Transfer concessions to the staff in Quetta who served through the earthquake.*

The Director-General with the concurrence of the Financial Adviser, Posts and Telegraphs, is pleased to authorise you to permit the transfer of the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department who served in Quetta through the earthquake subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Members of the all-India transferable cadres, e.g., general service telegraphists and telegraph masters, engineering and wireless supervisors and wireless operators may be granted a transfer within or outside the Sind and Baluchistan Circle.
- (b) Members of the Postal and R. M. S. clerical cadres in the selection grade may be granted a transfer to some other stations within the Sind and Baluchistan Circle.
- (c) The clerical staff of the post office may be granted a transfer to some other stations in Baluchistan.
- (d) The clerical staff of the telegraph office may be granted a transfer to Karachi.
- (e) Telephone operators, postmen and other linestaff cannot be transferred; but they may be permitted to secure mutual exchange.

2. Replacement of the staff transferred from Quetta should ordinarily be made by drawing staff from the stations or Circles to which the transfers are made and as far as possible only bachelors should be sent to Quetta.

3. The transfers will be for administrative reasons and full travelling allowance will be given.

J. R. T. BOOTH,

Senior Deputy Director-General.

The Director of Posts and Telegraphs,
Sind and Baluchistan Circle.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE RECOGNITION OF THE VISHNU KARMA PATHSHALA.

1207. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Will Government please state the circumstances under which recognition of the Vishnu Karma Pathshala was withdrawn?

(b) Will Government please state if the facts on which the recognition of the said school has been withdrawn were such of which the punishment can only be withdrawal of recognition of a school established and recognised since 1928?

(c) Will Government please state if the procedure regarding withdrawal of recognition of a school, as laid down in the Punjab Education Code was followed? If so, are Government prepared to start an open enquiry relating to the validity of the charges framed by the District Inspector of Schools? If not, why was the rule ignored?

(d) Are Government aware of the fact that even the grant-in-aid for the last year has not been paid to the school? If so, why?

(e) Are Government prepared to start an enquiry into the allegations made against the District Inspector of Schools, by the said School?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) The recognition of Vishnu Karma Pathshala was withdrawn as the school authorities were not observing the regulations of the Education Department and the working of the school had been considered to be unsatisfactory for some time past. Serious irregularities, which were admitted by the Manager, had been committed.

(b) Yes.

(c) Reply to the first part of this question is in the affirmative. As for the subsequent parts Government does not consider it necessary to start an open enquiry as recognition was withdrawn under Code Rules for good reasons.

(d) Grant-in-aid for the year 1934-35 was paid to the school, but the grant for the current year (1935-36) has not been paid as recognition was withdrawn in June 1935. Grants-in-aid payable in a certain year are assessed on the figures of income and expenditure of the institution for the previous year. They are intended to supplement expenditure in the year in which they are actually paid.

(e) No.

Bhai Parma Nand: May I know how long this Pathshala has been in existence?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That I could not say.

Bhai Parma Nand: Was it not working all these years that it was in existence?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Even if it had worked satisfactorily for some time in the past, the appearance of defects, such as, maintenance of fictitious registers of attendance, would, in my opinion, justify the action that was taken.

Bhai Parma Nand: But was there any investigation made that they were fictitious?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Yes, not one, but two investigations, first by the Secretary of the New Delhi Municipal Committee, and subsequently by the District Inspector of Schools.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE ASSISTANT PRESIDENCY POSTMASTER, CALCUTTA GENERAL POST OFFICE, INCHARGE OF MONEY ORDER DEPARTMENT.

1208. ***Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that the Assistant Presidency Postmaster, Calcutta General Post Office, in-charge of Money Order Department, ill-treats the subordinates under him?

(b) Is it a fact that he habitually uses abusive and highly objectionable language towards his subordinates?

(c) Is it a fact that the matter has been brought to the notice of the Presidency Postmaster? If so, what action do Government propose to take against the said Assistant Presidency Postmaster?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) to (c). Government have no information. The matter is within the competence of the Postmaster-General, Bengal and Assam Circle, to whom a copy of the question and of this reply is being sent for such action as he may consider necessary.

HEALTH OF STATE PRISONERS MESSRS. SATYA BHUSAN GUPTA AND ARUN CHANDRA GUHA.

1209. ***Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali:** (a) Will Government please state the present condition of health of Mr. Satya Bhusan Gupta and Mr. Arun Chandra Guha?

(b) What was their respective weight when they were first weighed at Calcutta on their arrest and their present weight?

(c) Is it a fact that both of them are suffering from fever at intervals since their transfer to Poona and they are also suffering from constant headache?

(d) How long were they kept in the Bombay jail and when?

(e) Is it a fact that their persons and property used to be searched while at Bombay jail at about 4 A.M.?

(f) Will Government please state if it is a fact that when they protested against search at such unusual hour, they were severely assaulted every day for about 30 days while they were in the Bombay jail?

(g) Is it a fact that due to the severity of assault one day, they lost their senses for about a couple of hours?

(h) Is it a fact that they were put on bar-fetters for over a month for objecting to be searched at such unusual hours?

(i) Will Government please state what punishment was inflicted on these two State Prisoners while at Bombay jail?

(j) What was the date and duration of such punishment and the reason for it?

(k) Is it a fact that the doors of the prison cell at Poona are shut up at 6 P.M. and are not opened before 8 A.M. next morning for these State Prisoners?

(l) What are the measurements of the prison cells in which they are confined at a stretch for 14 hours?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) The health of both prisoners is, according to the latest report received, good.

(b) Government have no information as to their weight on arrest in Calcutta. They were, however, weighed on 29th November, 1931, in the Mianwali District Jail on which date A. C. Guha was 115 lbs. and S. B. Gupta was 146 lbs. On 4th February, 1936, the former was 138 lbs. i.e., 23 lbs. more and the latter 163 lbs. i.e., 17 lbs. more.

(c) No. They have complained occasionally of headache and other minor complaints for which they have been treated satisfactorily.

(d) They were in the Arthur Road Prison, Bombay, from the 20th July, to the 19th December, 1934.

(e) No.

(f) No. The prisoners were searched periodically according to the rules. They repeatedly offered resistance and it was therefore necessary to employ force. Government are satisfied that undue force was not used.

(g) It is not a fact.

(h) They were put in fetters on one occasion but I am not aware for how long. The reason for this punishment was that the State Prisoners bit the jailer and spat in the faces of the Superintendent and the Jailer, and threw water on the Superintendent.

(i) Previous to the imposition of the punishment referred to in part (h) they were awarded 14 days separate confinement and forfeiture of all privileges, (e.g., reading books and writing letters) on five occasions. These punishments were awarded because the State Prisoners daily and persistently abused the Superintendent and his staff, shouted revolutionary slogans, and attempted to stir up a mutiny both amongst the other convicts and the warders.

(j) The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to parts (h) and (i) of the question.

(k) It is not a fact. The hours of lock up are from 8-0 or 8-30 P.M. till shortly after sunrise.

(l) Government have no exact information except that there is a row of cells 27 yards long by 9 yards wide.

WANT OF MEANS FOR RECREATION FOR STATE PRISONERS AT POONA.

1210. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: (a) Is it a fact that the State Prisoners at Poona have no means of recreation provided for them in the jail? If not, what are the sports or other recreation allowed to them?

(b) What is the measurement of the yard in which the State Prisoners are confined?

(c) Is it a fact that the yard is not spacious enough even for badminton play?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) to (c). It is a fact that the accommodation available in the Yeravda Prison does not admit of out-door games, such as tennis or badminton. But the prisoners have been provided with dumbbells, Indian clubs, skipping ropes, carrom set, dice and cards. The enclosure within which the prisoners are accommodated is 40 yards long by 17 yards wide, part of which is occupied by a row of cells 27 yards by 9 yards, and a latrine 6 yards by 3 yards.

SEGREGATION OF STATE PRISONERS MESSRS. SATYA BHUSAN GUPTA AND ARUN CHANDRA GUHA.

1211. *Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali: (a) Will Government please state why Messrs. Satya Bhushan Gupta and Arun Chandra Guha, State Prisoners, have been segregated from other State Prisoners?

(b) Is it the policy of Government to keep only two State Prisoners at one place?

(c) What is the objection of Government to keeping most or at least four State Prisoners in one jail so that they may have some association?

(d) How long have these State Prisoners been in jail? How long have they been in this particular Jail (at Poona)?

(e) Are Government aware that this place is not suited to their health and are Government prepared to transfer them to another jail for a change?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Because they repeatedly abused and finally assaulted the Superintendent and the Jailer and because they tried to encourage other convicts and warders to mutiny.

(b) There is no fixed rule, each case is considered on its merits.

(c) The objection is sometimes on the score of the refractory and mutinous behaviour of the State Prisoners, and sometimes on the score of their revolutionary associations and activities.

(d) A. C. Guha since 22nd October, 1930 and S. B. Gupta since 24th December, 1930. They have been in Jail in Poona since 19th December, 1934.

(e) The answer to both questions in this part is in the negative.

ARTICLE HEADED "RAILWAY STORES DEPARTMENT AND THE AXE OF RETRENCHMENT" PUBLISHED IN THE RAILWAYMAN, LUCKNOW.

1212. *Mr Muhammad Nauman: Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article "Railway Stores Department and the Axe of Retrenchment" published in the *Railwayman*, Lucknow, dated the 15th February 1936? If so, what action do Government propose to take in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the latter part, the matters referred to are entirely within the competence of the Agent, to whom a copy of the question has been sent for information and such action as he may consider necessary.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RETRENCHED WORKSHOP MEN AWAITING RE-EMPLOYMENT ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

312. Mr. V. V. Giri: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that nearly 240 retrenched workshop men are awaiting re-employment on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of apprentices workmen in the Hubli shops and Arkonam Engineering workshops retrenched after the strike of 1932 on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and awaiting re-employment?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the number of outsiders recruited on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway in the workshops after 1931-32 and still remaining in service?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) to (c). Government have no information. These are matters of detailed administration for the Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, which is a Company-managed Railway and Government are unable to interfere. I am, however, sending a copy of the question to the Agent, Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, for information.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING SUBVENTION TO THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE SUBMITTED TO SIR OTTO NIEMEYER.

313. **Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the memoranda submitted by the Honourable the Home Member of the Frontier Province, regarding the subvention, to Sir Otto Niemeyer?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Government are not aware of any such memorandum. If the official memorandum of the North-West Frontier Province Government is referred to the answer is in the negative.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE CHAKIA AND SIDHWALIA LINE OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

314. **Mr. B. B. Varma:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the loss in earnings due to the Bengal and North Western Railway line between Chapra and Sonapore being cut and breached (i) in 1923, and (ii) in 1934?

(b) If the Chakia and Sidhwalia connection was undertaken, will the expected return on the entire cost, including the bridge, amount to 3½ per cent. and without the bridge to seven per cent.?

(c) Are Government aware that by the construction of this above named bridge, apart from public convenience, there is going to be an advantage to trade and it is likely to assist and improve the flow of traffic?

(d) Is it a fact that Bihar Government have been asked to guarantee the interest return on capital expenditure on the Bengal and North Western Railway at any time?

(e) Is it not a fact that the lines built and administered by the Bengal and North Western Railway have always been paying satisfactorily?

(f) Are Government prepared to waive their demand of guarantee of interest from the Government of Bihar against any loss, and sanction the project for the construction of the bridge to be known as Chakia-Sidhwalia line?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government have no information.

(b) No.

(c) Possibly.

(d) The Bihar Government were recently asked if they would guarantee interest return on the capital expenditure on the Chakia-Sidhwalia line if constructed. This would form part of the Tirhut Railway which belongs to the Government though it is worked by the Bengal and North Western Railway.

(e) The Bengal and North Western Railway have always paid dividends.

(f) No.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE RAILWAY BOARD AND THE FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER, RAILWAYS.

315. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) Will Government please state the extent of the administrative control of the Railway Board consisting of three members (Chief Commissioner, Financial Commissioner and one member) and of the Financial Commissioner, Railways over the railway servants as defined in the Indian Railways Act?

(b) Will Government please state the material difference between the Railway Board and the Financial Commissioner, Railways?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Subject to the provisions of the Railway Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules and the 'Direction' appended thereto full administrative control over railway staff on State-managed Railways is exercised by the Railway Board and in the case of Railway Accounts staff by the Financial Commissioner, Railways.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question No. 214 asked by Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru in the Legislative Assembly on the 4th February, 1930.

EXPENDITURE ON RAILWAY BOARD, ETC.

316. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state the expenditure on officers of (1) the Government of India in the Railway Department; (2) the Railway Board, and (3) the Financial Commissioner, Railways during the preceding five years, and if it is not possible, then for the preceding year?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: There are not three sets of officers as the Honourable Member appears to think. The officers in the Railway Department of the Government of India are identical with those working under the Railway Board and taking orders from the Financial Commissioner in his capacity as a Member of the Railway Board. I place the statement asked for on the table of the House.

Statement showing the Expenditure on the Officers of the Railway Board during the last five years.

Total V and N. V. Figures in thousands of rupees.	
1930-31	7,52
1931-32	6,99
1932-33	5,92
1933-34	5,79
1934-35	5,42

STAFF OF THE RAILWAY BOARD, ETC.

317. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the staff of the offices of (1) the Government of India in the Railway Department, (2) the Railway Board, and (3) the Financial Commissioner, Railways as borne on the 1st April, 1931, 1st April, 1935 and 1st March, 1936, and the concise reasons for any difference between any two dates?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: There are not three sets of staff as the Honourable Member appears to think. The staff of the Railway Department of the Government of India are identical with those employed by the Railway Board and by the Financial Commissioner in his capacity as a Member of that Board.

I place a statement on the table of the House.

A Statement showing the Staff in the Railway Board's Office on 1st April, 1931, 1st April, 1935, and 1st March, 1936, with concise reasons for the difference.

1st April, 1931		122	} A B
1st April, 1935		117	
1st March, 1936		116	

A. Due to certain posts retrenched during the economy campaign.

B. Due to the abolition of Leave Reserve among the Stenographers.

APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN RULES OF THE RAILWAY SERVICES (CLASSIFICATION, CONTROL AND APPEAL) RULES TO NON-GAZETTED STAFF.

318. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state whether the principle underlying Rule 8 of the Railway Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules is applicable to non-gazetted staff? If not, what are the reasons for the differential treatment?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply questions Nos. 318 and 319 together.

The non-gazetted staff are not governed by the Railway Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, under the "Direction" appended to these rules the Governor General in Council has been given full power of control, including power of delegating control to subordinate authorities, over the non-gazetted staff.

APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN RULES OF THE RAILWAY SERVICES (CLASSIFICATION, CONTROL AND APPEAL) RULES TO NON-GAZETTED STAFF.

319. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state whether Rules 1 to 10 under Part I—General of the Railway Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules are applicable to non-gazetted staff? If not, what are the reasons for the differential treatment?

NON-GAZETTED RAILWAY STAFF.

320. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state whether non-gazetted staff are members of the Railway Services? If not, to which service do they belong?

*For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 318.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: It by 'Railway Services' the Honourable Member means the Railway Services referred to in the Railway Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules the reply is in the negative. Non-gazetted staff are not members of those services but of subordinate or inferior services.

PROCEDURE FOR INQUIRY INTO THE CONDUCT OF NON-GAZETTED RAILWAY STAFF.

321. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state whether the provisions of the Public Servants Inquiries Act, 1850 are applicable to non-gazetted staff on State Railways? If not, under what Act is their conduct inquired into, or what is the procedure of inquiring into their conduct?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am collecting information and will lay a reply on the table of the House, in due course.

RULES FOR RECRUITMENT, PAY AND ALLOWANCES, ETC., OF NON-GAZETTED RAILWAY STAFF.

322. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state the Gazette Notification promulgating the rules framed by the Governor General in Council in respect of recruitment, pay and allowances and other conditions of service and discipline and conduct of railway servants other than those holding permanent gazetted posts? If not, are those rules confidential and not for general information and guidance of the staff?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The rules referred to by the Honourable Member have not been published in the Gazette of India. These rules and other rules and orders governing pay, allowances and other conditions of service of the State Railway staff will be included in a single compilation, namely, the State Railway Establishment Manual, which will be available for sale when ready.

POWERS OF DIVISIONAL SUPERINTENDENTS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

323. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Is it a fact that the Agent, East Indian Railway, defined the powers of Divisional Superintendents under Circular No. 462 of the 21st October, 1926? If so, will Government please state:

(a) the clause, or clauses, which authorizes the Divisional Superintendents to delegate the powers vested in them to their subordinate officers, viz.:

- (1) Superintendent, Transportation,
- (2) Assistant Superintendent, Transportation,
- (3) Superintendent, Commercial,
- (4) Assistant Superintendent, Commercial,
- (5) Superintendent, Power,

- (6) Assistant Superintendent, Power,
- (7) Superintendent, Rolling Stock,
- (8) Assistant Superintendent, Rolling Stock,
- (9) Senior Superintendent, Way and Works,
- (10) Superintendent, Way and Works,
- (11) Assistant Superintendent, Way and Works,
- (12) Superintendent, Staff,
- (13) Assistant Superintendent, Staff,
- (14) Superintendent, Office,
- (15) Inspectors,
- (16) Head Clerks; and
- (17) Clerks;

(b) the nature of full powers to deal with all matters within his Division, and

(c) the authority under which the Divisional Superintendents are Railway Administrations as defined in Indian Railways Act for purposes of service agreements?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am collecting information and will lay a reply on the table of the House, in due course.

STRENGTH OF STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

324. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to the reply to unstarred question No. 42, asked on the 4th February, 1936, regarding the strength of staff on the East Indian Railway, will Government please state the datum upon which they based their figures for the actuals and budgets for each year under heads Establishments?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The actual expenditure is found from the accounts, which do not, however, keep details of numbers.

The estimates are based on the expenditure in the past, together with a consideration, so far as possible, of the circumstances of the year for which the estimate is framed, such as additional cost of increments, retrenchments of staff, if any, and so on.

RESERVATION OF NON-GAZETTED SUPERVISING POSTS FOR EUROPEANS AND ANGLO-INDIANS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

325. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to the reply to unstarred question No. 44, asked on the 4th February, 1936, will Government please state:

- (a) whether any Selection Boards were held in any of the offices on the East Indian Railway between the 1st January, 1934 and the 1st January, 1936; if so, with what result, community-wise:

- (b) whether on the 31st March, 1931, the strength of the non-gazetted supervising staff in the scale of pay rising to Rs. 150 and over was as under:

(K. M. Hasan's report.)

Community.	Clerical.	Traffic.	Commercial.	Power.	Carriage.	Civil Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and Stores.	Watch and Ward.
Hindus	141	40	39	..	12	197	1
Muhammadans	6	7	14	..	7	26	4
European and Anglo-Indians.	2	298	60	452	35	657	11
Indian Christians	1	..	1	..	..	7	..
Others	..	2	2	3	4	17	..

- (c) the increase and decrease, communitywise, since 1st April, 1931 to date, in the strength of the non-gazetted supervising staff on scale of pay rising to Rs. 150 and over;

(d) whether they will now furnish the requisite information;

(e) whether they are prepared now to reconcile their reply with the true facts; if not, why not;

(f) the strength, communitywise of the Transportation Inspectors on 16th August, 1934, when the Selection Board consisting of Mr. W. H. Burnard, Chief Operating Superintendent and Mr. H. A. Collet, Superintendent Staff, selected seven Anglo-Indians in preference to other communities who were eligible for promotions;

(g) the reason for such predomination over other communities by one community; and

(h) what action has been taken now; if none, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government have no information and its collection will involve an amount of labour and expense not likely to be justified by results.

(b) The figures quoted by the Honourable Member are correct, but they refer to staff in posts the minimum pay of which is Rs. 150 per mensem or more.

(c) The information readily available will be found on page 63 of the report by the Railway Board, Volume I, for the year 1935-36.

(d) It is not understood what information the Honourable Member is referring to.

(e) The question is not understood.

(f) Government are informed that the permanent strength of the Transportation and Commercial Inspectors was as follows:

Europeans	...	...	...	...	11
Anglo-Indians	...	...	...	...	16
Indians	...	...	...	...	4

(g) As promotions are made mainly on merit equal distribution of the posts among different communities cannot be guaranteed.

(h) No action is called for.

POSTS OF TRANSPORTATION INSPECTORS SANCTIONED BY THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

326. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to the reply to unstarred question No. 5, asked on the 2nd September, 1935, regarding posts of Transportation Inspectors sanctioned by the East Indian Railway, will Government please state:

- the purpose and intention for not retaining the list;
- the source from which it can be ascertained that the persons selected were eligible for promotion and no other person was eligible;
- the action taken against the official who failed to retain the list;
- why a fresh Selection Board was not summoned; and
- whether they now propose to take action and inquire into the mal-administration and conduct of the officials under the Public Servants Inquiries Act, 1850? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am collecting information and will lay a reply on the table of the House, in due course.

POSTS OF TRANSPORTATION INSPECTORS SANCTIONED BY THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

327. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to the answer to part (d) of unstarred question No. 5 asked on the 2nd September, 1935, will Government please state:

- whether it is a fact that Divisional Selection Boards were held prior to the Selection Board held on the 16th August, 1934;
- if the reply to part (a) be in the negative whether they will place on the table the following correspondence:
 - Divisional Superintendent, Howrah, No. E. H.-213 of 5th June, 1934;
 - Divisional Superintendent, Asansol, No. E.S.T.-2/1/C.S.S. of 25th May, 1934;
 - Divisional Superintendent, Dinapur, No. E.A.-14/26 of 25th May, 1934; and
 - Divisional Superintendent, Moradabad, No. E.T.-4/32-R.A.S.M. of 1st June, 1934;

(c) if the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, whether they will place on the table a list of candidates selected by the Divisional Selection Boards?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) No.

(b) Government are not prepared to place the documents referred to on the table of the House as they are meant for departmental use only.

(c) Does not arise.

MODIFICATIONS AND EXTENSIONS IN THE RULES REGULATING THE DISCHARGE AND DISMISSAL OF NON-GAZETTED STAFF ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

328. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** With reference to unstarred question No. 2, asked on the 2nd September, 1935, will Government please lay on the table a copy of the modifications and extensions notified in connection with the rules regulating the discharge and dismissal of State Railways non-gazetted servants on the East Indian Railway, or to state the number and date of the notifications published in the Gazette?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I place on the table of the House a copy of the notifications issued by the Agent, East Indian Railway, in connection with the rules regulating the discharge and dismissal of non-gazetted servants on the East Indian Railway.

(1) Agent's circular No. 523/A. E.-1795, dated the 2nd December, 1930, and

(2) Agent's notification, dated the 8th February, 1934.

PUBLISHED IN THE RAILWAY'S GAZETTE, DATED 10TH DECEMBER 1930.

In supersession of Agent's Circular No. 508/A. E.-1795, dated 22nd January, 1930.

CIRCULAR No. 523/A. E.-1795.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

AGENT'S OFFICE.

Calcutta, 2nd December, 1930.

Rules regulating the discharge and dismissal of State Railway Non-Gazetted Government Servants.

With reference to the revised rules issued in connection with the above with Agency Notification of 28th October 1930, Agent's Circular No. 508/A. E.-1795, dated 22nd January, 1930, is re-issued below with slight amendments. The rules contained herein hold good and will be applied in conjunction with those issued with the Notification of 28th October, 1930.

Appeals from Subordinate Staff.

In supersession of the Agent's Circular No. 508/A. E.-1795, dated 22nd January, 1930, published in the Weekly Gazette dated 29th January, 1930, the staff are hereby informed that appeals from subordinate railway employees will be entertained by the Agent when the appellant has been summarily dismissed and that an employee who is dismissed with forfeiture of Provident Fund Bonus shall have the right of appealing

to the Railway Board. Appeals against discharge will, however, be finally dealt with as follows :

- (i) By the Agent if the order of discharge was issued by a Principal Officer or by the Head of the appellant's Department.
- (ii) By the correctly related Principal Officer or Head of Department concerned if the order of discharge was issued by a Divisional Superintendent or by a Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer or by a District Officer or by Works Managers, Alambagh and Charbagh, working directly under a Principal Officer or Head of a Department.
- (iii) By a Divisional Superintendent or by a Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer if the order of discharge was issued by a Senior Scale Officer attached to his Division or Workshops as the case may be.

Orders of discharge will only vest in Officers of District Rank and above.

NOTE 1.—This applies to permanent staff.

NOTE 2.—The Agent delegates powers to the Deputy Superintendent, Watch and Ward Department to dismiss Head Watchmen and Watchmen and to the Assistant Superintendents, Watch and Ward Department, to discharge Watchmen.

NOTE 3.—The Agent delegates powers to the Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineers at Lillooah, Jamalpur and Tatanagar and to the Works Managers at Charbagh and Alambagh to dismiss labourers, i.e., workshop employees other than clerical and supervisory staff, (persons of and above the grade of a chageman being treated as Supervisory staff) whose service is under 10 years.

NOTE 4.—The Agent delegates powers to the Manager, Oil Factory, Manuari to discharge labourers whose service is less than 10 years.

2. The Agent will, as heretofore, receive appeals from ex-employees regarding non-payment of their Provident Fund bonus and gratuities which must be sent, however, through the proper channel; otherwise they will be returned to the appellant for submission through the proper channel, i.e., through the officer under whom he worked when his services with the railway terminated.

3. The staff are further informed that Divisional Superintendents, Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineers, Heads of Departments and Principal Officers are authorised to withhold petitions in the following cases :

- (i) When a petition is an appeal against the discharge of a person appointed in India on probation if his discharge was made before the period of the termination of the probation.
- (ii) When a petition is an appeal against an order passed by a Divisional Superintendent or Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer or Head of Department directing a transfer or refusing a transfer, appointing or promoting to a post which is ordinarily filled by selection, refusing to grant leave on account of the exigencies of the service, or refusing in a particular case to authorise the issue of a privilege pass or privilege ticket order.

4. Further, Officers dealing with appeals have been authorised to withhold them if they fall within any one of the following categories :

- (a) If the petition be frivolous, illegible or unintelligible or if couched in language which is disrespectful or improper.
- (b) When the petition is one already disposed of by competent authority and when the fresh petition advances no new facts in support of the appeal.

5. If a petition be withheld by an officer competent to do so, the appellant will be informed by that officer of the fact, and of the reasons for withholding it.

6. The staff are further advised that appeals must invariably be sent through the proper channel.

C. L. COLVIN,
Agent.

Gazette issued on 21st February, 1934.

97. EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

NOTIFICATION.

Rules regulating the discharge and dismissal of State Railway Non-Gazetted Government Servants.

In continuation of this office notification dated the 28th October, 1930, under which the above rules were published, the Railway Board's letter No. 1975-E. G., dated the 31st January, 1934, is also published for general information.

AGENT'S OFFICE;

Calcutta, 8th February 1934.

H. A. M. HANNAY,
Agent.

COPY OF RAILWAY BOARD'S LETTER No. 1975-E. G., DATED THE 31ST JANUARY, 1934, TO AGENT.

Right of appeal of labourers employed in a State Railway Workshop or any other Branch of State Railway Service and of Temporary Non-Gazetted employees borne on non-pensionable establishment.

I am directed to refer to this office letter No. 4080-E., dated the 10th October, 1930, forwarding a copy of the revised rules regulating the discharge and dismissal of State Railway non-gazetted Government servants, and to state that it has been decided to allow a right of appeal against discharge from service in respect of the following staff :

- (i) Labourers employed in a State Railway workshop or any other branch of State Railway service; with less than three years' continuous service; and
- (ii) temporary non-gazetted employees borne on a non-pensionable establishment of a State Railway or in other offices under the administrative control of the Railway Board or of the Financial Commissioner of Railways, with less than three years' continuous service.

2. I am accordingly to state that staff referred to in categories (i) and (ii) above may be allowed a right of appeal under rule 11 of the rules referred to above notwithstanding anything contained in the said rules precluding such staff from such right of appeal.

3. I am to request that necessary arrangements may be made early to give effect to these orders.

REPORT ON THE COMMERCIAL METHODS EMPLOYED ON THE LONDON, MIDLAND AND SCOTTISH RAILWAY BY MR. T. J. RYAN OF THE COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

329. Dr. N. B. Khare: Will Government please state:

- (a) whether in November, 1934, a report on enquiries permitted into the commercial methods employed on the London, Midland and Scottish Railway by Mr. T. J. Ryan, Commercial Department, East Indian Railway, Calcutta was printed at Calcutta, East Indian Railway Press; if so, whether they will place a copy of the said report on the table of this House; if not, why not;

(b) who permitted the enquiry and asked for a report;

(c) what was the cost of the enquiry;

- (d) what position Mr. T. J. Ryan occupies in the Commercial Department, East Indian Railway;
- (e) who assisted him in his enquiries;
- (f) what salary Mr. T. J. Ryan enjoyed in the services;
- (g) what is the total service of Mr. T. J. Ryan and what experience he had;
- (h) the number of copies printed;
- (i) who has borne the cost of printing the report; and
- (j) to whom the report is presented and what action has been taken thereon?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) I understand the report was printed in December, 1934. Government are unable to place a copy of the report on the table, as such of the information contained therein as was supplied by the London, Midland and Scottish Railway was given on the understanding that it would be treated as confidential and would not be published for general information.

(b) The enquiries were made by Mr. Ryan on his own initiative while he was on leave.

(c) The enquiry has not cost the Railway Administration anything.

(d) He is at present officiating as an Assistant Superintendent in the Lower Gazetted Service.

(e) No one.

(f) Rs. 500 at present.

(g) Twelve years. He has experience both indoor and out-door in the Commercial Department from a Weigh Clerk and through the intervening grades to his present position.

(h) 100.

(i) The East Indian Railway Administration.

(j) The report was submitted by Mr. Ryan to the Chief Commercial Manager who has circulated copies to his Divisional Officers. Government have no information as regards the action taken on the suggestions made in the report as this is entirely a matter for the Administration to deal with.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF COOLIES ON THE DELHI RAILWAY STATION.

330. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state the communal composition of the coolly establishment at Delhi junction station?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: One Muhammadan Jamadar, four Muhammadan Assistant Jamadars, two Hindu Assistant Jamadars, two Hindu Munshis, 195 Hindu coolies and 205 Muhammadan coolies.

ORGANISATION OF COOLY ESTABLISHMENTS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

331. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** (a) Will Government please state the relationship between the coolly establishment and the Railway Administration?

(b) Will Government please state the organization of coolly establishments on State-managed Railways?

(c) Will Government please state the rules for the recruitment of coolies on State-managed Railways?

(d) Will Government please state the terms of agreement, if any, executed by a coolly on State-managed Railways?

(e) Will Government please state the conditions of service of coolly establishment on State-managed Railways?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) to (e). The position as regards the appointment and control of coolies is not uniform on railways, but, in the majority of cases, they are engaged as unpaid workmen by the stationmaster. At some of the larger stations a jamadar is appointed to supervise and control the work. On a few railways, more particularly at certain large stations on the East Indian Railway, a contract is given to some persons for the supply of coolies. The Jamadars and coolies are not railway employees, and so far as Government are aware no agreement is executed by coolies. Normally they are permitted to continue working if their conduct is satisfactory. Their responsibility is to the person who allows them to work at the station, namely, the station master, a jamadar or a contractor.

RULES FOR RECRUITMENT, ETC., OF COOLY JAMADARS AND COOLIES ON THE DELHI RAILWAY STATION.

332. **Dr. N. B. Khare:** Will Government please state (a) the rules for recruitment; (b) terms of agreement; and (c) conditions of service of (i) coolly jamadars and (ii) coolies at the Delhi junction on the North Western Railway?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) The Railway appoints the jamadar and the latter appoints the assistant jamadar and recruits coolies.

(b) and (c). I am placing on the table a copy of the form of license issued by the Divisional Superintendent, which the jamadar appointed is required to sign in token of his agreeing to abide by the terms thereof.

LICENSE FOR THE SUPPLY OF COOLIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF CARRYING PASSENGERS' LUGGAGE TO AND FROM THE TRAINS.

Permission is hereby given, to _____ son of _____ resident of _____ to supply and arrange for the daily attendance of a minimum number of _____ able bodied coolies at _____ Railway Station on the following terms:—

1. He shall arrange to have a sufficient number of coolies on the station platforms at the time of arrival and departure of every passenger train.

2. He shall not charge more than Rs. 2-0-0 per head per mensem from the coolies engaged by him.

3. The coolies shall always appear in clean uniform with proper badges as approved and supplied by the railway at their own cost.

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[18TH MARCH 1936.]

4. He shall be responsible for the proper and orderly conduct of the coolies whilst performing their duties on the station platforms and premises and shall employ only such men whose character has been verified by the police.

5. The coolies must not interfere with passengers who employ their private servants to carry their luggage.

6. The coolies employed by the licensee shall on no account demand or accept more than the authorized charge per trip as laid down by the Railway Administration.

7. He shall be paid for all railway work performed by his coolies at a rate to be fixed by the Railway Administration.

8. He shall deposit Rs. _____ as security for the due and proper fulfilment of the terms and conditions of this license.

9. He shall indemnify the Railway Administration against any loss, destruction or damage to or pilferage from, any package, parcel or passengers' luggage caused by the carelessness, neglect or misconduct of the coolies in his employ and shall pay all claims met and litigation expenses, if any, incurred by the Railway Administration.

10. The licensee shall at all times indemnify the North Western Railway against all claims which may be made under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, or any statutory modifications thereof or otherwise for or in respect of any damages or compensation payable in consequence of any accident or injury sustained by any cooly servant or person in the employment of the licensee and engaged in the performance of this license and shall take all risk of accidents or damage which may cause a failure of the performance of the license arising out of such accident to such cooly or servant and shall be responsible for the sufficiency of all the means used by him for the fulfilment of the license.

11. The divisional superintendent, at his own discretion and without assigning any reason or paying compensation on any account whatsoever, reserves to himself the right of withdrawing this license at any time.

12. He shall not sub-let the whole or any part of this license.

13. The cost of stamp duty on this license shall be borne by the Railway Administration.

Divisional Superintendent,
North Western Railway.

Dated 193 .

I hereby agree to abide by the above terms.

Dated 193 .

Jamadar.

Witness

Address

Signed by the above-named

in my presence.

Station Master.

Dated 193 .

APPEALS AGAINST THE REMOVAL OF A COOLY JAMADAR OR A COOLY ON STATE RAILWAYS.

333. Dr. N. B. Khare: Will Government please state whether an appeal against the removal of a cooly jamadar or a cooly on State-managed Railways is admissible? If so, to whom, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have called for certain information and will lay a reply on the table when it is received.

APPEALS AGAINST THE REMOVAL OF COOLY JAMADARS OR COOLIES ON THE DELHI RAILWAY STATION.

334. Dr. N. B. Khare: Will Government please state whether an appeal against the removal of cooly jamadars or coolies at Delhi junction on the North Western Railway is admissible? If so, to whom, if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The Agent, North-Western Railway, states, that an appeal would lie to the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi, if the removal was ordered by an officer subordinate to him.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST OFFICERS OF THE DELHI RAILWAY STATION.

335. Dr. N. B. Khare: Will Government please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi Division, North Western Railway, has never held any inquiry on the charges of corruption of his officials at Delhi junction, if and when, represented to him; and

(b) whether beating by officers of subordinates is permissible on State-managed railways; if so, whether they are prepared to place a copy of such authority on the table of this House?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) No.

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

IGNORING OF THE CLAIMS OF OLD TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

336. Dr. N. B. Khare: With reference to the reply given on 2nd September, 1935, to starred question No. 406, asked on the 21st February, 1935, will Government please state:

(a) the reason for the differential treatment to the Travelling Ticket Examiners on the East Indian Railway, who have been given the option to retain the scales of pay formerly allowed to Travelling Ticket Inspectors as personal to them throughout, and why they are not borne on a *pro-forma* list for their promotions; and

(b) the reasons for not regulating the promotions of the Travelling Ticket Examiners on the East Indian Railway who have been given the option to retain the scales of pay formerly allowed to Travelling Ticket Inspectors as personal to them throughout, in accordance with the vacancies occurring among the old Travelling Ticket Inspectors according to the number of posts which existed on 31st May, 1931?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi's starred question No. 832 asked on the floor of this House on the 26th February, 1936.

PROMOTION OF EMPLOYEES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

337. **Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** Is it a fact that the Agent, East Indian Railway in No. O. P. E.-1308, dated 11th February, 1933, stated *inter alia*:

"With a view to reducing the extra expense arising out from the grant of this concession, the Board desire that such employees should be considered for promotion to higher posts for which they may be qualified as vacancies occur in such posts. *Note.*—As soon as any reduction occurs in the additional cost, full particulars of the reduction should be reported to this office"

If so, will Government please state.

- (a) the names of posts for which such employees should be considered for promotion to higher posts;
- (b) the qualifications attached to such higher posts;
- (c) how many of the employees are qualified for such higher posts; and
- (d) the particulars of the reduction as reported to the Agent?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 337 and 338 together.

Government have no information and its collection will involve an amount of labour and expense not commensurate with the results likely to be achieved. These are matters of detailed administration which must be left to the Agent to decide to whom a copy of the question has been sent for information.

BENEFITS ALLOWED TO TICKET COLLECTORS PERFORMING RUNNING DUTIES ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†338. **Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** Is it a fact that the Agent, East Indian Railway in No. O. P. E.-1308, dated 27th February, 1933, stated *inter alia*:

"A man who under the conditions laid down in para. 1 (c) of my letter No. O. P. E.-1308 of 11th February, 1933, was previously a Ticket Collector, but who now performs running duties, should also be allowed the same benefits"

If so, will Government please state:

- (a) whether benefits include grade or stage in time-scale promotion in the class or group or cadre;
- (b) whether the consolidated travelling allowance as sanctioned in para. 1 (b) of letter No. O. P. E.-1308, dated 11th February, 1933, is paid to a Ticket Collector now performing running duties; if not, why not; and
- (c) to lay the lists marked "A" and "B" in the letter dated 11th February, 1933 on the table of this House?

RESEARCH OFFICER OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

339. **Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** Will Government please state:

- (a) the date of appointment of the Research Officer on the East Indian Railway;

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 337.

- (b) the expenditure of the office of the Research Officer on the East Indian Railway;
- (c) the result of the endeavours to find new avenues for traffic development by the Research Officer on the East Indian Railway; and
- (d) the means adopted for handling traffic?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) 1st December, 1934.

(b) The average cost of the post of Research Officer is Rs. 1,045 per mensem *plus* overseas pay and Calcutta allowances if admissible under the rules. The monthly cost of the non-gazetted staff for the Research branch is about Rs. 384 per mensem.

(c) and (d). Government are informed that the research work carried out by the Research Officer has so far resulted in establishing the co-ordinated rail and road service between Dehra Dun and Mussoorie, Hazaribagh and Sarak on the Central India Coalfield Railway, extension of the Raiwala-Rikhikesh line into Rikhikesh town, placing the Railway Lorry Service on a commercial footing and introduction of new types of city Booking Offices for loading parcels traffic in containers.

In addition to this quite a number of schemes for co-ordinated road and rail services for passenger and goods traffic have been fully investigated and the Local Government concerned intimated, whose assent is awaited.

ALLOWANCES PAID TO STAFF OFFICIATING IN HIGHER GRADES ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

340. **Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** Is it a fact that on the North Western Railway staff in the grade Rs. 105—10—155 are ordered to officiate in grade Rs. 100—10—180 and paid Rs. 5 as officiating allowance? If so, under what rule?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply questions Nos. 340 and 341 together.

Government are informed that there are no such grades at present in force on the North Western Railway as are referred to in these questions.

SENIORITY OF TICKET COLLECTORS IN CERTAIN GRADES ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†341. **Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** Is it a fact that on the North Western Railway staff in the grade Rs. 55—5—105—10—155 in the class of Ticket Collectors (as grouped in the rules for recruitment and training of non-gazetted staff) is considered senior to staff in the grade Rs. 50—5—95—100—10—180 in the class of Ticket Collectors? If so, how and why?

SENIORITY AND PROMOTION OF TICKET COLLECTORS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

342. **Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal:** Will Government please state the policy and procedure in respect of seniority and promotion amongst the staff in the Commercial group of Ticket Collectors under the rules

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 340.

for recruitment and training of non-gazetted staff in the time-scales of pay *viz.*, Rs. 55—5—105—10—5 and Rs. 50—5—95—100—10—180 on the North Western Railway and in the time-scales of pay, *viz.*, Rs. 60—4—64—8—120—130—10—200—220—20—300 and Rs. 60—4—64—8—80—88—8—120—130—10—160—170—10—200—220—20—300, on the East Indian Railway?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the 'Rules for the recruitment and training of subordinate staff on State-managed Railways' which show the normal channel of promotion of the staff concerned. The determination of seniority of the staff concerned is a matter of detailed administration entirely within the competence of the Agents of Railways and Government have no information.

FOREMEN AND ASSISTANT FOREMEN IN THE CARRIAGE AND WAGON WORKSHOPS, AJMER.

343. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: Will Government please state the number of Indian (excluding Anglo-Indians) Foremen and Assistant Foremen in the Carriage and Wagon Workshops, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, Ajmer, on the 31st December, 1925, and on the 31st December, 1935?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan:

	31st December 1925.	31st December 1935.
Indian Foremen and Assistant Foremen	3	3

INDIANISATION OF HIGHER SERVICES IN THE CARRIAGE AND WAGON WORKSHOP, AJMER.

344. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: Will Government please state the steps taken so far by the Loco. and Carriage Superintendent (Carriage and Wagon Section), Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, Ajmer, for Indianisation of the higher services in that department?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I presume by 'Higher Services' the Honourable Member means posts in the upper subordinate grades. If so, recruitment to these posts is not generally made direct but by promotion in which communal considerations do not arise.

APPRENTICES TRAINED AND ABSORBED IN THE LOCO. DEPARTMENT AND THE CARRIAGE AND WAGON DEPARTMENT OF THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY, AJMER.

345. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing separately the number of apprentices trained and absorbed in the higher services by (1) the Loco. Department, and (2) the Carriage and Wagon Department, of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway at Ajmer, during the last ten years, explaining the difference, if any, in the system obtaining in the two departments of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government are informed that since 1931 the Locomotive and Carriage and Wagon Departments have been amalgamated but there has been no difference in the system of dealing with apprentices in these departments. I lay a statement on the table of the House showing the number of apprentices trained and absorbed as officers or subordinates in the two departments during the last ten years. Training as an apprentice does not imply any guarantee of employment.

Locomotive and Carriage Departments.

	Loco. Section.	Carriage and Wagon Section.
1. No. of apprentices trained	111	59
2. No. absorbed as Chargemen	36	8
3. No. absorbed as Foremen and Assistant Foremen	2	..
4. No. absorbed as Stores Wardkeepers	..	2
5. No. absorbed as Train Examiners.	..	4
6. No. absorbed as Draughtsmen	3	2
7. No. absorbed in superior service as Assistant Locomotive and Carriage Superintendents	2	..

PERMISSION TO MR. SAILENDRA NATH GHOSH TO RETURN TO INDIA.

346. Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal: (a) Will Government please state if it is a fact that Mr. Sailendra Nath Ghosh who has been refused permission to return to India, is prepared to come to an honourable understanding with Government for his future conduct?

(b) If the answer of the above be in the affirmative, will Government state if they intend to grant him the necessary permit in that case?

(c) Will Government please state the understanding which they will like to have from him?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) Mr. Ghosh did offer to give an undertaking that he would not be associated with any kind of revolutionary or violent activities against the British Government of India.

(b) No. I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 13th September last to his question No. 370. As stated on that occasion, I have already dealt very fully in this House with the case of Sailendra Nath Ghosh, and have nothing further to add to my replies to Messrs. Mitra's and Satyamurti's questions Nos. 622 and 1287, dated the 15th August, 1934, and 1st April last, respectively, and the supplementary questions thereon.

(c) In view of his record Government are not prepared to accept his undertaking.

SELECTION OF EMPLOYEES FOR POSTS IN THE SELECTION GRADE ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

347. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is it a fact:

- (i) that the Railway Board in their letter No. 1728-E. G., dated the 28th July, 1933, to the Agent, East Indian Railway, has stated:

"The Railway Board consider it generally desirable for Selection Boards to record in writing their reasons for selecting employees for posts in selection grades when such selection involves a departure from normal principles. Such records should only be for the use of the Committee itself in case of appeals and must be regarded as confidential"; and

- (ii) that the Agent, East Indian Railway, has circulated the said orders of the Railway Board in his No. A. E. 2750, dated the 14th August, 1933?

(b) If the answer to part (a), (i) and (ii) be in the affirmative, will Government please state:

- (i) the reasons why departures from normal principles by the Selection Committees should be regarded as confidential;

- (ii) whether such departures and such secrecy prevail in the cases of the gazetted staff of the East Indian Railway?

(c) Do Government propose to inform each candidate, who appears before the Selection Committees, of the decision that has been recorded against him? If not, why not?

(d) Do Government propose to issue instructions that there should be no departures from principles? If not, do Government propose to restrict this to the Agent personally without permission to delegate this power? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) (i) and (ii). Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). Government consider it desirable, both in the interest of administration and the staff themselves, not to communicate reasons to the staff for their being not appointed to selection posts which are not necessarily filled by seniormost men but by those considered to be the most suitable for a particular post. The same procedure is observed for both officers and subordinates and Government do not consider it necessary to issue any further instructions. The suggestion that the Agent should exercise the power personally in each case is not practicable.

NON-GAZETTED STAFF ASPIRING FOR PROMOTION REQUIRED TO PASS THE GOODS ACCOUNTS EXAMINATIONS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

348. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: Will Government please state:

- (i) whether the non-gazetted staff in the Commercial Branch of the East Indian Railway aspiring for advancement, are required to pass the Goods Accounts, Lower, and the Goods Accounts, Higher, Examinations;

- (ii) whether these examinations are held by the Chief Accounts Officer;

- (iii) whether the Chief Accounts Officer has delegated this duty to the Deputy, Traffic Accounts, who in turn has passed the holding of the same to the Assistant Accounts Officer;

- (iv) whether in actual practice the papers are set by the clerical staff; whether the candidates sit in front of the gazetted officers, and that the papers are corrected by the clerks;

- (v) whether the examination papers are destroyed immediately after the examination; and

- (vi) whether Government propose to take action so as to ensure that the examinations are properly held and that the papers are corrected by the gazetted officers only to whom a request for a revision should be made possible?

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

- (ii) Yes.

(iii) No. The Examiner is appointed by the Chief Accounts Officer from amongst the gazetted officers of his department.

- (iv) No. The examinations are supervised by a gazetted officer.

(v) The answer papers are destroyed three months after the examination is over.

- (vi) Does not arise.

REQUEST FOR SANCTIONING TWO POSTS OF ASSISTANT COMMERCIAL MANAGERS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

349. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is it a fact that the Agent, East Indian Railway, on the recommendation of the Chief Commercial Manager, has requested the Railway Board to sanction two posts of Assistant Commercial Managers?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state:

- (i) whether this proposal has been examined by the Deputy Agent, Organisation; if so, with what results;

- (ii) whether there has been a considerable decrease in claims since the two posts were held in abeyance;

- (iii) whether two sections have been created under the Chief Commercial Manager, namely, the Research and Publicity;

- (iv) whether they have considered that the work of these two sections could be diffused among the two Deputies;

- (v) whether the gazetted officers have sufficient work for the seven hours they are on duty daily;

- (vi) whether their work has not been job analysed by the Deputy Agent, Organisation;

- (vii) whether non-gazetted staff are required to work in the places of these Assistant Commercial Managers when they are on leave;

- (viii) whether they have considered that the work of such gazetted officers could be amalgamated with those of the other officers; and

(ix) whether the present and the previous incumbent of the post of Chief Commercial Manager have no practical experience in the work of the Commercial Branch?

(c) Do Government propose to explore this avenue with a view to effecting economy and a decrease in the working expenses? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) No.

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

USE OF TOURIST CARS BY THE CHIEF OPERATING SUPERINTENDENT OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

350. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will Government please state whether the Heads of Departments on State-managed Railways are permitted to use tourist cars instead of the inspection carriages provided for them, and to take their motor cars by rail when they attend any conferences, committee meetings, etc., at out-stations?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, will Government please state:

(i) whether the present Chief Operating Superintendent of the East Indian Railway only uses tourist cars when attending conferences, meetings, etc., and also when on leave;

(ii) whether he has done the same when working as Chief Commercial Manager;

(iii) whether he could have obtained the use of another bogie inspection carriage if his own one was undergoing repairs;

(iv) whether there are twenty-five bogie inspection carriages on the East Indian Railway;

(v) whether in 1936 the Chief Operating Superintendent had despatched his motor car, free of railway freight, to Agra; and

(vi) Whether he has used a tourist car for his journey to Agra to attend a conference or a committee meeting?

(c) Do Government propose to recover the cost of the freight on the motor car and the usual charges levied for the use of the tourist cars from the salary of this official? If not, will Government please state the reasons why?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) The occasional use of a tourist car by a railway officer can be authorised by the Agent who is also empowered to issue a pass for the carriage of a motor car whenever he is satisfied that there is justification for it.

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

SPECIAL PAY OF EMPLOYEES ON STATE RAILWAYS.

351. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is it a fact that under Fundamental Rule 9 (21), (a), (ii), special pay is included in the definition of pay?

(b) Is it also a fact that under Fundamental Rule 9 (25), special pay is granted in consideration of:

(i) the specially arduous nature of the duties; or

(ii) a specific addition to the work or responsibility; or

(iii) the unhealthiness of the locality in which the work is performed?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government please state whether special pay can be withdrawn when there is no reduction of the requirements mentioned in part (b) (i) and (ii) but on the plea of economy?

(d) Is special pay still subjected to the emergency cut in pay? If so, why?

(e) Are both the gazetted and non-gazetted staff on State-managed Railways treated alike in these matters?

(f) Do Government propose to communicate their decision to the Agents of State-managed Railways and direct them to refund any amounts wrongly deducted?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Government have laid down the following principles to be followed in deciding upon reductions of special pay:

(i) when the post to which a special pay is attached is borne on the cadre of an All-India or Central Service or is reserved for the members of such a Service, the special pay should not be reduced unless the conditions which originally led to the grant of the special pay have disappeared or changed;

(ii) when the post is not borne on the cadre, or is not reserved for the members, of such a Service, the special pay may be reduced on any grounds which Government consider reasonable.

(d) No.

(e) Gazetted and non-gazetted staff on State-managed Railways are treated in accordance with the principles stated at (c) above.

(f) Government are not aware of any deductions having been made wrongly and, therefore, do not propose to issue any orders to the Agents.

APPOINTMENT OF COOLY CONTRACTOR ON THE HOWRAH RAILWAY STATION.

352. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is it a fact:

(i) that, as a result of job analysis on the Howrah Division of the East Indian Railway, the posts of several tindals and about seventy porters at Howrah Station have been surrendered; and

(ii) that the work hitherto performed by these tindals and porters has been made over to the cooly contractor?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state:

(i) whether the arrangement referred to in part (a) (ii) was tried before;

- (ii) whether the trial proved a failure;
- (iii) when job analysis first started on the Howrah Division;
- (iv) whether the suggestion referred to in part (a) was then made, if so, with what results; if not, why not;
- (v) whether the cooly contractor is paid a monthly subsidy; if so, what amount and since when it has been paid;
- (vi) whether the cooly contractor has appointed special or extra coolies to perform this work; and
- (vii) whether the work is being done by the coolies by what is known as *biggari* or forced unpaid labour?

(c) Do Government approve of this *biggari* system of having its daily routine work performed by its contractors? If not, are Government prepared to put a stop to this pernicious practice?

(d) Are Government assured that the work is now being efficiently performed and meets the demands of the public in regard to the receipt and despatch of luggage and parcels?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a), (i). As a result of job analysis the posts of four tindals and thirty-five porters have been retrenched.

(ii) No. The job analysis indicated that with a little re-organisation, the tindals and porters could be retrenched without throwing on the contractor any additional work which was not stipulated for in the terms of his contract.

(b), (i). Not so far as is known.

(ii) Does not arise.

(iii) About the middle of 1935.

(iv) The suggestions made were considered and action taken as indicated in the reply to part (a), (i).

(v) Yes, Rs. 700 since he entered into an agreement with the East Indian Railway.

(vi) The cooly contractor is required to keep coolies ready for the work. The arrangement he makes for this purpose is a matter between himself and the coolies.

(vii) No, this would not appear to be the case as the coolies would not then continue to work for the contractor.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes.

CONSUMPTION OF COAL BY DRIVERS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

353. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Is it a fact that the Locomotive Foreman, Calcutta Running Shed, of the Eastern Bengal Railway, has cyclostyled the following notice which is made over to the driver of every train for explanation:

"You worked . . . train on . . . with Engine No. . . to . . . from . . . and back, and exceeded the coal ration by . . . and so burnt . . . lbs. per

engine mile, whereas the figure should be . . . lb. per engine mile had you worked to the ration. Please explain within three days from receipt of this letter why you should not be made to pay for the extra coal you burnt, the cost of which would amount to Rs. . . . ?"

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state:

(i) whether the action of the Locomotive Foreman had the previous approval of the District Locomotive Superintendent;

(ii) the authority who has fixed the actual coal consumption of each engine per trip;

(iii) how the coal allowance has been arrived at;

(iv) whether the District Locomotive Superintendent has personally worked trains with a view to ascertaining the quantity of coal to be burnt per engine mile and the fixation of the coal ration;

(v) whether any allowances have been made for all conditions of train service, such as, weather conditions, leakage of steam joints, general bad maintenance of engines, vacuum leaks on trains, quality of coal supplied, bad boiler repairs, dirty boilers due to bad water on the road or overdue washouts, etc.;

(vi) the number of tests that were made before the fixation of the coal ration; if so, by whom were they made;

(vii) whether the coal at the time of loading the engine tender is weighed;

(viii) whether the coal is weighed when the engine returns to the shed; if so, whether it is done in the presence of the driver; and

(ix) whether these conditions prevail on the other State-managed Railways?

(c) Have any recoveries been made from the pay of the drivers for the alleged extra coal burnt?

(d) Do Government propose to have this matter investigated by the Government Inspector of Railways as the technical expert of Government? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Such a notice has been posted; but is not applicable to every train.

(b), (i). Yes.

(ii) The District Locomotive Superintendent in consultation with his Inspectors.

(iii) It is based on actual results obtained over an extended period.

(iv) No, the quantity is based on what a large number of drivers have themselves achieved.

(v) Yes.

(vi) See (iii) and (iv) above.

(vii) Every tender is calibrated and marked so that quantities can readily be noted by an inspection of the coal loaded on the tender, and the quantity loaded is determined by means of these calibration marks after the loading has been completed.

(viii) The quantity remaining is determined by the same method as the quantity loaded and in the presence of the driver.

(ix) These are matters dictated by local conditions and are therefore left to the discretion of individual Railway Administrations.

(c) No, as there has been no necessity to make any such recovery. If the driver's explanation is satisfactory, it is accepted.

(d) Government do not consider that any investigation by the Government Inspector of Railways is called for.

REST ALLOWED TO CONTINUOUS WORKERS ON STATE RAILWAYS.

354. Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya: (a) Will Government please state whether under the hours of work rules, framed as a result of the Geneva Convention, continuous workers on State-managed Railways are rostered and get their rest every week?

(b) Is it a fact that the supervising staff are called upon to work long hours but are given no rest days?

(c) Do Government propose to treat the staff alike in the matter of rest? If so, will Government please convey their decision to the Agents of State-managed Railways? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Continuous workers to whom the Railway Servants Hours of Employment Rules, 1931, apply and who are employed on such of the Railways on which the Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930, has been given statutory effect, are rostered and weekly rest under these rules.

(b) The Rules referred to in reply to part (a) do not apply to supervising staff.

(c) No, for the reasons given in reply to part (b) of the question.

RELIEVING DUTY PERIOD OF A STATION MASTER IN THE DELHI DIVISION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

355. Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) What is the period of relieving duty for a Station Master on the North Western Railway, Delhi Division?

(b) Is it compulsory for every Station Master to work in relieving?

(c) Is there any age-limit for such relieving duty?

(d) What daily and weekly rests are allotted to the relieving staff in compliance with the Geneva Convention Regulation? If none, why not?

(e) Are they given any rest after undergoing long travelling in coming to or going from their headquarters while on duty? If not, why not?

(f) Are there spare quarters available for the occupation of the relieving staff at road-side stations, or do they take shelter in station buildings?

(g) What facilities are provided for the relieving staff to visit their families at headquarter stations while working out on the line?

(h) After what period are the relieving staff allowed to return to their headquarters for visiting their families and replenishment of their personal itinerary requirements?

(i) Are they booked out for duty according to first-in and first-out system? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a), (c), (g) and (h). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to Mr. P. R. Rau's reply to Mr. Maswood Ahmad's question No. 84, asked in this House on the 20th August, 1934.

(b) Government are informed that it is the general policy of the North Western Railway administration to put Assistant Station Masters qualified in Station Master's duties on promotion to Station Master, to work on relieving duties before they are posted permanently.

(d) and (e). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to Mr. P. R. Rau's reply to parts (c) and (d) of Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad's question No. 84 and would add that the necessity of undertaking long journeys by relieving staff has been minimised by the concentration of such staff at certain selected stations, thus reducing the distances to be travelled to the stations to which they are posted for relieving duty.

(f) Government understand that in cases of relieving arrangements for an initial period of over 30 days, the outgoing staff are required to make accommodation in their quarters available for their reliefs but for lesser periods, it is customary for the staff to make an arrangement among themselves, failing which arrangements are made in the station buildings.

(i) Yes.

STAFF KEPT IN RELIEVING DUTY IN THE DELHI DIVISION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

356. Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Is it a fact that only newly promoted staff or those shifted from their permanent stations on some irregularity or complaint are kept in relieving duty on the North Western Railway, Delhi Division?

(b) How does their posting take place, and after how long a time?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply questions Nos. 356, 358 and 359 together.

Government have no information and its collection will involve an amount of labour and expense not likely to be justified by the results. These are matters of detailed administration entirely within the competence of the Agent and Government are not prepared to interfere. I have, however, sent a copy of these questions to the Agent for information and such action as he may consider necessary.

NON-PROVISION OF QUARTERS TO THE RELIEVING STAFF IN DELHI.

357. Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is it a fact that relieving staff at Delhi, North Western Railway, are not provided with railway quarters, but are paid house allowance at ten per cent. of their salary?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government are informed that none of the relieving staff headquartered at Delhi have been

provided with Railway quarters due to scarcity of quarters but such of them as are eligible for the concession of free quarters are granted house allowance at the rates shown below:

Pay per mensem.	House allowance per mensem.
	Rs.
Under Rs. 30	3
Rs. 30 to 49	5
Rs. 50 to 80	8
Rs. 81 to 95	10

None of the relieving staff at Delhi are in receipt of pay exceeding Rs. 95 per mensem.

GRANT OF TONGA HIRE TO THE RELIEVING STAFF RESIDING IN DELHI OR NEW DELHI.

†358. **Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Is it a fact that relieving staff of Delhi Division, North Western Railway, residing in the old and new cities, are ordered to attend the Divisional Office (situated in the Old Secretariat Buildings) daily, but they are given no tonga hire, although they cover distances over seven miles both ways?

(b) Is it a fact that the rules in force allow tonga hire beyond three miles? If so, what action do Government propose to take for the alleviation of the hardship of the relieving staff?

STRENGTH OF THE RELIEVING STAFF IN THE DELHI DIVISION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

†359. **Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** Are Government aware that the existing strength of the relieving staff on the Delhi Division of the North Western Railway, is too short, in consequence of which the permanent staff on the line feel great difficulty in getting leave in time?

ADMINISTRATION OF THE TRANSFERRED SUBJECTS UNDER THE MINISTERS IN BIHAR AND ORISSA.

360. **Babu Kailash Behari Lal:** Are Government kept informed by the Local Government of Bihar and Orissa about the administration of the transferred subjects under the Ministers? If so, is there any report as to how the Ministers have administered the transferred subjects?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The General Administration Report of Bihar and Orissa which contains an account of the administration of the transferred subjects is received by the Government of India.

NEW BUILDING FOR PATNA JUNCTION RAILWAY STATION.

361. **Babu Kailash Behari Lal:** (a) Is it a fact that since a long time the authorities have been considering the question of replacing the present premises of the Patna junction railway station by an improved type of building compatible with its position of a Provincial capital?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 356.

(b) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, how long more will it take to materialize the plan?

(c) At what cost is it proposed to have the new building?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) The work is expected to be finished during 1936-37.

(c) About Rs. 3 lakhs.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to parts (d) to (m) of starred question No. 684 asked by Seth Govind Das on the 25th September, 1935.

LICENSED COOLIES ON RAILWAY STATIONS.

(d) No license fee is paid to the Administration, but on the following railways, where cooly jemadars are employed at the larger stations or where there are cooly contractors at certain stations, the fees paid to the Jemadar or contractor are as follows:

Bengal Nagpur Railway.

Contractors.—On one District, one anna per day. On four Districts, amounts varying from half-an-anna to Rs. 2 (in one case Rs. 4) per month. At some stations, the coolies are paid by the contractors.

Note.—On two Districts where contractors are not employed, the Station Master is paid two annas a month by each coolie.

Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway.

Jemadars.....from four annas to eight annas per month.

East Indian Railway.

Contractors.....from six pies to 0-2-9 per day.

Great Indian Peninsula Railway.

Contractors at three stations only.....four annas per day.

North Western Railway.

Jemadars.....Rs. 2 per month.

(e) Yes, on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. Coolies are also occasionally utilised on the South Indian Railway to help station porters in loading and unloading parcels without detriment to their legitimate work.

(f) and (g). The Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, states that no payment is made, the arrangement being one that is acceptable to the worker on being engaged and a condition of employment.

The Agent, South Indian Railway, states that coolies are not paid anything in such cases, as the service is not compulsory and there is no condition that they should render free service.

(h) No.

(i) and (j). Do not arise.

(k) and (m). Government see no reason for making any change in the existing arrangement. The license to work as a porter at a railway station is a valuable one.

(l) Yes.

Information promised in reply to unstarred questions Nos. 143 and 145 to 148 asked by Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta Paliwal on the 18th February, 1936.

HARDSHIPS OF THE RE-EMPLOYED STAFF IN THE AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

143. (a) and (b). No statistics have been collected by Government on this subject. For the reasons explained in the reply to part (c) below Government considers that no useful purpose will be served by collecting the information and Government do not propose to do so.

(c) It must be remembered that the ministerial establishments to which the question refers were temporary and entitled to no concession on discharge. The proposal that they be allowed to refund gratuity and to count past service for pay was not accepted for the reason that the extra cost would be prohibitive. Advance increments have been granted to these retrenched clerks by exception to the general rule as a concession. Government do not propose to grant any further concessions to these clerks as these would lead to embarrassing repercussions in other departments.

HARDSHIPS OF THE RE-EMPLOYED STAFF OF THE AUDIT DEPARTMENT.

145. (a) Government are not in possession of full information as regards the orders of the Governments of Madras and the United Provinces. In the Railway Department, however, old rates of pay have been allowed on certain conditions only to those who are re-employed before the 1st April, 1936.

(b) and (c). Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to parts (b) and (c) of question No. 142. Old scales of pay are admissible only to those Government servants who have been in continuous service since before the 16th July, 1931; if there has been a break in service due to retrenchment, or any other cause, they are entitled to the revised scales of pay only.

(d) The scheme of separation of Audit and Accounts was abolished as a measure of economy, and economy is still necessary. Government are not prepared to make an exception to the general rule in favour of the re-employed staff of the Audit Department.

NON-GRANT OF OLD SCALES OF PAY TO THE STAFF OF THE RAILWAY ACCOUNTS UNDER THE AUDITOR GENERAL IN INDIA AND THE AUDIT DEPARTMENT.

146. Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to question No. 145.

NON-GRANT OF OLD SCALES OF PAY TO THE RAILWAY STAFF AND THE STAFF OF THE AUDIT DEPARTMENT.

147. The answer to the 1st part of the question is in the affirmative. Conditions under the Railway Department are different to those on the civil side, and consequently both the retrenchment concessions and the re-employment terms differed on the railway side as compared with the civil side. It was not considered feasible to have uniform terms for both. In some matters one set of terms was less liberal than the other and in others the reverse.

NON-GRANT OF OLD SCALES OF PAY TO RAILWAY STAFF, ETC.,

148. I would refer the Honourable Member to my answer to the previous question. There has been no variation as between various departments on the civil side but only between the Railway Department on the one side and the other civil departments on the other, the reason for that I have already given. On the civil side the policy of Government is to treat all re-employed personnel as new entrants.

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 224, asked by Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya on the 26th February, 1936.

GARAGES PROVIDED TO CERTAIN OFFICERS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

The Agent, East Indian Railway's reply, which has since been received, is as follows :

(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) No. Garage accommodation is provided by Commercial firms in Calcutta for the use of their employees free of charge. Garage accommodation is also provided at Writers' Buildings and the Customs House, Calcutta, free of charge.

Information promised in reply to part (b) of starred question No. 884, asked by Mr. Sham Lal on the 27th February, 1936.

COST OF IMPORTED CLOTH PURCHASED FOR UNIFORMS BY THE DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

(b) The cost of uniform clothing purchased by the Defence Department directly from abroad during 1934-35 was Rs 77,448.

THE GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS—concl'd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair understands that Sir Henry Gidney proposes to move the next motion* under Demand No. 32—Home Department.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member): On a point of order. This is a cut on the Home Department grant and the subject proposed to be raised is, I understand, the new scales of pay for new entrants into the Government of India services from the Anglo-Indian and domiciled European community. I understand the Honourable Member wishes to raise the question of the rates of pay in the Postal and Telegraph and Railway Departments. The Home Department has nothing to do with these two Departments or with fixing the rates of pay. I do not want to stifle discussion on this question, but I really do not think this is a Home Department matter.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan (Member for Commerce and Railways): Moreover, I would draw your attention to the fact that if the Honourable Member, who proposes to move this cut, wants to discuss the new scales of pay in the Railway Department, he should have done so while the Railway Department was under discussion and he really cannot raise the question on the discussion of the demands of the general budget.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney (Nominated Non-Official): With all respect to the Home Member, I think it was the Home Department that issued the Circular that came out from the Home Department in July, 1934. Moreover, my motion will include in my remarks certain reflections on the Government of India Act of 1935, which, I think, is intimately associated with the Home Department.

*"That the demand under the head 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Circular of July, 1934, had nothing to do with rates of pay at all. It merely had reference to the percentages of communal recruitment. No question of pay was discussed in it. Moreover, the Home Department did not pass the Government of India Act of 1935.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: I submit that the Home Department is the medium of communication in all such matters relating to the Government of India Act and the minority communities.

Mr. F. E. James (Madras: European): May I make a submission to you with regard to this matter. The fundamental question, I understand, is the question of the recruitment of these classes to certain services in the Government of India Departments.

Some Honourable Members: The motion is about scales of pay.

Mr. F. E. James: Surely you cannot anticipate what I am going to say. It refers to the recruitment of these classes under a Circular recently issued by the Home Department and the extent to which that recruitment is affected by the new rates of pay. Therefore, I do claim that there is perfectly just ground for discussion of this matter under the vote of the Home Department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): May I suggest that if my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Gidney, wants to discuss the rates of pay of the Anglo-Indians, he can do it under the Customs or the Post Office, and if Sir Henry Gidney and the European Group will give that time to the unattached Members, my motion comes first under Customs.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair is now dealing with the point of order. What the Honourable Member, Sir Henry Gidney, wishes to discuss is the effect of the new scales of pay for new entrants into the Government of India services of the Anglo-Indian and domiciled European community. The Chair understands that the communiqué of the Home Department to which the Honourable Member refers has nothing to do with the new scales of pay. It only deals with the recruitment of Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans. If that is so, then it is not understood as to how the Home Department can be made responsible in this matter at all. It is the Railway Department that must be responsible, and the Railway Department demands are not under consideration.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: I do not see how the Home Department can escape from responsibility for the general principles underlying the remuneration of the Government of India services. The Home Department is one of the Departments, and how does the Home Member know that I do not wish to include his Department in my cut.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: If the Honourable Member can convince me that his motion refers to any services under the control of the Home Department, then I am prepared to say he is right.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): When there is a demand by a particular Department and a motion is made to reduce that demand, in order to discuss any question of policy, it must be the policy of that Department, and, if, as a matter of fact, what the Honourable Member wishes to discuss is, not the policy of the Home Department, then the Chair will hold that the discussion of this matter will not be relevant under that head. If the European Group wishes to move any other motion, they are at liberty to do so.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: Sir, I would ask you then to allow 12 Noon. me to raise this point under some other head.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair takes it, the European Group does not wish to discuss it and that they have no other cut. The Chair comes now to the Honourable Members who do not belong to any group, and, in their case, the only thing the Chair can do is to take the motions in order.

Mr. Joshi. Mr. Joshi's motion No. 10 under demand No. 16 stands first.

DEMAND No. 16.—CUSTOMS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,04,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Customs'."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,04,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Customs'."

Grievances of the Employees of the Customs Department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Customs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

My object in moving this motion, Mr. President, is to draw attention to certain grievances of the employees of the Customs Department. The first grievance, which I want to place before the House, is as regards the scales of pay in the city of Bombay for employees in the Customs Department.

Sir, there are several Departments working under the control of the Finance Department in the city of Bombay such as the Accountant General's office, the Deputy Controller of the Currency's office, the Mint, Salt and Income-tax and two of these are directly under the Central Board of Revenue. The scales of pay for the men who are under the old scales of pay differ in the various Departments which I have mentioned. For instance, in the Accountant General's office a man begins on Rs. 60 and he rises up to Rs. 230; that is the scale given to him. In the office of the Deputy Controller of the Currency a man begins on Rs. 60 and rises to Rs. 230. In the Customs, a man begins on Rs. 60, gets a promotion of Rs. 4 and rises up to Rs. 100 and he then gets a promotion of Rs. 3

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and rises up to Rs. 160. In the Salt and Income-tax Departments a man begins on Rs. 60, gets a promotion of Rs. 4, rises up to Rs. 100 and then gets a promotion of Rs. 3 and rises to Rs. 160. I want to suggest to the Government of India that when there are offices under their own control in the city of Bombay, the scales of pay for the clerks should be the same. If in the Accountant General's office a man is employed on a salary of Rs. 60 and goes up to Rs. 230, I do not know why in the Customs Department a man should not rise to Rs. 230. The nature of the work in all these offices is the same and, therefore, I do not know why there should be any difference between the scales of pay. Then, if the Government of India have to fix some standard, they should at least introduce for the Customs Department the standard of the Bombay Government in the city of Bombay. In the Secretariat of the Bombay Government, Sir, a clerk begins on Rs. 60 and goes up to Rs. 190. I, therefore, want the Finance Department to give their attention to the lower scales of pay given to the clerks in the Customs Department and I would like them to increase the scales to the level of the other Departments under the Government of India in Bombay, *viz.*, the office of the Accountant General, the office of the Deputy Controller of the Currency and the Mint. Then, the Government of India have introduced new scales of pay for the new entrants and if you compare the new scales of pay with the old scales of pay, you will find, Sir, that those who are under the old scales of pay are supposed to be receiving better remuneration, they start on Rs. 60, and they take 31 years to reach their maximum, while the new entrants begin on Rs. 50 but they reach their maximum, which is the same *viz.*, Rs. 160, in 28 years. I want the attention of the Government to be drawn to this fact and I appeal to them to do justice to the men who are under the old scales of pay. Then, there is another small point which I wish to mention as regards the Customs Department. In the Customs Department, the Government of India levy some kind of fee on ships which are loaded or unloaded on Sundays. These are called Sunday fees. The money collected by these Sunday fees is distributed, at least partly, to a number of institutions which are intended for the benefit and welfare of the employees of the Customs Department. Some of the institutions that receive benefits are the Preventive Service Club, the Wharfingers' Club, the Lascars' Club and the Bombay Education Society. The clerks in the Customs Department have got an Association and they had made an application to the Government of India asking for a contribution out of the Sunday fees for starting a recreation club, a library and such other welfare activities. The Government of India did not take their application into favourable consideration. I would like the Government to make a generous contribution out of the Sunday fees to the Clerks' Association. Clerks' work is as much necessary for the Customs Department as the work of the Preventive officers and some other officers for whose organisation the Government of India pay contributions from their Sunday fees.

Then, Sir, I have got one or two points to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India in the Finance Department. There are many employees of the Government of India who feel that there should be a proper provision for themselves and their families in their retirement or on their premature death.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd (Government of India: Nominated Official): I rise to a point of order, Sir. Is the Honourable Member in order in raising on a

cut motion under the head "Customs" a discussion of a subject which he himself admits is a matter for the Finance Department? The question of revision of pensions or institution of provident funds applies to all Government officers, not merely to officers in the Customs Department. The Customs Department cannot adopt a different set of rules from those which are applicable to the whole of the Government of India.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should confine himself to the Customs Department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: What applies to employees in the other Departments of the Government of India must apply also to the Customs Department. There are a large number of employees in the Customs Department who have got these grievances.

There is another point which I would like the Government of India to consider. The Government of India is one organisation. It is indivisible. When I, therefore, make an appeal to the Government of India, I make an appeal to the entire Government of India, not to one particular Department.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: But under the right head.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Under the head under which the employees suffer a grievance. I do not know myself which is the right head. I do not know which Department of the Government of India considers the question of provision of provident fund or gratuity or pensions.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The Honourable Member must make sure of the appropriate Department before making an appeal.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I propose to place before the House the grievances of the employees of the Customs Department.

Now, Sir, the grievances of the employees of the Customs Department are, that they would like to have the choice for protection of themselves and their families in their retirement or on their premature death either by a pension fund or a provident fund or gratuity. If a man dies while in harness he would like his family to get some gratuity. The Government of India provide for the protection of a man after retirement which is denied to the man who dies in harness. It is not the fault of the man that he died in harness. His family must be protected. In some cases, the Government of India give gratuity. The employees in the Customs Department, along with the employees of other Departments, claim that, when a man dies in harness, his family should be given gratuity equal to one month's pay for each year of service. They also feel that they would prefer a scheme of provident fund for the protection of themselves and their families on their retirement instead of pension. A Resolution was passed in the Council of State in 1924 that a scheme for the institution of provident fund should be undertaken for the employees of the Customs Department as well as for other Departments. A scheme was formulated by the Government of India. Unfortunately, that scheme did not meet with the approval of the employees. The employees wanted a scheme of provident fund at least as good as the scheme of provident fund which exists on Indian railways. The Government of India at that time were not willing to make that scheme as good as the railway provident

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fund. I would like the Government of India to consider that question very seriously now. The financial position of the Government of India is not bad. They are showing a surplus. I would, therefore, like them to undertake a scheme for the establishment of provident fund for the benefit of the employees of the Customs Department along with the employees of other Departments.

I would also like the Government to inform me what they have done as regards increasing the rates of pension of inferior servants of the Customs Department and of other Departments under the Government of India. Last year, I moved a cut motion and drew the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to this subject. The Honourable the Finance Member was very kind and generous to promise consideration of that subject. I should like to know how far the consideration of that subject has progressed and what are their proposals for increasing the rates of pay of inferior servants. The inferior servants of the Customs Department as well as of the other Departments have got a grievance about the grant of leave. The Government of India have made a rule that if a man belonging to the inferior service is to go on leave, he will be given leave only if it does not entail the incurring of additional expenditure. I feel that this is a wrong and very unfair rule. When other employees of the Government of India go on leave, it is not necessary that there should be no additional expenditure to the Government of India. I do not know why the Government of India should grudge to incur the small expenditure in order that proper leave might be given to their inferior servants. The general practice is that if a member of the inferior service is to go on leave, he has to give a substitute and the substitute is to be paid by the man who goes on leave. I am only giving the general rule. The present practice is that the Government of India do not have to incur anything more on account of leave given to the members of the inferior service. I feel, Sir, that the Members of the inferior service require leave, both casual and privilege, as much as the members of the other services, subordinate services and superior services. I would like the Government of India to do away with the difference which exists in the leave rules for members of the inferior service, of the subordinate service and of the superior services in this matter. Another point of grievance is that the amount of leave given to members of the inferior service is also much smaller in the case of inferior servants than in the case of members belonging to other services. I would like the Government of India to give serious consideration to the question of allowances given to members of the inferior service during their leave. I should like the Government of India to establish, in each Department including the Customs Department, a leave reserve in order that members of the inferior service should get casual leave and privilege leave with full pay as the members of other services get. There is also a difference made as regards travelling allowances paid to the members of the inferior services. The privileges of travelling allowance are also not the same. The Government of India make a difference in the scale. I would like them to revise the scales of travelling allowance paid to the members of the inferior service. In making this appeal, I should like the Government of India to consider this: that when members of the superior services have a grievance, there is the British Parliament to agitate on their behalf. There is the Secretary of State to do everything for them. Also, if the members of other subordinate services have any grievance there are a large number of members willing to ventilate their grievances. They have

got their own organisations, but the men who belong to the inferior services are not generally much educated; there are very few people to agitate on their behalf. The only people whom I should have expected to agitate on behalf of the inferior servants are the people who are sitting on my left. The members belonging to the inferior services generally serve the Members on the Government Benches and, if there are any people who should rightly agitate on behalf of the members of the inferior services, it is the Members who sit on the Government Benches. But, Sir, gratitude or appreciation of proper service is not a strong point with the Members who sit on the Government Benches. I should like at least one of them to rise in his seat and do justice to the men who serve under them. Sir, I do not wish to take the time of the House much longer but . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has only two minutes more.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I shall not speak any more, but I again appeal to the Government of India to do justice to the employees in the Customs Department and also to the members belonging to the inferior services in the matter of their leave and in the matter of their travelling allowance, and, as regards other matters mentioned by me, also announce what their plans are. I hope, Sir, my motion will be accepted.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Customs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. V. V. Giri (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I take this opportunity of ventilating certain grievances of the Assistant Preventive Officers in the Madras Customs Chief port. The present Customs service of the Madras Chief port consists of 13 Preventive Officers of whom I am told only five are educationally qualified; there are 19 Assistant Preventive Officers of whom 15 are qualified. They receive pay ranging from Rs. 60—3—135 in the case of the Assistant Preventive Officers and Rs. 120—7—295 in the case of the Preventive Officers. Prior to 1920 there was no distinction made between the Preventive and the Assistant Preventive Officers because, their duties were absolutely the same. But, in the year 1920, a revision was made and these officers were divided into the upper division and lower division. Page 1 of part I of the Preventive Manual clearly says:

"Generally speaking, no distinction is made in the nature of duties allotted to them."

There was a discussion in the Assembly in 1934 when this question was raised and the grievances of the Assistant Preventive Officers were ventilated, and then they amended the Sea Customs Manual; and it was stated that certain duties were allotted to the Preventive Officers and certain other duties were allotted to the Assistant Preventive Officers, making a sort of artificial difference. That is to say, the Preventive Officers were asked to guard certain gates of the port and the Assistant Preventive Officers were asked to guard certain other gates. Before 1932, at any rate, the overtime allowances that were paid were practically the same for the work done regarding the Preventive Officers and the Assistant Preventive Officers, most probably on account of ventilating the

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grievances in the Assembly. Unfortunately even in the matter of overtime allowances there has been a distinction made; and, now, the Assistant Preventive Officers receive only half the overtime allowances that they were hitherto receiving. Therefore, the grievance of these Assistant Preventive Officers is that there should be equal pay for equal work, and also, their further grievance is that the overtime allowances should be equally distributed between the Preventive Officers and the Assistant Preventive Officers. I desire to ask Government to go into this matter, to make an enquiry, and do justice to the Assistant Preventive Officers.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I beg to support this motion. I have also given notice of a motion like this which is No. 37 on the list. In the Karachi Customs Department, for many years, the peons are getting a very low scale of pay and they also do not get any house allowance. They are also getting very low pensions. They do not even get the pensions which peons in other departments in Karachi get under the provincial rules. Their pay is also low as compared to that of the Provincial Government's peons. They have sent several representations through the Collector of Customs, but up till now their grievances have not been redressed. I beg to submit on their behalf that they are very poor people who draw hardly Rs. 12 or Rs. 15 or Rs. 18 a month, and Government should consider their grievances and do justice to them. As the Customs Department is getting more income than any Provincial Government, I request Government to consider their case favourably.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Sir, the Honourable Member, who moved this motion began by discussing the scales of pay for clerks of the Customs Department in the City of Bombay. He read out certain figures with sufficient accuracy to make it unnecessary for me to give a statement of the actual scales of pay, old and new. The first point, and I think the most important point, in his mind was the argument that the clerks in the Customs Department, in the City of Bombay, should be paid on the same scale as the clerks in the Accounts Offices there. If I may say so, he begged the whole question by saying in five or six words that the nature of the work was the same in both cases. We have, of course, repeatedly had occasion to consider very carefully what should be the rates of pay for the clerks in the Customs Department in Bombay, and I can only assure the Honourable Member that we do not accept the view that there is such a close similarity between the nature of the work required of the clerks in the Customs Department and of those in Audit Offices there. The work of the former is not of such a nature as to justify the raising of their pay to the higher level. I think that he will himself readily recognise that he is on even weaker ground in suggesting that the duties of the clerks in the Customs Department are identical in quality with those of the clerks in the Bombay Secretariat. After all, I think I know of no place where clerks with higher qualifications are not regarded as necessary for the Secretariat than for other offices; and I notice that my Honourable friend did not make a comparison between the pay given to the clerks in the Customs Department and the pay given to the clerks in other Bombay Government offices, not being the Secretariat. The

suggestion that the Government of India ought to have uniform rates of pay for all offices under their control in a given centre was, I think, the main and certainly the most general point that was raised. I must repeat that that is a point which we had to consider carefully in connection not only with Bombay, but with other large centres, and we are not able to accept the argument underlying that case as valid.

Then, the Honourable Member went into more detail and referred to a grievance of clerks on the old scale, namely, that, in certain respects, their scale might be described as inferior to that which has been fixed for the new entrants. Again, if I might be permitted to say so, he begged the question by saying that the old scales were supposed to be better. That was not the theory: the theory of the revision of scales of pay was, in the new circumstances, to fix a scale of pay which was suitable. It was not necessary, although in almost all cases it was the case, that the new scale of pay should be inferior to the old one. Moreover, there are several important points to bear in mind. The new scale may have a shorter period for reaching the maximum, but it begins with a lower minimum; to that extent, it is inferior. Another important point is that the new scale is definitely divided into two sections, and the top section is limited to 40 per cent. of the total number of posts. In this way it is by no means certain that clerks will reach the maximum in the period of 28 years, whereas, under the old scale, a clerk was, barring the possibility of being stopped at an efficiency bar or subject to disciplinary action, certain to reach his maximum in 31 years. This is by no means the only case where the revised scale has appeared to be, or actually been, superior to the old scale, but it is the principle of the Government of India that when such a result does occur, the old entrants who knew what was the bargain they were undertaking when they entered the service, should not be given the benefit of the new scale.

So much for the pay of clerks. I am afraid, I cannot hold out any hope to the Honourable Member that the Government of India are likely to reconsider the decision which they have taken after a great deal of careful study of this subject.

The Honourable Member then referred to the refusal by the Central Board of Revenue Ministerial Officers' Union of a grant out of what is called the Sunday Fees Fund to help them to start a recreation club for clerks. Now, the first point, and a very important point to remember, is that the Central Board of Revenue Ministerial Officers' Union includes not only clerks in the Customs Department, but clerks of other departments, who can have no valid claim whatever to a share in the benefits of the Sunday Fees Fund, which has hitherto been utilized only for customs employees, and for the general public, particularly the sea-faring public, of the port in question:

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I interrupt the Honourable Member for a minute and tell him that the Bombay Education Society which receives a grant from the Sunday Fees Fund is not confined to the Customs Department? They extend their benefits to all other classes of people.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: This is rather a peculiar point. The grant to the Bombay Education Society which has been paid for some years was a very small one, and it was not given to that society for its general

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 purposes, but it was specifically given for the education of certain children of a deceased employee of the Customs Department, and it will cease when the education of those particular children ceases. It is, therefore, entirely out of comparison with the case that I have mentioned, although I can understand the misunderstanding on the Honourable Member's part—a quite natural misunderstanding.

The position, then, is that the Union about which the Honourable Member spoke is not confined to clerks or other officers of the Customs Department. We, therefore, felt very clearly that such a union was not the best medium through which Government could render assistance to the Customs clerical establishment by way of a grant from the Sunday fees. Then, there was the ways and means problem. There are several Members in the House who have been on the Standing Finance Committee, from time to time, when this subject of the Sunday fees distribution has come up for discussion there, and I have had the privilege of being present at such discussions. They at least will remember that ever since the catastrophic slump of 1930-31, the situation as regards Sunday fees has completely changed. Before that period, we had an embarrassingly large amount of these fees which, I might explain to those Members who are not familiar with the subject, we decided as a matter of policy to distribute in the manner which I have described and not to credit to general revenues, because of the purpose for which these are imposed, namely, to discourage the working on ships on Sundays and thereby to discourage the employment of both customs officials and seafaring men on Sundays. It was, therefore, felt, many years ago, by the authorities that in these circumstances Government should not make, if I may use the expression, a profit out of these fees. That old decision of Government was some years ago considered again and approved by the Standing Finance Committee, and became the settled policy of Government. Up till the slump, we were, if anything, embarrassed by the amount of fees available for distribution. After the slump, the position completely changed, and there were not enough fees in any year to meet, even on a reduced basis, what I may describe as existing commitments, that is to say, the payment of subscriptions to those institutions which had in the past regularly benefited by these distributions. With the consent of the Standing Finance Committee, therefore, it was decided as a matter of general practice that there should be no addition at all to the list of beneficiaries until more funds were available. This decision was reinforced by the consideration that actually the funds fell short of what was required to keep those existing beneficiaries going, even on the reduced scale, in the way in which they had been assisted in the past; and the Standing Finance Committee once again agreed to our suggestion that to that extent the general revenues might make a contribution for keeping up the fund to the required level. In these circumstances, I think the House will generally agree that the introduction of new beneficiaries is undesirable and improper. The Central Board of Revenue Ministerial Officers' Union did, I understand, a year or two ago put in a representation on the matter on the ground that a grant had in fact been given to a new beneficiary, namely, the wharfingers' club. It is true that the grant was given that year to the wharfingers' club but that was not actually the introduction of a new beneficiary because it was the transfer to the club of part of the funds which had been allotted to

another institute of which the wharfingers themselves were the beneficiaries. I cannot, therefore, hold out any hope that, at any rate so long as the position of shipping and the consequent reduced yield of Sunday fees remains as at present, we are likely to be able to consider the addition of any new beneficiaries to the list; and, even then, we shall have again to face the difficulty, which I began by mentioning, that the union in question is not confined to customs officials.

The Honourable Member then raised certain grievances which, with your permission, I will describe as of general application to all Government servants, although they have incidental application to the Customs Department also. I think this places me in rather a difficulty, because I am sure that no Member of the House will suggest that matters like pension rules and leave rules should be dealt with separately for the Customs Department and for other departments of the Government of India. Therefore, I have in effect to answer for the whole of the Government of India

Mr. N. M. Joshi: A very honourable position.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: and I must disclaim my fitness to hold it; however I will do my best in the circumstances. He referred in general terms to the idea of giving employees of the Customs Department—and I may add of other departments—a choice between pensions or a provident fund—I suppose he means contributory provident fund—or gratuities; and under the head of gratuity he mentioned a kind of gratuity which was somewhat unfamiliar to me, in Government service, that is to say, a gratuity of one month's pay per year payable to the heirs of a Government servant who dies while still employed. He referred again to a scheme of provident fund which was rejected apparently by certain services on the ground that it was not as good as the railway provident rules. On that matter I am afraid my information is not altogether complete, for the reason which I have given; but I would like to quote certain references. If the Honourable Member will refer to the Legislative Assembly Debates of the 25th February, 1933, he will find printed as a statement laid on the table, a resume of the discussions relating to the schemes for the substitution, partial or entire, of a provident fund or other corresponding benefits, for pensionary benefits. That resume in spite of its title is a very long document and I certainly do not propose to bother the House by reading it out. It went in detail into various schemes that had been considered and concluded as follows:

"The ultimate position is that, after a most careful investigation extending over a considerable period, it has been found to be quite impracticable to devise any scheme acceptable to the services which would not involve additional expenditure unjustifiable in the face of existing financial conditions; and the Government of India have been obliged to accept the conclusion that the existing pension system must remain in force."

My Honourable friend may reply that the financial conditions in 1936 are not the same as conditions in 1933. I think, however, the House generally will agree, that they are sufficiently similar to make it desirable still for Government to hesitate before embarking on any scheme which would involve very considerable expenditure.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: The House will sanction the money, I am sure.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: I do not think there is at present before the Government any proposal to revive such a general scheme, substituting provident funds for pensions. There is one subject . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Today being Friday, Honourable Members would like to adjourn earlier, as the House generally does. The Honourable Member can now stop and then resume his speech after lunch.

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. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta) in the Chair.

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Sir, when we adjourned for lunch, I was making a few remarks about the suggestions generally for the substitution of a contributory provident fund for pensions or the payment of gratuities, and I alluded to a statement that was laid on the table of the House in 1933. In the same session the Honourable Sir George Schuster made a speech in which he explained and repeated the arguments contained in that resume and promised to consider one step towards ensuring that the families of Government servants are not left stranded on the death of the Government servants when in service, by making it compulsory for Government servants to make some provision for their families either in the shape of a contribution to the provident fund or some scheme of insurance. That, I think, is all that I am able to say to my friend on this subject.

My Honourable friend then proceeded to discuss the special case of inferior servants and put forward the view that their pensions, under the existing orders, are inadequate. He will remember that the Honourable the Finance Member last year said that this matter would be taken up. He admitted that in this matter there was an undoubted grievance, and that the time had come when something should be done to put this grievance right. I can assure the Honourable Member that this matter has not been allowed to slide. It has involved a great many discussions with the various departments concerned, and it has not escaped our notice. It was a subject of much discussion during the Simla season. There are difficulties which, I am afraid, have caused delay in the drafting of actual orders or rules, but I may tell my Honourable friend that the revised rules relating to inferior servants will be published very shortly, and I feel sure he will find, when they are published, that they constitute a step forward in the direction he desires.

My Honourable friend then referred to the conditions of leave and leave allowances to inferior servants. On this matter again, if I am to refer to a pronouncement made by a Finance Member (and I must be excused for looking for such authority, because the subject is brought under Customs, and I may be pardoned for saying that that is a legal fiction), I have to go back to Sir Basil Blackett to find a statement made

in this Assembly on the subject of leave conditions for inferior servants. In the year 1927, in answering a question in the Assembly, he said that the Government of India were not able to agree that the conditions of service of inferior services and superior services should be the same and the expression which he used was: "having regard to the nature of the duties performed by Government servants in the inferior grades as compared with those performed by the superior servants",—I understand that to mean, speaking generally, that the duties of the members of the inferior services are not calculated to bring about either mental fatigue to such an extent as is brought about in brain workers who are kept hard at the grindstone, or physical fatigue which is brought about in the case of industrial workers (with whom my friend, Mr. Joshi, is much more familiar, if I may say so, than with the case of inferior Government servants). I am afraid, Sir, that in this matter the Government of India do not contemplate any departure from the position which Sir Basil Blackett took in 1927. This really, I think, brings to an end what I have to say in reply to Mr. Joshi's remarks.

As regards the question raised by my friend from Madras, regarding the preventive service in Madras, I do not think it is unfair for me to remind him that the matter has already been the subject of a very full discussion in this House. It is perfectly true, as my friend observed, that in or about 1932 certain Standing Orders of the Madras Custom House were altered in order to bring the orders regarding the distribution of work, between the higher preventive service and the lower service of Assistant Preventive Officers, more in keeping with what, in the view of the Central Board of Revenue, should be the distribution between the higher paid staff and the lower paid staff—a distribution that, in fact, had up to a point been in existence before, in spite of the wording of those orders. For those revised orders the Central Board of Revenue must itself take responsibility, and it is not afraid of taking responsibility for having laid down that higher paid staff should have more responsible duties and the lower paid staff should have less responsible duties. That, I believe, is the only point which was brought forward by my Honourable friend, which has not been discussed already in this House, though not perhaps in the time of many of the present Members. I may, therefore, be excused if I point out that the arrangement under which work has been so distributed as to bring in more overtime fees to the higher paid staff than to the lower paid staff, is based upon the view which was held by the Board then, and which is still held by the Board, that it is unreasonable that an officer on, say, Rs. 200 a month, should be earning 15 or 20 per cent. of his monthly pay in overtime fees, while another officer on Rs. 70 a month is earning as much as 100 per cent. of his pay in overtime fees. If there is any justification, and I claim there is justification, for the distinction between the rates of pay of more responsible officers and less responsible officers, that justification is carried, we believe, into the field of the allowances which are earned by these officers in addition to their pay. It is, I admit, unfortunate that in the past the practice was different, and we cannot deny that the change of practice has created some sense of grievance in the minds of those who have suffered. But, as I have said, we have to set against that two considerations; firstly, we have removed a sense of grievance which the other officers felt and secondly, we have made arrangements to see that the allowances are more in keeping with the fitness of things.

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My Honourable friend from Karachi reinforced the plea of the Honourable the Mover of the motion in regard to pensions to inferior servants, and in addition to that, he drew some comparison unfavourable to the position of servants in the Central Board of Revenue, between the remuneration of inferior servants under this Board and of inferior servants at Karachi under the Local Government. This is the first time we have heard, so far as I know, of this particular grievance. It has not been represented to the Board through the ordinary channels, and if it comes to the Board in the ordinary way it will naturally receive the most careful consideration. But what the results of that consideration will be, I shall probably not be required to disclose, because I cannot foresee it.

Sir, that is all I think I have to say in reply to this motion. If my Honourable friend is dissatisfied with the lack of response to his wishes that I have given in various directions, it is perhaps not much use appealing to him to withdraw the motion. But I do assure him that every single point with which he has dealt, so far as it concerns the Central Board of Revenue, has been the subject of most careful consideration and that we have attempted to deal with them all in a spirit of equity; and so far as the matters concern the Government of India as a whole, I have been able to say something definite on the subject of pensions to inferior servants which shows that in the Government of India there is not such an entire lack of sympathy with the lot of inferior Government servants as to justify the passing of a vote of censure on the Government.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Customs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Position of Bengal Muslims in the Customs Offices at Calcutta and Chittagong.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim (Chittagong Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That the demand under the head 'Customs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Deputy President, perhaps this is the last time that I shall have the privilege of addressing this House from my place here, during a Budget-Session, and, as such, it is the mandate of my constituency to bring for the last time to the notice of the Government of India their grievance, so far as this department is concerned, in my part of Bengal. When I came to this Assembly about September, 1926, it fell to my lot, for the first four or five years, to take part in debates on a matter of this kind, and later on, with the collaboration of friends on all sides of the House, not excluding the Government,—about a couple of years ago, the Government decided on doing some sort of a semblance of justice to the people on whose behalf I am talking here this afternoon. Although these two places, Chittagong and Calcutta, are not the flesh-pots of Bengal, still they are the two most important sea-ports in that part of the country, and from them the Government of India collect a very large amount of revenue centrally. These two places are governed from here, from a distance of nearly 2,000 miles at Delhi and Simla. And my impression is that in spite of the very best wishes for good, better or even best, we are not sufficiently able to make our friends on the spot realise that the Government mean what they say in their orders and circulars. The grouse

of my constituency, I mean of the people living in Chittagong, is that, though they are nearly 90 per cent of the whole population and though these offices have been in existence from the time the East India Company was pleased to take over that port and they have been growing, and growing steadily, still when there is a chance, even after a hundredth rotation for a Bengali Mussalman, that share goes either to Bombay or to a good cricket player coming from Peshawar and elsewhere. I have no grouse that in the name of Mussalmans people from all sides should get in, but the local feeling is that, when everything is equal, it ought to be the policy of the Government that they should take people on the spot and not see for recruits from Peshawar and Karachi. You, Mr. Deputy President, must have noticed yourself as you happen to be at Calcutta mostly, what is the condition of the offices in Calcutta as well. I have just been told by my Honourable friend from Barisal that this matter has been very well represented in a Calcutta daily newspaper; perhaps the sentiment is there also. If the Government of India feel that they are not sufficiently strong to make their local agents at Calcutta and Chittagong realise that they cannot go behind the circular orders, then I would counsel them to give it up to the local authorities in Bengal. The present holder of office of Assistant Collector at Chittagong is an amiable first class gentleman. My remarks are not personal, but it seems that, both at Calcutta and Chittagong, the administration is at great fault and they do not seem to take any serious notice of Government circulars in these matters. So my submission to Government is this. The customs is controlled by the Central Board of Revenue, which is a subordinate agency of the Finance Department, and I hope and trust that they, in their wisdom, may see that justice is done to Bengal Muslims in these matters. I do not like to rouse the ire of my friend, Bhai Parma Nand. I do not want anything more than what has already been decided to be given. I hope Government will see that justice is done to our people, so that there may not be cause for any more cut motions or debates in this House.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Cut motion moved:

"That the demand under the head 'Customs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The Honourable Member has raised a point which, in relation to the Departments under the Government of India, was not covered by the general orders of 1934 regarding the reservation of certain proportions of vacancies for particular communities. We, in the Central Board of Revenue, at once recognised that, in the case of services such as those that are under us, that was a point upon which some direction should be given to our subordinate officers. On our own responsibility, therefore, we passed orders giving instructions that while it was not to be regarded as necessarily a part of the Government of India's policy that recruitment in any particular local area should be confined to persons domiciled within the related area, recruitment should be so regulated as far as possible, and, if an exception was to be made, it should only be done under the specific orders of the head of the Department. At the same time, I must make it clear, that we felt that it was only just to the inhabitants of a non-maritime province that they should not be wholly excluded from representation in a service like the Customs Department, which is in the nature of things solely confined to the maritime provinces. We, therefore, took the liberty of dividing India into portions, assigning one group to each of the major ports; and for this purpose we may say that Chittagong has

[Mr. A. H. Lloyd.]

gone with Calcutta. To Calcutta, as the normal field of recruitment, we assigned not merely Bengal, but also Assam, and Bihar and Orissa. If my Honourable friend objects to our Collector of Customs at Calcutta being at liberty to recruit from Assam and Bihar and Orissa as well as from Bengal, then I am afraid there is little chance of our being able to meet him; but I think that the majority of Members of this House would agree with the view of the Central Board of Revenue, that this particular field of employment should not necessarily be reserved solely for the maritime provinces. That principle might even exclude most of the inhabitants of Bengal itself, because if you followed it to its logical conclusion, you would have to confine recruitment to the 24 Parganas and the Chittagong district. If, however, he does not object to our including Assam and Bihar and Orissa with Bengal as the recruiting ground for the Customs Department in Bengal, then, I hope that he will be satisfied with the assurance that I have already given that the recruitment for these custom houses, from outside that field, is under the Board's instructions not to be undertaken except for special reasons to be approved specifically in each case by the head of the Department.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Bemar Representative): Will the Honourable Member explain what is the recruiting field for the other customs offices?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The allotment is as follows. I have given it for Bengal. To Bombay, we have assigned the Bombay Presidency, the Central Provinces and the United Provinces; to Madras, the Presidency of Madras; and to Karachi, we have assigned, Sind, Delhi, Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province. I may say that we worked these out very carefully after a consideration of the population of the areas of these various groups and getting as nearly as possible the same relative proportions as exist between the establishments of the customs houses concerned.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That the demand under the head 'Customs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 93,04,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Customs'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 17—TAXES ON INCOME.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 82,72,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Taxes on Income'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 82,72,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Taxes on Income'."

Babu Baijnath Bajoria (Marwari Association: Indian Commerce):

Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Taxes on Income' be reduced by Rs. 100."

I wish to discuss, Sir, the method of assessment of the income-tax and the method of disposing of the appeals.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): I am afraid this is out of order.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Then, may I move No. 6, in order to discuss the revision of income-tax law?

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): That is clearly out of order. Does the Honourable Member want to move any other motion standing in his name?

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: No, Sir.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 82,72,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Taxes on Income'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 18—SALT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 63,18,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Salt'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 63,18,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Salt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 19—OPIMUM.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 27,49,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Opium'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 27,49,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Opium'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 19A—EXCISE.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,78,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Excise'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,78,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Excise'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 20—STAMPS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,39,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Stamps'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,39,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Stamps'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Sir, this was the time fixed for the unattached

3 P. M. Members to move any cuts they wanted to move. The point is this. Some portion of their time is now taken away on account of certain demands being moved now and put to the House for vote, and so on. They lose so much of their time. The better course will perhaps be to call upon the unattached Members to move their cuts, and the Honourable the Finance Member should be called upon only to move those demands under which cuts are to be moved by unattached Members. Otherwise, much time is lost, and they will not be able to do justice to their cut motions.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): It is not necessary for the Chair to call upon any particular Honourable Member to move his cut motion.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I will move my cut motions under Posts and Telegraphs. This is the time, as my Honourable friend, Mr. Aney, says, allotted to unattached Members.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): We are proceeding demand by demand, and, as each demand is taken up, any unattached Member, who may have a cut motion under that particular demand, may move his motion.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: This procedure was not followed in the case of the time allotted to Members of the organized Parties. I do not know why this procedure should be followed only in the case of unattached Members.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): There is a radical difference between defined Parties and Honourable Members belonging to no Party.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I submit, Sir, that the Chair is the guardian of the rights of minorities in this House, and the Chair should protect their rights.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Rightly or wrongly, the Chair has ruled that it will follow this procedure. The Chair does not think there will be any substantial loss of time to the unattached Members.

DEMAND No. 21—FOREST.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,33,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Forest'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,33,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Forest'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 22—IRRIGATION (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES), NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,07,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses) Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,07,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Irrigation (including Working Expenses) Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 23—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT (INCLUDING WORKING EXPENSES.)

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,91,01,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)'."

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Akhil Chandra Datta): Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,91,01,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)'."

Certain Grievances of the Employees of the Postal Department, especially the Grievances of Postmen and the Inferior Servants of that Department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sir, my object in giving notice of this cut motion is to discuss certain grievances of the employees of the Postal Department, especially the grievances of postmen and the inferior servants of that Department. But, Sir, before I speak about the grievances of postmen, may I, with your indulgence, express my deep regret that the organised Parties in this House should not have, during the discussion of the general budget, allotted a definite time for the discussion of labour questions as they did during the discussion on the railway budget. I hope, Sir, next year the organised Parties will show a little more indulgence and a little more sympathy for the cuts on labour questions, in order that they should have time for a proper and detailed discussion of their grievances during the budget discussion.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair].

Mr. M. S. Aney: Now that a complaint has been made against the organised Parties, I wish to point out . . .

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Now, I do not propose to give way.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Because the Honourable Member attacked the organised Parties, I wish to explain the position.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am not giving way to anybody. The organised Parties had more time.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Because the Honourable Members belonging to unattached Parties collapsed. Your did not agree among yourselves.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I suggest to my Honourable friend, Mr. Satyamurti, that, after having made use of their time to the best advantage, it is not fair on their part to take away some more time when the grievances of inferior servants of the Postal Department are to be discussed. They have already done injustice to the cause of labour by not giving them a definite time.

Well, Sir, the main grievance which I want to lay before the House this afternoon is the grievance of the postmen. These postmen are ill-paid employees of the Postal Department, and they generally come from classes which are not much educated. They do not generally rise beyond their grade. Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra, when he was in charge of this Department, made some concession to them and allowed them to go to the rank of a clerk after passing certain departmental tests. Then, the Department made certain rules creating a cadre of lower division clerks in that Department. Recently, a Committee, called the Pasricha Committee, was appointed by the Government of India. That Committee has recommended that, before a postman is promoted to the clerk's grade, some conditions should be fulfilled. This Committee was not quite satisfied that postmen should rise to the rank of clerks, and they laid down the condition that the postmen must remain postmen for five years before they can hope to become clerks. They also recommended that no postman should be promoted to the grade of a clerk, if he is over 30 years of age. I consider that these conditions are unfair. In the first place, if a young boy passes the matriculation examination, he can become a clerk in the lower division, but, if a postman passes the matriculation examination, he cannot become a clerk, because he has committed the sin of entering the Department as a postman. I feel, Sir, that the Government of India should show a little more sympathy for these people, who, on account of their poverty, have to take up jobs at an early age. I feel that the condition that a postman, before he becomes a clerk, must serve for five years is an unfair one. That shows that the Government of India will prefer an outsider to a postman who is qualified to occupy the post of a clerk.

Then, Sir, the condition as regards age too is an unfair one. I hope the Government of India will treat this class of their employees with sympathy and fairness and remove this condition and enable postmen to rise to the grade of clerks, and, if I may express the hope, to rise to higher grades also.

Then, Sir, there is one point which I would like to place before the Government of India. There are large numbers of Indian postmen at present serving in Burma in the Postal Department. We all know that Burma is to be separated very soon. The postmen and other employees of the Postal Department have represented to the Government of India that, when Burma will be separated, those of them who want to remain in Burma should remain there, and those of them who would like to return to India should be given an opportunity of being brought to India in the Postal Department. Then, Sir, they also have represented to the Government of India that those of the postal employees who would like to retire should be allowed to retire with an adequate pension. Sir, the separation of Burma has created a new situation, and when such a new situation has been created, it is but fair that the employees of that Department should be given a chance of either coming to India and serving the Department in India, or, if they want to retire, to retire with

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

adequate pension, or if they want to remain in Burma, to remain there. Sir, you know that, when the Government of India Act was passed in 1919, men belonging to the superior services were given the option to retire on proportionate pension on the ground that large administrative changes had been made by the Act. If on political grounds, men belonging to the superior services were given the opportunity to retire on proportionate pension, I am quite sure, the House will agree with me that the separation of Burma is a very great change; and when such a change is made, those Indians who are working in Burma should be permitted to retire with adequate pension or brought to the postal department in India, or if they choose to remain in Burma, should be allowed to remain there. I hope, Sir, the Government of India will consider this question very sympathetically.

Then, Sir, I should like to say a word about the inferior servants in the Postal Department. I have already this morning placed before this House questions regarding the pension, leave and travelling allowance of the inferior servants of the Government of India. Unfortunately, Sir, excepting the question of pensions, the reply which the Honourable Member gave on behalf of the Government of India was a very unsatisfactory one and, if I may say so, it was a very unsympathetic one. Sir, I was somewhat pained to find that the Honourable Member who may be controlling a large number of men belonging to the inferior services should have said in this House that the work of these inferior servants does not require much brains or does not involve physical work too. Is there a class of Government servant who is not expected to do his work intelligently? And if you ask my views, the lowest servant of the Government of India has to use his intelligence as much as the highest. It is wrong to believe that a sense of responsibility and intelligence should be expected only in the higher classes of people and the lower classes do not have any sense of responsibility for the humble work which they do or they do not show much intelligence in the work which they do. That impression of the Government of India is wrong. If I had any power in my hands, I would pass some regulation preventing anybody being employed under this Government. I feel that if an employer is to be allowed to employ people, the employer must be sympathetic to all classes of his employees. The employer, who says that his lowest classes of people need not show intelligence in their work, does not deserve to be an employer. And when you find several people standing here from 11 to 5 o'clock, I am told and the House is told that the work does not involve much physical fatigue. What am I to think of those employers, those people who sit here comfortably stretching their legs and tell these people who stand behind them to support their dignity from 11 to 5 that their work is less responsible and not quite so fatiguing? I hope that the gentleman in charge of the Postal Department will not have those ideas of the gentleman who spoke for the Customs Department. I hope he will show a better sense of his duty as an employer and treat the inferior servants of his department more sympathetically. I want the Postal Department to revise their rules for the grant of leave, casual as well as privilege, for their inferior servants. People belonging to the inferior services do not get casual leave. Now, on what ground is casual leave not to be given to them unless they provide a substitute and pay that substitute? Are there no occasions on which a member of the inferior service must

take leave? There must be some funerals in his family which he may have to attend; there may be other occasions like marriages in his family which he may have to attend. And if men belonging to the superior services have occasions to ask for casual leave and are not expected to pay the man who does their work, why should a member of the inferior service be expected to pay the man who takes his place? Moreover, there is no leave reserve for the grant of privilege leave to the members of the inferior services. I want the postal department to create a leave reserve for the inferior services. Moreover, men belonging to the superior services and men belonging to the subordinate services get privilege leave on full pay, while men belonging to the inferior services have to be content with half pay. May I know why men belonging to the superior services should be given full pay when they go on privilege leave and why members belonging to the subordinate services should get full pay when they go on privilege leave, but it should be denied to men who belong to the inferior services? Men belonging to the superior services can save money out of their salary every month and they can afford to go on privilege leave even on half pay or without pay; but men who belong to the inferior services get very low salaries and cannot make any savings. And if there is any class of people who should get leave on full pay it is the inferior servants. I hope, therefore, that the Postal Department will take the grievances of the inferior servants into consideration and see that these grievances are removed without any delay. I hope the House will also support my motion.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal Landholders): Mr. President, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi. At the same time, I do not think that the Parties have done any injustice to him in regard to ventilating the grievances of labour. The Parties came to an agreement and they stuck to it. I do not think that a single elected Member of this House desired in any way to ignore the question of labour.

First of all, I want to ventilate the grievances of the Railway Mail Service staff, which are generally on the lines of those of the staff on the Postal side. I have got here certain facts which I hope will receive attention from the Honourable Member in charge of the Department. First of all, the orders regarding the calculation of sets for Railway Mail Service sections remain unclarified, and they are being interpreted according to the will, or, I may say whim, of the Heads of Circles. An instance will make my point clear. J-3 Section, which runs from Ajmer to Delhi, has a run in the out-direction from 21-46 to 8-55 hours, i.e., of 11-15 hours, and in the in-direction from 21-9 to 8-4 hours, i.e., of 10-55 hours. The weekly working hours of the section come to 155.10 hours, exclusive of what is called platform attendance. Then, the D-11 Section, which runs from Delhi to Lahore, has a run in the out-direction from 21-45 to 8-30 and in the in-direction from 21-5 to 8-00 hours. Its weekly working hours come to 151.40 hours. But J-3 Section works with six sets, whereas D-11 Section works with only five sets. Why is this difference? The difference of about 3½ hours in the weekly working hours cannot deprive the D-11 Section of the sixth set. I feel that six sets are clearly justified for the D-11 Section and should be immediately maintained.

[Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury.]

I now come to the question of mail van accommodation. So far as my recollection goes, I generally ventilated the grievances about this accommodation in the railway mail vans, and the late Sir Thomas Ryan, who was the then Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, gave a very sympathetic reply and told us that he would try to do as far as practicable on his part. But up till now I find that no improvement appears to have been made. If you just go for an evening stroll to the Delhi Railway station, between 20-30 hours and 10-00 hours, you will find how the van is packed with articles and six or seven sorters are crammed together in a compartment, with not much space for them even to move about. These sorters, some times, have to work for twelve hours at a time, and how is it possible for them to work in such a congested van for such a long time? That is a matter which ought to receive the serious consideration of my Honourable friend in charge of the Department.

I then come to the sanction of van peons for the Railway Mail Service section. Here is a very peculiar thing I am going to state. My study of the Appendices to the list of Indian Post Offices shows that it is only in the Punjab Circle that van peons have not been sanctioned as a general rule for the R. M. S. sections. I am not aware of the reasons for this, but I do not see why, in the Punjab alone, van peons have not absolutely been given for the R. M. S. That, Sir, I think, is unjustified and unreasonable.

I come to the Railway Mail Service rest houses. You can well understand that after working for eight or nine hours, when these men stop at a particular place to take rest for only a few hours, how necessary rest houses are. I found, when I visited some of these rest houses, that not even a cot was available. Sufficient utensils are not being supplied for their personal use and comforts. The rest houses are in a hopeless condition; they look like *serais*, where men come for a temporary stay. But the rest houses are not meant for temporary stay, because the men go to these rest houses after working for 12 hours at a stretch, and these buildings should be made comfortable for the workers. I hope the Director-General will take up this matter earnestly and give some sort of comforts to these unfortunate R. M. S. people.

I turn now to out-station and extra duty allowances. Here is another grievance, which I hope will receive serious consideration. The out-station allowance paid to the R. M. S. operative staff is much less than what would be ordinarily admissible to them under the Travelling Allowance rules. Besides, a stay out of headquarters for 12 hours or less does not entitle them even to a farthing. On the other hand, Superintendents and Inspectors of the Railway Mail Service are paid *full diem* allowance for their absence from headquarters for six hours, whereas these R. M. S. men, working for more hours—perhaps for 12 hours in many cases—do not get anything. If the rates of out-station allowance cannot be improved for the present, at least this discrimination should be removed at once. The telegraphists are allowed over-time allowance for every extra hour of work they put in, whereas no allowance is paid to the R. M. S. for the first three hours of extra work.

Then, I want to take up the want of uniformity of procedure everywhere. In dealing with the grievances of the R. M. S. staff, I cannot help mentioning that there is no uniformity of procedure in regard to the following:

- (1) Sanction of Selection Grade appointments in the R. M. S.—A section by the name of D-7 section (Ambala-Lahore) is working

with seven sorters for well nigh over three years, but a selection grade head sorter for the same has been denied. Sections similarly situated elsewhere got generally a selection grade head sorter. Why this difference in this particular case?

- (2) Supervisory posts in time scale carrying duty allowance.—Only in the Bengal Circle, supervisory posts with duty allowance of Rs. 20 per month have been sanctioned and nowhere else. Mail openers of Sealdah R. M. S., under the Postmaster General, Bengal and Assam Circle, get duty allowance of Rs. 20 per month, whereas, the mail openers of Howrah R. M. S., under the Postmaster General, Bihar and Orissa Circle, do not get any such allowance. Why is this difference made?
- (3) Inspectors of R. M. S. need carrying selection grade rate of pay.—As I have already said, the selection grade gives impetus to these men to work; when they are qualified, they will be given at least the chance of getting selection grade posts. Selection grade posts are entirely impossible for them if they are reduced under retrenchment. At least they should not be so reduced as to absolutely take away the charm from the service.
- (4) Relaxation of work on Sundays and other holidays.—Mr. Joshi cited the case of these peons who stand here from eleven to five who do not get any benefit. What I want to point out is that R. M. S. people who serve for 365 days in the year do not get any relaxation. Some provision should be made by which at least they should enjoy some holidays. When superior servants get casual leave, certainly the inferior servants should get the same facilities. As has been very rightly pointed out by my friend, Mr. Joshi, they may have certain necessities for leave such as marriage, illness. Inferior servants must be given some sort of casual leave.

I come again to the Postal Department. As my time is limited, I shall be as brief as possible. First of all, may I draw the attention of my Honourable friend to the restoration of cuts? I would now like to draw the attention of my Honourable friend to the fact that though the cuts in pay were restored, their allowances have not been restored. That is really not justified: these allowances are generally given for certain definite purposes and for special requirements, and when the cuts were restored these allowances also ought to have been restored.

The next point is that the new scales of allowances in the district of Mymensingh have been fixed by comparison with those in Dacca. But I can say from my personal experience that the cost of living in Dacca and Vikrampur, in Eastern Bengal, is very cheap, while in Mymensingh it is far dearer. I hope he will look into this point. He will also find that in places like Darjeeling and the Dooars there is the same difficulty. These matters do not come to the ears of the Director-General as these are small—an allowance of Rs. 2 per month to these low paid men; but in those places which are at high altitudes, the temperature sometimes goes below freezing point and it is not possible for these poor people to work without fuel, and I am sure my Honourable friend will not grudge the sum of Rs. 2 which these poor people were getting for fuel. I hope the Director-General will seriously consider these points, and restore these allowances to them.

[Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury.]

I would also like to point out that the clerks working in the Post Offices of Shillong and also those working in the Telegraph Engineering Office have been drawing certain percentage of Hill Allowance, whereas the clerks working in the office of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Shillong, have not been given any allowance whatsoever. When they are working in the same department, when they are of the same cadre, I think the same treatment should be meted out to them. Why should there be this difference?

I have narrated a few grievances, but for want of time, I have not been able to give the full catalogue. My Honourable friend in charge of the department, at least when he was a student, would have realised the position of the poor people; and now that he is elevated to such a responsible position I hope he will not forget his old days and that he will cast a sympathetic glance towards his poor countrymen, these postmen and railway mail service men, and I hope, the grievances which I have just narrated will engage his sympathetic consideration. With these words, I wholeheartedly support the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Sir, I rise to say a few words in support of the amendment moved by my friend, Mr. Joshi. We all admire Mr. Joshi, not only for his earnest and persistent advocacy of the claims of labour, but also for his sturdy independence. Owing to the defective nature of the present Constitution of the country, Mr. Joshi sits here as a nominated Member; but what a contrast does he present to another nominated Member who yesterday questioned my representative character in this House?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not think the Honourable Member should indulge in such personal comparisons.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: May I clear one point, Sir? I shall take only half a minute.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No; the Honourable Member ought not to make these personal comparisons.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: I will not make any comparisons. The Member said yesterday that I was sent to this House by the Returning Officer and that I had no representative character. That is not true. What happened was this. I was duly proposed and seconded by a good number of electors in my constituency; and when the papers were scrutinised by the Returning Officer, it was found that my rival's paper was invalid and it was rejected. But that was no fault of mine. Sir, that Member, and perhaps any other Honourable Members of this House, know that I fought four elections to the Bengal Legislative Council, and that on three of these occasions I was returned by large majorities, while, on the fourth occasion, I was returned unopposed. And yet this Member, a man who never sought any election and who thrives on the favours of Government, has the hardihood and the audacity to challenge my representative character in this House. I hope and trust that other nominated Members will emulate the noble example set by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, and not the example set by the other Member.

Coming to the subject under discussion, I must say that my Honourable friend has dealt with the question so fully that he has left very little for me to say. But I will dwell on only one aspect of the question, namely, the rule which debars a postman from rising to the position of a clerk. From personal experience I know that there are some educated men who, sometimes through poverty, enlist themselves as postmen; and it is exceedingly wrong on the part of Government to prevent these young men from rising to higher positions. When I was head of the Department of Economic and Commerce in the Calcutta University, I came to know that several candidates for the Bachelor of Commerce Examination enlisted themselves as postmen. Now, it would be a cruel injustice to these men to prevent them from rising to the position of clerks and even to higher positions. I hope, therefore, that this matter will receive the sympathetic consideration of Government, and the rule will be abrogated.

As regards the other grievances, I am entirely in sympathy with all that has fallen from the lips of my Honourable friend and I wholeheartedly support this amendment.

Mr. V. V. Giri: Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi; and, in this connection, I would like to put forward before this House the grievances and demands of the postal workers and their organizations. Last year, a committee known as the Postal Enquiry Committee, otherwise known as the Pasricha Committee, was appointed. That Committee was known by another name: it was called the Efficiency Finding Committee. I am, however, glad to state, that in spite of the fact that the Government have spent a lakh of rupees on that Efficiency Finding Committee, that committee ultimately was found to be inefficient to give efficient methods. Anyway, I am glad that the Honourable Member in charge of this department and the Honourable Mr. Bewoor, the Director General, have given every opportunity for the organised unions to put forward their constructive views and constructive criticism as regards the Pasricha Committee report, and, I am sure, it will be conceded by the Honourable Member in charge that these unions, especially the Postal and R. M. S. Union of which I am the President, have put forward not only constructive methods but they proved by their counter-report that the Pasricha Committee Report may be thrown into the scrap heap.

One point I would like to urge before this House,—I urged it last year, and this year also I urged the same on the Director General when leading a deputation of the employees' representatives a fortnight ago, and it is this. There should be half yearly meetings convened between the representatives of the Unions and the employer to discuss matters affecting the grievances of the staff. There was a misapprehension on the part of the Director General that because there are five or six or 13 Postal Unions in India there will have to be held at least 13 half yearly meetings, and he felt that the whole time of the department would be taken up by these half yearly meetings. That was not my object when I suggested the holding of half yearly meetings. In fact, I stated at the last meeting that there should be meetings every year, not between one Union and the Department, but with all the Unions representing the staff in this country and the Director General. After all, constant touch between the employer and the worker will ensure peace in industry, and I hope my suggestion in this matter will be accepted. I am bound to say, of course, that the

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Director General meets the General Secretaries of these Unions, but that will not have the same effect as when a formal meeting of all the Unions takes place for one or two days so that all the demands and grievances of the workers can be thrashed out at that meeting. I hope these suggestions of mine will be accepted by the Government.

Then, Sir, I should like to say a few words about the reduction of staff. On the plea of effecting economies, a lot of reduction of establishments has taken place, and I feel that this retrenchment has affected the efficiency of the department. There have been many complaints made by the workers through their organized Unions, and I am sure the Government of India would not like to have sweated labour in the Postal Department. Mr. Bewoor's time test was used more to reduce the staff but at the same time, the same time test was not applied to increase the staff. This is a matter which, I submit, deserves the attention of the Department concerned, and more labour should be employed where it is necessary.

I am informed, Sir, that many selection grade posts have been taken away. On the other hand, the contract system, the principle of which was opposed by the Royal Commission on Labour, is being encouraged, that is to say, extra-departmental post offices are being introduced everywhere. I am further informed that on account of the paucity of many supervisors numerous frauds are occurring in these extra-departmental post offices. If this is a fact, then the Department should look into this matter and see that there is careful supervision exercised over these extra departmental post offices so that such frauds may not occur.

I am again told, Sir, that compensatory allowances sanctioned to workers at costly and unhealthy places as in the Agencies have been taken away. For instance, in Wynad where the Government servants get a compensatory allowance, the postal workers are not granted that allowance.

Then, I am told that the lower paid clerks do not get any compensatory allowance in localities where ordinary time scale clerks enjoy such concessions. I do not see why these poor workers should be penalised for getting lower wages and such compensatory allowances should not be granted to these lower grade clerks.

Another point to which I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable Member in charge of the Department is, that the workers who come under the new scales of pay, that is to say, some of those who are appointed after July 31st, lose on the new scales to the extent of a fifth of what they are getting. That is my information, subject of course to correction, and if that is so, I suggest that the Government of India should adopt the method put forward by the Government of Bombay where they allow such workers who receive the new scales, whatever the difference between the old and the new scale of pay, to receive such difference as special pay. I suggest that method should be adopted and the grievance of the workers who come under the new scales of pay should be removed.

Sir, I do not wish to take more time of the House except to mention that, so far as postmen are concerned, I am informed that they are not supplied with enough clothing or umbrellas or rain coats. If that is so, then I feel it is a just grievance, and the Government must look into that matter also and concede their demands. With these words, I support the motion moved by my friend, Mr. Joshi.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: Mr. President, I wish to intervene in this debate, because I want to say one or two words in connection with what has fallen from my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must speak up.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: I am sorry I cannot raise my voice, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Then the Honourable Member must come nearer.

(The Honourable Member then came to one of the front benches.)

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: Sir, I have listened with very great amount of interest to what fell from my friend, Mr. Joshi, with regard to people who are serving in the Postal Department in the province of Burma. Sir, there are a large number of people who belong to my part of Bengal and who happen to serve in various branches of the Postal and Telegraph Department in Burma. Representations have been made to us from time to time, feeling perhaps that, after the separation of Burma, they may not find it very congenial to live in that wonderful land, asking whether it would be possible for the Government of India to do anything in the manner suggested by Mr. Joshi. I think, Sir, this is a very just grievance, and I think that the Government of India in the Postal Department ought to have some sympathy for these people, because, after all, it seems to me, knowing as I do that province well, except those who belong to the superior services or to the Imperial Service, the subordinate servants will not like to continue in Government service in places like Siam and China on the borders of Burma. So I think Government will be showing a great favour to these people who are serving in those distant lands by transferring them to India.

There is one other matter which should be considered by the Government. Sir, those who happen to go to small post offices in this huge metropolis of India and its nearest suburbs for the creation of which the Government have spent nearly twenty crores, are compelled to see the filthy and the somewhat unspeakable condition of some of the sub and branch post offices round about the old city of Delhi and its near suburbs. I think, this is a matter which ought to receive the attention of the authorities in this department. If anybody happens to go to the Paharganj sub-post office or to the Jumma Masjid post office or the Chandni Chowk post office, he will see the filthy dens within the city walls. I am sure, Government are making enormous profit through these sub-post offices, and I feel that Mr. Bewoor will be rendering a great service to the people who have to work in these sub-post offices by providing them with better accommodation, because they have to spend most of their time in unhealthy surroundings, and they also suffer both from rain and sun. So, this being a legitimate grievance of the employees in some of these sub-post offices,—I may say that some of them are members of the Union with which I am connected,—I hope the Department will be good enough to look into the matter and take steps to remove their grievance. I cannot visualise what is lurking in the mind of the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour, but somewhere I heard, it may be here in New

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Delhi, that in the Department of Industries and Labour they are thinking of new ventures. They are thinking that it is absolutely obligatory on them to give the fullest effect to the Pasricha and Verma Committees' reports. Though I am a layman, I am not innocent of the working of this Department, and I must tell the Government that they should not attach too much credence and premium to these so-called reports. If they did so, they would not be following a very straight and medium policy, because the gentlemen of the Pasricha Committee as well as those of the Verma Committee could not have a thorough insight into how a money order clerk handles the money order, how a registration clerk does his work, and how the other men work at the counter. On all these matters these gentlemen have ventured or speculated opinions which I hope the Government of India will not take too seriously.

There is one other matter to which the attention of the Government may be invited, and that is the condition of mail runners in the southern sub-division of my district. The dak to the southern part of Chittagong used to be carried by steamer companies, but I do not know why the Government have not been able to decide on a figure which would be acceptable to both parties. But I submit that it is the duty of the paternal body to look to the comforts of these mail runners who have to go through dangerous hill passes and have to cross rivers during monsoons. If that aspect of the matter were taken into consideration, perhaps there would not be a haggling over 300 or 500. Even if a bounty is required, by the Bengal, Burma Steam Navigation Company, it should be given because it will be doing a great service to their own men and the people at large in that sub-division.

I ask whether the Government have been following the right policy with regard to the recruitment of Inspectors. The present arrangement is that in each circle they receive applications and later on an examination is held. Without prejudice to anybody, a very efficient man may not be in the good books of the immediate superior though he might have a first claim, and, therefore, if Government can hit on some solution by which this difficulty may be obviated, they will be doing a very great service to that class of people who want to sit for the Inspectors' examination.

Lastly, I am told that some of these departmental unions which are recognised by the Government are not being treated to the fullest extent that they should be. This is not a complaint against the department, but what I say is this. No doubt for the last financial year they have done fairly well, and if they persevere, to quote an apt phrase, they will be doing better. And on the top of this, if they could have the fullest co-operation of these recognised unions, my feeling is that their administration will go very much higher and higher and there will not be any grievance. With these few words I commend the motion of my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, for the consideration of the House.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor (Director General, Posts and Telegraphs): My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, has been very anxious that Demand No. 23 may be reached, so that he may have an opportunity of discussing the grievances of the postal employees. The cut is of a very omnibus character, and, under the term, grievances of postal employees, a very large number of subjects have been raised. In a department which employs over a 100,000 persons, scattered over every part of India and Burma, is it any wonder that there should be some grievances?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Are they necessary?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: It is unavoidable in the actual nature of things. But what I wanted to point out was that there are a very large number of grievances, and I shall have to take some time and my talk may appear somewhat discursive.

Before I deal with each of these grievances I would like to point out that there are 13 recognised unions of an all-India character. Almost all these have got provincial branches, divisional branches, district branches, and city branches. All of them have opportunities of access to the head of the office, or to the head of the division, or the head of the circle, or the head of the department, and all these questions are discussed freely and we never keep our reasons, for any action that we have taken, secret. I am sure it will be admitted by my Honourable friend, Mr. Giri, who is the present President of the All-India Union, that there has never been any reservation during our discussions of any of the alleged grievances of the employees. I very much regret that my Honourable friend, Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim, should appear to indicate that the department had been treating the unions not quite so fairly or sympathetically. All I can say is that all that I have heard is exactly to the contrary, and I trust that the excellent relations which have existed in this department between the unions and the Department will continue in the future.

First, I will take the grievances of the postmen. I am afraid that my Honourable friend, Dr. Banerjee, is under a misapprehension when he says that postmen are debarred from promotion to the clerical cadre. As a matter of fact, they are not. The usual procedure is that a man enters the postal department either as a clerk or as an inferior servant. The inferior servant does the work of letter-box clearing peon, or mail carrying peon, or a porter or a packer in an office. After certain years of service, when there is a vacancy, and if he is found to be fit, he becomes a postman. When he has been working as a postman satisfactorily, an opportunity is given to him to appear for a simple test, the test consisting of a piece of dictation in English and a few simple sums in arithmetic, addition, subtraction, and simple and compound interest. If he is found to have some amount of intelligence and some knowledge of English, he is taken on as a clerk. I do not see what grievance there can be. After all, the efficiency of the service must be the first consideration, and not the interests of particular classes of employees.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: There is disability.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: There is no disability at all. If a man is educationally qualified and is prepared to wait for his turn, he should come in as a clerk. If he comes in as an inferior servant, he must show by his work that he is fit for promotion. The so-called five years of service is again misunderstood by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi. The limit of five years is not a limit of five years' service as postman. It is merely a limit of five years' service in the department.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Why?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: It is essential. Otherwise all our clerical posts will be filled by men who enter as inferior servants.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Where is the harm?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Because we want better men for the higher grades. We cannot have all our jobs filled by the lowest class of material. Further the Postal Inquiry Committee which consisted of six members, five of whom had long experience of the department, and who toured all over the country have recommended the continuance of the existing order. It is not a new order. As regards the age limit of 30 years, Mr. Joshi is under a misapprehension. There is no age limit. The Postal Inquiry Committee has recommended the fixation of an age limit of 30, that is to say, no postman who is above the age of 30 should be promoted as a clerk. The Unions have opposed this suggestion and I have promised them that I will consider their views before submitting my recommendations to Government. What Mr. Joshi said today will also be taken into consideration. I do not think that our postmen have any grouse or grievance. All we expect is that they should be educationally fit and intelligent, so that the work in the post offices may be done properly. Otherwise, we get frequent complaints that there is a stupid clerk behind the counter who is unable to understand the gentlemen who come and talk to him. It is essential that we should ensure efficiency behind the counter, and, therefore, in making promotions I must insist upon the question of efficiency being considered as more important than the question of the interests of any particular class of employees.

As regards the question of Burma, this has been referred to by Mr. Joshi and Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim, and it has been suggested that the men now employed in Burma, especially postmen, should be allowed to return to India and take up jobs in India, or, in the alternative, they should be given the facility to retire on proportionate pension. I may say that for the present this question is under the consideration of Government. The question is one which does not affect the Posts and Telegraphs alone. There are employed in Burma a very large number of employees in all Departments under the Central Government. Any decision that may be taken would apply equally to every one. One might point out that those Indians, who went to Burma as postmen and clerks, took employment under the clear understanding that they would have to serve in Burma throughout their service.

Mr. M. S. Aney: Even if separated, under the new Government?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Did not the I. C. S. men know that when they accepted service in India?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: If these postmen have to be brought to India, it means that, until the whole of them are found jobs in India, we will have to stop recruitment in the whole of India.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: No harm.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: There are a very large number of these people, and at present there are no vacancies and according to the number of vacancies which occur, on the average, it would perhaps take ten years to absorb all the people now employed in Burma. I am stating for the present the difficulties. I will not say what the decision of the Government will be. That is not for me to say. I merely wish to point out the practical difficulties. It is our intention to ensure to our employees in Burma security of tenure and such other securities as may be required, and personally, I

do not see why they should be afraid of continuing to serve under the existing pay and prospects which they are enjoying. All I can say is that the debate today and the observations made by Honourable Members will be before Government, before they announce their decision on this question.

Mr. M. S. Aney: What is the approximate number of postal employees there and what is the annual recruitment in India?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I am afraid I cannot straightaway say what is the annual number of recruitment in India but I can give a rough figure of the total number of postmen, mail guards and people of that sort recruited in 1934. It was 182. In the Burma Circle there are 1,128 men of the postmen, mail guards, etc., class. Assuming therefore, that the whole of the 182 posts are filled by the people from Burma, it would take about six to seven years to absorb them. I really do not think I can discuss this matter further. The matter is under consideration and Government will see that its employees' interests are protected.

As regards the question of pension for inferior servants, Mr. Joshi has already been informed that orders are expected to be passed fairly soon. As regards the question of travelling allowance, I am afraid that Mr. Joshi has expressed great indignation by misunderstanding what my friend, Mr. Lloyd, said. I do not, however, wish to add fuel to the fire of Mr. Joshi's indignation and I really do not think I need comment on this question further. The matter is one which applies to all inferior servants under the Central Government and could, more usefully, be raised by Mr. Joshi on another occasion when it will be dealt with by the proper department. In the matter of casual leave, complaint was made that the lower paid staff do not get casual leave. I do not know how far there is justification for this statement. Casual leave is not recognised leave and no employee of Government is entitled to claim it as a matter of right. Casual leave is to be given when the remaining staff in the office can manage the work of the absentee. In the case of the post office we have made special arrangements in the case of the smaller offices possessing small staff, where relief is not possible, by permitting the sending of an official from a neighbouring office at Government expense and we do try, so far as is possible, to give casual leave. As regards privilege leave, there is, I am afraid, a great deal of misunderstanding on the part of Mr. Joshi. The inferior servant who goes on leave is not required to pay the salary of the substitute employed during his absence.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: He gets only half his pay.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The inferior servant receives half his salary when a substitute is employed in his place but half his pay is not necessarily the pay of the substitute. In fact, in a large number of cases, it is far less than the pay of the substitute.

I will now turn to my friend, Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury, who had been threatening me all this last fortnight, that he was going to expose a large number of the grievances of the postal employees. I have taken down some of the grievances which he read out at a somewhat great speed from the brief that had been supplied to him, and I can promise him that, when the speech is printed and I get the proceedings, I will examine carefully the particular instances quoted. The first grievance which he mentioned

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about the hours of work in Railway Mail Service travelling sets has been put right by orders which were issued recently. There was a great deal of want of uniformity, as he called it, in the interpretation of the orders regarding day sections and night sections and sections which worked partly by day and partly by night. The trouble has been set right by prescribing a formula by which night hours of duty are converted into day hours of duty and one common standard is applied for all sets. In the particular case of J-3 and D-11 sections, I have of course got no facts before me but I promise him I will have the matter examined. In the matter of van accommodation, this matter is constantly under the examination of local authorities. My friend must not judge the question of van accommodation by what he sees either in Calcutta or in Delhi. These vans must necessarily be very full when they start but he must not forget that they go on becoming lighter as they leave the metropolis, and when returning they get fuller as they approach the big cities. We have to see that van accommodation is provided on an average so that throughout the run the staff has got reasonable accommodation in which to perform their work. I think people who only see these vans at big stations get an entirely wrong idea.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: I do not want to interrupt my Honourable friend, but I should just like to ask him—when there is so much congestion in the van, what arrangements do Government propose to make for that? It is quite proper to say that that is not so in the intermediate stations, but it is only at the stations where there is a congestion of traffic. I quite realise that, but, when there is a congestion of traffic, some provision must be made towards that. That is my point.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Provision already exists. Head sorters in charge of these sections have got authority to engage extra accommodation by giving an order to the guard of the train and in actual practice they actually engage a third class compartment next door to the van and they put in the extra bags in this van. In the matter of van peons, it is not correct to say that a particular circle has got more than what another circle has got and therefore there is injustice in one circle and fairness in another. The question of van peons again is decided on the general consideration as to whether the services of a peon are necessary in handling the bags. A van peon's services are utilised in closing and opening boxes and in stacking them or sorting them. There are many sections in which the volume of mails received is comparatively so little that the sorter is himself expected to do this work. If there are any particular sections in which the work justifies the employment of a van peon, it is open to the unions concerned to represent about it to the proper authority and the matter will be examined. In the matter of rest houses again, we do provide rest houses for the staff, which has to spend not merely a few hours but often twenty-four hours or longer. In these rest houses cots and cooking pots are supplied to a small extent, but, knowing the conditions of India, I am sure my Honourable friend will agree that the supply of cooking pots is not likely to be much utilised by the members of the staff as there are so many different communities and castes and cooking pots are not likely to be of much use. (Laughter.)

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Here, again, I have visited some of the rest houses, and in many I found there were no cots there.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Well, all I can say is, if he will tell me the names of those rest houses, I will have the matter examined.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury: Thank you.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Sir, we give in these rest houses an attendant, who looks after the buildings, keeps it clean and is there to render such services as the fetching of water or the lighting of lamps, as required. (Hear, hear.) In the matter of out-station allowances, again, the Honourable Member made comparisons between the travelling allowances of touring officers and the out-station allowances of R. M. S. officers. There is, Sir, no comparison between the two. The very nature of the duties of R. M. S. sorters involves their travelling away from their homes, and in the case of touring officers they are given definite allowances to cover the cost when they are away from their homes. Therefore, there cannot be any comparison between the two. The allowances are fixed on different considerations. In the case of the selection grade sorters and supervisors, the Department has laid down certain standards and I think I must emphasize again that the selection grade posts or the supervisors' posts are not provided for the purpose of giving to the employees an avenue of promotion. The staff is frequently inclined to argue that they have no prospects of promotion and therefore a certain percentage of posts should be put on a higher scale of pay. Government cannot admit that argument. Selection-grade posts or supervisors' posts are given for the performance of specific duties involving higher responsibilities, and Government have, therefore, laid down certain standards on which alone selection-grade posts can be sanctioned, and this matter is always being examined by the heads of circles, and, as the number of staff in any office goes up, more posts are sanctioned, and if the number of posts goes down, the existing posts are abolished. Therefore, unless the Honourable Member is prepared to give me actual examples, I really cannot say whether there is any justifiable grievance on the part of the staff or not. In the matter of relaxation on Sundays and holidays in the Post Office and in the Telegraphs, it is a recognised condition of service in the Posts and Telegraphs Department that a certain amount of work is expected on Sundays and holidays from the staff of the Department. It is on this ground that in fixing the scales of pay some small additional allowance is made. Further, the employees of the Department are given twenty days' casual leave as compared with the twelve days' casual leave which is the normal amount allowed in other Departments of Government. In the Railway Mail Service especially, we maintain a leave reserve of twenty per cent. as compared with seventeen per cent. in the Post Offices in order to enable the staff of the R. M. S. to get their leave whenever required. Further, in the case of the bigger offices we do manage to allow a certain portion of the staff to remain absent on Sundays and holidays on which days there is a natural reduction in the volume of mails that is to be sorted by the staff of the R. M. S. sorting office. This question, Sir, is a very old one and we have been trying to give such concessions to the staff as could be managed without involving an amount of expenditure which would be incommensurate with the advantage gained by the staff and by the Department. In the matter of pay and allowances, my Honourable friend, Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury, only referred to the allowances. He said that while the cut in pay was restored, the cut in allowances was not restored. The fact is this. The house rent and compensatory allowances were reduced by ten per cent. as a permanent measure in view of the fall in the cost of living and therefore have

[Mr. G. V. Bewoor.]

not been restored. But the cut in honoraria and overtime allowances and various other minor allowances have been restored and the staff is now obtaining the same allowances as they used to do before.

As regards the question of Mymensingh, from where my Honourable friend comes, obviously he knows more than I do about the place, and he has been pressing upon me that the scale of allowances given to Mymensingh is insufficient. I can only tell him that it is impossible to discuss this matter here as I have no report from my staff, and if he will send a representation from his staff, I will obtain a report from the Local Government and from my authorities and see what can be done.

In the matter of fuel allowances for Darjeeling, I must admit that I do not understand exactly what the position is. So far as I know, in all these cold places, the Department spend money in order to heat the offices so that when the staff is working in the office they do not suffer from cold. It may be that the Honourable Member wants me to pay fuel allowances for the staff so that they may heat their houses. If that is the case, all I can say is that if he will make a representation I will see whether any such allowances are given in other places which are equally cold.

I will now turn to my Honourable friend, Mr. Giri, who spoke about the Postal Enquiry Committee report. He is aware that we discussed this matter with the Unions and the report was also recently placed before the Standing Advisory Committee for Posts and Telegraphs appointed by this House for their remarks. As regards six monthly meetings, personally I feel that in this department at least we meet our Unions so frequently that the fixation of a six monthly meeting might be considered by the Unions rather as a retrograde than a forward step. As regards the number of the staff employed at present Mr. Giri has undoubtedly some reason for the grievance which he put forward. The financial position of the Department has made it impossible to give the exact amount of staff justified by certain standards. But it must be remembered that the standard is not an exact inathematical standard and is to be considered along with various other factors. We do give the staff according to the standard whenever possible, and now that the financial position is easier, I do not think there is the same complaint as existed sometime ago.

As regards some of the other grievances, they are, as I have stated before, always under our consideration, and we shall continue to try and do the best we can. Before I conclude, there is one small matter which I must mention. My Honourable friend, Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim, referred to steamer services. Apparently he refers to some mail service between Cox's Bazaar and some other place, I forget which, where, he says, the poor mail runners have to work very hard carrying the heavy weights of mails and he suggests that we should give a little more money to the steamer service and let the runners have an easy time at home. I am sure if we ask the runners, they would rather earn some money and carry the bags than sit idle at home and not have the trouble of carrying these bags. Mr. Anwar-ul-Azim also referred to the state of certain post office buildings in Delhi as deplorable. I have obtained a report on this subject, and I understand that, with the exception of the Jumma Musjid post office, every other town post office in Delhi is situated on the first floor of a building. As regards sanitation, the sanitation of the post offices and their surroundings would be of the same standard as the general sanitation

maintained by the municipality. I cannot really ensure a sanitary position higher than what the local municipality maintains. For the convenience of the public, we have got to have our post offices in congested or in bazaar areas, and all we can hope is to have the same standard of sanitation as the general standard. If the sanitation improves generally, our employees will benefit along with all others.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

Position of Minorities in Bengal and Assam Postal Circle.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: All that I wish to say with regard to this motion is contained in the statement which I wish to place before the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must move his cut motion first.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The statement which I wish to lay on the table will be a sufficient reply to whatever the Director General has got to say as regards the position of minorities in Bengal and Assam Circle.

As I said at the beginning, I do not wish to fish in troubled waters. Practically the sun is going down, very much down, and I do not think I have got sufficient heat in me just to make the atmosphere warm. It seems to me really that the Government, in spite of their much vaunted professions with regard to their care of minorities, have turned a deaf ear to all the representations of the minorities, specially the Muslims. I challenge the Government to disprove the statement that I am laying on the table, and the figures contained in that statement are an eloquent testimony to the professions of the Government in regard to the protection of minorities.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let the Honourable Member read out what is contained in that statement so that the House might know.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: This is a statement showing the position of minorities in Bengal and Assam Circle. The House is not at all interested in this question. All these 12 years we have been crying in this House, but the House has not cared for the protection of the minorities.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): I rise to a point of order. The Honourable Member might have been howling in this House for the past 12 years. But what I am now concerned with is this paper. None of the Honourable Members know what is contained in this paper.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member must read out that paper, so that it may go on record.

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: All right, Sir. This is all due to red-tapism of the Department. The figures that I have here are in five columns and in about a dozen compartments. I have given the figures for 1934-35 from the compilation of the Directorate which sits in Delhi and Simla. My submission is that the figures were quoted by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs last year with regard to this subject-matter which was agitated by me on behalf of my constituency; and they have not gone an iota above that; on the contrary, the tendency seems to me to be on the retrograde side. So my submission is that they ought to look round. It will not be fair for the Government of India to say: "We are doing all we can on paper, we are sending telephone messages to so and so and probably our wishes will be respected". But they are not respected in actual reality. This is the only chance that the representatives of the public get to have their say, but how long will this continue? And, year in and year out, every time they say: "I am having a talk with the head of the Circle". As a matter of fact, it does not touch the fringe of my coat. It is creating a very bad misunderstanding so far as the prestige of the Government of India is concerned. I can assure you that I represent nearly five million people in this House, and the Government's diplomatic way of answering these things is causing great discredit to their administration. The so-called steel frame will not be able to keep the administration intact, because, unless and until it is founded on justice, equity and fairplay, these evasive replies will not do. My submission is that they must try to improve the position; they must face facts. Up till now I must say that they have not worked up to their professions.

Sir, I move.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim: Sir, may I read this statement?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair gave the Honourable Member a chance; he did not take it.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I must confess I have found considerable difficulty in following my Honourable friend. I understand that the object of this cut motion is to discuss the position of the minority communities in the Bengal and Assam Circle. He produced a statement which he wished apparently to lay on the table and about which I was left completely puzzled. The Honourable Member has, I think, been a Member of this House as long as I have, and I should have thought that he would have grasped by this time exactly what the position in this matter of recruitment is. I can only repeat on this occasion what has been said in this House times without number, and I hope my Honourable friend will at last grasp that the present position of his community in the Bengal and Assam Circle of the Post Office, in other circles of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, and in other branches of Government service, is a position which has arisen out of past

history going back over a large number of years. That position will be improved as time goes on, as a result of the recent orders of Government. Mr. Maswood Ahmad, who was then a Member of this House, and who was as great a champion of communal representation as my Honourable friend, raised much the same question on this demand two years ago. I then reminded him, as I would do my Honourable friend and other representatives of minority communities here, that the present figures are the result of past history. I went on to say that what we are concerned with today is the present; what I would ask the House to do today is to turn its attention to the figures of new recruitment during the last year. My Department is to be judged by those figures and if my Honourable friend will turn to the tables at the end of the Annual Report of the Posts and Telegraphs Department for 1934-35, I think he will see that Government are honestly and honourably fulfilling the obligations under which they are in this matter of recruitment of minority communities. I will not weary the House with reading these figures; I will ask Honourable Members to turn to page 92 of the Annual Report and they will find that what I have said is perfectly correct. I will merely give a summary of the figures. In 1934 we took 628 Muslims out of a total of 2,184 new recruits, which is well above the proportion of 25 per cent. That, I trust, is a convincing reply to my Honourable friend.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

High Rates for Telephone Trunk Calls.

Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni (Ajmer-Merwara: General): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

By this motion, I wish to protest against the high rates for telephone trunk calls. The mercantile community, Sir, are the biggest users of telephones and most of the revenue of this department comes from this class. For a call of three minutes from Ajmer to Calcutta we have to pay Rs. 9-8-0, from Delhi to Calcutta Rs. 8-8-0, from Delhi to Bombay Rs. 7-12-0, from Delhi to Madras Rs. 10 and from Bombay to Calcutta Rs. 10. These charges are undoubtedly very high. The Posts and Telegraphs Department are making large profits on telephones and so it is high time that the trunk call rates should be reduced now. If the rates are reduced and brought down to a reasonable level, and the telephone service made more efficient the revenue will greatly increase and the business community will also be greatly benefitted.

Sir, the department could well encourage trunk calls by allowing a discount on a graded scale on trunk call bills. For total bills amounting to Rs. 100 or more made from one number, a discount of ten per cent. and for total bills for calls amounting to more than Rs. 200 in a month a discount of 20 per cent. could be given, and this would mean more income

[Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagechand Soni.]

to the department and substantial concession for the permanent subscribers of trunk calls. According to the present rules, an extra 25 per cent. is charged for a particular person trunk call. This too is very excessive and this charge could also be reduced to 10 per cent. Particular calls do not involve any extra labour or difficulty to the Department, and it very often happens that the particular person is not available. In such a case, Sir, the amount that becomes payable is really a great burden on the subscribers. Moreover, when a trunk call is made within the half rate hours, the charge for particular person calls is made on the full rates. In such a case the charges for a particular person call should be 25 per cent. of the half-rate charge. In a case where a called subscriber refuses the trunk connection, the call should not be considered as effective and in such cases half charge should be made and not the full charge. It looks inequitable that the calling subscriber should be made to pay full charges when the called subscriber has refused to reply.

In view of these rules, the users of trunk calls are put to a great loss. I would, therefore, like that, in view of the above facts, the Honourable Member in charge would give his sympathetic consideration and see that the telephone trunk calls are thus made more popular, more efficient and more convenient for the subscribers in general.

With these words, Sir, I move.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: Sir, I rise to support the motion. The telephone at the present moment is the most profitable branch of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. I will give you some figures. The net receipts from telephones in 1934-35 was about Rs. 79½ lakhs, and the expenditure, including interest on capital outlay, was Rs. 56 lakhs. So, there was a net profit of Rs. 23 lakhs, or about 30 per cent. In 1935-36 also, the net receipts are Rs. 83 lakhs, and the total expenditure Rs. 63 lakhs, including interest on capital outlay, or a profit of Rs. 20 lakhs, i.e. 25 per cent. These profits are much too high, and they show that there is ample room for a reduction in the rates. If the rates are reduced the telephones will be more popular than they are now. Telephones are, even now, very popular with the mercantile community, and if the rates are reduced, the traffic is sure to grow, and there will be increased revenues to the Department. Again, the telephone service facilities for trunk telephones in Bengal are very limited at the present moment. There are very few places in which trunk telephone services are available. In the United Provinces and in the Punjab, there are telephones at practically each city, but it is not so in Bengal. I would request my friend, Mr. Bewoor, to give this matter his consideration and to afford trunk telephone facilities in important centres in Bengal. The telephone has become a great necessity for the mercantile community, and they use it freely. I would also like to see the lines increased, especially between Calcutta and Bombay, as I find that the present lines are always very congested, and it is difficult to get calls for a considerable time. With these few words, I support the motion.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Sir, this eloquent appeal from two Members of this House, who can easily afford to pay higher charges, rather falls, I think, flat. The main argument on which the request for reduction is based is that the telephone branch is making a profit.

Babu Baijnath Bajoria: A big profit.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The first point is that posts, telegraphs and telephones have to be considered as a whole, and we cannot take each branch separately. The Department as a whole, it will be noticed, is just managing to meet its expenditure, and there is, therefore, at this juncture no justification for taking the risk of a big loss by a reduction of the rates. At the same time, I do wish to assure the Honourable Member that the question of reducing rates, whenever it is practicable and when such a reduction is likely to bring in a higher revenue on the whole, is always in the mind of the Department, because our aim is to earn more revenue. In pursuance of this policy, we did bring down the rates for telephone subscribers in September 1934 to a very appreciable extent. It is unfortunate that that reduction did not bring the increase in the number of subscribers which we were hoping it would. In the matter of trunk calls again, we gave the public the concession of a maximum charge of Rs. 10. Our critics, I am afraid, are often inclined to forget the size of India, and they make wrong comparisons with other countries. Actually, the rates charged in India for trunk calls challenge comparison with those levied elsewhere in the world. Incidentally, up to a distance of 150 miles the rates charged in India are actually cheaper than those charged in the United Kingdom, which is a highly developed country with a very large telephone trunk traffic and where costs are less owing to the extensive use of cable. Our critics forget that we are now giving a call from Peshawar to Trichinopoly or Madura for a maximum charge of Rs. 10, and, if, distance for distance, you compare the charges in Europe, you will find that our charges are low.

There is a further point to be considered. At the present moment, we have a certain number of circuits connecting the various important centres. With the present charges we are getting an amount of traffic which we find we are unable to handle effectively. If rates are reduced, and traffic increases, we shall only be inviting criticism against delays and making the services unpopular. The first step to take, therefore, is to provide more circuits between the important centres, and that is what we are doing at present. Those Members of the House who are on the Standing Finance Committee will remember that they approved a number of schemes for establishing carrier current apparatus between the important centres. When we have provided these circuits and when we find that the circuits have got spare capacity, the question of reducing the trunk rates with the object of earning, on the whole, a higher revenue will be carefully considered.

As regards the expansion of telephones in the province of Bengal, the Honourable the Mover probably knows that, in the last two years, we have expanded to a very large extent, and I trust he will act as an agent of this Department and secure for us more subscribers. If he does so, I can assure him that I am prepared to open a telephone at every district town in Bengal.

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

"That the demand under the head 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The motion was negatived.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,91,01,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (including Working Expenses)'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 25.—INTEREST ON DEBT AND REDUCTION OR AVOIDANCE OF DEBT.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,80,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Interest on Debt and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 19,80,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Interest on Debt and Reduction or Avoidance of Debt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 26.—INTEREST ON MISCELLANEOUS OBLIGATIONS.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,88,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Interest on Miscellaneous Obligations'."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 68,88,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Interest on Miscellaneous Obligations'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 27.—STAFF, HOUSEHOLD AND ALLOWANCES OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,80,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Staff, Household and Allowances of the Governor General'."

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,80,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Staff, Household and Allowances of the Governor General'."

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Sir, I am glad that by a strange stroke of luck, this demand is open to discussion, at least for some minutes before the guillotine falls. It is one of those demands which rarely come within the scope of discussion in this House; and I want to raise a few points for consideration by those who are in a position to answer my questions. Of course the bulk of this demand, namely, Rs. 10,48,000 is non-votable: but, luckily for us, this sum of Rs. 4,80,000 is voted. Apart from the salary

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I rise to a point of order? The Parties had times fixed for their cuts

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is not raising a point of order.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I am not suggesting that you have no legal right.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Then, there is no point of order . . .

Mr. N. M. Joshi: We have still some cut motions in our name: is it right for organised Parties to take up the time of the House whenever a motion is proposed by opposing or supporting the motion? This time is allotted to the unattached Members and I think the unattached Members should have an opportunity of moving their cut motions.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I think the boot is on the other leg: I am afraid we the organised Parties have been treated less than fairly

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair cannot allow that expression.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: By my friend, not by you, Sir. I am not talking about you, Sir. I am talking of my Honourable friend. It is no use, not having any cut motions, preventing us from speaking on the demands

Mr. N. M. Joshi: There are other cut motions. That was the understanding.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: There was no understanding that we should not speak on these demands, and that we should sit silent with folded hands, while the demands were being made. I am not moving any cut motion: I am simply speaking on the demand as it comes, and I think I am entitled to do so.

I want to know one thing: at page 145, there is the salary of the Governor General; we cannot touch it, then B, C and D—Sumptuary Allowance of the Governor General Rs. 40,000: Expenditure from Contract Allowance Rs. 1,41,840; State Conveyances and Motors Rs. 43,000.

[Mr. S. Satyamurti.]

The details are given at page 146, where we find merely these words repeated, I should like to know on what, these sums are being spent. Are all the people who go to the Viceroy's House fed, and their drinks paid out of this money? I want to know some of the details of this. We had some discussion in the Public Accounts Committee, as to the audit of these accounts: after much discussion, they ultimately agreed to give a certificate. I should like to know how these sums are being spent. Then, we find coming down to various other items of expenditure

Mr. M. S. Aney: Do you want to get a reply? If so, you must stop.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I will stop at five minutes to five. I find that, while the Viceroy gets Rs. 20,000 a month, the servants there get Rs. 14 a month

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: What demand are you discussing?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am talking on Demand No. 27. Then turning to page 145, we find there Tour expenses, Special trains, etc., Rs. 3,25,900 and other charges Rs. 1,45,000 or a total for Tours of Rs. 4,70,900. Are these tours necessary and what purpose do they serve, I should like to know, from the tax payers' point of view? Then we have got the Viceroy's aeroplane, which costs for maintenance and upkeep Rs. 75,000 per annum. I should like to know why they want such a large sum. Then, we have got various other items, and I should like to have some explanation as to how this enormous sum of money is spent on the Viceroy's Staff and Household, and whether they will consider that India, where this Governor General is ruling, is the poorest country in the world, and whether they cannot cut down this expenditure.

Mr. M. S. Aney: And also what was the necessity of having a new Cabinet Secretary added on to this expenditure: I would like to have an explanation on that also.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Can I answer those questions, Sir?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member can give an answer if any question has been put to him, not otherwise.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Sir, I admit I am rather taken by surprise by this manœuvre or motion—it is not a cut motion—I understand

Mr. S. Satyamurti: No manœuvre motion, it is a straightforward speech.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It is not a cut.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: It is a straightforward speech, Sir, against the motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member wants some explanation.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Never having been a Viceroy, never having been a member of a Viceroy's staff, I cannot claim any great familiarity with these items of expenditure

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Then, what is meant by sumptuary allowance?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That is to meet the cost of entertainment.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why should we pay for it?

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): They never get any entertainment there.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Let Sir Cowasji Jehangir pay for it!

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: They don't take any lunch or dinner in Government House.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That is their own fault.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Why should not the Viceroy pay for it? Why should we, the tax-payers, pay for it?

Sir H. P. Mody (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): You are attacking the rights of the minorities.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the contract allowance, Rs. 1,40,800?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: What page is that?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That is at page 145. What are the items, nobody knows.

Mr. F. E. James: May I rise to a point of order, Sir. Is the Honourable Member entitled to make a second speech? He has made one standing up; he is making another speech sitting down. (Laughter.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Nobody else is speaking. What am I to do? I get no answers from Government.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I request you, Sir, to put the motion as there are no people to speak?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I was trying to make a speech when I was interrupted. (Laughter.) Well, Sir, I imagine this contract grant is to meet the miscellaneous expenses connected with the Viceroy's household which are not shown under any other item

Mr. S. Satyamurti: For example?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Viceroy has a very large residence to keep up, in fact he has three residences, and all sorts of miscellaneous expenditure arises for which no special provision is made. I imagine those items come under this contract grant. There is a corresponding provision in the household expenditure of all Governors.

As regards the Viceroy's aeroplane, that, as a matter of fact, is a very economical thing, because it is very much cheaper for His Excellency to travel by air than by train. I know as a matter of fact that when His Excellency travels by train considerable expenditure is incurred, not so much by the Government of India as by Local Governments in making arrangements to patrol the line, and in making special police arrangements. All those things are avoided when His Excellency travels by air, and I can assure the Honourable Member and the House

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Only one minute more! (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: . . . that a substantial saving is effected by travelling by air.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): How often has that aeroplane been used?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Frequently.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Hardly twice.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No, no.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Do the Members of the Executive Council use the aeroplane?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I did once go by the Viceroy's discarded aeroplane

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Will you allow us to use the aeroplane?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, if you pay.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Free ride!

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I was last week offered the use of the Viceroy's old aeroplane to go to Meerut at a cost of Rs. 200. I should have been delighted to have gone if five or six other Members of the Assembly had gone with me to share the expense

(It being Five of the Clock.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Order, order. The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,80,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Staff, Household and Allowances of the Governor General'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 28.—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

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

"That a reduced sum not exceeding Re. 1 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, 1937, in respect of 'Executive Council'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 29.—COUNCIL OF STATE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,34,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Council of State'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 30.—LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,88,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 31.—FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 9,08,900 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, 1937, in respect of 'Foreign and Political Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 32.—HOME DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 7,71,900 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, 1937, in respect of 'Home Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 33.—PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,95,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Public Service Commission'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 34.—LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,20,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Legislative Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 35.—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND LANDS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,12,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Department of Education, Health and Lands'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 36.—FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 10,16,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Finance Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 38.—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,95,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Commerce Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 39.—DEFENCE DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a reduced sum not exceeding Re. 1 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, 1937, in respect of 'Defence Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 40.—DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,47,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Department of Industries and Labour'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 41.—CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,08,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Central Board of Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 42.—PAYMENTS TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ON ACCOUNT OF ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,56,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Payments to Provincial Governments on account of administration of Agency subjects'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 43.—AUDIT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,00,95,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Audit'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 44.—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 69,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 45.—POLICE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,81,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Police'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 46.—PORTS AND PILOTAGE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,66,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 47—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,75,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 48—SURVEY OF INDIA.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,24,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Survey of India'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 49—METEOROLOGY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,06,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 50—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,10,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 51—BOTANICAL SURVEY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,29,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Botanical Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 52—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 95,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Zoological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 53—ARCHÆOLOGY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 11,91,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Archæology'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 54—MINES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,27,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Mines'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 55—OTHER SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENTS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,56,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Other Scientific Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 56—EDUCATION.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,88,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Education'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 57—MEDICAL SERVICES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 6,97,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Medical Services'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 58—PUBLIC HEALTH.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,64,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Public Health'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 59—AGRICULTURE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 30,42,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 60—IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,75,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Imperial Council of Agricultural Research Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 60-A—SCHEME FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL MARKETING IN INDIA.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,60,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Scheme for the improvement of Agricultural Marketing in India'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 61—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,32,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 62—INDUSTRIES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,37,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Industries'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 63—AVIATION.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 22,45,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Aviation'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 63-B—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON CIVIL AVIATION CHARGED TO REVENUE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Civil Aviation charged to Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 64—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,38,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 65—CENSUS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Census'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 66—EMIGRATION—INTERNAL.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Emigration—Internal'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 67—EMIGRATION—EXTERNAL.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,93,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Emigration—External'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 68—JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,29,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Joint Stock Companies'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 69—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,75,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 70—INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,55,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Indian Stores Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 71—CURRENCY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,89,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Currency'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 72—MINT.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 17,10,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Mint'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 73—CIVIL WORKS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,39,95,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Civil Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 74—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,04,84,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 75—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 35,25,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 76—MISCELLANEOUS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,88,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 76-A—EXPENDITURE ON RETRENCHED PERSONNEL CHARGED TO REVENUE.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 20,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Expenditure on Retrenched Personnel charged to Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 76-B—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,65,14,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 77—REFUNDS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,47,32,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Refunds'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 79—BALUCHISTAN.

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

"That a reduced sum not exceeding Rs. 38,61,900 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, 1937, in respect of 'Baluchistan'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 80—DELHI.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 65,89,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Delhi'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 81—AJMER-MERWARA.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 15,55,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Ajmer-Merwara'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 82—ANDAMANS AND NICOBAR ISLANDS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,76,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Andamans and Nicobar Islands'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 83—RAJPUTANA.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,12,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Rajputana'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 84—CENTRAL INDIA.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,29,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Central India'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 85—HYDERABAD.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,45,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Hyderabad'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 85-A—ADEN.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,75,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Aden'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 86—EXPENDITURE IN ENGLAND—SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,33,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Expenditure in England—Secretary of State for India'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 87—EXPENDITURE IN ENGLAND—HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 26,66,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Expenditure in England—High Commissioner for India'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 88—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SECURITY PRINTING.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Security Printing'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 89—FOREST CAPITAL OUTLAY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Forest Capital Outlay'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 90—IRRIGATION.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Irrigation'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 91—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 41,99,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 92-A—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON SCHEMES OF AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT AND RESEARCH.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 7,22,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Schemes of Agricultural Improvement and Research'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 93—CURRENCY CAPITAL OUTLAY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Currency Capital Outlay'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 94—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON VIZAGAPATAM HARBOUR.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 9,93,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Vizagapatam Harbour'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 95—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Lighthouses and Lightships'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 96—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 18,93,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Commuted Value of Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 96-A—EXPENDITURE ON RETRENCHED PERSONNEL CHARGED TO CAPITAL.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Expenditure on Retrenched Personnel charged to Capital'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 97—DELHI CAPITAL OUTLAY.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 23,66,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Delhi Capital Outlay'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 98—INTEREST-FREE ADVANCES.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 73,15,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Interest-free advances'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 99—LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST.

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

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 5,26,45,000 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, 1937, in respect of 'Loans and Advances bearing interest'."

The motion was adopted.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): I am informed, Sir, that an understanding has been reached that a motion for re-committal of the Cantonments Bill to Select Committee will be treated as uncontroversial and will be passed with the minimum of debate. On this understanding, that motion will be given priority in the list of business for Monday next. Thereafter, the Finance Bill will be taken up and will, I presume, occupy the House throughout the week.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 16th March, 1936.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 16th March, 1936.

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.

APPLICATION UNDER THE TRADE DISPUTES ACT SUBMITTED BY THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' UNION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR.

1213. ***Mr. V. V. Giri:** Will Government be pleased to state whether the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Employees' Union has submitted an application under the Trade Disputes Act to the Department of Industries and Labour, and if so, will Government state the action taken thereon?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No such application has been received since 1933. A letter was received in August, from the General Secretary of the Union, asking the Government of India to secure an agreement between the Union and the Railway Administration on certain points. As already stated by the Honourable Member for Railways on the 6th March, 1936, in reply to Mr. Satyamurti's starred question No. 973, the Government of India replied that they were unable to interfere.

STUDENT ENGINEERS DEPUTED BY THE ASSAM AND THE BENGAL GOVERNMENTS FOR TRAINING IN THE LOCO. AND CARRIAGE WORKSHOPS OF THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

1214. ***Mr. Basanta Kumar Das:** (a) How many student Engineers were deputed by the Assam and the Bengal Governments during the last ten years for training in the Loco. and Carriage Workshops of the Assam Bengal Railway at Pahartali and of them how many have since been absorbed by the Assam Bengal Railway by giving them employment and how many of them again are getting monthly salaries of rupees one hundred and over?

(b) What posts, if any, were offered to these student Engineers on completion of their training?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what the scales of pay and prospects of student Engineers are on other class I Railways, and also on the Assam Bengal Railway?

(d) Is it a fact that the student Engineers, who were deputed by the Assam and the Bengal Governments for training at Pahartali Workshop of the Assam Bengal Railway, possess the highest technical education available in India?

(e) Is it a fact that the Assam-Bengal Railway during the last ten years ignored the claims of many student Engineers, deputed by the Government of Assam, and gave appointments to others who were not as qualified as the said student Engineers? If so, are the Railway Board prepared to consider the desirability of directing the Assam-Bengal Railway authorities to give preference to student Engineers from Assam and Bengal in respect of employment in the various technical departments of the Railway?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). Government are informed that seven student engineers were deputed by the Assam Government, during the last ten years, for training in the Locomotive and Carriage Workshop of the Assam Bengal Railway at Pahartali. Two of them have since been absorbed in appointments which the students themselves chose on rates of pay which the Company decided was the market value. None of them is getting a monthly salary of Rs. 100 or over.

(c) On the Assam Bengal and State-managed Railways no pay is given to the student engineers while they are undergoing training nor are they guaranteed any appointment on completion of their training. As regards the other Class I Railways, Government have no information.

(d) Government understand that these student engineers, qualified in the Bengal School of Engineering in the theoretical training, receive practical training in the Assam Bengal Railway. Their training is only in Mechanical Engineering.

(e) Government have no information and the matter is one in which Government do not exercise control.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh: What is the use of training students in technical science if they are not going to be employed by the Government?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I do not know. They need not come.

SHORTAGE OF QUARTERS IN THE PAHARTALI RAILWAY COLONY.

1215. *Mr. Basanta Kumar Das: Is it a fact that there is a shortage of quarters in the Pahartali Railway Colony of the Assam-Bengal Railway and that more than two-thirds of the Railway employees have daily to undertake a journey from Chittagong and adjoining villages and in some cases from a distance of six to seven miles from Pahartali in order to attend to their duties? If so, what steps do the Railway Board propose to take for removing the inconvenience of these Railway employees?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Quarters are not provided for all the staff employed in Pahartali. A workman's train runs to and from Chittagong for the convenience of the employees at Pahartali. Some employees prefer to live in their own houses rather than in Pahartali or Chittagong.

The Agent, Assam Bengal Railway, states that quarters are being built, as funds permit, where it is necessary for staff to live near their work.

INSUFFICIENT ACCOMMODATION IN THE PAHARTALI HOSPITAL.

1216. *Mr. Basanta Kumar Das: (a) Are Government aware that the present hospital accommodation at Pahartali is quite insufficient and that as a matter of fact many persons have to be denied admissions in the hospital?

(b) Is it a fact that there is a proposal to abolish this hospital and transfer it to Chittagong, which is four miles from Pahartali, in the face of opposition of the Railway employees, residents at Pahartali and of the residents of the adjoining villages?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The Agent, Assam Bengal Railway, reports that it is not a fact that the present hospital at Pahartali will be abolished. It is proposed to build an Indian hospital as an adjunct to the existing hospital at Chittagong where indoor patients will be treated in future. The existing hospital at Pahartali will then be used only for out-door patients. This was found to be the best solution as it was found impracticable to extend the existing hospital at Pahartali owing to lack of space and the fact that a place close to the noisy workshops would be unsuitable for a hospital.

HOURS OF WATER SUPPLY AT PAHARTALI.

1217. *Mr. Basanta Kumar Das: (a) Is it a fact that a restriction in the hours of water-supply has recently been introduced at Pahartali, as a result of which European and Anglo-Indian quarters are being supplied with water for twenty-four hours, while in the Indian residential quarters the supply is intermittent, the total period of supply being only eight hours?

(b) Are Government aware that such a restriction in supply of water is causing considerable hardship to Indian residents, most of whom are workshop employees?

(c) Are the Railway Board prepared to consider the desirability of holding a thorough enquiry into the matter and directing the authorities concerned to so regulate the hours of supply as will cause the minimum inconvenience and will lead to the abolition of the discriminatory method of water supply introduced?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) A restriction in the hours of water supply at Pahartali was introduced nine months ago owing to the present installation being insufficient to cope with a continuous supply for 24 hours. The restriction affects all the residents equally.

(b) The hours of opening the supply have been arranged to suit the workshop employees.

(c) No enquiry is considered to be necessary. The restriction is largely due to waste on the part of the staff, which they made no effort to curb, though it was brought to their notice. Continuous efforts are being made to reduce waste and if the staff co-operate the number of the hours of supply can be increased.

RETRENCHED WORKERS AWAITING RE-EMPLOYMENT ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

1218. *Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government be pleased to state the number of workers retrenched in 1932 and 1933 on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, and still awaiting employment?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no information regarding the number of workers retrenched by the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway during 1932-33. The number of retrenched employees awaiting re-employment on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway was 259 on the 31st December, 1935.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government invite the attention of the Railway, to absorb these retrenched men as early as possible, in view of their superior claims for re-employment?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Absorption is taking place under the rules laid down by the Railway Board in this matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government ask the Railway to expedite the absorption of the retrenched hands?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: It depends upon the number of vacancies available.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do the railways employ qualified retrenched men in all vacancies for which such hands are available?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: There are definite rules on the subject that if there are vacancies and if qualified retrenched men are available and if they are willing to accept appointments under the conditions laid down by the railways, they are to be employed.

VACANCIES IN THE MECHANICAL WORKSHOPS ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

1219. *Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government be pleased to state.

(a) the number of vacancies that have occurred in full time working Mechanical Workshops on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway since 1st April, 1933; and

(b) of these, how many were filled up with retrenched men?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no information. This is a matter of detailed administration and Government are not prepared to interfere.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government satisfied that, in respect of this Department, their policy is being faithfully carried out as defined by the Honourable Member just now?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no reason to think that it is not being followed. If specific cases were brought forward which showed that it was not being followed, Government would make a suggestion to the railway with regard to them.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: My specific question in part (a) is :

"The number of vacancies that have occurred in full time working mechanical workshops on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway since 1st April, 1933."

Will Government be good enough to call for information whether, in respect of this particular Department, the policy of the Government is being followed? If not, will they suggest to the Railway that they should follow the policy laid down by Government?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Unless the Honourable Member puts forward some data which would lead the Government to think that it was not being followed, surely it would not be right to go on calling for information with a view merely to seeing whether the policy is being followed.

DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN SHIPPING.

1220. *Mr. S. Satyamurti (on behalf of Seth Govind Das): (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether Sir George Rainy, as Commerce Member, did not state in this House that in case an agreed settlement between British and Indian shipping interests proved impossible, the Government of India would face the situation and would explore other methods including financial help "to remove the obstacles in the way of the development of Indian shipping"?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the refusal of British shipping interests to co-operate with Indian interests in regard to participation in the overseas trade of the country, and whether they are prepared to consider the question of rendering financial aid to such Indian enterprises as are prepared to enter the overseas trade of the country?

(c) If not, will they be pleased to state what other definite measures they propose to take in order to enable Indians to enter the overseas trade of their own country?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) It is presumed that the Honourable Member refers to a statement in the Legislative Assembly made by the Honourable Sir George Rainy on the 23rd September, 1929. If so, the answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the second part of the question, Government are certainly not prepared to consider the question on any such general scale, but are always ready to investigate the merits of any particular application made to them.

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply recently given by me to part (c) of his starred question No. 1057.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to part (b), may I request Government to be good enough to state the extent and the nature of co-operation extended by British shipping interests to Indian shipping interests, in regard to participation in the overseas trade of the country?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I do not know that any occasion has arisen for extending such co-operation.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The question is:

"Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the refusal of British shipping interests to co-operate with Indian interest",

and I think the Honourable Member's answer was in the negative.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government are not aware.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I want to know whether the answer meant that they have not refused to co-operate, or that they are not aware.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government are not aware that there has been any refusal to co-operate.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware that there has been co-operation?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government are not aware of any occasion having arisen for co-operation.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it that, so far as overseas trade is concerned, Indian shipping interests have no part or lot in it?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I believe there was a question put down by the Honourable Member to that effect with regard to which I said that I was collecting information and that I would place the same on the table as soon as it was ready.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to part (c), may I know if Government are now in a position to state a little more in detail the definite measures they propose to take, in order to enable Indians to enter overseas trade?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I can only repeat what I have said on a previous occasion that, if occasion arises, Government are prepared to use their influence in the matter of bringing about some kind of co-operation and understanding between the different interests.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Other than negotiation, have Government taken any definite steps for the furtherance of Indian shipping?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have made a pretty detailed statement in answer to a question previously put by Mr. Satyamurti on this subject.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: The Honourable Member said that they were helping by negotiation the furtherance of Indian shipping interests. I want to know whether Government have taken any steps other than negotiations by way of giving help to the shipping interests in order to develop Indian shipping interests?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: If the Honourable Member would specify the kind of steps that he thinks Government might take to further Indian shipping interests, I would be able to answer whether they are or are not taking such steps.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: By way of reservation of coastal trade, by way of subsidies or bounties to Indian shipping, or by helping the companies to build bigger ships on a higher tonnage which might carry further trade?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: With regard to coastal trade, the Honourable Member is aware that certain arrangements have been brought about in one case by an award of my predecessor, and in another case by the use of his influence in the matter, between certain companies. There are no subsidies being paid, nor any reservation being made.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: May I know if Indian ships are now fully employed?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, I do not think so.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: Why do not Government take some steps to give them full work?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I do not think any shipping company on any large scale has all its shipping employed these days.

ALLEGATIONS OF FRAUD IN CONNECTION WITH IRWIN HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI.

1221. ***Mr. M. Asaf Ali:** (a) Is it a fact that in connection with Irwin Hospital, New Delhi, a state of affairs has been discovered in the course of auditing of connected documents which reveals:

- (i) that the lowest tender of an experienced contractor, who had previously handled big works, was rejected; and
- (ii) that bills for running payment have been passed by the Engineer concerned which, in respect of certain items, exceed the tendered rates by 100 per cent. or so?

(b) Has the Honourable Member in charge of the Department which is responsible for supervising the construction of Irwin Hospital and for passing the bills of contractors, taken any step to institute an inquiry by an independent authority into the implied allegation of fraud?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a), (i). No. Three contractors were passed over because it was considered that they could not successfully undertake work of this magnitude.

I regret that the particulars given for the Irwin Hospital contract, in the statement which I placed on the table, in reply to Mr. Sham Lal's question No. 781, on the 25th of February, 1936, were not quite accurate and with your permission, Sir, I will now lay a corrected statement on the table.

(a), (ii). Yes.

(b). Yes.

Revised statement showing in respect of certain works, the lowest amounts tendered, the amount of the accepted tender and the names and class of contractors, if any, whose quotations for the same works were between the lowest and the accepted tender.

Name of project.	Lowest amount tendered.	Amount of accepted tender and the name of the contractor.	Names and class of contractors, if any, whose quotations were between the lowest and the accepted tender.	Remarks.
(1) <i>Irwin Hospital</i>	Rs. 8,68,501	Rs. 9,65,261 S. S. Ranjit Singh.	Rs. 8,77,712 Mr. Sant Ram Nathu Ram. 9,58,523 S. Sewa Singh Gill, Class I.	Only select- ed tenders were evalu- ated.
(2) <i>Pusa Agricultural Research Institute (residential and non-residential sections).</i>	15,44,976	15,56,942 R. B. Seth Lachman Das.	..	The non-residential section was not separately considered.
(3) <i>'D' Type quarters built during 1935 in City Extension Area.</i>	4,54,400	4,72,000 S. S. Ranjit Singh.	4,64,000 R. B. Seth Lachman Das, Class I	

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: May I know if the Chief Engineer is going on leave and another engineer who is also involved is going to officiate as Chief Engineer?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No decision has been reached in the matter. I am not even sure that the Chief Engineer has yet applied for leave.

BANNING OF CERTAIN BOOKS CONTAINING PASSAGES AGAINST THE HINDU AND MUSLIM RELIGIONS.

1222. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** (a) Is it a fact that a recent book of Miss Mayo, entitled "Face of Mother India", has been banned from entry in India?

(b) Have Government seen publications on behalf of the Christian Missions of India, for instance, the Reverend Mr. Cape's book on "Benares", wherein the well-known Hindu god Ganesha is described as a 'vision of ugliness' and the English prayer book in which India is referred to as 'where man alone is vile'?

(c) Do Government propose to ban these books?

(d) Has the attention of Government been drawn to passages in Scott's "Talisman" and in Wells' "Outlines of History", where the Muslim Prophet and faith are traduced?

(e) Do Government propose to ban these books also?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the replies given by me on the 6th March, to Mr. Satyamurti's and Seth Govind Das' questions Nos. 966 and 995, respectively.

(b) Government have not seen the former publication, nor is there any reference in the English Prayer Book such as is suggested in the question. The Honourable Member appears to be misquoting an English hymn.

(c) No.

(d) No.

(e) No.

Sardar Sant Singh: What is that hymn?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It is a well-known hymn composed by Bishop Heber. The reference is not to India.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: With reference to clause (b), if it is a misquotation, may I have the right quotation?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, Sir.

"What though the spicy breezes,

Blow soft o'er Ceylon's isle.

Though every prospect pleases

And only man is vile."

I understand that in the latest edition of "Hymns, Ancient and Modern", the word "Ceylon" has been changed to "Java". (Loud Laughter.)

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Why are Government so sensitive about such criticisms? How can people reform themselves unless their manners and customs are allowed to be criticised by others?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The Honourable Member is asking me a part of his question which was disallowed by the Chair.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On what grounds has the entry of "The Face of Mother India" been banned in this country?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I would refer the Honourable Member to the previous answers to Mr. Satyamurti's question on the 6th March.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have any steps been taken with respect to this book in countries other than India?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Questions on that point have been answered already.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What is the exact principle which Government follow in banning books like this?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It depends on the circumstances of each case.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What were the exact circumstances of this case?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have already stated that in reply to Mr. Satyamurti's question on the 6th March.

CANCELLATION OF THE ORDER FOR THE ARREST OF MR. AMARENDRA NATH CHATTOPADHYAYA, M. L. A.

1223. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the District authorities of Tamuk Sub-division have ordered the arrest of Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, M.L.A., in connection with his proposed visit to some parts of the District;
- (b) whether after the order for his arrest was passed, it was cancelled by the higher authorities later;
- (c) whether they were consulted in this matter at any time?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) No.

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

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With regard to the answer to clause (a), may I know if it means that Government are not aware, or that the District Magistrate did not order the arrest of Mr. Chattopadhyaya?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It means the latter.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: In view of the very definite statement made by the Honourable Member, Pandit Maitra, have Government made any further investigations into the matter?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Yes, Sir.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: And what is the result of those inquiries?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The result is what I have stated.

ALLEGED IRREGULAR ALLOTMENT OF CERTAIN QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

1224. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Is it a fact that certain 'D' type quarters belonging to the Posts and Telegraphs Department in Lumsden Square and Sumru Place, New Delhi, are placed at the disposal of the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate?

(b) Is it a fact that under the rules, family quarters in New Delhi are intended only for married clerks, including widowers and widows with children?

(c) Is it a fact that 'D' type quarters are allotted to only those employees who are in receipt of pay exceeding Rs. 75 but not exceeding Rs. 224 per mensem?

(d) Is it a fact that the board referred to in starred question No. 1384, dated the 22nd November, 1932, still exists?

(e) Is it a fact that any infringement in the allotment rules requires the sanction of the Governor General in Council?

(f) If the replies to parts (a) to (e) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the allotment of all the quarters referred to in part (a) above have been made by any particular officer, or by the board strictly under the rules quoted in reply to part (d) of the question referred to in part (d) above? If not, will Government please state reasons in support of the irregular allotment of each quarter, quoting the number and date of the sanction of the Governor General in Council, rectifying the infringement of the rules?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes, so far as the quarters built by the Public Works Department are concerned. The Posts and Telegraphs Department have not built 'E' type quarters and it is open to them to allot to their officials who draw a pay of Rs. 75 and less, a 'D' type quarter instead.

(d) Yes.

(e) The Honourable Member presumably refers to the Public Works Department allotment rules contained in the Supplementary Rules—if so, these rules do not apply to such quarters as have been built by the Posts and Telegraphs Department for the accommodation of its own staff.

(f) Of the 30 quarters which were placed at the disposal of the Director General, 21 were surrendered to the Postmaster-General, Punjab, in October, 1934. Of the remaining nine quarters, some were allotted by a Board but most by the Senior Deputy Director General and preference was given to married men or unmarried men with dependants. There was no irregularity and, therefore, no case calling for the special sanction of Government.

SUPPLY OF BULLS AND BUFFALOES TO THE CULTIVATORS.

1225. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of asking all the Local Governments in general and the Government of Bihar and Orissa in particular to spend a portion of the Rural Uplift Fund in supplying, free of charge, good breeding bulls and buffaloes to the cultivators for the improvement of the agricultural cattle?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: This is a matter for the Local Governments to consider. The Honourable Member will find from the White Paper circulated on the 6th of September, 1935, that several Local Governments, for example, Bombay, Bengal, Central Provinces, Coorg and Ajmer-Merwara have included, in their development programmes, cattle breeding and improvement of live stock.

GRANT OF CERTAIN CONCESSIONS IN POSTAL RATES FOR SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS.

1226. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have received any representation from the General Secretary of

the National Academy of Sciences, India, Allahabad, regarding grant of certain concessions in postal rates for scientific journals?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what action has been taken in this connection?

(c) Is it a fact that in the United States of America and certain other countries, concessions in postal rates are allowed to scientific publications? If so, will Government be pleased to state if they are aware of the nature of concessions so allowed?

(d) What is the total number of scientific publications and journals annually published in India?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state if they have considered the approximate amount of loss that will be entailed by Government allowing the scientific publications the concessions that the postage may be charged for their transit at rates which are half of the registered newspapers?

(f) In the interest of promotion of scientific knowledge, are Government prepared to consider the advisability of granting the aforesaid concession in postal rates?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the reply given to the General Secretary is placed on the table of the House.

(c) It is a fact that in the United States of America, a concession is granted to newspapers and periodicals registered as second class mail matter. The rate of postage on such articles when posted by members of the public is 1 cent. per 2 ozs. or part thereof. As the Honourable Member does not specifically mention other countries, I am unable to supply further information but, generally speaking, in most countries, as well as in India, concession rates of postage are given to newspapers and periodicals which are registered with the Post Office and fulfil certain conditions.

(d) Government have no information.

(e) The loss cannot be ascertained in view of the reply to (d) above.

(f) Concessions are already granted to registered newspapers and periodicals in India and Government do not consider that any further concessions would be justified.

COPY OF D. G.'S REPLY TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY, THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, INDIA, ALLAHABAD.

In reply to your letter No. RT/1, dated the 10th February, 1936, I am directed to say that this office has no exact information regarding the concession mentioned in para. 4 of your letter to the effect that scientific journals registered at any post office in the United States of America are treated as second class mail matter and are charged at half the rate admissible for a registered newspaper. It has been ascertained however, from the U. S. A. official Postal Guide of July, 1935, that in the U. S. A. internal postal service, the rate of postage on newspapers and periodical publications registered as second class mail matter is one cent. for each 2 oz. or fraction thereof, when posted by persons other than the publisher or a news agent. According to the table of equivalents maintained in this office, this rate would work out to 8.7 pies per 5 tolas approximately. According to the current exchange rate, however, the equivalent would approximately be 6 pies per 5 tolas. Assuming that your information

as to half the rate mentioned being applicable to registered scientific journals is correct, it follows that such journals would be charged $\frac{1}{2}$ a cent. per 2 oz. or 4.3 pies for 5 tolas or fraction thereof according to the official table of equivalents or 3 pies approximately for 5 tolas or fraction thereof according to the current market rate. This rate, you will notice compares unfavourably with the Indian rate applicable to registered newspapers and magazines, which is 3 pies for 8 tolas or fraction thereof.

2. It is further seen from the U. S. A. Official Postal Guide that newspapers and periodicals not registered for treatment as second class mail matter would come under the category of third class mail matter for which the postage rate is $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents for each 2 oz. up to a maximum weight of 8 oz. This rate again does not compare favourably with the Indian rate of postage on book packets (which include unregistered newspapers and periodicals) which is 9 pies for the first 5 tolas and only 6 pies for every 5 tolas thereafter.

3. In the circumstances explained above, the Director-General trusts that you will agree that in comparison with the U. S. A. rates of postage, there is absolutely no case for reducing the already favourable Indian rates of postage on registered and unregistered newspapers and periodicals.

SUPPLY OF REGISTERED NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES FREE OF POSTAGE TO VILLAGE LIBRARIES AND READING ROOMS.

1227. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** Are Government prepared to consider the feasibility of allowing registered newspapers and magazines being sent free of postage to all the village reading-rooms and libraries?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No.

ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT TO RURAL UPLIFT WORK.

1228. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** Will Government be pleased to state what assistance, if any, is being given by the postal department to rural uplift work?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The Postal Department has no direct concern with village uplift work.

ADDITIONAL STAFF MAINTAINED FOR LEAVE ARRANGEMENTS IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

1229. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if any additional hands are maintained for leave arrangements amongst the postmen and lower subordinate postal employees?

(b) If so, what is their percentage as compared with the total number of such employees?

(c) Will Government state at what percentage are additional hands maintained for leave arrangements amongst the clerks and other higher grade postal employees?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) and (b). In some of the larger post offices there are probationary or reserve postmen who are available to act as a leave reserve for the postmen cadre, but their numbers are not fixed according to any definite percentage. In the majority of post offices however there is no such leave reserve and vacancies due to leave are filled by the promotion of suitable members of the inferior staff. Ordinarily, there is no leave reserve in post offices, for the inferior staff and leave vacancies in that cadre are filled by suitable outsiders.

(c) There is no separate leave reserve for gazetted officers in the postal branch of the Department. In the clerical cadre a leave reserve of 17 per cent. has been fixed for post offices and of 10 per cent. for Circle offices. In the Railway Mail Service, the leave reserve is 20 per cent. in India and 25 per cent. in Burma.

CASUAL AND PRIVILEGE LEAVE, ETC., ALLOWED TO POSTMEN.

1230. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saxena:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the gazetted holidays, the amount of casual and privilege leave to which postmen are entitled under the existing rules?

(b) Are Government aware that the postmen and lower grade postal employees are not able to avail themselves of the privilege and casual leave, because of the inadequate number of additional hands necessary for leave arrangements?

(c) If so, are Government prepared to take necessary steps to see that these employees are able to avail themselves of their duly earned leave without any difficulty?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) As regards gazetted holidays in the Post Office, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to clause 2 of the Posts and Telegraphs Guide published in April, 1935, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. The maximum amount of casual leave admissible to postmen is 20 days in a year. The amount of privilege leave due to postmen is governed by the provisions of the Civil Service Regulations in the case of staff who did not elect to come under the Fundamental Rules. Both the privilege leave and leave on average pay are generally equivalent to one-eleventh of the period spent on duty. No Government servant, however, is entitled to claim leave as a right.

(b) Government are aware that difficulty arises sometimes in the matter of granting casual leave to postmen and lower grade postal employees, but they are not aware that such staff cannot get privilege leave or leave on average pay. I may also explain that casual leave is not earned leave like privilege leave or leave on average pay and its grant is always subject to the exigencies of the service.

(c) Does not arise, in view of the reply to part (b).

NON-SUPPLY OF SANCTIONED WINTER UNIFORM TO POSTMEN IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

1231. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saxena:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what uniform is supplied to postmen for summer and winter?

(b) Is it a fact that for reasons of economy postmen in the United Provinces are not given the sanctioned uniform for winter?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state the total amount of savings made on this account?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Postmen are supplied with a drill shirt or coat, drill trousers or shorts, a *nugree* and in some cases, a pair of *puttees* as their summer uniform. In stations where the climate is cold for certain months of the year but not very cold, these officials are supplied with a woollen jersey in addition to the drill garments. Where the winter is severe

and prolonged, they are supplied with serge garments in addition to the drill garments.

The scale and periodicity of supply of these garments vary according to the importance of the stations to which the officials are attached.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

HOISTING OF NATIONAL FLAG ON GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

1232. ***Mr. Mohan Lal Saxena:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state under what law, if any, is the Union Jack flown as the flag of India?

(b) Are Government aware of the desire of Indian people to have a national flag of India instead of the Union Jack?

(c) Are they aware that in pursuance of that desire, the Indian National Congress has adopted a tri-coloured flag of khadi with a spinning wheel in the centre as the national flag of India?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of recognising the national flag and hoisting it on all Government buildings?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) The distinctive flag of India is that provided for the Viceroy and Governor-General, *viz.*, the Union Jack having in its centre the Star of India surmounted by the Tudor Crown. It is not prescribed by any law.

(b), (c) and (d). The question whether any more suitable flag should be adopted has been considered from time to time and when the question was raised in 1931 in another place it was stated that Government while sympathising with the suggestion that India should have, as the Dominions have, a distinctive flag under the British flag considered that this question might best be decided when the Federation of India had come into being. Government are aware that the Indian National Congress has adopted its own flag.

INCOME-TAX PAYEES REQUIRED TO PAY DOUBLE FEES FOR THE EDUCATION OF THEIR CHILDREN IN DELHI.

1233. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Is it a fact that in the province of Delhi, all income-tax payees have to pay as tuition fees for the education of their children in Government schools and colleges, fees twice as much as are ordinarily chargeable from other students of the same class, for the study of the same subjects and also for the same amount of labour and if so, according to which rules or principles?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: No.

EFFECT GIVEN TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE.

1234. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Have the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture been given effect to, and if so, to what extent and in what direction?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to his question No. 1309 on the 1st April, 1935.

OFFER BY THE HIMALAYAN AIRWAYS, LIMITED, TO CARRY AIR MAILS TO LAHORE VIA DELHI.

1235. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Have Government received a representation that the Himalayan Airways Limited offers to carry mails by air to Lahore *via* Delhi at the usual rates and without any subsidy?

(b) Is not the cost of such transport *via* Delhi, less than the present cost from Karachi to Lahore as increased by the subsidy?

(c) If the cost is less, why do Government propose to give subsidy to the Indian Airways Limited?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given on the 9th March, 1936, to part (a) of his question No. 1022.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

PURCHASE OF CUSTOMS RIGHT IN THE KATHIAWAR STATE.

1236. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) What is the price for which the customs right in the Kathiawar State was purchased by Government and what may be the probable cost of further purchases?

(b) What is the amount of annual gain to Government by such a purchase, or the amount of the probable loss that might be avoided?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the compensation paid for the purchase of customs rights in certain States and Estates bordering on Cutch. If so, he will find the total amount of the annual payments involved on page 16 of the Demands for Grants, 1936-37.

(b) It is not possible to estimate the annual gain to Government. It is sufficient to say that without the imposition of the line, foreign dutiable goods could have entered British India without paying any customs duty to Government. As Cutch levies duty at rates lower than the British Indian tariff, the import of goods by this route might have assumed very large proportions.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How long has this system been working? That is to say, after the payment of compensation, are Government satisfied on inquiries that it is working satisfactorily?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: It has been working for some months. We have no reason to suppose that it is not completely effective. But no special inquiry has been made at the moment except to satisfy ourselves in a general way that the line is effectively administered.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the new arrangements, after this arrangement has been entered into by the payment of this large sum, in order to get full benefit for the British Indian taxpayer of this large sum?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I think the Honourable Member must be referring to the negotiations with the larger Kathiawar States. As I have said before, I will make a statement as to the position in that regard as soon as I possibly can, and I hope it will not be very long now.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am only asking whether, in return for such compensation as we pay, we are getting the full value.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I think we are getting quite good value. The compensation payable is about Rs. 19,000 and the possible hole in our customs revenue is infinitely larger than that.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Has the hole been completely closed?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Yes, we think so.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Apart from thought, Rs. 19,000 is a very large sum. Have Government made any inquiries or do they hope to make any inquiries to see that the hole is completely closed?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The Government of India are administering the line.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What proportion does the amount of compensation which is now sought to be paid bear to the amount of customs duties that the Kathiawar States were receiving?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: The Honourable Member had better put that down.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Was it without any reference to such proportion as that that the compensation was fixed?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: All relevant considerations were taken into account.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what that proportion is?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already answered that question.

INDIAN SHIPS PLYING ON THE COAST OF GREAT BRITAIN, ETC.

1237. *Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Are any Indian ships plying on the coast of Great Britain?

(b) What is the number of English and other foreign ships and Indian ships carrying on coastal shipping in India?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) So far as Government are aware the answer is in the negative.

(b) According to the information available with the Government of India there are 87 British steam ships and 63 Indian steam ships employed in the coastal trade of India and no foreign ships are regularly so employed. The above figures are, however, only approximate, as it is not possible to give exact figures of the number of ships employed in the coastal trade at any particular time owing to the fact that many vessels which are ordinarily employed in foreign trade are occasionally used in the coastal trade. There is also a large coastal trade carried on by Indian-owned sailing ships, but statistics as to the number of ships engaged in it are not readily available.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know the total tonnage of shipping?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I shall require notice of that question.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Is the Honourable Member in a position to enlighten us as to the volume of trade that is being carried on?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: The total yearly value of the trade?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have not got the information here. If it can be got and the Honourable Member puts down a question, I shall answer it.

DESIRABILITY OF RUNNING THE BOMBAY-CALCUTTA MAIL VIA ALLAHABAD AND BENARES.

1238. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of urging upon the railway authorities concerned to run the Bombay-Calcutta (via Jubbulpore) Up and Down Mails, via Allahabad-Janghai-Benares, instead of via Cheoki and Mirzapur and thus enable these Mail trains to touch the important centres of Benares and Allahabad, which are now connected by shuttle or other corresponding trains with these mails?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to this and questions Nos. 1239 and 1241 together.

It is not practicable for Government to take any part in arranging for train services on individual railways: but I am communicating the Honourable Member's suggestions to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for consideration.

It is the practice on the East Indian Railway to discuss changes proposed in the half-yearly time-tables with their Local Advisory Committee.

STARTING OF 15 UP EAST INDIAN RAILWAY TRAIN FROM MOGHALSARAI.

†1239. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: (a) What exactly is the point in running the 15 Up East Indian Railway Passenger train from Allahabad to Delhi when the corresponding 16 Down goes from Delhi right up to Moghalsarai?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1238.

(b) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of recommending to the railway to start the Up train from Moghalsarai as before?

NON-AVAILABILITY OF INTERMEDIATE CLASS TICKETS FROM MUTTRA TO STATIONS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1240. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: (a) Are Government aware that intermediate class tickets are not available from Muttra (Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway) to stations on the East Indian Railway via Hathras and that passengers, in consequence, suffer great inconvenience at Hathras in re-booking in view of the shortness of time available between connecting trains?

(b) Are Government prepared to instruct the railway authorities concerned to arrange for the through booking of passengers?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) The Agent of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, states, that intermediate class tickets are available at Muttra for stations on the East Indian Railway, via Hathras.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that I could not get one? (Laughter.)

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That is a point on which the Honourable Member alone can give information.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: The Honourable Member may take it as true that I could not get one and communicate it to the persons concerned.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I must accept it as a fact. I suppose the Honourable Member wanted a ticket to some station for which a printed ticket was not available at the time.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: The booking office refused to give me a ticket at all.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: Probably they thought that a Member of the Legislative Assembly should not travel in the intermediate class.

(Mr. Sri Prakasa stood up.)

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member, the Chair supposes, wants to make a statement and follow it up with a question.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: I shall put a mark of interrogation at the end. Is it not a fact that when a passenger wants an intermediate class ticket from Muttra to, let us say, Tundla, which was the case in point, he is not given one? He is only given a third class ticket to Hathras, where he has to re-book. Will Government see that this anomaly is removed on the ground that there are only very few minutes available for the passenger to re-book at Hathras?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have already stated that Government are informed that it is not so.

THROUGH RAILWAY SERVICE BETWEEN DELHI AND CALCUTTA VIA MUTTRA,
AGRA, ETC.

†1241. *Mr. Sri Prakasa: (a) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of arranging through railway service between Delhi and Calcutta via Muttra, Agra, Allahabad, Benares and Gaya as used partially to be the case before, to enable passengers to touch these various pilgrim centres in one run?

(b) Are Government prepared to recommend the present 7 Up and 8 Down of the East Indian Railway to be diverted along this route?

MAINTENANCE OF LEAVE RESERVE IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

1242. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Is it a fact that according to standing orders, a leave reserve is to be maintained for working in leave vacancies of the clerks in the Postal Department?

(b) Is it a fact that according to orders the leave reserve is to be maintained at a ratio of 17 per cent. of the sanctioned clerical staff?

(c) Is it a fact that in the Bengal and Assam Circle a leave reserve at the above ratio is not being maintained?

(d) Are Government aware that owing to want of reserve hands the clerical staff of the above Circle are not getting leave when necessary?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes.

(b) A leave reserve at the following percentages is ordinarily fixed in the different branches of the Post Office and R. M. S. for the clerical staff:

Circle offices and Dead Letter Offices	per cent. 10
Post Offices	17
R. M. S.	20 (India) 25 (Burma).

(c) and (d). No.

PENSION PAYMENT WORK OF RETIRED POSTAL OFFICIALS.

1243. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Is it a fact that since 1st April, 1935 pension payment work of retired postal officials has been entrusted to the Postal Department?

(b) Is it a fact that this measure has increased the volume of work of different Post Offices?

(c) Is it a fact that no additional hand has been sanctioned for the purpose?

(d) How many retired officials have been drawing pension at present?

(e) How many men were engaged on pension payment work prior to its transfer to the Postal Department?

(f) Are Government prepared to sanction the same number of hands to the Post Office for this extra work? If not, why not?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1238.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) Yes, except that the pensions sanctioned prior to the 1st April, 1921, to the employees of the Posts and Telegraphs Department are not paid from post offices but continue to be paid from Civil Treasuries.

(b) Yes, but only to a comparatively small extent.

(c) As the increase in work in each individual office is comparatively small, no additional staff has so far been sanctioned for any post office specifically for the work connected with the payment of pensions. Heads of Circles have, however, been instructed to watch the position and to sanction such additional staff as may be found to be justified for the additional work.

(d) 16,476.

(e) Prior to the introduction of the scheme for the payment of pensions by post offices, the pensioners of the Posts and Telegraphs Department were paid their pensions by Civil treasuries like Government pensioners of other Departments. No information is available regarding the staff employed in treasuries solely in connection with the payment of post and telegraph pensions.

(f) Does not arise in view of the replies to parts (c) and (e) above.

SANCTION OF ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR PENSION PAYMENT WORK IN THE
CALCUTTA GENERAL POST OFFICE.

1244. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many retired officials are drawing pension through the Calcutta General Post Office and its Town Sub-Offices?

(b) How many additional hands have been sanctioned to cope with this extra piece of work in Calcutta?

(c) Is it a fact that this extra pension work has been entrusted to the Savings Bank Branch of the Calcutta General Post Office?

(d) Are Government aware that the Savings Bank Branch of the Calcutta General Post Office is already overworked and sanction of additional hands as required under the time-test is overdue?

(e) Are Government aware that owing to thrusting of this extra pension payment work, the hardships of the staff are further aggravated?

(f) Are Government prepared to take immediate action to review the statistics of the above branch and sanction the additional number of hands?

(g) If so, when? If not, why not?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) 687.

(b) No additional staff has been sanctioned, the work being carried on by the existing staff with some assistance from spare staff available from other branches. In this connection, I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me just now to his starred question No. 1243.

(c) to (e). No.

(f) and (g). Do not arise.

SANCTION OF ADDITIONAL STAFF FOR THE MONEY ORDER DEPARTMENT IN THE CALCUTTA GENERAL POST OFFICE.

1245. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will Government be pleased to state when the statistics of the Money Order Department of Calcutta General Post Office were last reviewed?

(b) How many additional hands have been sanctioned for the department during the last two years?

(c) Sanction of how many additional hands was found to be justified according to Bewoor Time-test?

(d) Is it a fact that owing to excessive work the staff have to work usually in that department for ten hours daily?

(e) Are Government aware that the work has tremendously increased recently owing to floating of money circulating chain by different registered Companies in Calcutta?

(f) Is it a fact that as a result of this the staff who attend office at 10 A.M. cannot leave office before 10 P.M.?

(g) Are Government prepared to take immediate steps to review the statistics of the above branch and sanction required hands?

(h) If so, when? If not, why not?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) The statistics were last reviewed in May, 1935.

(b) and (c). Five additional hands were sanctioned in 1934 and two in 1935. These sanctions were justified by the time test.

(d) No.

(e) There was only a temporary increase of work.

(f) No. Additional staff was provided during the period of temporary increase of work.

(g) and (h). Do not arise in view of the replies to parts (a) to (f).

OFFICIALS CONVICTED IN THE BENGAL AND ASSAM POSTAL CIRCLE.

1246. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of this House a statement showing the number of officials convicted during the last three years in Bengal and Assam Circle under the heads (1) Sub-Postmasters and clerks, (2) postmen and overseers, (3) inferior service and (4) E. D. As.?

(b) Is it a fact that the number of E. D. As. is very heavy in the list of convictions in all the Circles?

(c) Are Government aware that the Sub-Postmasters in charge of shopkeepers in Great Britain are paid liberal allowances based on the volume of work handled by them?

(d) Is it a fact that in India there are many offices in charge of E. D. As. which have responsible work but are paid less allowance?

(e) Are Government aware that the All-India (including Burma) Postal and Railway Mail Service Union pointed out many defects in the formula prescribed by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs for allowance of the E. D. As.?

(f) Are Government prepared to revise the formula and increase the allowance of the E. D. As.?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) A statement giving the information is placed on the table.

(b) The number of extra departmental agents convicted is large in comparison with the number of persons belonging to the class of sub-postmasters and clerks and inferior servants, but it is not very large compared with the number of postmen and overseers convicted of offences.

(c) Government have no information.

(d) I am unable to say whether the allowances paid in India are less than those paid in Great Britain. But I may point out that in India also the allowance is fixed according to a standard based on the volume of work done in the office.

(e) A representation was received from the All-India (including Burma) Postal and Railway Mail Service Union in this connection. It was carefully examined but no revision of the prescribed standard was considered necessary.

(f) No; suitable men are available on the allowances fixed according to the standard in force. Moreover in special cases a higher allowance is permitted to be fixed with the Director-General's sanction if suitable men are not forthcoming on the allowance justified by the prescribed standard.

Statement.

Year.	Sub-Postmasters and Clerks.	Postmen and Overseers.	Inferior servants.	Extra-departmental agents.
1932-33	5	23	2	32
1933-34	9	13	1	23
1934-35	5	13	3	20

1247. *Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: Sir, I do not put question No. 1247.

DEGRADATION OF STAFF IN THE GEODETIC BRANCH OF THE SURVEY OF INDIA,
DEHRA DUN.

1248. ***Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra:** (a) Has the Director, Geodetic Branch, Survey of India, Dehra Dun, issued one 'Geodetic Branch Standing Order No. 12 on the 10th of August, 1935, on the subject of 'Reclassification of Officers of the Lower Subordinate Service who have been in their class for five years'? If so, will Government please state why such steps is taken? Does such degradation exist in other services of the Survey of India, or in the same service in other departments of the Government? Will Government be pleased to lay a copy of the order on the table?

(b) Is it a fact that in sub-paragraph 2 of paragraph 4 of the same order it is mentioned that 'Such reduction in class are in no way indicative of special fault or misdemeanour'? If so, will Government please state why people are degraded in their old age?

(c) Is it a fact that no less than half a dozen men of this service are degraded as per Geodetic Branch Routine order No. 6, dated the 18th January, 1936, with the remark that 'Reduction in class of the following men who have been in their existing classes for five years have been ordered by the Director, Geodetic Branch, from 1st January, 1936, because these men are no longer considered fit for retention in these classes' (*vide* paragraph 6 of the above Routine Order)?

(d) Is it also a fact that three men are degraded with the remark that 'The following class reductions of men who have not been for years in existing class are ordered from 1st January, 1936, because these men are not considered fit for retention in their present classes' (*vide* paragraph 7 of the same routine order) and that the pay of 13 persons is reduced (*vide* paragraph 5 of the same routine order)?

(e) Is it a fact that the promotion to the highest class of this service is not effected ordinarily before 15 or 20 years of good service?

(f) Are Government prepared to ask the Director, Geodetic Branch, Survey of India, to re-instate all the officers of the Lower Subordinate Service mentioned in the Routine Order No. 6 of the 18th January, 1936, and to withdraw the Geodetic Branch Standing Order No. 12 of the 10th August, 1935?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a)—(f). Such orders as are mentioned by the Honourable Member in the first sentence of his question were issued. Government are at present investigating the matter and will communicate the result to the House in due course.

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

1249. ***Babu Kailash Behari Lal:** Will Government be pleased to state what Government publications are supplied to the Honourable Members of this House, and what is the principle followed in supplying the Government publications to the Honourable Members?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to part (d) of Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's unstarred question No. 121 on the 27th February, 1935.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that several of these publications are destroyed from time to time, because they cannot be sold, will Government consider the advisability of supplying to Members of this House copies of the following reports:

Agricultural Statistics, Season and Crop Reports, Seaborne Trade, Revenue and Trade Statistics, Indian Trade Journal?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: If my Honourable friend will send me the particulars he has read out in his question, I will see what can be done.

Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar: What is the answer to the second part of the question?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have referred my Honourable friend to the answer I have already given to part (d) of Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's unstarred question; I can read the answer to that if necessary

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not think so: the answer is there.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I would like to put a supplementary question, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): So long as it is relevant.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Honourable Member aware that after I put the question, as a consequence thereof, no publication, even if it could have been destroyed after distribution, is distributed to Members of this House?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I think I have already replied to that. I do not know whether my Honourable friend has studied the answer that I gave in reply to his question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): If the Honourable Member has replied, that is quite enough.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that the Members of the Legislature are greatly hampered in their work on account of want of Government publications, might I ask whether the Government of India will reconsider this question?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: May I read out what I have already stated in reply to Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar's question?

"The position is that our publications are made available to Members of the Central Legislature through the Library of the Indian Legislature which now receives six copies of each publication. If an Honourable Member of either House sends a request to the Department concerned for any publication in which he is particularly interested, the request is considered; and I believe that in most cases the publication is supplied. Publications of special and general interest are frequently distributed to all Members. But Government cannot undertake to distribute all their publications to all Members of the Legislature."

I think that is a sufficient reply to my Honourable friend.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: In view of the fact that the Members of the Legislature are very anxious to secure regular supplies

Sir H. P. Mody: Who says we are anxious?

Mr. N. M. Joshi: I say we are of some Government publications, might I ask you, Sir, as President of the Assembly, to take up the matter with the Government of India and see that the convenience of Members is well met?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has appealed to the Chair: he has not specified what are the publications that are not supplied, which would be of use to Honourable Members in discharging their duties in this Assembly; and the Honourable Member in charge of the matter has already stated that, if a request is made by any Honourable Member either to him or his Department for any particular publication, it is generally supplied to that Member. The Chair thinks that is quite enough.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether we should not get a regular supply of publications instead of publications being sent at our request? My question to you, Sir, was whether you could not take steps in consultation with Leaders of Parties to make a list of publications which the Honourable Members should have?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: What I should like to point out is that if an Honourable Member is not willing to take the trouble to write and ask for a particular publication, his interest in that publication must be severely limited.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: On that answer, Sir, I want to ask my Honourable friend to consider whether, when an Honourable Member takes the time and the trouble to write to a Department "I am interested in publication A or X, and I want to have it", why should he be told that the matter will be considered merely?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I said that if an Honourable Member is not prepared to take the trouble to write to the Department concerned for a publication, in which he says he is interested, his interest in it must

be severely limited. My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, was asking that publications should be supplied without any request, automatically.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it that, whenever a request is made, it will be complied with?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: As far as we are able to do so.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the limitation?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I do not know of any limitation except the limitation that we may not have any spare copies: that I imagine, is the only limitation.

Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya: May I say that I got a letter from the office here that some publications were going to be destroyed, and that, if I cared to have them, I should write for them? I did apply, but did not get an answer. I sent two letters, but never got the publications.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I must regret that that should have been so. If my Honourable friend could give me particulars of his letter, when he sent them, and to whom they were addressed, I shall be very glad to have inquiries made and see whether even now we cannot comply with his request.

Dr. F. X. DeSouza: Are not some of these publications, like the Review of Trade in India, supplied only on payment at Rs. 3-4-0 a copy, and is it necessary for Members to pay for such important publications?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Did my Honourable friend write to the Department concerned and ask for a copy?

Dr. F. X. DeSouza: I did ask, and they said that it would be supplied on payment of Rs. 3-4-0.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I will pass on that information to the Department concerned.

Sir H. P. Mody: What steps does the Honourable Member propose to take to protect people like me against all sorts of useless publications which are dumped on me?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do Government accept the implication that Government publish useless publications?

COMBINED CIVIL LIST FOR INDIA AND BURMA..

1250. ***Babu Kailash Behari Lal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they print the Combined Civil List for India and Burma? If so, how many copies are printed? If not, do they print any equivalent publication?

(b) How many copies are supplied free to Government offices and Local Governments?

(c) How many copies are supplied free to Government officials?

(d) Will Government state if they are aware that the Local Governments supply free the Civil Lists of their Governments to the Members of the Local Legislature?

(e) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of supplying the Combined Civil List or the equivalent publication to the Honourable Members of this House?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) to (c). The Combined Civil List is not an official publication. It is compiled and published by the Civil and Military Gazette, Ltd., Lahore. No similar Combined Civil List is published by the Government of India. The Government of India buy a few copies of the Combined Civil List for official use.

(d) I have no information.

(e) No. A copy of the List is available in the Library of the House.

Babu Kailash Behari Lal: Is it on the principle of necessity and utility that Government publications are supplied or is it by way of courtesy that they are so supplied?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have said that this is not a Government publication at all.

Babu Kailash Behari Lal: As regards any publication, is it on the principle of necessity that Government publications are supplied, or by way of courtesy?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): This is not a Government publication. I think the Honourable Member said that this is not a Government publication.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It is a purely private publication.

SUPPLY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935, TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

1251. ***Babu Kailash Behari Lal:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Government of India Act, 1935 is a publication of the Reforms Office of the Government of India?

(b) Was it supplied to the Members of this House direct by the Reforms Office or through the Legislative Department?

(c) How many copies of the Government of India Act, 1935 were received by the Legislative Department?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) The Indian reprint of the Government of India Act, 1935, is a publication of the Government of India. The administrative department concerned is the Reforms Office.

(b) Following the usual practice in such cases copies were supplied to Honourable Members of this House through the Legislative Assembly Department and to the Honourable Members of the Council of State through the Legislative Department.

(c) 136 and 54 copies of the Act were supplied to the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Departments respectively.

Babu Kailash Behari Lal: I will now put the supplementary question which I put before—is it on the principle of necessity or utility that Government publications are supplied to Honourable Members of this House or is it by way of courtesy that these publications are supplied to them?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I submit, Sir, I should not be asked to discuss any question of principle. I was asked how these Acts are supplied, and I have answered. There is no general question of courtesy or principle involved in connection with copies of these publications supplied to Members of the Legislative Assembly or the Council of State.

Babu Kailash Behari Lal: If any Honourable Member has not got any publication, then will Government

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): It is a hypothetical question. The Honourable Member cannot go on discussing such hypothetical questions. Next question please.

RECRUITMENT OF BRITISHERS AND INDIANS TO THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

1252. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the recent question of Sir Reginald Craddock and the reply of the Under Secretary of State for India in the House of Commons about the alleged unsatisfactory state of recruitment of Indians to the Indian Civil Service;
- (b) whether the answer of the Under Secretary of State for India was made in consultation with the Government of India;
- (c) whether they have any information as to the proposed measures to restore 50: 50 ratio of British and Indian personnel in the Indian Civil Service, as soon as Part III of the Government of India Act comes into force;
- (d) whether their attention has been drawn to the leading article entitled "I. C. S. Evangelists in England" in the *Hindustan Times* of the 26th February, 1936;
- (e) what are the numbers today in the Indian Civil Service of Europeans and Indians;
- (f) whether this answer is based on the provisions of section 244 of the Government of India Act, especially sub-sections 2 and 3;
- (g) whether there is any proposal to appoint Britishers in the Indian Civil Service, apart from and independent of the results of competitive examinations conducted for the purpose;
- (h) whether the Secretary of State has prescribed any fresh proportion or strength in respect of Europeans and Indians in the service; and

- (i) whether they will place on the table of the House all the relative correspondence with a view to acquaint the Secretary of State with the opinion of the House, before he announces the measures contemplated?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) and (d). Yes.

(b), (c), (f) and (g). I have nothing to add to the answers given on the 6th March, 1936, to the supplementaries to question No. 967

(e) The information readily available shows that on the 1st January, 1935, there were 756 Europeans and 544 Indians in the Indian Civil Service including holders of listed posts. The percentages are about 58 and 42, respectively.

(h) and (i). No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: At the present rate of recruitment, how long will it take before Indians and Europeans are exactly 50: 50 ratio in the Indian Civil Service?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: If the rate of recruitment goes on at the rate at which it has gone on during the last five years, then it will take a very short time.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I, therefore, know whether Government are considering taking any steps either here or in England in the form of sending a recommendation to the Secretary of State to alter the present rate of recruitment so as to delay this, and see that more Europeans are got into the Indian Civil Service?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: There is no proposal to alter the 50:50 ratio, which is the ratio theoretically in force at present.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know whether Government have made any recommendations to the Secretary of State to alter the present system of recruitment to this service in England, so as to enable more Europeans than Indians to get into the service in England?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have already said that I cannot give any information on that point at present. The question is now under the consideration of the Secretary of State.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government made their recommendations, or is the matter still pending before this Government?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: It is now pending before the Secretary of State.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What are the circumstances that have arisen since this ratio was fixed, which justify a reconsideration of this question?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The shortage of recruitment.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Of whom? Of Europeans or Indians?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Mainly of Europeans, but also of Indians to a certain extent.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the proportion of shortage of Europeans on the one hand, and of Indians on the other?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The theoretical recruitment in the last five years should have been, by the 50: 50 ratio, 175 Europeans and 175 Indians making a total of 350. The actual recruitment has been 96 Europeans and 162 Indians, making a total of 258. So the total shortage is 92, of which 79 are Europeans and 13 are Indians.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is the question being considered from the point of view of Europeans alone, or from the point of view of Europeans and Indians alike?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: Both.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if Government are thinking of increasing the actual ratio of Europeans,—I am not talking of the theoretical ratio now,—I am talking of the actual ratio?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: One of the problems that faces us is to make good the deficiency.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know then why Government are alarmed at this comparatively large fall in Europeans? Is it not good for the country?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: That is a matter of argument.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: What is the profit to the country in replacing an Englishman by an Indian with the same powers and on the same salary?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have made no calculations.

SECONDARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS IN DELHI.

1253. ***Babu Baijnath Bajoria** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagechand Soni): (a) Will Government state the number of secondary and high schools for girls in Delhi? Has any increase in their number taken place within the past five years?

(b) How many of these schools are maintained by Government and how many are only aided?

(c) What amount of money do Government spend on girls' education in Delhi, and what is the proportion of the Government grant to the total expenditure in such girls' schools?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) According to the General Educational Tables of the Delhi Province for 1934-35, the latest year for which figures are available, the number of High and Anglo-Vernacular and Vernacular Middle Schools for girls in Delhi is 17. There has been an increase of four in the number of these schools during the last five years.

(b) Government School—One.

Aided Schools—12.

The rest are Municipal Schools.

(c) Rs. 3,58,788.

The proportion of Government expenditure to the total expenditure on girls' education is 48.8.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF GIRLS' EDUCATION IN AJMER.

1254. ***Babu Baijnath Bajoria** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni): (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the speech of the Superintendent of Education, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Central India, delivered at the Shri Savitri Girls' High School, Ajmer, on the 4th February, 1936, and reported in the *Hindustan Times* of the 5th February, 1936? If so, what steps do Government propose to take to further the state of girls' education in Ajmer area?

(b) Are Government aware that through local enterprise a non-denominational Girls' High School, known as Shri Savitri Girls' High School, Ajmer, has been in existence for the past 22 years?

(c) What is the annual grant given by Government to the Shri Savitri Girls' High School, Ajmer, and what proportion does it bear to the total annual expenditure of the said school?

(d) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of enhancing the grant-in-aid to this school?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes. A scheme for the furtherance of girls' education is under the consideration of Government.

(b) Yes.

(c) A grant of Rs. 3,525 has been paid to the school during the current year. It is a little less than one third of the total expenditure of the school.

(d) If funds permit every endeavour will be made to give the full amount admissible under the code.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF GIRLS' EDUCATION IN AJMER.

1255. ***Babu Baijnath Bajoria** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni): (a) What is the total number of scholarships given by Government to encourage girls' education in Ajmer?

(b) Is it a fact that all the scholarships are given to one particular institution and not distributed to various other institutions?

(c) Are Government prepared to allocate the scholarships to other girls' schools, instead of giving them to one particular school for the encouragement of girls' education in Ajmer?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) 51.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

FEES CHARGED AT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT GIRLS' SCHOOL, AJMER.

1256. ***Babu Baijnath Bajoria** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni): Will Government state the rate of fees charged at the Central Government Girls' School, Ajmer? If they are not charged, will Government state why it is so? Is it a fact that the Superintendent of Education, in his speech delivered at the Shri Savitri Girls' High School, Ajmer, on the 4th February, 1936, disfavours free secondary education to girls?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Proposals for the withdrawal of fee concessions in the Government Central Girls' School and its re-organisation are under the consideration of Government.

Babu Baij Nath Bajoria: What are the fees charged in Delhi girls' schools and how do they compare with those charged in Ajmer schools?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: In this particular school in Ajmer, there is no fee charged. In Delhi girls' schools, fees are charged according to the Punjab Code. I could not give exact particulars now as I don't carry them in my head.

GRANT-IN-AID TO THE SHRI SAVITRI GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, AJMER.

1257. ***Babu Baijnath Bajoria** (on behalf of Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni): (a) Is it a fact that the Ajmer education administration follows the United Provinces Code of Education in matters of grants-in-aid?

(b) Is it not a fact that the United Provinces Education Code provides that grants-in-aid upto two-thirds of the total expenditure are permissible in the case of private aided and recognised schools? If so, are Government prepared to give the maximum possible grant-in-aid to the Shri Savitri Girls' High School, Ajmer?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the negative; the second does not arise.

GRANT FROM ROAD DEVELOPMENT FUND SPENT IN AJMER-MERWARA AND WIDENING OF ROADS, ETC.

1258. ***Rai Bahadur Seth Bhagchand Soni:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total amounts allotted by them to the various administrations under their charge from the Petrol Fund for the improvement of roads during the years 1934-35 and 1935-36?

(b) How was the amount spent in Ajmer-Merwara?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of relieving the traffic congestion by widening of the Public Works Department roads and constructing in the municipal area foot-paths on such roads?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). Two statements are placed on the table.

(c) The construction of footpaths in municipal areas does not fall within the scope of the road account. The cost of widening Public Works Department roads may be debited to the road account if the local administration consider any particular scheme to be necessary and the scheme is approved by the Government of India.

Statement showing the allotments made to local Administrations from the Road Account during the years 1934-35 and 1935-36.

Name of Administration.	1934-35 Grant from the		1935-36 Grant from the		Total.
	Share in the Road Account based on petrol consumption.	Reserve in the Road Account for specific works.	Share in the Road Account based on petrol consumption.	Reserve in the Road Account for specific works.	
	[In lakhs of rupees.]				
Delhi	1.22	0.55	1.50	..	3.27
British Baluchistan	0.40	..	0.45	..	0.85
Ajmer-Merwara	0.26	..	0.30	1.15	1.71
Tribal Areas in the North West Frontier Province	0.19	0.09	0.13	..	0.41
Coorg.	0.08	..	0.08	0.18	0.34
Administered Areas in Hyderabad	0.37	..	0.69	..	1.06
Civil and Military Station at Bangalore	0.09	..	0.18	..	0.27
Administered Areas in Central India	0.07	0.79	0.18	0.27	1.31
Administered Areas in Rajputana	0.02	..	0.04	..	0.06

Statement showing the expenditure during the years 1934-35 and 1935-36 in Ajmer-Merwara on schemes financed from the share of the local Administration and the Reserve in the Road Account.

Name of work.	Expenditure.	
	1934-35.	1935-36 (to end of 31st December 1935)
A.—Share programme.		
Surface painting with spramex.		
1. Mile 3 of Ajmer-Pushkar Road	32,215	1,470
2. Miles 6-9, 13, 33 and 35 of Ajmer-Beawar Road		
3. Miles 6, 7, 12, 16 & 17 of Ajmer-Jaipur Road, and		
4. Miles 1 & 3 of Circular Road at Nasirabad		
5. Improving the road from Pipal tree to the police station and camping ground in Pushkar	2,348	..
B.—Schemes financed from the Reserve.		
6. Bridge over the Banas river on the Indore-Ajmer Road (financed from the Reserve & Local Administration's share)	99,992	1,18,680

NOTE.—1. The grants from the Road Account are non-lapsing and the balances are carried forward from year to year for expenditure in subsequent years.
2. A grant of Rs. 3.05 lakhs was sanctioned for the Banas river bridge from the Reserve during 1933-34 but was raised to Rs. 4.20 lakhs (round) in 1935-36.

ORDERS RESERVING VACANCIES FOR MUSLIMS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES.

1259. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Will Government please state the date of introduction and the method of giving effect to the Government orders fixing 25 per cent. for reservation of vacancies in the various Departments under the Government of India for Muslims; that is, whether the vacancy occurring first under the said orders is to be given to Muslims or non-Muslims?

(b) Are Government prepared to issue instructions that the first vacancy occurring under the said orders should be given to Muslims towards the 25 per cent. of the vacancies reserved for Muslims?

(c) Will Government please place on the table a statement showing the total number of (i) permanent, and (ii) temporary, vacancies that have been filled up since the introduction of the said orders fixing communal representation, and intimate separately for each Department how many of these vacancies went to (i) Muslims, and (ii) non-Muslims separately?

(d) Will Government please state whether the said orders for communal representation apply equally to all permanent and temporary and officiating vacancies in the grades of (i) whole-time pensionable, and (ii) part-time non-pensionable appointments paid for from one and the same revenues, and whether orders clearing the point have been issued to all Departments?

(e) If the above-mentioned communal orders are held not to apply to non-pensionable or part-time servants who get a monthly allowance as pay, will Government please state (i) the reasons for the same and (ii) the total number of Hindus and Muslims in each Department with their pay?

(f) Are Government prepared to issue orders to the effect:

(i) that whenever any vacancy occurs, to be filled up under the said communal representation orders it should be communicated to all important Muslim institutions in the locality and to the Muslim University of Aligarh, United Provinces, for communication to all concerned, and

(ii) that the vacancy should be filled up by means of a competitive examination; instead of allotting 25 per cent. of such vacancies to Muslims without such an examination?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) and (b). The orders contained in the Home Department Resolution of the 4th July, 1934, came into force from the date of the Resolution in cases where no schemes of local recruitment had to be worked out, and as soon as possible thereafter in cases where a scheme had first to be worked out in accordance with section IV of the Resolution.

The order in which vacancies are to be filled is shown in the model rotation given in paragraph 7 of the Supplementary Instructions, a copy of which is in the Library of the House, and it is mentioned in the latter part of paragraph 7 that Muslims may be taken at an earlier stage of the rotation if the actual composition of the service at the time suggests that such a course would be desirable.

(c) Government have not got information showing the appointments made since 4th July, 1934. The annual returns prescribed in paragraph 5 of the Resolution and paragraph 9 of the Supplementary Instructions will show the appointments made in each calendar year from 1934. These returns will be made available to the House in due course and will, I hope, serve the Honourable Member's purpose.

(d) and (e). Government have not classified posts into the categories of whole-time pensionable and part-time non-pensionable appointments, but I would invite attention to paragraph 6 of the Resolution and paragraphs 2 to 4 of the Supplementary Instructions, which explain the scope of the orders.

(f) (i). Government cannot undertake to communicate all vacancies to such institutions. Paragraph 8 of the Supplementary Instructions is designed to ensure that there will be no shortage of candidates from the minority communities owing to lack of publicity. Moreover, the Public Service Commission now supply copies of notices, etc., relating to examinations held by them to all Universities, including the Muslim University, Aligarh.

(f) (ii). Whether vacancies are filled by competitive examination or by some other method of selection, it is open to Muslims to secure on their merits more than the percentage of vacancies reserved for them.

AVOIDANCE OF THE PREPONDERANCE OF THE MEMBERS OF ANY ONE COMMUNITY IN ANY ONE AREA OR JURISDICTION.

1260. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: Are Government prepared to issue orders to all the Heads of Departments to post and transfer officers in such a way as to guard against the preponderance of the members of any one community in any one area or jurisdiction? Is it a fact that the orders for communal representation are intended to give respective shares to the various communities and to prevent the concentration of the members of any one community in a certain office or jurisdiction?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: The orders of the 4th July, 1934, are intended to prevent the preponderance of any community in a service, not the preponderance of officers belonging to any community in any locality.

ORDERS ISSUED BY THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT REGARDING SUPERSESSION OF CLERKS.

1261. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: Is it a fact that orders have now been issued by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department to the effect that no senior reserve clerks should be superseded by their juniors for the juniors' appointment as clerks in offices of Superintendents of Post Offices, and if so, are Government prepared to issue orders in clear terms that all junior reserve clerks, who thus superseded their seniors and got appointed as clerks in the said offices, should be reverted as reserve clerks with immediate effect?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part of the question does not arise.

ACCOUNTANTS WORKING FOR A LONG TIME IN SECOND CLASS HEAD POST OFFICES.

1262. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Will Government please state whether the Accountants in second class Head Post Offices can continue to work in one and the same Head Office for any length of time exceeding ten or even fifteen years?

(b) Are Government prepared to issue instructions to enforce orders on the subject in all these offices, and to take up the cases of non-observance of those orders?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) No period of tenure has been fixed for posts of accountants in post offices.

(b) Does not arise.

MUSLIM AND NON-MUSLIM OFFICERS IN EACH POSTAL CIRCLE.

1263. *Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur: (a) Will Government please state the total number of Muslim officers and non-Muslim officers, separately, in each Postal Circle Office as working at present?

(b) Do Government propose to post Muslim officers to such of the above mentioned Circle Offices as have no or only one Muslim officer attached to it?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) It is presumed that the Honourable Member is referring to gazetted officers; on this presumption, a statement giving the required information is placed on the table.

(b) No. Postings of officers are made on administrative and not on communal grounds.

Statement showing the total number of Muslim officers and non-Muslim officers, separately, in each Postal Circle Office working at present.

Circle.	Muslim.	Non-Muslim.
United Provinces	Nil	9
Punjab and N. W. F.	2	8
Bihar and Orissa	1	4
Bengal and Assam	1	10
Burma	nil	6
Central	nil	6
Bombay	3	7
Sind and Baluchistan	1	3
Madras	1	9

TIME-LIMIT FOR DECIDING APPEAL CASES OR PETITIONS.

1264. ***Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur:** Will Government please state if there is any time-limit for deciding appeal cases or petitions by the appellate authorities or whether these authorities can take any number of months or years at their will to decide a case?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: No time-limit within which appellate authorities must dispose of petitions or appeals has been specifically prescribed, but they are expected to do so as expeditiously as possible.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

ORDER IN COUNCIL RE EXCLUDED AND-PARTIALLY EXCLUDED AREAS.

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

(a) whether they forwarded the proceedings of the Assembly regarding the excluded and partially excluded areas in time before the Order in Council was passed;

(b) whether the Order in Council has been passed; and

(c) whether the Order in Council has been amended in any respect in view of the discussion in this House?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) A summary of the proceedings was telegraphed to the Secretary of State on the days next to those on which the debate took place, i.e., on the 12th and 19th February. A full copy of the proceedings was forwarded by Air Mail on the 6th March as soon as it was received from the Press.

(b) Yes. The draft Order was finally approved by both Houses of Parliament on the 25th February. The Order, as approved by Parliament, was duly made by His Majesty in Council on the 3rd March.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY AND GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I have received the following Message from His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General:

"In pursuance of sub-section (3) of section 63B of the Government of India Act, I, Freeman, Earl of Willingdon, hereby require the attendance of the Members of the Legislative Assembly in the Assembly Chamber at New Delhi, at 11 o'clock on Wednesday, the 8th April, 1936."

(Sd.) WILLINGDON,
Viceroy and Governor General."

THE PARSİ MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE BILL.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, in accordance with the provisions of rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I lay on the table a Bill to amend the law relating to marriage and divorce among Parsis which was passed by the Council of State on the 13th March, 1936.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

CASES IN WHICH THE LOWEST TENDERS HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA IN PURCHASING STORES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I lay on the table a statement, furnished by the High Commissioner for India, showing all cases in which the lowest tenders have not been accepted by him in purchasing stores for the Government of India, during the half year ending the 31st December 1935.

HIGH COMMISSIONER

INDIA STORE

ABSTRACT OF CASES in which tenders for stores demanded by the Central of the goods demanded, were accepted on the grounds of superior facility of inspection,

HALF YEAR ENDING

Stores ordered.	Contract number.	Name of Contractor.	Amount of Contract.
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PART A.—Cases in which lower foreign tenders, including British tenders for foreign

Nil.

PART B.—Cases in which the discrimination is

			£. s. d.
Pins, safety. 288 gross.	T. 1862/3416/7-11-35	George Goodman, Ltd.	15 10 5 (British).
Canvas, flax. 500 yards.	T. 2097/4099/4-12-35	Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd.	72 7 11 (British).
Valves W. T., type AR 4. No. 350.	T. 2277/4165/21-12-35	Mullard Radio Valve Co., Ltd.	53 19 2 (British).

PART C.—Cases in which the discrimination

			£. s. d.
Covers, straw for bottles. 500 gross.	T. 1479/2415/19-9-35	Fabrique de Paillons "Hamont".	72 18 4 (Belgian).
Tyres, steel, for carriages and wagons. No. 1500.	T. 1702/2488/16-10-35	Surahammars Bruks A. B.	3,712 10 0 (Swedish).

PART D.—Cases in which lower British tenders have

Nil.

FOR INDIA.

DEPARTMENT.

Government, other than the lowest complying with the technical description quality, superior trustworthiness of the firm tendering, greater quicker delivery, etc.

31ST DECEMBER, 1935.

Lowest Tender not accepted.	Reason for Acceptance.
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made goods, have been set aside wholly or partially in favour of British tenders.

Nil.

between British firms only.

£. s. d.	
14 16 10 (British).	The accepted tender was the more advantageous having regard to the cost of inspection.
70 14 7 (British).	The indent stated that the canvas was required immediately. As the lowest tenderer required ten weeks for delivery, the order was placed with the next lowest, who undertook delivery in two to three weeks.
52 10 0 (British).	The higher tender was accepted because of the earlier delivery offered. The indent stated that the valves were required immediately.

is between Foreign firms only.

£. s. d.	
70 16 8 (Dutch).	The order was placed with the higher tenderer on account of the superior quality of the goods offered, which represented more than the difference in price.
3,611 5 0 (German).	The higher tender was accepted on account of superior reliability and greater facilities for inspection.

been set aside in favour of foreign tenders.

Nil.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the non-official members of the Assembly do proceed to elect, in the manner required by rule 51 of the Indian Legislative Rules, four members to be members of the Committee on Public Accounts in place of Captain Sardar Sher Mohammad Khan, C.I.E., M.B.E., Mr. S. Satyamurti, Bhai Parma Nand and Maulvi Sir Muhammad Yakub, Kt., who will retire on the 22nd March, 1936, in accordance with sub-rule (4) of the same rule."

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

"That the non-official members of the Assembly do proceed to elect, in the manner required by rule 51 of the Indian Legislative Rules, four members to be members of the Committee on Public Accounts in place of Captain Sardar Sher Mohammad Khan, C.I.E., M.B.E., Mr. S. Satyamurti, Bhai Parma Nand and Maulvi Sir Muhammad Yakub, Kt., who will retire on the 22nd March, 1936, in accordance with sub-rule (4) of the same rule."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PILGRIMAGE TO HEDJAZ.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and 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 *vice* Mr. M. A. Baqui whose seat in the Assembly has been declared to be vacant."

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 *vice* Mr. M. A. Baqui whose seat in the Assembly has been declared to be vacant."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): I may inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of members to the Committee on Public Accounts and of a member for the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations up to 12 Noon on Wednesday, the 18th March, and the elections, if necessary, will, as usual, be held on Friday, the 20th March, 1936, in the Secretary's Room in the Council House between the hours of 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M. The elections will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

THE COCHIN PORT BILL.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to make special provision for the administration of the port of Cochin.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to make special provision for the administration of the port of Cochin."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE FACTORIES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934, for a certain purpose.

I have explained the object of this little Bill in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and would add only two sentences. The Bill does not concern or affect the position of those factories which come automatically under the Act. It merely amends the section which confers power on Local Governments to bring under the Act those factories which employ less than 20 persons or which escape regulation because they do not use machinery.

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

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1934, for a certain purpose."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE CANTONMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham (Defence Secretary): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Cantonments Act, 1924, for certain purposes, as reported by the Select Committee, be re-committed 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 and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

This is the ordinary procedure after a Bill has been circulated for obtaining public opinion. I understand that the House does not wish to discuss the matter at this stage, but is prepared to reserve further discussion until the Bill comes before the House in the form finally recommended by the Select Committee.

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

"That the Bill further to amend the Cantonments Act, 1924, for certain purposes, as reported by the Select Committee, be re-committed 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 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 INDIAN FINANCE BILL.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to fix the duty on salt manufactured in, or imported by land into, certain parts of British India, to fix maximum rates of postage under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, and to fix rates of income-tax and super-tax, be taken into consideration."

12 Noon This Bill, of course, as the House knows very well, represents the taxation part of the budget proposals. I have explained those proposals at great length in the budget speech. I have explained them still further and answered criticisms on them in five other speeches during the course of the last ten days. Most of the points raised, on requests for information or criticisms on them, I have answered to the best of my ability, some of them I have answered three or four times over, and the only points raised, which have not been fully dealt with, are one or two highly technical points raised by Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, which he raised on the occasion of the general discussion. There is in Western Europe a story which has now become the supreme example of politeness and chivalry, and that is of the French Commander at the battle of Fontenoy or Dettingen, who, when the King came for marching his army into action very politely invited the enemy to fire first. I think it is entirely fitting that I should introduce that supreme example of politeness and chivalry into the East, and I also, Sir, propose to invite our friends, the enemy, to shoot first. Sir, I move.

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

"That the Bill to fix the duty on salt manufactured in, or imported by land into, certain parts of British India, to fix maximum rates of postage under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, and to fix rates of income-tax and super-tax, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha (Patna *cum* Shahabad: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I propose to confine my remarks mainly to one aspect of the present financial position of our country while speaking on the motion for consideration of the Finance Bill. I desire to make it clear at the outset that we on this side of the House feel our position to be one of utter helplessness and unreality. Year after year, we place our view points, we make our criticisms, but neither our opinions nor our votes are of any consequence. The truth is that we are unable to influence the decision of the Treasury Benches in the administration of our country. The tale of

sufferings of the people is repeated here a *nauseum*, but to no effect. If we look back to the financial history of this country, during the last 40 or 50 years, we notice a remarkable change in one respect and in no other. We observe that the expenditure side of our country's budget—both Central and Provincial—is mounting higher and higher. In the name of reforms, changes have been introduced which, instead of improving the lot of poorer people, have simply added to the burden of the tax-payers.

It will be admitted on all hands that there has thus been an enormous growth in our national expenditure. I admit that an increase in the expenditure in the budget of a country is not necessarily a matter of regret or alarm provided the increased revenue is spent on such objects as are calculated to promote the well-being of the people in general. But when the increased revenue is utilised to create additional burdens, a situation does arise which calls for critical examination. I also admit that in European countries, in United Kingdom, in Italy, in Germany, in France, in almost every other country of the world, there has been of late an increase in public expenditure. But while increased expenditure in other countries has helped to give additional strength and security to those nations and has enhanced the prosperity and enlightenment of the people concerned, increased expenditure in India has yielded different results. In the name of self-preservation, fresh fetters have been forged to emasculate the manhood of the Indian people. In the name of self-preservation, safety and security has been guaranteed to those whose one business has been and is to exploit the country and to impoverish and exhaust its natural resources. In the name of self-preservation, again, money has been found to build strategic railways and push on the costly forward policy in the North-West Frontier Province. If the people of this country had an effective share in its administration, if they could exercise any real control in shaping the Government policy, the increased expenditure could not have been utilised in creating such obligations and in burdening us with indefinite and undefined financial liabilities. It is obvious to a casual observer that the Government of India are a mere tool in the hands of the Secretary of State and British Parliament, and, as such, has been compelled to meet demands calculated to perpetuate foreign domination. Its policy, dictated as it is from Whitehall, is seldom, if ever at all, directed with a view to promoting the welfare of the people of this land. Its one great object has been and is to serve its British masters faithfully. For these reasons, the Government of India have little money to spare with all their increased taxation for purposes of national education, public health, development of natural resources and other beneficent projects. On the other hand, there has been a vast addition to costly British services, both civil and military, and a very large proportion of the revenue is consumed in financing the non-national—I may go further and add—anti-national activities. While the condition of the people, of the masses of India, of workers, peasants, lower middle classes, continues to grow from bad to worse, the increased taxation goes towards maintaining a larger number of officials in a very high standard of comfort bordering on luxury and extravagance. While it is admitted by everybody including some of the Government spokesmen that appalling poverty exists in this country, that people are groaning under a heavy burden of taxation, that they are becoming more and more impoverished, yet the Government are not desisting from their mad career of reckless extravagance. While crores and crores are being spent in the name of so-called self-preservation, millions and millions of our countrymen, who

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are on the verge of starvation and for whose ostensible preservation, the army, the civil and the military police are maintained at such enormous cost, are told to be content with doles of a crore or two. The Government, no doubt, will come forward to defend their policy and will bombard us with figures to show that so much has been spent for industrial development, so much for public health, so much for education, and so on and so forth, but may I ask them in all seriousness, whether they really feel satisfied with all that they profess to have done, that everything that can be done, even with the limited resources at their disposal, has been done or is being done? Do they feel satisfied that even the crore that they set apart for village uplift work has been spent on those objects which are really calculated to add to the comfort and promote the welfare of the villagers? What with the expenditure on broadcasting and civil aviation, have the starving millions been ensured of their daily meals and clothes just enough to cover their nakedness? What self-preservation for those who do not know where their second meal will come from and who will welcome self-destruction rather than be told to drag on their present miserable existence? Sir, I ask the Government to pause for a while, take stock of the situation and do not proceed with their budget in the customary fashion. Remember that 45 years ago in 1890-91, the entire expenditure of Government, both Provincial and Central, was only 51·8 crores. No one can suggest that enough was not being spent then for self-preservation, because the Government at least preserved themselves intact even then as they are preserving themselves today. From 51·52 crores spent on the administration of the entire country then, the expenditure has tremendously risen to the tune of over 200 crores now. Sir, I observed before that with each instalment of the so-called reforms, the country has been saddled with additional burdens. Look at the figures, and you will be convinced. In 1890-91, the total expenditure was 51·98 crores, it rose to 78·34 in 1901-02, to 115·12 in 1910-11, and to 218·67 crores in 1920-21. It is going to rise to a few crores more when the new Government of India will be put into force. I say, Sir, this is hardly honest for any Government to do. They do not part with their power, but, on the pretext of doing so, create fresh burdens on the tax-payers. They have not so far given any real, effective power to us, nor do they propose to do so even in the future, though they have been profusely indulging in assurances and declarations from time to time.

If we on this side of the House, Sir, have lost all faith in their assurances, we have enough justification for doing so. Each time that they make a declaration of their policy, they hedge it round with so many conditions that in actual working we find ourselves very much near the point where we were. I shall be content with one illustration only. Look at the policy of Indianisation. It is a mere eye-wash, it is another way of perpetuating their rule in this country. For what else does it mean? Does it mean any real and effective replacement of the British element in the services by Indian officers, or does it merely mean the creation of additional posts for Indians, leaving the European incumbents intact in their places? Is it not a fact that though the Indian element in the services has decidedly increased, there has not been any corresponding reduction in the British personnel? Is it not due to the policy of creating new posts and paying high salaries that there has been such an alarming increase in the national expenditure of the country? And the Government, not

being responsible to the people of the land, taxes are raised and spent without their consent. For how else can they finance the top-heavy administration? Can they lay their hands on their hearts and say that they really require these inordinately costly services to carry on their administration? I have no doubt, Sir, that, shrewd as they are, they realise this, but it is their game to carry it on so that Indian revenues may remain mortgaged to them for all time to come, whatever changes may be introduced in the administrative machinery. How costly they are making the administration of this country every time that they give us these so-called reforms is proved if we take the instance of Bengal alone. Not many years ago, Bengal, which then included the provinces of Bihar, Orissa and Assam as well, was governed, and, I daresay, as efficiently or inefficiently as today, by a Lieutenant-Governor with a Chief Secretary, without any Executive Council or Ministry. We have now in its place, four Governors, Chief Secretaries, Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Under-Secretaries, Private Secretaries, stenographers, clerks, and what not! For one set of expenditure required to carry on the administration over the whole territory, we are today spending four times, —and what wonder if the burden of taxation has increased fourfold!

And, pray, will the Benches opposite tell us if real and effective power has been conferred upon those Indians who have been raised to high places? The Indian Executive Councillors and Ministers do not enjoy the same confidence, and, therefore, cannot exercise the same power which their European counterparts do. They cannot affect the policy or programme that is settled beforehand without any reference to the Indian element, and very often in spite of or against their advice or suggestions. Can it, therefore, be claimed that the services have been Indianised with an eye to ultimate transfer of entire power to their hands? There is only one answer to this, and that is an emphatic "NO". Even those Indians who carry the policy laid down for them by their British masters with so much zeal and earnestness—worthy, alas, of a better cause—are not fully trusted. I was reading the other day the memoirs of Lord Minto written by Lady Minto, and I was struck to find that even the late Mr. Gokhale, in spite of his liberal views, was seldom trusted by the powers that be. Even today we find that all places of real responsibility are held by Europeans, and, in spite of the Indianisation scheme, it has not been possible for the Government of India to appoint more than one Indian Secretary in charge of Central subjects. And I make bold to say that they will not allow Indians to occupy places of real responsibility and power as long as they can help it. Sir, the policy of Indianisation has been brought in just to serve as a clever device to keep a certain section of Indians under the Government clutches. Their underlying motive is to bribe them into silence and convert them into their henchmen, and they have eminently succeeded in their policy. "Divide and Rule" has not flourished in other lands so much as in this unfortunate country of Jai Chand and Mir Jafar. (Hear, hear.)

While discussing the Finance Bill, Sir, I don't think it will be out of place to refer to the compilation known as "India in 1933-34" issued under the authority of the Government of India. You will remember, Sir, that our Leader, in a cut motion, moved on the 9th instant, raised a debate on this subject, and some amount of controversy followed. I acknowledge the fine spirit displayed by the Honourable the Home

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Member in replying to the debate, and I do not propose to pursue the subject further than it is necessary to clear up a certain misconception that has crept in, on account of Sir Henry Craik's unfamiliarity with some of the questions with which he dealt in his speech. But for two or three misleading statements, I should not have liked to advert to this subject at all. The two or three points on which I should like to draw your attention are those on which Sir Henry Craik in the closing part of his speech laid some stress. Speaking on the statement in "India" that "of the desire for effective co-operation with the Local Government in its task of organising relief measures, there were few signs", Sir Henry Craik seems to be in virtual agreement with the author of the book, and so it has become necessary for me to clear up the point a little further. It is a common case and both the Home Member and the author of "India" agree with Mr. Brett, so far as the earlier stage of immediate relief was concerned, that there was effective and complete co-operation. But he further observed that "this attitude was not maintained throughout the year with which the report deals, i.e., 1934". It is here, Sir, that I differ from him. It is, therefore, necessary for me to state in the fewest possible words the constitution of the Relief Committee which is responsible for the administration of the funds raised for the Bihar earthquake. It originated in an informal gathering of friends on the 20th January, 1934, five days after the great catastrophe had overtaken my province. From its very inception, it was representative of all shades of public opinion and all communities. Later, in consultation with Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, the scope of the committee was enlarged by co-opting members from among the public men of outstanding position in the country and representatives of donors who contributed Rs. 5,000 or more. The re-constituted committee met on the 18th March under the presidency of Mahatma Gandhi and elected new office-bearers including a qualified Incorporated Accountant as its auditor in the person of Mr. B. Gupta, B.Sc., F.S.A.A., B.A., and authorised its President to nominate a managing committee of not more than 15 persons to carry on day to day administration of the fund. In this very meeting, a resolution offering respectful co-operation to Government sponsored by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya was unanimously agreed to. The managing committee of the Bihar Central Relief Committee consists of men representing all shades of opinion, and includes, among its members, Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha, ex-Finance Member of the Bihar and Orissa Government, and Rai Bahadur Mihir Nath Roy, ex-Public Prosecutor. The first thing that it did was to adopt a constitution and get it registered under the Societies' Registration Act. It also appointed Mr. J. C. Kumarappa, M.A., B.Sc., in Bus. Ad. F.S.A.A., Incorporated Accountant, as its internal auditor, than whom a more conscientious and efficient auditor I have not come across. According to the constitution, it was obligatory on the committee to publish a properly audited account at the end of each quarter and get it adopted by the general body. It was in pursuance of this obligation that the first audited account for the quarter ending 30th June, 1934, was published, and a meeting of the general body, held on the 3rd August, 1934, in the Wheeler Senate Hall, Patna, which was attended by Mahatma Gandhi, put its seal of approval on the work done by the committee. The report itself was published in thousands and sent to every donor, all important newspapers, important Government officials and all the members of the committee. It was noticed very prominently

in some of the important newspapers including the *Statesman*. I do not wonder if the vigilant eyes of the Knight of Meerut, who has seldom a good word for us and who is so anxious to find fault with everything that we on this side do, could not notice the report which received so wide a publicity. The President of the Committee, Babu Rajendra Prasad, while forwarding the copy of the report for the period ending 30th June, 1934, enclosed a letter which I reproduce:

"I am forwarding herewith a copy of our report for the period ending 30th June, 1934. You will notice that it contains a running report of our activities, statements of accounts, abstracts of donations, province by province, and the proceedings of the General meeting of the Central Relief Committee held on 3rd August to which the report was presented. We are printing separately detailed lists of donors province by province, and each individual or organization that has remitted money to us directly will be posted a copy of the Provincial list in which his or its name occurs. We hope the lists will be in the hands of each such donor within the next fortnight or so and we shall expect that any donor not receiving it will kindly communicate the fact to us as also any donor whose name does not occur or in whose case the amount shown does not tally with the amount remitted by him together with particulars of dates of remittance, number of receipts and other information which may enable us to trace the amount.

In view of the wide and generous response to our appeal, we shall appreciate it much if you kindly give such publicity as you think proper to our activities so that the large circle of donors who may not all get copies of the report may also be informed about them."

Sir, I make no apology for quoting this letter in full to convince those who are open to conviction and who may have honest misgiving after reading in the "India, 1933-34" that "information as to the disbursement of the Congress Relief fund of Rs. 24 lakhs was difficult to obtain". A more misleading statement is difficult to conceive. Sir, it has been the practice of the committee to send authorised copies of proceedings of every meeting of the managing committee to the press for publication, and an agent of the Government invariably got such reports, the moment the meetings terminated. I wonder how any body can honestly say that he was not in the know of how the funds of the committee were being spent if he had only cared to keep himself in touch.

Mr. Brett has stated in his report:

"In the third week of March, the committee met to decide their policy with Mahatma Gandhi in the chair. The intention to co-operate with the Government was reiterated in a formal resolution and in response to an invitation, the Relief Commissioner met the Committee and discussed the situation with them. The programme, as ultimately adopted, provided for expenditure on the clearing of wells and tanks, sinking new wells, draining water logged areas, relief to the indigent, medical aid and sanitation, provision against flood and famine and other general relief. It appeared to the Committee that house building of a permanent or semi-permanent nature, and the removal of sand were beyond their ability to cope with. They decided not to take up this form of work pending Government action, but to make a detailed investigation into the needs of townsmen and make recommendations to the Government on the basis of this investigation. At this period the Committee was evidently of the opinion that famine conditions would be established in North Bihar and that large sums would be needed for charitable relief. This expectation fortunately did not materialise.

Throughout the summer, Babu Rajendra Prasad and the Relief Commissioner frequently met and discussed problems arising out of the work of reconstruction. An extensive programme of well sinking and repair of wells was carried out. The committee supplied boats to supplement those built by Government and District Boards and co-operated in the working of the flood rescue organization. Another of their activities was the organization of shops at which supplies would be obtained below

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the market rates. At the instance of the Committee, Dr. Pierre Ceresole of the International Service League came to Bihar. In the cold weather of 1934-35 he returned and helped to organize the work of transferring to new sites villages which had become water logged by the floods."

I have documents in my possession to show that the committee gave effect to no programme without fully discussing with Mr. Brett, the Relief Commissioner, and it is a fact that on most occasions, the programme laid down by the Committee met with his approval. The President of the Bihar Central Relief Committee was in frequent communication with the Relief Commissioner, during the whole of March, April, May and June, as is admitted by Mr. Brett himself, and this spirit of co-operation was maintained throughout the period up to the end of September when the work of the Committee was practically suspended. Some confusion has been created by the Home Member giving his support to the suggestion that Babu Rajendra Prasad was uneasy about the working of the organisation, nor there is any truth in the statement that the committee considered it beyond its capacity to undertake the two items of important work, namely, house building and the clearance of sand for want of proper agency. Sir Henry Craik is obviously wrong in making this suggestion. We had at one stage over 250 centres with more than 2,200 volunteers at work. So there could be no uneasiness on the part of Babu Rajendra Prasad on account of want of agency. The chief difficulty which the committee felt consisted in the paucity of funds at their disposal for the stupendous work before them. With the knowledge and information that the committee had been able to collect and with the consciousness that the expenditure even on a single item of reconstruction would easily run into a crore, it was not an easy task to undertake the two biggest items referred to by the Honourable the Home Member. The committee, at its very first meeting, therefore, decided, on the advice of Mahatma Gandhi himself, that pending Government action, the committee was not to undertake these works. They were further anxious to see what the Government did with regard to these two items, and, therefore, the resolution contemplated that no expenditure was to be incurred at that stage pending the Government action, and not for all time to come. Meanwhile, the hands of the committee were too full. A reference to the reports will convince anybody, who cares to go through them, that every worker was fully occupied, and the subsequent floods on an unprecedented scale taxed the utmost capacity of every volunteer who was engaged in relief work.

Sir Henry Craik has again fallen into an error when he states that the offer of ten lakhs by Babu Rajendra Prasad to Government on certain terms was turned down by his committee. The fact is just the contrary. As stated above, the committee waited to see what action Government were taking with regard to the two most important items of work, and when they felt that the policy of giving loan by Government was not very helpful to a large section of sufferers on account of its stringent conditions, one of which was high rate of interest, the President, with the approval of his committee, made an offer of this amount to be spent for granting rebate in interest provided the Government came forward to distribute Rs. 50 lakhs as loan on easier terms. The Government did not accept the proposal and their counter-suggestion was not approved by the President or his Committee. There has not been a single occasion on which there

has been any difference between Mahatma Gandhi and Babu Rajendra Prasad with the Managing Committee or with the Bihar Central Relief Committee. I think I have fairly stated the case of the Relief Committee, and the impression created by the misleading statements, that have been made in "India", as also on the floor of the House, should now no longer exist.

I propose, however, to add a few words to explain why the Committee did not spend its funds more quickly. The chief reason was to utilise the funds to the fullest extent in relieving the sufferings of the people and to avoid duplication. It did not like to follow the example of Government Departments in proceeding with expenditure at quicker speed towards the end of the financial year in order to avoid lapses of budget allotment. The committee did take time, studied the situation, carefully investigated into facts and then distributed relief to the most deserving cases who were not touched by Government or by any other relief organisation. I do not propose to raise a controversy over how the Viceroy's Relief Fund was spent. If the writer of "India" had been an honest observer, he would not have failed to notice that a lot of "caustic" reports appeared in the newspapers about the construction of Damuchak colony at Muzaffarpore out of the Viceroy's Relief Fund and its subsequent history. If the Relief Committee did not undertake any such work and thereby avoided a pitfall, its members have no reasons to be sorry for it.

A suggestion was made on the floor of the House during the Simla Session that the funds of the committee were spent on Assembly elections. I give the lie direct to this insinuation. I am prepared to throw a challenge to any one who cares to accept it, to prove that there is no substance in rumours and reports like these. The Congress has established its usefulness in the hearts of the people by its long standing services and sacrifice (Hear, hear), and there is no wonder if Congress candidates headed the polls with overwhelming majorities of votes, not only in Bihar, but in far off Madras which was not at all affected by the earthquake. The audited accounts of the Bihar Central Relief Committee up to 31st August, 1935, copies of which have been laid on the table of the House, would bear me out that every statement, that I have made on the floor of the Assembly, is based on facts, unchallengeable facts, and every suggestion that is contrary to my statement has no foundation and is entirely baseless. The same observations apply to the suggestion of the Meerut Knight who indulged in fanciful remarks that some report got currency that the funds of the Relief Committee were spent on Congress propaganda or that a sum of three lakhs was made over for *charka*. These statements are furthest from truth. Babu Rajendra Prasad was so strict in the matter that those of us who were in charge of relief organisations were not permitted to participate in direct Congress work, and the two organisations were never mixed up although to an outsider this confusion might arise from the fact that most of the prominent workers in the Relief Committee were also prominent Congressmen of the province. It is, however, the practice with a certain section of this House to indulge in cheap sneers and to cast unmerited slurs on the Congress and Congressmen. We can only say that there is no help; there will be no dearth of this species of humanity in this country at least for as long as the alien domination lasts. Our duty as Congressmen is, however, clear. We shall not be deterred in our endeavour to achieve the ultimate destiny of our country. It is true that the task before us is tremendously great,

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that we have not made much progress yet. We are nevertheless following our goal with steadiness and perseverance, and we shall go on our march irrespective of what our critics say. In the words of our great leader, the late Pandit Motilal Nehru, that prince among men,—I repeat his inspiring words:

“We have yet been working on the foundations, we shall continue to work on the foundations until we drop down dead and be buried underneath. But let me assure you, Sir, that though we shall drop down dead, we shall die in the supreme satisfaction that, in the fullness of time, the freedom of my country shall rise on our bones.”

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I first congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member on being in a position to lay before us a prosperous budget, and I congratulate him for the lucid manner in which he laid his budget proposals. The 28th of February is recognised in commercial circles as a great day of gambling. Fortunes are made and destroyed on that day. The policy, or rather the absence of policy, of the previous Government has unstabilised trade, and it has introduced an element of uncertainty, so much so that success in trade is now regarded more a question of luck than a question of merit. Government went on piling taxes upon taxes without doing any good to themselves, but rather doing positive harm to the people. Two years ago, in the year 1934, I gave some figures about the taxes that were piled, and the result of those taxes; and, after giving all those figures, I ended by saying:

“In the year 1930-31 our income under Customs was 46·81 crores. We have added a customs duty of 30 crores, and still last year our income was 46·87.”

This means that, by the addition of those taxes, the income did not substantially increase. The law of diminishing returns was applicable. Our experience from 1930 to 1934 has led us to the conclusion that the addition of the taxes does not mean the increase in income. The experience of the last two years has shown that we may have an increase in income even if we do not levy new taxes. But I should like to consider it even further. What would be the effect on the income if we diminish the burden of taxation? I am inclined to believe that prosperity will increase and income will go up. Sir, I should like to remind the House that in the year 1930-31 we added a 25 per cent. duty on every item, and I said at that time that we were following the old story: “*Takesar bhaja takesar khaja*”, “charcoal and chocolate both two pence a pound”, twenty-five per cent. all round never mind whether it is chocolate or whether it is charcoal. Both these things are treated in the same manner. According to the Finance Member, we have now begun a prosperous time, and I would certainly impress upon him that he should consider the reduction of taxes. I would not like to press that these taxes should be reduced by 25 per cent., as I think I will be guilty of doing the same thing for which I charged Government in the year 1931. But I do press that now some inquiry ought to be made to see how many of these articles have not been able to bear this additional tax of 25 per cent. and I think, as far as possible, these burdens ought to be removed.

The Honourable the Finance Member said in his speech that economic and trade conditions were improving. The improvement is reflected in the increase in income. In the budget for the year 1935-36, he expected a

receipt of 82·99 crores, and, in the revised estimates, it was 86·52. And, in his new budget, he estimated 87·35 without levying any additional tax. This fact clearly shows that the condition is improving:

Now, may I ask him two simple questions? The first question which I ask is whether the revival in the income of the Government of India is due to the improvement of world conditions in trade or to local conditions. Is it due to the fact that we have now got a comparatively wiser policy to follow than in previous years. The second is, how is it that, in the general budget, we have got an increase of income and it is not reflected in the railway budget? In one case, we have got a definite increase, and we are shown hopeful signs; in the other case, we have still got depression and a policy of retrenchment is being followed. I think both these things ought to go together. If there is a revival of trade, there ought to be an increase in general revenues and also in railway earnings. But an increase in one and diminution in the other leads to my mind one conclusion that in one case we have a wise policy and in the other case we have a policy which requires serious consideration.

Sir, I believe that unpopularity is a qualification for the Finance Member. His budget proposals, whatever they may be, are bound to affect favourably some pockets and they are bound to affect unfavourably some other persons. Those who are benefited thank God and thank their good fortune and they put the money quietly in their pockets; and those who are unfavourably affected by it carry on propaganda and write articles, etc. So the praises are always silent and the complaints are always loud and vocal. But, I think, irrespective of the fact in what way these proposals affect individuals, one should see the effect on the country at large and specially on the consumers of the country.

The next point to which I should like to draw attention is agricultural relief. I am glad that Government have after all recognised that it is the duty of the Government of India to give some relief to the agriculturists. We have been pressing for the last five years that it ought to be the duty of Government to take some notice of the miserable conditions of the agriculturists in this country. And, after five years' full effort, we induced Sir George Schuster to agree that a committee of inquiry ought to be instituted. I am glad that the present Government have now become conscious of this fact, and they provided a little over a crore of rupees last year and they are providing about 1,73 lakhs this year, of which about 92½ will be spent in giving direct relief to the agriculturists. I quite appreciate that some relief is better than no relief, but I should like to impress that we are far from the real solution of the problem. The problem of the agriculturists is really much more tremendous than the Finance Member has made it out to be. The important problem that we have to face is rural indebtedness. According to the report of the Indian Banking Enquiry Committee, which was written some years ago, the agricultural debt of India amounted at that time to Rs. 900 crores. It would now probably amount to about Rs. 1,200 crores. That is to say, the agricultural indebtedness is approximately the same as the indebtedness of the Government of India. Our rate of interest is about 3½ per cent, while the rate of interest which the agriculturists pay for their debts amounts to between 20 and 30 per cent. If you make a simple calculation, you will find that the agriculturists pay about 2½ times the

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revenue of the Government of India every year to their creditors. This amounts to about Rs. 200 crores on which no income-tax is paid. This is a defect in the income-tax law of the country. While every one pays income-tax on his income, this class of people who derive their income directly from the agriculturists' earnings pay no income-tax to the Government of India, because these transactions are not recorded anywhere. Attention has been drawn to this fact from time to time in the speeches made by Honourable Members here. I had the opportunity of discussing this question with several officials, but the reply that they gave me was that they were only following the practice which has been in existence in India from time immemorial. They, however, forget two important safeguards which existed in the old days, but which have now disappeared entirely. One safeguard was that, in the old days, they used to have a law to the effect that, whenever a decree was given, it was never to be for more than twice the amount of the loan. That was called *damdupat*. If an agriculturist owes Rs. 100, he goes on paying interest now from three or four generations, but the loan still remains unpaid. It is absolutely necessary that some kind of provision should be made to control the amount of interest. The second safeguard which existed in the old days and which, unfortunately, or fortunately, does not now exist, is that, after every two generations, there was a revolution in every locality, as a result of which the debtors and creditors were destroyed, creditors books were all burnt. There was no one left to pay and no one to receive. They started again with a clean slate. There was no occasion of the accumulation of debts for centuries. Now, we have a peaceful Government extending over 150 years, and the debts have accumulated. The other day, my friend, Sir Leslie Hudson, drew attention to the fact that the credit of the Government of India is a curse to the trade of the country. So, I say that the peace of the country is becoming a curse to the villagers who have to pay large sums to the creditors, still their debts continue to rise. (Laughter.) I would like to draw the attention of Government to this serious aspect of the question. When the amount of the debts becomes very large and the villagers will not be able to pay, and they will easily succumb to the appeals of Communists and not pay anything including rents and revenues. The appeals of non-payment will be heeded by the agriculturists, who will see in it a method by means of which their debts can be wiped off. If Government remain inactive, I see no other way by which the agriculturists could relieve themselves of this enormous debt which is piled over their heads.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Do you want a revolution in the country?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: I am not in favour of any revolution, I am an evolutionist. I want to draw attention to the fact that if the Government of this country remain absolutely inactive about the condition of the villagers, the villagers will succumb to Communist ideas, and it might lead to a kind of revolution in the country.

Dr. Bhagavan Das (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhammadan Urban): On a point of information. Were any similar arrangements made by Providence for periodically wiping off the arrears of revenue and the arrears of rent?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: My friend will be able to answer that.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Probably they got a remission of eight annas to the rupee in rent.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: When I speak of agricultural debts, I refer both to agriculturists and landlords, because both come under the head of agricultural debts.

Sir H. P. Mody (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Which of the two are debtors?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: But you are a creditor.

Sardar Sant Singh: What about court fees?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: There is one point to which I would have liked to draw the attention of Government on the discussion of demands for grants, but I had no time to do it. This refers to the new change in the policy of the post office by means of which they have really done away with the depreciation fund and opened a new head for renewals. I welcome this change for two reasons. In the first place, it is very difficult to decide whether a particular item of expenditure ought to be paid out of revenue, out of the capital or out of the depreciation fund, as the line of demarcation is so very narrow. Secondly, we know from experience that there is a certain amount to be debited under the head renewals. We know by experience the amount of money we require every year for renewals. Why put more amount under depreciation? For what catastrophe? Any catastrophe by which all post offices are abolished will never occur before the day of judgment, but it may occur in a particular locality, and I think the amount provided for renewals will be sufficient for the purpose. I welcome the change, but I ask, why this policy should not be adopted in the case of the railways. I do beseech the Honourable the Finance Member to follow the same policy in the case of the railways, as he has followed in post office. The sum of Rs. 14 crores under the head depreciation fund is not necessary for yearly renewals and replacements, which will only amount to Rs. 9 crores.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Is this Rs. 14 crores for redemption of debt?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: It is the depreciation fund.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: . . . and it is more than is necessary by three crores?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: By five crores. Now, I come to the next point. No business man will ever contemplate the opening of a reserve fund in days of adversity. My friend, the Honourable the Finance Member, started his depreciation fund to meet a particular emergency. But, will he frankly admit that the depression period is over, or is he starting this new fund during the period of depression? I think we should take up one of two positions; either say that the depression is now over, all the emergency

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taxes should end and we begin to act as if we are in the days of prosperity; or, if we still believe that the depression has not yet ended, we should be more cautious about our finance. The first thing we ought to do is to relieve the tax-payers and consumers who are taxed hard in this country. I test prosperity of the country by the following two tests: The first is that the emergency taxation, levied in the year 1931, should now cease, second, that we should be able to pay all our liabilities by our assets, and not fall back on the reserves we built up in the days of prosperity, in other words, the export of gold should be unnecessary. Gold in the country is really a reserve built up during prosperous time. So long as we continue to pay all our liabilities by means of the reserve in the shape of export of gold, I do not think we are justified in saying that the depression period is over. I would also like to ask the Honourable the Finance Member one more thing: since India went off the Gold Standard, we exported gold worth about 265 crores till now: I would like to know how these 265 crores have been utilised by the Government of India—how much of it was paid on account of the deficit in our balance of trade, how much of it was used for our recurring charges in sterling in England, how much we utilised in our sterling loans, and what is the amount of credit which is now in England in favour of India. (Interruption.) Government have not got the money. The credit of the Government is there if gold is exported to foreign countries. Sir George Schuster gave an account and described the manner in which he utilised the credit built up by the export of gold; but since then we never had any account of the way in which this export of gold was utilised.

I now draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to two points, because he is in a very peculiar position to execute it. He has two great virtues. He has got a great driving force—I think we all admit that. Also, he is not afraid of unpopularity. With these two qualifications, I hope he will take up two very important problems which India has to face; and if he does not solve it in his time, I doubt very much whether his successor will be able to do it. One is that all the ports in India should be centralised and should be controlled directly by the Government of India. I am not against any treaties: you can give any money to the States, but you should bring all these ports under the control of the Government of India—whether they are in British India or in the Indian States. The second thing is, I would like to appeal to him to simplify our tariff duties. I have read this Tariff Act very carefully; but I think it is really more complicated and more difficult to understand than the theory of epicycles in the planetary theory. It is easier to understand this theory of epicycles, though a very complicated affair, than it is to understand the theory of this Tariff Act. I say, this requires very careful consideration and revision, and I hope he will succeed in giving us a simple Tariff Act for India which we had before the War. I hope he will be able to give it to us during his term of office here.

Another thing also which requires some consideration is our policy of protection. I am not against protection, but I am certainly against the manner in which this policy has been exercised during the last five years. It is not sufficient for us to pass an Act: we should also see year after year how this protection has been working. I admit freely that we are prepared to give protection for the benefit of the people of India; but we are not prepared to give protection for the benefit of the capitalists. We must see

that the protection goes to the masses and not to a few individuals only; and, therefore, I do beseech the Honourable the Finance Member that he should appoint a small committee to consider the whole policy of taxation; because the present tariff policy was shaped by the Fiscal Commission of 1921, and it has now become a little obsolete, facts have changed, and fresh consideration is necessary. I am a great believer in one thing, and though I may be in a minority of one in this House, I am not afraid of saying that I consider the best committee to be a committee of three persons, provided two absent themselves. That, to my mind, is always an efficient committee: I do not believe in a very large committee. I believe in small committees, and much more if it is reduced to one. I want such a committee to consider the whole fiscal policy of the Government of India and to revise the whole thing, because, to my mind, it does not fit in the changed conditions, and unless the question is examined very thoroughly, it is very difficult to come to any definite conclusion.

Another point is that just as we have given part of the revenue duty on jute to Bengal, similarly it is our just claim—and I press it on behalf of my province—that part of the excise duty on sugar should be given to the United Provinces and Bihar. Again, although education is a transferred subject, but during the discussion on the Finance Bill, I press it on the Government of India that the education of the provinces can never flourish unless the Government of India come forward with some kind of assistance to the provinces: either you may earmark it for primary education or for the new policy which the Central Advisory Board is now initiating: but, without the help of the Government of India, it will not be possible for the provinces to prosper and to flourish. The income of provinces is limited and inelastic, but the income of the Central Government is elastic. Therefore, I think that whenever my friend, the Finance Member, sits down to distribute his fortunes, he should also have a soft corner in his heart for education in this country, and I hope he will always be reminded of it at home, if not in his office. With these few words, I resume my seat.

Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to oppose the motion which has been moved by the Honourable the Finance Member. I feel that I will not be doing my duty by my country if I did not oppose this motion. As we know, the Finance Bill is a consolidated demand for supplies: in other words, it is a demand for a vote of confidence. The plain question, then, before us, is, has this Government our confidence? Have we any faith in this Government? Has this Government our goodwill? Do we approve of its policy, its administration as it is being run? While I was at college, I was taught a political maxim: "no taxation without representation". We know we are heavily taxed. No one can deny, in view of our poverty and income *per capita*, that we are heavily overtaxed. But we want to know, if we are represented in the higher counsels of the Government? Is there one single elected Member of ours in the Executive Council? Are we represented in the higher services of the Government, both civil and military, as we should have been? I do concede that a lot has been said about Indianisation of services, but I know that Indianisation is never to come, that they are not honest, that they are not serious, and that they will try to put off the evil day of Indianisation of services as long as they can. We are powerless. They are the top dogs, and they will do whatever they like in spite of us. We cannot stop their activities; we can only protest and proclaim

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to the world that we are not a consenting party to what they do, and the way they carry on the administration of this country. I am sure, you will agree with me when I say that so long as we do not have an effective voice in the raising, and expenditure of, the taxation, we will be perfectly justified in refusing to sanction supplies

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair hopes the Honourable Member is not inviting its opinion.

Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya: No. I am only saying that you will also agree with me in what I say. Besides, even if I succeed in throwing out the Bill, our success practically means nothing more than a censure on the Government. Their supplies will not be affected in the least, and they will carry on the administration as merrily as they are doing it today. Should we not then at least tell these tin-gods of ours that we are being governed in spite of us, against our will, and in a way which we entirely and wholeheartedly condemn?

Then, Sir, coming to our grievances, they are innumerable to mention each and every one of them in the short time that is at my disposal. I will, therefore, name just a few of them, and discuss even a lesser number. Let me begin, Sir, with the Government of India Act itself. We had no hand in it. Sir, we know best what we need and what is best for us, but our Lords willed it otherwise. It is true that some Indians were invited to the Round Table Conference, but there is no denying the fact that they were not the elected representatives of the people. These very people, who had gone there, had they been elected representatives, would have acted in a different manner, and then, Sir, I do not divulge any secret when I say that some Britishers did all they could to prevent an understanding between even those who had gone there. The Round Table Conference was a Noah's arc, on which every type of Indian humanity was represented, and it was well-known, Sir, that in the very nature of things and in the circumstances in which they were placed, they could not possibly agree on any one thing.

We all know, Sir, that no body of public opinion in this country is satisfied with the Government of India Act, that it has been condemned by all and sundry, that we are better off today as compared to what we would be under the new Constitution, but we are powerless, the Constitution is being thrust on us, in spite of us. It is expected that we should work it, even though we have declared that it is unworkable and we do not want to work it, and it is not in our interest to work it. The whole Act has been designed and planned, Sir, to perpetuate the British domination, and I tell you, Sir, that even if we work it, with the best will, and do all that we can to make it a success, the result only will be that we will be tightening the ropes of British domination round our necks and postponing the day of the dawn of Swaraj.

I cannot resist, Sir, the temptation of describing the Government of India Act in the words of an Urdu poet. He, in his prophetic moment, said:

*"Nau chhéd, pénda gháib, Ooper galá nadárad,
Muflis ko garmin men jhájkhhar mila to aisá."*

Which means, Sir, that a poor beggar, in the hottest of weather, got a pitcher, but it was a pitcher with nine holes, bottom gone and neck missing.

I, therefore, charge the Executive and this Government, Sir, for not telling the British Government that we do not want the new Constitution, that we hate it, and that it has not been enacted in the interest of the people of this land. We pay the Members of the Treasury Benches, Sir, we maintain this Government, and it is the honest duty of those who sit on the Treasury Benches to look after our interests, to obey our wishes and to carry on the policy which we approve. If they fail to do so, as they have, then we should only tell them that we refuse to sanction the supplies that will maintain them.

What is most painful, and which may have serious repercussions, is their military policy. It needs no prophet to tell us that a war in the near future is unavoidable. I do not know what my other friends are thinking about it, but for the last two years and more, I have been writing in papers and proclaiming from platforms that a world war is imminent. It is immaterial to me where it begins. Wherever it may begin, in the Mediterranean, in Africa, Europe or in the Pacific, the conflagration will be world wide. It is clear that England will be in it neck deep, and it is not impossible that England may be fighting for its very existence. I know that England has been the prime cause of all the trouble that is brewing today. Allowing Japan to grab Manchukuo, because Japan was an ally and let the League of Nations remain inactive and powerless encouraged France to stand by Italy when it raided Abyssinia. And now Germany is in the field and the aggressor and outlaw Italy is sitting with England and France in London to decide the course of action so far as Germany is concerned. What will be the upshot I need not forecast, but let me tell you this much that just as France was standing by England and at the same time helping Italy, so will England stand by France while anxious not to harm Germany, and the whole thing will thus end in a fiasco

Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Lal Chand (Nominated Non-Official): What about your own position?

Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya: I want to get my own independence.

Then, Sir, there is trouble brewing between Japan and Russia. I want to know whether we are ready as a nation for taking part in the next world war, whether we are ready for defending our frontiers, or we will have to depend upon the mercenary forces for our defences. Is there any country which depends for its defences upon such a mercenary army? Where are the youths of the country? Have they been trained? Can they handle a gun? Have they been given any military training? Do this Government encourage any such training? Any national Government worth the name, responsible to us or even looking after our interests, would have easily made physical and military training compulsory in our secondary schools, and, with a population of 360 millions, Sir, we could easily have raised an army of at least two to three crores to meet all emergencies. But where are we? And where, Sir, is the Air Force? The wars of the future will be fought in the air. England recruits yearly 2,000 young boys between 15 to 17 years of age from the secondary schools and trains them for the services in the air craft. Why have we not done it? Why can't we do it? Can't we, Sir, get

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youths from even the University Training Corps? But, you know, Sir, that they do not trust us, they know that, once we are made physically fit and able to raise our heads high, they will be nowhere, they will not be able to overlord us, and so there is always the excuse of scarcity of finance. Their guilty conscience is afraid of retribution, and so they keep us away from the army.

Captain Sardar Sher Muhammad Khan (Nominated Non-Official): You do not give them money?

Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya: Why should we? They get money in spite of us. You vote the money, not I.

They can spend crores and crores of rupees on the construction of New Delhi, they can spend lakhs and lakhs on the household of the Viceroy, they can even spend Rs. 50,000 for a ceremonial platform for the reception of dignitaries, but they have not got money for nation-building departments. It will be difficult, Sir, to name any reform which has not been opposed in the name of financial stringency. The Benares Hindu University Training Corps has been winning the efficiency cup for the last nine years. It is by unanimous consent the best University Corps in the United Provinces. The Hindu University authorities have been asking this Government for many years to allow the University to maintain a full company of University trained men, but the Government and the military authorities have not yet granted the request. The excuse, as usual, is stringency of finance, but we know the real cause. It is nothing but distrust, it is nothing but a desire that the youths of this country should not be made fit and should not be able to defend themselves or their country.

Sir, I do not want the military training for our youths to raise an army and drive out these tin-gods of ours. They will go away of their own accord when they know that we are ready. I want it, because military training fits the youths better for life. It gives them a sense of discipline, it makes them smart and they are more suited for hard life. At present, our educated youths are fit for nothing else but driving quills.

An Honourable Member: Why did not Brahmins try this during the Hindu period?

Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya: The Kshatriyas were our standing national army, and Dronacharya was there to train them. If they do not get a Government job—if these educated youths do not get a job or become vakils, they go to fill in the ranks of the unemployed. It is not that they do not want to do all that is possible to earn a living, but the real fact is that they simply cannot. They are unfit for any work which requires physical endurance or manual or technical training. I, therefore, charge this Government for emasculating our manhood, our physique and for converting a nation of fighters into a nation of quill drivers.

Then, Sir, there is the question of unemployment. Is there any Government in the world which has shown a more callous disregard for its unemployed? Our educated youths are being simply driven in despair to deeds of terrorism and suicides. The matter has been left to the

Provincial Governments. It depends on them to tackle or not with the problem of unemployment. I declare it with all the emphasis that I can command, that it is impossible for any Provincial Government to drive out unemployment from the land. It is only the Central Government and the Central Government alone which can drive out unemployment. Here, also, Sir, if the Government were in our hands, we would be able to employ two to three crores of our youths in the Army as well as in the Railway Departments. I do not exactly remember, but, it was, perhaps, my uncle, Pandit Malaviya, who said on the floor of this House that, if he were in charge of the Railways, he would provide employment for almost all the youths in the country. We are not yet manufacturing locomotives. We can have our railway workshops in almost all the big centres and provide not only work, but technical training also, to our youths. But, as we know, we are powerless and we cannot shape the policy of our administration to economically and industrially develop our country. We are denied opportunities. Indian talent and ability are being suppressed most ruthlessly everywhere and in every department of life.

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.

Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya: Sir, when the House adjourned, I was saying that, at least if the railway administration were entirely in our hands, we could give employment to lakhs and lakhs of our youths, and, by manufacturing locomotives, etc., we could develop India economically and industrially, but what are we to do? We are denied opportunities, and Indian ability and talents are ruthlessly suppressed everywhere. As if all this is not enough to keep us down, this Government encourage disunion amongst our people. Divide and rule has been their policy and it is being persistently followed even today. The structure of the Government of India Act itself has been raised on communalism and communal rivalry. The course of history shows that every civilised State has attempted to steadily eliminate from its Constitution distinctions of creed, race, colour and religion, but in India, Sir, our masters want nothing but communalism, discord, and strife. They condemn it from their lips, but they perpetrate and promote it by their deeds. Therefore, I charge the executive and this Government with not advising His Majesty's Government that the Communal Award is anti-national, anti-rational and a negation of all the principles of democracy, detrimental to the best interests of our country and designed to thwart the growth of self-government in this country. And, as a result of their failing to do all this, I oppose the motion of the Finance Member and refuse to grant him supplies. Sir, the Leader of the House, the other day, in one of his characteristic speeches said that the Communal Award is dead, it has been cremated and its

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ashes immersed into the Ganga. I am sure that those who heard him carefully must have detected the sigh with which he said all this. Be it said to his credit that he knows and realises that the Communal Award is an apple of discord and has been designed to prevent the growth of self-government in this country. He has been consistently opposed to it. Even as the Leader of the House and the seniormost Member of the Government, only last year, on the floor of the House, he refused to vote for the Communal Award. Any other Member from the Treasury Benches would have said "the Communal Award is dead long live the Communal Award", for, without the Communal Award, the Members sitting on the Treasury Benches and their successors will not be able to retain their seats and will not be able to govern in the irresponsible manner in which they are going on. Sir, I am as anxious as anybody today not to add a hair's breadth to the communal tension that exists in this country, and it will be my endeavour, Sir, not to say a word which cannot be said by any good patriot. It is not to boast, but I do feel that I am as good or as bad a patriot as anybody in the land, that I am as much an Indian as anybody in this land, and that I am as much above communalism as the best Indian in this country of ours, but, Sir, I feel that I shall be failing in my duty to my country if I allow the impression to go that we will not do all that lies in our power to uproot this Communal Award, or that we have reconciled ourselves to it. My feeling, in the matter, is that the plant of nationalism can neither take root, nor blossom nor fruit, so long as the Communal Award exists to divide us, to separate us, and so long as the gross injustices it has done are allowed to remain. I do not condemn the Communal Award in the name of any community, although it certainly is glaringly unjust to both Hindus and Sikhs, I condemn it, Sir, as any true nationalist Indian would do, if he is a lover of justice and fair treatment for all, no matter whether he is Hindu, Sikh or a Mussalman. I condemn it as Professor Abdul Majid of the Punjab would condemn it or as Mr. Abdul Samad of Bengal would condemn it. I condemn the award, because it is anti-national, anti-rational and anti-democratic. I condemn it in the name of my country, in the name of nationalism and in the name of the future generations of this unfortunate motherland of ours, and, because, Sir, the Communal Award has been designed and deliberately planned to prevent the growth of national self-government in this country. I cannot forget that *Rah-e hain ham hamesha isi zamin par asman hokar*, we have been rulers of this land, we aspire to be rulers again in the near future. I know, although down-trodden we are that:

*"Jo hans rahá hai woh hans chukéga;
Jo ró rahá hai woh ró chukéga;*

*Sakoone dil sé Khuda Khuda kar;
Jo hó rahá hai wo hó chukéga;*

*Falak chale zálímána chálén;
Macháén andhér jitná cháhén;*

*Zamana lé hi ga koi karwat;
Nasib bekas ka só chukéga;*

*Hamári manzil ka woh hai dushman;
Hamári rahén bigáarta hai;*

*Khilenge kuchh qudrati shaqoofé,
Jab apne kánte woh bo chukéga."*

"He who is laughing will have laughed;
He who is weeping will have wept.
Take the name of God with peace of mind;
Whatever is happening will have happened;
Let heavens make whatever cruel moves they like to make;
Let them fill the world with as much gloom as possible;
Time after all will take a turn;
The fate of the helpless will have reached its last slumbers;
It is an enemy in the path of our destination;
It creates confusion in our paths;
However, through the help of Providence,
Events will take place and turn the tide
In spite of all the efforts made at sowing thorns in our way."

Some of these signs are visible on the horizon. The rape of Abyssinia by Italy and the entry of Germany into the Rhineland are portents of the coming events and we, if we have eyes, can see that the international situation is developing fast and it seems that the world is moving towards a chaos, and it is not unlikely that East and not the West, Asia and not Europe, in the not far off future, will forge ahead and predominate in this world. The dominance of the East is the only panacea for all the ills of this world. We, with our love of peace, spiritualism and goodwill for all can only bring peace on this earth. It is India's mission, but we cannot succeed, because the Britisher, clever as he is, has devised this Communal Award to work like fetters on our legs, so that we may not be able to unite and free ourselves, even when the time comes; from the British yoke. I want this obnoxious, undemocratic award to go, because I want freedom for the sons and daughters of this motherland, and because I want that strife and discord should disappear, that no one in this land should smart under a sense of injustice and that there should be nothing in this land to divide and disintegrate us.

Sir, I have not met a single individual who is satisfied with this Communal Award. Even my Muslim friends who have got practically 99.9 per cent. of their demands have their own grievances against this Award. So far as the Hindus and Sikhs are concerned, they have lost all along the line. Even where they are in a minority, what to say of getting any weightage, they have not obtained even the number of seats to which they were entitled on the score of their population. No one, Sir, can deny that the Communal Award is grossly and glaringly unjust to both Hindus and Sikhs, but my complaint is that even if we were prepared to sacrifice the interests of the majority, that even if we be prepared to give up all that we claim, we will not be able to win Swaraj. The Communal Award will stand in our way and will not allow nationalism and democracy to take root in this land. This Communal Award will create Ulsters and Pakistans in this country and keep Swaraj at bay. These friends of ours, Sir, have not stopped at communal political representation: they have introduced the virus of communalism into the services also. Even H. H. the Aga Khan feels now that the parties should not be formed on a communal basis, and that groups should now be formed on the basis of political and economic principles. Then, Sir, there are others who did all they could for separatism, communalism and all that goes for more and more seats and shares in the services for their community, but they have now begun

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paying homage to nationalism and are praying for the success of the Congress at the polls. This Punjab leader is anxious to join his lot with the minority party in the Punjab, although not with the majority community of the land. Sir, it is good that people heretofore swearing by separate electorates have now begun to realise the necessity of a joint electorate. I only pray to God, Sir, that the desire for joint electorate would be real, that my friends would really be anxious to do away with the communal representation, but the fact is, Sir, that joint electorates, good in themselves, will not be a panacea for all the wrongs that have been perpetrated in the name of the Communal Award. The joint electorates alone will not help the Caste Hindus of Bengal,—the Hindus who have built and given their all to Bengal, and but for whom Bengal would not be what it is today. Sir, communal differences, differences of creed, colour and all that go along with it existed in this unfortunate country of ours before also, just as they exist in other countries today also. Hindus, Mussalmans and Sikhs are as bad or as good as the Protestants and Catholics in England or Ireland or as any other sets of people in any other part of the land. Sir, England kept down Ireland for ages, because it was a Catholic country. England created an Ulster in Ireland, and England is similarly anxious to create as many Ulsters as are possible in India also. Sir, England does it, and is doing it all in her own interests.

Sir, there are minorities in the countries of Europe also, but we know that the League of Nations has tackled the problem of minorities. The question of minorities has been attended to quite successfully and rationally in the frame-work of some of the States newly constituted after the Great War, but, Sir, the British Government chose to ignore the result of close examination of similar problems elsewhere and has, for its own interests, sought to engraft on the fabric of the State of India a system which is so disruptive and disintegrating that it cannot but injure the growth of our Constitution.

Sir, the injustice to Bengal and the Punjab Hindus is so glaring that nothing need be said about it. The Caste Hindus of Bengal, Sir, to whom Bengal owes its culture, its education and everything good, have now been placed at the mercy of a communal majority on the most absurd, untenable and merely technical ground that, counting even infants and children of the Muslim community, they are found to be slightly superior in numerical strength. The adult population of Bengal, Sir, is 48·3 per cent. Hindus and that of Mussalmans 51·3 per cent., according to which the representation should have been 96·5 Hindus and 102·5 Mussalmans; but, in the Provincial Assembly, the Hindus will be 80 and the Muslim representatives 119! And to this, Sir, seven seats which the Muslim community will secure from the special constituencies, and Bengal will be burdened with a Communal Raj. It is one thing, Sir, to concede separate communal electorate for the purpose of giving reasonable representation to a minority, but it is a quite different thing to employ this system so as to confer upon the majority community a permanent majority in the Legislature, unalterable by any appeal to the electorates! Such is the case in the Punjab also. I do not want to say one unkind word, but I may be pardoned for saying this much that the Shahidgunce affair of the Punjab and the Hindi-Gurmukhi circular of the Frontier Government are a foretaste of the future communal "Rajes" in the provinces. If you want to see what the Communal Award and communal majorities can do,

Sir, go to the Frontier. There Hindu and Sikh girls cannot have their education through their mother-tongue, there Hindu and Sikh boys who go to schools have to pay double the fee as compared to Muslim boys, there Hindus have no place in the services of the province. In the North-West Frontier Province picketing of Hindu shops and the boycott of Hindus is going on, and the Hindus are migrating, leaving behind property worth lakhs and lakhs. Sir, I request, through you, my friend, the Honourable the Leader of the Independent Party, the ambassador of peace these days, and the grand old man of our Assembly, my friend, Saiyid Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, to pay a visit to the Frontier and see the condition of the Hindu and Sikh minorities and note how they are being treated there. All this, Sir, is the doing of the Government and the fruits of the Communal Award. The other day, replying to a question on the floor of this House, the Member for the Government, Sir, in regard to the Hindi-Gurmukhi circular, said, that it concerned the Transferred Departments, and the Government of India do not want to intervene or interfere or some such thing. This is how this Government do their duty! The Head of the Reserved Department, Sir, who is the agent or subordinate of the Central Government, is especially empowered to see that the interests of the minority are not trampled down; it is laid down in the Instruments of Instructions also, now, but the Government want the Hindus and Muslims to fight, it wants to prove to the Hindus that Mussalmans, if they are in power, will crush them, and so they must have no faith in them; the Government wants that the Hindus should also retaliate in the Provinces where they are in a majority, that Hindus and Muslims should go on fighting, and, in order to achieve this end, this Government, in the name of the Transferred Department, does not want to interfere. I charge this Government, therefore, Sir, for not discharging its duties properly, for allowing the interests of the minorities to be trampled down, and for adopting ways and means to keep the Hindus and Muslims fighting continually. I, therefore, oppose the motion and refuse to grant the demand for supplies.

I now come, Sir, to the repressive laws. One Urdu poet has well said, Sir:

*"Wo law aur order ké nám par humko pakarté hain,
Chale insáf karne hain baré Nausherwán hó kar.
Allah ré zalim tere Qánoon ki bandish,
Lab band, zabán band, nazar band, qalam band."*

Some Honourable Members: Translate, translate, we want translation.

Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya:

*"They catch us in the name of Law and Order;
They are out to do justice,
Posing as the very Nausherwán of their days.
Oh, the skill and scope of thy laws, Oh, cruel friend,
The lips are sealed, the tongue is tied,
We are shut up in jails or kept as detenus, and the pen fettered."*

They say, Sir, that they take the odium of placing these laws on the Statute-book simply for our good, for our sakes, so that future Ministers should be able to administer well.

We would have lawlessness, strife, communalism, Communism, terrorism, discord, disorder, and what not, and this "Mai Bap" Executive, Sir, is only anxious to have peace, a regime of law and order and justice;

[Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya.]

but, we know, Sir, to our cost, what this ordered regime and administration mean! They mean, Sir, poverty, starvation, emasculation of manhood, deprival of opportunities in our lives to rise to the highest posts both in military and civil departments of the Government of India and remaining in our land merely as hewers of wood and drawers of water. The Honourable the Home Member once talked of three menaces and of two public enemies. I said, Sir, in Simla, that his three menaces are nothing but triplets born of this foreign domination. As regards his two public enemies, I may, with your permission, tell him that the two public enemies in this land are the foreign domination, and the economic situation and grinding poverty which has been bred by this foreign domination. Let there be plenty in this land which was once famous for its abundance of food supplies and other comforts of life, let there be plenty of opportunities for our young men to rise high, earn a decent living and realise their ambitions according to their merits and we will have plenty of peace and good Government. We do not want their peace which means a living death, emasculation of our manhood, which means no peace in our homes and which brings no peace to the stomachs of the teeming millions that inhabit this land. They talk of peace, but create an atmosphere of strife; they talk of law and order and good Government, but govern badly; they say that they want laws in public interests, but they really want them in their own interests, for they want laws to perpetuate their ill-gotten gains and domination, in order to keep us down, and, in sheer despair and disgust, I am tempted to say: Sir,—

*"Nākhudā ab hāth uthālē bandgānē ishq sē,
Doob kar bhi lag hi jāngē kisi sākil se ham."*

"O, sailor, friend of mine, lift your hand off, do not help us, let us be drowned. For the currents will, after all, take us to some beach."

I have nothing more to add, Sir, and I will only say this much to the Honourable Members sitting on the Treasury Benches, through you, Sir, that the nations generally pay heavier prices for their sins of commission than for their sins of omission, and they must know that a day of Judgment is also awaiting them, that they should serve us as faithful servants, for the sovereignty of India lies in its people, and if they don't we will not vote for the supplies to maintain them. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member, I understand, made a colourless speech this morning, and he invited his enemies to shoot hard and to shoot first. I do not know whether he includes me in the rank of his enemies or not. But I can say this much that, thanks to the policy of disarmament which he and the Government of which he forms a literally ornamental link today, I never had any opportunity in my life to handle a gun. I think that a self-respecting Indian need not do so, so long as every Indian has not the opportunity of getting it if he chose to have it. But, Sir, his remarks today were better than the dubious one that he made on the last occasion. Then, he said, if I remember aright, "I will hit you if you hit me". That did not seem to me a manly observation on his part. I almost

flushed when he indicated that we wanted to hit him without exposing ourselves even to his full blooded strokes. When we go in for that pastime, well, we take the risk of being hit at even by an impulsive and vigorous young sportsman like him.

So far as the Finance Bill is concerned, I think we have not much to say about it. It is what is called a hardy annual, and this year the fare is poorer still. The Honourable the Finance Member has taken away certain parts which used to provide part of the ammunition formerly. But there is a remark in the speech which he delivered while introducing the budget to which I intend to pay special attention this afternoon. He said:

"In short, in my inexperience, I attached rather too much importance to the Cassandra-like prophecies of those who were concerned for one reason or other to proclaim that India was being ruined by its attachment to the British Empire and its adherence to sterling, and too little to the assurances of those who told me that India had a marvellous power of recuperation from economic troubles."

He evidently seems to believe that India has reached its zenith of economic prosperity under British rule. A suggestion; and even a mild hint to the contrary, irritates him, not only like an unfounded libel, but, perhaps, orthodox as he is, as a heresy. I am going to deal with that this afternoon, *i.e.*, whether British connection has worked to the economic advantage of India or whether it has worked as an engine for the progressive impoverishment and pauperisation of this ancient and once reputed land of the rich pagoda. Then, there is another statement which he has made, and, to that too, I shall devote some time. He has personally testified to the marvellous capacity of India for economic recuperation.

Sir, before I deal with these questions, I should like to remind the Honourable the Finance Member of what one of the great Pandits of orthodox economics said long ago. I think he includes John Stuart Mill in that category. John Stuart Mill said:

"The Government of a people by itself has a meaning and a reality, but such a thing as government of one people by another does not and cannot exist."

This is almost a common place thing. What follows is of greater importance:

"One people may keep another for its own use, a place to make money in, a human cattle farm to be worked for the profits of its own inhabitants."

The British people, since the day they had anything to do with this country, have kept it only as a cattle farm for their sole benefit, for their own profit, and for their own advantage. The balancing of budgets is more or less a mechanical affair, so far as subservient and subject races are concerned. It indicates neither prosperity nor progress. So long as a milk cow does not die or get dry, the keeper of the cow can manage to pull off the maximum amount of milk contained in it out of the udder, even though the heartless process be painful to the cow or fatal to the calf: he will have what he wants and what he likes and what he desires, irrespective of the consequences and of the disaster that it may entail to the cow or to her race.

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Sir, we have had in this country several cycles of surpluses and deficits. There were, I believe, surpluses between 1898 and 1910. There were deficits after that followed by the war-boom period. There were again deficits between 1920 and 1924 amounting to about 90 crores. Then came Sir Basil Blackett's period of prosperity, and we had deficits again for five or six years till 1934. But did the country advance a step during the days when it had those surpluses? Are the people in this country a whit better than they were before the surpluses came in? The surpluses are, in fact, more dangerous sometimes than deficits. They lead to extravagance, they lead to an addition,—substantial and material addition at times,—to the recurring expenditure which survives the surpluses and causes enormous embarrassment afterwards. The Honourable the Finance Member knows how other countries have today shown significant recovery. He must be aware of the fact that Great Britain itself had a definite balance in its national wealth of 37 million pounds this year, the first time since 1930. He knows, I believe, that the index figure has risen there as compared with September, 1931, even, from 100 to 114.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Production, or prices?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Prices. He knows also, I believe, that the index of production has risen much higher than this. He knows, I believe, that even in New Zealand, as in Canada, there has been a corresponding rise. He knows, I believe, that so far as our country is concerned, not only is the index price below what it was in 1918-19, below what it was in 1928-29, but it is even below what it was in September, 1930. I have before me the relevant documents showing that it is almost the solitary country today where depression still exists and persists in an acute form. I believe he is aware of the increase in the balance of trade in other countries. I believe he knows, too, that, so far as the export and import of private merchandise are concerned, we had a bigger balance of trade in 1933-34 than last year. And, even this year, we will have a smaller balance of trade than in 1933-34. He must remember that in a country situated as ours, where the interests of the people and of the Government are diametrically opposed, where the very condition of the existence of Government is that it should not include a responsible representative of the people and that none who comes into this House with the suffrage of the people should be allowed to step into their den, they must know, Sir, that in a country like this the interests of the people are obviously opposed to and militate against those of Government. It is just possible that there may be a recovery to the advantage of Government at the expense of the community; and the 18 pence ratio is an instance of that. If tomorrow the Honourable the Finance Member were to reduce the exchange ratio from 18 to 16 pence, Government would be put to a loss immediately of between four and five crores. But, on the other hand, the value of the agricultural produce, of the primary products, in terms of foreign money would go up by at least 12½ per cent. Well, Sir, this is obvious enough that, so far as our country is concerned, the Government and the people stand at loggerheads. What is good for the goose is not good for the gander, and, like the see-saw, when one rises, the other falls. So, Sir, so far as the interests of Government are concerned, they may feel that they

have an easier position and their position can be easier when the imports rise and the customs revenue rises. The exports may go down; the difference between exports and imports may narrow down and may go on narrowing down, but still the Government revenue will rise up with increasing imports. And one of the most disquieting features of the present situation is the contraction in the volume of inland trade. Railway traffic showed that last year there was a decrease in traffic earnings due to corresponding diminution in the volume of goods traffic; so far as foreign trade is concerned, there was an increase in the volume of traffic. But if there was a deficiency, it must naturally be attributed to a deficiency and a shortage of inland traffic. And when inland trade goes down in a country, that indicates that the economic capacity of the people is going down, that their purchasing power is becoming poorer. In fact that would be the natural consequence of the policy that has been followed in this country. While England has tried to manipulate currency and exchange with a view to regulating the export import trade, though she is so rich and advanced, here our rupee has been pegged to the sterling. While even Canada and Australia have depreciated their currency, while the process of devaluation has been enforced in so many countries even within the British Empire, we here have been tied down to the chariot wheels of the sterling's car, with the result that we have today a currency which, however plausible might have been the justification for it when prices were high, is certainly detrimental to the interests of the country when prices have fallen down and are not maintained in their parity with prices in other parts of the world. I hold, Sir, that while other countries have adopted a constructive policy with a view to securing recovery and to tiding over economic depression and distress, here, in our country, Government, interested as they are only in maintaining law and order, in issuing its ukases, in emasculating and disarming us, in preserving our ignorance and illiteracy, disease and pestilence, poverty and destitution,—this Government have not moved or wagged their little finger with a view to stimulating economic recovery in this vast country.

Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member referred to the marvellous capacity for economic recuperation of India. It brought before me a panorama of sublime mountains, of fertile valleys, of navigable rivers, of an extensive maritime sea-board, of waving fields of rice and wheat and sugar cane, of jute and tea and cotton plantations, of our coalfields and our mines, and of our rich fauna and flora. It reminded me of the limitless resources of this country, and I felt that the conclusion at which the Finance Member had arrived must be a legitimate and correct one. A country like this whom God and Providence in their mercy had endowed with their magnificent and bountiful blessings in an unstinted measure should be possessed of marvellous powers of recuperation. But, then, Sir, the very next moment, I saw before me the spectre of millions of moving skeletons stalking the length and breadth of this land, I saw poverty writ large on the face of this country, I saw destitution of an inconceivable type. I remembered that while the standard of comfort and living in Great Britain was almost even with our own at this time when British connection with this country started, today their death rate was half of ours and the expectation of life or average longevity there was more than double of ours, even their drink bill per head was equal to the total national income of two in this country and their receipts from customs and excise on drinks and liquors alone exceeded the total

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national revenue of this Government! When I saw all that, I saw the big gulf between the two, limitless resources on the one side, and inconceivable poverty on the other! Why was it? The riddle came before me—I was confronted with the problem as to why this country with its limitless resources should have been reduced to such a stage of utter penury and destitution. Look at the income per head, look at her exports and imports, look at her volume of trade, look at whatever aspect you consider to be a symptom or index of economic situation, your heart is rent to pieces and can find solace in no factor whatsoever. What do we find today? Abyssinia is the victim of Italy, because nations feel that unless they have raw materials they cannot progress forward. Germany has taken another similar step, which is perhaps an outcome of the treatment she received at Versailles and of which I need not say much at this stage, because countries feel that the way to prosperity lies in the possession of raw materials. Then, why in our country, in spite of all these natural advantages, should there be such a deplorable and pitiable state of affairs? It is not only raw materials of which we have in abundance, but we have also men in millions, to whose thrift, abstemious habits, industry and simplicity of living, purity and cleanliness, people from all parts of the world have testified from time to time during the last 3,000 years? Thus, on the one hand, we have got ample raw materials, and, on the other, we have got ample man power to convert them into commodities which constitute wealth and real source of happiness and comfort of humanity; why is it that still we are starving, that we are progressively deteriorating, that our condition is so unenviable? Well, the answer is to be found in the unnatural state of our being a dairy farm for the upkeep and aggrandisement of the imperialist octopus which is represented by my friend opposite on those benches. It is because of its tentacles that extend to every part of this country which have been dug deep into the body and heart of every being in this country, that our blood has been sucked and squeezed.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): Why do you allow it?

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Do I? I would cut it to pieces today if it rested with me, and if I had the power which Mr. Jinnah possesses, I would have done wonders. (Applause.) He knows in what high esteem I hold him, he knows also how my heart weeps. If it is there, it is in spite of me and not because of me, and I am determined to see it prostrate before me, not only defeated, not only discredited, but also genuinely penitent in a spirit of remorse and compunction for its innumerable sins of commission and omission. Sir, British people may take credit for many things. They have introduced peace in this extensive land—peace that is necessary if a master wants to have the benefit of the labour of his serfs, but he won't let them have more of peace than is necessary for him but it is peace of starvation, it is peace of poverty, it is peace of death, and I wish we had more of life and less of peace. Perhaps, Sir, there are other things for which they may take credit, but so far as the economic depredations of the British people are concerned, so far as their calculated policy of progressive impoverishment and pauperization of this land is concerned, they will never be able to receive any exoneration or absolution from any jury anywhere in the bar of humanity. Their sins

are too many—and, at this stage, I want to tell the Honourable the Finance Member that though he was right in thinking that a country, with such privileges and advantages as nature had conferred on ours, must have a marvellous innate capacity, he forgot that he and his forbears and those like him, have throttled it, have sapped all its vitality and have reduced it to its present state of helplessness. Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member had more than once shown his intolerance and impatience when it was suggested that the industries and manufactures of this land suffered under British administration. To him it looked like a libel, and I am not surprised—he is a gentleman—he had never any reason to look into the history of this country . . .

An Honourable Member: A gentleman need not.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: He never thought that he would have anything to do with this country. Why need he worry about the treatment that was accorded before his time to the people of this country? He happens to be here, and he is determined to carry out his part of the job, but as to what they did, that does not weigh with him, that does not matter to him, he thinks he is not personally responsible for them. But, what of his own attitude of today? I will come to what was done before his time a little later. But I would ask him to remember, to bear in mind, his own attitude, his own policy and what he himself wants to do or to undo. The Honourable the Finance Member assumes the pose of wounded innocence when anybody says that orthodoxy is not after all the best method of dealing with the affairs of the world as it requires above all reason, light and something more intelligent and intelligible than blind faith. He sticks to his creed: he fondly hugs the clothes that have been thrown away by others, and he comes and praises to us the tenets, which he considers immortal, of that orthodoxy which has been thrown overboard by his countrymen in Great Britain. He looks to me like a Bolshevik, like a Communist coming from Russia to preach Christianity in this country! The Honourable the Finance Member, speaking of economic orthodoxy in this land, is something like a Communist coming and preaching to us the advantages and the privileges of paying homage to, and having faith in, Christ. The Honourable the Finance Member told me the other day: "Physician, heal thyself". He knows I am only a patient, and that he alone is the physician here. We all are suffering from maladies and ills, from germs which they have introduced and propagated here during the last 180 years and yet the irony is there that they continue to pose as physicians and our remedy still rests in their hands. So, I am not the physician in any aspect of the term: I am a patient, and I look to him, I have a claim to look up to him for an appropriate remedy for the ills from which this land is suffering. I have every right to claim and expect loyalty from him for this land which is maintaining him in the office which he fills. Is it vain to hope that he will care more for this land than for the other land? I may remind him of what a predecessor of his once in office said on such an occasion—Sir John Strachey, who was the Finance Member in 1878, said in connection with import duties on cotton:

"The truth is, I am not ashamed to say, that while I hope that I feel as strongly as any man the duties which I owe to India there is no higher duty in my estimation than that which I owe to my own country. (Mr. M. A. Jinnah: "Hear, hear.") I believe that our countrymen at home had a real, a very sincere grievance, and that it is no imaginary injury against which they complain."

[Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant.]

It was because there was then what he thought a sort of a tariff policy for revenue purposes in this country which had a certain complexion in his imagination of protection. He indicated that so far as the interests of his country were concerned, they could not possibly be in harmony with and could not be advanced by such a policy and in spite of his professed love for this land of his adoption, he thought he would be failing in his duty if he did not look up to his own people at home.

And that was a natural sentiment. I do not know how far the Honourable the Finance Member shares it . . .

An Honourable Member: Fully.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: . . . But I expect him to tell us something about his own attitude in this matter. I hope he will let us know whether he shares the feelings of Sir John Strachey which were candidly expressed by him or whether he accepts that there can be no divided loyalties so long as the salary is received from one source alone. But this is only a part of the question.

The Honourable the Finance Member has again and again trotted forth his nostrums of *laissez faire*, protection, orthodox economics. May I ask him how far these things are today holding the field in his own country. I remember—and I think he will correct me if I am mistaken—that two or three years ago there was a very vigorous campaign in England—'Buy British'—which was headed by the present King. He went from place to place and asked people to buy British, not to buy in the cheapest market as the orthodox people said. Then, I also remember—he will correct me if I am mistaken—that there is a law in England which does not allow any person to engage any domestic servant or artist even belonging to a foreign State without a State license. I do not know if my information is correct: I will stand corrected if it is contradicted. And I may also remind him if he has forgotten it, though he was, I think, in charge of customs till he came here, that there are heavy import duties in the United Kingdom on every possible imaginable thing that they think their country can bear or produce: I will just mention a few: Plums 3s. 4d. per cwt., Apples 4s. 6d. per cwt., Oranges 3s. 6d., Peaches 14s. Green Peas 37s. Turnips 8s., Potatoes 1£ to 2£ per ton, Fish and Oysters 30s. plus 10s. 6d., Sugar 11s. 8d. per cwt. I think this is almost what is charged here by way of protective duty on sugar. Glass and iron and steel 33½ per cent. and what may interest every Member of this House, as they have it on even now, boots and shoes 1s. 6d. per pair.

I have given only a few instances and a few items from the Tariff Schedule. That is the present schedule that obtains in England and I think my friend knows too they are giving an enormous bounty. We had recently some discussion about the beet sugar bounty. Well besides this 11s odd. which I have read out as the import duty on sugar, they are spending about 4 crores over the subsidy to beet sugar; and they had appointed a committee, known as the Green Committee, to look into this matter; the Green Committee reported that the beet sugar industry could not possibly be sustained and maintained in England, that all the

money was being wasted. But, in spite of that, when a question was put in the House of Commons the other day, Mr. Elliott said that the bounty would be continued and he observed, what the Honourable the Finance Member might have noticed—but he will not mind if I repeat it—that the Green Committee had looked at the question only from the standpoint of sugar, but there were larger and bigger questions such as the employment of so many people in that industry, and he pleaded that whether the industry could or could not flourish was a minor matter, as they could not bear the idea of so many hands—I think it was 40,000—being thrown out of employment if the subsidy were discontinued. Will the Finance Member concede that there are various other aspects besides that of whether the stuff out of which finished products are made is produced in this country itself or an infinitesimal part of it is imported from abroad, which should weigh with the Government when they have to decide matters relating to protection? That is what was argued by Mr. Elliot there; but, here my Honourable friend asserts: "No: free trade alone is the panacea and protection, wherever it has been given here, was and is a mistake." He would scrap it if he could, but regrets when he cannot—I suspect, I do not know, but my suspicions are often confirmed, because we know each other's minds—I think the Honourable the Finance Member knows that he would not have given protection to several of the industries in pursuance of the policy of 1925 which they have now got. Left to himself, his orthodox economics would stick to a policy of free trade. But there is the handicap of Fiscal Commission and avowed policy of discriminating protection. To overcome it, he has to resort to subtle cobwebs and screens. Well, Sir, there is nothing novel in this. History is only repeating itself. That has been the policy of the British people from the beginning. I will just remind the Honourable the Finance Member of what a great economist, Liszt, said in 1844 about this protectionist policy and about the vaunted allegiance of Britishers to free trade. These are the words of Liszt, and I think that, as they are about a hundred years old, and we are in the third generation today, it might interest people to know that men may come and men may go, but the old river and the overflowing of India specially when it washes away the wealth of this land, will continue as ever. This is, Sir, what Liszt said:

"Had they sanctioned the free importation into England of Indian cotton and silk goods, the English cotton and silk manufactures must, of necessity, soon come to a stand. India had not only the advantage of cheaper labour and raw material, but also the experience, the skill and the practice of centuries. The effect of these advantages could not fail to tell under a system of free competition. But England was unwilling to found settlements in Asia in order to become subservient to India in manufacturing industry. She strove for commercial supremacy and felt that of two countries maintaining free trade between one another, that one would be supreme which sold manufactured goods, while that one would be subservient which could only sell agricultural produce. . . . Accordingly, England prohibited the import of the goods dealt in by her own factories, the Indian cotton and silk fabrics. The prohibition was complete and peremptory. Not so much as a thread of them would England permit to be used. She would have none of these beautiful and cheap fabrics, but preferred to consume her own inferior and costly stuffs. She was however quite willing to supply the continental nations with the far finer fabrics of India at lower prices, and willingly yielded to them all the benefit of that cheapness: she herself would have none of it. Was England a fool in so acting? Most assuredly, according to the theories of Adam Smith and J. B. Say"—and, I might add, Sir James Grigg,—“The English Ministers cared not for the acquisition of low priced and perishable articles of manufacture, but for that of a more costly and enduring Manufacturing Power.”

[Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant.]

Well, Sir, let not the Honourable the Finance Member wink, because Liszt was a German. This was written in 1844, about the time when France was considered to be a revolutionary country, and the Republic was again raising its head. It was written at a time when there was goodwill perfect and amity between Great Britain and Germany who fought together against France in 1870. But, Sir, lest one should think that he was after all a foreigner, I will give the House another extract from a historian of my Honourable friend's own country, and I think he will not dispute his credentials,—I am referring to H. H. Wilson. That well known historian says,—I wish my friend, the Honourable the Finance Member, who has always shown a marked degree of intolerance whenever any suggestion is made to the effect that the annihilation, the ruination, the devastation of industries and manufactures in this country is a part of the deliberate, cool and calculated policy of the British people in this country who are represented by him here, may pay special attention to this,—this is what Wilson says:

"It is also a melancholy instance of the wrong done to India by the country on which she has become dependent. It was stated in evidence—"

—that is the evidence before the Parliamentary Committee which sat in every 20 years in those days—

"It was stated in the evidence in 1813 that the cotton and silk goods of India up to the period could be sold for a profit in the British market at a price from 50 to 60 per cent. lower than those fabricated in England. It consequently became necessary to protect the latter by duties of 70 to 80 per cent. of their value or, by positive prohibition. Had this not been the case, had not such prohibitory duties and decrees existed the mills of Paisley and Manchester would have been stopped in their outset and could scarcely have been again set in motion even by the power of steam. They were created by the sacrifice of the Indian manufacture. Had India been independent, she would have retaliated, would have imposed prohibitive duties upon British goods and would thus have preserved her own productive industry from annihilation. This act of self-defence was not permitted her; she was at the mercy of the stranger. British goods were forced upon her without paying any duty, and the foreign manufacturer."—*I wish the Honourable the Commerce Member were in his seat now, to note this,—I wish at least the Honourable the Finance Member to note this.*—"British goods were forced upon her without paying any duty and the foreign manufacturer employed the arm of political injustice to keep down and ultimately to strangle the competitor with whom he could not have contended on equal terms."

Sir, that is the testimony of a historian belonging to the same beautiful island from which my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, hails. But I will take him still deeper to the original evidence on which these findings are based,—the evidence of John Ranking, a merchant, who, when examined by the Commons Committee, testified to this, and that shows how Indian manufactures were shut out from England by the imposition of prohibitive tariffs. I will read the question to Mr. Ranking and also the answer given by him:

"Can you state what is the *ad valorem* duty on piece goods sold at the East India House?"

The reply was:

"The duty on the class called calicoes is £3-6-8d. per cent. upon importation, and if they are used for home consumption there is a further duty of £68-6-8 per cent. There is another class called muslins, on which the duty on importation is 10 per cent. and if they are used for home consumption, of £27-6-8d. per cent. There is a third class, coloured goods, which are prohibited being used in this country, upon which there is a duty upon importation of £3-6-8 per cent.; they are only for exportation,"

and so on, and so forth.

Sir, there is no gainsaying the fact that the policy of strangling and strangulating the industries of this country has been followed ruthlessly, positively as well as negatively by acts of commission as well as of omission and there is no remedy for the present mess, unless it is completely revised and genuine industrial recovery is brought about. I had the temerity, Sir, last year, of speaking of planning in this House, but the Honourable the Finance Member would not care to apply his mind seriously to it. He cried "red", shouted "Russia", quoted Sanco Pauza, I mean Brutzkus, and there the reply ended! Sir, that is how he met my suggestions last year. I do not know if it was prudent on my part to have provoked his wrath, knowing as I do that he is but a little wheel for carrying on that colossal machine or plot which has been eternally, day and night, week after week, month after month, year after year, decade after decade for the last 200 years, grinding the groaning masses of the people of this country. Where can there be a place for plan when there is a plot? And so I need not worry him about planning any more. But I ask him whether he can expect to collect any taxes from the overtaxed people of this country except by bringing about some sort of economic recovery in order to enable them to yield to their masters the hard earned fruits of the sweat of their brow? Does he not think that even in his own interests it is necessary that he should adopt some steps that will result in economic recovery? India is more or less like a country which collects moisture from all other parts of the world just to convert it into clouds, so that the rain may enrich Great Britain and irrigate her lands and they may have the benefit of it. The bees here, by their labour, collect honey and whatever they collect is exported abroad for the maintenance of those who live thousands of miles away. Well, Sir, may I ask my Honourable friend, how can any country stand the strain of about 150 crores of rupees economic drain year by year, for the major portion of which there is no direct equivalent. The home charges, the interest charges, the pensionary charges, the salaries of men on leave, the overseas allowance, the shipping charges, the profits earned by British companies in India, the remittances made by them for so many other things—how can any country maintain its economic equilibrium, how can it continue to live if it has to part with such an enormous amount year after year without getting any equivalent for several of these items? I would remind my friend of what Burke said in this connection on Fox's Bill; it might interest him. He said:

"The Tartar invasion was mischievous, but it is our protection that destroys India. It was their enmity, but it is our friendship. Our conquest there, after twenty years, is as crude as it was the first day. The natives scarcely know what it is to see the grey head of an Englishman . . ."

However, we see here my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Craik's head! The Honourable the Finance Member may be particularly interested in one or two sentences that follow:

" . . . young men, boys almost, govern there, without society, and without sympathy with the natives. They have no more social habits with the people than if they still resided in England; nor, indeed, any species of intercourse but that which is necessary to making a sudden fortune, with a view to a remote settlement. Animated with all the avarice of age, and all the impetuosity of youth, they roll in one after another; wave after wave, and there is nothing before the eyes of the natives but an endless, hopeless prospect of new flights of birds of prey and passage, with appetites continually renewing for a food that is continually wasting. Every rupee of profit made by an Englishman is lost for ever to India."

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This is what one of the greatest friends of justice said at a time which, when we think of it, was before I or the Finance Member was born; I cannot say whether our fathers or grandfathers even were born then or not. But, still, the policy continues to be to this day what it was at that time, and for that, my congratulations to the unique capacity for conservatism and stagnancy, especially where the furthering of their own interests or the throttling of the interests of others are concerned, of the British people whom the Finance Member represents here today. I hope, after this, the Finance Member will not blame us if we feel that the enunciation of a policy of free trade in this country, with all these precedents and antecedents, may not be altogether an innocuous thing. It is obvious that the interests of this country really lie in having our raw products converted into finished goods in this very land and any suggestion to the effect that the raw products should be taken from this place to London, or Birmingham, or Manchester, or Lancashire, or other places, to be brought back in a finished shape to this very place, adding to unemployment here, adding to starvation here, and making the position of our people still more pitiable is a monstrosity! I ask in all seriousness, I ask the Finance Member whether it has ever occurred to him, that while in this country, during the last 70 years you have been carrying on a policy, an active and vigorous policy for the extension of railway lines,—it never occurred to him and his predecessors that rails could also be manufactured here, that wagons also could be manufactured here, and even today you gib and gibe at it when a suggestion is made that locomotives might be manufactured here! You have been using arms and ammunitions, you have had your ordnances and other things, you have been using enormous stores in the Government Departments for the last 150 years, and it never occurred to you that there were raw products in this country which could be converted into finished products to the benefit of the people of this country. From time to time you established Cotton Committees, Silk Committees, Tea Committees, so on and so forth. You wanted to exploit all these raw products, but you never had a single genuine Committee to promote the manufacture of a single industry in this country. Why? What was the reason? And what have you been doing in your own country? I can mention a hundred and fifty committees that were formed during the last 4½ years to deal with one industry or another, and yet, so far as we are concerned, during the last 250 years you have not formed a single committee to look into this matter. That shows that you are interested only in exploiting people here. That demonstrates that you want us to work for you as serfs, to enable you to live well, ourselves to be thrown down the valley and the dungeon. The Finance Member, I believe, has not yet lost his conscience, he will excuse me for saying that. There is reason for it. Orthodox economics does not, in fact, assume any conscience; it rests on that automaton of the economic man who is only blend of avarice and self-interest. Sir, orthodox economics would not accept that there is any other element than these two, in man. If it be so, then I will ask the Honourable the Finance Member to rise above his prejudices and ponder, despite his being an orthodox economist, over the facts of history. I am prepared to concede that orthodoxy and conservatism are blind and they would not even take notice of historical facts. Theirs is only one burden: "This is my belief, this is my creed, this is my faith and I stick to it". I expect better from the Honourable the Finance Member. So, I hope he will have the fairness to take into

account the process that has been followed in this country and he will have the goodness to think that it is due by him and due to us that he should adopt a policy which will mark a distinct change from the policy that has been followed so far. When there was a small tariff of five per cent. imposed in this country from 1859 onwards, there was a regular campaign in England and in the British Parliament for the removal of those duties as it was suspected that they stood in the way of the free import of British textiles into this country.

The other day, as the Honourable the Leader of the Independent Party might be remembering, when the question came up before this House about protection being given to the textile industry, the Government would not accept it without ensuring preference for British goods and the Legislature had to swallow that poison, lest they should lose even the little conceded to them, if they did not do so. The other day, when there was a proposal for protection for steel, then, again, the Government would not agree unless there was preference for British steel; and, mark you, there was no clement of reciprocity on either occasion. It was no part of the Ottawa Agreement. It was a one-sided affair. You should give privileges to Great Britain, because Great Britain is your political master, if you want any sort of concession that may directly or indirectly tend to safeguard the indigenous industries even in a crisis! That continues to be the policy today. It is not a question of free will or mutual arrangement and it seeks to foist and force upon us preferences in favour of the United Kingdom, because with a loaded pistol in hand you say "We are in a position to dominate—if you don't do so, then you will not have it at all". I say, you have had your day, but Nemesis must overtake you even in the economic field. Sir, I have only one suggestion to make to the Honourable the Finance Member, and it is this. I am not much in love with protection. He knows it. I am not much in love with indirect taxes. But I will not let Indian industries languish. I will not allow protection to be deprecated or withdrawn under any pretext unless a better substitute is adopted. I will not be beguiled by false sophistries of discredited orthodoxy to the detriment of Indian manufacture. If the choice lies between protection and ruination of Indian industry, I will unhesitatingly prefer protection. I earnestly advocate a policy of State guidance, State regulation and stimulation. I do not suggest socialisation except in the case of the key industries which alone, I think, in the present state of our country, are capable of being managed by the State directly. But, unless you adopt such a policy, you cannot but enforce an effective policy of protection. I think my Honourable friend must have read with interest, or, to use my friend, Mr. Sri Prakasa's expression, with gusto, the speech on Free Trade and its treacherous character that was delivered recently by Sir Gavin Jones. It was a really refreshing speech, and if he has not read it, I would request him to read it. There is more substance in it than in tons of things that sometimes proceed from similar quarters. I hope the European group will take a leaf from that book. You should adopt a policy in this country such as that you adopted for railway construction. You should guarantee the minimum rate of interest for industries of prescribed types. Have an industrial survey. Mark out the industries that suit different places. Let there be no depressed area. Let the industries be spread over the country from one end to the other. Let the best of schemes be prepared by the best of experts, experts whom even the Honourable the Finance Member may recognise as experts. Let

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them frame these schemes. Let it be published that in particular specified localities, particular industries can be profitably developed. Let the State invite people to take up these industries and declare that it is prepared to guarantee interest at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 4 or 5 per cent. Let a condition be imposed that it will be open to the State to acquire these industries after a period of 20 or 30 years just as it has the right and the option in the matter of railways. Let the State be represented on the directorate. Let labour be represented there. Let there be genuine co-operation between capital, labour and State. Unless you have a constructive policy of this kind, which will lead to the real production of wealth on a large scale in this country, I warn you that you will not be able to exact anything, because when the cow goes dry, you can only get blood, and no milk. So, in your own interest, you should adopt an active policy of industrialisation, and mechanisation, agricultural co-operation and scientific organisation, to bring about equilibrium between agriculture and industry and stimulate production in this land. Unless this is done, I believe it is not possible to bring about any sort of real balanced budget. It can only be a robber's budget. It can be a plunderer's budget, a budget of people who are not guided by any regard for those from whom they extort what they desire. It can be a people's budget only after you have, in fact, restored to them the marvellous economic capacity of which you spoke in your speech.

Then, Sir, my Honourable friend spoke the other day about the effect of British rule on the economic condition. I think I have told him enough about it and I should not say more. I hope he stands chastened there too and he will now have a little sympathy with us because we are the victims of a ruthless policy of prolonged exploitation carried on in an atrocious manner for several decades—for close upon two centuries. It has eaten into our very bones. We will not resort to curses. We are an Eastern people but it will certainly be said that when you had the opportunity you lost it. Righteousness alone exalteth a nation. We of the East feel that man is not born for bread alone but why should you lose that soul for that rotten bread. World is progressing, science is progressing. The old spectre of the growth of population being in geometrical progression against the growth of wealth in arithmetical progression has been burnt and its ashes thrown underground by eminent economists. This is the epoch of rational, scientific planning. Is it not possible for the British people to shed off their prejudices? Is it not possible for them to rise above pettiness and vanity? Here we have got the economic Messiah in the figure of the Honourable the Finance Member. Will the orthodox economics of the Messiah not allow him to take account of truth and save the situation? Well, let him as the Messiah of orthodoxy take some lesson from the greater Messiah who once stood for the world and gave his own neck for the protection of others. Even if your masters want you to do what is not in the interest of this country, could you not follow the other saviour, take heart and courage, and do what is best for this land?

Sir, I do not know how to hit hard. I am a non-violent creature, and do not know how to fight or shoot. I shall only say one word more, and I have done. I have many things in mind, but I feel that I owe it to this House that I should not take more time. The Honourable the Finance

Member, Sir, spoke at the end of his speech of thermometers and barometers. Now, we speak of a barometer when there is a storm and there is no calm in the sea, and of the thermometer when the system is diseased and below par and the patient is in subnormal state.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: High blood-pressure.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant: Sir, I want to bring India back to its normal health. Here is no question of free trade in this country.

4 P.M. Free trade, for us, is hardly distinguishable from what might be called distress trade. The exports from this country stand more or less on the same footing as the exports of gold, and except in the case of those commodities of which we hold a monopoly, we export goods, because we cannot help exporting them. The villager has to starve but he has to sell the grain that he raises because he has to pay the dues to this generous Government. He has to do it and he has to part with his food even though it entails starvation. Sir, it is not in exports, it is not in free trade that economic salvation of this country lies. Export of foodstuffs and cotton, when people have no food and raiment for themselves, is a strange phenomenon. If you want this country to be really prosperous, you should concentrate on internal development and internal reconstruction. Has it ever occurred to you, Sir, that we form one-fifth of the human race? Still, we do not consume one-fiftieth of the commodities of the world. The United States grows four times as much cotton as we do, and it grows many times the wheat that we do and she still does not export more than one-tenth of its produce. Its population is less than one-third of ours but it consumes one hundred times the goods that we produce, because those people are maintaining a reasonable standard of life; so, what is needed in this country is to bring to the manufacturer and the producer of raw products in this land the application of the recent discoveries of science so that wealth may be produced, so that our men may get what they want, so that burdens may be taken away from our unfortunate masses, so that they may have education, so that they may have some modicum of wealth, so that they may be relieved of this Octopus of imperialism, and the army of occupation of a foreign land, and so that we may be able to live our lives decently and so that we may not have to think of barometers and thermometers but think of a healthy, normal India, which has been restored and which has been re-assured of the marvellous capacity for recuperation which she possessed in the past and which she deserves to possess today. (Loud and Prolonged Applause.)

Mr. Mathuradas Vissanji (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Mr. President, in considering the general principle of the Finance Bill, we should, I think, bear in mind certain features of that instrument, as well certain circumstances of our country at the present moment without which we cannot do real justice to this effort of the Honourable the Finance Member. I shall confine myself to examining the point if, as the Finance Member claims, there is a real return of lasting prosperity in the country; secondly, how far the action taken by the Government of India compares favourably with the corresponding action taken in the country, which this Government habitually regard as their model, in promoting national recovery and expediting the return of prosperity;

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thirdly, in considering the true character of the present surplus budget of the Government of India, and the explanation of that surplus, so far as one can pierce through the appearances; fourthly, the actual size of the surplus, properly estimated, and its right and just disposal, in contrast with the disposal proposed by the Honourable Sir James Grigg; and, lastly, in an attempt to formulate certain demands on behalf of the tax-payers, which could well be met if the financial authorities would not turn a deaf ear to the representations from the Assembly.

[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).]

Has real prosperity returned to India? In submitting these observations, Sir, I shall try to be as brief as the circumstances of each particular problem considered would admit of. To begin with, is there a real return of lasting prosperity, which would justify a feeling of buoyancy, or a measure of grateful congratulations to the authorities responsible for such a happy state of things? The Honourable the Finance Member has, again and again, in the course of his budget speech, indicated his belief that prosperity or recovery has begun, on a permanent footing. But the indices of such prosperity,—such as are generally available,—and fairly representative of the actual situation,—do not show, in my view, any such comfortable position of our national economy, or even of our public finances, collectively considered.

I shall take the volume and value of our foreign trade, the value of our agricultural production; the condition of our railways, and the financial position of the Provincial Governments by way of illustration of my argument. None of these conditions show, in comparison with the pre-depression level, any improvement, which could entitle a conscientious observer in expressing a measure of confidence in the economic situation of the country. The ten months' trade returns of this country for the current year show exports of Rs. 132.5 crores, as against imports of Rs. 113 crores; while, for the corresponding period of last year, the exports aggregated Rs. 125.92 crores, and the imports Rs. 109.26 crores. To those who would only compare these two sets of figures, there may seem to be an improvement of about 5 per cent. in export and a like amount in import. But the Honourable Sir James Grigg believes, not only in being cautious, but in looking ahead for a period longer than a year. He would not, therefore, mind my comparing these figures to the series of years ever since the depression began. Compared to the year 1928-29, immediately preceding the depression, when the aggregate trade of India amounted to Rs. 600 odd crores,—with imports averaging a little over Rs. 250 crores, and exports a little more than Rs. 350 crores, leaving a trade balance in our favour of Rs. 100 crores and more, we have now a total trade of hardly half its pre-depression value,—and that without accounting for the depreciation in the rupee. If we take the gold value of our foreign trade today, it will not be much over one-third of the trade before the depression began.

Such a situation can scarcely be regarded with any satisfaction by those who accept the volume and condition of the foreign trade as a good index

of the level of prosperity in this country. The actual position of our trade is still alarming if we analyse the figures of the last five or six years:

Foreign Trade of India in Merchandise.

(In Crores of Rupees.)

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
1930-31	173.06	226.50	399.56
1931-32	130.04	161.20	291.84
1932-33	135.02	136.07	271.09
1933-34	117.31	150.23	267.54
1934-35	134.59	155.04	289.63
1935-36 (10 months).	113.04	132.51	..

These figures are, as I have already said, in terms of rupees, which is itself depreciated by some 40 per cent. compared to the gold price level of the rupee before September, 1931. From the lowest point reached in 1932-34, there is a gradual improvement no doubt. But while the improvement is much more considerable in the case of imports of foreign merchandise,—stimulated mainly because of the Ottawa system of Imperial Preference,—there is nothing like a corresponding improvement in the exports of Indian produce. According to the index numbers of exported and imported articles, whereas there has been a fall in the value of exported articles from India of over 52 points compared with September, 1929, there has been a fall in imported articles of only about 40 points in March, 1935. That is to say, the produce of India has to be exported about 40 per cent. more, relatively speaking, in order to obtain a given return. The imported foreign articles have a distinct advantage, and need be imported only about 28 per cent. more in order to yield the same return to the foreign exporter.

The same tendency is visible if we consider the value of the principal Indian produce. According to the "Annual Review of the Trade of India for 1934-35", the value of the total production of the principal crops for the eight important Provinces of India had declined between 1928-29 and 1933-34 from 1,021.20 crores to 473.94 crores, or a decline of 53.6 per cent. The price level from April, 1934, to May, 1935, has hardly improved by three points, while the statistics of industrial and agricultural production, as given in the *Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India*, in the agricultural section at any rate, shows very little improvement in the current year worth the name.

Taking industrial, agricultural and mining production together, and considering that in the light of the wholesale prices index number, it is impossible to say if, in contrast with 1928-29, our economic position today,

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in terms of the value of the material wealth produced in the country, is even half as good as it was seven or eight years ago. Anyone granting that there has been an improvement in the last two or three years can only say so as compared with the lowest point in the depression period. There are, however, so many factors to explain such improvement as there is; the improvement itself is so slight; and the conditions governing its future trend so doubtful and uncertain, that he would be a bold man who would say that real as well as lasting prosperity has returned to India.

This position is indisputably reflected in two other indices, namely, the railway returns and the finances of the Provincial Governments, who derive their revenues mainly, if not wholly, from the general wealth of the country. The railways have been losing in the last five years at a rate which has aggregated the losses on that account, according to the latest budget, to over 45 crores. This practically wipes out the surplus earned by the railways, ever since they were separated from the general finance; and leaves a big claim against the railway on account of the General Exchequer of over 30 crores. The Railway Depreciation Fund, set up on a commercial basis since 1924-25, has been drawn upon to meet the ordinary deficit in the working of the railways to the tune of 35½ crores, leaving the balance at a little above a quarter of what the total amount in the fund should be. An additional liability of nearly 31 crores is still outstanding against the railways on account of its stipulated contribution to the Central Exchange. This state of things has been in existence for several years. It reflects nothing more than the fall off in the traffic of every kind, which is itself an index of the declining prosperity of the country,—perhaps even a better index of the real level of prosperity than the trade index given above.

The aggregate deficits in all the Provinces put together, according to the latest budget statements presented in the last and the current months, approximates to two crores of rupees, or thereabouts. This is an addition to the sub-ventions necessary for the next few years to the new provinces under the new Constitution. Once again we have an index of the country's national economy, which reveals anything but a state of steady progress or prosperity, on which the authorities may well be felicitated. The provincial deficits are all the more alarming, because they have resulted, notwithstanding additional taxation, in almost every major province and in spite of cutting down to the bone useful Provincial expenditure in every direction. Really speaking, this is only postponed expenditure on what are known as the nation-building departments of the State; and it will have to be met, sooner rather than later, if the country is at all to have a level of national economy worthy of a civilised land. Just as the Government of India sound a warning note in no uncertain terms about their military expenditure, for instance, which is not to be taken even at its present inflated level as the permanent level of expenditure on that head, the responsible authorities in the provinces would be equally entitled to say that the present level of provincial expenditure on education, sanitation, agriculture and industry, and a hundred and one forms of local development cannot be treated as the permanent low level for a progressive administration.

The provinces have, of course, an additional disadvantage in an era of falling prices. It leads to the utmost shrinkage in their most important form of income, namely, revenue from land. Though the land revenue is

generally fixed in cash, and for a term of years, the declining return obtained by the agriculturist for his produce makes the burden of the fixed revenue charge so progressively heavy, that agriculturists are either abandoning the land, migrating to the cities, and creating their fresh problems of unemployment and distress; or that Governments are obliged to order constant remissions or suspensions of revenue, which must materially affect their balance sheet. Again, new ideas of social reform—such as the restriction of the use of intoxicating liquors and drugs,—would similarly impinge upon the provincial income, and drive the authorities to expedients and devices for finding new sources of income that are bound to react upon the level of well-being of the people under their charge.

Bearing all these facts in mind, it is impossible to believe that India can be said to have really returned to an era of prosperity and progress, in which we would be justified in congratulating the financial authorities of the country for a Surplus Budget, and in which we may regard the existing tax-burdens as an easy load to bear.

As I have already remarked, the main sources of our national wealth are still under the heavy load of depression; and the policy of Government in this country is in no way calculated to relieve that burden and promote national recovery. I have already referred to the prejudicial effects of the Ottawa system of Imperial Preference foisted upon this country, which are reflected in a serious and permanent injury to the export trade of this country. Before pointing out the contrast with the corresponding efforts of Great Britain for restoring prosperity or speeding up recovery in the United Kingdom, let me add also the case of more than one industry which, in the last year or two, has been refused protection by the Government of India. The example of the woollen industry and of the glass industry must be fresh in public mind. The imposition of fresh burdens, by way of Excise Duties, on such relatively new industries in the country as sugar or matches, results in preventing the full and rapid development of those industries, which is not perhaps as fully appreciated as it deserves to be. The case of the principal industry, the cotton manufacturing industry,—is before a Tariff Board; and I shall say nothing to prejudge the final verdict of Government on the recommendations of that Board. But I cannot help voicing the very generally prevalent apprehension in the community that the result, perhaps of this investigation, may be new handicaps imposed upon that industry. When we remember the many and heavy Excises imposed upon the nascent industries of India; when we recall the refusal to accord protection of any sort to particular industries, when we realise the compensating advantages allowed to our principal competitor in many an industry under the guise of Imperial Preference, and when we think of the innumerable handicaps from which Indian enterprise inevitably suffers, even in the case of an untried industry, we cannot but feel the greatest hesitation in believing that there is anything like a real sign of prosperity coming to stay in this country.

Sir, in contrast with this state of affairs in this country, let me briefly point out what they have done in every country,—particularly in Great Britain,—for relieving of economic depression. The deliberate depreciation of currency; negotiation and conclusion of advantageous trade agreements with the leading customers; fixing of quota on a basis of equal mutual advantage between two countries; introduction of special transport rates; granting facilities by means of State control and State conduct of the transport agencies and banking organisations in each such country; and

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the grant of direct bounties or subsidies, are amongst the foremost devices, resulting in the most substantial consequences to the benefit of the country's industry and agriculture, which are now freely adopted by every progressive Government in the world to promote its national economy and achieve its national prosperity. The Indian Government have their currency tied down to the fortunes of sterling, so that no variation is possible, except in that direction and to that extent which it suits the economic requirements of Great Britain to adopt. The trade agreements of India, likewise, are in marked contrast with those of Great Britain. In spite of having initiated and agreed to the Ottawa system, Britain has reserved a free hand for herself to negotiate such other treaties with her other nearer or more paying neighbours and customers that may be deemed advisable in the best interests of her own foreign trade. In our case, we are practically tied down to the Ottawa system, so that no trade agreement could be made by us, no matter how advantageous the trade with a particular country may be from the stand-point of India, which would be in the least against the principle and practice of Imperial Preference. And as for subsidies and bounties, not to mention indirect encouragement provided by special grants in aid of particular industries, or for the promotion of research necessary for the conduct of those industries, I will only enumerate the actual cases in which Britain herself has granted or is granting subsidies or bounties, or providing marketing arrangements and standard prices, whereby the producer is guaranteed a certain minimum return for his capital and labour. The following industries have, between 1932 and 1935, received subsidies, which, in 1934, (according to the Civil Estimates of the United Kingdom, 1934, or according to Whitaker's Almanack, 1936), amounted to the figures stated against them:

	Amount. £
Wheat	4,500,000
Sugarcane	3,250,000
Milk	1,500,000
Beef	3,000,000
Tramp Shipping	2,000,000
Fat Cattle	3,000,000
Total	14,850,000 (+ 3,000,000)

or a total of over £14½ million at least. In addition, bounties were given under various schemes for the re-organisation of the industry to better production of hogs, bacon, herring industry, and eggs and poultry. This is apart from indirect aid by way of the several duties of the old Empire Marketing Board being taken over by other departments, or in promotion of research, or in guaranteeing export credits, or in encouraging re-settlement on land by way of subventions to the local authorities, and, of course, by way of promotion of public health, study of special diseases affecting plant or cattle, etc., etc. Nor does it include such aid, as for instance, that given by the so-called McKenna Duties, or by way of a loan for the construction of the biggest liner, the "Queen Mary", to the Cunard White Star Company in Great Britain. If we were to total up all these kinds of assistance to Britain's native productive system, and express it in terms of money, the aggregate may run into more than £20 millions a year.

What have the Government of India done in contrast to this? They have either declined to protect or encourage particular industries, or, where a case for protection was irresistible, they have coupled that protection with special requirements of Imperial Preference, or crippled the industry protected by means of Excise Duties in order to make good their revenue deficits. While such conditions endure, how can anyone say India is on the road to real prosperity, even if the Government of India's budget shows a surplus?

Let me now examine the real character of this surplus, and consider how it is obtained. I grant there is a surplus; this surplus in the Central Government's finances, as shown by the Honourable the Finance Member, exhibits an uncanny tendency to improve each time an original estimate is recast, or the revised estimate is compared to the final accounts for the same period. Granting it, however, I must criticise the methods by which it has been achieved.

Incidentally, I may remark, that while I fully sympathise with the Finance Member's grievances against a system of triple sets of figures for the same period in making up the Indian budget, I cannot quite persuade myself that the Honourable Sir James Grigg would really have shown better estimating had he only to work on the British model. The practice of having budget estimates, revised estimates, and accounts for the same period undoubtedly tends to a laxity in estimating; and is responsible in no small measure to the vagaries of results. The system was adopted at a time when the Government of India were the only financial authority in the country; when its revenues were derived from sources which depended very much on the character of the monsoon; and when imitation of the British practice in respect to the financial year was the hall-mark of perfect financial orthodoxy. The Government of India are now no longer the only financial authority in the country; their revenues now consist of items which have but a remote connection with the monsoon; and there is absolutely no excuse now to commence our financial year in April in slavish imitation of the British practice. If the Honourable Sir James Grigg would only gird up his loins, for once, to overthrow this incubus of imitation I have no doubt estimating in the Government of India would approximate to the level of a superior craft, even if it cannot be a fine art. As things stand, however, I cannot very well compliment the Honourable the Finance Member for the skill he has shown in estimating. Estimates have in almost every considerable instance been belied by the actual results; and he cannot always shelter himself for these variations on the ground of unfamiliarity with the Indian system of budget-making. The existence of the triple sets of figures ought rather to make the task of estimating easier than more difficult, since it provides one more opportunity for revising the original forecasts. But neither in the original estimate nor in the revised estimates has Sir James' two efforts hitherto shown that mastery of estimating which is associated with British financial authorities.

But leaving out this as a matter of detail, I must point out that the surplus is the result of three factors, not one of them, properly taken into account, would admit of any surplus in the Imperial Budget. As the Honourable Sir James Grigg has himself more than once remarked, provision in respect of reduction or avoidance of public debt, or what might be regarded as a sinking fund, has been excessively reduced. At the present level of the Government of India's debt, the provision ought, on the lines of Sir Basil Blackett's provision, to be nearer eight crores than three crores. And that would be on the assumption that the assets which

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are usually set off against these liabilities are really productive items. As things stand, however, our Railways are heavily losing concern, unable to meet their own interest charges, let alone repayment of capital invested therein. And the provinces are no less bankrupt, so that the loans and advances made to the Provincial Governments, which constitute no small part of the so-called productive assets of Government, must be regarded as in no way covered by the provincial revenues. A proper provision by way of sinking fund on the aggregate amount of interest bearing obligations alone of the Government of India would be nearer 12 crores than three crores. I cannot, therefore, consider that a Budget which shows a surplus of two crores, while the provision on this most important head remains at such a low figure, is really a surplus budget. Not only is it no index of true prosperity within the country,—as I have pointed out above,—but it may not be rightly regarded as an indication of balanced economy even from the narrower stand-point of the Treasury exclusively.

The same must be said with regard to the existence of the railway deficit, which is more than equal to the total surplus estimated under the Central Revenues. So long as this deficit remains, even without thinking of the stipulated contribution from the railways, the financial situation of the Government of India in the aggregate is no matter of congratulation. Exactly the same reasoning applies to the deficits of the provinces; and the very allocation of a couple of crores by way of reserve for use to help the provinces is sufficient evidence, in my opinion, of the realisation by the Finance Member of the weakness of Indian Finance collectively considered.

Lastly, I must say a word about the present level of taxation. It is frankly still a level of taxation which was necessitated by the emergency of 1931, but which, if that emergency had really passed and recovery really begun, as the Finance Member claims, ought not to be maintained for a single day longer. Government have restored the cuts in their salaries on the faith that the emergency which necessitated these reductions had passed. And they have also restored several of the retrenchments which were necessitated during those years. But they have not yet remitted taxation to anything like the extent to which it had been imposed during the emergency, and because of the emergency. While I am aware that there have been some reductions in taxation, I still cannot ignore the fact that surcharge is continued and that the increases in the postal and railway rates, as also the addition of many customs duties, still obtain. While taxation remains at this level, we cannot, Sir, say that the surplus is a veritable surplus of normal revenue over expenditure.

Such as it is, the surplus is there. And we are entitled to put in what we consider to be right and just claims for its disposal. We are unable entirely to agree with the Finance Member in the mode of the disposal he has adopted in all the surpluses beginning with 1934-35. The surplus for the current year and the next year would be greater than it actually is,—not only by a very probable improvement in the principal sources of revenue if past analogy is at all a guide, but also because of the advisability to transfer such non-recurrent expenditure as that to repair the Quetta earthquake damage, from revenue to capital. The former may quite possibly increase the budgeted surplus of two crores odd by at least 50 lakhs in the case of customs revenue alone, and probably much more, if the figures of the 11 months' revenue of this year in comparison with

those of the last may be any indication of the trend of events next year in that regard. And, as for the second, it is impossible to agree with the Finance Member's dictum that orthodox finance requires such expenditure to be met out of revenue, on the simple ground that it will yield no cash return. Much of the Government expenditure, when it is particularly praiseworthy, because of its nation-building character, does not yield a cash return; and yet many of these items have had to be maintained in this country, and far more in other countries, even in years in which the nett result was a deficit, and the deficit had to be made good from borrowed funds. In the present instance of the Quetta expenditure, there is not only the analogy of Japan financing the earthquake damage, or America in San Francisco, from capital rather than current revenue, but there is the obvious ground that, in its very nature, such expenditure is bound to be non-recurrent and extraordinary. As such, it is unfair to place the whole of its burden on the existing generation, and exempt altogether the succeeding generation from any part therein. After all an earthquake may be well regarded as an act of God, the damage due to which may quite fairly be spread over a long period, and be defrayed out of borrowed funds. Had it been a relatively small amount, such as that paid in a given year out of a realised surplus, which was substantially greater than it was estimated originally, one might have passed it over. But to design a whole financial system on the basis in which all such extraordinary charges would as and when they occur be met from revenues only,—and for that reason to maintain the tax system at the unnecessarily high level,—is neither good economics nor sound ethics; and much less sound finance.

If the 75 lakhs which are supposed to pay for the Quetta damage during the coming year were charged to Capital, the additional provision to be made in the sinking fund would be a percentage of the amount sufficient to pay off that particular debt in a period of, say, 30 years; and would, therefore, be not much greater than 3 or 4 lakhs. I must, of course, repeat my observation in regard to the unsatisfactory position of the sinking fund provision as it stands today. But what I advocate here is not that provision should be the whole of 75 lakhs more in the sinking fund, but that it should be increased by three or four lakhs a year, and the aggregate of the amount needed be added to the Capital at charge.

If these corrections were made, the surplus may quite possibly be near four crores next year, as against the two crores estimated by the Finance Member. Our suggestions for relief of the taxpayer, in view of this surplus, such as it is,—and without blinding ourselves entirely to the real nature of the surplus,—are dictated by a desire to be just as well as economical in the disposal of our improved resources. While realising fully the wisdom of the forecast for two or three years ahead, which the Finance Member has made, one would yet suggest that, for the next year at any rate, the legitimate claims for relief the Finance Member has not sufficiently attended to. If 0-4-0 were, for example, taken off the salt duty, the income from that source might be reduced by Rs. 1.50 crores. If, in addition, a half anna postcard was introduced, that would cost the Government no more than 35 lakhs, if full allowance were made for the increase in traffic due to reduction in charges. And, if the whole of the surcharge on income-tax were removed, it may cost the Government nearly two crores and a half, though the improvement possible even under this head, on the same lines as it has occurred in the current year, does not seem to be sufficiently appreciated by the Finance Member.

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In this connection, Sir, let me make one more suggestion before I bring my remarks to a close. There is a considerable amount of income which escapes taxation by the Government of India because it is paid outside India though it arises in this country. What is the exact figure of which the Government of India are deprived because of this peculiarity of our tax system, it is impossible to say. But even if we include in this category only the salaries, allowances and pensions paid by the Indian Government outside India, interest on their sterling debt, and such profits on foreign enterprise and individuals as are remitting considerable portions of their nett gains outside this country, were properly taxed, I am certain the yield would be far greater than to make up the loss suffered by the Indian Income-tax because of the removal of the surcharge and the exemptions of the incomes up to 2,000 a year from any taxation. Further revision of the Income-tax system, so as to make it approximate more and more to the system prevailing in the United Kingdom, may await a more appropriate occasion, in the future. Here I must observe that if the Finance Member will only bestir himself to adopt some of these suggestions, and take steps to improve the machinery for the assessment and collection of the taxes, I have no doubt the relief afforded by reduction in the rates of taxation will be more than compensated by the gains in the ways and directions suggested by me; and far more genuinely by the improvement in the economic conditions of this country, its trade and industry, and well-being of its people.

Mr. H. M. Abdullah (West Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the motion for the consideration of the Finance Bill.

As the constituency, which I have the honour to represent, is a rural one, I will examine the Finance Bill from the zamindar's point of view. First of all, I will deal with the budget estimates briefly. No doubt it is true that the Honourable the Finance Member has presented the third successive surplus budget, but it does not reveal the real economic state of affairs prevailing in India at present. It appears from the surplus budgets that India, after touching the lowest level of all round depression, is on the high road to economic prosperity, but, in reality, the conditions in the country are almost the same as in the year 1931, and the budget surpluses are due to the fact that the Honourable the Finance Member has been under-estimating the income and over-estimating the expenditure. In the budget of 1934-35, the Government expected to have a surplus of 12 lakhs, but, in the revised budget, it came up to 3.27 lakhs at the end of the year, and finally it rose up to 4.95 lakhs. The difference between the original and the revised budget is 3.15 lakhs, and that of the revised and final figures works out to 1.68 lakhs. The House would be surprised to know that such a vast difference has occurred in a short period of one month only. In the budget of 1935-36, Government expected a surplus of six lakhs, which, in the revised estimates, they now hope to get 2.42 lakhs, and I am afraid that Government have made the same miscalculation in the budget for 1936-37. It was the duty of the Government to prepare a proper estimate last year. If such a huge surplus was expected, Government should have remitted some of the taxes last year. Now, after getting a surplus, Government are spending it at their own sweet whim.

Sir, the second point on which I want to speak is the taxation proposals for the next financial year, 1936-37. Among them, I shall first take up the question of income-tax. Relief has been granted to the middle class urban people by raising the minimum taxable income from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000. I am not against this relief nor do I grudge the reduction in the existing rate of surcharge on income-tax and super-tax, but I am really sorry to say that among the taxation proposals I find that no relief, whatsoever, has been granted to the poor zamindars. If the Government had so desired, they could have easily done something to alleviate the sufferings of the poor zamindars also in the matter of reducing the burden of taxes. The peasants find great difficulty in paying the Government dues of land revenue and *abiana* in cash, and any concession or relief shown by the Government in this respect would be greatly appreciated by them.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

But, as this subject is the concern of the Provincial Governments, the Government of India can perhaps do little in this matter. What the Central Government can do and ought to have done is that they should have reduced the salt tax, the matches excise duty, and the postal rates. As regards the postal rates, I again find that the Government have shown preference to the rich people at the expense of the poor. The postage on letters has been reduced, while no proportionate reduction has been made in the price of the postcard which is the only means of communication used by the poor classes. The poor villagers feel it very hard to spend nine pies on a postcard, and I am sure that the whole House will join with me in pressing upon the Government to reduce the price of postcard to six pies.

Sir, the third point is to see what action, if any, the Government have taken to raise the purchasing power of the zamindars. The Honourable the Finance Member, in his budget speech, has stated that the Central Government have done a lot towards the rural uplift by contributing 3½ crores to the Provincial Governments, during the course of the last two years, to supplement the work of the Provincial Governments which they are doing for the amelioration of those living in the villages. The zamindars appreciate what little the Government have done, but they do not consider it a substantial help, as compared with the magnitude of the work. I would, therefore, request that the Central Government should be more liberal in future as regards such contributions towards the sublime work of rural uplift. The grant for rural uplift should be made recurring, otherwise the money already spent would be lost. The Central Government should also watch that the grants made to the Provincial Governments are spent in such a way as would raise the purchasing power of the zamindars and are not wasted on luxuries, such as radio sets, etc. The poor zamindars are more in need of bread than of radio talks and music. Government do not appear to have taken adequate measures to meet the general demand to raise the purchasing power of the zamindars. Government have stated from time to time that they always look to the betterment of the Indian zamindars, but it is to be seen whether their performances come up to their professions or not. As far as I can understand, the measures taken by the Government in this connection are firstly the imposition of a protective duty on the importation of wheat in

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India, secondly, the trade agreement with Japan with regard to the export of cotton and import of cotton goods, thirdly, the Mody-Lee agreement, and, fourthly, the Ottawa Trade agreement. I will first examine the Wheat Duty Bill. In the middle of 1930, the prices of agricultural produce, especially wheat, began to fall abnormally, and the price of wheat, the chief crop of Northern India, touched its lowest level by the beginning of November of the same year for the last 30 years. The price was so low that those who had wheat were not prepared to sell it at that price. The export of wheat was out of the question, as the other chief wheat producing countries, such as North America, Australia and Argentine dumped their wheat at the Indian ports at such a low rate that it was not possible for the Northern Indian wheat to compete with them. The situation became very acute. The zamindars were not in a position to pay the Government dues of land revenue and *abiana*. They had to part with their precious metal reluctantly, which is called distress gold. Government, after all, realised the seriousness of the situation and brought in the Wheat Import Duty Bill on the 31st March, 1931, to save the zamindars from complete ruin. The operation of the Bill was restricted to one year, and it imposed an import duty of Rs. 2 per cwt. on wheat and wheat flour. Sir, the price of wheat did not improve much in the world markets and the duty was extended year after year with the amendment that it was lowered from Rs. 2 to Rs. 1-8-0 last year. The price of wheat in the world markets is about the same as it was at this time of the preceding year. The result of last year's reduction of import duty by annas eight is apparent from a comparison of the quantities of import and export for the years 1934-35 and 1935-36, as given in the *Statesman* dated the 11th March, 1936. Sir, in 1934-35, the imports of foreign wheat were 7,432 tons, but the same rose to 13,066 tons in 1935-36. The exports were 10,834 tons in 1934-35 as compared with 9,291 tons in 1935-36. During the year 1934-35, the Indian ports have imported Indian wheat from Northern India to the extent of 689,741 tons against 545,244 tons in the year 1935-36. From the figures of imports and exports of wheat for 1934-35 and 1935-36 quoted by me, it is evident that the imports of foreign wheat have already doubled and the exports have decreased due to the reduction of import duty by eight annas. Sir, the abolition of the present wheat import duty would enable the foreign countries to dump their wheat at Indian ports as was the case in 1931. Consequently, Northern India would most likely lose the markets in India to the extent of 5½ lakhs of tons of wheat valuing about three crores of rupees and the railways would also lose the railway freight up to the same extent. This huge loss would further reduce the present low purchasing power of the Northern India peasants accordingly, and would consequently reduce the consumption of the articles manufactured in the factories of the industrialised provinces of India, namely, Bombay, Bengal, Madras, etc. There are only a few days left between today and the date, on which the present duty expires, but the Government have not disclosed their intention of extending the Act. This shows that no importance is being attached to such a vital question relating to the prosperity of the Indian zamindars. In view of these facts, I would request the Government to bring in the necessary legislation, without any loss of time, to extend the wheat import duty for the next financial year and thus allay the anxiety of the poor zamindars who form the backbone of the country. In this

connection, I wish to say that the present duty of Rs. 1-8-0 is quite inadequate, and, in case the Government decide to extend the operation of the duty for the next year, it is urged for reasons of sheer justice that its rate should not be less than Rs. 2 per cwt. . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Has the Honourable Member much more to say on the subject?

Mr. H. M. Abdullah: No, Sir, I shall finish in three minutes.

Now, Sir, I turn to the Trade Agreement with Japan. This agreement, though not in the real interests of India, has helped the agriculturists, to a certain extent, to raise the price of cotton. The principle of quota system underlying the agreement with Japan is good and would go a long way to help the Indian zamindars if such agreements are contracted with all other countries with which India is commercially connected. As to the Mody-Lees agreement, it was stipulated on behalf of the Lancashire mill-owners that they would improve their present machinery so as to enable it to use Indian short staple cotton in place of the American and Egyptian long staple cotton. It is a matter of some satisfaction that the conversion process is in progress and some of the mills have already begun to use Indian cotton, with the result that the export of cotton to British Isles has considerably increased. The conversion process appears to be slow and the results are not very encouraging. If the British people are really anxious for the promotion of their trade in India, the only way to do so is that they should take more raw produce like cotton and wheat from India. Unless the purchasing power of the agricultural classes is raised, they will not be able to buy comparatively costly British manufactured goods in preference to cheap Japanese goods. As regards the trade of the country, I take the opportunity to express that the Ottawa Trade Agreement has not worked as was expected by the Government. Although no estimate of the customs income, lost through the preferential tariff, has been made up to this time, yet it is clear from the last year's figures that the income to the Government from these articles is not expected to be equal to that of the last year even. However, it must be less than the income from the non-preferential articles. May I understand, therefore, Sir, that the Government of India are supporting the British industry at the expense of the Indian revenues as well as the Indian trade in general and the Indian consumers in particular? It is clear from the facts that the Government have not seriously tackled the question of raising the internal prices of agricultural produce, while they have been uselessly entering into agreements with foreign countries to raise the prices. Sir, I believe that the key of the situation has all along been lying with the Government which they have never cared to use. I mean, Sir, that they could have easily helped the peasants to a great extent to raise the internal prices of the agricultural produce by the devaluation of the rupee and expansion of currency, as has been done by other countries to meet a similar situation, and I would request the Government to take action on these lines to remove the economic depression prevailing in the country at present.

In the end, I hope that the Government would adopt suitable measures to give effect to the proposals put forward by me.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 17th March, 1936.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 17th March, 1936.

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.

PROHIBITION OF MUSLIM SOLDIERS FROM READING THE *PESHWA* OF DELHI.

1265. *Mr. Umar Aly Shah: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Muslim soldiers of His Majesty's Army in India have been prohibited to read the *Peshwa*, Delhi for about two years past? If so, under whose report?

(b) Are Government aware that the *Peshwa*, Delhi, is a purely religious magazine?

(c) Are Government aware that the *Peshwa* has never supported the cause of the civil disobedience movement?

(d) Are Government prepared to give the names of the papers that have been banned in the Army? How many of them are Hindi, and how many Muslim? How many of them are religious and how many non-religious?

(e) Is the editor of the paper given a notice before the magazine is prohibited, and given an opportunity to defend his cause? If not, why not?

(f) Are Government aware of the fact that the *Peshwa* is suffering an annual loss of rupees seven thousand by the ban on it?

(g) Are Government prepared to remove this ban?

(h) Have Government read the note that appeared in January and February issues of the magazine, in which the editor has complained of the theft of the letters of the *Peshwa*?

(i) Are Government prepared to enquire into the matter?

(j) Are Government prepared to take steps to warn the postal authorities of the theft and remove the complaint of the editor?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) to (g). The *Peshwa* of Delhi has been classed by the military authorities as unsuitable for Indian soldiers on account of its extreme communal tendencies and they are not prepared to alter their opinion so long as it continues to manifest such tendencies.

(h) to (j). Government are aware that the editor has threatened to file a suit against the postal authorities, and they are prepared to await this action.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the authority which decides as to what papers are to be read by Indian soldiers?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: The authorities are His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief's staff at Army Headquarters.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there any special committee appointed for this purpose?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: There is no committee.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are there any special directions laid down, as to what papers should be allowed and what papers should not be allowed?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: No, Sir. I don't think there are any directions laid down anywhere.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are there any nationalist papers, for example, advocating the Congress cause, allowed to the Indian soldiers?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I would require notice of that question; I do not know.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there any list of papers which soldiers are allowed to read?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: There, again, I am afraid I must require notice. There is certainly no published list. It is possible that the Army Headquarters may keep a list of suitable and unsuitable papers.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Do these soldiers subscribe to these papers themselves, or are they supplied to them by the Army authorities free?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: There is no question of supplying newspapers. What happens is that possibly a particular unit writes up to Army Headquarters and suggests that a particular paper is unsuitable for the men in the battalion to read, and then the matter is considered at Army Headquarters, and, if Army Headquarters agree, then they issue an order that they consider that particular paper unsuitable.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the law or regulation which empowers the Army authorities to prohibit certain papers from being supplied to Indian soldiers even if they are willing to pay for them?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: They do not prohibit the supply of newspapers to the soldiers. They merely say that they consider that they are unsuitable for perusal by soldiers.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In spite of that, can he subscribe to any of these journals?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: I presume the soldier can buy any paper he likes, but if he is found buying a paper that has been declared unsuitable, it may be necessary to take disciplinary action. I do not know about that.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will the Honourable Member inquire, and find out exactly what the position is in regard to this matter, whether this direction is a mere advice or a kind of order, peremptory or otherwise?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: It is advice that carries with it the effect of an order. That is probably correct.

MANAGEMENT OF ELECTRICITY IN THE MEERUT CANTONMENT.

1266. ***Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan:** (a) Will Government please state when the Meerut Cantonment area will be handed over to Messrs. Martin and Company, for managing electricity and why it has not been given away since 2nd May, 1934?

(b) Will Government please state why private persons are being kept away from getting electricity till Martin and Company take over the charge?

(c) Have Government received complaints against the Garrison Engineer and his department in Meerut on several matters? If so, are Government prepared to appoint a small committee to enquire into the complaints?

(d) If not, are they prepared to take the responsibility before the Public Accounts Committee?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham: (a) Only the residential and bazaar areas in Meerut Cantonment are being handed over to Messrs. Martin and Company. The transfer of the M. E. S. electrical supply lines which exist in the areas to be transferred was held up by litigation. The court has since decided that certain of the supply lines were the property of the Cantonment Authority, Meerut. It is understood that Messrs. Martin and Company have recently settled matters with the Cantonment Authority, and the transfer of the areas will be effected shortly.

(b) The M. E. S. mains are already overloaded; further connections could not, therefore, be given to private persons. Moreover, additional connections would further complicate the impending transfer of the areas to Martin and Company.

(c) and (d). The only complaint received has been from Hakim Mian Mohammad. This has been enquired into and the result communicated to my Honourable friend. The remainder of these two parts of the question does not arise.

EXPIRY OF CONTRACT OF THE SHAHDARA-SHAMLI RAILWAY.

1267. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) when the last period of the contract of the Shahdara-Shamli Railway came to an end and when it was renewed;

(b) when the present contract comes to an end; and

(c) whether they have any proposal to purchase the line after the contract comes to an end, or if they are thinking of giving it a further extension?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) It is presumed that the Honourable Member refers to the Shahdara-Saharanpur Railway contract. This contract is between the United Provinces Government and the Company, and the last occasion for its termination was in 1934. The United Provinces Government did not then exercise their option.

(b) The next date for termination of the contract is 18th April, 1941.

(c) The question of the purchase of the line in 1941 is one for decision by the United Provinces Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If the Government of the United Provinces wish to purchase this line, will they have to come to the Government of India for a loan?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That is a hypothetical question, unless the Honourable Member wants to know whether, under the Constitution, they would be forced to do it, in which case, it is a matter for the Honourable the Leader of the House.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Have the Provincial Government got to take the approval of the Railway Board?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have already replied to that question.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Supposing the Provincial Government buy a particular Railway, then, will that Railway, according to the rules that exist at present, be under the direct control of the Provincial Government or they would be under the Railway Authority?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: When the Honourable Member begins his question by saying "Supposing", he makes the rest of the question hypothetical.

APPOINTMENT OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE SHAHDARA-SHAMLI RAILWAY.

1268. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Is it a fact that there is no advisory committee on the Shahdara-Shamli Railway?

(b) Have Government under contemplation the appointment of any such committee? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by Mr. P. R. Rau to question No. 696 asked by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad on the 23rd September, 1932.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is there no Railway Advisory Committee on this particular Railway?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I cannot say. They are not under the control of the Railway Board.

REDUCTION OF THIRD CLASS FARE ON THE SHAHDARA-SHAMLI RAILWAY.

1269. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the railway fare for third class passengers on the Shahdara-Shamli Railway is $4\frac{1}{2}$ pies per mile and much in excess of other Railways in Northern India; and
- (b) if the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, whether they propose to take steps to get it reduced to the general level of other Railways? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The basis of third class fares on the Shahdara-Saharanpur Railway is $4\frac{1}{2}$ pies per mile for the first 30 miles and four pies per mile for the additional distance beyond. These fares are higher than those applicable on other railways in Northern India.

(b) I will communicate the Honourable Member's suggestion to the Managing Agents of this Railway Company for consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any material difference in the kind of control that the Railway Board exercises over this Railway and the control they exercise upon Company-managed Railways?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the difference?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: There is no control over this Railway except the fixing of maxima and minima rates.

PROVISION OF WAITING ROOMS ON STATIONS OF THE SHAHDARA-SHAMLI RAILWAY.

1270. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Are Government aware that there are no waiting rooms for second and intermediate class passengers and even third class passengers on any of the stations of the Shahdara-Shamli Railway?

(b) Are Government aware that some of the Railway Stations on Shahdara-Shamli Railway are at considerable distances from the towns and passengers arriving at and departing from such stations by night trains are put to great inconvenience due to the absence of waiting rooms?

(c) Have Government considered the advisability of the provision of such waiting rooms for all classes of passengers on the bigger stations of Shahdara-Shamli Railway such as Shahdara, Baghpat, Baraut, Shamli and Saharanpur, etc? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). Government have no information.

(c) These facilities are within the discretion of the Railway Administrations, and their provision would be governed by the traffic offering. The line is under the administrative control of the Local Government.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Are Government prepared to send this suggestion together with their own recommendation to the Agent of the Railway?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I can send a copy of the question to the Managing Agents.

DISTANCE BETWEEN THE PLATFORMS OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY AND SHAHDARA-SHAMLI RAILWAY AT SAHARANPUR.

1271. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Are Government aware of the great inconvenience to which the travelling public is subjected, by the great distance between the platforms of North Western Railway and Shahdara-Shamli Railway at Saharanpur?

(b) Have Government considered the advisability of getting the Shahdara-Shamli Railway Company to arrange for the conveyance of their trains to the North Western Railway platform? If not, why not?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the negative, have Government considered the advisability of getting North Western Railway to extend the western bridge on their platform to the road running parallel to the railway on the south, which would bring the platforms of the two Railways nearer? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). Government recognise that there may be some little inconvenience as the stations are some distance apart, but there would be considerable engineering difficulties in attempting to bring the Shahdara-Shamli Railway trains to the North Western Railway platform, and the expenditure would not be financially justified.

(c) A copy of the question will be sent to the Agent, North Western Railway, for consideration.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: So far as the other suggestion is concerned, of making a bridge on the platform and extending it to the other side, that will not cost much?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: It is with regard to that that I have said that a copy of the question will be sent to the Agent, North Western Railway, for consideration.

ELEVATION OF SEATS IN SECOND CLASS COMPARTMENTS ON THE SHAHDARA-SHAMLI RAILWAY.

1272. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Are Government aware that the seats of the second class compartments on the Shahdara Shamli Railway are so low that the passengers lying on the seats cannot avail themselves of the air through the windows?

(b) Have Government considered the advisability of ordering the company to so elevate the seats as to remove this grievance of the travelling public?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government have no information.

(b) I am bringing the Honourable Member's question to the notice of the Managing Agents of the Railway for such action as they may consider necessary.

PROVISION OF FRUIT VANS ON THE SHAHDARA-SHAMLI RAILWAY.

1273. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Are Government aware that fruits are conveyed on the Shahdara-Shamli Railway in ordinary iron wagons which spoil them in transit?

(b) Have Government considered the advisability of ordering the Shahdara-Shamli Railway Company to provide proper fruit vans for the carriage of fruit? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government have no information.

(b) I am bringing the Honourable Member's question to the notice of the Managing Agents of the Railway for such action as they may consider necessary.

PROVISION OF LATRINES IN THIRD CLASS COMPARTMENTS ON THE SHAHDARA-SHAMLI RAILWAY.

1274. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Are Government aware that third class compartments of old stock which have got no lavatories are still used by the Shahdara-Shamli Railway on night trains, which cause great inconvenience to the travelling public?

(b) Have Government considered the advisability of getting the said company to replace such stock or at least to provide lavatories in such stock? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). Forty per cent. of the third class coaches in normal use on the Shahdara-Saharanpur Light Railway have latrine accommodation. None of the old stock (which has been in use since the line was opened) is so fitted, but latrines have been installed in all stock subsequently built and will be installed in all stock built in future.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: When will latrines be supplied in all the coaches?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid I cannot mention any special date.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Are any steps being taken in that direction?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have said that all the new coaches are being fitted with latrines, every one of them.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Could not latrines be provided in the old coaches by a little change in the construction? Is it not feasible?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That is for the managing agents to decide.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: What will be the recommendation of the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no control over this Railway beyond the slight control which I have already mentioned.

OPENING OF THE TELEGRAPH OFFICES ON THE SHAHDARA-SHAMLI RAILWAY STATIONS TO THE PUBLIC.

1275. ***Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi:** (a) Are Government aware that the Telegraph Offices on Shahdara-Shamli Railway do not accept telegrams from the public which results in great inconvenience to the public in general?

(b) Have Government considered the advisability of opening the Telegraph Offices on the Shahdara-Shamli Railway stations to the public? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). Government have no information.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I should like to know what is meant by the reply, "Government have no information"? Do they, or do they not, make any inquiries at all? It is not that for every matter, which is the subject of interpellation on the floor of this House, we expect that the Government know the position immediately, while they are sitting at Delhi, but we expect that they should collect the information and place it before the House.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have explained that this particular Railway is not under the administrative control of the Government of India. Therefore, Government have no information; and Government cannot call for information.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Has the Telegraph Department nothing to do with the matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have nothing to do with telegraphs.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Is it not necessary, Sir, so far as the question is concerned, that the Honourable the Commerce Member should be replying to all aspects of the question?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I can only answer with reference to what I am concerned with.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Sir, I have asked the question of the Government as a whole, not of any particular Member.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: As a matter of fact, the Honourable Member's question is concerned with the telegraph offices on this particular Railway, and, with that, the Government of India, either in the Railway Department or in the Posts and Telegraphs Department, have no concern.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are there any telegraph offices being run in this country, without reference to the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Yes, these telegraph offices are being run for the purposes of the administration of the Shahdara-Shamli Railway, and they are, for the purposes of administrative control, under the Government of the United Provinces, and not under the Government of India.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Are these telegraph offices sanctioned without the sanction of the Government at the Centre, or not?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid, I cannot answer that question, but the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs might answer that question.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: May I reply to this question? It is entirely at the option of the Railway Administration to permit their railway telegraph offices to be opened for the use of the public. The railway telegraph offices are essentially for the business of Railway Administrations only, and if they have the time and staff and the facilities, the Railway Administrations throw them open for the use of the public. There is no compulsion on the railway system to throw open their telegraph offices for the use of the public.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Has the Honourable Member made any inquiries as to whether this is a fact or not, viz., whether the telegraph offices on Shahdara-Shamli Railway are not open for the transmission of public messages?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have made no inquiry.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: I am asking the Member concerned, not yourself.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The question was put to me. Question No. 1275 is my concern, and I am, therefore, replying.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: So far as question No. 1275 is concerned, it is no concern of yourself, but of the Telegraph Department, because you say specifically that the railway telegraph offices of this Railway are subject to the administrative control of the Government of the United Provinces, so I do not know why you take it upon yourself.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): That does not matter.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask whether it is not a fact that the railways make use of the telegraph wires of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department for their own purposes?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: The Telegraphs Department constructs wires for the use of the railway, and these wires are entirely at the disposal of the railways alone. The telegrams from these offices are not sent outside this particular railway area.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are telegrams not sent outside this particular area? Are there no arrangements between the Government Telegraphs Department and this Railway Telegraph Department for the sending and receiving of telegrams, and, if so, what are the arrangements?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: Is the Honourable Member referring to this particular Railway?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Yes.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I have no information.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: How are telegrams given here for railway purposes received in other parts of India or other parts of the world? This is a self-contained system.

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: There is probably some office of exchange.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is that office of exchange?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: I cannot say unless a question is put down and I make inquiries.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Now that it has come to light that this question relates to the Posts and Telegraphs Department, are Government prepared to make an inquiry and give the answer subsequently?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: It does not relate to the Telegraphs Department at all.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government made any attempts to come to some arrangements with this Railway so that their telegraph offices can be made use of by the public?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government considered the feasibility of coming to some arrangements with this Railway, so that their telegraph offices can be made use of by the public?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why not?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Next question. This has been sufficiently discussed.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I want to ask you, Sir, who decides the Department to which this question relates. Is it done in your office?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): No; we do not know.

TREATMENT OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY STAFF BY PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS.

1276. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Are Government aware that the staff reporting to the Divisional Medical Officer, North Western Railway, Delhi, for examination or treatment are mostly sent by the said officer with a letter of authority to certain very expensive private practitioners before being finally declared fit by the said Divisional Medical Officer?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, are Government aware that the staff thus sent for treatment to the said private practitioners resent this sort of treatment which is beyond their means?

(c) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, are there no other qualified private practitioners than the particular ones whom the Divisional Medical Officer always patronises, and whether the latter himself is not sufficiently qualified to attend to such patients?

(d) If the replies to the preceding parts be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the object for which the Railway Hospital is maintained and the Divisional Medical Officer was appointed?

(e) Will Government please state any specific rule which prohibits Government servants getting themselves treated by doctors according to their means and choice and binds them to go to doctors appointed by their employer?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) No.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

WANT OF MUSLIM COOKS IN THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY HOSPITAL, DELHI.

1277. ***Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang:** (a) Is it a fact that in the North Western Railway Hospital, Delhi, there are more than half a dozen Hindu cooks, while there exists no arrangement for orthodox Muslims who abstain from taking food prepared by the Hindus?

(b) Is it a fact that in the absence of a Muhammadan kitchen and cooks, orthodox Muslim indoor patients have to go outside the hospital premises, to get such food as they can from a Muslim shop which is situated opposite the Hospital?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to take steps to redress the grievances of the Muslim indoor patients?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government are informed that there are two Hindu cooks employed in the railway hospital, Delhi, who are assisted by four Muslims and two Hindu Ward servants and one Muslim waterman.

(b) No instance of a Muslim indoor patient getting his food from outside the hospital has ever come to the notice of the hospital authorities.

(c) The employment of a Muslim cook for indoor Muslim and European patients is already under consideration.

PERMANENT WAY INSPECTORS APPOINTED ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

1278. *Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many Permanent Way Inspectors on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway have directly been appointed on probation after due advertisement in the year 1935?

(b) Was the appointment of these Permanent Way Inspectors made on communal lines?

(c) Was any weightage given to the Mussalmans in the appointment of these Permanent Way Inspectors?

(d) How many of the selected candidates are Mussalmans?

(e) What is the total number of the Permanent Way Inspectors on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?

(f) How many of them are Mussalmans?

(g) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of filling up future posts and new appointments by Mussalmans to give them proper weightage in services and also according to their population basis?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am collecting information and will lay a reply on the table of the House, in due course.

MUSLIM SUBORDINATES PROMOTED ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

1279. *Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many Mussalmans (employees) on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway from the subordinate service have been promoted to the upper grade service in the year 1935?

(b) If so, what is the total number of the Muslims so promoted and in what Departments?

(c) Are these promotions made in view of the proportion of the percentage of 25 per cent. recently fixed by the Government of India for the Muslims in the higher services?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). I presume by the upper grade service the Honourable Member means the Lower Gazetted Service. If so, no Muslim has been promoted permanently to the Lower Gazetted Service during the year 1935.

(c) The percentages which have been fixed for Muslims and other minority communities under orders of the Government apply only to direct recruitment and not to promotions.

MUSLIMS APPOINTED IN LEAVE VACANCIES ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

1280. *Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many Muslims were given chances to work as substitutes in the vacancies caused in the leave arrangements in the various Departments of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway during the year 1935?

(b) What was the total number of such vacancies in the year 1935?

(c) Are any registers maintained for different Departments to fill up such vacancies by substitutes?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no information and its collection will involve an amount of labour and expense not likely to be justified by results.

MUSLIM CLERKS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT SECTIONS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

1281. *Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of clerks in the Establishment Sections of the various Departments on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway;

(b) the number of Muslim clerks and their percentage in the Establishment Sections;

(c) the total number of Head clerks in the various offices of different Departments on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway;

(d) the total number of Muslim Head Clerks;

(e) whether there were some vacancies of Head Clerks in the Establishment Sections of the various Departments on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway in the year 1935;

(f) if so, the total number of these vacancies; and

(g) how many of them were Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no information and its collection will involve an amount of labour and expense not likely to be justified by results. These are matters of detailed administration entirely within the competence of the Agent, whom a copy of the question has been sent for information and such action as he may consider necessary.

MUSLIM DISTRICT COMMERCIAL INSPECTORS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

1282. *Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of District Commercial Inspectors on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway;

(b) the total number of Muslim Inspectors and their percentage in the same line;

- (c) what steps Government have so far taken to fill up the percentage of the Muslims as District Commercial Inspectors in the said Department;
- (d) whether there are no suitable and competent graded Muslim Station Masters, Assistant Station Masters, Yard Supervisors and guards to be promoted as District Commercial Inspectors;
- (e) whether Government are prepared to issue instructions to the Railway authorities to fill up the posts of these Inspectors from among the officers (Muslim) mentioned above?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) and (b). The information readily available with Government is contained in the Great Indian Peninsula Railway classified list of subordinate staff on pay of Rs. 250 and above and in appendix 'F' to Volume I of the Railway Board's report on Indian Railways, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

(c) I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the orders fixing a definite percentage for Muslims on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. If so, these orders apply to direct recruitment and not to promotions.

(d) Government have no information.

(e) No.

INDIANISATION OF WOMEN'S MEDICAL SERVICE.

1283. *Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article in the *Hindustan Times* of the 26th November, 1935, headed "Indianization of Women's Medical Service" and to the allegations made therein?

(b) Is it a fact that Dr. Houlton had a break in service and in spite of it she was put on the second highest appointment in the service? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(c) Is Dr. Young, a junior in the Women's Medical Service, without any public health qualification?

(d) Was she appointed superseding the claims of twelve senior members in service who have public health qualifications to their credit, on the ground that she had administrative experience and was made third in the rank of the service?

(e) What provision have Government made to give the seniors in the service any administrative training, so that their claims may not be overlooked on that score?

(f) Is it a fact that Dr. Orkney has now been similarly pushed up in service?

(g) Does Dr. Webb refuse to advertise vacancies and invite applications for vacancies from duly qualified candidates? If so, why?

(h) Is it a fact that till now, since the inauguration of this service, European lady doctors alone have been accorded extensions of service?

(i) How is it that so far no Indian lady doctor has been appointed to the headquarters administrative posts in the service?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). The Honourable Member's information about a break in the service of Dr. Houlton and the position on the seniority list and qualifications of Dr. Young is correct. I may, however, mention that selection for the post of Principal, Lady Hardinge Medical College, is not made merely on the ground of seniority, nor is the possession of a public health diploma an essential qualification. The post is filled by the selection of the most suitable person available.

(e) Administrative experience comes in due course to all suitable officers. No special arrangements are considered necessary for the acquisition of administrative experience.

(f) No. Her position in the seniority list remains unaffected by her appointment as Director of the Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau.

(g) It is not usual to advertise vacancies in selection posts.

(h) Yes. No applications on behalf of Indian doctors for extensions of service have so far been received.

(i) These posts are filled on the basis of qualifications and experience. In 1935 the principalship of the Lady Hardinge Medical College was twice offered to and declined by an Indian member of the Women's Medical Service before it was offered to Dr. Young.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: May I know why these posts are not advertised?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: As I have already said, Sir, the cadre consists of something like 44 officers, and when we have officers within the cadre qualified for these selection posts, there is no necessity to advertise.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Is it not a fact that the Women's Medical Service has existed for the last 21 years?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: The Women's Medical Service has been in existence for a considerable period of time, but the process of Indianisation really began in 1924.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Is it not a fact that there is not a single Indian lady doctor in any of the administrative appointments or posts?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: There are only two administrative posts—one that of the Chief Medical Officer and the other (if it considered to be an administrative post at all) is that of the Director of the Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau. There are no other administrative posts.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Is it not a fact that the incumbents of the senior appointments had all been missionaries or engaged in missionary service before they joined the Women's Medical Service?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Quite a considerable number of the European members of the service, I believe, have at one time or other been missionary doctors.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: How do Government explain the position that when once people leave off the service and join the service again, all their previous service is taken into account and their seniority is thus determined?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: That, Sir, was an anomalous rule, and my Honourable friend will be glad to know that since last year it has been altered.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Thank you.

ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN LADIES IN THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE DUFFERIN FUND ASSOCIATION.

1284. ***Dr. T. S. S. Rajan:** (a) Are there any Indians in the Council and in the Executive Committee of the Dufferin Fund Association? If not, what are the reasons for such omission?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government state how long such Indians have been there?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of associating Indian ladies both in the Council and Executive Committee of the Dufferin Fund Association?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(b) Ever since the foundation of the Fund in 1885.

(c) The matter is one for consideration by the authorities of the Fund. I understand, however, that there are at present five Indian ladies on the Council and one on the Executive Committee.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Is that one Member on the Executive Committee a medical woman?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: Yes, Sir. Dr. Panel. She is a Parsi medical woman.

CONTRACT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HOWRAH BRIDGE.

1285. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that at the meeting of the Sub-Committee of Bridge Commissioners held in Calcutta on Monday, the 24th February, 1936, both Indian and European members of the Sub-Committee opposed the proposals of the Chairman to give the contract for the new Howrah Bridge to a British firm;

(b) whether it is a fact that the German tender is the cheapest;

(c) whether it is a fact that an alternative design was prepared by the Indian combine at the instance of the Commissioners;

(d) what is the difference in cost between the tenders given by the Indian combine and the British firm;

(e) whether Government are aware that there is a strong national feeling in this matter; and

(f) whether Government propose to take every step in their power to bring this to the notice of the Bengal Government?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) to (f). Government's position in relation to this matter has been explained in reply to several previous questions, and I would refer the Honourable Member in particular to my replies to his question No. 111 on the 6th February, 1936, and to the short notice question by Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury on the 25th September, 1935. Government have no further information on the subject.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware of the fact that there is to be a meeting of the Howrah Bridge Commissioners, on the 23rd of this month, to dispose of this matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, Sir.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware of the fact that, owing to want of demand, the Tata Plate Metal Factory have been compelled to close down recently their workshops, throwing out of employment some hundreds of workers? Are Government also aware of the fact that this contract, if given to the Indian combine, will help the Tatas to re-start their works?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid I can express no opinion on this point.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware that, if this contract goes to the Indian combine, a crore of rupees will be spent in this country and work will be found for 5,000 skilled and unskilled workmen?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have made no estimate of the benefits that are likely to result from the contract being placed in this country.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is the latest position in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That the matter is still under the consideration of the Howrah Bridge Commissioners.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government brought the feeling of this House to the notice of the Bridge Commissioners?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I gave an assurance to the House on a previous occasion that Government are satisfied that the Local Government are fully aware of the feelings of the House in this matter. I do not think there would be any justification for the Government of India to enter into direct correspondence with the Bridge Commissioners.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In view of the fact that the Bridge Commissioners are going to meet on the 23rd March to finally settle the question, will the Government of India convey to the Government of Bengal, and, through them, to the Bridge Commissioners, that this contract should go to the Indian combine, and not to any foreign firm?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid, Government could not take up that position, as I explained during the last Session in September. All that Government could do and have done is to see that the Local Government is kept fully informed of the feeling of the House on this matter.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra: What is the answer to part (b)?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have replied to the whole question together, that I have got no further information beyond what I have already given to the House

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL TARIFF BOARD.

1286. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his attention has been drawn to the accompanying† note from the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 27th February, 1936, on the Special Tariff Board and its expected report;
- (b) whether it was a fact that the Board's report was expected in December first and later in January;
- (c) whether Government at any time entertained the hope to include their decisions on the recommendations of the Board in the Budget for 1936-37;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the Board has summoned the assistance of a Textile Specialist to explain certain statistics; if so, who the specialist is;
- (e) whether Government are aware that the delay by the Board is causing anxiety in textile circles;
- (f) whether Government propose to take any steps to impress on the Board the necessity for expediting the report; and
- (g) whether Government propose to take any action independent of the Board with regard to textile tariffs?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). I have nothing to add to the information contained in paragraph 4 of the Resolution No. 341-T. (12)/35, dated the 10th September, 1935, issued by the Department of Commerce.

(d) I presume the Honourable Member refers to the Customs Textile Expert, Rai Bahadur H. K. Mukherjee, who has been Technical Adviser to the Special Tariff Board since the commencement of the enquiry in October, 1935. Subsequently, a Customs Textile appraiser, Mr. Das Gupta, has also been appointed to assist the Board.

(e) Government are not so aware.

(f) and (g). No.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know if Government are aware that Sir Alexander Murray, the Chairman of the Tariff Board, has left or is about to leave for England?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: No, Sir.

†Sent to the Department concerned.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government having any proposals in mind of introducing this Session changes in customs tariff, especially on textiles from foreign countries?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid, I am not prepared to give a reply to that question. If the Honourable Member is making any particular reference to the report that might be submitted by this Special Tariff Board, obviously Government cannot come to any decision till they have received the report.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I was simply asking, as an unrepentant Parliamentarian whether Government would be good enough to tell this House if they have any legislative proposals to be brought before the House this Session amending the customs tariffs on textiles, in any particular direction.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid, I am unable to answer that question at this stage. A little later on, I may be in a position to do so.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government any information from this Board, as to the reasons for the delay in the submission of their report?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no information whatsoever from the Board as to any approximate date on which their report might be received, and, it is only when any such date is communicated to the Government, the question of any delay would arise or the reasons for such delay.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government press on the Board to expedite their report, consistent with their taking evidence and other relevant factors, so that the anxiety of the textile circle in India, who are in an uncertain position, may be allayed? Government will naturally depend upon the report of this Board, with regard to their customs policy which they may have to arrive at.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Government have no reason to think that the Tariff Board are not proceeding with their work as quickly as possible, having regard to the circumstances under which this enquiry is proceeding.

CONFIRMATION OF CLERKS IN THE RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE.

1287. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** (a) Will Government state whether their recent Resolution regarding the communal proportion is being applied in the case of old appointments with retrospective effect in the Subordinate Railway Services in the Railway Accounts Offices?

(b) Is it a fact that old clerks of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office appointed before 1st January, 1929, belonging to the Hindu community and having to their credit more than seven years' temporary service, have been superseded by the recent entrants of the minority community with about two years' service, who have been made permanent?

(c) Is it a fact that in the Chief Accounts Office, North Western Railway the staff appointed before 1st January, 1929, is being confirmed in accordance with the strict seniority basis, irrespective of the communal considerations?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of absorbing the temporary staff appointed in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office before 1st January, 1929, on permanent posts as well, before effecting confirmations of the staff appointed after 1st January, 1929?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) The new communal proportions recently specified apply to all vacancies filled by direct recruitment after the proportions were specified.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government understand that the Chief Accounts Officer, North Western Railway, recently confirmed a few such clerks mainly on the basis of seniority. The propriety of this is under investigation.

(d) No. There seems to be no adequate reason for deviating from the existing orders regarding communal proportions applicable to these cases.

APPEAL TO THE PRIVY COUNCIL ON THE CASE REGARDING THE LEVY OF INCOME-TAX ON *NIDHIS* AND FUNDS.

1288. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Are Government aware that in answer to a supplementary question to my starred question No. 521, dated 19th September, 1935, Mr. A. H. Lloyd replied that Government considered the question of appealing to the Privy Council against the Full Bench decision of the Madras High Court, dated 5th December, 1934, and decisions in similar cases, declaring the levy of income-tax on *Nidhis* and funds as illegal and that they decided not to appeal?

(b) Are Government aware that the Commissioner of Income-tax, Madras, has since made an application to the High Court for leave to appeal to the Privy Council against the decision?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state why it has so occurred?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) I said that it had been decided not to appeal to the Privy Council against the decisions of the 5th December, 1934, but **did not say that it had been decided not to so appeal against a decision in any similar case.**

(b) No. The Commissioner of Income-tax applied for leave to appeal to the Privy Council against the decision dated the 1st November, 1935, in case O. P. No. 146 of 1935.

(c) Because the Commissioner was dissatisfied with the decision of the High Court.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that the grounds of decision in the case under appeal are the same as the grounds of decision in the case where there is no appeal preferred?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: There was a great similarity, yes.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If so, why is the appeal sought to be preferred in one case and not in the other?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: The reason for not appealing in the case of the Sivaganga Sri Meenakshi Swadeshi Saswatha Nidhi, Limited, was that it was a very small concern, and we felt it could not stand the expenses of meeting an appeal to the Privy Council.

HIGHER POSITION OF GRADUATES AND UNDER-GRADUATES IN THE GRADATION LIST OF THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

1289. ***Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan:** (a) Is it a fact that the Postal Enquiry Committee of 1920 recommended for graduates and under-graduates, recruited to the clerical cadre of the Postal Department, higher initial pay but not higher position than matriculates and non-matriculates?

(b) Is it a fact that after introduction of the revised scales of pay recommended by the Committee, the graduates and the under-graduates were allowed fifth and third year's stage, respectively, in the Gradation List?

(c) Is it a fact that the concession referred to in part (b) above has resulted in the graduates and under-graduates becoming senior to a large number of matriculates and non-matriculates who entered the Department four and two years earlier than the former?

(d) Is it a fact that the minimum educational qualification of a candidate for an appointment in the clerical cadre of the Postal Department is that he should be a matriculate?

(e) Is it a fact that all recruits in the Postal clerical cadres have to pass the same test either before or after actual appointment wherever such test is prescribed, have to perform work of exactly the same nature and to share the same responsibility as graduates and under-graduates?

(f) Is it a fact that both the concessions, i.e., higher initial pay and higher position in the Gradation List have since been withdrawn for the new graduate and under-graduate entrants?

(g) If the replies to the preceding parts be in the affirmative, will Government please state:

(i) why the concession of higher position in the Gradation List was allowed; and

(ii) why the concession which has since been withdrawn for new entrants could not be withdrawn with retrospective effect?

(h) Are Government aware that the allotment of senior positions to graduates and under-graduates has been causing great resentment and heart-burning to those who have been assigned inferior positions;

(i) Are Government prepared to withdraw the concession of higher position in the Gradation List from graduates and under-graduates, who are still enjoying the same?

Mr. G. V. Bewoor: (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the last part no specific recommendation was made by the Committee as to the position in the gradation lists which should be given to the officials in question.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) The rules prescribe that the educational standard required should ordinarily be a pass in the Matriculation Examination of a University or its equivalent.

(e) The facts as stated by the Honourable Member are substantially correct.

(f) Yes.

(g) (i). The concession was allowed in the interests of departmental efficiency in order that men of superior education should be available for promotion to higher posts at an earlier age than men with no such special qualification.

(ii) It would not have been possible to withdraw such a concession with retrospective effect except at the cost of considerable administrative confusion and inconvenience and of hardship to the officials directly affected.

(h) No.

(i) No, for the reasons stated in reply to parts (g)(ii) and (h).

CONSERVATION OF MONUMENTS OF CENTRAL INDIA AND RAJPUTANA.

1290. *Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will Government please state the amount of conservation expenditure incurred last year on conservation of monuments of Central India and Rajputana?

(b) Will Government please state whether any part of this expenditure was incurred departmentally?

(c) How do Government justify the appointment of a whole-time officer for this work? Is the work done by Public Works Department? Are the functions of this officer only of a supervisory nature?

(d) Can this supervision not be exercised either by the two officers in the Directorate or by some circle officers?

(e) Have Government considered that such expenditure on pay, travelling allowance, etc., of the whole-time officer is absolutely necessary in view of this financial stringency merely for supervision work?

(f) How many years' service has this officer put in and has he any publications to his credit?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) The expenditure incurred by the Government of India in Ajmer amounted to Rs. 2,582. This does not include amounts spent by the Darbars on the monuments in their states.

(b) No.

(c), (i). The officer does not merely look after these monuments but also assists the Director General of Archaeology in India in other work especially in editing the contributions of departmental officers.

(ii) The work is carried out through the agency of the Public Works Department.

(iii) Yes. His duties in this respect are similar to those of other Circle Superintendents.

(d) No.

(e) Yes.

(f) Six years. The officer has not brought out any publications of his own but helps the Director General of Archaeology in India in editing contributions received for publication.

NECESSITY FOR APPOINTING A SPECIAL OFFICER FOR BRINGING OUT THE ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

1291. *Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Is it a fact that Government felt the necessity of appointing a special extra officer for bringing the annual reports of the Archaeological Department up to date?

(b) Could not the assistance of the Assistant Superintendent for Central India and Rajputana be invoked to help the Director General in bringing this work to completion? Is it a fact that in the past temporary scholars attached to the department used to help in this work?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) Yes.

(b) No. Temporary scholars did not help in this work.

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS TO THE CREDIT OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHÆOLOGY.

1292. *Khan Sahib Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will Government please state how many departmental publications, such as archaeological guides, memoirs, catalogues, lists and New Imperial Series Reports, has the present Deputy Director General of Archaeology to his credit?

(b) How many such publications have been issued by other officers of the department individually?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) I lay on the table a statement containing the required information.

(b) The desired information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

Statement showing official publications written or edited by the Deputy Director General of Archaeology in India.

By Deputy Director General of Archaeology.

1. Memoir No. 8—Three Sculptures from Mahoba.
2. Articles contributed in the Epigraphia Indica, Volumes XIV-XXI.
3. Memoir on Paharpur in manuscript.

Edited by Deputy Director General of Archaeology.

4. Memoir No. 24—Rock-paintings and other antiquities of prehistoric and later times.
5. Memoir No. 50—Sravasti in Indian literature.
6. Bakshali Manuscripts part III (N. I. S., Volume 43).
7. New Imperial Series, Volume No. 47—Eastern Indian School of Mediaeval sculpture.
8. The Ananda Temple at Pagan (not yet sent to press).
9. Guide to Sarnath (being edited).

DISTRIBUTION OF SALT BY THE SALT DEPARTMENT AT KHEWRA AND WARCHA.

1293. ***Bhai Parma Nand:** Will Government be pleased to state:
- (a) if it is a fact that formerly every customer had to deposit a certain sum of money in the Treasury, after which the Salt Department allotted wagons of salt proportionate to the money deposit; and
 - (b) if it is a fact that instead of this system, the Salt Department at Khewra and Warcha have now introduced a system of lottery; if so, whether they are prepared to order its discontinuance?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: (a) I assume that this part of the Honourable Member's question, like part (b), refers only to Khewra and Warcha. On this assumption the answer is in the negative.

(b) The lottery system, for the allocation of salt, has never been introduced at Khewra, but at Warcha, where the demand greatly exceeds the supply, salt is allocated by means of a lottery. This system was introduced in 1930 and it is not proposed to discontinue it.

Bhai Parma Nand: Does not this system prevail in Khewra?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: It does not prevail in Khewra

Mr. J. Ramsay Scott: Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the method adopted in dealing with orders for salt at Khewra?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: Yes, Sir. I will place a copy of the indenting rules on the table of the House.

Mr. J. Ramsay Scott: Are Government aware of great delays in dealing with these orders?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: No, Sir.

Mr. J. Ramsay Scott: Will Government take it from me that there are great delays?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: No, Sir.

Mr. J. Ramsay Scott: If I give the Honourable Member concrete instances, will he then at least take it from me that there are great delays?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: There may be delays in cases where the demand exceeds the loading capacity of the depôt. That is an ordinary incident in all business transactions. I think, as the representative of the community which the Honourable Member represents, he knows that perfectly well.

Bhai Parma Nand: Do Government see no objection in the lottery system?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd: No, Sir.

FRAUD CASES IN TELEPHONE EXCHANGES IN THE LAHORE ENGINEERING DIVISION.

1294. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Is it a fact that there have been several fraud cases in several telephone exchanges in the Lahore Engineering Division?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government please lay on the table of this House, a statement showing the particulars of the officials involved?

(c) Is it a fact that the Divisional Engineer, Telegraphs, Lahore, himself belongs to the same community as the delinquents?

(d) If the facts are as stated above, what action do Government propose to take to guard against a recurrence of such frauds?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) Government do not consider that any public interest would be served by furnishing particulars of the officials involved in these cases.

(c) and (d). It is a fact that the majority of the delinquents belong to the same community as that of the Divisional Engineer, Telegraphs, Lahore. But there is no justification whatever for the innuendo in part (c) of the question, as it was the Divisional Engineer, Telegraphs, himself who discovered the frauds and brought the perpetrators to justice. The defects in the system which rendered the frauds possible have since been removed.

EMBEZZLEMENT IN THE LAHORE ENGINEERING DIVISION.

1295. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Is it a fact that in the Lahore Engineering Division a large sum of Government revenues was embezzled?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state to what extent the said fraud was due to the slackness on the part of the officer in charge of that Division?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) It is a fact that some embezzlements took place, but the total loss, so far ascertained, is less than three thousand rupees.

(b) The frauds were most ingenious and it has been held after full investigation and, I may add, after personal examination of the case by me that the officer in charge cannot be held seriously to blame for the failure to detect them earlier.

TREATMENT OF HINDUS AS A MINORITY COMMUNITY IN THE PUNJAB POSTAL CIRCLE.

1296. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Is it a fact that according to the reservation rules, the minority communities consisted of the Muslims, Sikhs, Anglo-Indians, Parsis, and Christians, etc.?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, is it a fact that in the Punjab Postal Circle, Hindus were also treated as minority community in certain recruiting units?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state the number of clerical appointments given to Hindus in the Punjab Postal Circle wherein they were treated as a minority community, and also state whether any action was taken by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, while reviewing the annual recruitment statements of various communities?

(d) If no action was taken, are Government now prepared to redress the wrong done to the minority community by giving them extra recruitment in adjustment, and what action do they propose to take against the recruiting officers who treated Hindus as a minority community in the Punjab Postal Circle?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) to (d). Information has been called for and a reply will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

PROCEDURE FOR ASSESSMENT AND RECOVERY OF RENT OF QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

1297. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Is it a fact that the new procedure of assessment and recovery of rent introduced recently by the Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department, New Delhi, has proved defective and unsuccessful?

(b) Are Government aware that owing to this procedure the occupants of Government buildings are put to great inconvenience in the matters of refund of rent, etc., charged in excess from them, and that they have to wait for the refund for an indefinite period in spite of official and personal reminders?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) No.

(b) No. The suggestion is entirely without foundation.

QUARTERS FOR INFERIOR SERVANTS IN NEW DELHI.

1298. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim:** (a) Will Government please state whether the *duftry* type of quarters are meant for *duftries* only, or other class of inferior staff is also entitled to the same?

(b) If the reply to the latter part of part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state if an inferior servant drawing Rs. 20 per mensem and above is entitled to allotment of such a quarter? If not, why not?

(c) Will Government please state if the rules governing the allotment of inferior staff quarters in Old Delhi differ from those in New Delhi? If so, why and in what respect?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). "*Duftries*" quarters are intended for *Duftries*, Record Sorters and other inferior servants of similar status. No pay limit has been fixed for such quarters except in the Press Area in New Delhi.

(c) No, but I may explain that there are no "*Duftries*" quarters in Old Delhi.

TRAVELLING OF RAILWAY SERVANTS WITH INTERMEDIATE CLASS PASSES BY CERTAIN TRAINS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1299. ***Mr. Sri Prakasa:** Is it a fact that 13 Up and 14 Down Delhi-Sealdah Expresses are the only fast trains by which railway servants with passes can travel in the intermediate class between Calcutta and Delhi, and are Government aware that their utilizing these trains in large numbers causes discomfort to *bona fide* passengers? If so, are Government prepared to recommend to the East Indian Railway either to attach one more intermediate class bogie to those trains, or reserve some compartments other than the regular intermediate class bogies for such railway servants?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: 13 Up and 14 Down are the only fast through trains for intermediate class pass holders between Howrah and Delhi, which take about 32½ hours for the journey. There is, however, an alternative service by 11 Up from Howrah which necessitates a change at Moghal Sarai and the time taken for the through journey is 37 hours. In the reverse direction the alternative service is 16 Down from Delhi on which there is one intermediate and third class carriage which runs through between Delhi and Howrah and is sent on from Moghal Sarai by 20 Down. The time taken for the through journey is 34 hours.

A census of 13 Up and 14 Down taken about three months ago showed that the average number of intermediate class pass holders by 13 Up was five and by 14 Down seven. These figures do not indicate the necessity for the reservation of a separate compartment for intermediate class pass holders.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Do Government always go by averages? Sometimes there may be overcrowding and sometimes there may be no passengers. How can averages help in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: What else would help?

Mr. Sri Prakasa: The addition of a compartment would help.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: But when a test was made, it was found that an additional compartment was not found necessary.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Will Government be prepared to have additional compartments on holidays when generally the railway servants as well as other persons travel in larger numbers?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: When there is a larger traffic than anticipated, the railways always make arrangements with regard to additional carriages where additional stock can be put on to a train without interfering with its running.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that, in this particular train, they attach an extra first and second class bogie, if necessary, and never attach extra third or intermediate class carriages even when required?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid, I am not aware of that. But, with regard to this particular matter of pass-holders travelling in this particular train, I may inform the Honourable Member that certain changes are in contemplation from 1st April, 1936, which might ease the situation.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Can the Honourable Member give us any idea about those changes?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I have got the details here, but I think it will weary the House if I read them out.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Can the Honourable Member give a summary only?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Certain changes in the time-table which might enable intermediate class pass-holders to travel by other trains.

REFUSAL TO ADMIT INDIAN GUESTS AT THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTE, DHANBAD.

1300. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement published in the *Searchlight* of Patna in which it is stated that "the authorities in charge of the European Institute at Dhanbad refused to admit Indian guests who had been specially invited to see the Ford car exhibition there on the ground that they were in Indian dress"?

(b) Is it a fact that the Institute is in receipt of grants from the Railway authorities? If so, will Government be pleased to state why such discrimination is allowed in a State-aided institution?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether they intend to take such steps as may prevent the repetition of such actions on the part of any Railway institute in future?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Government are informed that on the 19th of February, 1936, the European Railway Institute at Dhanbad was hired out to Messrs. A. Bowen & Co., representatives of the Ford Motor Car Company, to enable the firm to show a film dealing with the manufacture of Ford cars, etc., free to the public. When this arrangement was made it was made clear to Messrs. A. Bowen & Co. that admission would not be confined to Europeans only. This point was also made clear to the firm by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad, when he was approached for a special license to show the film. A Mr. Kanai Lal C. Bhatt, Manager of a Colliery in the Jherriah Field, who lodged a complaint with the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad, regarding being refused admission to the Institute on the 19th of February, 1936, stated at an enquiry which was held by the Coal Area Superintendent, Dhanbad, that neither he nor his friends were refused admission by any member of the railway staff, but that he had been told by one of Messrs. Ford Cars representatives who was present when Mr. Kanai Lal C. Bhatt arrived at the Institute that he could not enter as he (the representative of Ford Cars) had been given instructions to this effect.

by some one whose identity cannot be fixed. Government understand that many Colliery Managers and others are Honorary Members of the Dhanbad European Institute. The incident appears to have been due entirely to a misunderstanding for which the Institute Committee is in no way responsible.

(b) and (c). In view of my reply to part (a) these do not arise.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Will Government take steps to see that Indians are not insulted in these European Institutes?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: In this particular case, it had nothing to do with the officials of the Institute.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government pass a rule or direction that these Institutes should not be lent out to any Associations or individuals, who are likely to make any distinction as against Indians?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The Honourable Member will understand that here not only was there no question of there being any reason to imagine that a distinction was likely to be made, but clear instructions were given by the officials of the Institute, as well as by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, that no distinction should be made. It was an unfortunate incident that occurred in spite of those instructions.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: In view of that, and with reference to clause (c) of the question, will Government take such steps as they think they need take, to see that such unfortunate occurrences are not repeated, in spite of the best endeavours of the railway authorities?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: The Honourable Member will see that the question says that such incidents should not be repeated on the part of any Railway Institute in future; and, as the answer will show, there is not the slightest reason for thinking that the Railway Institute were in any respect to blame with regard to this matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I want to know whether the Railway Institutes, in lending these institutions, will insist as a condition precedent, apart from other things, that admission to the Institute should not be denied to Indians.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: As a matter of fact, that is exactly what happened in this case. They did insist that, as the Institute was being hired out to them for showing a film, they must not restrict entry to Europeans alone.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: But what steps have the railway authorities taken to punish this breach?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: There was no breach on the part of the Institute people at all, as I am trying to show. The incident occurred on account of one of the representatives of the Ford Company trying to interfere with the admission of one of these men.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Did they act against the terms of the contract?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: They did.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Have Government taken any steps, so far as the breach of that contract is concerned?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: What steps would the Honourable Member suggest in this case if one of Ford's employees did commit this foolish mistake?

COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE WORKING OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES AND STATE RAILWAY PRESSES.

1301. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** Is it a fact that on a Resolution being moved in the Council of State by the Honourable Mr. Mahmood Suhrawardy for the appointment of a mixed committee of officials and non-officials to enquire into the working of the Government of India Presses and the State Railway Presses on the 25th February, 1935, the Honourable Sir David Mitchell stated on behalf of the Government that any grievances of the employees of the Presses would be sympathetically considered if memorials are submitted to Government through the proper channel?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 1301 to 1312 together.

I am collecting information and will lay a reply on the table of the House, in due course.

PAYMENT FOR TIFFIN TIME TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†1302. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. P. R. Rau laid on the table of the House a statement on the 18th July, 1934, showing that the mean average of the piece earning rate per hour and class rate × 200 was taken as the method of fixing the initial pay of the men in the East Indian Railway Press?

(b) Is it a fact that in the East Indian Railway Press, employees actually work $8\frac{1}{2}$ hours a day from Monday to Friday and $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours a day on Saturday, thus making 209 hours a month?

(c) Is it not a fact that 209 hours follow both from monthly and yearly calculations?

(d) If the answer to parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, do Government intend to compensate the employees for the extra nine hours?

(e) Is it not a fact that before the introduction of the pay system, the staff of the East Indian Railway Press were paid for tiffin time?

(f) Is it a fact that the privilege of being paid for tiffin time has been withdrawn from the employees for the last five years?

† For answer to this Question, see answer to question No. 1301.

(g) If the reply to parts (e) and (f) be in the affirmative, will Government please state if they desire to introduce the old system of paying for the tiffin time? If not, why not?

PAYMENT FOR HOLIDAYS TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†1303. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Is it not a fact that all employees of the East Indian Railway Press, irrespective of their being Hindus and Muhammadans, were permitted to enjoy both Hindu and Muhammadan holidays?

(b) Are Government aware that the enjoyment by the Hindu and the Muhammadan employees of both the Hindu and the Muhammadan holidays commonly with one another cemented the cordial relationship among the Hindu and the Muhammadan employees?

(c) Is it a fact that on 28th December, 1936, only the Muhammadan employees of the East Indian Railway Press were permitted to enjoy the Id holiday and the Hindus had to attend office?

(d) Is it a fact that the Muhammadan employees were not paid their wages for this Id holiday enjoyed by them on the 28th December, 1935?

(e) Is it not a fact that the Muhammadan employees were paid their wages on the occasion of all other previous Id holidays?

(f) If the answer to parts (a) to (e) be in the affirmative, will Government state the reason for this policy?

GRANT OF COMPULSORY HOLIDAYS TO THE INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†1304. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Is it not a fact that the industrial employees of the East Indian Railway Press suffer pecuniary loss by reason of the grant of compulsory holidays?

(b) Is it not a fact that on the 3rd January last, there was a public holiday declared for the Viceregal departure and the East Indian Railway Press was also closed?

(c) Is it a fact that the industrial employees were not paid their wages for this holiday?

(d) Is it not a fact that this compulsory reduction of their salary will affect the amount of their Provident Fund, as also the gratuity?

(e) If the answer to parts (c) and (d) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to take any steps to prevent the compulsory loss to the poor employees?

PROMOTION OF EMPLOYEES IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†1305. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Is it not the policy of Government to give promotion to the employees according to the seniority of service, good conduct and regular attendance?

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1301.

(b) Is it a fact that in the East Indian Railway Press, seniority of service, good conduct and regular attendance are not given any weight? Is promotion granted only at the discretion of the establishment clerk and the supervisors?

PRACTICE IN THE RAILWAY PASSES REGARDING RETIREMENT AND GRANT OF INCREMENTS.

†1306. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: (a) Is it a fact that it has always been the practice in the Railway Presses:

(i) to compel retirement from service according to seniority of service, and

(ii) to grant increments according to the seniority of service?

(b) Is it a fact that recently there has been some deviation from the practice for the last three years? If so, why?

RIGHT OF APPEAL GIVEN TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†1307. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there is the right of the employees of the East Indian Railway Press to appeal to the Agent against the decisions of the Superintendent?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the Superintendent of the Press has any power to withhold any memorial and dispose of the same himself on behalf of the Agent?

WORKS COMMITTEE OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†1308. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: (a) Is it not a fact that the Handbook for the guidance of the East Indian Railway Press administration contains a provision, in Rule No. 35 at page 10, for a works committee?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government please state (i) whether the administration in the East Indian Railway Press was carried out according to that provision, and (ii) whether there was any election and proceedings of any works committee for the last three years? If not, why not?

EMPLOYMENT OF RETRENCHED PERSONS IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†1309. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: (a) Is it not the policy of Government to provide the retrenched hands when any vacancy is filled up in the office of the Government?

(b) Is it not a fact that vacancies in the East Indian Railway Press are being filled up by new recruits?

(c) Is it not a fact that the new recruits in the East Indian Railway Press are getting rapid promotion and increment in preference to the old staff?

(d) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list showing the number of persons newly recruited in the East Indian Railway Press during the last two years, and the number among them of the retrenched hands?

†For answer to this question see answer to question No. 1301.

HOLIDAYS IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†1310. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: (a) Is it not a fact that by letter No. 229-E.G., dated the 20th February, 1932, the Railway Board directed that the Press employees will get 20 holidays during the year?

(b) Is it a fact that only 13 days are being given as holidays to the Press employees in the East Indian Railway Press for the last three years?

(c) If the answer to parts (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

SUSPENSION WITHOUT AN OPPORTUNITY BEING GIVEN FOR OFFERING EXPLANATIONS TO THE EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

†1311. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: (a) Is it not a fact that the ordinary practice in all the Government Presses as also in the East Indian Railway Press, is first to call for an explanation from a guilty person when a report is received against him and then to award punishment?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, is it a fact that sometimes employees in the East Indian Railway Press are suspended from work without being given an opportunity of offering an explanation?

LEAVE, HOLIDAYS AND PAY, ETC., OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF RAILWAYS.

†1312. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing:

(i) the rules under which the industrial workers of each Railway are guided, so far as the leave and holidays are concerned; and

(ii) the grades of pay that are allowed to the industrial workers in each Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that there is no uniformity of rules guiding these industrial workers of the different State Railways? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons in each case?

MEMORIALS OF TEMPORARY BINDERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

1313. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: (a) Is it not a fact that on a Resolution being moved in the Council of State by the Honourable Mr. Mahmood Suhrawardy for the appointment of a mixed committee of officials and non-officials to enquire into the working of the Government of India Presses and State Railway Presses on 25th February, 1935, the Honourable Sir David Mitchell stated on behalf of the Government that any grievances of the employees of the Presses would be systematically considered if memorials were submitted to Government through the proper channel?

(b) Is it a fact that several binders of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, submitted a petition for making them permanent on the 20th July, 1930, and that petition was returned by the then Manager with a note which said amongst other things that "I am certain that those who can claim a fair amount of service will have their posts converted to permanent posts before very long"?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1301.

(c) Is it a fact that the temporary binders in the Calcutta Press, claiming services from 12 to 22 years, submitted memorials to the Honourable Member in Charge, through proper channel, in September 1934 with a prayer to include them in the permanent staff, so that they might enjoy the privileges of Government service?

(d) Is it a fact that Mr. A. G. Clow stated before this House on the 20th September, 1935, in answer to question No. 527, that the prayer was under consideration?

(e) If the answer to part (d) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state how long they will take to dispose of this matter, and whether any definite scheme has been framed in relation to it?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) to (d). Yes.

(e) Orders are about to be issued for the transfer of a large number of posts in the Government of India Presses from the temporary to the permanent establishment. These orders will result in the grant of permanent status to the great majority of the temporary binders of the Calcutta Press.

NON-CONFIRMATION OF PIECE-EMPLOYEES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

1314. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Is it not a fact that in granting pensions to the piece-employees in the Government of India Presses, the earnings of the last six years and 25 to 30 years service and 55 years age are calculated?

(b) Is it not a fact that if the piece-employees are granted leave without pay the amounts of their pensions decrease on that account?

(c) Is it not a fact that in the Government of India Press at Calcutta there are piece-employees of 22 to 24 years service and 50 to 53 years age who have not been made permanent as yet?

(d) Is it a fact that the temporary piece-employees of the Government of India Press do not get any pay for medical leave granted to them?

(e) If the answer to parts (a), (b), (c) and (d) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the amounts of pensions of the employees are greatly affected by it?

(f) Are Government prepared to consider the legitimate grievances of the piece-employees and give them the privilege of Government service?

(g) Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the names of all piece-employees in the Government of India Press at Calcutta who are temporary, with the dates of their appointment, their age and the departments to which they belong?

(h) Is it not a fact that in the Government of India Presses at Delhi, Aligarh, Simla and Calcutta there are works committees and that these works committees discuss the grievances of the employees and forward their proceedings through proper channel to the Government of India?

(i) Will Government be pleased to state what representations were made by the works committee of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, to the Government of India on the 18th December, 1934 and in June, July, August and September, 1926?

(j) Will Government lay on the table the proceedings of the meeting of the works committee of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, held in November and December 1934?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) The ordinary rule for all Government servants is that leave without pay does not qualify for pension.

(c), (e) and (f). I am not in possession of exact information regarding the age of the piece-workers employed at the Calcutta Press and the period of their temporary service. I understand that there are temporary piece-workers in that Press who have put in long years of service. Government have decided to transfer a large number of temporary posts to the permanent establishment and orders to this effect are being issued.

(d) Temporary piece-work employees are entitled to 16 days leave on full pay in a year to cover absences on account of holidays, sickness or leave.

(g) No: no such record is maintained in my Department.

(h) Works Committees have been established in the Government of India Presses to afford the employees regular opportunities of discussing with the supervising staff inequalities and difficulties which may arise under working conditions. Their proceedings are not required to be forwarded to the Government of India.

(i) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by Mr. Clow in the Legislative Assembly on the 20th September, 1935, to part (d) of starred question No. 526 asked by Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya.

(j) No.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: With regard to clause (h) of the question, what is the result of the decisions of these Works Committees if they are not forwarded to the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: This, Sir, is a domestic matter. They are forwarded presumably to the authority most concerned with them,—the Manager of the Press. He presumably studies them and takes any action that may be necessary. The Government of India can hardly be expected to deal with a matter of detail of this kind.

Dr. P. N. Banerjea: In case the decision of the Manager of the Press is not satisfactory, will Government consider the decisions of these Works Committees?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: It is always open to any employee of the Government of India Press to represent his grievances in the usual way.

SYSTEM OF BIENNIAL AUTOMATIC CLASSIFICATION IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

1315. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** (a) Is it not a fact that the employees in the Government of India Press under the pay system automatically reach their highest grade when they retire from service?

(b) Is it not a fact that the piece-employees in the Government of India Press had to retire from service before they reached their highest class rate?

(c) Is it not a fact that under the existing system of biennial automatic classification in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, an employee placed on class six will take forty years to reach the highest class?

(d) Is it not a fact that under the system of biennial automatic classification in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, an employee entering service at the twenty-fifth year of age and placed on class six will not be able to reach the highest class before the age of sixty-five?

(e) Is it not a fact that, under the Government service rules, retirement is compulsory in the Government of India Press, Calcutta at the age of 55?

(f) If the reply to parts (a) to (e) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of abandoning this system and replace it by an annual automatic classification system?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the compositors of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, who retired during the last five years, together with their highest class rate at the time of retirement?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state the reason for those compositors not reaching the highest class rate under the system of biennial automatic classification, if they have failed to reach the highest class rate at the time of their retirement?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) No.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) and (d). It is presumed that the Honourable Member is referring to the position of the piece compositors under the Classification Rules issued in 1928. Classes 16 to 25 are selection classes promotion to which is confined to a limited number of compositors. It was never contemplated that all compositors would reach the highest class automatically. In order to accelerate the promotion of deserving men the rules have been further amended.

(e) No. Industrial employees in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, fall under the category of ministerial servants who under the rules may be retained in service up to the age of 60 years if they continue efficient.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) No: no such record is maintained in my Department.

(h) This does not strictly arise, but as I have already explained the rules were not framed with the expectation that all compositors would rise to the highest class.

DECREASE IN THE EARNINGS OF THE PIECE-EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

1316. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjee:** (a) Is it not a fact that the earnings of the employees under pay-system in the Government of India Press, increase with their length of service, while the earnings of the employees

under piece-system decrease as the period of their service increases and as they grow old?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, is it a fact that this system of decrease in earnings of the piece-employees with the length of their service affects the amount of their pension?

(c) Is it not a fact that the Honourable Sir Thomas Holland in reply to the debate on Mr. G. S. Khaparde's resolution in the Imperial Council on the 14th September, 1920, urging the appointment of a committee to investigate and report on the causes of the trouble in the Government of India Presses, stated on behalf of the Government that he would tear up the Government Resolution if the earnings of the piece-employees were gradually to decrease as the period of their service would increase?

(d) Is it not a fact that the maximum earnings of a piece-worker, compositor, in the Government of India Presses in 1925-26 was Rs. 122 per month as stated by the Honourable Mr. Ley in the Council of State in 1926 and that the same maximum earnings dwindled to Rs. 82 per month as stated by the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce in 1933 in this House, and that the same have since then been on the gradual decrease year by year as admitted by the Honourable Member in Charge of Industries and Labour in this House in reply to interpellation, No. 283, dated the 11th December, 1933, No. 720, dated the 21st March, 1930; and No. 720, dated the 20th September, 1933?

(e) If the reply to parts (a) to (d) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if any steps are being taken, or are intended to be taken, to give relief to the poor workers? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Salaried hands who are on time scales of pay get increments based on the length of their service. The earnings of piece-workers depend, generally speaking, on their outturn, but their class-rate tends to rise with their length of service.

(b) The rate of pension depends upon earnings in the last six years, but piece-workers recruited since 15th July, 1920, are on provident fund and not on pension.

(c) and (d). I have nothing to add to the reply given by me on 11th December, 1933, to parts (g), (j), (k) and (l) of unstarred question No. 283 by Mr. S. C. Mitra. Question No. 720 dated the 21st March, 1930, quoted by the Honourable Member does not relate to earnings, and I am unable to trace question No. 720, dated the 20th September, 1933.

(e) Does not arise.

Dr. P. N. Banerjee: Will Government be prepared to take any steps in order to give some relief to the poor workers?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have pointed out that Government have taken steps. They are transferring certain workers in the Press from the temporary to the permanent establishment, and, in reply to parts (c) and (d) of the Honourable Member's last question, I have said that, in order to accelerate the promotion of deserving men, certain rules have been amended.

RATES FOR COMPOSITORS, DISTRIBUTORS AND BINDERS, ETC., IN THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

1317. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: (a) Is it not a fact that the same class rate was prevalent among the compositors, distributors, press-men, machine-men, and binders in the Government of India Presses from 1920 to 1928?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what the respective highest class rates were of the compositors, distributors, press-men, machine-men and the binders in 1922 and in 1930?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). The time rates in force from 1920 to 1928 were 20 in number, the maximum being eight annas per hour for all piece-workers. The maximum class rate in 1930 for compositors was ten annas and two pies, for pressmen, machinemen and binders five annas and four pies and for distributors four annas per hour.

RULES FOR LATE ATTENDANCE BY EMPLOYEES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF
INDIA PRESSES.

1318. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: (a) Is it not a fact that in matters of late attendance a general grace of ten minutes in the Government of India Presses in stations other than Calcutta and 15 minutes grace in the Calcutta Press was allowed to the employees before the introduction of the new rules in 1933?

(b) Is it not a fact that five late attendances in a month in the Government of India Presses in stations other than Calcutta and six in the Calcutta Press were as a general rule excused and late attendances exceeding that limit were punishable under the old rules before the introduction of the new rules in 1933?

(c) Is it not a fact that when under the old rules of attendance, deduction of half an hour's pay at class rate for each ordinary late attendance and a deduction of three-fourth of an hour's pay for each double late was imposed upon the piece-workers?

(d) Is it not a fact that in the Government of India Presses under the rules of attendance introduced in August in 1933:

(i) no late attendance, is, as a general rule, excusable; and

(ii) one day's leave is forfeited for each four unexcused late attendances and two days' leave is forfeited for five unexcused late attendances?

(e) Is it not a fact that the piece-workers in the Government of India Presses are imposed a twofold punishment for late attendance (i) by depriving them of the price of the time lost for late attendance, and (ii) by imposing the penalty of forfeiture of leave?

(f) Is it not a fact that under the old rules of punishment for late attendance, the fines imposed for late attendance and realised from the employees in the Government of India Presses, were spent for the benefit of the employees and their families?

(g) If the answer to parts (a) to (f) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for making these hard rules of attendance in comparison to the old ones existing before 1933?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state the amount realised from piece-workers of the Government of India Presses by imposition of fines in the years 1931, 1932 and 1934, 1935?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) to (c). Yes.

(d) Under the rules introduced in 1933 late attendance up to a limit of four per mensem may be excused at the discretion of Managers. Late attendances which are due to unavoidable causes of a general and serious character may also be excused at the discretion of Managers without regard to the limit mentioned above. One day's leave is forfeited for every four unexcused late attendances.

(e) Forfeiture of leave is provided for in the rules as a measure of discipline but no deduction is made from the earnings of piece-workers after their leave has been exhausted. Loss of earnings due to late attendance is not a punishment, but a result for which the worker is responsible.

(f) Yes.

(g) The old rules were defective in some respects. Government consider that the revised rules which were framed after careful consideration are fair and reasonable.

(h) I regret I cannot furnish the information required by the Honourable Member as its collection will involve an amount of time and trouble disproportionate to the result.

GIVING OF LIGHTER WORKS TO THE OLD EMPLOYEES IN THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

1319. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: (a) Is it not a fact that in answer to question No. 528, asked by Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya as to whether the principles of giving lighter works to the old employees was being followed in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, Mr. A. G. Clow stated before this House on 20th September, 1935, that the Controller of Printing and Stationery was enquiring into the matter?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the Controller of the Printing and Stationery has finished his enquiry and whether the older employees are getting lighter work?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The older employees in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, are given a preference in the allocation of work as far as practicable.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OF THE SERVICE OF PIECE-EMPLOYEES OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES FOR CALCULATING LEAVE.

1320. *Dr. P. N. Banerjea: Is it a fact that services of piece-hands of Government Presses are taken into account for calculating leave on average pay of the man who has since been promoted to the salaried establishment? If not, will Government be pleased to quote the relevant rules?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: Under the Revised Leave Rules for Press Employees which apply to new entrants permanent industrial employees transferred from the salaried to the piece-work establishment

or *vice versa* are allowed to retain leave at their credit. No such provision was made in the old leave rules for press employees as transfers between the salaried and the piece-work establishments are not frequent. In certain cases of transfers of men from the salaried to the piece-work establishment orders were issued allowing them credit for the leave earned by them.

APPOINTMENT OF UNPASSED PERSONS IN THE READING BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

1321. ***Dr. P. N. Banerjea:** Is it a fact that University degree-holders have been exclusively ignored lately in filling up the appointments in the Reading Branch of the Government of India Press at Calcutta by appointing all unpassed hands without giving any chance to any passed hand?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have no information regarding these appointments which are not made by Government. But the possession of a degree is not an essential qualification for new entrants, and when vacancies are filled by promotion, work in the Branch affords a safer guide than academic qualifications.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a disqualification?

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware of the fact that the staff in the Government of India Press at Calcutta has been found to be not quite up to their work, and the Public Accounts Committee have pointed out that they must do something to increase the qualifications of the staff in order to improve the working of the Department?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir, I am not aware of that.

SAFETY MEASURES FOR PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS IN MINES.

1322. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the first of the 'Occasional Notes' of the *Statesman* of the 21st February, 1936;
- (b) whether it is a fact that in the Jokatiabad disaster, 62 persons were killed and that the Committee found that if the miners had been properly warned and not allowed to congregate too close to the shots the casualties would have been very few;
- (c) whether they have come to any conclusion on the recommendations of the Conference, which met recently in Delhi to advise on the safety measures for preventing such accidents in future;
- (d) whether the proposals of the Conference will be placed before this House; and
- (e) whether steps are being taken in the direction of legislation?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c), (d) and (e). We are in consultation with Local Governments and the interests concerned and it is our intention to place a Bill before the House for the purpose of securing the necessary powers during the current Session.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: With reference to the answer to clause (b) of the question, have Government taken any action, in view of the answer that the death of 62 persons might have been avoided or lessened, if proper precautions had been taken?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: The fact is that the person responsible for the failure to warn the people who congregated too close to the shots was the shot-firer who was himself killed in the accident.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know whether Government are contemplating any transitional arrangements to carry out the object of the legislation, in the intervening period before the Bill becomes law?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I hope that it will not take long for the Bill to become law. We are very anxious to get it through this Session. That merely means a delay now of a very few weeks. I trust that I shall have my Honourable friend's co-operation in getting the Bill through the Legislature as soon as possible.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That depends on the contents of the Bill. I should like to know if it is the intention of Government to go through all the stages of the Bill, in both Houses during this Session.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I hope so. It will be a very short Bill. Its main provision will be to enable Government to make rules and regulations immediately.

Mr. Sri Prakasa: Will there be a time limit for speeches on that Bill? (Laughter.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is the Bill more or less based on the recommendations of the Conference?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I would ask my Honourable friend to wait and see what the Bill is like. We discussed all these matters at a conference of representatives of the various interests involved, including labour, and we asked those representatives to put the conclusions of the conference before the interests they represented. The replies are now coming in, and I hope that it may be possible for me to introduce the Bill in this House in the course of next week.

REVISION OF THE TERMS OF CONVENTION SEPARATING THE RAILWAY AND THE GENERAL FINANCES.

1323. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the terms of the Convention of 1924, whereby the Railway and the General Finances of the Central Government were separated, are to be revised before the establishment of the Federal authority;
- (c) whether the Legislature will be consulted in the matter, especially
- (b) whether that revision is under consideration; in the matter of writing off any capital of the railways, and debiting a portion thereof to the General Finance; and

(d) whether the proposals will be completed before the Statutory Federal authority comes into being?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Under section 186 (3) of the Government of India Act, 1935, any surpluses on revenue account shown in the accounts of the Federal Railway Authority shall be apportioned between the Federation and the Authority in accordance with a scheme to be prepared, and from time to time reviewed, by the Federal Government, or, until such a scheme has been prepared, in accordance with the principles which immediately before the establishment of the Authority regulated the application of surpluses in railway accounts.

(b) The whole question is of course under consideration, but I would remind the Honourable Member that under Part VIII of the Government of India Act, the main principles of any new financial convention are largely determined in advance. The only substantial question left undetermined is the division of any surplus which remains after fully providing from revenue for working expenses, interest, maintenance, renewals and amortisation of debt. In present circumstances, there is no sign of the emergence of a surplus and the discussion of its division is therefore largely academic.

(c) and (d). Under section 187 (1) of the Government of India Act, 1935, the capital debt of the railways or the sum deemed to be owing from the Authority to the Federation is such sum as may be agreed or, in default of agreement, determined by the Governor General in his discretion, to be equivalent to the amount of the moneys provided, whether before or after the passing of this Act, out of the revenues of India or of the Federation for capital purposes in connection with railways in India (exclusive of Burma). For the purposes of that sub-section, where the Secretary of State in Council has assumed or incurred any obligation in connection with any such railways, he shall be deemed to have provided for the said purposes an amount equal to the capital value of that obligation as shown in the accounts of the Government of India immediately before the establishment of the Authority. I do not see how in the circumstances any question of writing off part of the Railway capital at the expense of general revenues can arise. I am unable at this stage to state whether the Legislature will be consulted in the matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am much obliged to the Honourable Member for the very full answer he has given; but may I ask, in the light of that answer which he has read out, particularly with reference to clause (c) of the question, whether Government are considering or propose to consider early, the question of what shall be the sum due to the Federation from the railways, before the railway authority comes into existence? Is it going to be a matter of negotiation or are Government going to accept, as the Secretary of State is compelled to accept under the Government of India Act with regard to Company-owned capital, that the sum due to the Federation shall be Rs. 800 crores or Rs. 700 odd crores, which now the railway debt bears in proportion to the general debt of the country?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: As I have read out in reply to parts (c) and (d) of the question, under section 187(1) of the Government of India Act, this matter has got to be settled between the Federal Government and the Federal Railway Authority, and, in case of difference between the two, by the Governor General.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it, therefore, that this Government propose to do nothing in the matter, till the Federal Government comes into being?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Except to collect all the information and all the data that may be necessary for a decision on this matter.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I take it, therefore, that the present separation convention will continue till the Federal Government comes into being?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I cannot take any responsibility in that respect, that if any alterations become necessary in the meantime, they might be considered; but nothing is under contemplation at the moment.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I am simply asking whether, as and when Government make up their minds that either this convention requires any alteration, or they are to make up their minds with regard to the capital which shall be owed to the Federal Government from the railways, they will consult the Legislature at the appropriate stage.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: That is entirely a hypothetical question. I have assured the Honourable Member that Government are not contemplating anything of that character at present: as and when they do it, it will be a question to be decided as and when it arises.

ANTI-INDIAN FILMS.

1324. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- whether their attention has been drawn to an article entitled "Anti-Indian Films" in the *Forward*, dated the 25th February, 1936;
- whether the Honourable the Home Member is prepared to pursue the enquiry further, as to the names of the producers of the film "India Speaks";
- whether the facts stated therein are correct; and
- whether they propose to take further steps in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: (a) I have seen the article in question.

(b)–(d). I am not aware if the facts stated in the article are correct. I am making further enquiries as to the name of the Company which produced the film "India Speaks" and will, on receipt of the information for which I have called, consider what, if any, further action in the matter is necessary.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have any steps been taken to see that those films are not put on boards in other countries?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik: I have answered that in reply to previous questions, Sir.

DISCUSSION ON THE GENERAL CLAUSES OF THE INSTRUMENTS OF ACCESSION.

1325. *Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the article entitled "Legal talks on Federation" in the *Statesman* of the 25th February, 1936;
- (b) whether the India Office has inquired of the Princes whether their counsel would be ready for a discussion on the general clauses of the Instruments of Accession that Their Highnesses must execute before Federation comes into being; and
- (c) what these clauses are, and whether Government can throw any light on this matter?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The position in regard to the draft Instruments of Accession is stated in the Press Communiqué issued by the Government of India on the 12th March, 1936, and I have nothing to add to it.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Does that communiqué state the clauses of the Instrument of Accession?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: The communiqué is there; and if the Chair will allow me, I can read it out:

"Press Communiqué, dated 12th March, 1936.

The Secretary of State's legal advisers have been engaged in revising provisionally the original draft standard form of the Instrument of Accession published with the White Paper of March 1935. Opportunity will be taken of the presence in London of Counsel representing Indian States for purposes of informal discussion without prejudice in regard to the general form of the draft. It is expected that in a few months time the revised draft Instrument will be available for communication through the local political authorities concerned to the Indian States individually with a view to detailed negotiations when their comments have been received."

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I want to know whether the Government of India have any part or lot in these negotiations which this communiqué contemplates.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: If my Honourable friend is referring to the informal discussions taking place in London between the representatives of the States and the India Office, the answer is in the negative.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: May I know whether the Government of India are expecting to be consulted with regard to the detailed clauses of the Instruments of Accession, which are expected to vary from State to State?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: That is our expectation. certainly.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: So far, they have not been consulted?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: No: so far the situation has not arisen.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: What is happening about these Instruments of Accession?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: I would advise my Honourable friend to send a telegram to counsel for the States to get the information: we have laid before the House all the information that we have.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have Government no interest in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: They have plenty of interest, but not undue or premature curiosity.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware that the people of this country are very much interested in seeing that these instruments of accession are shaped in such a manner, as not to unduly weigh the scales against British Indians and in favour of Indian States, and will Government, therefore, consider getting information, as early as they can, in order to press this point of view on the authorities who will finally negotiate the Federation?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: The Government of India have always acted expeditiously, and they will continue to do so.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And the result of the expedition is that they have no information!

APPOINTMENT OF AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE DELHI BROADCASTING STATION.

1326. *Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to a statement made by Dr. S. K. Sen on broadcasting in Delhi, published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 27th February, 1936;
- (b) whether the suggestions made by the writer will be examined by the authorities in charge of the Delhi Broadcasting Station;
- (c) whether they propose soon to appoint a regularly constituted non-official advisory committee to provide good music from the Broadcasting Station?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given by me to Sardar Sant Singh's starred question No. 810 on the 25th February, 1936.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Have these suggestions been examined by Government?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I have said "yes" in my reply to (a) and (b).

Mr. S. Satyamurti: The question is "whether they *will be* examined", and the answer is "yes". I am now asking whether they *have been* examined.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I am sorry that I have got my tenses confused. They have been examined.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: And what is the result of that examination?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I should require notice of that question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Is there going to be any improvement—we can judge it for ourselves tonight—in the kind of music broadcast from this station? Will there be better music hereafter?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: That is a matter of opinion. I myself am no judge of Indian music. My musical sense is lacking. But I have heard opinions that the music is very good. I have also had opinions that it is not. I am not in a position to judge between them.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: I can judge good Indian music. Will Government consult good experts like me (Laughter), before they decide what class of music to broadcast from this station?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce: I am quite sure that the Controller of Broadcasting and Director of the Broadcasting Station will only be too glad of any assistance my Honourable friend is willing to give them.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: Are Government aware that the people of the country generally do not appreciate the tune of the Congress? (Laughter.)

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Are Government aware that the people of the country want only Congress music, and not the Moradabad Knight's music? (Renewed Laughter.)

MUSEUMS IN INDIA.

1327. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the opinion of Mr. S. F. Markham on Museums in India, published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 24th February, 1936;
- (b) whether the facts stated therein are correct; if so, whether they propose to take steps to remedy the defects mentioned therein?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai: (a) and (b). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given by me to his question No. 957, on the 3rd March, 1936.

1328. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Sir, I do not ask this question?

CURTAILMENT OF RAILWAY EXPENDITURE.

1329. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the view of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, on the Railway Budget, published in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 28th February, 1936;
- (b) whether they propose to examine the suggestions contained in the article; and
- (c) whether they are prepared to appoint a sub-committee, with a majority of non-officials, to go thoroughly into the railway finances and point out the possible directions in which curtailment of expenditure can be effected?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: (a) Yes.

(b) The suggestions have been examined.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave to his question No. 963 on the 6th March, 1936.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: That was a negative. May I ask Government once more whether they will reconsider the whole position, and face the very difficult financial position of Indian railways, and just concede, for once, that other people may have some light to throw upon the problem, in addition to themselves?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: My reply on the previous occasion was not in the negative.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will they appoint then a committee consisting of officials and non-officials, with a non-official majority, to go into the whole question of railway retrenchment?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: They are considering the question of appointing a committee: they cannot at the moment say whom the committee will consist of.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Will Government say when they will be in a position to make an announcement in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I am afraid I cannot say.

Mr. S. Satyamurti: Or as to the likelihood of non-officials being taken?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: I cannot answer that either.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The House will now resume discussion on the motion for consideration of 12 NOON. the Indian Finance Bill.

Sir H. P. Mody (Bombay Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): Mr. President, I listened with very great pleasure yesterday to the powerful and passionate plea put forward by my Honourable friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant. As one who has fought for many years for the industrialisation of the country and for the protection of its industries, I was almost moved to tears of joy when I found such close identity of views between the Honourable Pandit and myself! I thought to myself that the prospect was appreciably nearer of the lion and the lamb lying together. (Laughter.)

An Honourable Member: What are you?

Sir H. P. Mody: I am the lamb.

Sir, my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, called my friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, and myself, the other day, as the Harijans of Bombay. I wish very much, Sir, that we were just Harijans . . .

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated Non-Official): Why? You are.

Sir H. P. Mody: Everybody today pays lip service to the cause of the Harijans. They command the active sympathy and support of the Government; they command the active sympathy and support of the Congress. Srijuts and Rai Bahadurs alike look after their interests, but who is looking after our interests? Kicks on all sides, that is the lot of the real Harijans of Bombay, whom my friend so often is in the habit of poking fun at. Sir, I almost burst into song, inwardly, of course, . . .

An Honourable Member: Thank you.

Sir H. P. Mody: . . . when I found my friend, the Pandit, making such a powerful impression on the Honourable the Finance Member, and, inspired by Omar Khayyam, I sang:

"Ah, Pant, could thou and I with Grigg conspire
To grasp this sorry scheme of Free Trade entire
Would we not shatter it to bits—and then
Remould it nearer to our heart's desire!"

Coming back to the earth, I would like to emphasise that the issue today is no longer political. I do not know, Sir, whether there are any professors or cranks left in this country who are theoretical free traders. The time has gone by when people subscribed to that famous maxim of Adam Smith: "It is the maxim of every prudent master of a family never to attempt to make at home what it will cost him more to make than to buy. What is prudence in the conduct of every private family can scarcely be folly in that of a great kingdom". Very fine words these, but the history of the last ten years has blown them to bits, and I doubt whether there are any people with any experience of industrial and commercial conditions in this country who subscribe to the free trade doctrine.

Now, Sir, let me say at the outset that my friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, did not do justice to the Finance Member when he proceeded all along on the assumption that he was a fanatical free trader. I have had the advantage of a great many discussions with the Finance

Member, ever since he came to this country, and I for one accept wholeheartedly his assurance that, whatever his principles may be, so far as they concern his own country, so far as this country is concerned, he accepts loyally the policy laid down by the Fiscal Commission and by the Legislature. And, so far as his public utterances go, if we leave out the asides, for which he is so famous . . .

An Honourable Member: Monkeying?

Sir H. P. Mody: . . . so far as his public declarations are concerned, I have not been able to find anything in them to support the viewpoint which is being held in a great many quarters in India that the Finance Member is an enemy of industrialism or is a determined exponent of free trade. I don't think, Sir, that it is necessary for anybody to argue the enormous benefits of industrialisation in this country. It is well-known that agriculture cannot possibly support anything like the population which exists in this country. With our primitive methods, with a precarious rainfall, with a poor soil, with large tracts of unirrigated land, it is quite impossible that agriculture can provide food to the teeming millions of India. Besides, as every one is aware, the spectre of middle class unemployment has risen in the last few years, and, if we have to feed the hungry mouths whom the soil does not sustain, and if we want to make some impression on the alarming figures of middle class unemployment, I say that the only policy which can achieve that is the industrialisation of the country. I am not suggesting that it should be a sort of forced hot house growth. I say that all the elements which go to make a country industrial are present in India. We have the material resources, the mineral resources, we have an enormous labour force, we have cheap labour—in spite of my friend, Mr. Joshi—we have a great many favourable factors, and I maintain that all these factors make it possible for this country to be industrialised steadily and progressively within a very few years. And it is only when you have industrialised the country, relieved the pressure on the land, and provided various avenues of employment that you can raise the purchasing power of the country. In the West, there are a great many avenues open to the sons of middle class families,—the Army, the Church and a great many other things. In this country we have nothing, and I repeat that the one way in which you can reduce unemployment and raise the consuming power of the country is by industrialisation. I will quote, Sir, an important testimony, the testimony of Professor Gregory, in his conclusion to a book entitled "Eastern Industrialisation and its Effect on the West". It is a book whose perusal I strongly recommend to my Honourable friends in this House:

"Whatever the casual sequence may be, it is clear that we should view the eastern scene in the light of our own historical experience, and recognise that the ultimate condition for a rise in the eastern standard of life is such a balance between population growth and technical progress as to permit of a surplus which will raise the per capita welfare of Eastern populations. The attainment of this surplus is theoretically possible by a drastic decline of population: given the population situation, it is only possible to solve it by means of industrialisation.

Nor is there anything of a sinister or pessimistic nature in this conclusion, as such. For a growing population with growing resources represents a growing market; in fact"—(and this is a very important consideration),—"the East is reproducing the conditions which made for the most rapid economic growth in other parts of the world in a not very remote past."

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[Sir H. P. Mody.]

Sir, if examples are necessary, I would point to the textile industry of this country which, in the past at any rate, existed in spite of Government, which today is providing employment to nearly half a million people, who with their dependants would make up as much as two millions of population, and which consumes more than half the cotton grown in this country. This industry has established the competence of Indians to manage their own economic affairs, and has proved their adaptability in many fields of industrialisation. There are certain mills in India which can compare favourably with any mills existing anywhere in the world. Incidentally, I may say for the benefit of my Honourable friends, the champions of the agriculturists and the handloom weavers, that it is because of the protection given in recent years to the textile industry that the handloom industry has been enabled to survive.

An Honourable Member: Question.

Sir H. P. Mody: There is no question about it; it is a hard concrete fact. The benefit of protection has not merely gone to the power factories, but has percolated to the handloom weavers. Today, the incursion of Japan, if it was not checked, would wipe out the whole of the handloom weavers, and, incidentally, also half the textile power industry in this country. Take the case of steel. Out of what was a mere jungle, some thirty years ago, has risen a town of nearly 100,000 inhabitants, laid out in the modern way, laid out even better than most of the capital cities in India, and providing employment to 25,000 people. These are the concrete achievements of protection. But I want to go a little further. While I am about it, I had better be as whole-hearted as possible, because, after all, it will not make much difference to what my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, is going to say. I say, Sir, that the time has arrived for a more definite policy of protection. A new Fiscal Commission is necessary. The Fiscal Commission over which that eminent industrial and commercial magnate and public citizen, Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola, presided, laid down a policy which has been held up and, rightly, to the admiration of other countries. That policy has served us so far well, but the time, I repeat, has arrived for taking that policy a little further. Very many important factors have supervened since the Fiscal Commission issued its report. Most countries are subscribing more and more to the policy of economic nationalism. There have been exchange depreciations, quotas, export bounties, and in a great many other ways the whole economic system of the world has undergone a very severe change. It is necessary, therefore, that a new Fiscal Commission should be appointed, which, taking our mad world as it is, will lay down what India can do to maintain its position in these extraordinary times. The Commission would also perform another important service, and that is, it would examine and report upon the consumers' argument which has been trotted out so often, not merely from non-official benches, but also from Government benches. The Commission would examine how far the scheme of protection, as it has been given effect to in this country in the last ten years, has affected the consumer.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg (Finance Member): In other words, you pre-judge every question in advance.

Sir H. P. Mody: No. I am not asking the Commission to judge the case. But I have my own view just as the Finance Member has his own view; but the Finance Member ought to be really more careful about his view than I should be about mine. He holds the responsible position of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and when he tells us, as he did, very solemnly a couple of days ago, that the consumer had suffered to the extent of 34 crores of rupees a year through the protection given to the textile and steel industries, I immediately join issue with him. . .

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Textile and sugar, and not steel.

Sir H. P. Mody: Now, Sir, I do not know whether my Honourable friend really thinks that this is a matter of just mathematical calculation.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Yes.

Sir H. P. Mody: Without duty, so many annas per yard; with duty, so many annas per yard; therefore, so many crores of rupees have been taken out of the pockets of the consumer! Never was a greater fallacy uttered. The predecessor of my Honourable friend, Sir Muhammad Zafullah Khan, once said on the floor of this House that, taking the figures of the last fifteen years, the consumer had really not been made to pay anything more than he would have paid otherwise. What has happened is that the textile industry is confronted with the competition of a country which has got its own standards, which has got its own methods of exploitation and penetration, and it is due to the competition of that country, to the dumping,—I am not using that word in the technical sense—of her goods on to the markets of this country, and also due to the internal competition, that I stand firm upon what I am now saying, namely, that, today, the consumer of cloth is paying no more than he did when there was no protection whatsoever.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: Question.

Sir H. P. Mody: How can you question facts? You may question theories.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): It is not a fact.

Sir H. P. Mody: These are very hard facts, and I think, so far as my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, is concerned, he is talking through his *pugree*. (Laughter.) There is only one other observation that I would like to make in order to emphasise my point that you require another Fiscal Commission to lay down a policy for India, and that is, that it is necessary, and it has been increasingly established in the last few years, that if you want to protect an industry adequately, you must protect it for an adequate period of time. It is no use giving three years protection; then, at the end of two years, making another enquiry and throwing the whole machinery out of gear, creating a lot of uncertainty, and in every other way, making it very difficult for industries to carry on. That, again, is a matter on which the Fiscal Commission may

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have something to say. I will give you the authority of one who is very well-known, Professor Taussig, who was the first Chairman of the United States Tariff Commission. He said:

"The length of time to be allowed for the experiment should not be too brief. Ten years are not enough; twenty years may be reasonably extended; thirty years are not necessarily unreasonable."

You do not give protection unless you have had an elaborate enquiry on the part of the Tariff Board, then Government incubating on that report, and the Legislature dissecting it; if after all this enquiry, you feel satisfied that protection is due to an industry, well, give it for an adequate period of years so that behind the shelter of the tariff wall the industry may be enabled to put its house in order.

That brings me to the question, which is equally important, of the revision of the machinery which has been provided under the Fiscal Commission's report. I say, without meaning any disrespect to the eminent men who have occupied the positions of Members and Chairmen of the Tariff Board.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Question.

Sir H. P. Mody: I say the machinery is entirely out of date. In more than ten years, less than fifty enquiries have been handled by our Tariff Boards. What is the case in a country which was a fanatical adherent up to within recent times of the free trade doctrine, I mean, Great Britain? The Import Duties Advisory Committee was set up three years ago after a long series of other breaches in the free trade principle, for the purpose of considering the advisability in the national interests of restricting imports into the United Kingdom and the interests generally of trade and industries in the United Kingdom. They issued a little while ago their three years' report. What does the report say? 310 applications were received and disposed of, 99 orders issued affecting a large number of commodities, and each representing in many instances a large number of "bricks" placed on the wall. About three-quarters of the imports, amounting to 700 million pounds, now come under the jurisdiction of the committee. If there had been no abandonment of the gold standard the Committee would, in all probability, have recommended higher duties. That is the record of the Import Duties Advisory Committee and, I say, Sir, that the time has arrived when we ought to consider whether we should not set up a similar organisation for dealing speedily with problems which cannot await the leisurely methods employed hitherto. Great injury has been inflicted in times past through the fact that the inquiries undertaken by the Tariff Board are of much too elaborate a character and that the subsequent stages by which the report is carried further and translated into legislation are of an extremely dilatory character, and my view is that in the present abnormal condition of the world it is absolutely essential that we should set up some such organisation as that of the Import Duties Advisory Committee. Lest my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, may try to tear my arguments to tatters, I shall say, that I am not a fanatical protectionist as he probably thinks I am, but I hope it will be conceded that it would be criminal folly on my part if I were to be anything else but a protectionist in a world which has gone mad with

protection. It may be that the time may come, some years hence, when the whole world may swing back to free trade, realising the barriers to international trade which are implicit in the present position of the economic world, but until that time arrives, and until India has consolidated her industrial position and is able to meet on equal terms the countries of the West, it is absolutely essential that we should pursue a policy of active sympathy and support to all our industries. There is just one other reason why it is necessary that a fiscal commission, a new body, should be appointed. There are a number of small industries which do not conform to the conditions laid down by the Fiscal Commission. The protection and development of industries which could not under the present policy qualify for protection because they depend to some extent on imported raw materials—though they incur the greater part of the expenditure in this country—has got to be thought of. I may give you a couple of examples. They may not prove to be strong examples, but I am giving them out only as illustrations of what I mean. The glass industry needs soda ash from abroad but it enables a considerable industrial activity to be profitably undertaken in India. The cinema industry is another case in point. Raw films have to be imported but the industry incurs a very heavy expenditure in India and employs large numbers of people. I am not arguing any more than that there are a number of industries which cannot possibly qualify for protection under the present policy, because the Fiscal Commission has laid down certain conditions, but which, in the national interest, it will be wise to promote. There is nothing repugnant to the national interest in promoting even those industries which depend to a larger or smaller extent on materials imported from abroad.

An Honourable Member: Will agriculture be included in that industry?

Sir H. P. Mody: Agriculture is receiving lot of attention these days, and we recently very cheerfully voted, or, if we did not vote it, at least we approved of it,—2 crores and 81 lakhs for agriculture.

My last point is just this. I have pleaded with the same strength and passion, as that of my Honourable friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, for the industrialisation of the country, because the economic position of the country—and I say this in spite of the fact that I am a stout hearted optimist—is not by any means satisfactory. If you judge it by the standards of the West, it is alarmingly low and poor. I have before me a few statistics in support of my contention. If these statistics are not reliable, well, I am afraid I am not to blame for it. Let Government produce more reliable statistics and I shall be very grateful to them. My statistics say that while the total industrial production in India is below Rs. 20 per head, it is 158 in Japan, 410 in the United Kingdom, 470 in Canada and 720 in the United States. Everybody knows about the national income. I will put it so far as India is concerned at the high figure of Rs. 100. While it is 100 here, it is 1,300 in Canada, 1,100 in the United Kingdom, 2,000 in the United States and 270 in Japan. Take banking deposits. They are Rs. 7 per head compared to 700 in the United Kingdom and 215 in Japan. Finally, take Savings Bank deposits, which are really the criterion of the condition of the lower middle and poor classes. In India, they are Rs. 2 per head as compared with 270 in the United Kingdom, 90 in Japan and 125 in France. Sir, it is easy to overdraw the picture. That is not my intention. I am not going to indulge in any claptrap about the failure of this or that party to do this or that

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thing. The country is enormous, its problems are enormous, and if not more has been done in order to ameliorate the condition of the masses, I am not going to draw any of those harsh conclusions which have been drawn by some of my Honourable friends, but let nobody lay the unction to his soul that because our credit is high, therefore, the economic position of the country is satisfactory. Credit and economic position are two different things. Our credit is high because we have balanced the budget. I wish to give full marks to the Finance Members who, in spite of the undoubted unpopularity of their proposals, have gone ahead with them; they at least maintained a balanced budget with the result that our securities stand high in the world markets. This country can command money in the international market on very favourable rates, more favourable than some of the European powers can enjoy. I admit all that but do not let that picture obscure the other picture, which is the darker picture, of the economic condition of the country, and there my point is, that while a great deal has been done in the last few years and the problem is being tackled in earnest from every quarter, and from many fronts—from the agricultural front, from the industrial front—the time has now arrived for a more rapid industrialisation of the country. It is only when that is done that India will be placed above the dangers of economic distress. Sir, I have done.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I was not aware of the chivalry of the Honourable the Finance Member. In fact, I had always the belief that I was a good, sharp shooter. Sir, in my university life in England, I had taken part in rifle range competition. I am a South Indian Brahmin, but I can still pride myself in saying that I was not behind the rest of my English comrades in the University of London. (Hear, hear.) But what I find here is that it is all blank shot, there is not even a Bull's eye, and I can assure my Honourable friend that our shots do make jolly little impression now (Laughter) if they make any impression at all. Sir, I heard the other day, and I speak subject to correction, that the Honourable the Finance Member stated in the other House that the gold that is flowing out of this country is not distress gold, but I remember him saying in this House once at least that it was distress gold.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: No, I can easily clear up that misapprehension. I said that I did not personally believe that it was distress gold, but, assuming for the sake of argument that it was distress gold, etc.: that was precisely the argument that I used in another place this Session.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: It is confusing to me to understand the two statements. If the gold that is now flowing out of this country is due to the high prices that are being offered for gold, and if the Honourable the Finance Member had understood the mentality of our people, he would have known that we Indians do not part with our gold under *ordinary* circumstances. The poor man in the village has to sell his gold by reason of the attractive prices, due to the real distress that is prevalent in this country. If there is no distress, the prosperity of the country, if there was any, would have been reflected in many ways. Take, for example,

first of all, the question of the relief of the indebtedness of the poor man or of the agriculturist in this country. Now, I would ask my Honourable friend whether, if the agriculturist has been prospering, why have the provincial revenues been falling and falling in most of the provinces of this country. I would also instance another fact. There are a number of co-operative societies operating in the various provinces. Has the Honourable the Finance Member looked into the accounts of these co-operative societies, and do the repayments, if any, of the loans taken by agriculturists, during the course of the last year, show whether this gold has been sold at a net profit for the agriculturist or not? Well, that factor must have been stated if true, and the co-operative societies should have shown that under the subject of the repayment of debt. But the facts, Sir, are otherwise. Well, the debt accumulation of co-operative societies in our province has not shown a diminution, and, in fact, they are worse and they will be worse than they have ever been. Thirdly, I would ask him to look at the fact that the Local Governments have given revenue remissions, remissions of taxation in rent. In the Presidency of Madras, a remission of one anna nine pies in the rupee has been given and it has been given continuously for the last two or three years. Well, does that indicate that the gold that has been sold is or is not distress gold? Well, then, I would ask my Honourable friend to consider a suggestion from me. I do not speak with the authority of a financier, but that of a man in the street. I would like to place before him one or two suggestions. Various issues have been raised and suggestions have been thrown out from this side that there should be a protective tariff on gold or a protective export duty on gold. I really do not believe that that would give any relief to those that sell gold. After all, what I would like the Government to do is this,—that they should buy up all the gold that this country is capable of giving out at a fairly enhanced price at which the people have been selling gold today, and, having bought up that gold, let them do this. The dis-equilibrium in foreign trade which would be caused by such measures would then have to be remedied by proper deflation measures. Now this has actually been brought to the notice of the public by the writer of a recent article, Sir Gavin Jones, which appeared so recently as yesterday in the *Hindustan Times*. But the trouble is that in this country we have no financial Swaraj, nor even economic Swaraj. The problem of our economics is tied down to the chariot-wheel of England, and economic and political considerations prevail in determining the economic policy of this country. (Hear, hear.) When the Honourable the Finance Member says that it is not distress gold that is exported, I really believe he means that he is not, in the least, himself distressed about the gold exports. (Laughter.) That is just how I would put it to him.

Now, coming to the financial suggestions that he has made. I for one would certainly be inclined to congratulate him, but, upon a consideration of all the facts before me, I must be excused if I do not stretch out my hand of congratulations to him, but, still, it is some relief, and as a relief, miserable, meagre and wretched as it is, it is some relief. Now, my Honourable friend, in connection with the grant of ten lakhs to the Indian Research Fund Association, says:

"Health is a vital factor in measures aiming at a general improvement in the conditions of village life, and to ensure that the benefit of these ten lakhs goes primarily to the rural population the Association will be required to devote the amount mainly to schemes connected with the prevention or cure malaria."

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Well, Sir, it is a pity, as I mentioned last year, that we do not have a Cabinet Minister who is a medical man, and most of us in the Assembly, barring a few exceptions, are laymen. But I am glad to find that the Honourable the Finance Member has been persuaded or convinced of the fact and is taking measures in this direction. Sir, in my speech on the Finance Bill, last year, I drew the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to the economic conditions and to the problem of the physical well-being of the people of this country, and malaria is perhaps the one source of disease which incapacitates a large number of people apart from the number of deaths that it causes either immediately or ultimately. I have before me large volumes of valuable reports from the Indian Research Fund Association and the articles written by Colonel Sinton and his co-workers which have been embodied in these reports. If these reports and the standard Government publications are of any value, I want you, Sir, to see what a miserable pittance this amount of ten lakhs is which has been included within the budget for the relief of a suffering which, perhaps in its essentials, has no comparison whatsoever, for let me tell this House the real condition that prevails in India today. According to these reports before me, there are roughly 100 million people in this country suffering annually from malaria; out of a population of 365 millions, as many as 100 millions suffer from malaria annually. (Interruption.) I will tell my Honourable and gallant friend, Col. Gidney, that these figures are from the Government reports that I have before me and I will quote chapter and verse. Of these, two million deaths are directly due to malaria. Indirectly, due to the effects of malaria—I do not say directly—75 million cases have been reported ill and incapacitated on account of malaria. Again, I am speaking from records. In his report as late as 1933, Colonel Megaw says:

“The span of life in India is less than half of what it might be.”

I am not talking here of England, I am talking of India. I say, on the authority of Colonel Megaw, that there is a possibility in this country of the lives of our people being doubled. That is the statement he makes from a record of malaria survey in this country. I would take you, Sir, a step further and ask you to consider what this doubling of life of our nation means economically to the Finance Member who is interested in figures and in the economic well-being of our country. To him I will tell the economic loss that we sustain on account of this disease in the country. The average income in this land has been computed to be Rs. 3½ per mensem. It has been calculated that out of these 100 million sufferers from malaria, they have been incapacitated by half a month in a year on account of this illness. According to this report the total loss calculated to the revenues or to the economic condition of this country is 1,900 lakhs. According to the Simon Commission report, it is computed to be 4,600 lakhs. This is the actual economic loss due to the suffering, due to the illness; but there is a period of suffering not from illness but from the effects of illness which, in its turn, produces enormous economic loss. That has been computed roughly and the loss due to post-malarial inefficiency is computed to be 7,425 lakhs. This is the loss in the economic income of the individual and to the family when an earning man or some of those that are responsible for the economic income of the family are taken away or laid down by disease, and according to the Statistics of

Malarial survey, the loss to the family has been calculated to be 10,760 lakhs. If you would only go from the individual and the family to the financial loss to commerce and industry and agriculture, you can possibly imagine the astounding and the staggering figures that you would arrive at and the economic loss that this country is suffering from on account of ill health—ill health, mind you, Sir, preventable, ill health which has been prevented in many other countries in the world by proper steps being taken by Government of the respective countries and which steps this Government have for long neglected in spite of the production of these voluminous reports. The financial loss to the commerce and industry of this country could not be calculated exactly, but in the tea estates alone, where statistics are available, particularly in the Tea Estates of Assam, the capital value of the loss is calculated as 7,14,000 Rs. per annum. It works out to nearly 40 per cent. of the value of the estates without its labour force. Malaria inhibits natural increase in the population, inhibits birth rate and what is more, hastens the death rate of the people of this country. It also does something more. It prevents the proper physical development and also hinders consequently the social, intellectual and political progress of the citizens of this land. Thirdly, there is the financial loss due to illness, diminished efficiency, loss of industrial development and failure to exploit the agricultural and mineral resources of this country. Sir, there is only one thing which I should like to bring to the notice of the Government with regard to the treatment of the reports of malarial survey. Treatment of malaria, medical men will understand, is under two heads, one is prophylactic and prevention of malaria and the second is treatment of malaria. The prophylactic and preventive treatments do save a lot of valuable lives, but the process of administering proper remedies to large millions of people who are affected by this disease is certainly a great problem. But I should like to know how the Government have tackled it. I can understand when the Honourable the Finance Member comes to us and says: “the finances of this country are bad, and, therefore, we cannot afford funds and there are so many other schemes on my budget. I will let you do it when you get a good financial budget, because preventive measures do take a lot of time and care and investment of finances. It means reclaiming the waterlogged areas, draining the waterlogged sources, drying the ground in which malarial mosquitos thrive”. I understand all these things and I know they have been done successfully in many other countries, but no serious steps have yet been undertaken here.

There is another point to which I am driving. It is this. There is only one remedy which we know of and which acts effectively, and that is cinchona and its alkaloids. The quinine policy of this Government on which I tabled a number of interpellations, during the course of this Session, has revealed to me a most gruesome state of affairs. The quinine policy of the Government of India was started 70 years ago, with an absolutely philanthropic motive of producing cinchona for the benefit of those people of India who are suffering from malaria. I have already pointed out the great devastating effect that this one disease of all diseases in this country has upon the population and upon all the other things I have mentioned. To cure that ill, seventy years ago, the Government of India started on the policy of cultivating cinchona and getting alkaloids out of cinchona. What do we find there? The whole cinchona production has been developed into a commercial concern. It is not sold even for its output price. The other day, the Honourable Member in charge of the portfolio made me understand that they make a profit of a very few annas.

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on every pound. But, Sir, I have got before me the statistics of the conference of the medical research workers held last year, and they say that the Government of Bengal in that province have made a profit of four lakhs of rupees on the sale of quinine and its compounds. The Province of Madras where cinchona is produced has made a profit of one lakh; and what is more, they are expected to pay and are paying a dividend first of all of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Imagine, the Bank of India is only paying three per cent. today. They are selling quinine for suffering humanity, selling quinine for the very poor man who cannot afford the services of a doctor and to whom this quinine is supposed to be sold through the post offices. The post offices are made the medium of selling quinine simply because the poor man cannot afford a doctor. He has simply to go and pay the actual cost of the production of quinine at the post office and get that quinine for his use. But mind you, Sir, the other day, I asked a question as to the price at which quinine is sold in the post offices, and I was told that an inquiry has been sent to the Local Governments for information, and as soon as the information comes to the hands of the Honourable Member I will be given the answer. But I can give the answer to this House and to this Government today; that I make it on the authority of the report that I have got that quinine in post offices is sold at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas per 20 tablets. Sir, I will ask you what it means. It really comes to Rs. 27 a pound of quinine while the cost of production of quinine is from Rs. 8 to Rs. 13-8-0. All told, inclusive of charges and interest and for profit on it it does not exceed Rs. 13-8-0, and the rate at which it is sold in post offices is Rs. 27. If the Honourable the Finance Member really means to tackle the question of malaria, facts and figures are enough, enough to stagger anybody. And the method of treatment also has been proclaimed from house-tops from year's end to year's end; and even in the other Legislature the other day my Honourable friend, Sir Nusserwanji Choksy, drew the attention of this Government to its quinine policy. The other day, the Honourable Member told me that they hold as much as three lakhs of pounds of quinine in reserve in their hand, reserve to be kept in hand to see millions of our countrymen die day after day from a vile disease for treating which that quinine was made. Is this philanthropy, is this business, is this at least common honesty? I really fail to see where this policy of quinine supply in this country comes from. Who based it? It was understood, and I have got the authority of Government to say, that it is absolutely meant for philanthropic purposes. Then why make this 100 per cent. profit by the sale of quinine through the post offices? I really fail to understand this. And, after all is said and done, only two per cent. of the people, who suffer from malaria, can go to the post offices and pay this meagre sum of $4\frac{1}{2}$ annas. The poverty of our country is so great that we cannot buy even this quinine and from this population this Government makes a profit of 100 per cent. Well, Sir, you need not give us any money from our budget; at least first of all see that the quinine that you hold is given at actual cost prices, not at a dividend of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. And Government hold today 150,000 pounds in their hands: 150,000 pounds were sold last year at a profit

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: And 60,000 pounds were given away free.

Dr. T. S. S. Rajan: Thank you for the information, but what is that? Is it because you want to wash away your sins of 100 per cent. that you gave away this 60,000 pounds? You gave away 60,000 pounds free. It is all right, but my contention is that you ought to have given away the other three lakhs that you hold in your hands. Burma is going to be separated and your cinchona cultivation is simply going to be insufficient. Bengal and Madras are the two places where the plantations are growing. What I want Government to do is to invest these few lakhs on these. It is never going to relieve our malaria by these ten lakhs and your research workers have done enough work to make you invest another ten millions or a 100 millions or 1,000 millions. Therefore, your ten lakhs, if you only distribute it and invest it in production of further cinchona for the poor man of this land, you will find it pays you ten thousand times over. The life of our people will become double; the economic income of the Government will be enormous, and the family income, the national income and the consequent development of political and economic institutions in this country will be an asset. I beg you, Sir, to take this fact into consideration with regard to the quinine policy which Government have followed so far. I am sorry the Honourable Member who is most concerned with this question is not here, but I do hope he will get a copy of the statements I have made in this House with regard to the quinine policy, so that, when next a question is asked, he will be in a better position to give an answer.

Sir, I have got one more factor in this Finance Bill which I should like to speak upon because it concerns me directly. Here is a statement by the Honourable the Finance Member:

"We propose to allocate . . . a grant of 30 lakhs for Agricultural Research. This will cover the Rs. 10 lakhs still outstanding of the block grant promised to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research when it was first established and a further Rs. 20 lakhs for financing other urgent schemes of research, some of which will be under the direct control and supervision of Government. These other schemes include sugarcane research, and investigations in connection with the dairying side of animal husbandry. This branch of the peasants' activity has not received sufficient attention in the past."

Well, Sir, I should like to know whether it has received any attention at all. I should say it has received no attention, and to say that it has not received sufficient attention is to put it very mildly. But, still:

"Experience elsewhere emphasises its importance to the cultivator, both as a means of supplementing his income and of adding to his diet elements that make for good nutrition and, therefore, for good health."

Well, Sir, I should certainly congratulate Government on the feeling that has been evoked in their mind that the people in this country suffer from malnutrition. It has never been thought, and it has often been said, "Oh, you are talking about this nutrition? Look at our jail population." Sir, we have been in jail. I have been in jail for a sufficiently long time and I know the cost of a jail inmate is one anna and six pies. Two annas and six pies is the rate for a C class prisoner, but, out of that, one anna and six pies represents the actual food value that he gets. And, after that we are told, "ch. look at the age average, look at the incidence of disease and all that". Unless we subscribe to the proposition that the whole of this continent should be converted into a jail and that our rations should be measured by Government and whip in hand the warder and the jailor would stand behind us, and that we should be taken into the jail in the prime of our life and that we should be treated

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like that, I cannot understand the logic in any other way. Because, after all, a human being is a complex of impulses and tastes and we have got a tongue and all the other senses, and food comes in as one of the requirements; and in a composite dietary it is not the jail diet that should be taken as the standard shown to us. Now what is jail life? You are treated as so many brutes, locked in at certain hours, made to eat a certain quantity and shut out of everything that makes life worth living. And that is jail life; and the figures of jail life are shown to us as being an ideal diet for our people. Far from being the ideal diet it represents a wretched standard of our national food. It represents an utter lack of those ingredients that make life happy and healthy in this country. And modern research, thanks to the great and devoted work of men like Sir Robert Mackerrison and of Dr. Ackroyd, the Indian public, and the Indian Government have become aware of the fact, of that fundamental and rudimentary fact, that the diet of this country is really very very poor, and that it does not contain enough ingredients to maintain an ordinary healthy existence in this country and for which Rs. 10 or Rs. 20 lakhs is being given. I quite agree, and I suppose that the Honourable the Finance Member will agree with me, that this does not take us anywhere. Except as a factor to show that this Government have recognised the absolutely insufficient food value that most people in this country have, this figure does not show anything more. I know that there are many other considerations that go into this question, and, therefore, I do not expect the Honourable the Finance Member to go into it. But I would only make one suggestion. There is no use of giving away this Rs. 10 lakhs and having some voluminous report of the nature that we already have. It is granted that our diet is poor, it is granted that it is lacking in all its essentials and on that account we have become the victims of diseases. All these are proved facts. What is it that we want? I would suggest that there should be constituted in this country a Board for Nutrition composed of suitable people. It is done in Japan, it is done in America, it is done in every country where the Government have the welfare of their subjects in their heart. I know that many attempts are being made to standardise diet. Even recently, the health centre at Bombay produced a book called "Balanced Diet". The diet is to be such as to bring in all the elements available in this country into the national food of the people. People may laugh at perhaps the erratic experiments which Mahatma Gandhi has made on himself and at the research that he has been carrying on. But it simply amounts to this, that he, of all men, has felt and felt truly that the poor man's diet is wanting in ingredients to maintain a healthy existence. The honest man that he is, the great man that he is, the true man that he is, that he should become the first victim of the inception of this experiment in diet is an irony of fate. I only mention it to show how all, in this country, feel on this question of the poor nutrition of its people. If a Nutrition Board is brought into being, if its recommendations have any value, and if the Government would at all be influenced by its recommendations, you would have got your money's worth, that is, your miserable Rs. 10 or Rs. 20 lakhs. That is all that anybody could get out of the amount that you have allotted.

When you talk of the dairy industry, you must know that your Rs. 10 lakhs will not take you any far. In this land, where cows abound, where pastures abound, our cows are almost as poorly fed and are as short-lived as most of us. Our forests are all shut out, no man can graze his

cattle there, no calf can go and graze on Government pastures without paying the price for it. Not only has the owner of the cattle to pay four or six annas a day, it brings the cost of maintenance of cattle to an enormously large proportion. Therefore, the first thing that you should do for improving the cattle industry in this country is to throw open the forests for people to graze their cattle and enable the milk produce of this country to be used by all people. In an agricultural country like ours, where we have so much cattle, we find that we are importing today dry milk tins from abroad. We can convert our milk into dry milk and keep it, so that the poor man may use it. You can spend your Rs. 10 or Rs. 20 lakhs in the research for converting milk into dry milk and giving it to the poor man at the cheapest possible price. I cannot conceive of any other scheme than that by which you can improve the condition of our cattle and the food products of our people. I am not taking you beyond the Finance Bill, and I have confined myself to these two or three points on which I could speak with a certain amount of authority and a certain amount of knowledge. My facts and figures have been taken from official publications, and if anybody dares challenge the statements I have made, he can do so, and Government can give me more correct figures.

Before I finish, I would like to refer to one subject. Last year, in my speech on the Finance Bill, I referred to the conditions of the Indian Medical Service. The Army Secretary was good enough to tell me that this matter was engaging the attention of Government last year. Twelve months have elapsed, but just a few days ago, I was told that the matter is still engaging the attention of Government. I am not here to complain about anybody, but it is a surprise to me that they should take such a long time to think over this question. I simply wanted to have the ratio of two Englishmen to one Indian altered to two Indians to one Englishman. In fairness, let the doctors be provided from Indians. The wonderful policy, unheard of in the annals of civilization, of the Government of India, was to provide Europeans with European doctors in this country. I thought that in the medical profession the best man was selected. That is the rule in every country in the world. Only in this country of India do we find a certain group of people brought from 6,000 miles away—from the land of their birth—to treat their own kith and kin. I could understand it in an age when we had no medical men, but, today, in India, we have 25,000 qualified allopathic medical men, and if these 25,000 men cannot be allowed to treat the people who are ill in this country, the equity of the whole thing seems patent. I do not want to harp upon this subject any longer.

I would like to refer for a moment to the question of Women's Medical Service. I have before me a report submitted by the National Association for Women for supplying medical aid to the women of India. It is a valuable document containing the record of work of nearly 50 years. If you just turn to the opening page, you will find that there is a Council and an Executive Committee. I can understand Her Excellency the Countess of Willingdon being the President of that Council. It is right that on account of the exalted position which Her Excellency occupies in this country she should be at the head of affairs of this Association. In the Council there are a number of ex-officio and honorary men, but except one medical man, I do not find that there are any other Indian medical man or woman. I raised this question even this morning. When you come to the Committee, you find that the President of the Committee

[Dr. T. S. S. Rajan.]

shall be the wife of His Excellency the Viceroy, and that, in her absence, the power of filling the vacancy shall rest with His Excellency the Viceroy. I suggest that His Excellency or Her Excellency must be kept beyond all these discussions of committees. They must be members or Presidents of the Council, but the executive committee is a working committee and I really do not want exalted personages to be drawn into turmoil of an executive committee meeting. Therefore, I suggest most humbly that in future, as far as possible, such exalted personages ought to be kept out of the purview of these committees and this rule does not fit in well with the privilege or prestige of such high personages.

Then, I come to another very glaring thing which my Honourable friend told me this morning. He said seniority does not count. Qualification does not count. If both these things do not count, there are certain things, indefinable, inexpressible, which only the department knows, for putting a lady doctor, 15th in rank, as the first one! This species of mathematics is very hard to understand. I ask him as to why such things are being done. If seniority is no consideration, qualification is no consideration, and unblemished record of recorded service has nothing to do with it, what are those certain subtle things which only the members of the executive committee understand by which a woman, 15th in rank, is posted as the first woman, over the heads of 14 others? Here I have before me the seniority list of officers of the Women's Indian Medical Service. The first three have been missionaries: and of these missionary ladies, I say all praise to them—I do not ever say a word against their services to this country—in fact I admire the services which they have rendered, but today, as members of the Indian Medical Service, they are paid, and when they get paid, they should have no privilege over the heads of others who are similarly paid. Here is an instance of a lady who served here for two or three years, chucks away her job, goes and does private work, and, after six years, she is taken back, and when she is taken back, all the record of service which she did in her previous generation is taken into account and she is kicked up to the top over the heads of other people. Such a thing has been done, and in answer to my interpellation today the Honourable Member admitted it and said in fact it was only a few months ago that that rule was altered and that service was not taken into account. This Indian Women's Medical Service has been in existence for 21 years: and when people who are 15th in rank can be made first, I do not see why the Anglo-Indian lady who is 4th in the list and the Indian lady who is 5th in the list could not be kicked up into the first position. It is difficult to conceive this sort of favourite appointments. I really do not want high personages like Her Excellency to be dragged into this business, because, after all, we have got to associate her as President of that Committee who is responsible for the management of this institution. I need not say anything more. If you only open the pages of these records, it will be a most disgusting review of things. I have simply given you a sample of one or two things that I have cared to study. Sir, I have nothing more to add, and, with these few words, I resume my seat.

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.

Sardar Sant Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member has asked the House to grant him ways and means to recover monies from the public. This is the occasion to bring to his notice the various grievances from which the country suffers, and I wish to take this opportunity to put forward some of the grievances. I think, Sir, I am entitled to raise certain questions on the floor of this House and to expect that, before the Government are entitled to any contribution from the public to carry on this Government, they are in duty bound to remove those grievances.

First of all, Sir, with your permission, I wish to raise once more the question of the privileges of this House. It has often been repeated on the floor of this House that the debates, in the House, are very unreal in their nature, that whatever we say makes little impression on those in whose hands the destinies of this country are placed. I had the privilege to raise the question about the rights of the Members of this House to publish their speeches in the press of the country. You, Sir, were pleased to give a ruling on the 27th of February last fully discussing the present state of the law as it stands in this country. Within the four corners of that ruling, Sir, I should like to raise a few more questions. While disposing of this point, Sir, you were pleased to point out that, "so far as the procedure for discussing matters of privilege in this House are concerned, the Standing Orders require amendment". The Government do not seem to have taken any step towards the amendment of these Standing Orders in the direction indicated by you. I gave a short notice question the other day seeking information on the point, but the Honourable the Leader of the House refused to accept the short notice and to waive the objection of the period of notice. You know, Sir, that it is a matter of vital importance to the Members of this House to know where they stand, and here I will once more draw the attention of the Government to the importance of the subject, and I should like to know whether or not Government are prepared to amend the rules and Standing Orders on that point. In this connection, Sir, I may be permitted to quote from your ruling, about the importance of this question:

"I am sure, the House generally will recognise the importance of protecting the honour and privilege of the Legislature. The Legislature is undoubtedly a most important instrument of Government even under the present Constitution, and, unless effective means are provided by which Members can be assured to carry on their deliberations in the Chamber without interference and molestation, and the dignity of the Legislature is duly protected from outside attacks, it cannot be expected to function to the best advantage."

With such a strong expression of opinion from the Chair, Sir, it was necessary for the Government to make up their minds immediately and reach a decision.

Next comes the question, Sir, of privilege. Here you were pleased to declare the present state of the law in the country. The present state of the law leads to very absurd results. The proposition cannot be denied.

[Sardar Sant Singh.]

that, under section 67 of the Government of India Act, the Members enjoy the fullest freedom of speech on the floor of this House. Under Standing Order 75, it is the duty of the Secretary of this House to publish the speeches of Members and the proceedings of this House. Further, Sir, there is no restriction imposed upon any person to purchase the Government publication of the debates of this House at five annas per copy in any number. Nor is there any restriction in law against broadcasting those published speeches in any number. May I ask, Sir, could the law go to greater lengths of absurdity than to say that these publications shall not be republished in any newspaper? Further, Sir, let us take another factor into consideration, and that is this that, according to Standing Orders, English is the language of this House. The speeches must be made in English and the debate carried on in English. But we represent here an electorate that is not educated in English. May I ask, Sir, whether constitutionally our electorates are or are not entitled to know what we are doing in this House? Are they not to be told whether we are redeeming our pledges which we solemnly gave them at the time of election? Are they or are they not entitled to know it? If they are, is it not necessary for that purpose to translate our speeches for the benefit of our electors?

An Honourable Member: Hear, hear.

Sardar Sant Singh: The absurdity becomes more manifest if we examine the position a little more deeply, because we shall find, as a matter of fact, to be reduced to a mere boys debating society, if the proceedings cannot be made known to the outside world. Therefore, I say that it is absolutely necessary that the law should be changed and that speeches should be allowed to be published broadcast in all the papers. To effect a change of the law lies in the hands of the Government. I can realise that the Government may come forward and plead their inability to change a law enacted by Parliament. But I would not accept that plea. This House is, I think, competent to amend the press law and the Penal Code, in the direction of extending the privilege of republication of the speeches in any manner it likes. This is a broader issue which I can leave for the present. But I may venture to point out that there are certain powers in our own hands which the House can proceed to utilise in order to develop the conventions of the House. In this connection, I will make certain suggestions to the Honourable Members of this House. The speeches or the proceedings of this House can be divided into two categories, firstly, speeches which refer to matters which may fall within the four corners of the law of sedition in the country or which may transgress the provisions of the Press Law of this land, and, secondly, those speeches which fall within the law of libel in the land and affect the reputation of third parties. So far as third parties are concerned, this House cannot exercise control over such proceedings in Courts under the present law. A person libelled in this House has a right under the existing law to go to a Court of law and try to get his grievance redressed therein. Here, the conflict that arose in England between the Courts and the Parliament cannot be remedied under the existing law, as you so lucidly pointed out in your ruling. In that ruling, you were pleased to say:

"The British Parliament, by constant assertion from ancient times, has acquired the status of a high court in all matters affecting its own privileges and those of its members, so that it is called the High Court of Parliament and, like other High Courts, the Parliament exercises powers to inflict penalties and punishments for

'contempt'. It has for a long time exercised such powers through its own officers, the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Black Rod to arrest offenders, punish them with imprisonment in the Tower and the Newgate and the right at least of the House of Lords as a court of Record also to impose fines in such cases has not been questioned. There were conflicts at times between the Parliament and the ordinary courts, particularly the King's Bench, and though some of the punitive and disciplinary functions once exercised by it have now fallen into desuetude, the Parliament still possesses considerable punitive and disciplinary powers. No such powers have been vested in our Legislatures by the Government of India Act creating them . . ."

Therefore, so far as libellous statements are concerned, made on the floor of this House, it will be difficult for any Member who chooses to publish his speeches outside, to stand and claim the right of privilege unless the case falls within any one of the several exceptions of section 499 of the Indian Penal Code. But the executive stands on an entirely different footing. My contention is that if the speech is a seditious one, it is only open to the Local Government to lodge or not lodge a prosecution against the speaker. If the speech is of a nature which falls within the scope of the Press Law, it is only open to the Local Government to take or not to take any action. This being so, the further question would be how can this House control the action of the executive Government? My submission is that this House has got enough power, and that power vests in your good self. As the President of the House, it is for you to enlarge our liberties and our rights in such matters. At this stage, I want to remind the House that this question has been taken up by all the important newspapers throughout the length and breadth of India. The Journalists Association held a meeting at Calcutta and expressed apprehensions as to the nature of their right to publish our speeches. A public meeting has been held in Calcutta where the point has been emphasised. At the same time, we cannot ignore the fact that this right has been enjoyed by the press throughout the last sixteen years that this Assembly has been in existence. The very fact that a gallery for the press men has been provided in this House goes to show that the press men are here to give a faithful report of the proceedings of this House to the public at large. Therefore, it is superfluous to argue that the question is of vital importance to the Members of this House. What I say is that its importance has been recognised throughout but, unfortunately, my motion has had the effect of narrowing down the liberties of this House. Previously, the idea was that the Members were entitled to publish their speeches in the newspapers . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member is coming very near to discussing the ruling.

Sardar Sant Singh: I am not discussing the ruling, Sir. I am only discussing the importance of this question with your permission, and I will confine myself within the four corners of your ruling, accepting it as a correct interpretation of the law of the land. My submission is that it is left for this House to devise ways and means to enlarge its rights under the existing Constitution and under the existing law. Having discussed the importance of this subject, I will submit one or two suggestions for your kind consideration and for the consideration of this House. Those suggestions are that, in case the executive want to act against the wishes of this House, as expressed in the Standing Orders and Rules of this House, the House should take it upon itself to demand from the executive an obedience to the will of this House. How that obedience could be demanded is an important question.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House): Nothing else but the *lathi*!

Sardar Sant Singh: *Lathi* of a different sort, *lathi* wielded by not less a person than the President himself. And that *lathi* may be wielded like this. The Honourable the President may inform the executive that, unless it complies with the wishes of this House, the work of this House will be suspended. The Honourable the President has a right to adjourn the House for any number of days, and the House may be adjourned and a dead-lock created, so long as the executive does not submit to the will of this House.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: That will suit some of us very well.

Sardar Sant Singh: It will not suit in this way, that they would have to suspend the Constitution. Then you need not summon us for the annual pilgrimage to Delhi or to Simla. That can be done away with. My suggestion is that, as it does not suit them, it cannot suit them, they will have to submit to the will of this House expressed through the Honourable the President.

An Honourable Member: *Kirpans?*

Sardar Sant Singh: *Kirpans* will come later. That is a preparatory stage. The dead-lock created in this way will help us to enlarge our liberties and to get freedom of speech and freedom of publication of our speeches outside in the Press. Certainly, under the present Constitution, the Government of India cannot plead that they cannot enforce their will upon the Provincial Governments. Provincial Governments are under their control and supervision and as such they are bound by the directions given by the Central Government. Under the next Constitution, it will be different, because there, the Federal Legislature is empowered by the new Government of India Act to frame their rules of business and, as such, this thing can be provided in the Rules and Standing Orders. I hope, Sir, that my suggestion will be examined by the House and some decision will be arrived at because it is a matter of vital importance to the Members of this House.

My next point, in this connection, is about the contributions paid by India to the League of Nations. Here I may point out that, in reply to my question put this Session, Government have published the amount that has been paid by India towards the League of Nations from 1921 to 1936. It amounts to 1,25,80,833 rupees. The proposed contribution for the next year is 14,31,000 rupees. Now, having made such heavy contributions to the League of Nations, we have to examine whether the underlying idea by which the League of Nations was proclaimed to the world as a saviour of humanity has been fulfilled or not. It was said that the League of Nations has been brought into existence to eliminate inequalities and war from the world politics. The League of Nations has been tested during the last several years on several occasions. There was a case of a conflict between Japan and China and the League of Nations miserably failed to settle that. The recent case is that of the Italo-Abyssinian War. The League of Nations' activities, in this connection,

have been too well-known to the Honourable Members of this House. Abyssinia was a member of the League at the time when the war was declared. The war was going on between the two members of the League. The whole League unanimously declared that Italy was the aggressor. They persuaded the Abyssinians to put their entire faith in the League of Nations. So they left everything to the decision of the League of Nations. With what result? The result could best be described in the words of the Emperor of Abyssinia which is published today in the *Statesman*. It is said:

"Those in closest touch with the Emperor are beginning to detect a change in his attitude towards the League and to the Western Powers for what he considers the League's disgraceful procrastination in applying only sanctions which could terminate the War. He is becoming slowly an Ethiopian of the old warlike type, eager to get into the fighting and either to destroy the Italians or die like a Negus."

Now, this is the sentiment of that member of the League of Nations who had like us largely contributed towards this fund and who trusted the League of Nations to save him in the time of trouble. What is this contribution for? The contribution is intended for this purpose—that in case there is an aggression, the other nations will come to their help but now we find that Abyssinia realises fully the truth of the well-known saying that "Nero was fiddling while Rome was burning". All the European nations are showing lip sympathy, while the Abyssinians are dying in large numbers from the aeroplanes and guns of the Italians. We have to take note of the proceedings of the League of Nations. We have also to consider the march of Germany into the Rhineland. Nothing is likely to come out of it also, and, therefore, we have to consider why our country should pay this amount. What benefit does this confer except for my friend, Mr. Joshi's annual pilgrimage to Geneva. If that is the return for this contribution, we will rather make the contribution to send him there every year rather than pay such huge sums. I am not jealous. I am only asking what return do we get for the huge sums we spend on this account. Therefore, I will suggest to the House to reconsider their position on this point.

My third point is something concerning nearer home and that is that Regulation III of 1818 has been ruthlessly applied in India.

3 P.M. Many persons have been detained without trial, without any charge being brought against them. Questions have been asked in this House every year and the replies do not show when the Government intends to release some of them. There are cases in which the detention has gone on for over 13 years. I think, the maximum period a murderer sentenced to transportation for life undergoes is less than that. Why should these detentions go on for such a long time? The only consolation that has been offered by the Honourable the Home Member to us, Sir, is that their cases are examined every six months. Is that any consolation really to the poor detenus? Is there to be no time-limit to the detention? Sir, no such justification has been made out. Then the detentions are in Provinces to which the detenus do not belong. Sardar Guru Charan Singh of Nabha has been detained in Madras, while Bengalis are detained in Mianwali. Why, Sir? There is no reason. At any rate, this House is entitled to know about the policy working behind such detentions. Why should they not declare the period for which these detentions are to continue? Therefore, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the serious discontent that is felt on these grounds.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

[17TH MARCH 1936]

[Sardar Sant Singh.]

I will now deal with the question of the Communal Award.

Some Honourable Members: Hear, hear.**Mr. K. L. Gauba** (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Shame, shame!**Sardar Sant Singh:** Shame? Sir, I wish to be shamed if I am to be shamed on this point.**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let the Honourable Member go on.

Sardar Sant Singh: The Honourable Member interrupting will be shamed later on. Sir, I do not shirk the responsibility. Here, Sir, I find myself in a peculiar position. Strong forces are arrayed against me. The very fact that my Honourable friend, Mr. K. L. Gauba, who once had the privilege of belonging to my community, now shouts forth "shame" when I refer to this subject, justifies my apprehensions. I am quite conscious that on this side sits the great "Ras", Sir Henry Craik, with his forty battalions pointing their guns at me. On my right,—at this moment my Honourable friend, "Ras" Jinnah is not present,—sits Mr. Jinnah, with his twenty battalions here, pointing their pistols at my side and threatening me, if I make a move to launch an assault on the fort of Communal Award. There sits our friend "Ras" Desai, totally indifferent and trembling in fear.

An Honourable Member: He is totally indifferent.

Sardar Sant Singh: . . . that is exactly what I said, totally indifferent and trembling in fear that, if he takes my side, he might displease the great Generals and the guards on whose votes he depends for his success in this House. Sir, I will be wanting in my appreciation if I do not refer to the greatest General of all, "Ras" Sir Nripendra Sircar, who was once the greatest fighter against the Communal Award. (Hear, hear.)

An Honourable Member: He has withdrawn his forces now.**The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar:** I got no support from them.

Sardar Sant Singh: He sits there, and he has hoisted the white flag, and he has surrendered his forces. Sir, he was pleased to say the other day, referring to the Congress Party and the Nationalist Party that "the dispute is over, this is a matter which is not only dead, but which has been cremated, and the ashes have been thrown into the Ganges". Sir,

An Honourable Member: The ashes have not been thrown into the Ganges, but into some other river.

Sardar Sant Singh: That is what he said, Sir. Now, I just want to remind all these gentlemen that so long as the twelve Members sit on these Benches, the question is neither dead, what to say of cremation unless it is cremated alive, it will never die.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: There are only five sitting there now.

Sardar Sant Singh: The seats are for twelve. Sir, I may remind this House that whatever may be the conditions in this House today, we feel sure that the whole country is with us in this matter so long as the Communal Award remains.

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): What do you mean by "the whole country".**Sardar Sant Singh:** The whole of India.**Sir Muhammad Yakub:** All the Sikhs, you mean?**Sardar Sant Singh:** All concerned. Sir, minus Yakub and Co. (Laughter.)**Sir Muhammad Yakub:** What about "Ras" Desai?

Sardar Sant Singh: How much influence he commands is to be seen by the later incidents of history. I do not want to go into reasons or arguments to show the inequitable nature of this Communal Award. They have been given on the floor of the House from time to time, but I just want to draw the attention of the House to my remarks on this point which I made in 1934. I said, Sir:

"Where one party, on account of a certain encouragement from a third party, refuses to come to a settlement, the best position of the Government, as an arbitrator or as an impartial judge, would be to maintain the *status quo* till that is altered by mutual agreement."

This proposition is sound in principle and sound in conception and very sound in practice. I still maintain my ground that His Majesty's Government have made the greatest blunder by announcing the Communal Award:

"At this time, when still the question is before the Joint Select Committee, I want to raise my voice of warning to the British Government and to the Government of India that if any reforms are based upon this Communal Award, the Government shall be responsible for the state of affairs that will result in the Punjab. This is not a language of threat, this is the language of truth, this is the language of sincere conviction".

An Honourable Member: May I ask whom the Honourable Member is quoting?**Mr. President** (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Let the Honourable Member go on.

Sardar Sant Singh: I am quoting my speech in this House in 1934, Sir, how far my fears have come to be true is known by now. What happened in the Punjab during the last seven or eight months? I then said, Sir:

"That the Communal Award is going to create the greatest trouble in the Punjab, and, in duty bound, I bring it to the notice of Government to take whatever steps they think necessary in the matter of modifying it so far as the Punjab is concerned."

[Sardar Sant Singh.]

Now, may I remind my Honourable friend, the Knight of Moradabad and the expectant Knight from the Punjab, whether I have been far wrong in my apprehensions. (Laughter.) Sir, the Punjab has shown recently, even before the new Constitution has come in, what great trouble is brewing, on account of this inequitable Communal Award! Sir, I do not want to examine, at this stage, the point as to whose fault it was because I do not want to create bitterness, but I just want to bring it to the notice of those who were responsible for this Communal Award that the state of affairs in the Punjab today does call for a really broad, statesmanlike handling of the situation at the hands of this Government.

Mr. Suryya Kumar Som (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): They wanted this trouble, and they got it.

Sardar Sant Singh: That is the one proposition which can be maintained with some justification. Here was a situation which was going out of hands and it must be said to the credit of my Honourable friend, Mr. Jinnah—I am sorry he is not in his seat—that he went and tried his best to settle this question, but does he believe that a settlement can come without making a serious effort in the right direction? This is not the right direction. These are the symptoms of disease. This is not the disease itself. The disease lies in the Communal Award. If my Honourable friend musters his courage and means to settle this question, I will tell him here, in this House, to scrape off the Communal Award. Let us come to an agreed settlement based upon justice and fair play for all concerned. It is then and then alone that the settlement will be lasting and the real political advantages that can be gained from such a settlement will follow. Otherwise, I am afraid, the situation might become graver every time communal questions crop up there. Not only is there an illustration of this point in the Punjab, but another has been furnished from the North-West Frontier Province. We have seen that a responsible Minister of the Crown in Government service has been pleased to issue a circular banning two vernaculars from schools, both boys' and girls' institutions. I refer to the circular banning Hindi and Gurmukhi. Is not that a symptom of the same disease? Is that not a clear indication of the tyranny of the majority over the rights of the minorities. This is the spirit that must be changed. I personally do not mind whether the Legislature has more Muslims or Sikhs, or Hindus, but I certainly mind the mentality with which they come to the Legislature, whether Central or Provincial. It is the mentality with which they come that makes us fear; not the numbers. After all what are numbers? Every day communal questions do not arise, we do not go to the lobbies on communal matters. We go to the lobbies on certain political convictions and if the political convictions are sound, there can be no danger of excess in representation of one community over the other. What we are afraid of is the present mentality of Muslims both in the Punjab and in the Frontier Province. That mentality is more responsible for our fears than their numbers. Here, the other day, in reply to several questions, the Honourable Member in charge of the Department said that the Central Government have no control over the policies of the Provincial Governments and that they could not suspend the subvention which are given to these Provinces by the Central Government. This is a confession of weakness. Theoretically Orissa, Sind, and North-West Frontier Province

may be given provincial autonomy, but, so long as they are getting any subvention from the Central Government, they will have to submit to the will of the central authority. Why should we pay subvention to the Provinces, why should we be taxed to benefit another Province if we cannot control their idiosyncrasies and fantasies. (Interruption.) My Honourable friend, Mr. Das, feels nervous on this question. He was very happy in securing some lakhs for his province, but he does not know that he is bargaining away his conscience in the business.

Mr. B. Das: Never!

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney (Nominated Non-Official): He has no conscience.

Sardar Sant Singh: Therefore, I suggest that the Central Government should take note and suspend this subvention to the North-West Frontier Province till such time when the province agrees to remove that circular from its official records.

Mr. B. Das: Is it merely a circular? Or has education in Gurmukhi and Hindi been stopped?

Sardar Sant Singh: It is yet in the circular stage; it has not gone beyond that.

Another point which I want to touch upon today in my speech is on the same subject which my Honourable friend, Sir H. P. Mody, so ably advocated today, that is, the industrial development in the country. What I want to bring to the notice of the Government is that unlike other countries whenever a new work of scientific invention is introduced in this country, no effort is made to develop side industries of that invention. Take the hydro-electric schemes that have been developed in various Provinces in this country. No effort was made to develop electric industry in that connection. Take the aeroplane, the motor cars and other modern scientific inventions. No effort has been made by this Government to develop side industries in order to provide all these things for the country by local manufacture.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: Risk your own money.

Sardar Sant Singh: It is not corporations that are to make these developments but the Government. Apart from these bigger questions of policy, there are small matters in which the country is suffering. There is corruption in the public service. The other day, the Honourable the Home Member said that corruption cannot be removed unless public opinion is developed condemning both the bribe-giver and the bribe-taker. A very fine phrase: but whose duty is it to develop that public opinion? Is it the sole duty of the public or is there any duty cast upon Government as well, upon the Law Member. Of course, the Law Member has done his duty by providing sections in the Indian Penal Code punishing both the bribe-taker and the bribe-giver. There is no use of a good law if it is badly administered. It is for the executive now to administer that law.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar: Help us to catch them.

Sardar Sant Singh: That help is forthcoming in the country provided the Government are willing to accept that help. The difficulty is that if any allegation of corruption is made against a public servant, the superior officers consider it their duty to protect him rather than find out the truth about the matter. That is the trouble. That is the administration of law we complain against.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member has already spoken for more than fifty minutes.

Sardar Sant Singh: I will not take any more time of the House, and, with these words, I resume my seat.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: Sir, yesterday afternoon, my esteemed friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, who belongs to the same constituency from which I come, made a great speech. He made a forceful speech and he tried to show that all the miseries of this unfortunate land were the result of British occupation. He tried to show that the fiscal policy of the British Government was responsible for the poverty of India, and that, as long as an Englishman holds his seat on those Benches, there is no hope of prosperity in this country. I was very much impressed with the speech of my learned and esteemed friend, and I was thinking that probably what he said was right. But what will my friend say, this afternoon, after hearing the speech of my Honourable friend, Sardar Sant Singh? Who is responsible for the miseries of this country? Is it the British Government or is it men like my Honourable friend, Sardar Sant Singh?

Sardar Sant Singh: Sir, on a point of personal explanation. May I know how many times, during the six years that I have known my Honourable friend, he has walked into the popular lobby?

Sir Muhammad Yakub: That is not the point. What is the popular lobby? Popular lobby does not mean the lobby of men having the mentality of communalists like Sardar Sant Singh. I will always walk into the lobby in which my conscience will take me. Sir, we are always told that there is a third party in this country which is creating disputes between Hindus and Mussalmans.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay, Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): But he is a Sikh.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: What are Sikhs? If my Honourable friend is prepared to give the Sikhs to me, probably, I will be in a position to mend them. Fourteen lakhs of Sikhs in India,—what are they? But they know that 28 crores of my friends, who belong to the community of my friend, Mr. Desai, are at their back, and, therefore, all this is coming from the Sikhs. What are they? (Laughter.) Only a minority of 14 per cent. in one province, the Punjab; they have no stake in any other province in India. (Laughter.) Sir, I was saying, who is responsible for creating disunity in this country? Not the Government, but men with the mentality of my friend, Sardar Sant Singh. Sir, I have great respect for my Honourable friend, Mr. Desai, and I consider him to be a genuine leader and patriot. But I ask him, if we have got this mentality which my Honourable friend, Sardar Sant Singh, has displayed this afternoon, on

the eve of the new Reforms, do you think honestly that we are fit to govern this country and that we can turn out the Englishmen and take the reins of the country in our own hands?

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): We can, provided you help us.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: We, Muslims, have always tried, and my community is always ready, to fight shoulder to shoulder with you for the freedom of the country, provided you change your mentality and ask your friend, Sardar Sant Singh, to change his mentality. My friend has just spoken about the Communal Award. Under what circumstances was the Communal Award brought about? Who was responsible at the Round Table Conference for not coming to a settlement among the communities themselves? My friend, Sardar Sant Singh, and those who were present at the Round Table Conference know that at the Second Round Table Conference

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal: Landholders): Sardar Sant Singh was not present there.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: I do not think he is so ignorant as not to know anything about the Round Table Conference. The question is that he knows the proceedings of the Conference. Who was responsible for not coming to a settlement? We know that at the Second Round Table Conference the Mussalmans went to the farthest length to which they could go. About the Punjab they incurred the greatest sacrifice. They were willing to have a joint electorate with 49 per cent. seats for the Muslims; in the same way, in Bengal, they were willing to submit to a quota which was less in proportion to their population in that province. And, in order to avoid the stigma of the third party coming in, they were willing to undergo the greatest sacrifices. The late Sir Muhammad Shafi incurred the odium of his own community in order to come to a settlement with other communities, but he was not responsible for not coming to a settlement. The world knows who was responsible. It was the majority community, it was the Sikh community, who did not come to any settlement and that forced Government to give this Communal Award.

Sardar Sant Singh: They refused to play into Sir Samuel Hoare's hands.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: And they come here now and say that the Communal Award is a genuine grievance. My friend has said that the whole country is against the Communal Award. I may remind him that last year this very House, which is rightly considered to be representative of the people of this country, by its own vote, by an overwhelming majority accepted the Communal Award. Does it now lie in my friend's mouth to say that the country has rejected the Award and there is an agitation against it? It is no use advancing fallacious arguments like that.

Then, Sir, let us examine what the Muslims have got through the Communal Award. Has any favouritism been shown to them? You will find, Sir, that out of all the provinces in India, there are only two in which the Muslims are in a majority, namely, the North-West Frontier Province and the newly created province of Sind. In provinces in which they are in a minority, they have got less concessions than they have given, of their own free will, to the minorities in Sind and the North-West Frontier Province.

Sardar Sant Singh: What did you get in the United Provinces?

Sir Muhammad Yakub: There we are 14 per cent.

Sardar Sant Singh: We are 14 per cent. in the Punjab.

Sir Mahammad Yakub: And what have you got?

Sardar Sant Singh: 18 per cent. You have got 30 per cent. in the United Provinces.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: There is nothing in the Communal Award to show that any favouritism has been shown to the Muslims. On the other hand, if my friends did not come to any mutual agreement, Government found it incumbent upon themselves to give this award which they have given, and it has been accepted by the whole world. And nothing can be more ruinous to the country than to rake up feelings of ill-will again over this Communal Award. Now the time has come when we are getting, something like, provincial autonomy in this country. For God's sake I appeal to my friends to sink their petty jealousies and communalism. If the Muslims get a few more seats, they are still Indians as you are; if the Sikhs get a few more seats I will not grudge it because they are also after all Indians. And what are we fighting for? We are fighting for the rights of Indians, and not for the rights of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs.

—Sir, we want real Swaraj in India, we do not want the domination of a majority community over the minorities, and, therefore, I appeal to you and say: "let us work in this spirit of unity and harmony, let us not show our unfitness, do not make us the laughing-stock of the whole country." What will the world say, when they see that even in discussing problems of finance and exchange and the Finance Bill, we talk nothing but petty things about our communal disputes? It is extremely shameful. I admit that the new Constitution is not a perfect constitution, I admit that it is not what we wanted, but something is better than nothing, and if we prove ourselves worthy of working the constitution that we have got, if we prove ourselves worthy of wielding the powers which we will possess under the new Constitution, if the majority can give an earnest of their goodwill to the minorities, if they show the same spirit which was shown by Zaghloul Pasha towards the minorities in Egypt, then the time will not be far off when India shall be free and my friend, Mr. Bhulabhai Desai, will not be here to abuse my friend, Sir James Grigg. (Loud Laughter.) The Muslims have always shown a spirit of toleration and broadmindedness towards the people over whom they ruled. It is a matter of history, which everybody knows, how they treated the Indians when they were ruling over India, how they treated their subjects when they were ruling over Europe; and we have got the recent example of Egypt before our eyes. Zaghloul Pasha, the Leader of the Nationalist Party in Egypt, asked the Christians, who are in a minority in Egypt, like the Muslims of India, what their demands were, and gave them not only what they demanded, but even more, saying that they needed more protection. The result is that today, in Egypt, there is no question of Muslim *versus* Christian or Jew; they are all Egyptians. If the majority community in India shows the same spirit, I think very soon the Hindu-Muslim-Sikh question will disappear from this country, and we would all be Indians. But I say that the Muslims

are not responsible for the dissensions in India, the minority is not responsible for it; the solution lies in the hands of the majority. Let the majority give us an earnest of their goodwill, of their toleration, of their broad-mindedness, and then they will see whether the Muslims work with them shoulder to shoulder for the freedom of the country or not. We have already shown . . .

Sardar Sant Singh: Show the same courtesy to us in the Punjab.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: I do not care for the vote of this House, I know what value to attach to the vote of this House. I may tell Sardar Sant Singh through you, Sir, that the mentality of a subject race is a slavish mentality. We are all slaves here, but some people have been slaves for 2,000 or 3,000 years, the poor Muslims have been slaves for only 150 or 200 years. So our slavish mentality is probably a bit less than the slavish mentality of the majority community.

Sardar Sant Singh: Ours is still less.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: They will never look beyond their nose and always talk like slaves. If we behave like slaves, we deserve to live like slaves, and if we continue to go on in this manner, the future of India is doomed.

Sardar Sant Singh: No, it is not.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: This much about the Communal Award.

Now, I will say something about the military policy of the Government of India. The military policy of the Government of India was formed about 150 years ago, when India was incessantly in danger of an invasion from Russia and Afghanistan. The Government, therefore, employed a very large number of land forces, but neglected our navy and air force. The whole problem of the defence of India has now changed. The Russian Empire is shattered; there is no danger of any invasion from Russia upon India. Afghanistan, today, is so weak that she could never think of invading our country. So, the danger of an invasion from the land side of India has now almost banished, and I do not know how the British Government can justify spending about Rs. 70 crores for keeping this army, I mean the land forces of the country. On the other hand, we find that the greatest danger of an invasion upon India is from the sea side. I am sorry that my Honourable friend, the Defence Secretary, is not in his place, but through the Leader of the House, I would ask him to tell me what progress we have made as regards the Royal Indian Navy. I would ask him to let me know the proportion which the Indian Navy bears in comparison with the navies, not of England, France or Germany, but of the small countries of Europe. If we do not want the army for keeping internal peace in the country—and Government have said more than once that they do not want to employ the Army for keeping order inside the country—I would ask them what justification there is for incurring such heavy expenditure, as they are doing, over the land forces of the country. We find that the whole sea frontier of India is exposed to danger and is unprotected, and it would be extremely impolitic on the part of the Government to neglect the sea frontier. The British are the most conservative people of all; once they have formed a policy, they would not listen to any advice, but would go on blindly following their own policy.

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I will now come to the question of the air force, and ask Government how many units of air forces we have in this country. What is our relative position compared to the position of the other civilized countries of the world? The war in Abyssinia, the war on the North-West Frontier of India and the war in other countries of the world have shown us that the future war is going to be a war from the air and not a war on land. It seems to me that probably the British Government are bent upon keeping the country unprotected against an invasion from the air, and, probably, they are going to follow the advice of my friend, Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, and they will leave the country unprotected, and instead of having the freedom of our country, probably there will be a change of masters: probably instead of a white bureaucrat tomorrow we will be the subjects of a black bureaucrat from Japan, or other places, if the present defence policy of the Government of India continues. I submit that it is time that the Government gave their serious consideration to the modification of their defence policy and paid more attention towards increasing our navy and air forces and decreased the land forces. If the Honourable Member for defence were here, I would ask him how many battalions, how many companies of land forces have been engaged during the last ten years on any frontier expeditions? What is the use of keeping such a big army if there is no use to employ them? The army is, occasionally, employed for shooting armless Muslims in Lahore and Karachi: besides that there is no necessity for it. This policy of the Government needs very careful consideration and modification.

It seems to me, Sir, that the whole of the military policy of the Government of India is formed in order to please my friend, Sardar Sant Singh, and his community. The Sikhs are the favourite wife of the Government of India. All the big jobs in the army are going to the Sikhs. If you see the results of the Military Academy at Dehra Dun, you will find that, generations after generations of Sikhs, from grandfather down to the great grandson, they are all given commissions in the Army. What are after all the Sikhs, and why is this favouritism shown to them? The predominating position which has been given to them by the British Government is really responsible for the way in which my friend, Sardar Sant Singh, was talking on the floor of the House. As I said, they are the spoilt child of the Government. We see how they have behaved at Lahore in connection with the Shahidgunj mosque; and still they want to accuse the Mussalmans. My friend, Sardar Sant Singh, has spoken about the efforts which my esteemed leader, Mr. Jinnah, made, in order to settle this question. But may I ask from any of the Sikh leaders in this House, what response have they given to the efforts of Mr. Jinnah? Did he not go to the utmost length to which any nationalist in this country could go, even in this matter? Do they not know, I ask them through you, Sir, how friendly he was towards the Sikhs on the occasion of trouble about the Nabha State? We all know that he spent months and months of his most valuable time in helping the Sikhs in connection with the Nabha trouble . . .

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): And we helped you in the Khilafat agitation!

Sir Muhammad Yakub: The Khilafat agitation was not in India, and I do not know what result your help brought about to the Muslims. I ask this. If the Sikhs say that Mr. Jinnah treated them with the utmost

generosity and kindness, what is the response they have given to his efforts in bringing about a solution of the Shahidgunj mosque? I leave the answer to them . . .

Sardar Mangal Singh: What do you want from us? Will you please make that clear?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Chair does not think the Honourable Member can discuss a question like that here.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: We all know that Mr. Jinnah is above suspicion in this matter. We all know that Mr. Jinnah is the greatest nationalist that India has produced today. We all know that Mr. Jinnah is not a fanatic Mussalman, and, therefore, in this question of the Shahidgunj mosque, I do not want anything. I say, you satisfy Mr. Jinnah and we will all be satisfied. I was saying that the military policy of the Government of India is all regulated in order to please the Sikhs, and to give them more jobs, and the result is what we have seen. Not only in the Army; but we find the same thing in other lines. Look at New Delhi. We have spent about 20 crores of our money in building New Delhi; and if you analyse the figures you will find that three-fourths of that money has gone into the pockets of Sikh contractors and Sikh engineers. 80 per cent. of the non-official palaces in New Delhi belong to the Sikhs. Where does all this money come from? From the Indian Exchequer. The poor Indian taxpayer has paid this money. Very poor Sikhs, not having even ten rupees in their pocket, came to New Delhi when it was being built, and they became either a sub-overseer or engineer or contractor, and after 20 years they are now millionaires. This is the favouritism which the Government of India is showing towards the Sikhs and which is responsible for the mentality which they are now exhibiting in this House. I would again appeal to my friends and say that we, the Muslims, may be in a minority, but I say we are prepared to lay down our lives, for the sake of the freedom of our country if your efforts are genuine and if you change your mentality.

An Honourable Member: We will give you everything.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: Well, let us see. Here is the Shahidgunj question, and I say, you satisfy Mr. Jinnah, this will be an earnest of your toleration and goodwill towards the Mussalmans . . .

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): The Honourable Member should now come to the Finance Bill.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: I was going to discuss the Finance Bill in the spirit in which it was discussed by my friend, Sardar Sant Singh; and I was saying something about the military policy of the Government of India. My other grievance against the military policy of the Government of India is their bogey of the military classes. They have selected certain communities in India from amongst whom they take candidates for service in the army. I submit that this is fundamentally wrong. It is for this reason that they complain that they cannot get a sufficient number of qualified candidates for the military service. I cannot hold a brief for other communities, but so far as the Muslims are concerned, I am prepared

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to say that the Muslims of every sect, whether they are Pathans, Sheikhs, Mughals or of any sect, are all as much qualified for the army service as any other community amongst the Muslims. We have led our armies under the leadership of slaves. The nobles of the Koreish, who considered themselves as having the best blue blood in their veins, have served under the banners of slaves. That was the teaching of Islam, the equality of human beings; and we follow the same thing: we do not recognise any military or de-military classes, or Harijans. Therefore, I say, leave this distinction alone, at least so far as Mussalmans are concerned, and enlist them in the army, irrespective of the sect to which they belong, and then you will not have any reason to complain that you do not get a sufficient number of qualified candidates for military service. With these remarks, Sir, I resume my seat.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the discussion on the Finance Bill has unfortunately taken a new turn by the introduction of the discussion on the Communal Award. I do not want to say much on that particular aspect of the question, but what I feel on that point is that it is a matter that concerns ourselves outside this House, that it is a matter in which we, as Indians, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, have got our own responsibility, and it is for us to decide the matter ourselves. Government should have nothing to do with it.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: Unfortunately, we ask the Government to interfere.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: That may be perfectly correct, but the fact is that from the very moment the Communal Award was announced, whenever any attempt was made to come to an agreement between the two communities, some interested third party intervened and that agreement was set aside. So, instead of wasting our time in this House over this question, if we spend half of that time outside the House and come to a common and lasting understanding, I think the day will not be far distant when there will be peace and amity in the country.

Sir Muhammad Yakub: From 1921 to 1934 we have done it.

Qazi Muhammad Ahmad Kazmi: Here, I say that we cannot but justify the attitude that has been adopted throughout by the Congress Party by always keeping themselves aloof from this discussion, and we today see the results of entering into that discussion. The result of entering into such a discussion has been a mutual duel between the Members of the Opposition themselves. It was a sort of short respite to the occupants of the Treasury Benches. We have been fighting for the Communal Award leaving the financial policy of the country to take care of itself, and this is really unfortunate.

Now, coming to the real question which is at issue. We no doubt have been suffering from depression and from economic troubles for a very long time, and I must say here that when we are told that prosperity has returned to this country, we feel delighted at the idea that after all we are to observe a ray of hope in a sky which we thought was completely clouded. Sir, I think that a messenger who brings to us such optimistic

news should be congratulated and thanked by all of us. But, as we are the actual sufferers from all these economic troubles, when we are told that there is an era of prosperity dawning, we pause to think if there is any truth in it. Now, what has been the real condition of the country for the last few years? Many phrases, many economic maxims may be cited either by this side or the other side to show that India is prospering, but the simple fact is that, at the beginning of this era, the prices of commodities decreased to a considerable extent in terms of silver coin which is current in the country as the standard of price. About 4½ years ago, the fall in prices of commodities in respect of silver rupee came down to about 50 per cent., and the Government of this country—which calculates its expenses not in terms of commodities which are produced in the country, and which represent the real wealth of the country, but in terms of the precious metals, i.e., silver coin,—found that due to this depression they would not be able to collect the same amount of money, the same amount of coin as they were collecting before the economic depression. Therefore, they resolved that they must have more of this coin from the people who were already suffering from the effects of the depression. The Government, therefore, decided on enacting a law for further taxing the people and this is called the emergency taxation. By this emergency taxation, Sir, we suffered in two ways. On account of the economic depression, we had already lost heavily, and we were pressed further, to meet the deficits of the Government of India and of the Provincial Governments. The public suffered, while the Government servants benefited. With the increase in the price of money, which was more than fifty per cent., the Government servants got their full salaries which meant an addition of 50 per cent. to the salaries. The expenditure of the Government was kept at the same high level, and, as a mere eye-wash, a ten per cent. cut was introduced in the salaries of Government servants. This was all that was done to relieve the poor people from the effects of the economic depression. Other countries like America took effective steps to alleviate the sufferings of the masses, to increase the prices of commodities, by decreasing the value of their currency, by putting embargoes on the export of precious metals, in order that the wealth of the country may not be drained away, but our trustees, the Government of India, kept absolutely silent, nay, to justify their conduct, they started ridiculing the attempts made by some of the big nations to alleviate the sufferings of the masses. What could the country do under such circumstances? The only recourse for India was that the poor people had to sell out all their hard earned money—which was kept in gold ornaments for their domestic purposes—to meet their own daily expenditure and the demands of Government, and the gold so sold is called distress gold. The Government, during the time of this depression, kept absolutely quiet, nay, they encouraged the export of gold from this country. The process went on for a period of 15 months. The people of India, during this period, sold off gold worth Rs. 107 crores, to meet their daily necessities of life and also to pay up Government dues. What happened then, in this very House? The predecessor of the present Finance Member came forward and started praising the wonderful power of resistance of the Indian masses. In his speech, he admired the wonderful power of resistance possessed by the people of this country in times of adversity. This is what he said in his budget speech:

"In the first place, the results as regards imports combined with the figures of Indian production of such articles as salt and kerosene and cotton piece-goods seem to

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re-inforce one of the points I emphasised last year, namely the *extraordinary power of resistance, in spite of diminished purchasing power*, which India shows in maintaining the consumption of certain standard necessities of the masses."

According to him, the standard of living of the masses was such that it could be lowered at any time. He probably never realised that the standard of living of the masses of India was already at the lowest level. It could not be further lowered down and the people could not exist unless they sold away whatever little gold they had in their possession. He himself has admitted, further on, that they have kept this standard by the sale of gold. He said:

"I must add in conclusion one obvious but most important point, *viz.*, that the really striking falling off in India's normal consumption has been in the case of precious metals. As is well known, India imported gold and silver of the average annual value of about 40 crores in the years 1920-30. The power to cut out this enormous margin has been a tremendous factor—equal in importance almost to the *actual sale of gold*, to which I shall refer later—in enabling India to go through this period of depression without being forced to cut down her normal absorption of those commodities which are needed for daily consumption."

So, he admitted that India was selling gold in order to meet her present necessities and the demands of Government. But, being afraid that people would say that India was living on her capital, in the same breath he said that the sale of gold was not only to meet the necessities of life, but the proceeds of the sale were also being utilised for investment. I would not read the whole paragraph, but would only read the relevant portion in which he says:

"In the first place, I know that there are many who regard what is happening as a dangerous process of living on capital. I think it fairer to regard it, as indeed I pointed out last year, as a process partly of exchanging one form of investment in another, and partly of tiding over a period of abnormal difficulty by drawing on Reserves which had been accumulated in better times, reserves, moreover, which produce no revenue, so that their depletion does not bring about any decrease of income. To that extent we have regarded the process as a legitimate use of reserves, which has on the whole been beneficial to the people."

Then, he says:

"How long such a process can, without damaging the country, continue, is another matter."

In other words, he admitted that the process might prove dangerous at some time, though he thought that it was not dangerous at that time. This was the condition of India after fifteen months of the emergency taxation. Now, it is quite clear that the only troubles with which India is suffering are the low prices of the commodities. On account of these low prices the Indian cultivator and the Indian peasant cannot get sufficient return for their produce in terms of silver money to meet their own expenses and to meet the demands of Government, and that is why they have to resort to the sale of their little ever diminishing capital in the shape of gold.

[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).]

Therefore, if we have to consider whether prosperity has returned to India, we have to judge it from this point of view. Whether we have stopped the sale of gold and whether we are able to meet our expenses without the sale of gold. We find that the sale of gold has reached the figure of 260 crores of rupees and it continues still. Had there been normal years and had we imported gold to the extent of Rs. 40 crores a year as we had been doing before, then, in this period of 4½ years, we would have imported gold worth Rs. 180 crores, and this, added to the Rs. 260 crores, the value of gold which we have exported, the total loss in this direction alone comes to about Rs. 440 crores of rupees. And, in spite of this, we are told by the Honourable the Finance Member that prosperity has returned to India, not from 1935, but even from 1934. It is very difficult to believe it in face of the facts that I have given. As is wont with Government Members, the predecessor of the present Finance Member admired the Indian masses for their wonderful power of resistance and we now hear the present Finance Member extolling their wonderful power of recuperation from economic troubles. We have already lost Rs. 440 crores, and we are still burdened with heavy taxation, we are still meeting the demands of Government by selling our houses and our properties, and yet we are told by our kind trustees that we are returning to prosperity. My submission is that the Government do not care to know the condition of the people, what they care for is the realisation of their dues. It is immaterial for them whether these dues are paid out of the incomes of the people, or out of the sale of their property.

Now, what lies in the power of Government to alleviate the sufferings of the masses? They can do it in two ways,—by reducing expenditure, and by taking direct action for the help of the masses. Within the short time at my disposal, I do not want to go in detail into these matters, but as a matter of illustration let me bring to your notice the condition of their expenditure on army. In 1859-60, after the full establishment of the British Empire, when they had the most troublesome period, they wanted Rs. 19 crores for expenditure on the army. It may be said by the other side that the exchange at that time was about two shillings, and so at the present rate it would be more. Even if we made allowance for that, it would come to about Rs. 25 crores. It fell down in subsequent years to Rs. 15 crores and 13 crores, to rise again to the level of Rs. 27½ crores in 1881, probably due to the Afghan War. It fell again, to rise to about Rs. 29 or 30 crores in the early part of the nineties, and continued at that level up to the year 1913-14. In 1913-14, the Great War began. Every country which was not a participant in that war gained in every way. The present wealth of America, the position that America has obtained as a consequence of the war is only apparent. It became the creditor nation to which all the nations of Europe are indebted today. It was all because of the non-participation of America in the early years of the war. India would have been in the same position but for the misfortune of this British connection. Otherwise, she might have gained like other powers who were outside the pale of the war. In addition to contributing large sums of money as gifts, and sometimes as help to the United Kingdom, we see that imperceptibly—I do not know how and why—the army expenditure started to rise gradually. It started rising from the level of 30 crores to Rs. 37 crores in 1916-17, 43½ crores in 1917-18, and 66½ crores, after the War was over, in 1918-19. It might be said that the rate of exchange had something to do with the increased figure, but even then there is no doubt that the increase was a big one, and in spite of the fact that India

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need not have been a participant in the war, the expenditure on the army increased gradually from 30 crores in 1913-14 to Rs. 87 crores in 1920-21. From that year, it was on the decline. Probably these figures have also to be corrected a little on account of exchange, because I believe they were calculated at the rate of 2s. In 1930-31, the figure of army expenditure was 52 crores and today it stands at 45 crores. 45 crores means 1½ times the figure at which it stood throughout the whole period of 1900—1914. If we make the least suggestion to the Government that it must be decreased we are told that this 45 crores is only on account of the use of the surplus stores which they had got—and we should not expect that it is going to remain at that level, and that it is likely to rise again. This is what they have done with the Army. I do not want to dilate upon it. Similar is the case of the Civil Services. The least increase in prices is taken up by them as an opportunity for raising the salaries. Concessions are given but when the prices of the commodities resume their old level, there is no question of the withdrawal of those concessions. The index of the salaries and of the expenses of the Government is like the index of a thermometer which shows the maximum temperature. The least increase in prices or the existence of an emergency is taken advantage of, and the index of expenditure continually goes up, but when the prices fall, the index remains at that place and does not know getting down. This is the condition so far as their expenses are concerned, and we find that the Government are not prepared to reduce them.

Let us now see whether they are going to help the cultivator directly or in some other way. We know the condition of the indebtedness of the peasants and we know that the amount which they have got to repay to the money lenders is very large. Yesterday, Dr Ziauddin Ahmad went into some detail and described their troubles and I do not want to repeat them. I perfectly agree with the view which he has placed before the House, with the exception of one fact, which it will be necessary for me to place before the House. The reason that he has given for the accumulation of these debts is different from what it really is. In his speech, he said that, under previous monarchs, debts used to be wiped off after every two generations as a result of revolution, etc. But I beg to differ from him on that point and want to say that, prior to the advent of the British rule in India, there was no such wiping off of debts. They were always settled by mutual consent, and the relations between the creditor and the debtor were much better than they are today. This is a thing which appears to be new and I do not think this submission of mine is to be taken seriously by the Treasury Benches and for that reason I think it will be necessary for me to give you a short quotation from one of their own historians. So far back as 80 years ago, an investigation was made into the condition of the tenantry by Sir G. Wingate, Revenue Commissioner, and in 1852 he submitted his report to Government. Extracts from this report are incorporated in a book entitled "Mussalman in the Punjab and the Moneylender" written by Mr. Thorburn of the Bengal Civil Service in 1886. I propose to read to you the extracts from that report given in the said book. It is a translation of course. I could not get the book here. I had personally translated it in Urdu sometime ago. I have now retranslated it. So far as the meaning is concerned, it is the same, though there may be some difference in the words. Sir G.

Wingate, after describing as to how, on account of the British laws, the creditor has got enormous power over the judgment-debtor says:

"Now, it remains to be described as to how in our province the money lenders have got such a great power over the tenants, of which no instance can be found in the Native States. It is quite clear to me that this power is due to our laws, according to which a creditor can get a decree against a judgment debtor on the basis of whatever is contained in the document and by executing his decree can realize the money by the attachment and sale of every kind of property belonging to the judgment debtor. In the times of our predecessors, that is the Mahrattas, the creditor had almost no legal remedy of realising his money from his debtor. In those days there was no such court to which ordinarily the creditor could resort to as a matter of right to get a relief against his judgment debtor."

This is also supported by para. 5 of the Report of Mr. Frair regarding the civil courts of Satara. Then, he continues:

"As a matter of fact, the creditor and the debtor used to settle their disputes themselves and in this matter they got almost no kind of help from the officers, so much so that even in Satara which had been considerably influenced by our policy, it clearly appears from the reports of Mr. Frair and Mr. Coxon that a creditor could rarely get an opportunity of executing his claim in courts. At first it was difficult to get a hearing at all but even if he succeeded in getting a hearing and obtaining a decree, yet to get an order for attachment of the property or an order for the arrest of the person of the debtor was more difficult than getting the decree itself and if he succeeded in getting such an order once, it was regarded as sufficient to finish the whole decree."

Then, Sir, he describes the result of this particular procedure, and says:

"For these reasons, the money lender used to advance loan to his debtor on the strength of his trust and honesty and the loans were advanced in a smaller degree on a pawn of ornaments or jewellery or mortgage of houses or standing crops. In villages there was mutual trust and confidence between the peasants and the money lenders."

This is the testimony of an English officer himself: He further says.

"For these reasons, the money lender used to advance to the peasant only such a sum of money as he understood the peasant will be able to re-pay and used to give him no more. The rate of interest could not be higher than the customary rate. If the money lender laid claim to an interest higher than the customary interest, which would be against equity, then neither his debtors would pay the instalments regularly nor the money lender could realise his money, because he had no other means of realizing his loan. In this way the money lenders and the peasants of the villages used to co-operate with each other with trust and confidence and were the participators of each other in days of prosperity and adversity."

Then, Sir G. Wingate gives the result of the British rule and says:

"Under our administration, these good relations have been absolutely finished. Now, for the prosperity of the money lender, the prosperity of the tenant is no longer necessary. Now, the money lender need not depend upon the honesty and trust of the peasant. Mutual toleration and trust have been replaced by distrust and enmity. The money-lender has got the power of taking possession of the person and property of the debtor by bringing a suit against him at any time. Now the interest of the money-lender lies in so much over-burdening the peasant with debt as cannot be easily repaid by him, because when the peasant would reach such a state, then the money-lender would become the owner of all the fruits of his labour, and would leave with him only so much, by which he can hardly keep himself alive. There is not much difficulty for the money-lender in reducing the peasant to such a condition. As long as the peasant is not indebted much, the money-lender continues advancing him money easily for all sorts of extravagant expenses, and does not even talk of the return of his money. The simple, foolish peasant thus easily falls into a trap, and he comes to know of his

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foolishness only when it is impossible to get out of the trap. After this the peasant becomes a slave of his money-lender. The money-lender takes care that the maximum concession that is made to the tenant should be only this much that some reduction may be made in the interest. Whatever the peasant may do, he cannot pay back the principal amount. He works hard so that the money-lender may pass his life in comfort and luxury, he sows the seed in the land so that the money-lender may reap the matured crop. He becomes tired of his life—hope leaves him for good, the virtues of a free man depart from him, and he becomes possessed of the evils of slavery. He considers himself to be aggrieved and wants to take vengeance from his oppressors by cheating them. He feels that he cannot fall below the level to which he has been reduced, the sense of right and wrong leaves him, the attempt in which he indulges is to defraud his creditors by taking more and more from them. When he has taken the utmost from one money-lender, he considers it to be a great success if he can get something more from another money-lender by speaking a falsehood and making false promises."

Then, in the end, he says:

"When thus he succeeds in getting two creditors, and an occasion arises for a dispute amongst them, then, if he succeeds in getting goods in such a dispute, he considers it to be his great success."

He summarises the description and writes:

"This mean struggle between the money-lender and creditors is debasing for both. The money-lender due to this becomes avaricious, heartless and an oppressor, and the debtor becomes a crafty liar, dishonest and a slave."

And, Sir, this is the state of affairs which is prevalent today. We do not find any change in the position during all this time. As to who is responsible for this condition of affairs, Sir G. Wingate further says:

"This is a very sad state of affairs. But if we were not to state it, then it would be a great weakness on our part, that our Government and our laws are the cause of this animosity between two bodies and their daily-increasing downfall. This bad state of affairs is rapidly progressing in the country. The debasement of the morality with the increasing poverty of the masses, with the increment of the wealth of a few persons, has increased in some districts with appalling rapidity and is spreading in others, and in my opinion this is clearly due to that power which our laws have given to the creditors."

This was a clear admission, so far as the conditions of the peasants were concerned, in the year 1852. Now, what steps did the Government take to improve their condition? The first step they took, after this report, was to repeal, in the year 1856, the Usurious Loans Act. Previous to that, the Courts had discretion to reduce excessive interest and to reduce the amount of the decree that was to be passed against the debtors. Now that Act was repealed by the Government and it was placed beyond the authority of the Court to reduce any interest, and the interest was to be paid at the contractual rate. This is the cause of the utter ruin of the peasantry of this country and their indebtedness, and I ask, what steps are the Government proposing to take with a view to relieving the poor peasants from their pitiable condition?

Now, Sir, I think I must finish this long story, and I want to curtail it, but I wish to submit for your consideration one question: Are Government satisfied that all is well by their merely making certain concessions here and there and allocating say a crore or two of rupees for the so-called village uplift? Sir, that village uplift programme is not, I am afraid,

being pursued in the right spirit in the country at all. I am afraid it is being utilised by interested persons for political purposes. Will you much improve the condition of the poor cultivator by letting him hear dances and dance music through the radio, which you are proposing for the general advancement of India, or will the villager be much relieved by seeing us fly in the air? (Laughter.) Sir, I do not want to ridicule these things, but I only wish to impress that these surely are not the directions in which any relief can be brought to the poor peasantry that is suffering from the great reduction in the prices of commodities. Sir, their problem is a very simple one. Do not, if you like, reduce the taxation. They do not so much want reduction of taxation. What they want only is that the commodities that they are producing must bring their proper price. If you cannot help them in this particular direction, if you cannot come to their rescue in increasing the prices of their produce, no amount of wordy declarations, no amount of economic discussions and speeches is going to better the condition of the peasants or of the Indian masses. With these words, I only say that this continuous increase of taxation, this continuous overburdening should be stopped, and I say that the time is not far off when the proverbial feather may break the camel's back: and I would appeal to the Government to save us from that misery, to save us from the misery by not extracting too many eggs of gold from this hen which, to the misery of us here, if it continues to be treated in that fashion, may, instead of giving eggs of gold, give bullets of iron, for their condition is getting desperate. (Hear, hear.) You, Sir, are driving them mad by all your actions, and you are bringing misery on yourselves and ourselves. So, in the end, I finish with this appeal to the Government and to the persons who are in power, that they must take steps to reduce the price of their currency, to increase the price of the commodities, and take practical steps in these directions and follow the advice of Sir Tracy Gavin Jones which is contained in the Unemployment Committee's Report, and in which he said:

"I believe that Government will eventually have to devalue the rupee. Economic circumstances will compel them to do so."

And, lastly, Sir, my suggestion is that India should expand her currency issue by fifty crores of rupees immediately, without cover, and issue it to the provinces for agricultural uplift, on condition that the money is expended within the year of issue. These are bold steps, but you must take them if you want to save the peasantry of this country. You must take these steps. Otherwise, we must leave them to their fate, and then you will see what happens. (Applause.)

Dr. F. X. DeSouza (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I should like to intervene in this debate for a very few minutes, in order to draw the attention of the Government of India to the deplorable condition in which the growers of rice and the growers of coconuts in Southern India find themselves, and the urgent need of some measure of relief on their behalf. This morning, Sir, I was treated to an extraordinary sight in this House when the lion from Kumaon lay with the lamb from Bombay—I must say when the Bombay lamb bleated pretty loudly for a lamb—anyhow the lion from Kumaon and the lamb from Bombay lay down together and cried for the industrialisation of India. It was an extraordinary thing that neither of them, not even the lion of Kumaon, who stands for agricultural interests,

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pleaded for the interests of agriculture. The result will be that if agriculture continues to be neglected as it has been in the past, the countryside will be converted into a desert. I am speaking with a full sense of responsibility and I know what I say. If we refer to the official publication we find that the price of primary commodities produced by agriculture, in this country, of crops of all denominations, has fallen by 53.6 per cent as compared with 1929. That means, according to that authority, that the value of the principal crops grown in India fell by the staggering figure of 547 crores and 26 lakhs which is nearly half the national debt of the Government of India. To that fall rice has contributed the following proportion. The price of rice grown in Madras has fallen by 52 crores and six lakhs, in Bengal by 103 crores and 81 lakhs, in Bihar and Orissa 61 crores and 48 lakhs, in Burma 36 crores and 39 lakhs. Obviously this represents the staggering extent to which the purchasing power of the masses in India has been reduced. Side by side with this crash in prices, it must be realised that the fixed charges to which the masses in India are subject have proportionately increased in terms of the commodities. The rent which they have to pay, the interest on their debts which they have to pay, the assessment which they have to pay and last but not least the tribute of 34 crores which my Honourable friend, Sir H. P. Mody, mentioned this morning as the tribute which the masses pay to the manufacturers of Bombay

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): He was only quoting the Honourable the Finance Member's figures and trying to contest their accuracy.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg: I maintain the figure.

Dr. F. X. DeSouza: The Honourable the Finance Member does maintain that figure. If you remember that, you cannot say with any show of plausibility that the masses of India have turned the corner and the dawn of prosperity has come upon the masses of India. Is it right to draw inferences from the fact that the revenues of the Government of India show a surplus that the masses of India have benefited by that surplus? The Customs show a considerable surplus. Do any articles imported into India ever reach the masses? The income-tax has benefited. But do the masses pay income-tax? The sugar customs and excise have benefited. If there is a larger consumption of sugar by the masses of India, it is probably because *gur* which used to be formerly available is no longer available going to the factories to be converted into sugar. I respectfully submit to the Honourable the Finance Member that the conclusions which he has drawn that the masses have turned the corner and that there is a dawn of prosperity coming for the masses of India cannot be justified by the evidence he has placed before us.

With regard to the catastrophic fall in the price of rice, it is due not only to the general depression to which all primary commodities have been subjected, but it is due to other causes. First the outlet which hitherto existed for the export of rice has been closed by the policy of national self-sufficiency which countries in the East have adopted. In pre-war years, the amount of export of rice from India was two million 398 thousand tons. In 1934-35

Mr. B. Das: Does it include Burma or it is only India?

Dr. F. X. DeSouza: India and Burma. In 1934-35, exports fell to a million and 593 thousand tons. Not only has the outlet for the export of rice been closed owing to the policy of self-sufficiency adopted by the nations in the East, by China, by Indo-China, by Siam and Java, but those nations helped by subsidies and bounties from their respective Governments are enabled to dump their rice into India. From the *Review of Trade Returns* for 1934-35, the figures of dumping for 1933-34 were 84 thousand 24 tons; for 1934-35, 394 thousand 51 tons. The imports came from Siam and French Indo-China. What is the natural result of this catastrophic fall in rice? The natural result would be first and foremost a contraction in the area under cultivation of rice. Honourable Members will hardly believe, but these figures are taken from the official publications. In 1931-32 the area under rice was 84 million acres; in 1934-35, the area fell by three million acres to 81 million acres and the out-turn fell from 33 million 200 thousand tons in 1931-32 to 27 million 719 thousand tons in 1933-34, a fall of 18 per cent. Can any Member of the Government with a sense of statesmanship contemplate with complacency the consequences of these figures? I said the area under cultivation fell by three million acres. What does that mean? Assuming that two acres maintain, say, a family of five persons, then three million acres would maintain 7½ millions people and these have been now thrown out of work having been driven to unemployment in consequence of this contraction of area. Then what about the loss of land revenue for provinces? If you study provincial budgets, you will find that all provinces have been affected by the fall in the acreage under cultivation. They show a huge deficit. Why? Because land revenue has fallen. Why has it fallen? Because land has fallen out of cultivation. Because it does not pay to cultivate lands. Where is this boasted return of prosperity to the villages?

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Henry Gidney: In the air.

Dr. F. X. DeSouza: As my Honourable friend says it is in the air. I quite agree with him. Add to that the growth of debt. Every Provincial Council shows that they are busy passing laws for reducing debt due by agriculturists. This loss of revenue and the growth of debt,—are they indications of growing prosperity? Sir, I respectfully suggest to the Honourable the Finance Member that however rosy a view he may take with regard to the urban population, I do not think his conclusion applies to the agricultural masses. It is possible and I think it is very probable that owing to the growth of industry incomes have improved in urban areas, that the rich have grown richer. But I certainly maintain that the poor have grown poorer in the course of the last few years. I cannot say that the Government of India themselves have turned a deaf ear to our complaints with regard to rice. The protection should be given to rice. The protection asked for was for whole rice which is the staple food, but in their wisdom the Government of India gave a protection of 12 annas a maund on broken rice. Sir, when the Bill was under discussion in this House, I said that the people of Madras asked for bread but Government gave them a stone. Why this discrimination against broken rice? The Honourable Member representing the European community in the Madras Council, Mr. Langley, said that this protection to broken rice was a

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cowardly act on the part of Government; because broken rice was imported mainly from Siam while whole rice came from Indo-China. Government felt that behind Indo-China there is the mighty power of France which would retaliate, but Siam is helpless, and that is why a duty of 12 annas was put upon broken rice. Has it done any good? I will quote the figures. So far as Madras is concerned, in the year 1934-35 there were 99,290 tons of rice imported, and this year, upto January last, the amount of rice imported is 82,682 tons for the ten months. Really speaking, broken rice does not come into competition with whole rice; broken rice, in my part of the country, is food for cattle and poultry. In Madras broken rice is the food of the very lowest classes. I challenge any Honourable Member from Madras to say whether he has ever eaten broken rice except, it may be, in the form of *idlis*.

Sir, all that this protection of 12 annas a maund on broken rice has done is to make the food of the poor dearer without helping the real rice-grower to any extent whatsoever. The Crop Conference, held in Simla, recommended that a protective duty of Rs. 1-4-0 on whole rice as well as on broken rice and a duty of 15 annas on paddy should be imposed, otherwise the fate of the rice-grower in Madras would be very serious indeed.

I next come to the grower of cocoanut. Sir, you are aware that owing to the slump in the price of rubber Ceylon took to growing coconut on a very extensive scale by mass production and she can produce cocoanut very much cheaper than the cultivators of Malabar and Travancore and Cochin can. Honourable Members who are familiar with those parts will realise that cocoanut is grown there by cultivators in small homesteads of one acre or two acres, and it has been calculated by careful investigation,—I do not want to go into details but this is expert calculation,—that the cost of cultivation of one thousand nuts is Rs. 42. Sir, what are the prevailing prices? On the 3rd of this month the price at Cochin of one thousand nuts was Rs. 34, i.e., Rs. 8 below the cost of cultivation. The average price of the last three years on the basis of Government tariff valuation is Rs. 26. On this basis the duty should be at least Rs. 15 on a thousand nuts and that was the duty recommended by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research on a thousand fresh nuts, Rs. 70 per ton of copra and Rs. 125 for a ton of oil. Instead of that, what have the Government of India done for us? First, you will remember that Ceylon being an Empire country and under the Ottawa Agreement is entitled to mutual preference with us. But she has given us no preference whatsoever. She gives us no preference on our textiles, on our cement or on any of our products. But, although she is our greatest rival so far as coconut goes, our Government in a fit of quixotic generosity extended to her a preference of ten per cent. What is the result? The result is that the duty she has had to pay was about Rs. 2-4-0 and the duty has been raised by the action of the Commerce Member last January, from Rs. 2-4-0 per thousand to Rs. 4-8-0. Why was Ceylon given this preference although she refuses to give us any preference? Why is not this preference denounced? Even so sober a journal as the *Statesman* of Delhi in its issue of the 16th August, 1934, wrote:

"The Home Government appear to have committed the inexcusable folly of wavering between pandering to Ceylon and the application of the jackboot."

And why does the British Government hesitate to apply the jackboot? I venture to make a suggestion—I may be wrong—but it seems to me very probable, that here we see the cloven hoof of the industrial manufacturer, both of Lancashire and of Bombay. Ceylon is a very wide market for textiles and for steel and iron products.

Mr. B. Das: But Bombay has nothing to lose.

Dr. F. X. DeSouza: But, then, Ceylon does not export anything else; she can only export her cocoanut to provide a balance for her trade, and the Government of India, under instructions from the Home Government, are giving her facilities to dump cocoanut into this country in order to find her balance for the textiles of Lancashire and for the textiles from Bombay. That the Government in England is particularly anxious to allow Ceylon facilities for balancing her trade will be clear from her action, only at the end of last year, in imposing a tariff duty on soya beans imported from Japan, much against the protests of the British farmer. Why did she do so? Because the British Government wanted to help Ceylon to export as much cocoanut as she could, in order to balance her trade in textiles and other manufactures, as there was a competition between the trade in soya beans and cocoanut. So serious is this conflict between the manipulations of the industrialist and the helplessness of the agriculturist that it has found an echo even in a country like England. I find in the debates in the House of Commons on the 21st May, last, that the Honourable G. Lambert, representative of the agricultural industry, said:

"Why, as all other industries had tariffs, were they denied to the agricultural industry? Agriculture has been sacrificed on the altar of imperial trade. The agricultural industry could not be expected to shoulder not only the textile trade of Lancashire, but the debts of Australian bondholders... Unless they could get fair play, there would be a great sense of hostility in Imperial trade in the country district."

Mr. B. Das: You are giving out home truths.

Dr. F. X. DeSouza: Sir, that is the opinion of an English Member of Parliament representing English agriculture. The same thing has happened in this country. At the last general election in the great agricultural province of Madras, the protagonists of industry, as represented by the Ottawa party, received such a terrific collapse that not one of them was returned to the Assembly. That, Sir, was the only a landslide of parties, but as described by my Honourable friend just now, the condition of agriculturists in Madras has grown much worse since then and as the Honourable the Home Member has more than once showed, communism raises its ugly head from the villages and from the country side. God forbid, that at the next election, from being merely a landslide of parties, it should become a cataclysm of orderly Government.

Sir, in pleading for protection, I feel as if I was speaking with my tongue in my cheek. I read the other day in a well-known English review that there is now existing in this world a trinity of learning—the only survivors of an almost extinct species of free traders—and that trinity consists of Lord Snowden, Sir Walter Layton and Sir James Grigg. (Laughter.)

Mr. B. Das: How do you come to picture him?

Dr. F. X. DeSouza: Fortunately for their country, Lord Snowdon and Sir Walter Layton have no power to influence the policy of their country. But, fortunately for us, Sir James Grigg is the Mussolini of our finance, armed with powers of certification. He is the complete autocrat of our finance and it is because he has autocratic powers that I ask him to exercise it in favour of protection for agriculture.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

I have no hesitation in doing so, because here his two bugbears do not exist, first, protecting Indian agriculture will not hurt the British manufacturer; secondly, by protecting Indian agriculture, he would not, as he once interjected while I was speaking, be taxing the food of the people, because unlike his country, we grow our own food. Foodgrains in a way represent the currency of the country, because it is by the price of rice, the price of wheat, that the standard of values is determined.

With these words, I earnestly hope that the Honourable the Finance Member will extend protection to rice and to cocoanuts in the manner I have suggested.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim): Before the House is adjourned, it may be mentioned that it has been suggested to the Chair that it might dispense with the question hour tomorrow and the day after, so that more Honourable Members may have an opportunity of taking part in the discussions on the Finance Bill. If this meets with the general approval of the House, the Chair is prepared to do so, especially as it is possible to dispose of the questions of which notice has already been given this Session, even if the Chair dispenses with the questions tomorrow and the day after. Does that meet with the general wishes of the House?

Honourable Members: Yes.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 18th March, 1936.

