

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SIXTH SESSION OF THE FOURTH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1919

Vol. LXXX (Nos. 1 to 5)

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**25th, 26th, 28th and 29th February and 2nd
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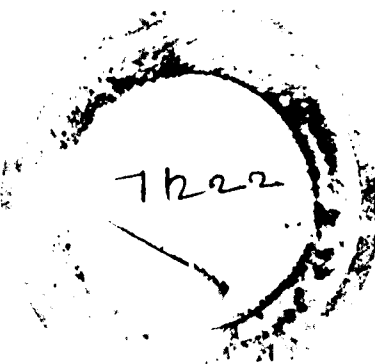
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PERSONNEL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

His Excellency Lord ERSKINE, G.O.I.E. Took his seat on the 15th November 1934.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

1. The Hon. Rai Bahadur Sir K. VENKATA REDDI NAYUDU, Kt., Law Member. Took his seat on the 25th April 1934 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

I.—Provincial Subjects.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Administration of justice, including constitution, powers, maintenance and organization of courts of civil and criminal jurisdiction within the Province. | 6. Coroners. |
| 2. Provincial law reports. | 7. Treasure-trove. |
| 3. Administrator-General and Official Trustees. | 8. Non-judicial and judicial stamps. |
| 4. Elections for Indian and Provincial Legislatures. | 9. Prisons and prisoners. |
| 5. Escheats. | 10. Industrial matters included under the following head :—
Electricity, including hydro-electric schemes. |
| | 11. Forests (including Cinchona) except panchayat forests. |
| | 12. Minor ports. |

II.—Central Subjects.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Civil law. | 6. Shipping and navigation. |
| 2. Inventions and designs. | 7. Lighthouses. |
| 3. Copyright. | 8. Port quarantine and marine hospitals. |
| 4. Criminal law. | |
| 5. Major ports. | |
2. The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM, Home Member. Took his seat on the 16th August 1934 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

I.—Provincial Subjects.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Police, including Railway Police and C.I.D. | 10. Government Houses, Staff and equipment of His Excellency the Governor. |
| 2. Regulation of betting and gambling. | 11. Government Presses. |
| 3. Prevention of cruelty to animals. | 12. Industrial matters included under the following heads :—
(a) Factories.
(b) Settlement of 'labour disputes.
(c) Boilers.
(d) Gas.
(e) Smoke nuisances.
(f) Welfare of labour including depressed classes. |
| 4. Control of poisons. | |
| 5. Control of vehicles. | |
| 6. Control of dramatic performances and cinematographs. | |
| 7. Control of newspapers, books and printing presses. | |
| 8. European vagrancy. | 13. Criminal tribes. |
| 9. Regulation of medical and other professional qualifications and standards. | 14. Stores and Stationery (required for Reserved Departments). |

II.—Central Subjects.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Control of petroleum and explosives. | 3. Arms and ammunition. |
| 2. Central police organization. | 4. Emigration and immigration. |
| | 5. Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz. |

3. The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., Member in charge of Revenue. Took his seat on the 3rd January 1935 :—

I.—Provincial Subjects.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Land Revenue administration as described under the following heads, namely :— | 4. Inland waterways including shipping and navigation thereon. |
| (a) Assessment and collection of land revenue. | 5. Economic condition including wages and prices and famine-relief. |
| (b) Maintenance of land records. Survey for revenue purposes. Records of rights. | 6. Land acquisition, excepting notifications under subsection (1) of section 4 and declarations under subsection (1) of section 6 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, where the public purpose referred to in the said subsections appertains to a transferred subject. |
| (c) Laws regarding land tenures. Relations of landlords and tenants. Collection of rents. | 7. Development of mineral resources. |
| (d) Court of Wards encumbered and attached estates. | 8. Protection of wild birds and animals. |
| (e) Land improvement and agricultural loans. | 9. Pounds and prevention of cattle trespass. |
| (f) Colonization and disposal of Crown lands. | 10. Provincial Gazetteers. |
| (g) Management of Government estates. | 11. Agency tracts. |
| (h) Panchayat forests. | 12. Laccadives. |
| 2. Yeomias, inams and hereditary pensions. | 13. European and Anglo-Indian education. |
| 3. Water-supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments. Water storage and water power. | 14. Fortnightly reports and preliminary special reports to the Government of India. |
| | 15. General service questions. |
| | 16. Office procedure. |
| | 17. Secretariat. |
| | 18. Matters of a general nature not allocated elsewhere. |

II.—Central Subjects.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Geological survey. | 8. Territorial changes. |
| 2. Mineral development. | 9. Immovable property in possession of the Governor-General in Council. |
| 3. Botanical survey. | 10. All-India services. |
| 4. Survey of India. | 11. Public Services Commission. |
| 5. Zoological survey. | |
| 6. Meteorology. | |
| 7. Census and Statistics. | |

4. The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Finance Member. Took his seat on the 19th March 1935 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

I.—Provincial Subjects.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Provincial finance. | 4. Preservation and translation of ancient manuscripts. |
| 2. Pensions. | 5. Central Record Office. |
| 3. Local Fund audit. | |

II.—Central Subjects.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. (a) Defence of India. | 9. Public debt of India. |
| (b) Naval and Military works and cantonments. | 10. Savings banks. |
| 2. External relations, including naturalization and aliens and pilgrimage beyond India except to the Hedjaz. | 11. Indian Audit Department. |
| 3. Relations with States in India. | 12. Commerce, including Banks and Insurance. |
| 4. Political charges. | 13. Trading Companies and other Associations. |
| 5. Communications. | 14. Opium (Central questions regarding —). |
| 6. Posts and telegraphs and telephones, including wireless installations. | 15. Central Research. |
| 7. Sources of all-India revenues. | 16. Ecclesiastical. |
| 8. Currency and coinage. | 17. Archaeology. |
| | 18. Regulation of ceremonial titles, orders, precedence and civil uniform. |
| | 19. Reforms. |
| | 20. Subjects not allocated elsewhere. |

MINISTERS.

1. The Hon. Raja Sir RAVU Sri SWETACHALAPATHI RAMAKRISHNA RANGA RAO Bahadur, K.C.I.E., of Bobbili, Minister for Local Self-Government. Took his seat on the 5th November 1932 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Adulteration of food-stuffs and other articles. | 4. Religious and Charitable Endowments. |
| 2. Light and Feeder Railways and Tramways within municipalities. | 5. Sanitary Engineering Department. |
| 3. Local Self-Government including village panchayats. | 6. Stores and Stationery for Transferred Departments. |

2. The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN, Minister for Public Works. Took his seat on the 5th November 1932 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Agriculture. | 6. Public Works (Buildings, Roads, Ferries, Ropeways, etc.). |
| 2. Civil Veterinary Department. | 7. Registration. |
| 3. Co-operative Societies. | 8. Weights and Measures. |
| 4. Development of Industries. | |
| 5. Fisheries. | |

3. The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR, Minister for Education and Public Health. Took his seat on the 5th November 1932 and is in charge of the following portfolios :—

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Education (other than European and Anglo-Indian education). | 5. Pilgrimages within British India. |
| 2. Excise. | 6. Public Health (except Sanitary Engineering Department) and Sanitation and Vital Statistics. |
| 3. Libraries, Museums and Zoological Gardens. | |
| 4. Medical administration. | |

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

President.

The Hon. Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI.

Deputy President.

M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR Avargal.

Panel of Chairmen.

Mr. M. S. SRESHTA.

Khan Bahadur YAHYA ALI SAHIB Bahadur.

Mrs. A. RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHI.

Sir WILLIAM WRIGHT, Kt.

Secretary to the Council.

M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR Avargal, B.A., M.L.—

On other duty as Member, Indian Legislative Assembly.

M.R.Ry. D. K. V. RAGHAVA VARMA Garu, B.A., B.L., Acting.

Assistant Secretary to the Council.

M.R.Ry. D. Dhyrianathan Avargal, B.A., B.L., Acting.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
1 Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur.	Madras City, Muhammadan Urban.
2 Ahmed Meeran Sahib Bahadur, Moulvi Hafeez Anumanthakudi Mustapha.	Ramnad cum Tinnevelly, Muhammadan Rural.
3 Alagannan Chettiyar, Rao Sahib A. S.	Madura, N.-M. Rural.
4 Alamelumangathayaramma, Mrs. K.	NOMINATED.
5 Annamalai Chettiyar, S. A. A.	Nattukkottai Nagarathars' Association.
6 Appadurai Pillai, Diwan Bahadur A.	Central Districts—Indian Christian.
7 Arasu, V. T.	NOMINATED.
8 Ari Gowder, H. B.	The Nilgiris, N.-M. Rural.
9 Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.	Central Districts, Muhammadan Rural.
10 Basu Dev, C.	NOMINATED.
11 Beyabani Sahib Bahadur, S. M. K.	Ceded Districts, Muhammadan Rural.
12 Bhanoji Rao, A. V.	NOMINATED.
13 Boag, C.I.E., I.C.S., G. T.	NOMINATED.
14 Bracken, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., The Hon. Mr. G. T. H.	EX OFFICIO.
15 Dalavoi, R.	Tinnevelly cum Palamcottah, N.-M. Urban.
16 Davis, O.B.E., J. A.	Anglo-Indian.
17 Devadasan, M.	NOMINATED.
18 Dharmalingam Pillai, Rao Sahib V.	NOMINATED.
19 Duraiswami Reddiyar, K. M.	South Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
20 Ellappa Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur S.	Salem, N.-M. Rural.
21 Foulkes, G. F.	NOMINATED.
22 Gopalaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur M.	Bellary, N.-M. Rural.
23 Halasyam Ayyar, N.	Trichinopoly, N.-M. Rural.
24 Harischandrudu Nayudu, A.	Godavari East, N.-M. Rural.
25 Indrayya, C.	Godavari West, N.-M. Rural.
26 Iswaran Pillai, I. C.	Tinnevelly, N.-M. Rural.
27 Jagannadha Raju, Rao Bahadur G.	Vizagapatam, N.-M. Rural.
28 Jagannatham, H. M.	NOMINATED.
29 Jayaram Nayudu, Rao Sahib C.	Chingleput, N.-M. Rural.
30 Jones, I.C.S., C. E.	NOMINATED.
31 Kesavaramamurti Nayudu, K.	Cocanada City, N.-M. Urban.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
32 Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur P.	Madura and Trichinopoly cum Srirangam, Muhammadan Urban.
33 Kolanda Reddi, Rai Sahib C.	Kistna, N.-M. Rural.
34 Koti Reddi, K.	Cuddapah, N.-M. Rural.
35 Krishnamurti, Rao Bahadur D.	NOMINATED.
36 Krishnan, C.	NOMINATED.
37 Krishnaswami Ayyar, Kt., Diwan Bahadur Sir Alladi.	NOMINATED.
38 Krishnayya Choudari, P. V.	Guntur, N.-M. Rural.
39 Kumararaja of Venkatagiri (Raja Velugoti Sarvagnya Kumara Krishnayachendrule Bahadur Varu).	Nellore, N.-M. Rural.
40 Kumaraswami Reddiyar, The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. (Minister).	Tinnevelly, N.-M. Rural.
41 Kuppuswami Choudari, J.	Guntur, N.-M. Rural.
42 Langley, W. K. M.	Madras Planters.
43 Madanagopal Nayudu, R.	Madras City, N.-M. Urban.
44 Madhusoodhanan Thangal, P.	NOMINATED.
45 Maharaja Sri Krishna Chandra Gajapati Narayana Deo Garu, of Parlakimedi.	Ganjam, N.-M. Rural.
46 Maharaja Sir Velugoti Sri Govinda Krishna Yachendrulevaru, K.C.I.E., Panchhazari Mansubhdar, of Venkatagiri, Lieutenant-Colonel.	North Central Landholders.
47 Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur.	Northern Circars, Muhammadan Rural.
48 Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.	South Kanara, Muhammadan Rural.
49 Manikkavelu Nayakar, M. A.	North Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
50 Moidoo Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur T. M.	Malabar, Muhammadan Rural.
51 Moses, P. C.	Northern Districts, Christian.
52 Muhammad Meera Ravuttar Bahadur, K. P. V. S.	Madura cum Trichinopoly, Muhammadan Rural.
53 Muniswami Pillai, Rao Sahib V. I.	NOMINATED.
54 Murugappa Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur A. M. M.	Ramnad, N.-M. Rural.
55 Muthiah Chettiyar of Chettinad, Raj Kumar M. A.	Southern India Chamber of Commerce.
56 Muthu Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur P. C.	Madura, N.-M. Rural.
57 Nachiyappa Gounder, K. A.	Salem, N.-M. Rural.
58 Nadimuthu Pillai, A. Pl. N. V.	Tanjore, N.-M. Rural.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
59 Nanjappa Bahadur, Rao Bahadur Subadar-Major S. A.	NOMINATED.
60 Narasa Reddi, T.	Cuddapah, N.-M. Rural.
61 Narasimhaswami, Rao Sahib D. V.	Godavari East, N.-M. Rural.
62 Narayanan Nambiyar, V. P. ..	Malabar, N.-M. Rural.
63 Natesa Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur C. (<i>Deputy President</i>).	Madras City, N.-M. Urban.
64 Obi Reddi, C.	Anantapur, N.-M. Rural.
65 Palat, R. M.	West Coast Landholders.
66 Pannirselvam, The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T.	EX OFFICIO.
67 Parthasarathi Ayyangar, C. R.	Chittoor, N.-M. Rural.
68 Patnaik Mahasayo, Sriman M. G.	Ganjam, N.-M. Rural.
69 Patro, K.C.I.E., Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.	Ganjam, N.-M. Rural.
70 Pattabhiramayya, K.	Kistna, N.-M. Rural.
71 Pattagar of Palayakottai (Rai Bahadur Nallathambi Sar-karai Manradiyar).	Coimbatore, N.-M. Rural.
72 Peddi Raju, P.	Godavari West, N.-M. Rural.
73 Pocker Sahib Bahadur, B. ..	Malabar, Muhammadan Rural
74 Premayya, G. R.	NOMINATED.
75 Rajagopala Pillai, P. V. ..	NOMINATED.
76 Raja Sri Ravu Sir Sweta-chalapati Ramakrishna Ranga Rao Bahadur, K.C.I.E., of Bobbili, The Hon. (<i>Minister</i>).	Vizagapatam, N.-M. Rural.
77 Raja Sri Ramachandra Mardaraja Deo, of Kallikota and Atagada.	Northern Landholders, I.
78 Rajan, The Hon. Mr. P. T. (<i>Minister</i>).	Madura, N.-M. Rural.
79 Ramachandra Padayachi, P. K.	South Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
80 Ramachandra Reddi, The Hon. Mr. B. (<i>President</i>).	Nellore, N.-M. Rural.
81 Ramakrishna Reddi, A. ..	Kurnool, N.-M. Rural.
82 Ramalinga Reddi, C. ..	Chittoor, N.-M. Rural.
83 Ramalingam Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur T. A.	Coimbatore, N.-M. Rural.
84 Ramamurti, Rao Sahib Pandit Ganala.	NOMINATED.
85 Raman Menon, K. P. ..	Malabar, N.-M. Rural.
86 Ramaswami Ayyar, T. S. ..	Madras University.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
87 Ramaswami Mudaliyar, V. M.	North Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
88 Rameswara Rao, G.	Anantapur, N.-M. Rural.
89 Ranganatha Mudaliyar, A. ..	Bellary, N.-M. Rural.
90 Ranganatha Mudaliyar, G. ..	Tanjore, N.-M. Rural.
91 Rangaswami Reddi, M. B. ..	North Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
92 Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur C. S.	Coimbatore, N.-M. Rural.
93 Ratnavelu Thevar, P. ..	Trichinopoly cum Srirangam, N.-M. Urban.
94 Reid, D. M.	European, Madras Presidency.
95 Rukmani Lakshmipathi, Mrs. A.	Madras City, N.-M. Urban.
96 Russell, I.C.S., T. B.	NOMINATED.
97 Sahajanandam, Swami A. S.	NOMINATED.
98 Santhana G under, I. ..	Tanjore and Trichinopoly cum Madura (Christian).
99 Scott Brown, I.C.S., W. ..	NOMINATED.
100 Sessa Reddi, Rao Bahadur B. P.	Kurnool, N.-M. Rural.
101 Shetty, A. B.	South Kanara, N.-M. Rural.
102 Simhachalam Pantulu, Gade.	Guntur, N.-M. Rural.
103 Siva Raj, Rao Sahib N. ..	NOMINATED.
104 Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar, K. S.	Tanjore, N.-M. Rural.
105 Smith, J. M.	Madras Trades Association.
106 Soundara Pandian, W. P. A.	NOMINATED.
107 Souter, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., The Hon. Sir Charles.	EX OFFICIO.
108 Sreshta, M. S.	West Coast, Christian.
109 Srinivasa Ayyangar, T. C. ..	Ramnad, N.-M. Rural.
110 Srinivasan, Diwan Bahadur R.	NOMINATED.
111 Sriramulu, G.	NOMINATED.
112 Stanes, F. J.	Madras Chamber of Commerce.
113 Subbarayan, Dr. P. (The Zamindar of Kumaramangalam).	South Central Landholders.
114 Subrahmanya Bhatt, U. C. ..	South Kanara, N.-M. Rural.
115 Sundara Rao Nayudu, T. ..	Madras City, N.-M. Urban.
116 Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.	Tanjore, Muhammadan.
117 Thomas, Daniel	Ramnad cum Tinnevely, Christian.
118 Uzielli, C.I.E., I.C.S., H. R. ..	NOMINATED.
119 Vasudeva Pillai, V. G. ..	NOMINATED.
120 Vedachala Mudaliyar, Rao Sahib M.	Chingleput, N.-M. Rural.
121 Venkatarama Ayyar, K. R. ..	Madura City, N.-M. Urban.
122 Venkata Reddi Nayudu, Kt., The Hon. Rai Bahadur Sir Kurma.	EX OFFICIO.

Name of member.	Name and class of constituency.
123 Venugopal Nayudu, Rao Bahadur R. K.	South Arcot, N.-M. Rural.
124 Wright, Kt., Sir William ..	Madras Chamber of Commerce.
125 Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.	East Coast, Muhammadan Rural.
126 Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.	North Arcot cum Chingleput, N.-M. Rural.
127. The Zamindar of Bodinayakanur (Kamaraja Pandia Nayakar, T. V. K.)	Southern Landholders.
128 The Zamindar of Chemudu (Sri Vyricherla Narayana Gajapati Raju).	Vizagapatam City, N.-M. Urban.
129 The Zamindar of Kirlampudi (Sri Baja Ravu Ramakrishna Ranga Rao).	NOMINATED.
130 The Zamindar of Minampalli (K. C. M. Venkatachala Reddiyar).	Trichinopoly, N.-M. Rural.
131 The Zamindar of Mirzapuram (Mirzapuram Raja alias Venkataramayya Appa Rao).	Northern Landholders, II.
132 Vacant.	

Special Members.

133 Erlam Smith	Nominated for the consideration of the Madras Public Libraries Bill.
134 Krishnaswami Ayyar, Rao Bahadur K. V.	Nominated for the consideration of the Madras Public Libraries Bill.
135 Javad Hussain Khan Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.	Nominated for the consideration of the Madras City Municipal Act (Amendment) Bill.
136 Subbiah Nayudu, Rao Bahadur R.	Nominated for the consideration of the Hindu Maths Bill.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

Sixth Session of the Fourth Legislative Council under the Government of India Act, 1919.

Tuesday, the 25th February 1936.

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (the Hon. Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI) in the Chair.

PRESENT:

Venkata Reddi Nayudu, Kt., The Hon. Rai Bahadur Sir Kurma.	Narayanan Nambiyar, Mr. V. P.
Pannirselvam, The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T.	Natesa Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur C. Palat, Mr. R. M.
Souter, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., The Hon. Sir Charles.	Patro, K.C.I.E., Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
Bracken, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., The Hon. Mr. G. T. H.	Pattagar of Palayakottai, The. Peddi Raju, Mr. P.
Raja of Bobbili, K.C.I.E., The Hon. the.	Pocker Sahib Bahadur, B.
Rajan, The Hon. Mr. P. T.	Premayya, Mr. G. R.
Kumaraswami Reddiyar, The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S.	Rajagopala Pillai, Mr. P. V.
Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur.	Ramalingam Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur T. A.
Alamelumangathayaramma, Mrs. K.	Ramamurti, Rao Sahib Pandit Ganala.
Annamalai Chettiyar, Mr. S. A. A.	Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. T. S.
Appadurai Pillai, Diwan Bahadur A. Arasu, Mr. V. T.	Ramaswami Mudaliyar, Mr. V. M.
Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.	Rameswara Rao, Mr. G.
Basu Dev, Mr. C.	Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A.
Boag, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. G. T.	Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur C. S.
Dalavoi, Mr. R.	Reid, Mr. D. M.
Devadasan, Mr. M.	Rukmani Lakshmipathi, Mrs. A.
Dharmalingam Pillai, Rao Sahib V.	Russell, I.C.S., Mr. T. B.
Halasyam Ayyar, Mr. N.	Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur Mahmud.
Jagannatham, Mr. H. M.	Scott Brown, I.C.S., Mr. W.
Jayaram Nayudu, Rao Sahib C.	Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Jones, I.C.S., Mr. C. E.	Siva Raj, Rao Sahib N.
Kesavaramamurti Nayudu, Mr. K.	Smith, Mr. J. M.
Kolanda Reddi, Rai Sahib C.	Srinivasan, Diwan Bahadur R.
Krishnamurti, Rao Bahadur D.	Sriramulu, Mr. G.
Kumararaja of Venkatagiri, The.	Stanes, Mr. F. J.
Langley, Mr. W. K. M.	Subbaryan, Dr. P.
Madanagopal Nayudu, Mr. R.	Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur.	Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A.	Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.
Moidoo Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur T. M.	Thangal, Mr. P. M.
Moses, Mr. P. C.	Uzielli, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. H. R.
Muniswami Pillai, Rao Sahib V. I.	Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.
Nachiyappa Gounder, Mr. K. A.	Wright, Kt., Sir William.
Nanjappa Bahadur, Rao Bahadur Subadar-Major S. A.	Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.
Narasimhaswami, Rao Sahib D. V.	Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.
	Zamindar of Kirlampudi, The.

[25th February 1936]

I.—SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBER.

The following new Member made the prescribed affirmation of allegiance to the Crown and then took his seat:—

Mr. N. Halasyam Ayyar.

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

II.—CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION RE THE LATE RAO SAHIB PINJALA SUBRAHMANYAM CHETTI.

* The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—" Mr. President, Sir, before we enter on the business of the day, it is my melancholy duty to move the resolution of condolence at the death of Mr. Pinjala Subrahmanyam Chetti, a Member of this Council. He died on the afternoon of the 18th of this month. The resolution runs thus:

'That an expression of the sincere regret of this Council at the death of M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib Pinjala Subrahmanyam Chetti Garu, M.L.C., and of deep sympathy with his bereaved family be placed on record and conveyed to them.'

"As you are aware, Mr. President, Mr. Subrahmanyam Chetti came here, to this city, from the Guntur district some thirty years ago. Fortunately for him he came under the influence of a great man, known as the white-robed saint of Madras, the late Sir P. Tyagaraya Chettiyar, and under his influence not only was his character shaped but he was initiated into politics in which perhaps he got more from his master than from anybody else. He was a Member of this Council from the year 1930 until his death. He was not speaking much in this Council—I do not remember to have heard him at all in this Council—but I know, Sir, that he served on various Select Committees on various Bills—I believe in as many as 14 or 15 Select Committees—and those that worked with him know fully well, that silent as he was, his advice there was more helpful than that of those more vocal than himself. He was a strong supporter of law and order. As the editor of a Telugu journal, which did immense work in the cause of law and order, Mr. Pinjala Subrahmanyam Chetti endeared himself to all those who are anxious to see that the peace of this province was not disturbed. He was also a great supporter of indigenous cottage industries. A weaver by birth, he took immense interest in the progress of his community, formed associations for the weavers, spent money from his pocket, and never spared any pains to see that those societies of which he was the father worked well. He also took interest in labour problems, and he was very familiar with many labour organizations in this town. He will perhaps be remembered more for his connexion with the *Samadarsini*, the Telugu paper about which I have been speaking. He was largely responsible for the development of the Telugu language and for the advance of what he conceived to be right, as the name of his paper indicated, viz., equal rights and equal opportunities for all members of all communities without distinction. He also worked for

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION re THE LATE RAO SAHIB PINJALA SUBRAHMANYAM CHETTI

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the Telugu stage, and he was one of those earlier members who brought into existence the Andhra Maha Sabha. A fearless man, a staunch friend, he never hesitated to say what he felt, never kept anything behind the back of his mind and never said one thing when he meant another. He always stuck to his guns, and fought vigorously whether he failed or succeeded. During the non-co-operation days, he was to be seen everywhere, and he wanted to see that his paper was read by everybody. I have known many instances in which he spent money freely. He was not a very rich man but he spent every penny that he got from this Council, by way of travelling expenses when he was coming to Ootacamund for instance, or when he got some money for his attendance here. He spent all he could spare from his trade, on the paper *Samadarsini*, all in the belief that sincere and honest work is bound to end in good result. He has passed away from us, Sir, and he will be remembered by his many friends in this country, and I am perfectly certain that he will be remembered not merely as a politician but as a social worker for whose social work we have the greatest appreciation. Sir, I move the resolution."

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—" Sir, I beg to second the resolution which has been moved by the Hon. the Leader of the House, and to associate myself with what he has already said about Mr. Subrahmanyam Chetti. As he himself said, he was a very silent Member of this House. If I remember right, he never took part in the debates here, but as the Hon. the Leader of the House suggested, he made his presence in the Select Committees felt by giving the other Members the benefit of his experience with regard to the working of the many Bills which were under consideration. He was also tremendously interested in the improvement of cottage industries, and devoted his life to raise his community especially at a time when there was this economic depression and when the weavers found it difficult to sell their wares at prices profitable to them. I am sure, he will always be remembered as a silent worker who did his best not only for his community but for the general public."

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" Sir, I beg to associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Hon. the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition. As hon. Members are aware, the late Rao Sahib Pinjala Subrahmanyam Chetti had been associated with the public life of this province for twenty years or more, and although he had not the benefit of English education, he had always been evincing keen and abiding interest in the proceedings of this House as well as the proceedings of various Select Committees on which he served. He was taking keen and prominent part in the improvement of the social condition of the masses, and was always of great assistance to the backward communities and especially in the advancement of cottage industries and handicrafts. I feel, Sir, that by his untimely demise the House has lost a valuable member, and the Justice Party, which I represent, has lost a devoted and loyal worker. With these words, I once again beg to associate myself with the resolution."

CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION TO THE LATE RAO SAHIB PINJALA
SUBRAHMANYAM CHETTI

[25th February 1936]

* Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I would like to associate myself with the feelings expressed by the previous speakers on the sad demise of Mr. Subrahmanyam Chetti. Sir, during the course of the last seven years when I have had the company of Mr. Subrahmanyam Chetti, I may say without fear of contradiction that he had been one of the sincere friends of the depressed and backward communities. Though he was hardly seen speaking in this Council, he was very vigilant and had been advancing valuable suggestions for the uplift of the backward communities. I really feel that by his death we have lost a sincere friend of the depressed and backward communities."

Mrs. A. RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I wish to associate myself with this condolence resolution, expressing the regret of this Council at the untimely demise of Mr. Pinjala Subrahmanyam Chetti. Though I did not agree with the political principles which he used to support, yet I had every admiration for him as a social worker, particularly regarding his sympathy for the women's movement. I had occasion to know him much closer through the columns of the *Samadarsini* of which he was the editor, while I was a political prisoner in the women's jail at Vellore. Then, *Samadarsini* was the only Telugu weekly that was allowed inside the precincts of the jail, and the Telugu-knowing women political prisoners of this jail had no other paper but this to acquaint themselves with what was happening outside in the world. Through the columns of that paper, I came to know for the first time that he was a great supporter of the women's movement and took abiding interest in the welfare of the women of India. It is true that we have lost a great friend in him, and I therefore associate myself with this resolution."

11-15 a.m. * Mr. W. K. M. LANGLEY:—"Mr. President, Sir, on behalf of the group I represent I should like just briefly to express our condolences and our support to this resolution. In the words of the Pilgrim's Progress it has not been given to any members of this group to have been much in the company of the departed member in the course of our pilgrimage, nevertheless I do feel that this House is very much of one large community and when a member of that community passes away, it is like the loss of a member of a family. It is in that sense that the group I represent would wish to offer its sincere condolences to the friends and associates of the member who is gone from us."

Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—"I should also like to say a word on this resolution. The activities of the late Mr. Pinjala Subrahmanya Chetti were known to the public through that very good journal *Samadarsini* of which he was the editor. His activities in the social sphere were much appreciated and I should like to communicate my personal sorrow on his death, to the bereaved family."

The resolution was put and carried *nem con*, all the members standing in their places.

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III.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Administration of Justice

Inadequacy of accommodation for parties attending the District Munsif's and the District Judge's Courts at Salem.

* 739 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHİYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the information regarding the inadequacy of accommodation for parties in the District Munsif's and District Judge's Courts at Salem said to have been called for, in answer to question No. 481 answered on 6th November 1935, has been received and if so, whether a copy of it will be placed on the table; and

(b) what remedy the Government propose in the matter?

A.—There is no waiting-shed for parties in the District Court and Sub-Court at Salem and there is only one waiting-shed for the two District Munsifs' Courts of Salem and Sankari at Salem. It is reported that inconvenience is felt by the parties in all courts. In the case of the District Court and Sub-Court, which are now located in the same building, it is stated that the inconvenience can be avoided only by the construction of a combined court-house. The proposal for the construction of a combined court-house for the district and sub-courts was considered in connexion with the Part II Schemes for 1934-35 but it had to be postponed on account of financial stringency.

In regard to the District Munsifs' Courts, a proposal for the construction of a separate waiting-shed for the District Munsif's Court, Sankari at Salem is now being considered.

Mr. K. A. NACHİYAPPA GOUNDER:—"In the answer it is stated that a proposal for the construction of a separate waiting shed for the District Munsif's Court, Sankari at Salem, is now being considered. May I know whether it is likely to be constructed during the coming year?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"Not so; it depends on the financial position."

Mr. K. A. NACHİYAPPA GOUNDER:—"If it is to be in the coming year, I think the question ought to have been settled by this time."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"Is the Government aware that generally there is no sitting accommodation for parties, witnesses or members of the public who visit the courts, in any of the courts in the mufassal, while there is such accommodation in the High Court as well as in all other courts in the city?"

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The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"I do not know if the proposition can be so widely put as that; but the Government are aware that there are places in which accommodation is not sufficient."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur:—"Will the Government take steps to see that such accommodation is provided if the financial position admits it?"

Criminal Law

Prevalence of crossword and prize-puzzle competitions.

* 740 Q.—MR. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have considered the alarming increase in the number of crossword and other prize-puzzle competitions advertised and held in this Presidency;

(b) whether the Government are satisfied that the above puzzle competitions are conducted on honest lines free from fraud;

(c) whether the Government or the Police have received any complaints regarding the working of these prize competitions to the effect that the conductors are swindling the public; and

(d) what action the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The Government have not conducted any investigation in the matter.

(c) & (d) A representation is now under the consideration of Government. The legal position in respect of such competitions is being examined.

MR. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I know whether, in view of the fact that lots of reports have been received of the fraudulent way in which these crossword and other prize-puzzle competitions are held, Government would investigate the matter?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"The Government are not aware that any fraudulent means are adopted in these competitions."

MR. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I say, Sir, that I have heard of a case where a prize of three thousand rupees was offered and before the matter went up to the final stage rupees fifty was paid to a boy and a receipt for Rs. 3,000 was taken from him and he was held out to be the winner of the competition?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"The Government have no information."

MR. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"If the Hon. Member wants, I shall send the information."

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"I shall be very glad."

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Electricity

Preference to temporary hands employed in the hydro-electric schemes when making permanent arrangements.

* 741 Q.—MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the temporary hands employed as mechanics, fitters, linemen, etc., in the hydro-electric schemes under construction are not given preference while permanent staff for maintenance of such schemes are recruited; and

(b) if so, what the reasons are for neglecting their claims?

A.—(a) Temporary hands employed as mechanics, fitters, linemen, etc., in the hydro-electric schemes under construction are given preference for the corresponding posts on work-charged establishment required for the operation and maintenance of such schemes, if they are suitable. Construction posts, however, do not always correspond to operation posts and the number of the latter is comparatively smaller.

Recruitment to the posts included in the Madras Electrical Subordinate Service is made according to the rules issued for that service and so the temporary candidates on work-charged establishment cannot be automatically transferred to permanent posts on provincial cadre sanctioned for operation. They have to apply to the Madras Services Commission in the usual way for selection for these posts.

The qualifications prescribed for the Supervisors of the Electrical department have been specially framed so that suitable candidates employed in the work-charged establishment of the department may, on account of their previous acquaintance with the work, have some advantage over other applicants.

(b) Does not arise.

MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"With reference to paragraph 2 of clause (a) of the answer wherein it is stated that 'the temporary candidates on work-charged establishment cannot be automatically transferred to permanent posts on provincial cadre,' may I ask whether at the time of recruitment they are not required to undergo selection by the Services Commission at the outset?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"Yes; they are of regular cadre."

Letter of Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., to the Chief Engineer for Electricity regarding the construction of high tension lines by Government.

* 742 Q.—MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the letter of Messrs. Octavius Steel & Co., the Managing Agents of the Salem-Erode Electricity Distribution Company, to

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the Chief Engineer for Electricity requesting the construction of high tension lines by Government in their area of supply against a guaranteed revenue of 12½ per cent per annum in the matter of supply of electric power to the town of Tiruchengodu in Salem district referred to in answer to question No. 395, dated 1st November 1935, has been considered by the Government and orders passed thereon;

(b) whether a copy of the order will be placed on the table;

(c) what remarks the Chief Engineer for Electricity has offered on the said letter of the company; whether a copy of his remarks will be placed on the table; and

(d) when the actual supply of power is likely to be made to that town?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) A copy of G.O. No. 2478, W., dated the 18th November 1935, together with copies of Chief Engineer's letters No. 235/31-14, dated 3rd April 1935, and No. 235/31-15, dated the 5th April 1935, is placed on the table.^a

(d) The Government have no information.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"In view of the Government Order passed may I ask whether the construction of a high tension line to Tiruchengodu has been taken up or is likely to be taken up in the near future?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"I cannot say off-hand."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know whether metering will be done after its conversion into low tension or at the high tension side?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"I cannot answer that without notice."

Progress with regard to the electrification of Yedapady and Sankari in Salem district.

* 743 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the negotiations of the Salem-Erode Electricity Distribution Company with the Panchayat Boards of Yedapady and Sankari in Salem district referred to in answer to question Nos. 324 and 325, dated 31st October 1935, have been completed, and to what conclusion they have come to; and

(b) when the said towns are likely to have the actual enjoyment of electric power in their midst?

A.—The Government have no information.

^a Printed as Appendix I on pages 102-103 infra.

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Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"The Government say they have no information. May I ask whether they will call for the information and see that the matter is expedited because it has been pending so long?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"I don't know what useful purpose will be served by merely calling for information."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"If information is called for, then Government will be able to understand at what stage it is and if it will be helpful, to see that the matter is expedited."

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"Everything is being done in the matter."

Rate of consumption of electricity by the Municipalities of Salem and Erode for the second half of the years 1932 to 1935.

* 744 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) what the quantity of electric current consumed in each of the municipal areas of Salem and Erode in each month from July to December 1935, is; and

(b) what the quantity consumed is in each of the corresponding months of 1934, 1933 and 1932?

A.—A statement^a giving the information required is attached.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"May I ask what steps have been taken to see that the municipality of Erode takes electric supply?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"Something is being done. I suppose the rates will be reduced shortly. Possibly when the high tension power is taken, things might improve."

Forests

Alleged delay on the part of the District Forest Officer, the Nilgiris, in the submission of appeal petitions.

* 745 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representations have been received either by the Government, or by the Chief Conservator, or by the Conservator of Forests, Nilgiri area, alleging inordinate delay on the part of the District Forest Officer, the Nilgiris, in the submission of even appeal petitions submitted through him; and

(b) if so, from whom; and what action was taken to remedy the defect?

A.—(a) Yes, by the Chief Conservator of Forests and the Conservator, Ootacamund Circle, in 1934 and 1935. No representations were received by Government.

^a Printed as Appendix II on page 104 infra.

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- (b) Representations were received from a range clerk and a typist whose services had been dispensed with. The District Forest Officer was instructed to avoid delay in forwarding appeals.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" May I ask the Hon. Member as to what the durations of delay in these cases which have been complained of are? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—" We have stated there that delays have occurred and a warning has been given to the officer concerned."

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" May I know whether the appeal and petitions received have been disposed of by the Conservator? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—" I believe some were disposed of."

General

Supply to Members of the Legislative Council of copies of the Report of the Special Officer appointed to enquire into rural indebtedness.

* 746 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the report of Mr. W. R. S. Sathianathan, I.C.S., the Special Officer appointed to enquire into rural indebtedness, has been published;

(b) if so, when;

(c) why copies of them have not yet been supplied to the Members of the Legislative Council; and

(d) when the supply is likely to be made and what the reasons are for the delay?

A.—(a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to G.O. No. 2942, Law (General), dated 12th September 1935 placed at the disposal of the Press.

(c) & (d) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to paragraph 2 under "Note III—Supply of official papers" on page 135 of Volume II of the Legislative Council Manual. Such of the Members of the Legislative Council as applied for copies of the report within the time-limit laid down in the note were supplied with copies.

The Superintendent, Government Press, has, however, been instructed to supply copies to all Members of the Legislative Council who have not already been supplied with them.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" May I ask, Sir, whether the report of Mr. Sathianathan was not originally intended to be sent to Members of the Legislative Councils? If not there would not be so much delay."

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The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—" The answer is very clear on the point. I suppose the object of the hon. Member is more to get the report into his hands than to find fault with what has been done hitherto."

Publication of the report from the Revenue Officers of 141 selected villages referred to in Mr. Sathianathan's Report on Agricultural Indebtedness.

* 747 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have made available to the Members of the Legislative Council, copies of the reports from the revenue officers for 141 selected villages referred to in Mr. Sathianathan's Report on Agricultural Indebtedness; and

(b) if not, whether the Government will be pleased to lay copies of these reports on the table of this House?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to the supplementary question to question No. 321 answered on 31st October 1935. Any hon. Member who wishes to see the reports may look into them in the Law Secretariat where they are kept.

Police

Alleged Police spying on the movements of Messrs. U. C. S. Bhatt and K. R. Karant during the 3rd week of December 1935.

* 748 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that during the 3rd week of December last the Police at Mangalore were set to watch the movements of Mr. U. C. S. Bhatt, M.L.C., and Mr. K. R. Karant, Vakil, who appeared in a small cause suit against Mr. Gawne, the Collector of South Kanara; and

(b) if so, at whose instance and on what authority such a watch and spying were kept and what the reasons were for so doing?

A.—(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know whether Mr. Bhatt has personally complained about this matter to the Hon. Member in a letter addressed to him? "

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" Mr. Bhatt complained to me in a letter that a sub-inspector has been with him spying."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" If so, may I know whether any enquiry was made and what the result of it is? "

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" The matter was inquired into and the answer is before the House."

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Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—" May I ask whether Mr. Bhatt can say whether there was any substantial foundation for the complaint underlying this question? "

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—" If hon. Members are anxious to know the circumstance under which Mr. Bhatt came to complain to me, it is this; a certain Sub-Inspector of Police who has been a classmate of Mr. Bhatt and a personal friend of his went to him in connexion with the theft of a cow belonging to him, and also to inform him about the result of certain security proceedings in which Mr. Bhatt had appeared as a witness for the prosecution. In the course of that interview the Sub-Inspector for purposes of his own, no doubt official, wished to know whether Mr. Bhatt happened to be in Mangalore in a particular day, and in trying to gather that information he has apparently gone about it in such a manner as to lead Mr. Bhatt to think that he was being spied upon."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—" May I request my hon. Friend, through you, Sir, to tell us what exactly happened? "

Irrigation

Effect of the earthquake on the dam at Mettur.

* 749 Q.—Mrs. A. RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHI: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether there was any earth tremor felt at Mettur recently on two occasions;
- (b) whether any first information report was received from the officers on the dam site and, if so, whether a copy of the same will be placed on the table;
- (c) whether subsequent immediate inspections were made, and by whom, in the reservoir area, to see if there was any current of water getting into the ground;
- (d) whether there was any appreciable decrease in the water-level in the reservoir subsequent to the tremor;
- (e) what action the Government have taken to find out the cause of the tremor;
- (f) whether any crack or slip occurred on the dam consequent on the tremor; and
- (g) what steps have been taken to find out any effect of such tremors in future immediately after the occurrence?

A.—(a) Yes; on 26th October 1935 and 5th November 1935.

(b) Yes. Copies^a of the letters from the Assistant Engineer, Stanley Dam subdivision, are placed on the Table.

(c), (d) & (f) The Chief Engineer for Irrigation reports as follows:—

"The dam site was examined after the earthquake by the Subdivisional Officer, Stanley Dam subdivision. The

^a Printed as Appendix III on page 104 infra.

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Subdivisional Officer's report shows that there were no fissures or cracks of recent origin which could be attributed to the earth tremors which occurred on the 25th October or 5th November 1935, and that no appreciable rise or fall or wave in the lake was noticed immediately after the tremor. I was at Mettur on 17th November 1935 with the Executive Engineer and this question also received our attention during inspection."

- (e) The matter is under correspondence with the Director, Geological Survey of India and Mr. Crookshank (one of the officers of that department) will visit Mettur shortly.
- (g) The advisability of installing a seismograph in the immediate vicinity of the dam is being considered by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Rates charged for the supply of drinking water at Cauvery-Mettur.

* 750 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether there are any definite rates for the supply of water from the protected water-supply system at Cauvery-Mettur maintained by the Public Works Department there;
- (b) if so, whether a copy of them will be placed on the table;
- (c) whether all the inhabitants of Mettur are charged at the same rate, or whether any difference is made between department and department and the public;
- (d) if there are differences, what they are;
- (e) what the rates charged to the Public Works Department employees, Educational employees, Hydro-electric employees, other employees of public bodies and the public are; and
- (f) whether the public institutions such as hospitals and schools are also charged for the supply of water and, if so, at what rate?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Rupee one per tap per month in the case of houses, and four annas per month for each hut for water drawn from public taps.

(c) to (f) The Government have no reason to believe that different systems of charging are in force. The non-gazetted staffs of the electricity department are, however, allowed free water-supply as a special concession in view of their specially arduous work during the construction stage.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" With reference to the answer to clauses (c) to (f) the Government say they have no reason to believe that different systems of charging are in force. May I ask whether even public hospitals and schools were originally charged at a higher rate than other quarters? "

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—" Notice, Sir."

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Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" May I ask why the staff of the department are not charged anything while the coolies are charged four annas for drawing water from the public tap? "

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—" The answer to the question explains that. It was only the non-gazetted staff who helped the department during the construction stage who were given these concessions; these concessions were also given in previous years to the non-gazetted staff of the Public Works Department who were engaged in the construction of the dam, and the reason for this was that those men during that period had to do arduous work."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" Are not coolies also doing arduous work? "

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—" No, Sir."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—" Were all the staff who were engaged given concessions like that as part of their remuneration? "

Alleged differential treatment in the matter of concessions granted to residents of the Government quarters at Cauvery-Mettur.

* 751 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the same concession in the matter of quarters, water-supply and the supply of electric energy is allowed to the Education department as is allowed to the Public Works Department, and the Hydro-Electric department stationed at Cauvery-Mettur; and

(b) if the reply be in the negative, what the reasons are for such a differentiation?

A.—The assumption in clause (a) that Public Works Department staff enjoys the concessions of rent-free quarters, free water-supply and free electric energy is incorrect. The non-gazetted officers of the Electricity department alone are allowed these amenities free, as a special case, owing to the specially arduous nature of the work at the construction stage of the Mettur Hydro-Electric Scheme on which they are employed.

Irrigation under the Alathur Chitteri tank, North Arcot district.

* 752 Q.—Mrs. A. RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHI: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Alathur ryots, in Cheyyar taluk, North Arcot district, have been forming turf bunds to a height of 1½ feet to 2 feet over the crest level of the Alathur Chitteri tank weir;

(b) if so, how long they have been doing so;

(c) whether there were any water disputes between the said Alathur village ryots and the ryots of the Tandrai village, Uthiramerur division, Chingleput district, whose foreshore lands are alleged to have been affected by the excessive storage of water in Alathur Chitteri tank;

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(d) how the Revenue and Engineering departments concerned tried to settle the disputed problem and whether a copy of the proceedings will be placed on the table;

(e) whether the Tandrai ryots, Uthiramerur division, Chingleput district, sent a petition, dated 15th November 1924, to the Executive Engineer, Chingleput district, objecting to the turf bunding of the weir of the Chitteri tank in Alathur village, Cheyyar taluk, North Arcot district, by the Alathur ryots;

(f) what was the order of the Executive Engineer of the Chingleput district on the petition mentioned in clause (e);

(g) whether it is a fact that in paragraphs 12 and 14 of copy of the letter from the Executive Engineer, North Arcot district, dated 14th June 1929, to the Collector of North Arcot, Vellore, constructive proposals were made to raise the height of the weir of the Alathur Chitteri tank by at least one foot;

(h) whether the Executive Engineer, North Arcot district, prepared estimates for the work mentioned in clause (g) and called for contributions from the ayacutdars of the Alathur Chitteri tank:

(i) what happened to the said proposals later; and

(j) what the Government propose to do now in the matter of raising the full-tank level of the Chitteri tank of the Alathur village, Cheyyar taluk, North Arcot district, in view of the insufficiency of water in the shallow Chitteri tank to fully and completely irrigate the double crops to be raised on the compound lands in the Chitteri ayacut?

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

(j) Does not arise.

Land Revenue Administration

Inter-district transfers of clerks in the Revenue Department.

* 753 Q.—Mr. A. M. AHMED MEERAN: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether there is any arrangement by which clerks in the Revenue Department can be transferred from one district to another?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to rule 15 of the General Rules for Subordinate Services governing transfers which is printed in the Madras Services Manual, Volume II, a copy of which is available in the Secretariat Library. Clerks in the Revenue Department can be transferred from one district to another, subject to the provisions of Fundamental Rule 15 and provided that the appointing authorities concerned agree.

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Result of the enquiry for varying the assessment according to prevailing prices.

* 754 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have obtained information regarding the result of the system of varying the assessment according to prevailing prices as adopted in some places in the Punjab; and

(b) whether the Government have considered the advisability of adopting a similar land-revenue system here?

A.—(a) This Government have obtained from the Government of the Punjab certain papers relating to the system. The papers have been sent to the Board of Revenue, and the Board has been asked to examine the system.

(b) The Government are awaiting the Board's reply.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know, Sir, when the papers relating to this system in the Punjab were sent to the Board of Revenue?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"I may say, Sir, that the reply of the Board of Revenue was received a few days back and it is now being considered."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know what the decision is?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"None has been arrived at yet."

Statement regarding the number of pattas and joint pattas issued in South Kanara.

* 755 Q.—Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of pattas issued in South Kanara after the recent resettlement;

(b) the total number of joint pattas issued before and after the resettlement respectively; and

(c) what the cause is for the increase, if any, in the number of joint pattas?

A.—The Government have not the information.

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I know whether the collection of assessment on joint pattas does not cause inconvenience to the Government?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"How does that question arise, Sir?"

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—"Will the Government be good enough to split the pattas?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"I should like Mr. Schamnad to ask the Collector about it and not the Government."

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I know whether the Government will order the splitting up of these pattas in order to facilitate collection of revenue?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"No, Sir."

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Resumption of Muslim inam lands by the Government.

* 756 Q.—S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have supplied copies of the list of Muslim inam lands in the Presidency to all Collectors and their representatives, viz., Deputy Collectors, Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors;

(b) whether the Collectors and their subordinates are entitled to enquire, check and supervise in order to keep the Muslim endowments in proper condition;

(c) whether any cases of mismanagement are brought to the notice of the Government;

(d) what the total number is of Muslim endowments at present in the above list and the number of those whose lands have been resumed and their inam lands converted into patta lands;

(e) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table of the House a list of the same under the heads:—

(i) Name and locality of the endowment talukwar in each district;

(ii) Purpose for which the endowment was made;

(iii) Survey number of the inam lands that have been resumed;

(iv) Date of resumption;

(v) Whether fully or partially resumed;

(vi) If partially resumed, the names of the present enjoyers; and

(vii) Total amount derived by the Government as a result of resumption of inam lands?

A.—(a) No. The information is already available with the District Officers. The list itself was prepared from information supplied by the District Officers.

(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the provisions contained in Board's Standing Order No. 54.

(c) No.

(d) The list has been supplied to the hon. Member and the information as to the number of inams can be obtained from it. The list does not include inams which have been resumed.

(e) The Government have no information. The particulars required cannot be readily obtained from the registers and the preparation of the list required would be a laborious task.

Prices

Price of paddy and rice during November and December 1935.

* 757 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state how the prices of paddy and rice during the last two months compare with the prices prevailing during the same months in 1934?

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A.—Statements* showing the prices are annexed. The prices this year are generally higher than those of last year.

Commerce

Measures against the import of rice and other grains.

* 758 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the Hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

- (a) what the various steps are that the Government have so far taken to erect an effective tariff barrier against the import of rice and other grains into this province from abroad;
- (b) what the results are of the steps so far taken; and
- (c) what further steps the Government propose to take to stabilize prices of rice and other grains in this province?

A.—Tariff is a central subject. A duty of 12 annas per maund on imports of broken rice has been levied by the Government of India. The Government are watching the course of imports and will take steps, if necessary.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“ May I know, Sir, if the Government has not now realized that the levying of this duty of twelve annas instead of reducing the import of rice from foreign countries has increased it considerably? ”

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—“ I cannot think that the imposing of a duty on these imports has produced that result.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“ May I know whether it is not a fact that it has been possible for people dealing in Burma rice to import more and more of that rice in view of the fact that duty has been levied on a particular brand of rice? ”

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—“ I think, Sir, it is probable that to some extent Burma broken rice has taken the place of Siam rice.”

Local Self-Government

Number of claims preferred for inclusion in the electoral roll of the South Kanara District Board.

* 759 Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state with reference to the preparation and scrutiny of electoral rolls for the District Board of South Kanara—

- (a) what the total number of electors in the electoral rolls as originally prepared in the district is;
- (b) what the total number of claims put forward and claims allowed were;

* Printed as Appendix IV on page 105 infra.

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(c) what the nature was of the enquiry and the number of days taken up for disposing of claims of each taluk; and

(d) whether the claims and documents were filed by claimants and documents taken by them or by candidates?

A.—(a), (c) & (d) The Government have no information.

(b) Attention is invited to the answer given to question No. 561 answered at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 29th January 1936.

Election of the President to the South Kanara District Board.

* 760 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the election of new members to the South Kanara District Board has been completed, and their names have been gazetted and if so, when;

(b) how many of the newly elected members belong to the Congress party, how many to the Justice party, and how many are Independents;

(c) when the Collector of the district took charge of the district board for the purpose of conducting the election of a new president to that board;

(d) whether he has conducted the president's election or at least issued notice for convening a special meeting of the district board for the purpose; and if so, when; and

(e) if he has not done so, what the reasons are for the delay?

A.—(a) Yes. Vide Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 19th November, 26th November and 3rd December 1935 and 18th February 1936.

(b) The Government have no information.

(c) The Collector took charge on 1st December 1935 as ex officio President of the district board under section 22 A (2) (a) of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920.

(d) The Government understand that the meeting will be held on the 2nd March 1936.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ May I ask Sir, why the President's election has been delayed so long in the case of this district board? ”

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—“ I have already replied in answer to a previous question that the elections to all the seats should be completed before the President's election could take place.”

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ Is it the policy of the Government that elections to all the seats without exception should be completed before the president's election could take place? ”

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—“ It is not the general policy; this is a special case, where a by-election has been held up.”

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Letter of the Collector of South Kanara suggesting postponement of the election of the President to the South Kanara District Board.

* 761 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Collector of South Kanara has addressed the Government that the election of the District Board President should be put off for some time;

(b) if so, whether a copy of the letter will be placed on the table; and

(c) what orders have been passed thereon and whether a copy of it will be placed on the table?

A.—The Government are not prepared to furnish the information. Attention is however invited to the answer given to clauses (c) and (d) of question No. 656 answered at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 31st January 1936.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"The Government say that they are not prepared to furnish the information. May I know what difficulties there are in the way of their giving it?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"These matters are confidential and it is not desirable in the public interests to disclose them."

Requisition to the Ex Officio President, District Board, South Kanara, for conducting the election of the President and the Vice-President.

* 762 Q.—Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) when the elections to the South Kanara District Board were held;

(b) whether a meeting for the election of the president of the said board has been called; if not, why not;

(c) whether a meeting for the transaction of ordinary business of the board has been called; what the result was of that meeting; and

(d) whether requisitions for convening special meetings have been sent to the *ex officio* president by members of the South Kanara District Board for the election of the President and Vice-President of the District Board; what action has been taken upon this requisition?

A.—(a) & (b) Attention is invited to the answer to question No. 656 given at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 31st January 1936.

(c) Yes. The District Board adjourned the consideration of the business till after the election of President.

(d) Certain members of the Board gave the Collector of South Kanara on 21st January 1936 a requisition to hold special meeting for the election of President on 8th February 1936, but the Collector replied that he could not hold such a meeting until the election for the Surathkal circle has been completed.

[25th February 1936]

Publication of G.O. No. 5325, L. & M., dated 30th December 1935.

* 763 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether he will place a copy of G.O. No. 5325, L. & M., dated 30th December 1935, on the table of the House; and

(b) what circumstances led to the issue of the above Government Order?

A.—(a) No.

(b) Attention is invited to the answer to clauses (c) and (d) of question No. 656 given at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 31st January 1936.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know why a copy of the Government Order cannot be placed on the table of the House?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"The correspondence between the Government and their officers is treated as confidential."

Punishment of the District Board staff of South Kanara by the Collector as the President in charge.

* 764 Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) what the number is of suspensions, fines and notices for explanation imposed or issued by the Collector of South Kanara on the staff of the District Board since the Collector took charge of the District Board; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the peons of the District Board were fined by the Collector for not putting on a badge; if so, whether it is a fact that the District Board peons had not been supplied with a badge?

A.—The Government have no information.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I know whether the information will be called for from the district board?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"We have not received any complaint."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I know, Sir, whether at least after the receipt of this question which contains a serious allegation, the Hon. Minister will not call for the information?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"The Government have no information and, as I said, since no complaints have been received from any individual, it is not necessary to call for any information."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I ask whether the Hon. Minister will call for the information at least now?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I do not think it is necessary to do so."

[25th February 1936]

Alleged circular of the Collector of South Kanara as ex-officio President of the District Board in regard to the judgment of the Sub-Court against him.

* 765 Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Collector of South Kanara as ex-officio President of the District Board has issued a circular to the servants of the district board threatening to dismiss any of them if they are found talking or discussing about the suit or the judgment of the sub-court passed recently against him in his personal capacity; and

(b) if so, whether a copy of the same will be placed on the table of the House?

A.—The Government have no information.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—“ May I know whether the Government will call for the information at least in this case? ”

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—“ The Government have not called for the information.”

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—“ May I know, Sir, whether this is the courtesy which Hon. Members of Government should show to the Members of this House? ”

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—“ It is not a question of courtesy. The ex officio President of a district board is alleged to have done something. The Government have no information on the subject.”

Alleged forcible removal of the Gandhi cap worn by the President of the Kundapur Panchayat Board at the instance of the Ex-officio President of the South Kanara District Board.

* 766 Q.—Mr. A. M. AHMED MEERAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ex-officio President of the South Kanara District Board sent for the President of the Kundapur Panchayat Board to his bungalow to talk to him regarding certain proceedings of the panchayat board; and, if so, whether he came wearing a Gandhi cap;

(b) whether it is a fact that he was asked to remove the Gandhi cap which he was wearing; and

(c) whether it is a fact that on his refusal to do so, the peon was instructed to remove the cap?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) No; i.e., does not arise in view of answer to (b).

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Legislative measures for the appointment of Executive Officers to district boards.

* 767 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state when the Government propose to amend the Local Boards Act so that executive officers for the district boards may be appointed?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 118 on 7th August 1935.

Legislation, if any, for conferring executive powers on the secretaries of district boards.

* 768 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are any proposals or idea under contemplation in the matter of appointing executive officers for district boards and, if so, at what stage they are; and

(b) whether there are proposals or any idea under contemplation to bring in statutory provision for conveying certain executive powers to the secretaries of district boards as an alternative and, if so, what the powers are that are proposed or contemplated to be conveyed thus?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 118 on 7th August 1935.

(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answers given to clauses (a) and (b) of question No. 117 on 7th August 1935. The question is still under consideration.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ In answer to clause (b) it is said that the question is still under consideration. May I ask why in such a simple matter like this there has been such a long delay? ”

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—“ I may state at present the Government have no intention of bringing forward any legislation in this connexion. The proposal was in consultation with the district board presidents, to delegate some routine matters to the secretaries. This question has been delayed pending the conference of district board presidents.”

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ May I ask when even now such delegations are generally made, where the necessity is for such a long consideration of this question? ”

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—“ The cases of delegation so far made are few and far between. What the Government desire is to see that a uniform practice is followed in the district boards.”

Embezzlements in the Bellary Municipality.

* 769 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there were embezzlements of municipal moneys during the term of office of Mr. Balagurunatham Pillai, Commissioner of the Bellary Municipality;

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- (b) if so, how much;
 (c) whether there were any such embezzlements before the advent of the Commissioner; and
 (d) what is the percentage of collection of revenue during the period he was in office?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Rs. 1,957-15-6.

(c) Yes.

(d) Approximate figures are furnished below:—

Period.	Tax resources. PER CENT.	Non-tax resources. PER CENT.
1st December 1933 to 31st March 1934 ..	32	64
1st April 1934 to 31st March 1935 ..	39	89
1st April 1935 to 31st May 1935 ..	6	37
1st June 1935 to 20th July 1935 ..	Figures not available	

NOTE.—The demand due from the military authorities has not been deducted in working out the percentages given under 'tax resources.'

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know in what work this ex-commissioner of the Bellary Municipality is now engaged? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" He has joined his regular post."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" May I know whether he was punished in his regular line for having been irresponsible in the collection of revenue, etc.?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" Those who were responsible for the embezzlements have been punished. Balagurunatham Pillai is not held responsible for that."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" Has he not been slack in the collection work? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" The Government do not think so."

Orders of Government, if any, with regard to fixing personal pay to teachers in secondary schools under local boards and municipalities whose salary has been adversely affected by the introduction of the revised scale of pay.

* 770 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether orders have been passed with regard to the fixing of personal pay to those teachers employed in the secondary schools under the local boards and municipalities whose existing pay has been brought down to a lower maximum in the new scales;

(b) if so, whether a copy of it will be placed on the table;

(c) if not, what the reasons are for the delay;

(d) how many district boards have sent up lists in this behalf as required by the Government and what they are;

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(e) when the Government called for such lists and whether a copy of the order calling for such lists will be placed on the table; and

(f) what action the Government have taken for the inordinate delay on the part of the local boards and municipalities in the submission of the lists?

A.—(a) Orders have been passed in the case of all district boards (except the Nilgiris) and 32 municipalities.

(b) The Government consider that no useful purpose will be served by placing on the table copies of all these orders.

(c) Non-receipt of complete proposals.

(d) All except the Nilgiris; they recommended personal pay in cases which they considered hard.

(e) In November 1934. A copy* of G.O. No. 5025, L. & M., dated 20th November 1934, is placed on the table.

(f) The order left the submission of the lists to the discretion of the local bodies.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" The answer to clause (c) of the question is that owing to non-receipt of complete proposals there has been delay. May I know the length of this delay? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" Orders have been passed in the case of all district boards and municipalities except the Nilgiris."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—" With reference to clause (a), may I know if orders have been passed in accordance with the recommendations of the district board presidents or contrary to them? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" I cannot, in a few words, answer that. Generally the recommendations are sent up to the Director of Public Instruction and the Government carefully consider his recommendations also and pass final orders. I may state that except in one or two cases, the recommendations of the boards have been accepted."

Personal pay to teachers drawing in excess of the maximum under the revised scale of pay.

* 771 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have passed orders in the matter of granting personal pay to those teachers who were drawing more than the maximum of the new scales at the time of the introduction of the new scales under the local boards and municipalities; and

(b) if so, whether a copy of the order passed in this behalf will be placed on the table?

A.—It is presumed that the question relates to secondary schools. Attention is invited to the answer to question No. 770.

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Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" May I ask whether orders have been passed granting the elementary school teachers personal pay over their present pay? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" In the case of elementary school teachers, as far as I understand the position, the application of the new scales of pay has resulted in an increase in their emoluments."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" In certain cases where there is decrease in their emoluments the Government have originally stated that they would consider the question of granting them personal pay. May I ask whether they will do so now? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" This relates to all services. If any specific case is brought to the notice of Government, it will be considered."

Delay in the payment of salaries to the Elementary School Teachers employed by the North Arcot District Board.

* 772 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the uniform scale of pay for elementary school teachers ordered by the Government has been given effect to by the North Arcot District Board;

(b) whether the delay in payment of the salaries of elementary school teachers under the North Arcot District Board has been brought to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so, when and by whom and what action has been taken thereon; and

(d) what the receipt and charges are under Elementary Education Funds of the North Arcot District Board for the year 1935-36?

A.—(a) A copy of the letter from the President, District Board, on the subject is placed on the table.* In view of the large deficit in the elementary education budget for 1935-36 the Board has been asked to report how it proposes to find the necessary funds to balance the budget.

(b) Yes.

(c) By the Director of Public Instruction. While submitting the elementary education fund budget for 1935-36. The Government have issued instructions to the President, District Board, to pay the arrear salaries of teachers without delay. They are awaiting a further report on the subject from the President, District Board.

(d) The receipts and charges according to the budget estimate of the elementary education fund for 1935-36 are as shown below:—

				Receipts.	Charges.
				Rs.	Rs.
Ordinary	..	..	..	4,23,200	4,22,300
Capital	..	..	..	7,000	25,000

* Printed as Appendix VI on pages 107-110 infra.

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Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" Seeing that the receipts and charges are more or less equal, may I know how it happened that the teachers were not paid? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" As the hon. Member is no doubt aware, the elementary education budget is separate."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know if the deficit in the elementary education budget is due mainly to the introduction of new scales of pay for elementary school teachers? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" It is partly due to new scales of pay and partly due to the starting of new schools by boards without having adequate funds."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I ask whether in asking the district boards to adopt the new scales of pay, the Government have given proper consideration to the financial implications thereof? "

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—" They have considered, and in any case they have raised the education cess."

Sanitary Engineering

Progress of the scheme for the supply of drinking water from the Mettur dam to Salem town.

* 773 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the preparation of plans and estimates with regard to the scheme for drinking water-supply to Salem town from the Mettur Reservoir now is;

(b) when orders were passed for taking up the work and when the work was actually taken up;

(c) when it is likely to be completed; and

(d) whether there are proposals for moving for supplementary grants for the said work during March 1936?

A.—(a) to (c) Orders were passed in April 1935 for the preparation of plans and estimates for the scheme. The Sanitary Engineer reports that the work was taken up in October 1935 and that it is expected to be completed by the end of June 1936. He further states that designs of gravitation and pumping mains have been completed and that the estimates are under preparation. Outline drawings for the filtration arrangements have also been prepared and quotations called for from the various firms are awaited.

(d) No.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" Since it is said that the plans and estimates would be ready by June of this year, may I ask whether the Government propose to make the allotment in the supplementary demands for the coming year with regard to this work? "

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The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"A scheme has already been sanctioned and the municipality has been given information about it. As soon as the plans are ready, a supplementary demand will be moved in this House."

Provision of drinking-water supply to Yedapady, Salem district.

* 774 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether representations have been received from the panchayat board of Yedapady in Salem district as well as from rate-payers in the matter of providing a suitable drinking-water supply to that town by taking a line from the proposed main from Mettur Reservoir to Salem town;

(b) if so, what action the Government have taken on those representations;

(c) whether any proposal for taking water direct from the river Cauvery at the nearest point by means of pumping was considered; and

(d) if so, what the estimated cost of this scheme will be?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Sanitary Engineer reported that the cost of such a scheme was prohibitive and recommended the dropping of the scheme. He has proposed two alternative schemes exclusively for this panchayat. These proposals have been referred to the President, District Board, Salem.

(c) & (d) One of the alternative proposals suggested by the Sanitary Engineer was for taking water direct from the Cauvery at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,00,000 to instal and Rs. 8,400 to maintain.

Supply of drinking water to way-side villages from the main proposed from Mettur Reservoir to Salem town.

* 775 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) what the names are of villages and towns that are proposed to be supplied with drinking water from the proposed main from Mettur Reservoir to Salem town;

(b) at what rate water is proposed to be charged for this sort of way-side supply;

(c) who is to bear the cost of such a supply;

(d) what the quantity is of water estimated to be supplied to each place on the way; and

(e) through which of the places the main line from Mettur Reservoir to Salem town is proposed to be taken?

A.—(a) The villages proposed to be included in the scheme are (1) Jalakantapuram, (2) Vanavasi, (3) Nangavalli, (4) Taramangalam, (5) Pavalathanu and (6) Suramangalam.

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(b) It is proposed to charge for water so supplied at the rate of Re. 1-4-0 per 1,000 gallons.

(c) The cost of such supply will have to be met by the Salem District Board.

(d) The quantity of water required for each village separately is not known. The total quantity required for supply to these villages is estimated at 50,000 gallons.

(e) The Government have no information.

Supply of drinking water to Jalakantapuram from the main proposed from the Mettur Reservoir to Salem town.

* 776 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether representations have been received in the matter of providing a suitable drinking-water supply to the panchayat town of Jalakantapuram in Salem district by taking off pipes from the proposed main from Mettur Reservoir to Salem town;

(b) whether there are any proposals for the consideration of such a scheme;

(c) what the approximate cost of the scheme will be and when it is likely to be taken up; and

(d) whether the panchayat has been consulted in the matter; and if so, whether a copy of the reference as well as a copy of the reply by the panchayat will be placed on the table?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Rs. 77,000 to instal and Rs. 16,000 annually to maintain; the scheme is likely to be taken up for execution along with the main scheme of water-supply to the Salem town.

(d) The President, District Board, Salem, has been asked to report how the panchayat board proposes to finance the scheme and his reply is awaited. The Government consider that no useful purpose will be served by placing the copy of the reference on the table.

Co-operation

Progress of the scheme for the training of panchayatdars and supervisors of co-operative societies.

* 777 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the scheme for the training of panchayatdars and supervisors of co-operative societies referred to in the answer to question No. 427 of 4th November 1935 has received the approval of Government;

(b) if so, what the particulars of the scheme are; and

(c) whether the Madras Provincial Co-operative Union was asked to express its opinion on the scheme and, if so, what its views are?

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- A.—(a) & (b) A copy of the scheme as accepted by this Government has been sent to the Government of India and is still under their consideration. It is not yet possible to furnish details of the scheme.
- (c) The Provincial Co-operative Union accepted the scheme of training proposed for supervisors and panchayatdars.

Education

Application from the Pachaiyappa's College authorities for the enhancement of grants and for special grant for the construction of a residential college at Chetpat.

* 778 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what the amounts are of Government grants under each of the heads of recurring and non-recurring to each of the non-Government colleges in the City of Madras and its suburbs in each year for the last five years including 1935-36;

(b) on what principles or basis these grants are allotted and distributed;

(c) whether representations have been received from the authorities of the Pachaiyappa's College requesting enhancement of grants, as well as special grant towards the construction of a residential college at Chetpat; and

(d) if so, when; what the Director of Public Instruction said in the matter, and what orders have been, or are proposed to be passed thereon?

A.—(a) A statement* is appended.

(b) The hon. Member's attention is invited to Chapters V, VIII and IX of the Grant-in-Aid Code.

(c) & (d) An application was received from the trustees of the Pachaiyappa's College in April 1935, for a special teaching grant to enable them to avoid an anticipated deficit in the cost of working of the college, and another in November 1935, for a grant towards the construction of new buildings for the college at Chetpat. The remarks of the Director of Public Instruction on the applications cannot be disclosed. The applications are under the consideration of Government.

Promulgation of a rule prescribing University qualifications to Pandits seeking service in schools and colleges.

* 779 Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state with reference to the appointment in future of Pandits in schools and colleges—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Service Commission have made a rule or are contemplating to make one requiring that future entrants to the posts of Pandits should be graduates of universities;

* Printed as Appendix VII on page 111 infra.

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(b) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place a copy of the said rule on the table of the House;

(c) whether before passing such a rule, the Director of Public Instruction and the Government were consulted on the same, and if so, what their opinion is;

(d) whether before passing such a rule, the University of Madras was consulted regarding the same; and

(e) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place a copy of the report on the table of the House?

A.—(a) The answer to both parts of the question is in the negative.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—“ May I know from the Hon. the Minister for Education whether in the case of Pandits who are title holders and who were appointed before 1925, the new Government Order will apply? ”

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“ Notice.”

Proposals for opening additional elementary schools, during 1936-37.

* 780 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are proposals for sanctioning the opening of new elementary schools during 1936-37;

(b) if so, how many in each district and on what principles they have been allotted; and

(c) what the amounts spent by the Government are on elementary education in each district through each of the agencies, viz., local boards, municipalities, district educational councils and Labour department, during each of the years from 1930?

A.—(a) & (b) District boards, municipalities and aided agencies open new schools from time to time. No specific sanction of Government is required in these cases. The Government have no proposals before them for opening new elementary schools in 1936-37.

(c) The figures required are not readily available. The Government consider that the value of these figures, when compiled, will not be commensurate with the labour involved in their preparation which would be considerable.

Rate of pay admissible to the different grades of teachers of aided elementary schools for purposes of grants-in-aid.

* 781 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what the rate is of pay allowed to various grades of teachers in aided elementary schools in calculating grants to such schools under grants-in-aid system;

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(b) whether representations have been received for increasing the rate, and if so, from whom and in what way they have been disposed of; and

(c) what the rates are of pro rata cut given effect to in the distribution of grants to aided schools by each of the District Educational Councils in each year for the past five years including 1934-35?

A.—(a) Teaching grants to elementary schools are not determined with reference to the pay of teachers employed in them. The rates of teaching grants paid to elementary schools are to be found in rule I of Chapter I of the rules under section 42 (2) of the Elementary Education Act.

(b) Two representations have been received for increasing the rates of teaching grants, one from Mr. Moses, M.L.C., and the other from the Provincial Teacher-Managers' Association. The Government decided on these representations that the rates could not be increased.

(c) In 1931-32 (which was the first year in which there was any shortage of funds) and in each of the succeeding years, the amount available for distribution to each District Educational Council fell short of the assessed grant figures as reported to Government by the Director of Public Instruction, by the following percentages:—

	PER CENT.
1931-32	1.0
1932-33	4.8
1933-34	5.8
1934-35	10.8

Transfer of the Government Girls' High School, Salem, to the premises vacated by the Government Training School.

* 782 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government Girls' High School at Salem has been shifted to the buildings previously occupied by the Government Training School there;

(b) if so when, and if not, what the reasons are for the delay;

(c) whether the entire school is to be or has been shifted there or only a portion;

(d) if only a portion, what the portion left behind is;

(e) what the expenditure incurred is in making the alterations and constructions to suit the needs of the Girls' school; and

(f) what has been done with the buildings originally occupied by the Girls' school?

A.—(a) No, not as yet.

(b) The High school will be moved as soon as certain necessary repairs and improvements to the Training school buildings have been carried out.

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(c) The entire school is to be moved to the buildings formerly occupied by the Training school and by the office of the Assistant Director of Agriculture, Salem.

(d) Does not arise.

(e)—

	RS.
(i) Estimate for converting the office of the Assistant Director of Agriculture for the use of the Government Secondary School for Girls, Salem	2,550
(ii) Estimate for improvements to the Training school building	1,300
(iii) Estimate for special repairs to the Training school building	2,880
	6,730

(f) The building has been allotted to Deputy Director of Agriculture, Salem, for use as his office.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" May I know the reason for the delay in shifting the school to the other building? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" The reason has been given in the answer itself."

Transfer of the office of the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Tiruchengodu Range to Sankari.

* 783 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the office of the Deputy Inspector of Schools, Tiruchengodu Range, has been shifted to Sankari from Tiruchengodu, and if so, when and what the reasons are therefor; and

(b) when it was shifted to Tiruchengodu from Sankari, and for what reasons?

A.—(a) Yes, with effect from 13th November 1935.

Sankari is more centrally situated than Tiruchengodu, and in addition, a Government building became available at Sankari for the location of the office. The change has resulted in a saving of Rs. 96 per annum being the amount paid as rent for a private building at Tiruchengodu.

(b) The office was removed to Tiruchengodu from Sankari on 1st March 1933. The offices of Senior Deputy Inspectors are generally located at taluk headquarters. But in cases where the taluk headquarters are not centrally situated or there are no Government buildings available for office purposes, other central places in the range are selected by the Director of Public Instruction as headquarters of Deputy Inspectors.

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Excise

Representation from the Madras Temperance League advocating a change in the constitution and powers of the Excise Licensing Boards and Advisory Committees.

* 784 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representation has been received from the Madras Temperance League proposing changes in the constitution and powers of the Excise Licensing Boards and Advisory Committees; and

(b) whether Government have passed orders on the same and, if so, what they are?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) It has been referred to the Commissioner of Excise for his remarks. His reply is awaited.

Medical Administration

Abolition of the cadre of selection grade sub-assistant surgeons.

* 785 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the selection grade for the sub-assistant surgeons in Government Medical Service has been abolished;

(b) if so, when and whether a copy of the order passed in the matter will be placed on the table;

(c) whether it has been abolished as far as the new entrants are concerned or whether it also affects the persons already in service; and

(d) if it is to affect the persons already in service, whether the Government considered the legal side of the question?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes, with effect from 13th April 1933. The supplementary note relating to the revision of scales of pay for services was placed on the table of the House on the 11th March 1933.

(c) The abolition of the selection grade affected all the sub-assistant surgeons who had not been promoted to the selection grade with effect from a date prior to 13th April 1933.

(d) Yes.

Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—“ May I know why the cadre of selection grade sub-assistant surgeons was abolished? ”

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“ In almost all Services the selection grade has been abolished.”

Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—“ May I know whether its abolition now will not adversely affect the existing incumbents? ”

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“ It will affect them to some extent.”

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Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ What is the encouragement the Government propose to give to the officers in the selection grade? ”

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“ They will get to the top of the revised scale of pay.”

Proposals for opening an X-ray department in the Government Headquarters Hospital at Salem.

* 786 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether consideration of the opening of the X-ray department in the Government Headquarters Hospital at Salem referred to in answer to question No. 487 answered on 7th November 1935 has been over and decision reached; if so, in what way;

(b) if it has been decided to open it, when the work is likely to be taken up and when to be completed; and

(c) whether allotment has been made for the work in the coming year's budget and if so, how much?

A.—The question of opening an X-ray department in the hospital is still under the consideration of Government.

Pay of ward attendants of dispensaries under the Salem District Board.

* 787 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what the scale of pay allowed to ward attendants of hospitals and dispensaries under the local bodies is;

(b) whether it is a fact that only the starting pay is allowed to all or several of the ward attendants of dispensaries under Salem District Board for the simple reason that they are not able to produce the order of confirmation in spite of the fact that many of them have all along been drawing a pay of Rs. 15 or more, and have put in more than 15 or 20 years of service, and service registers have been maintained in their behalf;

(c) whether the President, District Board, has addressed the Government to clear the doubts, if any, in the matter of regulating their pay and, if so, when;

(d) in how many and in which of the district boards such state of affairs exists with regard to this class of servants; and

(e) what steps the Government propose to take to remedy such defects?

A.—(a) Ward attendants are designated nursing orderlies and the following pay has been fixed for them:—

Qualified nursing orderlies—12—1/2—13.

Unqualified nursing orderlies—8—1/2—15.

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

(c) No.

(e) The question does not arise.

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Public Health

Success of the anti-mosquito measures inaugurated by the Municipal Council, Kumbakonam.

* 788 Q.—Mr. A. P. N. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that anti-mosquito measures are being undertaken by the Kumbakonam Municipal Council;

(b) whether it is a fact that the measures have proved to be very successful;

(c) whether it is a fact that the incidence of filariasis has decreased within the municipal limits;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Municipal Council applied for a grant for this purpose;

(e) if the answer is in the affirmative, how the application has been disposed of; and

(f) whether the Government propose to render all help to local bodies undertaking such measures?

A.—(a) Yes.

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

(d) Yes.

(e) The request was refused.

(f) At present no grants are admissible to local bodies towards the cost of schemes of anti-mosquito measures. The Government are prepared to consider applications from local bodies for non-recurring grants, limited to one-third, towards the cost of approved schemes of genuine anti-malarial measures.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“Did not the Government ascertain from the Kumbakonam Municipal Council whether or not the experiments were successful before they refused the later request for grant?”

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“The Government were advised that the scheme was not anti-malarial, but only an anti-mosquito scheme. Grants are not usually given for the latter.”

Mr. W. K. M. LANGLEY:—“With reference to the answer to clause (f), may I ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government would be prepared to consider the question of giving such grants to quasi-official bodies such as the Planters' Association?”

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“It will be time enough to consider a request like that when made.”

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Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—“May I know whether the Government have found out that the Kumbakonam mosquitoes are not of the malaria-producing variety?”

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“All mosquitoes are not necessarily malarial.”

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—“Has the Government investigated it?”

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—“Yes, Sir. The Director of Public Health himself reported to us that the scheme was not necessarily anti-malarial.”

IV.—ELECTION OF TWO MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY COMPANY.

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“With reference to the Hon. the Finance Member's motion regarding the election of two Members of this Council to the Advisory Committee of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company passed by the Council on the 4th February 1936, I am to state that nominations should be handed in to the Secretary before 2 p.m. to-day. If the number of candidates nominated exceeds two, an election will be held between 12 noon and 2 p.m. on the 28th instant. The election will be by the ordinary method and not according to the method of single transferable vote.”

V.—PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—MOTION RE ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

* The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—“Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that, with a view to the constitution of a Committee on Public Accounts for the financial year 1936-37, this Council do proceed, on a date to be fixed by the Hon. the President, to elect seven members to be Members of the said Committee.”

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—“I second it.”

The motion was put and carried.

VI.—FINANCE COMMITTEE—MOTION RE ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

* The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—“Sir, I beg to move that, in accordance with resolution No. 2 passed at the meeting of the Legislative Council on the 8th August 1929, regarding the constitution of the Finance Committee, this Council do proceed, on a date to be fixed by the Hon. the President, to elect eight members to be Members of the Finance Committee for the financial year 1936-37.”

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—“I second it.”

The motion was put and carried.

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“In accordance with regulations framed under Standing Order No. 78 for the election of Members of the Public Accounts Committee by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 1 p.m. on 26th February 1936 as the time within which notice of

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nominations should be given to the Secretary. If the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies, namely, seven, there will be an election between 2 and 4 p.m. on the 29th February 1936.

"In accordance with the regulations framed under Standing Order No. 78 for the election of Members of the Finance Committee by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 1 p.m. on the 26th February 1936 as the time within which notice of nominations should be given to the Secretary. If the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies, namely, eight, there will be an election between 2 and 4 p.m. on the 29th February 1936."

VII.—A BILL TO AMEND THE MADRAS CITY MUNICIPAL ACT, 1919,
FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES (BILL No. 11 OF 1934).

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move that the Bill to amend the Madras City Municipal Act, 1919, for certain purposes (Bill No. 11 of 1934) be further considered."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The motion was put and carried.

Clause 1.

11-45
a.m.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I beg to move that—
'for the figures "1935" the figures "1936" be substituted'."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 1 as further amended was put and carried.

Clause 4.

Section 5.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I beg to move the amendment that stands in my name, that is—

(i) for lines 1 to 3, substitute the following:—

"In section 5 of the said Act, sub-section (2) shall be re-numbered as sub-section (3) and for sub-section (1), the following sub-sections shall be substituted, namely:—"

(ii) omit the word "and" at the end of sub-section (2) and sub-clause (ii)."

Sub-clause (ii) of clause 4 of the Bill is a little ambiguous in that it is not clear whether the sub-section (2) referred to therein refers to existing sub-section (2) of section 5 or to sub-section (2) introduced by sub-clause (i) of clause 4 of the Bill. The amendment is intended to improve the drafting of this clause of the Bill.

"In view of the proposed omission of sub-clause (ii) of clause 4 of the Bill, the word 'and' at the end of sub-clause (i) is superfluous."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

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Clause 4.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I beg to move—
'in clause (c) of sub-section (1), before the words "the Piece-Goods Merchants' Association, Madras," insert the word
"and".'

In the proposed revised section 5 (1) (c) the Legislative Council has omitted the words 'and the Rice and Grains Merchants' Association' occurring at the end. This association was the sixth and the last association specified in this clause. Its omission renders necessary the insertion of the word 'and' between the names of the fourth and the fifth association."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 4 as further amended was put and carried.

Clause 9.

Section 18.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I beg to move that—
(i) in line 6 after the words "the electrical engineer," the words "the water-works engineer" shall be inserted;
(ii) in lines 6 and 7, after the words "the revenue officer," the words "the educational officer" shall be inserted."

The Legislative Council has amended section 85 so as to provide for the appointment of an educational officer and an electrical engineer [vide clause 44 (1)]. The proposed amendments are necessary to enable the Commissioner to delegate his powers to these two officers also."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 9 as further amended was put and carried.

Clause 24.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I beg to move—
'in line 1, after the figures "54" insert the words "of the said Act".'

In the clauses of the Bill, wherever sections of the existing Act are referred to, they are referred to as the sections of the said Act. The words 'the said Act' are explained in clause 2 of the Bill. The words 'of the said Act' were omitted in this clause of the original Bill. It is now proposed to supply this omission."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 24 as further amended was put and carried.

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Clause 25.

Section 49.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I beg to move—

in clause (b) of sub-section (1)—

(a) *in sub-clause (ii), before the words "a tax," insert the word "to"; and*

(b) *in sub-clause (iii), before the word "ground-rent," insert the word "to."*

Sub-clauses (b) (ii) and (iii) of section 49 as passed by the Council run as follows:—

"(b) unless he either—

(ii) has been assessed a tax under the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931 . . . or

(iii) has been assessed in such preceding year ground-rent to Government . . . ,"

It is necessary to insert the word "to" in each of these sub-clauses as proposed in the amendment."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 25 as further amended was put and carried.

Clause 30.

Sub-clause (iii).

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I beg to move—

'At the end of this sub-clause, add the following words, namely:—

"and for the words 'next general meeting,' the words 'next ordinary meeting' shall be substituted.'"

The expression 'general meeting' which occurred in the existing rule 3 of the Schedule II of the Madras City Municipal Act no longer occurs in the Act as proposed to be amended. The expression 'ordinary meeting' occurring in proposed rule 4 has to be used in section 53 (4) also."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 30 as further amended was put and carried.

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Clause 35.

Section 56-C.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move that—

'For the first sentence of sub-section (1) the following shall be substituted, namely:—

"Vacancies arising in the office of aldermen by efflux of time on the first day of November in any year, shall be filled by election at a meeting—

(a) *of the elected and appointed councillors, excluding those who will vacate office on the said day; and*

(b) *of the persons who will enter upon office as councillors on the said day.'*

The manner of electing aldermen in the general reconstitution under the new Act is prescribed in section 414 (b) (clause 213 of the Bill). Section 56-C (1) prescribes the manner of their election at every subsequent triennial election. The intention is that in the latter elections the councillors who would vacate office on the 1st November following should not take part but that the councillors who would assume office in their stead on the 1st November should take part. This intention was made clear in section 56-C as proposed in the Bill as introduced."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 35 as further amended was put and carried.

Clause 38.

Sub-clause (ii)—Section 59 (2).

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

'Omit the word "and" at the end of the first proviso to clause (c).'

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 38 as further amended was put and carried.

Clause 41.

Section 75—New sub-section (5).*

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move—

'In line 4 of the proposed sub-section (5) for the word "rules" the word "regulations" shall be substituted.'

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The word 'rules' which occurs in sub-section (5) of section 75 is generally applied to rules made by the Government under the Act. The word 'regulations' is used to indicate the rules framed by the Standing Committee. It is therefore necessary to alter the word 'rules' in this sub-section into 'regulations'."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 41 as further amended was put and carried.

Clause 44.

Section 85.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move—

"In sub-clause (i) for the words "an electrical engineer, a revenue officer, an educational officer, a water-works engineer" the words "an electrical engineer, a water-works engineer, a revenue officer, an educational officer" shall be substituted'."

This is also a verbal amendment.

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move—

"For sub-clauses (ii) and (iii) substitute the following:—

"(ii) in the proviso—

(a) the word "and" at the end of the clause (a) shall be omitted; and

(b) for clause (b), the following clause shall be substituted, namely—

"(b) the monthly salary of the health officer and the engineer, the electrical engineer and the revenue officer shall not be less than five hundred rupees and shall not exceed twelve hundred rupees"; and

(iii) after clause (b) the following clauses shall be added, namely:—

(c) the monthly salary of the water-works engineer shall not be less than four hundred rupees and shall not exceed eight hundred rupees; and

(d) the monthly salary of the educational officer shall not be less than two hundred and fifty rupees and shall not exceed eight hundred rupees."

Sir, this verbal amendment is intended to rearrange the order in which officers (water-works engineer, etc.), are referred to and to refer to them in the same order as in section 18 (clause 9) as now proposed to be amended."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 44 as further amended was put and carried.

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Clause 49.

Section 96.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:— 12 noon.

"In sub-section (2)—

(a) in the first proviso, for the words "a salary," substitute the words "a monthly salary"; and

(b) place the second and the third provisos as the third and the second provisos respectively and for the second proviso as thus placed, substitute the following:—

"Provided further that any officer or servant in receipt of a monthly salary exceeding one hundred rupees may appeal to the Local Government against an order of dismissal, within a period of one month from the date of the order passed by the standing committee, on appeal from such order of dismissal."

To section 96 (2) of the Act as amended by the Bill as revised by the Select Committee, the Legislative Council has approved the addition of the following proviso:—

"Provided that any officer or servant in receipt of a salary of more than Rs. 100 may appeal against the order of dismissal to the Local Government within a period of one month from the date of the order on the first appeal."

The exact place where the new proviso has to be inserted is not definitely indicated. In the copy of the Bill as passed by the Legislative Council it is inserted as the third proviso. Its natural place seems to be the second place among the three provisos. Moreover the existing second proviso runs as 'Provided further . . .'. The provisos may be rearranged; the second and the third provisos may interchange places."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 49 as further amended was put and carried.

Clause 51.

Section 98.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

"In sub-clause (i), for "words," substitute "word"."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 51 as further amended was put and carried.

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Clause 55.

Sub-clause (ii)—Section 101.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

'In new clause (c), for the word "Corporation," substitute the word "Council".'

It seems desirable to replace the word "Corporation" at the end of clause (c) as approved by the Legislative Council by the word 'Council'."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 55 as further amended was put and carried.

Clause 74.

Section 124.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

'In the second and third provisos to sub-section (1), after the word "Provided," insert the word "further".'

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 74 as further amended was put and carried.

Clause 77.

Section 129-F.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

'For the words "prescribed by by-laws," substitute the words "provided for by by-laws".'

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 77 as further amended was put and carried.

Clause 96.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

'In line 2, for the words "headings and sections," substitute the words "heading and section" and renumber section 171-B as section 171-A.'

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Clause 96 of the Bill as revised by the Select Committee introduced two sections 171-A and 171-B each with a separate heading. The Legislative Council has omitted proposed section 171-A and with it its heading. Hence the amendment."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second the amendment."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 96 as further amended was put and carried.

Clauses 124 and 124-A.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

'Omit clause 124-A and for clause 124, substitute the following:—

"124. In the heading to section 258 of the said Act, for the words 'Dangerous Buildings,' the words 'Dangerous structures' shall be substituted and in that section for the word 'building' wherever it occurs, the word 'structure' shall be substituted".'

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second the amendment."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 124 as further amended was put and carried.

Clause 135.

Section 282.

Mr. T. B. RUSSELL:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

'In sub-clause (i) of clause 135, in line 4 of the proviso, after the figures "1888" the word "and" shall be inserted.'

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 151.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

'Renumber sections 308-B and 308-C as sections 308-A and 308-B respectively.'

The clause in the original Bill introduced three new sections 308-A, 308-B and 308-C. The Select Committee decided to omit proposed section 308-A. The clause as passed by the Legislative Council now introduces the addition of only sections 308-B and 308-C. It is therefore proposed to renumber these sections as sections 308-A and 308-B."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 151 as further amended was put and carried.

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Clause 152.

Section 309.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

'In sub-clause (ii), in the proviso, omit the words and figures "or section 259 of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920".'

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second the amendment."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 152 as further amended was put and carried.

Clause 177.

Section 358.

Mr. T. B. RUSSELL:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

'In sub-section (1) of section 358, after the word "councillor" in the first line, the words "or an alderman" shall be inserted'.

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 179.

Section 365.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

'In the second proviso to sub-section (2) (a), for the words "no more than one fee," substitute the words "not more than one fee".'

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second the amendment."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 179 as further amended was put and carried.

Clause 203.

Section 394.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

'In line 1 of sub-clause (i) before the word "after" insert the words, figure and brackets "in sub-section (1)".'

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second the amendment."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 203 as further amended was put and carried.

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Clause 213.

New section 414.

Mr. T. B. RUSSELL:—"Sir, I beg to move—

'In clause 213, in the opening paragraph for the words "following shall be added" the words "following sections shall be inserted" shall be substituted'.

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

'In clause (a) (i) of section 414 for the figures "1935" in line 5 substitute the figures "1936".'

The Bill now under consideration when passed into law is referred to in this section as the Madras City Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1935. As the Act is to become law in 1936 the amendment proposed is necessary."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 213 as further amended was put and carried.

Clause 240.

Schedule VII.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

(i) Renumber sub-clauses (i) to (xxvi) as sub-clauses (ii) to (xxvii) and insert the following as sub-clause (i):—

"(i) in the items relating to sections 120, 122, 169, 178, 180, 182, 183, 186, 188, 195 (1), (2) and (3), 196, 218, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262 (3), 263, 264 (1), 265, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274 (4), 275 (4), 306, 334, 368 and 376 (1) and Schedule V, rule 18, for the word 'obey' the words 'comply with' shall be substituted," and

(ii) in sub-clause (xxix) as renumbered for the figures and letter "308-C" substitute the figures and letter "308-B".'

The Legislative Council has accepted the amendment of Diwan Bahadur A. Appadurai Pillai that the word 'obey' occurring in this clause be replaced by the words 'to comply with.' The word 'obey' occurs in a number of places in the portions of the Schedule VII which are not

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affected by clause 240 of the Bill. It is considered desirable in the interests of uniformity to change the word 'obey' wherever it occurs in this Schedule.

"The second part of the amendment is consequential to the amendment made in clause 151."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 240 as further amended was put and carried.

Clause 241.

Schedule VIII.

12-15 p.m. * The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

(a) Renumber sub-clauses (i) to (xvi) as sub-clauses (ii) to (xvii) and insert the following as sub-clause (i):—

"(i) in the items relating to sections 169, 177 (2) and (3), 183, 186, 188, 260, 261, 263, 264, 265, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273 and 334, and Schedule V, rule 18 for the word 'obey' the words 'comply with' shall be substituted," and

(b) in sub-clause (vi) as renumbered for the word "obey" substitute the words "comply with" and

(c) in clause (xv) as renumbered for the figures and letter "308-C" substitute the figures and letter "308-B".

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 241 as further amended was put and carried.

Schedule.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

In columns (3) and (4) for the second and third entries relating to section 42, substitute the following:—

"arrangements to his satisfaction provision to his satisfaction."	arrangements to their satisfaction. provision to their satisfaction."
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Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

The schedule as further amended was put and carried.

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* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

'Renumber the clauses in the numerical order.'

A number of clauses in the Bill as introduced, have been omitted in the Bill as revised by the Select Committee and as passed by the Legislative Council. For example, clauses 26, 27, 95, 172, 173 and 215 have been omitted. It is therefore necessary to renumber the several clauses in the numerical order."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and carried.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I move now that the Bill be passed into law."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

* Sir WILLIAM WRIGHT:—"Mr. President, Sir, on behalf of the European group I should like to compliment the Chief Minister on his persistence in the face of very considerable discouragement in bringing the Bill to its present stage. In this group we have been mostly interested in those provisions of the Bill which deal with our own representation in the Corporation and with taxation and finance generally. We have not dealt with many other aspects of Municipal Government and administration which have been dealt with very adequately by other parts of the House. It is not because we are not interested in the Municipal Government of Madras; we yield to none in our pride of being citizens of this very great city and of the Municipal Government of the City; but merely because we felt that those other questions were being dealt with very thoroughly by other Members. The Bill as it now emerges is not altogether in one or two directions what we would like to have ourselves but we do feel that it marks a further stage in the development of the oldest municipality in India; therefore the passing of this Bill is an event of very great importance and as such we have very much pleasure in giving our vote in favour of this Bill passing into law."

* Diwan Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, it has been the proud privilege of the Raja Sahib of Bobbili to sponsor Bills conceived in bad taste perhaps by some of his predecessors some years ago, and to conduct them ably through Select Committees and the Council and bring forth an act palatable to the public. Bills, which on introduction raised a torrent of criticism from the Opposition and struck terror and caused anxiety amongst party men, were shaped into Acts praised by the Opposition and received with satisfaction by the following. Be it the Estate Land Amending Act, be it the Inams Act, be it a Bill to amend the City Municipal Act, the utmost concern of Raja Sahib has been best to serve the poor, the suffering, the

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oppressed and the tyrannized. Sir, about two million ryots were emancipated by the Estates Land Act; millions of ryots were about to be emancipated by the Inams Act; now thousands of citizens are relieved by the passing of this amending Bill, which is about to be passed into law. Mountainlike obstacles which appear in the Bills when handled by Raja Sahib disappeared like the morning dew before the rising Sun. Compulsory metering is dropped. Taxation appeals direct from the citizens to Court of Law at the first instance were spurned. My thanks are due to Dr. Subbarayan and Mr. Reid for having withdrawn their amendments. Tax on cycles is left to the discretion of the Corporation of Madras. As soon as I heard of this from the Raja Sahib in the Council, I tabled a motion for adjourning the business of the Council of the Corporation to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance; but that was disallowed by the then Mayor of Madras. I am sure that I will bring it at the time of the budget meeting and see what the opinion of the councillors is. Franchise has been extended. Any man who pays tax in the City of Madras has a vote according to this Bill. I am in favour of adult franchise. But I have to submit to the will of this august body; I submerge my individual opinion to the will of the Legislative Council. I am glad compulsory vaccination and re-vaccination are introduced in this Bill. If they only heard the speech of no less a person than Mr. Ranganatha Mudaliyar, it will terrify the whole Presidency. I shall not refer to it in detail. But, I wish to quote some passage from *Analytical Cyclopaedia of Practical Medicine* edited by Dr. Sojour. 'As may be readily ascertained in any Small-pox Hospital, recently vaccinated persons including children can live in such an institution, wait on the patients therein, breathe its contagion laden air and totally escape the disease.' Dr. Gay in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* states:—'Small-pox caused before the discovery of vaccination by Dr. William Jenner, a tenth of the deaths in ordinary times, one-half in epidemics and destroyed, maimed or disfigured one-fourth of mankind.' Sojour states 'Germany where vaccination is obligatory has been free from the disease for more than forty years while adjacent nations are never free.' 'Systematic vaccination by the surgeons of the United States army in six provinces of the Phillippines having an approximate population of one millin reduced the small-pox mortality from 6,000 to nothing.' 'In 1885 small-pox broke out in Montreal. Upper classes protected themselves by vaccination and escaped. The ignorant classes refused and 3,000 perished. If any event in human affairs has been demonstrated beyond a reasonable doubt, it is the great benefit to be derived from timely, efficient and skilful vaccination against small-pox.' To quote from Mr. J. M'Gregor Robertson's 'Household Physician'; 'Medical colleges and medical men were appealed to in every civilized nation, and as a consequence a body of evidence in favour of vaccination was produced, which to this day stands unassailed and unassailable, fitted to convince every rational mind that vaccination, if properly and universally employed, affords a method of completely stamping out

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small-pox from the face of the earth.' One more quotation from the same book, 'Any one who carefully examines the many documents on vaccination that are open for reference, can arrive at this conclusion only, that the opposition to vaccination can find supporters only among the grossly ignorant or the wholly irrational.'

'This Bill is not wanting in any respect. One thing more. I hope the Raja Sahib will see that the amendment proposed by Mr. Basu Dev to make provision for the unemployed, for old-age pensions, for looking after widows and orphans, is incorporated in the Bill ere long. I am sure the Raja Sahib with such a head and heart will ere long bring in amending Bills in that direction. While thanking the Raja Sahib once more for all that he has done for us, I must say that we were afraid in what shape the Bill was going to be passed and how we were going to face the election. We are extremely thankful that the Bill has come out of the Council and is to be passed into an Act in a form which is acceptable to the public. The Bill when passed into an Act will be more advanced than any previous City Municipal Act.'

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—'Mr. President, Sir, I rise 12-30 p.m. to support the motion before this House, of passing this Bill No. 11 of 1934 into law.'

'Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House some of the advantages that have accrued from the provisions of this Bill. For a very long time, the co-operative societies intended for the depressed classes were everburdened with the companies' tax; but provision has been made in this Bill to levy only a profession-tax thereby giving relief to those co-operative societies.

'Another important provision is that contained in section 257-B, giving power to the Corporation in regard to the improvement of cheris and hutting grounds. These have been eye-sores in Madras, and the previous Bills did not make any provision for the improvement of these cheris. This Bill contains the necessary provision for their improvement; and I am sure that not only in the metropolis but in the mufassal also, such a provision as this will be quite welcome.

'As regards the strength of representation given under this Bill, three seats have been allotted for the depressed classes, while in practice the Adi-Dravidas have been enjoying only two. But the one invidious distinction that has been made between the metropolis and the mufassal is in regard to the mode of election. Though I think it was the idea of the Hon. the Chief Minister to afford to the depressed classes the same method of election, i.e., by the general electorate, probably due to pressure brought to bear upon him, he has been able to advocate and to make provision in this Bill for a separate electorate. The depressed classes in the districts with their low degree of education are forced to join the general electorate, while in the capital town of the province which is supposed to contain a large number of literate

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people, they have to stick to a method of election which is not obtaining in the districts—either in respect of district boards or of municipalities. However, it is a matter of time, I think; and it will not be very long before my colleagues in this Council think of bringing forward a provision that will be acceptable to the Adi-Dravidas both of this city and of the mufassal.

“Sir, this Bill has been pending before us for a very long time, and I am glad it has been possible, during the Chief Ministership of the Hon. the Raja of Bobbili, to pass a comprehensive Bill such as this. I therefore congratulate him on the successful way in which he has piloted it through the Select Committee stage and through this House.”

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—“Mr. President, Sir, whatever some of the hon. Members on that side of the House may say, we on this side of the House feel that this Bill to amend the Madras City Municipal Act has not been conceived in the direction in which it ought to have been. We feel that in several respects, this Bill is a retrograde measure. In support of this statement of mine, I would instance the provisions in this Bill relating to franchise and to the representation of some of the communities in the City of Madras. As you are doubtless aware, Mr. President, very strong representations were made to the Franchise Committee which toured this province and the other provinces of India that adult franchise should be introduced in regard to elections to the legislative bodies, but we are surprised that in the matter of elections to the City Council, the Hon. the Chief Minister who piloted this measure, has strongly put down the attempt made by some of us on this side of the House to introduce adult franchise.

“You will also remember, Sir, that there was a consensus of opinion that communal differences ought to be put an end to and that as far as possible joint electorates should be introduced for all local self-governing bodies. But it is really surprising that the Hon. the Chief Minister should have sought to perpetuate by means of the provisions in this Bill, those communal differences in the City of Madras.

“A third objectionable feature of this Bill in my opinion is the distrust of representative institutions. Clause after clause, as one goes through the Bill, shows that the Government are very distrustful of representative bodies or institutions in this country. You will find, Mr. President, that at every stage a check is imposed on the powers of the Council or the Councillors. Extraordinary powers are sought to be vested in the executive authority, viz., the Commissioner, and provisions are made for appeals to the Government by the Commissioner should there be any difference of opinion between the Council and the Commissioner. It will also be noted that in regard to appeals from the staff of the Corporation of Madras, provision has been made for appeals to the Government, over the decisions of the standing committee of the Corporation. This provision, as was already pointed out at the time the clause was considered, is a very retrograde one and shows

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distrust of the Council, and is an insult to the integrity of the Councillors of the Madras Corporation. It was pointed out at the time of the discussion on this provision that the councillors would have prejudices and dislikes and that therefore the council or its standing committees should not be vested with the power of deciding the appeals from the staff of the Corporation of Madras, against the orders of the Commissioner.

“These are some of the points in which some advance should have been made but has not been made. There are also certain other points which this amending Bill has not at all touched but to which one should have thought the Hon. the Chief Minister would bring suitable amendments. I particularly refer to the clauses relating to the improvement of slums and cheris in the City of Madras. Although my hon. Friend Mr. Muniswami Pillai seems to think that considerable advance has been made in that direction, I feel that sufficient financial powers have not been vested in the Corporation to acquire land compulsorily and to improve these cheris. In certain clauses slight powers are sought to be vested in the Corporation in this respect, but those clauses will remain a dead letter because no provision has been made to vest in the Corporation the power to raise funds for that purpose by means of loans from the public.

“I would also like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that in regard to representation of commercial bodies on the Corporation Council, a split or division has been unnecessarily made in the bodies representing commercial interests in the city. You are aware, Sir, how a division is made as between European and non-European commercial interests and separate representation is sought to be given to these two bodies. I thought that at any rate in the field of commerce, these communal differences would not be permitted. But the Hon. the Chief Minister, perhaps at the instance of the hon. Members of the Europeans group, has thought it fit to perpetuate this division of the commercial community into two classes, viz., the Indians and the Europeans, and thereby to accentuate the differences of opinion that perhaps exist at present in some quarters.”

* Sir WILLIAM WRIGHT:—“On a point of information, Mr. President. The hon. Member is evidently referring to representation of the Madras Chamber of Commerce; but I may state that the Madras Chamber is not limited to European membership.”

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—“Sir, I know that the Madras Chamber of Commerce consists of one or two Indian members also. But may I ask the gallant knight representing the Europeans of Madras here, to let me know whether there has been any instance where at any period any Indian member was returned to the Corporation Council or to the Legislative Council representing the Madras Chamber of Commerce? I know that there has not been any such instance when an Indian member was returned to either the Madras Council or the Corporation Council. I therefore submit, Sir, that there is no point whatever in the

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hon. Member trying to make out that the Chamber is a cosmopolitan body and consists of both Indians and Europeans. One or two Indians joining the Madras Chamber of Commerce would not change the character or the colour of that body.

"Again, in the matter of the number of seats allotted to the commercial bodies, viz., the South Indian Chamber of Commerce and the Madras Chamber of Commerce, I submit that undue weight has been given to the Madras Chamber and the Madras Trades Association. Although the South Indian Chamber consists of a very large number of members and perhaps represents about 80 per cent of the volume of trade in this city, it has been given only two seats on the Corporation Council; whereas the Madras Chamber representing the Europeans and the Madras Trades Association representing the Europeans again, are given four and two seats, respectively. I submit, Sir, that in these respects, the Hon. the Chief Minister has sought to placate the European group irrespective of the question whether, from the point of view of their numerical strength and their vested interests in the city, they deserve such a large number of seats or not.

"Sir, although it is perhaps now too late in the day to oppose the passing of this Bill into law, I wish that the Hon. the Chief Minister would take the earliest opportunity to bring in suitable amendments to the Act and remove the defects which I have tried to point out just now."

12-45 p.m. * Mr. C. BASU DEV:—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise to join the chorus of congratulations to the Hon. the Raja Sahib of Bobbili on his strenuous endeavour to pilot this very complicated Bill through the House so successfully. Sir, I welcome the Bill as a first instalment of what should be done to make the lot of the poorer people happier and more contented. It has not gone far enough to satisfy the masses; but has strengthened the hands of the Corporation authorities to an extent which, let us hope, will make the City of Madras more beautiful and better fitted to live in.

"Sir, one hon. Member who preceded me deplored the difference that has been introduced into this Bill in regard to the method of representation of the depressed classes and another called it a retrograde measure. If by the word 'retrograde' the hon. Member means, that the Bill has not gone far enough, I agree with him, but if he maintains that the position under the Bill is going to be worse than the present, I must certainly join issue with him. I am sure nobody will or can seriously ask this House to believe that this measure has in any way gone back upon the provisions which exist in the present Act. Sir, with regard to the representation of the depressed classes, whether the change that has now been effected in this measure, by which only depressed class voters take part in the election of a member for the seat reserved for them as against all the voters in the general constituency as obtaining in the local board elections, is good or not, my hon. Friends representing the depressed classes will answer. I am sure

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at least they will be able to prove that there is room for honest difference of opinion and that their sincerity and love of their community is at least as much if not more than that of others who decry this new method. Sir, personally I feel convinced that separate electorate for the depressed classes is the one and only method by which we can achieve solidarity sooner than the artificial, unnatural mixture by force of a common electorate.

"Sir, with regard to the representation of labour, I am sorry that this House was not pleased to give the poor workers more than two seats. I hope that in course of time though not in the near future under the Reformed Council, labour or the sympathisers of labour will come in larger numbers and exercise their legitimate share of influence in the deliberations of legislative bodies.

"I am also sorry that two of the items which I had the privilege to suggest for the consideration of the House were refused, namely, old-age pension and unemployment and sickness insurance and relief. I hope that in course of time, even in the near future, this House will realize its responsibility towards the poorer sections of the people who for no fault of their own are placed in circumstances which make their lives miserable and make them feel that they were better not born at all. If labour realizes its duty to itself, these two items will decidedly be items of practical politics. I feel considerably aggrieved when this House refused to permit the Corporation to levy a poor tax on the ground that there was no Act to control beggars. Yet when I sought to refer my Beggar Bill to Select Committee somewhat earlier the House was hostile. I hope the Hon. the Home Member will take an early opportunity to introduce a Bill to regulate beggars and to take such other steps to see that the beggar problem is adequately and satisfactorily solved.

"My hon. Friend, Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar, has already referred to the danger that threatened the poor people and expressed great relief at the omission of the clause relating to metering of houses. This indeed was a great boon. We are all thankful to the House and to the Hon. the Chief Minister for having consented to drop metering this House.

"Sir, I do not want to detain the House any longer. I feel, however, constrained to observe that in the matter of representation to commercial interests, this House exhibited an unusual partiality to the richer classes which was woefully wanting when the case of the workers came up. Even the Congress members were so lost in their eagerness to please the commercial magnates, that they forgot that they voted for the Piecegoods Merchants' Association of Godown street, the worst offenders in their anti-swadeshi activities and opposite whose shops the best of the congressmen received their baptism of the lathi. I hope hon. Members who represent the Congress in this House will see that such lapses of memory accidental or deliberate, are not repeated and that such unfortunate incidents do not happen. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: 'Prospective.') The Congress has allowed the public to see their real complexion—the complexion of the capitalist.

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"With these words, I beg to associate myself with the expression of congratulation to the Hon. the Chief Minister and I wish to take this opportunity to associate the name of Mr. Russell to whose tireless industry and indefatigable energy, this House owes not a little."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, for the last 17 years we in Madras have been working the civic administration of the city according to a very old Act which came into force in the year 1919. An old Act of that character had many defects and difficulties in matters administrative. Both the Council of the Corporation and the Commissioner as also the other members of the staff of the Corporation have been finding it very difficult to carry on the administration to suit the present-day requirements according to the old Act. Attempts were made by Ministers who have gone before to amend the City Municipal Act suitably, but unfortunately it was not possible for the Government to amend the Act suitably earlier than now. I must congratulate the Hon. the Chief Minister for piloting a Bill of this nature at least this year. It may no doubt be said that the Bill does not satisfy all the requirements, in regard to constitution and other matters. But so far as it goes, I have no doubt in my mind that it is a great advance on the present Act. At least it would have been much better if it were possible for this House to have enlarged the electorate further in the City. Attempts should have been made to enlarge the electorate by giving adult suffrage, for if at all we should make a beginning in adult franchise, it should be made in a City like Madras. I believe that the franchise given in the Bill will certainly give a larger number of people the power of voting and I am sure when once the labouring classes and such other people who do not have votes till now, are given the power to vote, they will certainly participate in the administration of the City Corporation in a manner which will be useful to the vast masses of people that live in the City."

"Now, Sir, the number of Councillors of the Corporation has been increased from 50 to 65. The most remarkable feature of the advance so far as the constitution of the Council is concerned is that nominations have been taken away and it is in the fitness of things that when everywhere in the province, in district municipalities and district boards, nominations have been abolished, the City Corporation also should not have nominations."

"Again, Sir, representation has been given to institutions like the Trades Associations and others. Of course, so far as representation is concerned, it has been given to the Piecegoods Merchants' Association and my hon. Friend, Mr. Basu Dev, for the sake of argument, brought this question up and opposed the representation that has been given to that institution. But, he did not think for a moment that the piecegoods merchants who were dealing in foreign cloth yesterday, can also begin to deal with swadeshi goods in future, and that because they were dealing in foreign cloth they should not be penalized for all time and representation denied to them. That was of course only a political argument which my hon. Friend, Mr. Basu Dev, wanted to advance, but apart from that I do not think there is much in what he said."

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"Then, Sir, the most important chapter in the present Bill which will soon become an Act is with reference to the cheris and slums. For a very long time we have been feeling great difficulty in improving the cheris and slums which are certainly a disgrace to any municipality and much more so to the Corporation of Madras. I hope that under the new Act and with the powers that have been given to the executive under this chapter, it will be possible for the Corporation to improve these cheris and that they will be able to do that with the help of the Government in the matter of finance, loans and grants."

"So far as the water-supply question is concerned, we have still a great drawback and water-supply even to-day is not sufficient; and unless the Corporation is able to get a larger source of water, they will not be able to cope with the requirements in the years to come, because the population has been increasing. During the last ten years the population has considerably increased and it is bound to increase in the years to come and unless we have a larger supply of water, it will not be possible for us to cope with the situation and in this matter a good deal depends upon the way in which the Government will help the Corporation with finance whenever the Corporation is in need of such help."

"Of course, Sir, metering of houses was a great handicap in the original Bill and it is indeed a matter for gratification and congratulation that that difficulty has been overcome to a large extent and I am sure that the owners of houses in the City will not have much complaint against this Bill as far as that matter is concerned. I hope, Sir, that under this new Bill, after it becomes an Act, it will be possible for the executive as well as the new Council to administer the affairs of the Corporation with greater ease so that the citizens will find the City a better place to live in, that the health of the City will improve and that the vast masses of the people will also have the satisfaction of having a voice in the administration of the Corporation."

* Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"As has been pointed out by 1 p.m. previous speakers this Act has been long overdue and all sections of this House have joined in making this Act as useful as possible. One of the good features of the Act is the provision for the slum clearance. For years Madras has been very much handicapped by the existence of slums which could not at all be improved because of the defective provisions of the old Act. Provision has now been made to make it possible for the Corporation to take the initiative in clearing the slums and improving the housing conditions of the city. The Corporation can insist on people who are the owners of plots making the necessary improvements. I think, Sir, it is a very good advance and I think Madras City will certainly be the better for these provisions."

"Another good feature is the doing away with nominations in the City Municipal Act. The local boards have for some time been working without nominations. Of course safeguards have been introduced giving due representation to the depressed classes and other minorities."

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But, Sir, I am not quite sure whether the right thing has been done with regard to the manner in which representation of the depressed classes has been provided. I wish the provision with regard to their representation had been more to the advantage of the depressed classes by making them vote in the general electorate and enabling them to come together with the rest of the general electorate by reserving seats for them. But the first step having been taken for the abolition of nominations and for enabling the depressed classes to send their elected representatives to the Council, I trust with experience necessary improvements will be made in the future.

"Certain other provisions which are considered useful are the giving of more power to the Corporation for the levying of other taxes, for example, the tax on advertisements. The Corporation will also be able to control advertisements.

"But I am afraid, Sir, on one or two matters, we have, I venture to say, taken a retrograde step. I am referring to the power the Government has taken under this Act to superimpose their authority over the Corporation. Why should Government ask for power to frame by-laws for the Corporation? I was rather amused when the Government fought for the right to have a power of veto over the resolutions of the Council with regard to the naming of streets.

"One other feature that I find is that the Government wants to be excused with regard to the payment of taxes. For a long time the Corporation has been fighting with the Government regarding the fixing of assessments of Government properties. I find that in the present Act some of the Government properties are not liable to be taxed. Where there is Government land which has not been built upon it is not liable to be taxed if no income is obtained by the Government. The reason given is that Government gives grants to the Corporation. The giving of a grant or the giving of a loan has nothing to do with the Government's duty to pay its taxes. The Government has thus while improving the Act also tried to wriggle out of the provisions regarding assessments of its properties. On the whole the Act is certainly an improvement on the old Act and as I said all sections of the House have given their help. I hope that with the experience more improvement can be made when the next Bill is sought to be introduced.

"I shall be failing in my duty if I do not congratulate the Hon. the Chief Minister for the strenuousness with which he has got this Bill through the various stages both in the Select Committee and in the Council. I should also thank the Secretaries to the Government who have worked hard to get all the necessary information and to put the Bill into shape."

Mrs. A. RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Mr. President, Sir, some of the Members on the other side of the House waxed eloquent in praising the Hon. the Chief Minister. Nor were they wanting in their congratulations by saying that this amending Bill of the City Municipal Act has been a great advance on the previous Act of 1919. My hon. Friend, Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar, said that this Bill was the most

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palatable piece of legislation and will certainly serve the interests of the poor. (Diwan Bahadur C. Natesa Mudaliyar: 'I did not say of this Bill alone; I said every Bill of the Raja Saheb has been so.') Well, I should like to remind my friend, Dr. Natesa Mudaliyar, in what manner the Raja of Bobbili tried to serve the interests of the local bodies. I need not repeat to this House in what manner he has brought the local bodies to rack and ruin and therefore the Raja of Bobbili cannot claim for himself the credit of having brought forward this piece of most reactionary legislation. Again, the argument was advanced from the other side of this House that this Bill has extended the franchise. I should like to ask the Chief Minister who is the sponsor of this Bill in what manner he sought to extend the franchise. Has he provided for adult franchise in this Bill? Or has he made any provision as an alternative to adult franchise or woman's franchise? Or has he sought to reduce in the case of the tenants the value of the annual rent from 60 to 12? If the Raja of Bobbili meant to extend the franchise to all people rich and poor alike, he should have seen his way to introduce adult franchise. For a person to be a voter it would suffice if a voter were a British born subject and if he or she were 21 years of age and if he or she fulfilled the obligation of residential qualification. In all western countries and especially in the post-war period in Europe this system of adult franchise has been found successful. I do not see any reason why such a premier City as the City of Madras could not have tried such a simple experiment as adult franchise. Further I need not repeat the same arguments which I advanced when I moved amendments to this particular section.

"Then again I am at a loss to understand how this amending Bill is an advance on the previous Act. The deliberate harm the Chief Minister has introduced is the communal representation which did not find a place in the previous Act. This Act provides for communal representation. When the Congress and every shade of political opinion has been agitating for the introduction of joint electorates and agreeing, if it is found desirable in the case of the minority communities just to safeguard their interests, that reservation of seats should be provided for, when there has been such a move for ever so many years, this Bill seeks to introduce separate electorates thereby dividing one class of the community against another class. I want to bring to the notice of the Chief Minister that so long as this principle of communal representation exists, it is all the more easy for a foreigner to divide us, because he is already carrying on the administration of the country on the principle of divide and rule. Still the Hon. the Chief Minister wants to bring about greater cleavage by introducing communal representation and by introducing a system of separate electorates. Therefore I cannot understand how this wonderful amending Bill is an advance on the previous Act. As the hon. Member, Mr. Arasu, pointed out, this is a most retrograde measure and I cannot congratulate the Members on the opposite side in having paid encomiums on this legislation to the sponsor of this Bill or congratulating him for his success in piloting it.

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1-15 p.m. "Well, the hon. Member Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai, said that the representatives of the depressed classes in this hon. House wanted in fact separate electorates but that they were given only communal representation. But the Hon. the Chief Minister, as the Leader of the Justice Party, could have easily prevailed upon his own followers and the representatives of the depressed classes here who also belong to the Justice Party, and pointed out to them the immense harm that separate electorates will work on the nation as a whole. Of course, regarding the composition of the council, I have already pointed out the defect, and here again communal representation has been sought to be introduced.

"Again, as regards institutional councillors, this Bill has only sought to make matters easy for them, and the Hon. the Chief Minister has provided facilities for vested interests, commercial bodies and merchants, because they need not go through the travail of a popular election. It is much easier for them get elected through limited and smaller bodies, commercial or otherwise.

"Another very grave defect which I protested against is the one relating to the representation of the Anglo-Indian community, and I wanted to have the particular clause containing this provision amended. Their representative is to be chosen from the Anglo-Indian Association. I can quite well understand if the Anglo-Indian community had been given representation. But it is a most retrograde and disgraceful thing to give representation for a small body of Anglo-Indians, like the Anglo-Indian Association.

"Then again, Sir, the extraordinary and unusual powers vested in the Government by this amending Bill, particularly in the matter of making by-laws, I am unable to understand. I do not see why the Government should have the power of making rules and regulations and by-laws regarding the administration of the Corporation affairs. I think it is a matter which ought to be left entirely to the discretion of the Corporation. After all, the Corporation comes under self-governing local bodies, and this measure will certainly militate against the powers till now enjoyed by the Corporation. Nor has the Corporation got any power either to abolish any of its taxes or to reduce such taxes.

"Then again, Sir, as regards the Taxation Appeals Committee, this Bill has sought to introduce a third person as the officer to preside over the Taxation Appeals Committee and he is to be appointed or chosen by the Government. The *status quo* could have been easily maintained, by which the standing committee enquires into cases where a person is dissatisfied with the decision of the Commissioner. It would have been better if the appeal had been allowed to the standing committee and not to the Taxation Appeals Committee in which a new innovation has been brought in. Therefore, Sir, I cannot persuade

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myself to congratulate the Chief Minister except to express my disappointment in regard to this amending Bill in its final shape. It is only the members of the Justice Party that should congratulate themselves and their Party Leader.

"Then again, Sir, you could have waited for the new reformed Council or for the new Ministers to introduce a comprehensive piece of legislation for the amendment of the City Municipal Act. Instead of that, the Hon. the Chief Minister took the opportunity, hurried through this measure and had it finished in a piece-meal manner (laughter). I can understand the significance of the laughter on that side of the House. Certainly we should have taken a longer time for the consideration of a Bill of this kind. I ask the Chief Minister why he introduced this amending measure at the fag end of his term. He could have easily handed it over to the reformed Council or the new Ministers. Perhaps—I hope the Hon. the Minister would not take offence when I say this—he might have done it with an intention to get himself elected or his party members elected at the coming elections. I see no other motive in passing this Bill. With these few remarks, I have only got to say that even from the view point of democratic improvement there has been absolutely nothing done."

* Mrs. K. ALAMELUMANGATHAYARAMMA spoke in Tamil, and the following is an English summary of the speech:—

"Mr. President, this day should be considered a good day for we have reached the final reading stage of the City Municipal Bill brought forward by the Hon. the Raja Saheb of Bobbili. This Bill was considered at length both by the Select Committee at which all parties of the House were represented and in this House. Though it has taken more than a year to come to this stage, yet we are glad that it has been passed into law. Many hon. Members who have spoken previously have congratulated the Hon. the Chief Minister on piloting this Bill so ably and successfully. He has made several provisions in the Bill which are really beneficial to the Adi-Dravidas and other poorer classes of the people and the public in general. But my sister councillor, Mrs. Lakshmipathi, seems to think that the Hon. the Chief Minister was congratulated only by members of the Justice Party, and she is dissatisfied with the measure. In fact it is not so. Both Messrs. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar an ex-Mayor and Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan the present Mayor who do not belong to the Justice Party have expressed their satisfaction at the passing of this measure. Both in my opinion and in the opinion of the representatives of the depressed classes and of others, the introduction of separate electorates for depressed classes will enable them to go forward and progress much more quickly because they would be able to elect their own representatives. It is well known that the Adi-Dravidas in this country have been hitherto treated worse than animals. But since the advent of the Justice Party they have acquired many privileges and were able to remove many of the disabilities from which they were suffering. It

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was on account of the Justice Party that the representatives of the Adi-Dravidas enjoyed the privilege of going to England to attend the Round Table Conference and also the privilege of having the audience of His Majesty the King Emperor on equal terms with others. Now they can stand on their own feet and elect their own representatives through separate electorates. My sister member, Mrs. Rukmani Lakshmipathi complained that adult franchise has not been provided. I should think that till the masses are educated in a larger measure in this country, it is not possible to have joint electorates, because even now educated and grown up men have not been able to exercise their franchise freely without being influenced by candidates. We also hear of corruption in elections.

"In conclusion, I should say that this is not the only Bill intended to benefit the large masses of the population of this Presidency that the Hon. the Raja Saheb was responsible in bringing forward, but he also took a great deal of interest in passing the Estates Land Act (Amendment) Bill called the Inams Bill which was mainly intended to benefit a large number of tenants and poor agriculturists. Though that Bill was not intended wholly for the benefit of the Zamindars and other rich people like himself, yet because he was more concerned with the welfare of the poorer sections of the people, he gave his whole-hearted support to that measure. It is a pity that it has not been passed into an Act and I do not know who is really responsible for it. Many hon. Members of the House, including the late Diwan Bahadur B. Muniswami Nayudu supported that measure. Just as the Inams Bill was intended to benefit the poorer classes, so also this City Municipal Bill. I therefore have great pleasure in congratulating the Hon. the Chief Minister for bringing forward such a beneficial measure and for having it passed it into law."

The House adjourned for lunch.

(After Lunch—2-30 p.m.)

* Rao Sahib N. SIVA RAJ:—"Mr. President, I have great pleasure in associating myself with the various remarks that have been made from several parts of the House, congratulating the Hon. the Chief Minister on the remarkable way in which he piloted this very long and complicated Bill through this House. Sir, I personally know the amount of time and trouble that he took in order in the first place to understand perfectly the various conflicting details of the municipal Bill and in the second place, as and when difficulties arose, to solve them to the satisfaction of all concerned. There were many things in regard to this Bill over which he had to worry himself very much, and in the end he was able in most cases through his own sheer ability and hard work to arrive at solutions which were really satisfactory to everyone concerned. So, Sir, I wish to join in the chorus of tribute that was very rightly and justly paid to him on the floor of the House to-day.

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"Sir, there are many features in the Bill on which the Hon. the Chief Minister deserves to be congratulated, not merely by the members of his own party, but by every section of this House, because it has been pointed out on all hands that the features of the Bill are such that they would introduce a better management of the civic affairs in the City of Madras and afford better amenities to its people. But the features for which we the representatives of the depressed classes in this legislature ought to be thankful are those that have definitely and without question improved the lot of the depressed classes in various ways. The first feature which affects the welfare of our community is the provision that was made by means of various sections to bring within the control of the administration of the Corporation the cheris and slums which are the habitation of the depressed classes generally, and which in spite of the efforts that were made by the Corporation from time to time could not be improved on account of the many difficulties which stood in the way of their taking over the slums and effecting their own improvements. All those provisions which relate to cheris and hutting grounds have been welcomed by members of our community, and I think it is a great boon that has been conferred by this Act to our community, and I am sure members of my community will for ever be grateful to the Hon. the Chief Minister for introducing these provisions.

"The second feature of the Bill which is of interest and of importance to the community is the provision that is made for representation of the depressed classes in the future municipal corporation. Hitherto the only method that the Government could think of was by nomination, but now they have substituted election for nomination as a method of representation. The Hon. the Chief Minister in response to the constant and persistent demands that were made by me and my colleagues in this Council, except perhaps one or two, was generous enough to give us a method of representation which will secure to us a representative who will really voice the grievances of our community uncontaminated by the influence of other castes. Sir, I was told that certain hon. Members of this House took exception to the method of representation that was provided at our own request in the present Act and thereby sought an opportunity to have a fling at the Hon. the Chief Minister; in fact, they even went further and attributed motives both personal and political for his agreeing to introduce a provision of this kind. Knowing as I do the person of the Chief Minister and also his character and his strong attitude towards men and things, I have no doubt, Sir, that he will never let go those statements unchallenged; and I dare say he can defend himself much better than I can ever hope to do. But I can assure the hon. Members of this House that if this provision to-day is introduced in this Act, it is due to the constant pressure and the strength of feeling with which the members representing the depressed classes in this legislature have requested him to introduce it. I may, though reluctantly, Sir, refer to the opposition to this question of representation of my community in the Corporation:

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I particularly refer to my hon. Friend, Mr. Muniswami Pillai. I know Sir, that we including my hon. Friend, Mr. Muniswami Pillai and others in the Council had been responsible for the introduction of joint electorates so far as the District Municipalities Act was concerned, and we were also a party to the amendment of the Local Boards Act which provided for the representation of the untouchables in the various local bodies, and we then stated though reluctantly that we would agree to a system of representation through joint electorates. But experience has subsequently shown, and even the change of time has equally warranted, that we must have recourse to representation by separate electorates. In most of the councils barring a few exceptions like the Ootacamund Municipal Council where we find intelligent and cultured persons like my friend Mr. Muniswami Pillai—I am told that even he has failed to succeed through joint electorate."

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"I did not contest any election through that method."

* Rao Sahib N. SIVA RAJ:—"He stood through a joint electorate and he was defeated. In any case that does not matter to me—barring the case of these, people who are returned to municipal council or local bodies through the medium of joint electorate—are a type of people whom the so-called caste Hindus are interested in returning. We find, Sir, if we had a separate electorate we ought to have been able to return much better men than what we now see as our representative on these councils.

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"But it is not entirely a separate electorate that has been provided for in the present Act. What really happens is that except in those cases where wards have been reserved for the representation of depressed classes and where, according to our desire, the representatives ought to be returned by electorates formed exclusively by members of our own community, in all other cases we have joint electorate and, as such, my hon. Friends, nationalistic or otherwise, who are interested in joint electorates may work to see that the depressed class members are returned by these joint electorates. It is only after their experience of these joint electorates that my hon. Friends will be convinced that joint electorates will be no good for the depressed classes. It is in that view that we persisted in asking the Hon. the Chief Minister to introduce a provision which will enable us to have an electorate to return our representative to the Corporation. I thank the Hon. the Minister once again for his kindness in agreeing to our proposal.

"There is another feature of the Bill which is of interest and certainly contributes to the welfare of the depressed classes. I mean the provision for bringing in a considerable number of depressed classes as voters on the electoral roll so as to form at least 10 per cent of their Hindu brethren. It has been provided that if by the ordinary franchise qualifications now prescribed, this percentage of depressed class voters is not reached, the Government do have power to make rules and

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regulations by which other qualifications may be prescribed for these voters so that their number on the electoral roll may reach the maximum of 10 per cent. In this matter too the Act has conferred a very great benefit on the depressed classes and the grateful thanks of these communities are due to the Hon. the Chief Minister.

"Well, Sir, there is an impression in the minds of many aspirants for political power that they can easily get round the depressed classes by promises or, in certain cases, through their purse. I know, Sir, temptations are thrown in the way of aspirants to power among the members of my community that should they join a particular party and should they sign a particular creed, their seats would not be contested and that they would get returned unopposed. It is by these means that the parties are trying to introduce dissension in our community and thereby to divide what little cultured element that we have at present got in our community and indeed to cut the community to pieces. They have all along tried to keep us down socially and they have to a large extent succeeded; and but for the fact that the British Government has been here for a couple of centuries, I do not think we should have been able to see any light at all. Now, seeing that political rights are granted to us enabling us to have some kind of freedom, again they step in to see how best they can ruin this opportunity that is offered by the new constitution. We are conscious of this danger and that is why we are keen on this question of electorate. We know only too well that at any stage and every stage they suggest joint electorates so as to see that they get as representatives of the depressed classes, persons who are pliable to them all the time. That is why we have been very careful to see that we are not a party to joint electorate.

"Moreover, Sir, the time has changed. Now it is not merely a case of the depressed classes wanting to have separate electorates. It is now a case of the depressed classes wanting to separate themselves from the Hindu fold itself. You know, Mr. President, how strong the feeling is on this matter. If only one has gone to the Bombay Presidency and seen with his own eyes the numbers of depressed classes girding up their loins on this question and organizing themselves to get rid of the Hindu fold, one can understand the strength of feeling on this question. I know, the thing is spreading gradually even to certain parts of our Presidency. The other day I found in the papers that a member of the depressed classes attempted merely to enter a holy or unholy place, if one may so call it, but that on the pretext of there being a disturbance of peace in the locality, that gentleman was arrested by the police owing to the influence of the caste Hindus. And who is the Inspector of Police but a caste Hindu himself. Sir, things like that tend to make the depressed classes feel that there is no more use to them, as a community to continue with the caste Hindus either in the joint electorate or to continue to call themselves as Hindus. At a time like this I am surprised that people should come and advise us that we should have a joint electorate.

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"With these few words I once more congratulate the Hon. the Chief Minister on the excellent way in which he has carried through this legislation."

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I am deeply grateful to my hon. Friend, Sir William Wright and to the other speakers who succeeded him for the appreciation shown to me for piloting this piece of legislation through this House."

"At the outset I must state that not only myself, but two of my distinguished predecessors have played a large part in shaping the Bill in its earlier stages. In this connexion I must also acknowledge the work of three Secretaries in charge of the Local Self-Government Department. Mr. Conran Smith and the present Secretary, Mr. Russell have worked at high pressure. They have, in addition to their normal duties, been attending at various stages to the difficult problem of drafting and shaping this measure."

"Some hon. Members have asked why this legislation should have been introduced at the fag end of the life of this Council. I may state that it has taken nearly eight years to prepare this comprehensive amending Bill and I presume it will be admitted that it is the duty of the Government in office to do its duty and to undertake the normal work of the various departments when such work is ready instead of shirking their responsibility and leaving very difficult problems to the uncertain future. Therefore, in regard to this Bill that has been proceeded with by me, I only feel that it has been my privilege to pilot it through this House. It has not been done to get either cheap popularity or political advantage. Also I feel it my duty to acknowledge the services rendered to Government by Mr. Appu Nair who, as Law (Drafting) Secretary, was mainly responsible for drafting this Bill, and the present Under Secretary and his staff who had at great pressure attended to the scrutiny of the Bill in its various stages. I am also grateful to Diwan Bahadur R. V. Krishna Ayyar, Secretary to the Legislative Council for the assistance he has rendered to me and the expeditious manner in which he has carried out his part of the duties. I may state that at some of our discussions at Ootacamund, it really required superhuman efforts to reduce to writing some of the ingenious suggestions made from time to time by some of the hon. Members of the Select Committee."

"I feel, Sir, that the various provisions of the Bill have been sufficiently discussed in this House and I do not wish to take up any further time by going into those details. I would only state that one of the most important provisions introduced in the present amending Bill is contained in that chapter relating to slum clearance. Of course, this has been more or less adopted from the Calcutta Municipal Act where they have had experience of slum clearance. No doubt certain changes were made as regards consultations with the Director of Town-Planning to suit our special conditions and I hope and trust

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that these provisions would go a long way to ameliorate the condition of the depressed and labouring classes and to remove the black spots in the city of Madras."

"As regards the various other suggestions made by hon. Members of the House regarding old age pensions, poor houses and so on, I may state that I had reluctantly to oppose some of the amendments, but I did so not because Government are lacking in sympathy, but owing to limitations of finance, and, as Government will have to see that the Act which is passed by this House is properly worked, it was thought that it would serve no useful purpose by accepting those amendments and incorporating those provisions in the Bill itself."

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Arasu, has characterized this Bill as a retrograde measure. I am sure all those who have followed the discussions at the various stages through which this Bill passed will agree with me that, if this word is to be used in the ordinary sense in which it is understood, it would be inappropriate to apply that term to this Bill."

"As regards franchise, we have made great strides. In the existing Act, a person would be qualified to be registered in the electoral roll if he pays up all the taxes due by him to the Corporation. Now we have made provision for every taxpayer of the Corporation, however small the tax may be provided it is not the dog-tax, being put on the electoral roll. Instead of payment of tax we have now substituted assessment to tax."

"I do not therefore see how this measure could be termed as retro-3 p.m. grade. In the course of his remarks my hon. Friend, Mr. Arasu, has also made certain wrong statements. He has stated that the Government have shown distrust towards the Appeals Committee and that the former have taken away the power of the Appeals Committee by providing that people can directly appeal to the Government. If he were to really study the provisions of the Bill, he would find that the power of the Appeals Committee is still there, and only the final appeal lies with the Government. Even a provision for a right of appeal to the Government I have accepted in deference to the wishes of the various members of the House who moved and supported such a kind of amendment. It is certainly not a case of Government withdrawing the powers of the Corporation. Complaint has been made that no provision has been made for appeals when there is difference of opinion between the council of the Corporation and the Commissioner. I do not really follow what the hon. Member who made this remark meant. The hon. Member Mr. Arasu has stated also that no provision has been made for acquiring lands for building houses for those who live in slums and cheris now. That provision is already there in the existing Act and it has not been touched by this amending Bill. Lastly, coming to the remark made by him with regard to commercial interests that I have given undue representation to the European commerce in order to placate the Europeans, I may state that the Europeans always demand only what is rightly due to them by presenting an irresistible case to

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the Government and they do not place them in an awkward position. Mr. Arasu has made another statement that at no time was any Indian sent by the European Commerce to represent them in the Corporation. I may say for his information that in the past an Indian was sent to the Corporation by the Madras Trades Association as their representative. He has also stated that there has been an increase in the proportion of Europeans to other communities on the council of the Corporation. That is wrong. Even at present the European Chamber of Commerce has three seats and the Trades Association has got three seats, and although there has been a great increase in the total strength of Councillors of the Corporation, the representation of European commercial interests has not been proportionately increased. In their case the figure '6' remains constant. Instead of there having been an increase in their strength, it has been actually reduced. Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar has also characterized the Bill as a retrograde measure and has quoted several instances where the Government have taken away the powers of the Corporation. One of them he stated was with regard to the naming of streets. I may state for his information that a new provision has been introduced not with reference to the naming of streets but with reference to the alteration of the names of the existing streets. I have stated in the course of discussion of this amendment that the Government are justified in having introduced such an amendment because a perusal of the agenda of the various Corporation meetings will show how light-heartedly notices of resolutions—sometimes half a dozen in number—for changing the names of streets have been given. It is the view of the Government that the sentiments and also the history which is associated with the names of the streets should not be interfered with unless there are special reasons for doing so. Another point which my hon. Friend, Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar, has mentioned is with regard to taxation on Government properties. Although in most other countries Government properties are free from taxation, in Madras they are taxed and the Bill does not exempt them. All that the Bill has provided for is that Government properties, not being buildings from which they derive any income, should not be taxed and this provision really applies to the foreshore of the beach. I am sure my hon. Friend will not, on reflection, expect any tax from this source.

"I now come to the remarks of my hon. Friend, the Lady Member, Mrs. Lakshmipathi, who accused me of having attempted to divide the nation into various communities. I may state for her information and the information of this hon. House that having separate electorates is not a new feature here. It has been accepted in the Government of India Act itself. As far as this Bill is concerned, we are practically doing away with communal representation, but it must be realized that the depressed classes who have been coming through the door of nomination hitherto have now to face election for the first time and it is therefore considered necessary and desirable that some sort of protection should be given to them. I yield place to none in

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my patriotism to the country and I have always been one who believes that the short cut to national solidarity is to show, in actual experience, to the various minority communities that their interests are safely protected and not by administering strong doses of medicines which they do not want or require. And in a matter like this I always attach and shall always attach the greatest importance to the wish of the communities themselves as to what they think best in their own interests. It is only by creating confidence in the minds of the minorities that their position is safe in our hands that we will be making a real advance towards the cherished goal.

"My hon. Friend the Lady Member has once again stated that everything should be left to the new Council. I am one who can never submit to such a proposition. I feel that every Government worth the name should carry on their duties in the normal course. She has also stated that the Bill is, in her opinion, a very harmful and retrograde measure, because it has not conceded adult franchise. No doubt adult franchise, I know, is one of the principles of the Congress Party. It is also the principle of the Justice Party as an ultimate ideal. But the only difference is between the view-points of both the parties. We who have had considerable administrative experience feel that the goal should be attained by stages, whereas my friends on the other side who have never shouldered any responsibility can easily indulge in mere idealism. My hon. Friend the Lady Member has also stated that adult franchise has been a glorious success in most of the post-war countries of Europe. As far as I have read the newspapers, I find even democracy is a failure in most of the post-war countries. Experience has shown that we must go by stages so that the electorate may be prepared to shoulder the huge responsibility that will be devolving upon them.

"I do not wish to further detain the House. Before I resume my seat I wish once again to thank Members belonging to the various sides of this House for the co-operation, advice and assistance which I have received from them during the various stages of the Bill."
(Applause.)

The motion that the Bill be passed into law was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

VIII.—A BILL FURTHER TO AMEND THE MADRAS MOTOR VEHICLES TAXATION ACT, 1931, FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES (BILL NO. 2 OF 1936).

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill * further to amend the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931, for certain purposes (Bill No. 2 of 1936) and move that the Bill be taken into consideration at once.

* Published in the Fort St. George Gazette, dated the 14th January 1936.

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"Sir, the main object of the Bill is to provide for short-term licences for one week, fifteen days and a month for visiting motorists to this Presidency. This measure is not calculated to result in any loss of revenue, the main object being to encourage visiting motorists. As the Act stands at present it is a real hardship for motorists who visit our Presidency that they should be compelled to pay for full quarterly licences even if they stay for a day or two.

3-15 p.m. "As it has been found that it will not be possible to issue short-term licences without an amendment of the Act, Government have now come forward with this amending Bill. I may also state that the Government consider the matter very urgent."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"I second it."

* Mr. W. K. M. LANGLEY:—"Mr. President, I beg to move the amendment that stands in my name, namely:—

'that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following Members:—

1. *The Hon. the Chief Minister.*
2. *Mr. T. B. Russell.*
3. *Dr. P. Subbarayan.*
4. *Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan.*
5. *„ A. B. Shetty.*
6. *„ K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder.*
7. *„ K. Kesavaramamurti Nayudu.*
8. *Khan Bahadur Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur.*
9. *S. M. K. Beyabani Sahib Bahadur.*
10. *Mr. C. Indrayya.*
11. *Diwan Bahadur R. Srinivasan.*
12. *„ C. S. Ratnasabhapaty Mudaliyar.*
13. *The Kumararaja of Venkatagiri.*
14. *The Mover (Mr. W. K. M. Langley).'*

I must crave the indulgence of the House if I speak at some length on this amendment; I am anxious that my reasons for moving it should be fully understood. I have found that some of my hon. Friends considered that this Bill was, as one of them put it, 'just another of those little Bills to amend a printer's error.'

"But it is more than that. Its provisions may be divided into two headings: one, the institution of long-term licences, and two, the institution of short-term licences.

"As far as the long-term licences are concerned, I have two criticisms to make. I want to suggest to the Minister that some reduction in fees should be given to those who take out their licences for a longer period; and I feel that the Bill should state clearly that the refunds allowable on licences cancelled before expiry should be strictly proportionate to the period for which the licences have been used.

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"I agree that neither of these criticisms is sufficient to justify the committal of the Bill; they could have been dealt with by amendments moved in the House.

"But the rest of the Bill is a different matter. The proposals to issue short-term licences for the benefit of visiting motorists require a very much closer examination than can be given to them except by a committee.

"I propose to examine as briefly as possible Government's suggestions as they appear in the Bill; there are three major points that occur to me, which I suggest, justify my motion to commit.

"The first of these is whether it is necessary to charge any fee at all to visiting motorists.

"It should be, I think, hardly necessary nowadays to emphasise how desirable it is for things to be made as easy as possible for visitors to come into the Presidency: in these days every small municipality which has some little attraction for visitors (even if it be only beautiful scenery) has its guide book, and its railway advertisements, and its concession rates; and I hope I need not take up your time with a lecture on the advantages which accrue to all of us by encouraging people with holidays (and rupees) to spend, to come and spend them here.

"The revenue which we derive indirectly from such people may well justify some small sacrifice in other directions to entice them into our Province. Some of the associations which deal with motoring affairs have been trying for some time past to get from Government figures to show the revenue derived in licence fees from visiting motorists, but without success.

"These associations have been pressing Government to grant a period free from taxation, as is done in other Provinces. Letters have recently appeared in the local press, notably one from the West Indian Automobile Association in Bombay, complaining of the stringency of the present rules in Madras. I shall have some more to say about these rules presently.

"I suggest that this House cannot consider the adequacy of the proposals contained in this Bill unless Government will supply some information on the financial side, to enable us to see whether there is any good reason why we should not grant visiting motorists a period of exemption from taxation, and so bring ourselves into line with all the other Provinces in India. I think the onus is on Government to show why we lag behind others in this regard.

"Government appear to have thought that the police would find it administratively impossible to deal with a period of exemption. But I have it on the best authority that there would be no more administrative difficulty in dealing with an exemption period than in dealing with the short-term licences. The principle difficulty lies in keeping

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a check on cars coming into the Presidency. There is no machinery for recording their entry and exit at the frontiers, and the only means of check would be by the number-plates of cars registered elsewhere.

"But let me outline to you the law in force in Bengal. I have had enquiries made from the police authorities there, and their reply may be summarized as follows:—

- (a) There is only one form of taxation levied on motor vehicles in Bengal.
- (b) Any person bringing a motor vehicle into Bengal must advise the taxing officer, within one week, of his having done so.
- (c) If the vehicle is not to stay in Bengal for more than 30 days, the owner receives a free temporary token valid for 30 days from arrival.
- (d) There is no system of checking ingress and egress of vehicles; owners who do not report their arrival are guilty of an offence; 'foreign' number-plates noticed by the police are reported to the Motor Vehicles department as a check.

"If this system works satisfactorily in Bengal, there seems no reason why it should not work satisfactorily in Madras; but I think it is only a second-best even then. Rangoon has gone a step further towards what I regard as an ideal: cars with any Indian registration mark, entering Rangoon are not required to be re-registered there until their own registration expires or until the end of the calendar year, whichever happens first.

"I look forward, as do my colleagues in another place, to a time when the payment of a licence fee in any Province or State shall entitle the holder to go into or through any other Province or State without payment of a further fee.

"I do not know how far it would be practicable for Madras to take a lead in this direction. But I think the question should receive consideration. We in Madras have so often patted ourselves on the back for having given a lead to the rest of India; it is with some shame that we have to confess that our motor-licensing laws are the worst-conceived in the country.

"When I make that statement I wish to make it quite plain that I do not in the slightest blame the Hon. the Chief Minister for what is happening in that connexion. For we are only too well aware that he has succeeded in this matter to a veritable *damnosus hæreditas* and that it would take almost more than a Hercules to clean the Augean stables with which he is faced in this respect. I am afraid that Madras has in this respect a very black record as a result of the short-sighted road policy of removing the tolls. It is unfortunately that situation with which the Hon. the Chief Minister is faced and which, we all admit from these benches, he is doing his best to get out of, although as I say, we cannot possibly agree with this particular amending Bill.

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"However, if the scheme which I suggest as an ideal one cannot be started here, I do at least most strongly press for the adoption of some such system as that in vogue in Bengal.

"So much for my first point. I now want to examine the schedule of fees provided by this Bill. Would this Bill, if passed in its present form, leave visiting motorists any better off than they are at present?

"I don't want to read out pages of figures; so I will just compare the position of a car of 'average' or 'standard' weight under the present law and under the new law proposed by Government.

"Any motor vehicle coming into the Presidency must take out a licence for the current quarter. The fee for a quarter's licence on a car of average size is Rs. 25, though if the car comes into the Presidency after the first month of the quarter, it pays only a proportion of the sum. There is a system of refunds in the case of cars surrendering the licences before the expiry of the quarter; the system is a little complicated, but the effect of it is that a car staying for a month or less pays Rs. 10 tax.

"Under the proposed new schedule of fees it would have to pay Rs. 15 and in every case it is the same—light cars or heavy, all pay higher fees under the new schedule.

"I agree that the present fee is subject to the delay and inconvenience of applying for and obtaining a refund; but it is illogical to argue that because the proposed short-term fee frees the motorist from the necessity and trouble of applying for a refund he should be made to pay for the amenity; the logical argument surely is that Government is spared the trouble and cost of dealing with the refund, and the fee should be less.

"The third point which I wish to refer to, is that Government have not given proper consideration to some most important defects in the existing law, nor tried to remedy them.

"The Automobile Association and kindred bodies have pointed out—I should have thought *ad nauseam*—that the present law makes a person liable to pay tax the moment his wheels cross the border, and to prosecution for not having done so. No grace is given him even to drive to the nearest licensing office and take out his licence; and if he arrives and departs during a week-end or holiday, while the licensing office is closed, he is still liable to be prosecuted (and in recorded cases, visitors have been prosecuted in these circumstances).

"Government have said that 'executive orders have been given.' Their ineffectiveness is proved by the prosecutions I have referred to.

"The Bill makes no attempt to put right this absurd position. Ignorance of the law, however ridiculous that law may be, affords no excuse to the unfortunate visitor who offends against it. And yet it is hardly reasonable to expect him to know that his very act of entering the Presidency is a crime.

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"I hope I have said enough to show that this Bill should go to a committee for full consideration. But before I resume my seat I should like to dispose of one minor point: it has been suggested to me that by incurring the delay of committing this Bill, we shall deprive the motorists who may visit our hill-stations during the coming hot weather of the benefits which it confers. I suggest, Sir, that in its present form, it does not confer any.

"Sir, I move."

Mr. D. M. REID:—"I second the motion."

* Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"Sir, having myself given notice of a similar motion, I have great pleasure in supporting the motion so ably moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Langley. I also approve of the same Select Committee which he has proposed. Mr. Langley has dealt at length with the necessity of referring this Bill to a Select Committee and there is not much for me to add anything to it. As he has said, this Bill deals with two matters, namely the issue of long-term licences and the issue of short-term licences. Sir, the fee for the long-term licences does not speak of any concession. In order to encourage the motorists to take long term licences in preference to short-term licence, the Government should show them some concession. Moreover, Sir, if the fee for the whole year is collected in one instalment, a good deal of work will be saved for the department which issues licences. The Bill should be scrutinized from that point of view.

"Then, Sir, with regard to the issue of week-end and monthly licences and licences for such short periods, the fees proposed in the schedule to the Bill seem to be rather high and they require consideration before they are adopted by the council. In some cases, the fees are so high that they would stifle the enthusiasm of the visiting motorists whose visits may add to the wealth and prosperity of this province.

3-20 p.m. "Hence I feel, Sir, that the Bill requires good deal of scrutiny. I think it is necessary that the Bill should be looked into carefully and necessary improvements made in it, so that the working of the Act may be made more easy, and the obtaining of licences, as observed by Mr. Langley, will be made more convenient to travellers and others. For these reasons I think it is better that this measure is considered by the Select Committee instead of passing it into law even at this stage in a hurry. By taking it through a Select Committee, I feel that we will be able to overcome some of the difficulties felt and to make the measure to suit the convenience of the public. So I heartily support the motion so ably moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Langley."

* Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—"Sir, while supporting the motion moved by Mr. Langley, I want to make a few remarks. Coming as I do from Tinnevely that borders on Travancore, I may state that there are difficulties in the way of getting cars to go from one place to the other.

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The people of Tinnevely have been connected with Travancore as people in Travancore have been connected with Tinnevely and other districts. They have been mutually connected by ties of marriage or business. My hon. Friend wants to give convenience and comfort for tourists. But I should state that arrangements should be made for permitting motor cars to go from Indian States to British India. According to the old Act, the owner of a car can get his licence within two weeks after he gets into British India. But under the present Act, once a man gets into the border, he is liable for prosecution if he does not possess a licence. There is always difficulty for anybody who wants to get into British India from an Indian State, because he cannot get into it without obtaining a licence for his car. People are sometimes taken from Tinnevely to Travancore for medical treatment and for other purposes. I shall give a concrete case. Sick people are taken to mission hospitals in Travancore where they expect to get better treatment. Some of them get better; while others pass away notwithstanding the medical aid. On such occasions every attempt has to be made to take them home early from the said hospitals. Then it is found very difficult to get cars to convey them from Travancore to Tinnevely. Owners of cars are afraid of being prosecuted and refuse to lend their cars for such emergencies. On marriage occasions too it is very difficult for people living on the borders to go to and fro. Although there are cabs plying for hire between Tinnevely and Travancore, it is considered scarcely sufficient to meet the needs of the people. Motor cars are required for use for such occasions as marriage or other ceremonies. We have to consider the Bill from many points of view. I submit, therefore, that not only in the interests of the tourists who seek pleasure but also of the other people who want to go from one place to another on urgent business, this bill should be referred to a Select Committee so that it might consider the dire needs of the humanity arising in several ways. When the Select Committee goes to consider this Bill, I hope the members thereof will see that facilities are given for passage of cars from one Indian State to British India and *vice versa* in connexion with marriages or similar functions. With these words I support the amendment of Mr. Langley."

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Langley who has moved the amendment that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, has dealt with several matters which are really outside the scope of the present Bill. In his able speech he has mentioned about facilities for registration and the other advantages to be given to visiting motorists. He has also dealt with various other defects which, in his opinion, require to be rectified in the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act. I do not wish to enter into any discussion on points not covered by the present Bill. All that the existing Bill seeks to provide is to permit short-term licences to periods below one month to be issued and also to enable licences to a period of half a year and one year to be issued. I do not wish to take up the time of the House by discussion of the other points mentioned by the mover of this motion.

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"I may state first of all that ever since the Madras Motor Vehicles Act was passed, it has been the constant endeavour of this Government in consultation with Indian States and foreign possessions to evolve a scheme by which single licences can be issued for motor vehicles in Southern India. In spite of protracted and lengthy correspondence, I am sorry to state that we have not advanced very much in that direction. Indications are not wanting to show that it will never be possible to reach an agreement on this question.

"No doubt my hon. Friend has quoted the present law in Bengal and Burma. But hon. Members of this House have to consider how many tourists from our province really visit Bengal or Burma, and what is the real benefit we are likely to get by this arrangement. My own personal view which I beg to state is that we need not attach much importance to what exists in other provinces. But material benefit would be secured to motorists in this Presidency provided we can come to some reciprocal arrangement with the Indian States and foreign possessions. But I am sorry to state that there is not much hope in that direction. I therefore feel, Sir, that if you simply copy the law and rules in Bengal, motorists in Madras are not likely to derive any real benefit. On the other hand we would be really giving exemptions and periods of grace to residents of Indian States and french possessions from whom in turn we cannot expect to get any such advantage. I would impress upon hon. Members to carefully consider how far we are going to benefit by way of reciprocal arrangements, even if we grant these benefits to visiting motorists.

"I may also state that it will not be possible for Government in the present circumstances to include any proposals which will result in any material reduction in revenue from the operation of this Act, as in the present stage of the finances of local bodies it would not be possible lightly to agree to any such material reduction. I am afraid Mr. Langley will have to make out a very strong case in the Select Committee for carrying his proposal for a period of grace. As I have already stated, unless we can get any corresponding advantages, I do not see why we should forego our revenue. I am not at all proposing to place any obstacles in the way of visiting motorists. By all means let us provide all possible facilities to make the entry of motorists easy. It is the intention of the Government that if this Bill is passed into law, to have outposts at the various frontier stations wherever the volume of motor-traffic justifies it, where these visiting motorists will be checked and where these licences will be made readily available. The Government have also an idea of making these licences available in important Indian States like Bangalore and Mysore. I may state that I have listened to the suggestions of my hon. Friend with great interest. I shall be very glad to give him every opportunity of placing his views before the Select Committee. Whatever facts and figures he requires and are available, the Government will certainly furnish them to him and to the Select Committee. While agreeing to this

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motion for committing the Bill to the Select Committee I wish to make it clear that at this stage I cannot commit the Government to some of the proposals of my hon. Friend which would involve loss of revenue. Of course I do not mean to state that no proposal involving any reduction of revenue would be entertained; I believe I have made my position quite clear. If it is the general desire of the House that the Bill should be referred to the Select Committee, I shall certainly have no objection to that course."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I think the House is ready for a 3-45 vote. (After a pause.) The question is that Bill No. 2 of 1936 be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the members already mentioned."

The motion was put and carried.

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I appoint Khan Bahadur Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur as Chairman of the Select Committee."

IX.—MOTION RE FINANCING OF ROAD DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES IN THE PRESIDENCY.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I beg to move the following resolution which stands in my name:—

'This Council recommends to the Government that in order to carry out the scheme of road development outlined in the report of the Special Engineer for Road Development as far as the resources of the Province permit, a loan be obtained. This Council further recommends that the loan be of such amount as can be financed (1) from this Government's share of the Road Development Fund, and (2) from the proceeds of tolls to be levied on bridges to be constructed or repaired in future out of the Road Development Fund or out of Loan Funds and that the loan be taken in instalments according to the amounts which it is found possible to spend.'*

Sir, the report of Mr. Vipan, the Special Engineer, appointed to prepare a scheme of road development, has been in the hands of hon. Members for some time now. I do not wish at this stage to go into details at any great length. The main object of this resolution, as explained in the explanatory note, is to give effect to the scheme of road development prepared by Mr. Vipan. In the past, as hon. Members are aware, as regards development of our communications, we have not been following any programme or scheme. In the district boards, roads were constructed without taking into consideration the requirements of the neighbouring districts or the improvement of inter-district communications. Instances have been quoted in the report where one district board was constructing a road on the border while the neighbouring district board was constructing another road on its border, although the gap which was only a mile or two, if completed, would provide a through communication. For years, no attempt has

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been made in this direction. Further, there are many instances where programmes of road development changed with each district board president. There are also schemes which have been left uncompleted, and new schemes have been started. We therefore felt that in the interests of efficiency and economy, it was desirable to have a well-thoughtout plan of road development, taking into consideration not only the requirements of each district, but the requirements of the province as a whole. There is also a special intention of providing better marketing facilities for agricultural produce and for opening up areas which are not at present adequately served by communications. The full scheme which is contained in the report anticipates an expenditure of about Rs. 6,11,00,000, as stated in paragraph 2 of the explanatory note. Recently, great pains have been taken to calculate, from the resources available, the amount of expenditure we can safely incur in furthering this programme of roads from our share of the petrol subvention as well as from loan funds to be borrowed from the Government of India, the repayment of which can be made from the road development subventions and from toll receipts on new bridges. It is therefore proposed, by this resolution, to take the approval of the House generally to the schemes contained in the report and to authorize the Government to lay down its programme of road construction for a period of years. Hon. Members are aware that if we are to progress at any appreciable rate, it is necessary to have every year a certain number of detailed plans and estimates ready for execution, so that the past experience of funds lapsing every year, need not be repeated. Experience has also shown that some kind of definite promise is necessary that these works would be undertaken in order to induce local bodies, especially in the matter of road bridges, to incur large expenditure for preparing detailed plans and estimates, by giving a reasonable assurance that necessary funds would be forthcoming. Plans of this kind, I am sure hon. Members will agree, would result not only in expediting the works but also in considerable economy. Of course this report does not merely confine itself to the programme of new works; during his investigations, Mr. Vipin has discovered various defects in the present method of expenditure on new works and upon maintenance. It has been found that in many districts, maintenance works are undertaken during the wrong period of the year when the rainy season is over and when water is not available. In some districts, it has been found that although superior metal is available at a distance, inferior metal is being used from the nearest quarry. In other cases, it has been found that district boards do not possess sufficient watering carts or steam road-rollers to cover the mileage in their districts. With the sanction of this House to this resolution, Government propose to devote attention to these various questions and to see that in future, as far as possible, all wastage is avoided.

"I do not wish to go into further details at this stage except to say that I shall be only too pleased to supply any further information which hon. Members may like to have."

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"With these words, Sir, I commend the resolution for the acceptance of the House."

Mr. T. B. RUSSELL:—"I second it."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, I desire to move the following amendment to the Hon. the Chief Minister's motion:—

'To omit all the words after the word "Government" in line 1, and insert the following:—"that a committee of this House be appointed to examine and report on the recommendations made by Mr. Vipin and the proposals made by the Hon. the Chief Minister".'

In making this motion, Sir, I desire at the outset to say that I am second to none in my anxiety to have the roads well laid out in this Presidency. We need roads very badly. Especially in some of the country parts, roads are so bad and the agriculturists—apart from the motorists—find it difficult to transport their goods to the market. So, there cannot be any two opinions on the question that the roads do require overhauling. But the proposition, Sir, that we are now to decide upon, is much too huge and one not to be disposed of by a motion like this. Mr. Vipin has, after an enquiry, sent us a very valuable report no doubt, a report which he has compiled after touring through the Presidency and comparing notes with the various district board presidents and district board engineers. And to that report, he has added his own experiences and the conclusions he has arrived at as an engineer who is competent to deal with this matter. But, Sir, we are now asked to commit this Presidency to an expenditure of about Rs. 6,11,00,000. About Rs. 3 or Rs. 3½ crores is expected to be financed now, and the rest of it later. How we are going to get this fund is by the raising, as it were, of a mortgage on the subventions of about Rs. 14 lakhs or so that we are getting yearly from the Central Government for road development. I find, Sir, from the explanatory note supplied to hon. Members of this House, in paragraph 2, that inter-district roads are to cost us about Rs. 36,82,000, major bridge projects about a crore, district schemes both for roads and bridges about Rs. 4½ crores, railway feeder roads about Rs. 22 lakhs and plant about Rs. 13½ lakhs. The total comes to about six crores and eleven lakhs. e p.m.

"Later on, we find that 'to finance a part of the scheme it is proposed to take a loan from the Government of India. For the repayment of this loan, it is proposed to utilize the annual subventions which this Government receive as their share from the Road Development Account.'

"Then, Sir, in paragraph 4 of the note, I find that 'it has been found after a careful consideration of the resources available that works costing from 3 to 3½ crores of rupees can be undertaken from loan funds, repayment of which can be made from the road development subventions and from toll receipts. The distribution of this amount between the various sub-heads of the scheme and the selection of and

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preference to be given to individual items is under the consideration of Government.' Now, even this is not placed before this House, and we are not told as to what these individual items are and on which as large an amount as 3 or 3½ crores is to be spent.

"Again, Sir, I find that for road surfacing 30 lakhs are to be spent in deltaic areas and about 23 lakhs or so in non-deltaic areas. But the proposal made by the Hon. the Chief Minister is very vague—I am afraid much too vague—to be adopted without further comment or amendment by this House. The resolution merely says: 'This Council recommends to the Government that in order to carry out the scheme of road development outlined in the report of the Special Engineer for Road Development as far as the resources of the province permit, a loan be obtained. This Council further recommends that the loan be of such amount as can be financed from this Government's share of the Road Development Fund and from the proceeds of tolls to be levied on bridges to be constructed or repaired in future out of the Road Development Fund or out of Loan Funds and that the loan be taken in instalments according to the amounts which it is found possible to spend.' So, Sir, the test is this: how much are we to spend? That is all the test. It is not suggested how much we can afford to spend and how much we can afford to spend wisely. We have seen in previous instances the House has, as it were, burnt its fingers in certain matters. It was only a few minutes ago, the hon. Mr. Langley referred to the difficulty that has been caused as a sequel to the passing of the Tolls Abolition Bill. We were all sitting here as members in this House when the Tolls Abolition Bill was passed and some members felt not quite so sanguine about the result of that Bill, but it was said: 'No, no, wait and see and you will be able to see good roads, and people will not be put to the difficulty of cars or carts being stopped at the tolls and such other difficulties felt by the existence of toll-gates.' But what has been the result? With the abolition of the tolls, came the financial difficulties to the local bodies; when the financial difficulties came, the taluk boards, because they could not exist on their slender finances, had to be abolished; then the district boards were found unwieldy and had to be bifurcated; and then even the district boards are not able to manage themselves with the amount that Government is able to give them. Now, amending Bill after amending Bill has to be brought in, and where do we stand even after all these things? Do we get the income we were getting before the abolition of the tolls? Then, the suggestion has been made that tolls can be brought in partly with regard to carts, but there has been objection to that. So, at the end of it all, we find that we have lost a good amount of money we were able to get every year and we are not better off and that the only result has been the difficulty created in the administration of local bodies. Then, Sir, some members objected to the passing of that Bill in a hasty manner; and it was stated that the members who objected had unnecessary fears and that they had only to wait and see. Now, Sir, in a matter like the question of road development, as I have already stated, I am second to none in my desire to have good roads; but I would only tell the Government to follow

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a policy of hastening slowly. I do not want them to stand still; of course, it is necessary that roads should be developed; but I ask, why this hurry of committing this province to an expenditure of as much as seven crores? There is so much agitation in the country for remission of land tax. Government have certainly done something in the matter, but people in very many districts are feeling that enough has not been done in this direction. I do not say that this money should go towards the remission of land tax, but what I want to lay stress upon is this. On an occasion like this when we have to husband all our resources, when we find difficulty in managing our resources and when the province has just rounded the corner of depression after effecting retrenchment in all departments of Government, why start immediately on such big schemes like this? And then what is the scheme? How much time has Mr. Vipin devoted to this, I would like to know. Mr. Vipin in spite of his energy, in spite of his expert knowledge, cannot be expected to get at the ideal. He had only six months' time to work at this scheme. He has done his best no doubt. But is this a scheme which can be formulated by an officer, however clever he may be, after rushing through it in six months and in a Presidency where you cannot get at facts and figures easily and also you cannot get to all the villages easily. Of course Mr. Vipin has gone to many villages, but he cannot do it all in six months' time and he has therefore to rely mostly on the help that has been rendered to him by presidents of district boards. And what have the presidents of district boards done? We have seen that presidents of district boards have differences of view among themselves. (The Hon. Mr. A. T. Pannirselvam: 'Refer to Tanjore.') Sir, I am asked to refer to Tanjore. I shall immediately do so. On page 165 of Mr. Vipin's report, I find this paragraph which will throw great light on the discussion to-day as to how far we can go immediately forward with this scheme. This is what he says about a big bridge which is to cost about 15 lakhs across the Coleroon. The question is where that bridge has to be constructed. This is what Mr. Vipin says:

'A bridge across the Coleroon is felt as a necessity by both the Presidents of the East and West Tanjore District Boards. One wants it at Anaikaranchatram and the other wants it at the site of the ferry near Tiruvadi. There is a motorable road over the Lower Anicut but this is not considered to be sufficient. While the President, West Tanjore, wants the extra bridge at Tiruvadi, the President, East Tanjore, wants it at Anaikaranchatram. Both the presidents have arguments in favour of the bridge being located at the site in their respective jurisdictions. There is also a third suggestion, viz., that the bridge may be located at a spot due north of Kapiisthalam and that the Salyamangalam-Papanasam road may be extended to this point. This spot will be midway between the Grand Anicut and the Lower Anicut. The bridge at Tiruvadi would no doubt serve the Tanjore taluk better, but a bridge at the site now mentioned would serve Tanjore, Papanasam and half of Kumbakonam taluks of this district. The exact place for the location of the bridge should be selected with considerable care.'

Mr. Vipin finds it difficult and it is beyond human possibility for an officer to immediately go and see where a big bridge could be put up, when there has been difference of view between people in the locality who know the needs of the place. This is of course only one instance.

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"Then, Sir, my hon. Friend from Salem, Mr. Nachiyappa Gounder, complains that a big bridge that has to be built over Pennar in Salem district has been entirely left out of account in the scheme, though Salem has been agitating about it for a long time. I know it is not Mr. Vipan's fault, but it has not been put forward by the district board. People there have been feeling that the bridge is absolutely necessary. Similarly, we also see that reference has been made to the necessity for constructing a number of culverts. In a big scheme like this, it should be necessary that a general idea of the major items should be put forward and they should be passed. As regards minor items, they should be left to the district boards for constructing the small culverts and bridges by giving them the amounts necessary. Certain sums should be earmarked for village communications. I think it was unnecessary to have asked Mr. Vipan to go into the details. The difficulty was, the task was too much and that officer should not have been asked to report on small village roads and as to how many culverts should be built and all that. I think it is a task which he himself ought not to have undertaken, but he has undertaken that herculean task, and the result is that it was difficult even for him to formulate a cut and dry scheme. When that is so, now Government come forward with a vague proposal that a blank cheque may be given to them to do the work. I do not for a moment say that Government will do the work badly or that they should not be entrusted with the work, but the question is, the Legislative Council which is entrusted with the finances of this province should consider it their duty to know what is going to be done with these six or seven crores that will have to be spent on roads. It is one thing to say, we would get good roads, but another thing to say, merely give us money and we shall see what can be done. I am sorry that is not the way in which a huge scheme like this should be undertaken and dealt with. I know the Hon. the Chief Minister has been taking great pains to have the roads of this province developed and I certainly sympathise with him in his attempt. But as I said before, it is not as if we should merely vote away moneys without knowing what is to be done in a matter like this. Even when the Government of India wanted to examine this question, they appointed a committee to go into this matter and that committee made certain suggestions. Nothing will be lost by appointing a committee of this House in which various members from all sides of the House can join, to examine the question and put up concrete proposals. I am afraid, merely voting away such a large amount without being given further facts, is not a thing which we can do lightheartedly. I therefore have great pleasure in moving this amendment."

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Mr. President, one point I want to answer. My hon. Friend, Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar, is under the impression that this Council is now asked to vote away six crores. That is not the position. That is the amount that should come from our share of the Petrol Fund. Every year our share will be placed to our

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account by the Government of India. The question is whether instead of trying to think at the beginning of every year how to spend the amount or finding out by the time the year closes whether it will not be possible to start any works or to have cut and dry schemes for the next year, the district boards cannot have plenty of notice to get schemes ready and prepared. First of all, the schemes that are put forward must be approved by the Provincial Board of Communications on which members of this House are represented; then they have to be approved by the Central Board of Communications on which members of the Central Legislature are represented; and they are afterwards sanctioned by the Government of India."

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"On the point referred to by the Hon. the Chief Minister, I know that the money is got from the Government of India. But it is all the same whether it is got from the Government of India or it is our money. We are entitled to know how we are spending this money." 4-15 p.m.

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"It is stated fully in the report."

* Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASARHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, in moving the resolution the Hon. the Chief Minister wanted the Council's permission to utilize the loan of six crores from the Government of India to carry out the scheme of road development outlined in the report of the Special Engineer, whereas, Sir, in reply to Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar just now the Hon. the Chief Minister pointed out that the schemes will have to be first put forward by the district boards, scrutinized by the Road Development Committee and then by the Central Road Board. The resolution as it stands wants the Council's approval to carry out the scheme outlined in the report of the Special Engineer. My submission is that the schemes have not been notified to the district boards concerned. The Hon. the Chief Minister recognized that the importance of the road varied with the change of Presidents. I will add that with the change of the collectors also the importance changed, as also with the change in the constitution of the board. I am glad to know the Chief Minister realizes it. In spite of it if he should now ask the Council to permit the Government to carry out the works outlined by the Special Engineer, I am afraid we cannot commit ourselves to that position. With regard to Coimbatore two collectors differed with regard to the choice of road to connect Coimbatore with Mysore, one preferred the western side and the other was for the eastern side. With regard to the connexion between Salem and Coimbatore while Coimbatore wanted to have the link with Tiruchengode and Salem by a bridge constructed at Pallipalayam the Salem District Board wanted the bridge at some other place. We are now getting out of the petrol fund 10 lakhs of rupees. With these ten lakhs we execute schemes every year prepared in consultation with the district boards. Now we will get about six crores and schemes will be settled once for all, for the whole of these six crores. So at this time if only the schemes adumbrated by the Special

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Engineer are taken up it will not suit the needs of the districts concerned. All the schemes of the Special Engineer should be referred to the district boards concerned, their opinion got and then only the various schemes should be carried out. Mr. Vipan himself has stated in his report that he consulted only the presidents of district boards and the collectors of the district with regard to the preparation of those schemes. In my opinion this is not enough but should be referred to the district boards concerned and their opinion should also be taken into account. While on this report, Sir, I should also say that the municipal portions of the roads have not been referred to in the report of Mr. Vipan. The Chief Minister himself stated that one district board president wanted a particular road to connect the adjoining district, while the other president chose another connecting link and thereby the through connexion was lost. If you do not take the municipal links into consideration there is no use of spending huge sums for the improvement of trunk roads. I do not know what steps Government are going to take to improve the roads lying in municipal areas connecting the trunk roads. Another point, Sir, is with regard to the agency to carry out these works. When six crores are got I want that every pie of this should be spent on the road itself. So in fixing the agency Government should very carefully see that all the money is spent towards it and much do not go to the pockets of the contractors who should be good and recognized contractors. They should be professional contractors who have got good experience of bridge and road works. For these reasons if this proposal is referred to a committee of this House I think such a committee will formulate proposals. It is not my intention that it should be left to the committee to choose the works in the districts. The committee should be in a position to lay out the principles on which the works should be selected and the agency to carry out the works, the period within which the works should be finished and all such particulars. As I pointed out this resolution wants the approval of this House to carry out the scheme of road development outlined by Mr. Vipan. Many of the works will not find approval if they are referred to the district boards. As pointed out by Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar there may be divergence of opinion with regard to the relative importance of such works. So I submit to the Chief Minister to seriously consider this proposition and do the needful. I want to know if the Government should meet the annuity of the loan from Government share of the road development fund what they propose to do in regard to the Part II schemes which they are sanctioning every year. Whether it is the intention of the Government that they should not spend any monies out of their funds which they are spending at present. With these few remarks I second the amendment."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"We shall dispose of this amendment first before we take up the other amendments."

* Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"I beg to support the amendment moved by Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar. I have myself given notice of an amendment but if this amendment is accepted by this House there will be no

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necessity to move the amendment of which I have given notice. I am in sympathy with the policy of financing the road programme from loans rather than depend upon current revenues for this purpose. The preparation of a comprehensive plan of road development has been a long-felt want. Neither for the province nor for the districts have we had so long a properly prepared scheme of road development. The road development fund has not till now been equitably distributed among the districts. I understood, Sir, that this Government wanted to take a loan of five crores from the Government of India for carrying out the road developments scheme. The total cost of Mr. Vipan's scheme amounts to six crores and 11 lakhs. Now the Government in their explanatory note say they propose to get only 3 to 3½ crores for this purpose. I do not know why the original proposal to borrow five crores has been reduced to 3 and odd crores. (A voice: 'Because you cannot pay.') Every year Government are spending out of the provincial funds some amount for opening up new roads and for building bridges which works are included in Part II schemes. I should like to know whether Government propose to continue spending any amount for new roads and bridges out of the provincial funds hereafter also. We find from Mr. Vipan's report that the carrying out of this scheme will involve an additional recurring charge of about 23 lakhs for maintenance. The existing provision for the maintenance of roads has been found to be quite inadequate. In 1933 Government asked Messrs. Mitchell and Kirkness to report on the question of the present state and future development of road and railway. These gentlemen have in their report drawn attention to the inadequacy of the funds spent for the maintenance of the existing road system. They have pointed out that even before the abolition of the tolls, the boards were not in a position to spend adequate amounts for the maintenance of the existing roads. As a result of the abolition of tolls and as a result of the fixing of the motor licence fee income the income of the boards became further reduced and the result is that roads all over the province are deteriorating year by year. Every year Government give some amount for opening up new roads and village communications but they do not give any increased grant for maintenance of the new roads that are opened with the result these roads are in a neglected condition. The local boards have not got sufficient money for maintaining these roads in an efficient condition. So in the Mitchell-Kirkness report they have laid emphasis on the fact that more money is needed to maintain the existing road system. I have not been able to find from the explanatory note what provision Government intend to make to ensure that the existing roads are maintained in a good state of repair and how they propose to provide for the maintenance of the new roads that will be opened in accordance with this scheme. The Road-Rail Conference held in Simla in April 1933 have in their resolution stated that the development of both main and subsidiary roads from loan funds should be kept within the limit of resources available for maintenance. So in view of the fact that on account of increasing traffic and the inadequate grants the local bodies

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are getting for the maintenance of the existing roads there is a gradual deterioration of roads all over the province. I want to stress the need for making due provision for the maintenance of the existing roads and also of the new roads that will be opened under this scheme.

4-50
p.m.

"I find there is a proposal to levy a toll on bridges that will be constructed out of these loan funds and on bridges that will be repaired. The amount that is expected to be derived from this source is said to be about Rs. 3½ lakhs. This amount may very well be given to district boards for the maintenance of roads. Another question that needs urgent attention is improved surface for roads. The necessity for surface improvement on roads which lie within residential areas of municipal cities and towns has been pointed out by Mr. Vipin as well as by Messrs. Mitchell and Kirkness in their reports. According to Mr. Vipin the provision of a concrete surface for 9,005 miles classed as important roads will require 30 crores, and this is not at all a practical proposal at present. From the explanatory note, we find that Government propose to provide only Rs. 23 lakhs for surface improvement. I need hardly point out the great necessity for allaying the dust nuisance which is such a great menace to the health of the people. It is quite essential that the Government ought to keep in view the necessity for improving the surface of at least the main roads in important cities and towns so as to put an end to some extent at least to the dust nuisance which it is very necessary to do in the interests of the health of the people. I hope, Sir, that these matters will be considered and proper provision will be made both for adequate maintenance of roads as well as for providing improved surface for city and town roads if this matter is referred to a committee of this House in accordance with the amendment moved by my hon. Friend."

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, I am afraid I have to oppose the amendment before the House, and in doing so I would place some more facts before the House, which I am sure will help to clear the doubts of some hon. Members. First of all, from some of the speeches I find that hon. Members have presumed that the Government are going to borrow Rs. 6 crores. The note clearly says that the present intention is to borrow a sum of Rs. 3 to 3½ crores and not all to-day or tomorrow, but as and when funds are required they will be borrowed. No loan as at present anticipated will be required this year. The second point is that the Mover of the amendment, my Hon. Friend, Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar, has stated that because there happens to be some difference of opinion between some district board presidents and the district collectors, the scheme of road development contained in this report should be further examined. In matters of bridges or roads there will always be difference of opinion, and if we go on appointing committee after committee till eternity nothing would be achieved. After all, we have selected an experienced engineer. He has consulted the district board presidents, he has consulted the district board engineers, he has consulted the collectors of the districts, and he has prepared some schemes with his experience and knowledge; and there must

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be some sort of finality in these matters, if we are to lay down some comprehensive programme of road development. I may also state that we are not legislating here by this resolution. Supposing to-morrow the Government, on representations made by the district boards, consider it necessary to undertake particular works which are not mentioned in this report, there is no legal bar to doing so, and Government can again come to this House and take the approval of the House for carrying out such a scheme. It does not say that 'for all time to come this is the fixed programme and that no changes should be made.' When we are laying down a scheme extending over a number of years, there must be some degree of finality in the matter. Even if committees are appointed, there is bound to be difference of opinion, and as some hon. Members suggested, if district boards are consulted, there will be points of difference. If so, when is the Government to come to a decision in the matter? It is wrong to state, as my hon. Friend, Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar stated, that the Government are asking this Council to issue a blank cheque. Greatest care has been taken in preparing this report, and I must also pay a well-deserved tribute to Mr. Vipin for the admirable report he has prepared in the short time at his disposal. Unless we are prepared to treat it as a basis for proceeding further, I fail to see, with due deference to my Hon. Friend, what exactly this committee is expected to do. Every scheme, as I have already stated, is placed before the Provincial Board of Communications for examination, and then these schemes are again forwarded to the Government and referred to the Central Board of Communications on which there are representatives of the Central Legislature and there are also representatives of this House who are in the Provincial Board of Communications. They carefully go into them and take the advice of the Special Engineer for road development of the Government of India, and then the final approval is obtained by us. Unless we are prepared to treat this report as the starting point, you will never be able to make up your minds, and I do not for a moment see any need for appointing a committee to go into this matter. As a matter of fact, all these years we find works are being sanctioned by the Government and they are being carried out. If there are any other works, this does not prevent district boards from undertaking them. It has been clearly stated in what directions the money is going to be spent; estimates have been given and the cost of every single item is given. Unless the committee which is proposed to be appointed is to go from district to district, personally examining every work, I do not see how they can throw better light on this problem of road development. This report has been prepared with great care and scrutiny, and all the schemes which have been sent up to Government from time to time by various district boards have also been examined, and independent enquiries have been made and final decisions have been reached irrespective of personal considerations, in the best interests of the districts and the province. I would therefore beg this Hon. House not to delay this matter further but to support my motion unanimously.

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"I may also state that it is proposed to spread this expenditure of Rs. 318 lakhs over a period of seven years, and it is not decided to borrow this money all at once this year and spend it this year. It should be spread over seven years, and unless and until we have a definite programme, we will never be able to get detailed plans and estimates from the district boards. As things are now moving, although we have got about Rs. 15 lakhs in some years we find it impossible to spend the money, because by the time all the formalities are gone through and the plans and estimates are approved by the Chief Engineer and they are sent up to the Government of India, it will take a year or so. So experience has shown that the present procedure is wasteful and that no appreciable progress in the field of road development can take place.

"My Hon. Friend, Mr. Shetty, has asked for some information as to why Rs. 3½ crores is now proposed to be taken as a loan when the total works would cost Rs. 6 crores and odd and when the original proposal was to borrow Rs. 5 crores. I may state for his information that the present proposals are intended to limit the extent of loan strictly to the repaying capacity of our province from their share of the Petrol Fund. Secondly, it has been considered necessary to reserve a sum of Rs. 2 to 3 lakhs from the petrol subvention every year for maintenance grants. As regards the present expenditure from provincial funds over new bridges and roads, I may state that the intention of the Government in future is to devote as much money as may be available from time to time towards the maintenance of roads in future. As all capital expenditure will be met from the Petrol Fund, those amounts which Government are able to find every year will be devoted to the maintenance of roads. With that intention, I believe this year we have provided about Rs. 10 lakhs for that purpose. This is not a fixed amount. I must make it clear that this amount will vary according to the availability of funds from year to year. From these words of mine, hon. Members will realize that sufficient attention has been paid to the question of maintenance of roads, and it is in these directions that it is proposed to provide better facilities to district boards.

"As regards what my Hon. Friend, Mr. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar has stated, that municipalities have been left out of this scheme, I may say that in the time Mr. Vipan had at his disposal it was not possible to include municipalities also. These roads are really intended to improve existing communications, to bridge unbridged rivers and to open up areas so far as undeveloped areas are concerned. These schemes as far as I can see are not of much importance with reference to municipalities.

4-45 p.m. "As regards the other remark, that the whole thing has been rushed through, that is not a fact. Mr. Vipan, though appointed for six months in the beginning, has been given an extension and he has never been hustled in his work. He has been given as much time as he wanted to complete the work to his satisfaction and the satisfaction of Government. Of course the estimated expenditure every year beginning from

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the next official year, is Rs. 30, 45, 70, 80, 70 and 23 lakhs respectively. From this it will be seen that it is not the idea, as Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar without considering anything would say, as to how money can be spent and how quickly it can be spent. That is not the position. The loan is naturally limited to our repaying capacity. The whole object of the Government is not to devise means for spending the money as quickly as possible. I do not know from what facts my hon. Friend has arrived at this conclusion. The whole idea is to lay down a definite and clear programme for a period of six or seven years, so that the district boards would be able to know what schemes would be taken up: they would be encouraged to undertake the preparation of plans and estimates, in several cases, running to thousands of rupees.

"Another point which my hon. Friend, Mr. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar mentioned is about the expenditure of these funds. He said that Government should see that as far as possible there is no wastage. We shall certainly bear that in mind and see that even in the matter of giving of contracts proper contractors are selected.

"With these words I oppose the amendment of my hon. Friend, Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar."

* Sir A. P. PATRO:—"Sir, I had hardly any idea of intervening in this debate, but after listening to the speech of the Hon. the Chief Minister, I am convinced that there is no necessity or urgency for this motion at present, because according to the Hon. Minister's statement the proposals made in this note are to be considered by the district boards, then by the provincial board and then by the Central board and then sanctioned."

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I did not mention the district boards, Sir."

* Sir A. P. PATRO:—"The persons or corporations that are to be affected by this scheme are the district boards, and if the scheme which was outlined—I use the word outlined advisedly—by the Special Officer is to be given effect to by an agency unconcerned with the district boards or without any previous consultation with them, then it would be treating the district boards unfairly, and the district board concerned will not have any voice in the scheme for rural development. In other words, you will be taking away the power which is vested in the district boards, and give the power to the provincial board and the central board to deal with the matter as they like. It seems to me that it is asking too much of this Council, to accept a proposition like that. Government will prepare in the Secretariat proposals of which we know nothing and these proposals will be imposed on the district boards for being carried out. That is the sum and substance of the proposal which I cannot consider to be liberal or consistent with the powers or prestige of the district boards.

"Then, Sir, as to the urgency of it, we have had Mr. Vipan's report circulated to us only at the last meeting. To be frank, I read only a few

[Sir A. P. Patro]

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pages of it and kept it aside for reading it at leisure. I think it would be the same thing with many other members also. It is a very complicated report and deals with all the districts and divisions. In regard to the particular needs and necessities of each district, we cannot pretend to be experts nor can we say that the scheme as reported by Mr. Vipan is complete in itself. Therefore to bring in a proposal like this without giving sufficient opportunity to the Council to consider the effect of the various proposals adumbrated in it and to ask the Council to commit itself to a loan of 3.17 crores and odd out of a total of 6 crores is rather too much. I do not agree with those that say there must be no hustling, or say that the scheme is not necessary. What I do plead for is that the members of this House should be taken into confidence, an informal conference should be convened, the report of Mr. Vipan considered therein and proposals formulated thereafter. Instead of that, a scheme is evolved in the Secretariat and it is placed before the House for its approval. This is rather a tall order. We have to seek the advice that is necessary in the case of a scheme involving financial considerations.

"Then the other point raised in the remarks of the Hon. the Chief Minister is this: He says, 'We do not commit you to the whole of the expenditure of 3 crores at once, it is to be gradual development spread over a certain number of years.' Now I ask, who is to be the judge, who is to be the arbiter and say that such and such works should be carried out. You can say frankly, we don't want the advice of the district boards in the matter.

"Then as regards the distribution of allotments under various sub-heads mentioned in page 3 of the note, we are asked to agree to what is recommended by the Special Officer, and the amounts proposed by him. This takes my breath away. The recommendation of Mr. Vipan is one thing. Then different amounts are proposed with regard to each district. Take for instance South Arcot. You have 4.14 lakhs recommended for it by Mr. Vipan. But the amount proposed is 1.50,000. How is this amount arrived at? That is a point which I am not able to understand either from the speech of the Hon. the Chief Minister or from this note. Who has advised the Government in the distribution of these amounts to various districts? Again, take Guntur. We find Rs. 13,34,500 recommended by Mr. Vipan, but the proposed amount is Rs. 2,41,000. How is this figure arrived at? Therefore it seems to me that the whole thing has been done summarily in the Secretariat which is not always infallible because instances have been pointed with regard to those allotments and expectations of revenue which were quite at variance with the calculations made in the Secretariat.

"Then we have got the distribution of allotments for roads. It is said that development of roads will help the ryot in carrying his produce to the market. You will find that none of these roads given at paragraph 3 of the note could help the agricultural population in carrying their produce easily to the market. These inter-district roads are

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not the roads which will help the ryot in carrying his produce to the nearest market. Therefore it seems to me that even the distribution of the allotments in page 3 requires a great deal of consideration. The proposal before the House is one involving great care and attention, and would necessarily take time for investigation. First of all, it is necessary what works are necessary to be carried out. For that you can take Mr. Vipan's report as the basis and proceed upon it. But the proposed instructions enunciated in it can be accepted only after consultation with those who are acquainted with the details of the concerned districts. It is therefore necessary that not only a committee of this House, but committees in the districts also, are necessary so that assistance may be given to Government in the matter of carrying out a scheme like this. Now what is done in the Local-Self Government Department. You prepare schemes. You have got from out of the revenues certain fund for Part II schemes. You call for estimates from the district board engineers, for these schemes; you scrutinize, them, and then if you are satisfied you allot so much. Now we have not got any data to go upon. It is true Mr. Vipan has not gone on hurriedly and he has pointed out that certain roads are necessary and has drawn up a programme for their construction. But that depends upon the experience of the particular person who happens to be the president of the district board. What I consider to be very necessary may not be considered so by another person. Hence the difficulty comes in, in preparing a comprehensive scheme."

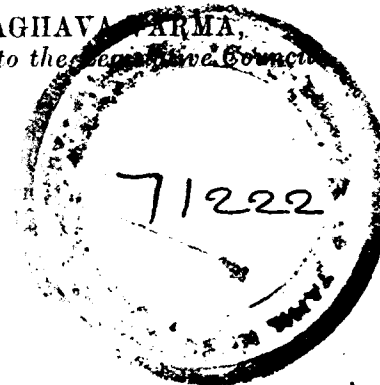
* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member might continue on another day."

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

X.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

* Notification regarding the exemption from payment of tax of motor vehicles belonging to the members of the Southern Provinces Mounted Rifles, Auxiliary Force (India), resident in Travancore, for the period of their stay in British territory in connexion with their annual camp at Madura in February 1936.

D. K. V. RAGHAVA VARMA,
Acting Secretary to the Legislative Council.



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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 742 asked by Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 25th February 1936, page 18 supra.]

(1)

G.O. No. 2478 W., dated 18th November 1935.

The Government approve the proposal of the Chief Engineer for Electricity that in order to develop load in hydro-electric licensed areas the Government should, where it is considered desirable to do so, construct in those areas high-tension lines of 11 K.V. or over and deliver electricity in bulk at the normal voltage of the line at the standard rates. The undertaking of such extensions by the Government will be subject to the following conditions:—

- (1) that the capital cost of each such line extension is not less than Rs. 10,000;
- (2) that the licensees guarantee a minimum revenue of 12½ per cent of the capital cost of the extension;
- (3) that the licensees undertake the operation and maintenance of the extension at their cost to the reasonable satisfaction of the Electricity department of the Government; and
- (4) that if the licensees fail to pay the guaranteed revenue within three months of notice, the distribution network constructed by them to connect with the Government line, will be taken over by Government at a valuation based on section 5 (b) of the Indian Electricity Act and supply will be made by Government direct to the consumers on the extension.

2. To avoid the possibility of loss to Government in the event of the last-mentioned condition having to be enforced, there should be a thorough departmental check of the licensee's load survey and revenue forecast for the extension and of the prospects generally.

3. The point of supply will be generally at the junction of the extension with the Government lines and metering equipment will be installed at that point at Government expense, unless decided otherwise, in individual cases, by the Government.

4. The extensions undertaken by the Government with reference to the orders in paragraph 1 above, will be financed from the grant provided in the budget for unforeseen extensions of transmission lines.

(By order of the Governor in Council)

W. SCOTT BROWN,
Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Electricity.
„ Accountant-General, Madras (through the Finance Department).
„ Finance Department.

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(2)

Letter from the Chief Engineer for Electricity, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works and Labour Department, dated 3rd April 1935, No. 235/31-14.

I have been urging the Salem-Erode Electricity Distribution Company for some time to extend their lines into rural areas.

2. They now ask if the department would construct the line provided that they guaranteed a minimum revenue of 12½ per cent on the cost of the extension.

3. I am entirely in favour of such procedure as it will be conducive to a better distribution of electricity and it is favourable to Government as the department does not have to bear the cost of operating and maintaining the extension.

4. This system could also be extended to Trichinopoly and other hydro-electric areas.

5. May I, therefore, suggest that an order be issued, somewhat similar to the following.

6. Government propose, subject to the availability of funds, to construct line extensions of 11 K.V. or over in hydro-electric licensed areas and deliver electricity in bulk at the normal voltage of the line at standard rates when the licensee is able to guarantee an annual revenue to Government from the sale of power or otherwise, equal to 12½ per cent of the total cost of the extension.

7. The point of supply will be considered at the beginning of the extension and the metering equipment located at that point.

(3)

Letter from the Chief Engineer for Electricity, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works and Labour Department, dated 5th April 1935, No. 235/31-15.

With further reference to my letter No. 235/31-14, dated 3rd April 1935, I should like to add to my recommendation the following as a condition for extending high-tension lines in licensed areas:—

“Any licensee failing to pay the guarantee after having been given three months' notice, will be held to have defaulted, and the distribution network of the licensee served by the extension will be taken over by Government at a valuation based on section 5 (b) of the Indian Electricity Act.”

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 744 asked by Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 25th February 1936, page 19 supra.]

Statement of units consumed in the municipal areas of Salem and Erode.

Month.	1932. Number of units consumed.		1933. Number of units consumed.		1934. Number of units consumed.		1935. Number of units consumed.	
	Salem municipal area.		Salem municipal area.		Salem municipal area.		Salem municipal area.	
	Erode municipal area.	Erode municipal area.	Erode municipal area.	Erode municipal area.	Erode municipal area.	Erode municipal area.	Erode municipal area.	Erode municipal area.
July	10,815	752	30,310	1,551	36,668	4,587	57,270	4,541
August	10,576	645	30,843	1,879	37,429	3,790	60,575	5,120
September	12,318	757	31,127	2,312	36,014	3,633	56,311	5,311
October	17,238	1,457	34,045	2,376	37,288	4,148	54,651	6,580
November	17,325	1,305	35,094	4,556	38,522	4,225	53,606	5,420
December	20,541	1,365	35,045	4,561	42,947	3,966	57,923	6,751

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 749 asked by Mrs. A. Rukmani Lakshmi-pathi at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 25th February 1936, page 22 supra.]

1. *Letter, dated the 27th October 1935.*—There was an earthquake of some intensity at about 4-7 p.m. on 26th October 1935. The duration was about 1 to 2 seconds. It was felt by the people on the Dam and also by all in Mettur Camp. It looked as if it travelled from North-East to South-West direction.

During the earthquake there was a thunder-like sound followed by a low rumbling and it was accompanied by a shake which was definitely felt.

2. *Letter, dated the 31st October 1935.*—I beg to inform you that the earthquake shock of the 26th October was felt at Nerinjipet and Ammapet, which are 10 and 12½ miles respectively, south of Mettur along the Mettur-Bhavani Road. It was also felt at Yedapady, a village 17 miles from Mettur, in Salem district, and at Jalakantapuram 12 miles from Mettur, on the east side in Salem district.

I conclude therefore that this earthquake shock was felt over a wider area than the ones in previous years.

3. *Letter, dated the 5th November 1935.*—There was a mild earth tremor this evening at 4-50 p.m. The intensity of this was a bit milder than that of the one on 26th of last month.

[25th February 1936]

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to question No. 757 asked by Mr. A. B. Shetty at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 25th February 1936, page 28 supra.]

Prices of paddy—First sort.

(In terms of rupees per Imperial maund.)

District.	November.		December.		January.	
	1934.	1935.	1934.	1935.	1935.	1936.
	1934.	1935.	1934.	1935.	1935.	1936.
Ganjam	1.95	2.20	1.92	2.43	1.88	2.34
Vizagapatam	2.01	2.21	1.91	2.34	1.85	2.30
East Godavari	2.44	2.52	2.27	2.45	2.24	2.43
West Godavari	2.61	2.55	2.46	2.42	2.29	2.29
Kistna	2.46	2.47	2.23	2.49	2.23	2.37
Guntur	2.73	2.84	2.48	2.73	2.37	2.59
Kurnool	2.86	2.70	2.74	2.68	2.55	2.63
Bellary	3.13	3.04	2.92	3.00	2.99	2.85
Anantapur	2.68	2.57	2.64	2.60	2.79	2.62
Cuddapah	2.87	2.70	2.66	2.70	2.62	2.70
Nellore	2.86	2.98	2.91	2.91	2.88	2.89
Chingleput	2.66	2.65	2.56	2.53	2.48	2.53
Madras	2.83	2.98	2.76	2.78	2.63	2.76
South Arcot	2.56	2.66	2.49	2.66	2.42	2.55
Chittoor	2.43	2.56	2.45	2.56	2.43	2.52
North Arcot	2.81	2.89	2.70	2.86	2.59	2.63
Salem	3.11	3.25	3.05	3.19	3.01	3.11
Coimbatore	2.95	3.25	2.95	3.19	2.95	3.15
Trichinopoly	2.84	2.90	2.71	2.95	2.68	2.84
Tanjore	2.73	2.76	2.63	2.63	2.16	2.40
Madura	3.17	3.26	3.12	3.18	3.06	2.96
Ramnad	2.79	2.99	2.83	2.88	2.90	2.79
Tinnevely	2.89	2.74	2.81	2.72	2.87	2.64
Malabar	2.37	2.48	2.24	2.34	2.27	2.32
South Kanara	2.27	2.20	2.14	2.14	2.18	2.17

Price of rice—Second sort.

(In terms of rupees per Imperial maund.)

District.	November.		December.		January.	
	1934.	1935.	1934.	1935.	1935.	1936.
	1934.	1935.	1934.	1935.	1935.	1936.
Ganjam	2.99	3.50	2.94	3.52	2.82	3.47
Vizagapatam	3.22	3.57	3.10	3.70	3.02	3.74
East Godavari	3.83	3.58	3.27	3.50	3.17	3.45
West Godavari	3.68	3.69	3.48	3.46	3.28	3.29
Kistna	3.79	3.59	3.55	3.60	3.39	3.49
Guntur	4.02	3.92	3.55	3.81	3.41	3.74
Kurnool	4.30	4.33	4.11	4.23	4.05	4.15
Bellary	4.79	4.74	4.66	4.72	4.65	4.74
Anantapur	4.08	4.04	3.98	4.02	4.12	4.03
Cuddapah	4.62	4.71	4.49	4.62	4.48	4.55
Nellore	4.53	4.52	4.48	4.49	4.42	4.40
Chingleput	3.71	3.86	3.59	3.73	3.36	3.55
Madras	3.68	4.06	3.57	3.88	3.42	4.02
South Arcot	3.91	4.15	3.84	4.17	3.75	4.03
Chittoor	3.87	3.98	3.80	3.99	3.74	3.91
North Arcot	3.86	3.89	3.69	3.79	3.59	3.51
Salem	4.39	4.58	4.28	4.56	4.29	4.57
Coimbatore	4.10	4.41	3.93	4.16	3.93	4.21
Trichinopoly	4.44	4.52	4.32	4.56	4.10	4.34
Tanjore	4.14	4.21	3.94	4.16	3.51	3.92
Madura	4.44	4.38	4.27	4.30	4.14	4.25
Ramnad	4.04	4.21	3.99	4.06	3.96	4.05
Tinnevely	4.26	4.15	4.10	4.10	4.03	4.04
Malabar	3.63	3.85	3.44	3.77	3.44	3.59
South Kanara	3.62	3.01	3.38	3.35	3.35	3.36
The Nilgiris	4.26	4.50	3.98	4.43	3.82	4.35

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APPENDIX V.

[Vide answer to question No. 770 asked by Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 25th February 1936, page 35 supra.]

G.O. No. 5025, L. & M., dated 20th November 1934.

The attention of all presidents of district boards and executive authorities of municipalities is invited to the orders in G.O. No. 4619, L. & M., dated 20th October 1934, and they are informed that those orders do not preclude the Government from considering the question of granting personal pay to those incumbents whose pay prior to 1st November 1934, exceeded the maximum of the new scales of pay, provided that there is real hardship in such cases and that the local body concerned recommends the payment of personal pay. Presidents of district boards and executive authorities of municipalities are requested to submit statements in the appended form in respect of those cases in which the local bodies concerned consider that there is hardship in giving effect to the orders in the above Government Order.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Local Self-Government)

T. B. RUSSELL,
Secretary to Government.

To all Presidents of District Boards.
 „ all Executive Authorities of Municipal Councils.
 „ all Collectors.
 „ the Director of Public Instruction.
 „ the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts.
 „ the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards.
 „ the Commissioner, through Mayor, Madras Corporation.
 „ the Law (Education) Department.
 „ the Revenue Department.

APPENDIX.

Name of officer.	Name of the institution.	Designation.	Old scale of pay.	Pay drawn on 31st October 1934 in the old scale.	Date from which the pay in column (5) is drawn.	Pay admissible on 1st November 1934 in the new scale.	Total period of service.	Remarks.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)

NOTE.—Information should be furnished in the remarks column or in a separate sheet of paper regarding the different scales of pay drawn by the officer prior to 1st November 1934, the period during which such pay was drawn and full details of advance increments drawn, if any, during the entire period of service.

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APPENDIX VI.

[Vide answer to question No. 772 asked by Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 25th February 1936, page 36 supra.]

Letter from the President, District Board, North Arcot, Vellore, R.O.C. No. 74-A of 1935, dated the 12th August 1935.

[Education—District Board, North Arcot—Elementary school teachers—Revised scales adopted.]

With reference to G.O. No. 749, L. & M., dated 25th February 1935, I have the honour to report that the revised scales of pay fixed for teachers employed in the Board Elementary schools have been adopted with effect from 1st April 1935. The district board did not agree for levy of cut on the salaries of teachers even though its funds are not sufficient for payment of salaries of the teachers for all the months in the year. Besides, the board in its resolution No. 5, dated 27th April 1935, has resolved that any difference in the pay by the introduction of the revised scales will be paid as personal allowance. In pursuance of that resolution orders have been passed for payment of the difference between their old pay and the maximum pay in the revised scales as personal allowance in anticipation of sanction of the Government. The excess over the maximum pay to be paid as personal allowance amounts to Rs. 8,000 per annum. Copies of resolutions of the Board Nos. 1 and 5, dated 30th March 1935 and 27th April 1935 respectively are enclosed.

A summary of the financial position of the elementary education fund of the Board for the current official year is exhibited hereunder.

Receipts and expenditure for 1935–36.

	Rs.
1 Opening balance on 1st April 1935	36,500
2 Receipts	4,30,200
Total ..	4,66,700
	Rs.
3 (a) Expenditure (April 1935 to February 1936)	4,47,200
(b) Add amount of savings anticipated on account of cut on salaries and deducted in the Budget but was not sanctioned by the Board subsequently	50,000
(c) Salaries, house rent, etc., for January and February 1935 paid in the current year	68,000
(d) Contribution for provident fund for 1934–35	15,000
	5,80,200
4 Closing balance or bills to be kept pending payment	1,18,500

[25th February 1936]

ENCLOSURES.

(1)

Extract from the minutes of proceedings of the District Board, North Arcot, passed at its meeting held on Saturday, the 27th April 1935, in the District Board's office at Vellore.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 1 Janab C. Abdul Hakim Sahib Bahadur—*President*.
- 2 M.R.Ry. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar Avargal, M.A., B.L.,
M.L.C.—*Vice-President*.
- 3 „ A. Chengama Nayudu Garu.
- 4 „ Doraiswami Nayudu Garu.
- 5 „ M. V. Bheemaraja Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 6 „ T. V. K. Ponnuswami Chettiyar Avargal.
- 7 „ C. Ramalinga Raja Avargal.
- 8 „ D. Kuppurama Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 9 Srimathi N. Kanni Ammal.
- 10 M.R.Ry. V. B. Venugopal Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 11 „ P. Srinivasa Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 12 „ W. V. Veeraraghava Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 13 „ T. K. Varadaraja Reddiyar Avargal.
- 14 „ C. Venkatarangam Nayudu Garu.
- 15 „ K. A. Muniswami Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 16 „ Nagan Avargal.
- 17 „ M. Ganapathi Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 18 „ M. Loganatha Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 19 Srimathi Balambal Ammal.
- 20 M.R.Ry. T. M. Adikesavalu Nayudu Garu.
- 21 „ V. Krishnaswami Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 22 „ T. Karia Gounder Avargal.
- 23 Janab N. Mowlana Sahib Bahadur.
- 24 M.R.Ry. M. Srinivasa Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 25 „ K. A. Shanmugha Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 26 „ M. S. Kuppuswami Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 27 „ Subbaraya Chettiyar Avargal.
- 28 „ R. Murugesu Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 29 „ R. S. Namadeva Reddi Garu.
- 30 „ C. N. Sugananda Mudaliyar Avargal, B.A.
- 31 „ V. A. Subbarayalu Nayudu Garu.
- 32 „ P. K. Nandagopala Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 33 „ K. Vasudeva Reddi Garu.
- 34 „ M. Arumugham Pillai Avargal.
- 35 „ R. Venkatachala Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 36 „ T. S. Muthukumaraswami Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 37 „ M. B. Rangaswami Reddiyar Avargal, M.L.C.
- 38 „ M. Balakrishna Nayudu Garu.
- 39 „ G. Ramachandra Reddiyar Avargal.
- 40 „ A. Ramalingam Avargal.
- 41 „ M. A. Adinoola Udaiyar Avargal.
- 42 „ R. P. Nathaniel Avargal, L.M.P.
- 43 „ A. Ramachandra Reddiyar Avargal.
- 44 „ V. R. Viswanatha Ayyar Avargal.
- 45 „ T. R. Kuppa Reddiyar Avargal.

25th February 1936]

Read budget estimate of the North Arcot District Board for the year 1935-36.

Resolution No. 5.—The budget estimate for 1935-36 excepting the portion relating to Elementary Education is passed. For teachers in elementary schools the new scale will be introduced without cut with effect from 1st April 1935. Any difference in the pay by the introduction of the new scale will be allowed as personal pay to the individuals affected.

Doctor R. P. Nathaniel and M.R.Ry. M. B. Rangaswami Reddiyar Avargal dissenting.

(True extract)

(2)

Extract from the minutes of proceedings of the District Board, North Arcot, passed at its meeting held on Saturday, the 30th March 1935, at 1 p.m. in the District Board's office at Vellore.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- 1 Janab C. Abdul Hakim Sahib Bahadur (*President*).
- 2 M.R.Ry. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar Avargal, M.A., B.L.,
M.L.C., *Vice-President*.
- 3 „ T. V. K. Ponnuswami Chettiyar Avargal.
- 4 „ C. Ramalinga Raja Avargal.
- 5 „ D. Kuppurama Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 6 Srimathi N. Kanni Ammal.
- 7 M.R.Ry. V. B. Venugopal Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 8 „ P. Srinivasa Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 9 „ W. V. Veeraraghava Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 10 „ K. A. E. Kuppuswami Chettiyar Avargal.
- 11 „ T. K. Varadaraja Reddiyar Avargal.
- 12 „ V. S. Padmanabha Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 13 „ B. Bakthavasalu Nayudu Garu.
- 14 „ C. Venkatarangam Nayudu Garu.
- 15 „ K. A. Muniswami Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 16 „ Nagan Avargal.
- 17 „ M. Ganapathi Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 18 „ M. Loganatha Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 19 Srimathi Balambal Ammal.
- 20 M.R.Ry. T. M. Adikesavalu Nayudu Garu.
- 21 „ V. Krishnaswami Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 22 „ T. Karia Gounder Avargal.
- 23 Janab M. Mowlana Sahib Bahadur.
- 24 M.R.Ry. M. Srinivasa Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 25 „ M. S. Kuppuswami Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 26 „ Subbaraya Chettiyar Avargal.
- 27 „ R. Murugesu Mudaliyar Avargal.
- 28 „ R. S. Namadeva Reddi Garu.
- 29 „ C. N. Sugananda Mudaliyar Avargal.

[25th February 1936]

- 30 M.R.Ry. V. A. Subbarayalu Nayudu Garu.
 31 " P. K. Nandagopala Mudaliyar Avargal.
 32 Janab Muhammad Badshaw Sahib Bahadur.
 33 M.R.Ry. K. Vasudeva Reddi Garu.
 34 " M. Arumugha Mudaliyar Avargal.
 35 " R. Venkatachala Mudaliyar Avargal.
 36 " T. S. Muthukumaraswami Mudaliyar Avargal.
 37 " M. B. Rangaswami Reddiyar Avargal.
 38 " M. Balakrishna Nayudu Garu.
 39 " A. Kamalingam Avargal.
 40 " R. P. Nathaniel Avargal, L.M.P.
 41 " A. Ramachandra Reddiyar Avargal.
 42 " Viswanatha Ayyar Avargal.
 43 " K. P. Mari Udayar.
 44 " T. R. Kuppa Reddiyar Avargal.

Elementary education budget for 1935-36.

Resolution No. 1.—Elementary education budget passed. Other recommendations of the education committee with regard to the cut, etc., will be considered along with the budget.

25th February 1936]

APPENDIX VII.

[Vide answer to question No. 778 asked by Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 25th February 1936, page 40 supra.]

Name of institution.	1931-32.		1932-33.		1933-34.		1934-35.		1935-36.	
	Recurring.	Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Non-recurring.	Recurring.	Non-recurring.
Madras Christian College	Rs. 39,413	Rs. 60,862	Rs. 40,000	Rs. 1,18,949	Rs. 40,000	Rs. 2,00,000	Rs. 40,000	Rs. 2,00,000	Rs. 37,806	Rs. 1,25,631
Pechaiyappa's College	.. 9,719	.. 6,098	.. 13,498	.. 8,098	.. 14,103	.. 10,877	.. 10,877	.. 14,877	.. 14,877	.. 8,031
Loyola College	.. 7,936	.. 7,848	.. 8,029	.. 1,379	.. 16,433	.. 15,555	.. 18,992	.. 28,817	.. 12,131	.. 8,702
Women's Christian College	.. 22,675	.. 3,618	.. 22,000	.. 1,379	.. 22,164	.. 5,936	.. 20,457	.. 1,873	.. 18,000	.. ..

[25th February 1936]

APPENDIX VIII.

[Vide item X on page 101 supra.]

G.O. No. 346, L. & M., dated 29th January 1936.

READ—the following paper:—

From the Commander, Madras District, Bangalore, dated 24th December 1935, No. 9742/28/Q.

Order—No. 346, L. & M., dated 29th January 1936.

The appended notification will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Local Self-Government)

T. B. RUSSELL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Commander, Madras District, Bangalore (with C.L.).
 „ Collector of Madura.
 „ Commissioner of Police, Madras.
 „ Inspector-General of Police, Madras.
 „ Finance Department.
 „ Law (General) Department.
 „ Law (Drafting) Department.
 „ Public (Military) Department.
 „ Superintendent, Government Press (for publication of the notification in Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette* and to supply 200 copies to the Legislative Council Office).

APPENDIX.

NOTIFICATION.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 11 of the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931 (Madras Act III of 1931), the Governor acting with Ministers is hereby pleased to exempt from payment of the tax leviable under the said Act, motor vehicles belonging to the members of the Southern Provinces Mounted Rifles Auxiliary Force (India), resident in Travancore, for the period of their stay in British territory in connexion with their annual camp at Madura in February 1936.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR
OF MADRAS.

Wednesday, the 26th February 1936.

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (the Hon. Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI) in the Chair.

PRESENT:

Venkata Reddi Nayudu, Kt., The Hon.
 Raj Bahadur Sir Kurma.
 Pannirselvam, The Hon. Rao Bahadur
 A. T.
 Souter, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., The Hon.
 Sir Charles.
 Bracken, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., The Hon.
 Mr. G. T. H.
 Raja of Bobbili, K.C.I.E., The Hon.
 the.
 Rajan, The Hon. Mr. P. T.
 Kumaraswami Reddiyar, The Hon.
 Diwan Bahadur S.
 Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur.
 Ahmed Meeran Sahib Bahadur, A. M.
 Alamelumangathayaramma, Mrs. K.
 Annamalai Chettiyar, Mr. S. A. A.
 Appadurai Pillai, Diwan Bahadur A.
 Arasu, Mr. V. T.
 Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B.
 Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.
 Basu Dev, Mr. C.
 Boag, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. G. T.
 Dalavoi, Mr. R.
 Davis, Mr. J. A.
 Devadasan, Mr. M.
 Dharmalingam Pillai, Rao Sahib V.
 Ellappa Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur S.
 Halasayam Ayyar, Mr. N.
 Iswaran Pillai, Mr. I. C.
 Jagannatham, Mr. H. M.
 Jayaram Nayudu, Rao Sahib C.
 Jones, I.C.S., Mr. C. E.
 Kesavaramamurti Nayudu, Mr. K.
 Khalif-ullah Sahib Bahadur, Khan
 Bahadur P.
 Kolanda Reddi, Rai Sahib C.
 Krishnamurti, Rao Bahadur D.
 Kumararaja of Venkatagiri, The.
 Langley, Mr. W. K. M.
 Madanagopal Nayudu, Mr. R.
 Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur.
 Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A.
 Moidoo Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur
 T. M.
 Moses, Mr. P. C.
 Muniswami Pillai, Rao Sahib V. I.
 Muthu Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur P. C.
 Nachiyappa Gounder, Mr. K. A.
 Nanjappa Bahadur, Rao Bahadur Suba-
 dar-Major S. A.
 Narasimhaswami, Rao Sahib D. V.
 Narayanan Nambiyar, Mr. V. P.
 Natesa Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur C.
 Palat, Mr. R. M.
 Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R.
 Patro, K.C.I.E., Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
 Peddi Raju, Mr. P.
 Pocker Sahib Bahadur, B.
 Premayya, Mr. G. R.
 Rajagopala Pillai, Mr. P. V.
 Ramalingam Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur
 T. A.
 Ramalinga Reddi, Mr. C.
 Ramamurti, Rao Sahib Pandit Ganala.
 Raman Menon, Mr. K. P.
 Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. T. S.
 Ramaswami Mudaliyar, Mr. V. M.
 Rameswara Rao, Mr. G.
 Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A.
 Ratnasabhapatni Mudaliyar, Diwan
 Bahadur C. S.
 Reid, Mr. D. M.
 Rukmani Lakshmipathi, Mrs. A.
 Russell, I.C.S., Mr. T. B.
 Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Khan Baha-
 dur Mahmud.
 Scott Brown, I.C.S., Mr. W.
 Shetty, Mr. A. B.
 Siva Raj, Rao Sahib N.
 Smith, Mr. J. M.
 Sreshta, Mr. M. S.
 Srinivasan, Diwan Bahadur R.
 Sriramulu, Mr. G.
 Stanes, Mr. F. J.
 Subbarayan, Dr. P.
 Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
 Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
 Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur, Khan
 Sahib.
 Thangal, Mr. P. M.
 Thomas, Mr. Daniel.
 Uzielli, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. H. R.
 Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.
 Wright, Kt., Sir William.
 Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur, Khan Baha-
 dur.
 Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.
 Zamindar of Kirlampudi, The.

[26th February 1936]

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Education

Abolition of Optional Mathematics in the High School Department of the Lady Willingdon Training College.

* 789 Q.—MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Elementary Mathematics in the High school department of Lady Willingdon Training College had been and is being taught by either a Science graduate or a secondary-grade trained teacher;

(b) whether it is a fact that Optional Mathematics in the said high school had been abolished in July 1935;

(c) whether it is a fact that a number of students in that school had to take either other subjects or had to be sent out of the said school;

(d) what the number and proportion of students that had taken Optional Mathematics in the five years prior to the abolition of the Mathematics optional in the said school was;

(e) what the strength has been in the VI form in the last three years as compared with the current year; and

(f) whether there is any proposal before the Government to institute Optional Mathematics group in the said school and to appoint trained Mathematics graduate to teach Elementary Mathematics also?

A.—(a) Mathematics is being taught in Form IV by a secondary-grade teacher who has taken Mathematics as an optional in the Intermediate Examination of the Madras University. Elementary Mathematics in Forms V and VI is being taken by a Physics graduate.

(b) Yes.

(c) Of the three pupils who desired to take Mathematics as an optional and who would have been allowed to do so, two took other optionals and the third elected to go elsewhere.

(d)—

Year.	Strength of Form VI.	Strength of Optional Mathematics class.	Percentage strength of Mathematics class to total strength.
1930-31	60	15	25
1931-32	36	8	22
1932-33	32	8	25
1933-34	29	8	26
1934-35	36	15	42

(e)—

Year.	Strength of Form VI.	Second-year pupils.
1932-33	32	2
1933-34	29	2
1934-35	36	6
1935-36	26	2

(f) No such proposal is under consideration at the moment.

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MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I ask the Hon. Minister whether he is satisfied that an Intermediate who has taken Optional Mathematics is competent enough to teach mathematics in high school forms? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" Yes, Sir, especially when the teaching is done under the supervision of a Mathematics graduate."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I ask whether it is because no Graduate in Mathematics is available that this arrangement is continued, or is it for other reasons? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" It is because a Physics graduate is quite enough for teaching Elementary Mathematics in these forms."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" Do both of them teach a particular class at the same time? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" I would ask hon. Members to remember that this institution is not a high school standing by itself. It is a high school attached to a Training College in which there are lecturers who go and supervise the work of these assistants."

MR. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" I understood the Hon. Minister to say that the assistant was doing the work and was competent to do so under the supervision of the Physics professor. Does it mean that the professor goes to the class of this assistant and takes part in teaching? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" I referred to the specialist attached to the Training College and under his supervision the assistant works."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" Will the Government be pleased to permit the schools under local board management to teach Mathematics in IV Form by secondary-grade trained assistants? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" I am sorry my hon. Friend is mistaken. It is not Mathematics that is being taught, but only Elementary Mathematics."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—" In that case, will they permit Elementary Mathematics being taught in the IV Form of local board schools by secondary-grade trained teachers? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" Yes, if they will have a specially trained Mathematics Graduate to supervise that teaching."

MR. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know if the Hon. Minister finds any difficulty in appointing a competent Mathematics graduate to teach Elementary Mathematics in a high school which ought to be a model high school for the whole Presidency? "

[26th February 1936]

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"The Physics teacher teaches not only Mathematics but also Physics and fits in much better than a Mathematics graduate for the purpose of these forms."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know if the Government expect that this model should be followed throughout the Presidency?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I should be glad if others follow it."

Provision for imparting religious instruction to Muslim students in the board and municipal secondary schools.

* 790 Q.—S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table of the House under heads—

Number of board and municipal secondary schools in the Presidency where the number of Muslim students is more than twenty;

Number of religious instructors appointed or provided in accordance with the Government Order regarding imparting of religious instruction to Muslim students within school hours;

(b) whether any action has been taken to enforce this Government Order on all such boards and municipalities wherever it is applicable; and

(c) if not, why not?

A.—(a) The number of board and municipal secondary schools in the Presidency with a strength of more than twenty Muslim students was 83 in 1933-34. Information regarding the number of religious instructors employed in such schools is not available.

(b) & (c) According to G.O. No. 1727, Education, dated the 22nd September 1933, referred to by the hon. Member, the employment of religious instructors in local body schools is left to the option of the local bodies concerned. The question of enforcing the orders in the Government Order does not, therefore, arise.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to call for the information referred to in clause (a)?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I do not know what useful purpose will be served by calling for the information."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"In view of the fact that the Hon. Minister himself has agreed to the proposition and the Government have passed an order that there must be religious instructors appointed, will he not be pleased to give this information to the House?"

[26th February 1936]

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"My hon. Friend is not right in saying that the Government have passed an order compelling local bodies to employ religious instructors. The question is left to their discretion."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"I am sorry the Hon. Minister has not followed me. I am asking with reference to Government institutions and not with reference to the institutions managed by local bodies?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I shall consider it, Sir, if my hon. Friend would put a question about Government schools."

Provision of playground for the Government Muhammadan High School, Kurnool.

* 791 Q.—S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state whether any and if so, what arrangements have been made for providing a playground for the boys of the Government Muhammadan High School, Kurnool?

A.—No site is at present available for the provision of a playground for the Government Muhammadan High School, Kurnool.

Excise

Representation of Tiyyas and Billavas in the Excise Department.

* 792 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of Inspectors, of Assistant Inspectors and of Sub-Inspectors of Excise in this Province; and

(b) the number of Tiyyas and Billavas of Malabar and South Kanara employed at present in the three grades of Inspectors, Assistant Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Excise respectively?

A.—A statement* is appended.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know whether the attention of the Hon. Minister has been drawn to the fact that Tiyyas and others who form the toddy-drawing classes of the West Coast districts are very poorly represented in this department?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I do not think the attention of the Government has been drawn to this fact by any representation."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I ask whether the Government would consider the desirability of making appointments by direct recruitment to make up for the disproportion of the minority communities in the services?"

[26th February 1936]

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Inequalities in communal representation will be redressed in the manner provided for in the Statutory Rules."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"May I ask whether the figures furnished in connexion with this question are not enough to show the Hon. Minister that these classes are not adequately represented?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"That is a matter of opinion."

Co-operation

Proposal for the reservation of the post of Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies for being filled by a member of the scheduled classes.

* 793 Q.—Rao Sahib V. DHARMALINGAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that out of about 22 Deputy Registrars of Co-operative Societies, only one is a scheduled caste officer; and

(b) if so, whether the vacancy likely to be caused by the impending retirement of the Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies would be reserved for the direct recruitment of a member of the scheduled castes to make up the proportion according to communal rotation?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) No. Under the Special Rules for the Madras Co-operative Service when a substantive vacancy in the permanent cadre of Deputy Registrars has been reserved to be filled by direct recruitment, the next two such vacancies should be filled by transfer from the cadre of Sub-Deputy Registrars. As the first vacancy which has arisen after the issue of these rules has already been reserved for a direct recruit belonging to the Muhammadan community which is most disadvantageously situated with reference to the proportion specified in the communal proportion rule, the vacancy consequent on the retirement of the Joint Registrar (on 5th March 1936) will have to be filled by transfer. But as a post of Deputy Registrar has to be abolished consequent on the transfer of the Ganjam Circle to Orissa, this vacancy will be utilized for the purpose.

Mr. P. V. RAJAGOPALA PILLAI:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that another Deputy Registrar has been granted leave from 15th February 1936 pending retirement and, if so, may I know how it is proposed to fill up that vacancy, i.e., whether by promotion or direct recruitment and which community is to get that appointment?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"As pointed out in the answer, the first substantive vacancy is reserved for direct recruitment and the two subsequent vacancies are reserved for promotion."

26th February 1936]

Mr. P. V. RAJAGOPALA PILLAI:—"Out of the 26 gazetted appointments—16 permanent and 10 temporary—only one has been given to an Adi-Andhra. At least two should have been given to this community."

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"The total strength is 22. According to the communal proportion, this community ought to get 1 post for every 12 and it will be entitled to 2 only if there are 24 posts. As the total strength is only 22, they have obtained one. As the Muhammadan community has not got its due quota, the first substantive vacancy has gone to that community. Subsequent vacancies reserved for direct recruitment might have to be given to them."

Mr. C. BASU DEV:—"May I take it that the Government consider that the Muhammadans and depressed classes are classified as under-represented?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"Quite so, as regards Muhammadans now."

Local Self-Government

Government Order prohibiting expenditure by local boards and municipalities on account of the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Indian National Congress.

* 794 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether a Government Order has been passed recently prohibiting or refusing sanction of the expenditure incurred or proposed to be incurred by the various local boards and municipalities for the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Indian National Congress;

(b) if so, whether a copy of it will be placed on the table; and

(c) how many local boards and municipalities have sanctioned such an expenditure and applied to the Government for sanction and what the name and amount concerned of each are?

A.—(a) & (b) A copy * of G.O. No. 5304, L. & M., dated the 23rd December 1935, is placed on the table.

(c) A statement * containing the information, so far as applications received by Government are concerned, is appended.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"May I know whether such expenditure was not being allowed to be incurred previously?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBHILI:—"It is not possible to answer that without notice."

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Bifurcation of the North Arcot District Board.

* 795 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the bifurcation of the North Arcot District Board has been completed; and if so, when it was given effect to;

(b) when the new elections for these district boards are to come off;

(c) if they are to come off shortly, what the special reasons are for bifurcating the present district board;

(d) whether nominations have been made to each of these bifurcated district boards;

(e) if so, who the persons nominated to each of these boards are; to what community each of them belongs; whether there are no members representing those communities already on the board; and if there are, what the necessity is for these nominations; and

(f) how many reserved seats there are in each of the bifurcated district boards of North Arcot, and to which community each of such seats has been reserved?

A.—(a) Yes, with effect from 1st December 1935.

(b) In the months of February and March 1936.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Nominations were made to the Tiruvannamalai District Board only.

(e) Attention is invited to the notification published on page 561 of Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 3rd December 1935. The communities of the nominated members are Muslims, Adi-Dravidas, Indian Christians. A nomination has also been made to represent women. The Government considered that the above communities and women had not been adequately represented prior to the making of nominations.

(f) Number of seats reserved for—

	Muslims.	Adi-Dravidas.	Indian Christians.	Women.
Vellore	2	2	Nil.	1
Tiruvannamalai ..	3	4	2	2

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—“ May I know from the Hon. the Minister why nominations were made only to the Tiruvannamalai District Board and not to the Vellore District Board? ”

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—“ The question of nominations to the Tiruvannamalai District Board was taken up first and, by the time it was over, the programme of general election to the Vellore District Board was decided. In the circumstances the Government considered that nominations were not necessary.”

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Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—“ May I know the total number of seats reserved for Adi-Dravidas in the original District Board of North Arcot? ”

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—“ I must ask for notice.”

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—“ The Government say in the answer to this question that in order to give adequate representation nominations were made to the Tiruvannamalai District Board. Does not this consideration apply to Vellore and, if so, why were not nominations made to give adequate representation on that district board? ”

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—“ There was no time to consider the question.”

Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—“ May I ask whether the population of Muslims, Adi-Dravidas and Indian Christians in the Tiruvannamalai District Board area is less than that in the Vellore District Board area? ”

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—“ It may be so.”

Extension of the term of the District Boards of North Arcot and Tiruvannamalai beyond 31st December 1935.

* 796 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the term of the District Boards of North Arcot and Tiruvannamalai has been extended beyond 31st December 1935 and, if so, to which date; whether any further extension is contemplated;

(b) what the reasons are for extending the term;

(c) why steps have not been taken sufficiently in advance to complete the elections for these district boards instead of resorting to this method of extension;

(d) why the bifurcation caused of these district boards was not brought simultaneously with the new elections which ought to have come up by the time when the bifurcation was effected; and

(e) when the new elections for these district boards are likely to be completed and when the new boards are to come into operation?

A.—(a) to (d) Attention is invited to Local Self-Government Department Notification No. 1638, published at page 609 of Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 23rd December 1935. No further extension of the term of the district boards is contemplated.

(e) 15th March 1936.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ May I ask the Hon. the Minister why elections were not held sufficiently in advance instead of extending the life of the district boards beyond 31st December 1935? ”

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The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"As the question of bifurcation was pending there was no time to complete the elections before the end of 1935."

Proposals, if any, for the extension of the term of members of the District Boards of Vellore and Tiruvannamalai beyond 31st March 1936.

* 797 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the extension of the term of the members of the District Boards of Vellore and Tiruvannamalai up to 31st March 1936 will again be extended after its expiry; and

(b) whether the Advocate-General was consulted on the question of extension before orders were actually passed?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The Government are not prepared to furnish the information.

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"With reference to the answer to clause (b) of this question, may I know why the Government are not prepared to furnish the information? Is it because it is an inconvenient question?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"It is not at all an inconvenient question. The point is that departmental information cannot be published in the public interest."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I know if the Hon. Minister realizes that the question is only as regards the fact whether the Hon. the Advocate-General was consulted? What the House wants to know is only that and not what exactly the opinion of the Advocate-General is."

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I am not prepared to give the information."

Representations for fixing the elections to the District Boards of Vellore and Tiruvannamalai, at some date other than in February and March.

* 798 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether representations have been made to the Ministry that the elections to the District Boards of Vellore and Tiruvannamalai should not be held either in February or March, as there is the Legislative Council Budget session?

A.—No such representations have been received.

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Programme of elections to the District Boards of Vellore and Tiruvannamalai.

* 799 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether steps have been taken by the Government for fixing the dates for election to the district boards of Vellore and Tiruvannamalai; and

(b) what the programme of dates is for calling nominations, scrutiny and election?

A.—The dates will be fixed by the Election Authority, viz., the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards and will be notified in due course.

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the printed answer still holds good or the Hon. the Minister is modifying it?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I believe the dates have been since notified by the Inspector of Municipal Councils."

Reasons for the delay in making nominations to the Vellore District Board.

* 800 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state why nominations have not been made to the Vellore District Board (newly bifurcated) while nominations have been made to the Tiruvannamalai District Board?

A.—The Government did not consider it necessary to make nominations to the Vellore District Board.

Extension of the term of the District Boards of Guntur and Ongole beyond 31st December 1935.

* 801 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the term of the District Boards of Guntur and Ongole has been extended beyond 31st December 1935 and, if so, to which date; whether any further extension is contemplated;

(b) what the reasons are for extending the term;

(c) why steps have not been taken sufficiently in advance to complete the elections for these district boards instead of resorting to this method of extension; and

(d) when the new elections for these district boards are likely to be completed, and when the new boards are to come into operation?

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A.—(a) to (c) Attention is invited to Local Self-Government Notification No. 1639, published at page 609 of Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 23rd December 1935. No further extension of the term of the members of the district boards is contemplated.

(d) 10th February 1936.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"The answer to clause (d) of the question is '10th February 1936.' But, may I ask when the president's election is to take place?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"The general elections are to be completed before the date is fixed."

Proposals for the bifurcation of the Tinnevely District Board.

* 802 Q.—A. M. AHMED MEERAN SAHIB Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether there was any proposal at any time for bifurcation of the Tinnevely District Board; if so, what the result was?

A.—No. Attention is however invited to the Press Communiqué, dated 15th January 1936, regarding the bifurcation of district boards.

A. M. AHMED MEERAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I know whether the Special Officer has since been appointed?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"I did not hear."

The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I am afraid, the hon. Member and the Hon. the Minister are both inaudible."

A. M. AHMED MEERAN SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I know whether the Special Officer has since been appointed?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Orders have already been passed to appoint him. He will take charge in due course."

Need for the appointment of a Special Officer to report on the financial implications involved in the bifurcation of district boards.

* 803 Q.—A. M. AHMED MEERAN SAHIB Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether any special officer has been appointed to examine the financial aspects of the bifurcation of the district boards; if so, what the immediate necessity for the same is;

(b) the names of district boards whose bifurcation has been recommended by the special officer till now; and

(c) whether he has completed the investigation of the Tinnevely District Board; if so, what the result of the same is?

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A.—(a) The Government have sanctioned the post of a special officer for work connected with bifurcation of district boards and the question of selecting an officer for that post is under consideration. The appointment of an officer is considered necessary in order to give effect expeditiously to the Government's proposal as notified in Press Communiqué, dated 15th January 1936, regarding bifurcation of district boards.

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

Transfer of the District Board Engineer, Salem.

* 804 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. T. Sekharan, District Board Engineer at Salem, has been transferred all on a sudden from Salem;

(b) what the reasons are for which the transfer has been made;

(c) whether the President, Salem District Board, moved for the transfer;

(d) if so, whether a copy of his letter in the matter will be placed on the table;

(e) what the service and qualifications are of the incoming District Board Engineer to Salem, Mr. Chennappa Naik; and

(f) what the total amount is of travelling allowance involved in these transfers of three persons?

A.—(a) Mr. Sekharan has been transferred from Salem.

(b), (c) & (d) The Government are not prepared to furnish the information.

(e) *Service*.—About three years and eight months as District Board Engineer.

Qualifications.—A.M.I.C.E.

(f) Rs. 606-13-0.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"Sir, with reference to clauses (b), (c) and (d), the Government say that they are not prepared to furnish the information. May I know what difficulties there are in furnishing the information?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"There is no difficulty. Transfers are made in the interests of the administration."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"Mr. President, may I rise to a point of order and enquire whether it is not affecting the privilege of this House for the Members of the Treasury Bench to say that they are not prepared to answer questions which this House has the right to ask of them unless and until it is on grounds of some public interest? I would like you to make the point clear because of late the tendency has been very much in evidence that the Government Members think

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that they can defy answering questions which may be inconvenient. I desire to know whether it is not a breach of the privilege of this House and of the right of this House to ask questions that the Government should say that they are not prepared to answer. Is it within their province to say that they are not prepared to answer?"

The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I am afraid the hon. Member has brought very high-sounding phrases to his aid in raising this point of order. In fact there is no breach of privilege involved. When Government say that they are not willing to give certain information, it is presumed that it is for public reasons. They may or may not mention the grounds. We cannot compel the Members of the Treasury Bench to give any information the hon. Members seek, especially when the information is asked for by means of severe cross-examination which is an abuse of the privilege afforded to Members." ('Hear, hear.')

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—"May I rise to make a submission, Sir?"

The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Order, order."

Consultation with the district board engineers by presidents of district boards before making appointments in the Works department.

* 805 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are Government Orders requiring presidents of district boards to consult their respective district board engineers in the matter of appointment of assistant engineers, overseers, etc., under the district boards;

(b) if so, whether a copy of such a Government Order or Government Orders will be placed on the table;

(c) whether the district board engineers duly report to the Government if their recommendations are unreasonably overlooked in such appointments;

(d) whether such a report has been received from the District Board Engineer, Salem, in the matter of an appointment of an Assistant Engineer at Salem by the President, District Board, Salem, in spite of his (District Board Engineer's) specific remarks;

(e) if so, whether a copy of it will be placed on the table; and

(f) what action has been or is proposed to be taken in the matter?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to rule 1 (d) of the rules published with Notification No. 1407, dated the 20th September 1932, at page 925 of Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 20th September 1932.

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(c) No.

(d) No.

(e) & (f) Do not arise.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"With regard to the answer given to clauses (a) and (c), may I ask the Hon. the Minister as to what is the purpose of passing these Government Orders stating that the presidents of district boards should consult their respective district board engineers in making appointments of assistant engineers, overseers, etc., if the district board engineers are not required to report to the Government if their recommendations are overlooked?" 11-15 a.m.

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"If complaints are received from the district board engineers, certainly the Government will look into them."

Postponement of the introduction of the new scale of pay to the Engineering establishment by the Salem District Board.

* 806 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the introduction of a uniform scale of pay to the engineering establishments in all the district boards has been made;

(b) if not, in which of the district boards such a scale has not been given effect to and what the reasons therefor are, when the new scales of pay have been given effect to in all other departments of the district boards;

(c) when the new scales are to be brought into effect for such establishments in these district boards;

(d) whether the President of the Salem District Board has addressed the Government for the postponement of the introduction of the new scale to the Engineering department;

(e) if so, whether a copy of the letter as well as a copy of the order passed by the Government thereon will be placed on the table;

(f) when the new scales are likely to be brought into effect to that establishment in that district board;

(g) whether new scales of pay have been given effect to in all other establishments in that district board; and

(h) when the new scale was adopted to each of the establishments in that district board?

A.—(a) to (c) & (f) to (h).—Attention is invited in regard to engineering staff to question No. 1050 asked by the hon. Member and answered on 23rd March 1935. Copies of G.Os. No. 2403, P.H., dated 15th October 1934, and No. 2884, P.H., dated the 17th December 1934, relating to Medical and Public Health staff have already been placed on the table.

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in connexion with questions Nos. 534 and 371 answered on 25th January 1935 and 1st November 1935 respectively. The new scales of pay took effect from the dates specified in the respective Government Orders.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

Fixing the proportion of first-grade to second-grade Assistant Engineers as per G.O. No. 4253, L. & M., dated 24th September 1934.

* 807 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the cadre and scales of pay fixed for local board Assistant Engineers have actually come into effect and, if so, from what date;

(b) whether the proportion of first-grade to second-grade Assistant Engineers has been fixed for each district as contemplated in G.O. No. 4233, L. & M., dated 24th September 1934;

(c) whether road mileage of each district is considered in so fixing the proportion; if not, what the criteria are for fixing the proportion;

(d) what the total road mileage is in Anantapur district and what the total number of Assistant Engineers of various grades allotted to the district is; and

(e) if nothing is yet fixed, when it is likely to be fixed?

A.—(a) Yes. From 1st October 1934.

(b), (c), (d) & (e) The matter is under the consideration of Government and orders will be passed shortly.

G.O. No. 3740, L. & M., dated 14th September 1935, regarding the amalgamation of the offices under the administrative control of district boards.

* 808 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether a G.O. No. 3740, L. & M., dated 14th September 1935, issuing instructions in the matter of the system of amalgamation of the various offices under the administration of the district boards such as the District Board's Office, District Board Engineer's Office, District Health Office, etc., has been passed;

(b) if so, whether a copy of it will be placed on the table;

(c) whether the Inspector of Local Boards has been consulted in the matter;

(d) if so, whether a copy of his remarks will be placed on the table;

(e) how many district boards are now having the amalgamated system and what their names are;

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(f) whether all the three officers, viz., the President, the District Board Engineer and the District Health Officer agree to this amalgamation in each of these district boards;

(g) if not, in which of the district boards they have not agreed, and who they are;

(h) whether the system of amalgamation will be discarded in those district boards; and

(i) whether the District Health Office should be compulsorily split even in places where the amalgamation system still continues?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes. A copy * is laid on the table.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Inspector's report on the subject is a lengthy document, and no useful purpose will be served by laying it on the table of the House.

(e), (f) & (g) The Government have no information.

(h) Attention is invited to the second sentence of paragraph 2 of the order.

(i) Attention is invited to paragraph 6 of the order.

Extension of the benefit of the Provident Fund scheme to attenders in the district boards.

* 809 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attenders under the employ of the district boards are not allowed the benefit of Provident Fund scheme;

(b) if so, what the reasons therefor are;

(c) whether the district board of Salem is carrying on correspondence with the Government in this behalf;

(d) whether final orders have been passed in the matter and if so, whether a copy of it will be placed on the table; and

(e) if not, when the original reference was started, and why final orders are yet pending?

A.—(a) They are not.

(b) Under the rules relating to provident fund, only such of the employees as are in superior service are eligible to subscribe to provident fund. Attenders do not belong to superior service and consequently they are not admitted to the benefits of provident fund

(c), (d) & (e) Do not arise.

* Printed as Appendix III on pages 151-152 infra.

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Closure of the Panchayat Board School, Kunthur, South Kanara.

* 810 Q.—Mr. M. S. SRESHTA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Kunthur Panchayat Board School is closed and that the building put up at the expense of the Government is being allowed to deteriorate; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Panchayat Boards in Puttur taluk do not appoint trained teachers, when they are available?

A.—The Government have no information.

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—“ May I ask whether the Government will be pleased to call for the information? ”

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—“ I shall consider.”

Publication of the report of the Special Officer appointed for road development.

* 811 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the report of Mr. Vipin, the Special Officer appointed for road development, has been published, and, if so, when; if not, when it is likely to be out; and

(b) whether a copy of the said report has been sent to all the Members of the Legislative Council; if so, when and, if not, why not?

A.—(a) Yes; on the 6th November 1935.

(b) Yes; on the 29th January 1936.

Recommendation of the Special Officer for Road Development regarding the construction of a bridge across the Cauvery connecting Trichinopoly and Salem.

* 812 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Special Officer appointed to investigate into the matter of road development in this Province has recommended the construction of a bridge across the river Cauvery connecting Trichinopoly and Salem districts;

(b) whether a copy of the extract of the paragraph of the report submitted by him relating to this matter will be placed on the table;

(c) what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken towards the construction of the said bridge and when it is likely to materialize;

(d) whether funds have been allotted for the year 1936-37 for taking up any of the works recommended by the Road Development Special Officer; and

(e) if so, how much and for what works and on what considerations these works have been selected?

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A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to Legislative Council question No. 119 answered on 7th August 1935.

(b) Copies of the Special Engineer's report have been distributed to members on 29th January 1936. Reference to this bridge will be found on page 32 of the report.

(c), (d) & (e) The question of financing the schemes in general and the priority of items of work to be taken up for execution in 1936-37 is under consideration.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ Sir, with regard to this matter, may I ask whether the Government propose to take up this work in preference to other works since it is an inter-district communication? ”

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—“ It does not necessarily follow that inter-district communications should be given preference to other works. Each case will be considered on its merits.”

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—“ Instead of taking up works within the district, may not works which serve as inter-district communications and which are comparatively more important than other works, be taken up first? ”

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—“ Each case has to be considered on its merits. Particular inter-district communications may be more important than others. All this will have to be considered by the Provincial Board of Communications.”

Prescription of a period of probation for ex-taluk board clerks re-employed under district boards.

* 813 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that orders have been passed settling the pension account of the ex-taluk board clerks under the employ of the district boards now, and placing them under probation;

(b) whether a copy of each of the orders passed in the matter will be placed on the table;

(c) what the reasons are for placing these clerks on probation after they have served the local bodies for a number of years;

(d) whether representations have been received regarding their treatment in this manner; and

(e) if so, from whom and what orders have been passed in the matter?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The orders in regard to the pension of ex-taluk board servants were issued in G.O. No. 1510, L. & M., dated the 15th April 1935, a copy of which was already placed on the table of the House in reply to clauses (d) and (e) of the hon. Member's question No. 249 answered on the

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29th October 1935. A copy * of G.O. No. 3648, L. & M., dated the 7th September 1935, dealing with the prescription of probation to these servants is placed on the table.

(c) The reason for the prescription of probation to these servants has been mentioned in the Government Order itself.

(d) Yes.

(e) Representations from certain presidents of district boards and private individuals have been received in the matter. These are under the consideration of Government and orders thereon will be issued in due course.

Reversion of the hands recruited from the Revenue Department for appointment as Municipal Commissioners.

* 814 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the persons taken for appointment as Commissioners of Municipalities from the Revenue Department were so taken only for a definite period;

(b) if so, for what length of time they have been so taken;

(c) what is proposed to be done after that period when they will revert to their old posts, and from what class of people the posts of Commissioners vacated by them are to be filled; and

(d) how many such vacancies are likely to arise in the course of 1936?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes; for three years in the first instance.

(c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answers to clauses (a) and (b) of question No. 354 answered on the 31st October 1935.

(d) It is not possible to forecast the number of such vacancies.

Appointment of Commissioners to the Municipalities of Walajapet, Chicacole and Bimlipatam.

* 815 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether Commissioners have been appointed to the municipalities of Walajapet, Chicacole and Bimlipatam;

(b) if so, when and who the person appointed for that post in each municipality is; and

(c) what the qualifications, pay and scale of pay and allowances, the previous post held and the pay and scale of pay drawn by each of such persons are?

* Printed as Appendix IV on page 153 infra.

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A.—(a) Commissioners have been appointed to the municipalities referred to but Walajapet.

(b) & (c) A statement * is appended.

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“ May I ask why no Commissioner was appointed for the Walajapet Municipality? ”

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—“ A previous examination of this question showed that the municipality was not able to meet the financial expenditure involved. ”

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“ May I ask whether the Government are going to make an exception to the general policy of appointing Commissioners only in the case of this municipality? ”

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—“ They will examine the question further. ”

Religious and Charitable Endowments

Preparation of a list of private Muslim wakfs in the province.

* 816 Q.—S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have collected information regarding the number of private Muslim wakfs both registered and unregistered in the Presidency through the agency of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board; and

(b) if not, when the information will be ready to be placed on the table of the House?

A.—(a) No. There has been no such proposal.

(b) The question does not arise.

Irrigation

Conversion of the tank near Sangapet, Kurnool, into an irrigation project.

* 817 Q.—S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the tank near Sangapet (Cumbum taluk of Kurnool district) supplied by the Wuppavagu river was breached some years ago;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a feasibility of converting this tank into a good project by completely obstructing the water of the Wuppavagu; and

(c) whether the Government have investigated the same and estimated the cost?

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

(c) Does not arise.

* Printed as Appendix V on page 154 infra.

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Silting up of the supply channel leading from the Thirumanimuthar river to the Naikarapatti tank in Salem taluk.

* 818 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the supply channel leading from the Thirumanimuthar river to the Naikarapatti tank in Salem taluk of Salem district has been silted up and no adequate supply is received in the tank even though there may be freshes in the river;

(b) whether the ayacutdars of the said tank headed by Dr. Ramathan of Salem made representations to the Collector requesting early remedy of this defect in the channel;

(c) what reply the Collector gave to their representations;

(d) whether a copy of it will be placed on the table;

(e) whether the ayacutdars have again made representations about the beginning of December last to the Collector and other authorities of the Government complaining about their difficulties, and requesting to take over the entire channel under the control of the Government, and keep it in proper order so as to ensure regular and guaranteed supply to the said tank whenever there are freshes in the river;

(f) what action has been or is proposed to be taken in the matter to relieve the difficulty;

(g) what the total extent is of the ayacut under the tank;

(h) what the rate is of assessment in that area;

(i) what the demand is of land revenue for that ayacut in each fasli for the last ten faslis including fasli 1344;

(j) what the total remission granted is in that ayacut in each of those faslis;

(k) whether it is a fact that there is much loss to the Government and even greater loss to the ayacutdars in keeping that supply channel in the present condition; and

(l) how they are proposed to be rectified?

A.—The Government have no information.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" May I ask the Hon. Member whether he will be pleased to call for the information as it will reveal a good many facts which may be profitable both to the Government and ayacutdars? "

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—" I think the Hon. Member had better apply to the Collector in the matter as the connected papers are now with him.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" A report was submitted to the Collector and he was not able to solve this problem and so this question has now been brought before the Government. So, will the Hon. Member be pleased to call for the information and see that things are rectified? "

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—" No, Sir. "

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Reservation of S. No. 19/3 in Karikulavakkam village, Tiruvallur taluk, as cheri nattam.

* 819 Q.—Rao Sahib V. DHARMALINGAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether an application has been made for conversion from dry to wet of S. No. 19/3 (1 acre 23 cents) in Karikulavakkam village, Tiruvallur taluk;

(b) whether the application has been disposed of and, if so, in what manner; and

(c) whether the Government have considered the necessity in view of the answer to question No. 375 of 4th November 1933 for reserving this piece of land for cheri nattam which is fast congesting?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have not received any such application. The Collector himself is competent to sanction transfers of ryotwari lands from 'dry' to 'wet.'

(c) No. The Collector will consider the point, as he is competent to do, if the hon. Member brings it to his notice.

Traffic over the Karikulavakkam tank-bund, Vishnuvakkam village.

* 820 Q.—Rao Sahib V. DHARMALINGAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state, in view of the answer to clause (b) of question No. 660 (i) and (ii) of the 13th March 1933—

(a) whether the prevention of traffic over the Karikulavakkam tank-bund situated in R.S. No. 175/3-B-1, Vishnuvakkam village, was stopped;

(b) whether there has been a breach of the order resulting in conviction by a Magistrate in 1933;

(c) whether the trenches have been closed and traffic is now resumed over the bund against the orders of successive Collectors; and

(d) what action is proposed to be taken to prevent traffic permanently?

A.—The Government have no information beyond what is mentioned in answer to question No. 660 of the 13th March 1933.

Repairs to the Imperial tank No. 466 of Tiruvallur taluk, Chingleput district.

* 821 Q.—Rao Sahib V. DHARMALINGAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether a petition to the Collector of Chingleput has been submitted by Mr. C. Velayutha Mudaliyar of Karikulavakkam representing the absolute necessity for repairs to the entire bund of the length of about 6 miles of Imperial tank No. 466 known as Vishnuvakkam Maduvu Issa Thangal of Tiruvallur taluk

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which now has an ayacut area of more than 500 acres, by providing masonry structures for baling, graded dams at every 1,000 feet and two masonry weirs and what action has been taken on the same?

A.—The Government have no information.

Improvements to the Sathangadu tank, Saidapet taluk.

* 822 Q.—Rao Sahib V. DHARMALINGAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sathangadu tank in Sathangadu village, No. 28, Saidapet taluk, Chingleput district, has not been repaired for the last 45 years although it has an ayacut area of about 280 acres;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the Irrigation Conference of Saidapet division it has been decided that on the recommendations of Revenue officials all by-washes and natural escapes should be converted into masonry weirs; if so, when the masonry weirs will be erected to the Sathangadu tank;

(c) whether with reference to answer to question No. 697, dated 23rd February 1935, the said Sathangadu tank isolated work No. XII of Red Hills minor basin will be taken under the accelerated programme of 1936-37;

(d) whether there are two other irrigation sources (Paracherikuttai and springs) to the Sathangadu village with an ayacut area of more than 100 acres;

(e) if so, how often they have been repaired during the last 45 years; and

(f) whether the Government propose to repair them under the accelerated programme?

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

(c) The tank is not included in the programme of works to be carried out during 1936-37 drawn up by the Collector in December 1935. Later information is not available with the Government.

(d) Yes.

(e) The Government have no information.

(f) The answer to clause (c) applies to these two works also.

Landlords and Tenants

Statement showing the commutation, settlement and enhancement of rent in estates under the Madras Estates Land Act, 1908.

* 823 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased—

(i) to state—

(a) the number of estates in which commutation of rent under section 40 of the Madras Estates Land Act has taken place;

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(b) the number of estates in which settlement of rent under Chapter XI has taken place;

(c) the number of estates in which enhancement of rent has taken place under section 30 of the said Act; and

(ii) to place on the table of the House a statement showing the names of the estates in which commutation, settlement and enhancement of rent have taken place?

A.—The Government have no information.

Land Revenue Administration

Introduction of resettlement rates in South Kanara.

* 824 Q.—Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) when the resettlement rates of assessment were introduced in South Kanara;

(b) what the enhanced rate is per rupee; and

(c) what the total enhanced amount is that was collected last year?

A.—(a) The resettlement rates of assessment were introduced in the South Kanara district in fasli 1344 (1934-35).

(b) The resettlement enhancement was 2 annas per rupee in the case of wet and garden lands. One and a half annas of the 2 annas increase was remitted in fasli 1344 by the grant of special increment remissions.

(c) In the case of wet lands the net amount collected last year, after allowing for the general land revenue concessions and special increment remissions, was the same as the assessment prior to the resettlement. The amount actually collected in the case of garden lands was 4 pies per rupee or 2 per cent less than the rate prior to the resettlement.

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I ask whether the Government will be pleased to suspend the collection of enhanced rates until the depression is tided over?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"Government have not considered that question."

Alleged sale of lands in South Kanara without notice to the persons in actual enjoyment.

* 825 Q.—Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that several of the pattas issued in South Kanara are not in the name of the actual enjoyers of the land;

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(b) whether such lands have been sold for arrears of assessment without the knowledge of or without even giving notice to the actual enjoyers; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to remedy this difficulty?

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

(c) The question has not arisen.

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—“ May I ask the Hon. Member whether in view of the fact that several of the pattas issued in South Kanara are not issued in the name of the owners or enjoyers of lands and, as such, such lands are sold by the Government for arrears of assessment due by the pattadars and not due by the enjoyers or the owners of lands, the Government will be pleased to see that the lands are registered only in the names of the real owners or the enjoyers? ”

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—“ That I think is a matter which must be addressed to the owners of such lands.”

Electricity

Application of the Vellore Electric Supply Corporation for the extension of their area of supply.

* 826 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) when the licence was granted to the Vellore Electric Supply Corporation;

(b) for what area the above licence was granted;

(c) what the number of wells is in the said area;

(d) for what number the said Corporation has been supplying power for pumping;

(e) in what period the said Corporation is expected to finish the electrification for pumping of water from wells at the rate of progress made till now;

(f) whether the said Corporation has applied for any extension and, if so, for what area;

(g) what the number of wells is in the area for which such leave for extension has been applied; and

(h) what orders the Government have passed on the application for extension from the said Corporation?

A.—(a) & (b) The Vellore Electric Licence was granted to the Corporation in May 1929. The area covered by this licence was the municipal limits of Vellore. In October 1932 the area was extended so as to cover the area lying within a radius of six miles from the electric power station at Vellore as the centre.

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(c), (d) & (e) The information is not available.

(f) Yes. For Walajapet, Polur and Tiruvaanamalai taluks and Arni jaghir.

(g) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the statement furnished in answer to question No. 694 at the Legislative Council meeting on the 3rd February 1936.

(h) The application is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—“ With reference to clause (h) of the question, may I ask whether Government have passed any orders since? ”

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—“ Not yet. The matter is still under consideration.”

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“ May I know whether it is the application for taking up the high tension line or the low tension line that is under consideration? ”

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—“ I want notice of that question.”

Resolution of the Conference of Village Officers of North Arcot regarding the distribution of power by the Government.

* 827 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received a copy of the resolution passed in the recent Conference of Village Officers of the North Arcot district, requesting the Government to undertake the distribution of power by themselves; and

(b) what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The question does not arise.

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—“ Have the Government any proposals under consideration for distribution of electrical power by themselves? ”

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—“ The whole question is under consideration.”

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“ May I ask whether any representations have been made to the Hon. the Law Member to receive a deputation of the representatives of the North Arcot district concerning this question? And if so, have any proposals come up before the Government at any time? ”

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—“ I do not exactly remember when these questions came up. They have come up in this Council at least half a dozen times before. I do not know if any deputation can place the matter before the Government better than hon. Members of this House.”

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Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Some other fresh points have to be considered and so may I ask the Hon. Member whether he will receive a deputation?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"I will consider the question."

Protests against the grant of licences to private bodies in regard to the distribution of power in the Palar basin.

* 828 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether any protests have been received from each of the taluks of the North Arcot district against the grant of licences to private bodies for supply of electricity in the Palar basin;

(b) whether any similar protests have been received from any other district in the Presidency in respect of licences granted already; and

(c) when the Government propose to pass final orders on the question of the reservation of Palar basin for supply of power by the Government?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 629 at the meeting of the Council on the 30th January 1936.

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

II.—BUDGET FOR 1936-37—SPEECH OF THE HON. THE FINANCE MEMBER.

* The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise to present the Revised Estimates for the year 1935-36 and the Budget Estimates for the year 1936-37. This year I have made a departure from the precedent in not providing a written speech. Hon. Members have already got the Financial Memorandum and I have also had circulated an abstract of figures which I hope will be of some assistance to hon. Members in following the remarks I have to make. I think a written speech is less necessary because in October last I took the House into my confidence as to the financial position of this Presidency. Since then I have had published monthly statements of the revenue and expenditure of the Province which would have kept hon. Members and the public in general in touch with the financial position of the Presidency. So, there are no real budget surprises.

"I will deal first with the accounts of 1934-35. Originally a deficit of 19 lakhs was anticipated but this turned into a surplus of 11 lakhs at the end of the year. The reason for this was that in the last quarter

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of the year the revenue realized was somewhat better than was anticipated and there were considerable lapses in expenditure. Now these lapses were due to what I may call the incurable optimism of the spending departments and local bodies. They always think they can spend more than they really do. Well, provision has now been made to prevent such large lapses in future.

"Hon. Members will find a detailed explanation of the new system on page 20 of the Financial Memorandum. Roughly speaking it is this: Suppose a sum of 10 lakhs is placed at the disposal of local bodies. We say we know by experience that they would not be able to spend the full 10 lakhs; so we shall only provide 9 lakhs in the budget and tell the local bodies: 'If you can manage to spend the full amount, you are at liberty to do so and the money will be found by savings in other directions or if necessary a supplementary grant will be moved later in the year.' This new system which has had the approval of the Public Accounts Committee will prevent such large lapses in future and will ensure closer budgeting. 11-30 a.m.

"I now come to the Revised Estimates for 1935-36. In 1935 we had still the famine in Bellary and Anantapur. But the expenditure on the famine will be met from the Famine Relief Fund and the amount of about 16 lakhs will be taken from the Famine Relief Fund which will be reduced to about 44 lakhs. Otherwise 1935 was more or less a normal year, politically and economically.

"The monsoon was in some respects disappointing. Though the rainfall in many districts was about the average, yet the rain did not always come at the right time and as a result, I believe, the yield of some crops has been somewhat below expectation. However, there is nothing like general famine in any district except for a small area in Ganjam district where the rains were almost a total failure. There was a cyclone in Tanjore; otherwise the Presidency was fortunate in escaping any serious calamities and even the cyclone in Tanjore affected only a limited area.

"In the Revised Estimates hon. Members will find there has been a very serious fall in revenue mainly under the heads Land Revenue—13 lakhs, Excise—16 lakhs and Stamps—13 lakhs. Though an improvement in market prices began in 1934 and continued in 1935, our provincial revenues continued to lag behind the economic recovery. The reason for this, I take it, is that the agricultural population have been hard hit by the previous years of depression and need some time for recuperation. That, Sir, is the justification for the continuance for concessions for the current fasli. One bright spot on the revenue side is the revenue from Hydro-Electric schemes, which has exceeded our expectation.

"On the expenditure side the progress of expenditure has been normal in accordance with expectation, but I would invite the attention of hon. Members to the fact that an additional 4 lakhs has been

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provided for elementary education to reduce the cut in the assessed grants to aided schools. The net result is a deficit of about 32 lakhs.

“Well, Sir, in October last I was accused of undue pessimism when I forecasted a deficit of 20 lakhs, but I am afraid I was far too sanguine and my worst fears have been more than justified. It is possible of course that the figures for the present quarter may make some better showing, but I think we may take it as certain that a considerable deficit is certain.

“Now a deficit of this magnitude would be a matter of the gravest concern if this deficit were likely to continue. Fortunately I hope it is not. I shall deal with that in a later part of my speech. What I would like to say on the deficit at present is that national finance is not in essence different from the finances of individuals. Both nations and individuals have got to balance their budgets or they land themselves in difficulties. The only real difference is that the rake's progress of extravagance by the individual lands him in the bankruptcy court rather sooner than the rake's progress of extravagance by a nation. In this connexion I would like to quote from a book entitled ‘A System of National Finance’ which I would commend to the notice of hon. Members, a quotation which appears on the first page and is pretty well known:

‘Mr. Micawber conjured me to observe that if a man had £20 for his income and spent £19-10-6 he would be happy but if he spent £20-1-0 he would be miserable. After which he borrowed a shilling of me for porter and cheered up.’

“The moral is obvious: balance your budget, lay by for emergencies and do not borrow. Fortunately this year we have still free balances available to meet this deficit but I would warn hon. Members that in future no such balance will, I fear, be available. Borrowing to meet a deficit is, of course, unsound finance. We have had to do it in the past, some time in the twenties and we are still paying off that debt and a part of the debt still remains to be paid.

“I now come to the Budget Estimates for 1936-37. A detailed comparison of figures both on the revenue and the expenditure sides is complicated by the fact that a part of the Province will be transferred to Orissa from 1st April this year. In the Financial Memorandum, on the first page, hon. Members will find some comparative figures which will, I hope, be of some assistance to them, as they show the position both excluding the portions that go to Orissa and including the portions that go to Orissa. Now the separation of this part of the Presidency in Ganjam and Vizagapatam is, I think, regretted by every member of this House. But on financial grounds there is no getting away from the fact that the separation of a deficit area means a financial gain, and that gain is about 20 lakhs or something more. But for this saving the money available for Part II schemes would have been very small and totally inadequate.

“My general attitude to the budget of 1936-37 is one of hesitant hope. I hope that the downward trend of provincial revenues has at last been arrested and that we shall almost at once be on the upward

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curve. Hon. Members may well ask what grounds I have for optimism when revenues have been steadily falling all this year. Well, my grounds for my hesitant hope lie mainly in the improvement in commodity prices. This improvement which began in 1934 has continued in 1935 and in some respects at a more rapid pace.

“In regard to food-grains, taking the average for the four months, 11-45
October, November, December and January, compared with the corre- a.m.
sponding period of the year before, the price of paddy has, on the whole, gone up by about 3 per cent; and the price of other food-grains, ragi, cumbu and cholam, has also risen slightly; but it is in commercial crops that the main and most rapid improvement has taken place. First of all, as regards groundnuts, in the previous year the crop was very poor and the price was equally poor. In the current season the outturn is expected to be considerably higher and the price is better by from 10 to 43 per cent. Well, I have estimated what this means to the ryot and the figure amounts to about Rs. 4 crores. In regard to cotton, during most of the period the price was higher than in the previous period; but unfortunately owing to developments in America, the price has fallen rather considerably, and is now below the last year's level. There has been further amount of improvement in the price of coconuts, of copra and coconut oil ranging from about 40 to 70 per cent. The price of castor seed is also higher. There has also been very marked improvement in the price of hides and skins which must be of some benefit to the ryot.

“On the other side of the picture there has been a fall in the price of jaggery and I believe on the West Coast the price of some commodities such as pepper has been considerably below the figure in the corresponding period. However, on balance, I think it is clear that the agricultural population have gained very considerably by this improvement in prices and I think there is no reason to suppose that this improvement will not continue. The general trend of world commodity prices is still in the upward direction and at the moment the price of nearly all commodities is steady. I am of course aware that part of the gain in the price of commodity articles may go to the middle man and the speculator. But I think it may be taken as certain that a very considerable margin will remain with the ryot and will, to that extent, increase his purchasing capacity. Of course my optimism may prove to be unjustified but I shall feel that I am erring in good company. Sir William Wright in his speech at the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce used, I think, the phrase ‘moderate optimism’ for the future. My phrase is ‘hesitant hope.’

“One favourable circumstance is the improvement in the auction of arrack shops, the sales of which are just concluding. These sales have been serving as a financial barometer, and in this case, I think, may be taken to be a pointer to better times.

“On the revenue side hon. Members will notice that no entry is made for the proceeds of the tobacco tax. It would hardly be appropriate to anticipate the verdict of this House on the Tobacco Bill. For

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budget purposes a sum of Rs. 8 lakhs has been added to land revenue on the assumption that either the Tobacco Bill will be passed or that some adjustment of land revenue concessions may be necessary next fasli. The gap between the revenue in sight and the estimated necessary expenditure is Rs. 8 lakhs and the Tobacco Bill proceeds and some other minor adjustments would just bridge that gap. Land revenue otherwise has been calculated as usual on the basis of a normal monsoon. But we are expecting some increase under the Cauvery-Mettur Project. There are no important variations in the other heads of revenue. Detailed explanations are given in the financial memorandum.

“But I would like to say just a word about the revenue under Stamps. Owing to the policy accepted by this House, of advancing loans for the relief of agricultural indebtedness and my friend Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar's Debt Conciliation Bill, I think we must look forward to a decrease in litigation in future. Well, on general grounds I think even the lawyer Members of this House will agree that a decrease in litigation is to be welcomed. But it will certainly mean a loss in Stamp revenue to the Province.

“On the expenditure side, our standing commitments call for no special comment. Hon. Members will observe that provision has been made for the expenses connected with the Provincial elections which, we may suppose, will take place in the course of the next financial year. After providing for standing commitments, the sum made available for Part II schemes is Rs. 35 lakhs. I would like to explain what may appear to be a minor discrepancy in the printed abstract that has been circulated to hon. Members. The budget provision is Rs. 33 lakhs though the amount for Part II schemes is Rs. 35 lakhs. The reason for this is that some of these Part II schemes are expected to produce some revenue or to save some expenditure in other directions, and so balancing out the net figure comes to about Rs. 33 lakhs. Details of the Part II schemes of course appear as usual in the financial memorandum. Eighty-seven per cent of the amount goes to the Transferred Departments and 13 per cent to Reserved Departments, and in that amount is included expenditure for irrigation which, I venture to suggest, is just as much nation-building as, for example, Agriculture. The bulk of the money, as hon. Members will see, goes to local bodies and educational institutions. Though technically this expenditure is new expenditure, it is not in one sense new expenditure because every year we have to provide more or less amounts for the needs of local bodies and educational institutions. It is something in the nature of moral obligation on the Government to provide as much as they can, to aid local bodies and aided educational institutions.

12 noon. “I have no doubt that criticism will be made that the provision for various items is quite inadequate. I shall agree, in advance, with much of that criticism. In connexion with the Niemeyer enquiry, an estimate has been made of some of the reasonable requirements of the

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different departments of Government. Under Education, the recurring amount estimated is about Rs. 3½ crores, and non-recurring nearly Rs. 5 crores. For medical relief, recurring Rs. 12 lakhs and non-recurring Rs. 8 lakhs. Public Health—provision for protected water-supplies, Rs. 5½ crores, Agriculture, Veterinary and Co-operative departments, Rs. 58 lakhs. Now, those figures are only by way of illustration, to show the amount of leeway that has to be made up before a reasonable standard has been attained. I estimate that at least Rs. 50 lakhs for recurring expenditure is necessary in the future every year and again another Rs. 50 lakhs for non-recurring expenditure.

“I now pass on to the Capital and Debt head. Productive expenditure in the next financial year will have to be financed entirely from loans. Considerable provision has been made for hydro-electric schemes. I know that some criticism has been directed against the slowness of hydro-electric development. Well, in 1934-35, the expenditure was Rs. 23 lakhs. In 1935-36—the current year—the estimated expenditure is Rs. 51 lakhs. In 1936-37, we are estimating an expenditure of over a crore including new works and works in progress.

“Hon. Members will notice with interest that a provision of Rs. 20 lakhs has been made for the relief of rural indebtedness. Hon. Members are aware that experiments are in progress in two districts and probably about a lakh may be spent this year. For next year, the estimated expenditure is Rs. 20 lakhs, and this estimate has not been reduced. And I may say, if the estimate is below what is necessary, more money will be found. (Hear, hear.)

“Unproductive expenditure will be financed from balances. Well, I would like to say a word here about these wonderful balances which are supposed to be a sort of bottomless purse out of which unlimited expenditure can be financed. On April the 1st, 1937, assuming for present purposes that the new constitution comes in on the 1st of April—about which I know now no more than hon. Members—our free balance is expected to be just over a crore. Out of that amount, we have to make a minimum deposit with the Reserve Bank, which is estimated at Rs. 40 lakhs. We have also got to provide money in our treasuries. It may be news to some hon. Members that the moneys in the treasuries in this Presidency do not belong to this Government, but they belong to the Government of India. Of course, we can draw on the amount as a private individual can draw on his bank; but the actual cash belongs to the Government of India. When the new constitution comes in, we have to be financially self-supporting, and we have to provide the money required in our treasuries, which is estimated at Rs. 26 lakhs. Well, Rs. 40 lakhs and Rs. 26 lakhs mean three-fourths of a crore. Besides that, we have still commitments for unproductive expenditure, especially for minor irrigation. The House has approved an expenditure of Rs. 50 lakhs for an accelerated programme of minor irrigation repairs. Rupees 18 lakhs will still remain to be expended in 1937. Then, we stand committed to about Rs. 40 lakhs on medical buildings, including the Vizagapatam Medical College.

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Again, we have to think of a new Parliament House for the two new Chambers. This may cost anything from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 lakhs. So, altogether, all our balances stand ear-marked for the future, and indeed I am afraid we may have to, or rather the future Government may have to borrow for some of these commitments.

"Fortunately, the debt position of this province is, I may say, satisfactory. The amount of unproductive debt outstanding is comparatively small. Hon. Members will find the figures in the small printed paper I have had circulated. This sound financial position is due, I venture to think, to the prudent management of finance by my predecessors, and especially Sir Hopetoun Stokes. Sir Hopetoun Stokes's period of office was one of unusual difficulty owing to the economic slump. He carried the finances of this province through this difficult period and retrenched where retrenchment was necessary, in order to keep a balanced budget and prevent this province from running into debt. Successive Accountants-General and Auditors-General have paid frequent tributes to the prudent management of the finances of this province. The expression used more than once by the Auditor-General was 'eminently satisfactory.' Now, financial experts are more apt to criticise than to praise; and I think 'eminently satisfactory' is high praise indeed from such an authority.

"Criticism has, I know, been made in the past on our failure to make use of our balances. That I have already answered. Our balances have been used up. Criticism has again been made of our failure to borrow. Well, unfortunately, borrowing means repaying. If we had borrowed in the past for purposes for which borrowing was possible, it is estimated that we should now be repaying about Rs. 50 lakhs a year. Well, hon. Members will see how the present Budget would have stood if we had to repay Rs. 50 lakhs this year.

"That, Sir, concludes my review. The Budget I have presented is a dull and hum-drum budget, as I have no doubt hon. Members or some of them will presently be telling me. But a spectacular Budget was to my mind both out of the question and out of place—out of the question, because of the limited amount of money available after providing for our standing commitments and our moral obligations; out of place, because on the eve of the new Reforms, I do not think it would be right for this Council to embark on spectacular innovations. The most we can do is to hand over the finances of this province in a sound and healthy condition, so that the new Government may have a fair start and start financially on an even keel.

12-15 P.M. "Before concluding, I would like, if the House permit me, to say just a few words on the Niemeyer Enquiry. The two main objects of the enquiry now being made by Sir Otto Niemeyer are, the examination of the financial position of the provinces and the centre and the examination of the possible methods of distribution of income-tax when the centre is in a position to distribute. Hon. Members are aware that I went to Delhi last month to confer with Sir Otto Niemeyer.

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Before going to Delhi, I invited the Leaders of all Parties to meet me, so that I might give them an outline of the case I proposed to present to Sir Otto Niemeyer, and I invited suggestions. Our case was presented in January on two days. Our case rests mainly on our sound and prudent management of finances. We have cut our coat according to our cloth. We have retrenched when retrenchment was necessary and we have taxed when taxation was necessary to prevent our running into debt. Well, when Sir Otto Niemeyer has to assess what are the most deserving provinces, I think he will have to consider whether a province like Madras which has always pursued the path of financial rectitude and always endeavoured to balance its Budget, is or is not more deserving than a province which has left its Budget unbalanced and hoped for subvention from the centre. At any rate, that is the case that has been presented. If it has not been well presented, the fault is mine. We shall know the result in due course. One advantage of this enquiry is that it has forced on us a stock-taking of our financial position in comparison with other provinces and enabled us to consider what are the possibilities of further economies or whether we have left any sources of taxation untapped. In recent years, this province has sacrificed annually 69 lakhs in toll revenue, and 63 lakhs in land revenue remission, not to mention 15 lakhs due to the postponement of resettlements. Well, these sacrifices have affected the finances of both the province and local bodies. Now, I am not for a moment saying that these concessions to the agricultural population were not necessary in this slump period. I agree that they were. But, if these concessions are to continue, still more if they are to be extended, we must explore some alternative sources of taxation. Something has already been done. The Betting Tax is already law, the Tobacco Tax is still before the House and some proposals for adjustment of the licence fees on foreign liquor shops are now under the consideration of the Government. Criticism has been made that the sums realisable from any individual tax are too small to be worthwhile, and this criticism has been directed against the Tobacco Tax among others. Well, the amount of one individual tax may be small, but the aggregate money that will come from a number of taxes may be quite considerable and quite worthwhile. Speaking generally, the widest spreadover of taxation that is possible, is scientific taxation. Concentration of taxation on one particular class of the community or one particular commodity is not, speaking generally, sound. Criticism has, I know, been made, for example, about Motor Vehicles Taxation in this province, that this taxation is exceptionally high in comparison with other provinces and criticism has been made that this high level of taxation is hindering the development of motor transport.

"When the Budget session is over, I propose to make a comprehensive survey of both provincial and local taxation to see what more can be done in the way of economy or adjustment of taxation. Possibly, nothing much can be done before the new Government comes into office, and of course the new Government will have a far freer hand than we

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have at present. We at present are bound by a number of financial restrictions, but when Provincial Autonomy comes, those financial restrictions will cease to be operative. At any rate, I hope that the material that we may gather in the course of this enquiry, the results of which I propose to place before the Finance Committee, will be of some help to the future Government, even if it is not possible for us to make any wide reform.

"I think, in future, the Budget problem will have to be approached from a somewhat new angle by the new Government. They will have, I think, first to consider what expenditure is really necessary, and then adjust taxation accordingly, either by increasing or decreasing taxation or substituting one tax for another. That really is what happens in England and I think will probably happen here. No doubt, the future Ministry will have to consider the question of retrenchment. Now, in the abstract, nothing is easier than economy and retrenchment; in the concrete, nothing is more difficult than to pick out particular items of retrenchment. I venture to think that my successor will find it more difficult to maintain the retrenchment already imposed than to impose any new retrenchment.

"In conclusion, Sir, I wish to acknowledge the very real assistance I have received from both the Finance Committee and the Public Accounts Committee in the course of the year. I am afraid that under the new Constitution, the Finance Committee will disappear, but I have no doubt that the Public Accounts Committee will continue to be the watch-dog of our finances.

"Lastly, I wish to acknowledge the work done by the Finance Secretary and all the officers of the Finance Department. I do not suppose there has ever been such an exacting year for the Finance Department. First of all, there was the financial settlement consequent on the separation of a part of this Presidency and its transfer to Orissa. At one time, there was considerable danger that we might be called upon to hand over some of our balances, both our ordinary balances and famine relief balances, to the new province. Well, the Order in Council which hon. Members have seen, has now received the assent of Parliament, and that danger is over; and I think, we may congratulate ourselves that we have had a fair settlement.

12-30 P.M. "Then the Finance Department have had to prepare two separate budgets—one for Madras proper and the other for the part of Madras to be transferred to Orissa. Well, that meant actually double work, because both the budgets had to be complete though the figures of course were comparatively small for the Orissa portion. Lastly the Finance Department were called upon to prepare the case for the Niemeyer Enquiry and that has thrown an enormous amount of work on all the officers of the Finance Department, from the Secretary down to the lowest clerk. I think the Finance Department deserves well of the House. (Cheers.) With these words, Sir, I commend the revised estimates for 1935-36 and the budget estimates for 1936-37 to the acceptance of the House, with the suggestion that perhaps controversy as to

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what has happened in the past is a little unprofitable and what is really needed is some constructive criticism of the present with a view to the future when we are on the threshold of the new constitutional reforms." (Loud cheers.)

Dr. P. SUBBARYAN:—"I have to suggest, Mr. President, for your consideration that the Finance Member's speech be printed and be in the hands of the Members before to-morrow evening."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I am instructing the office to get it printed immediately and place it on the table of the House before the general discussion commences and if possible to circulate the speech, if it is ready, even to-morrow to the local addresses of hon. Members."

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Thank you."

III.—ANNOUNCEMENT RE TIME-LIMIT TO SPEECHES ON THE BUDGET.

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The general discussion on the budget will commence on Friday, the 28th February 1936. During the discussion, I propose to prescribe a time-limit of twenty minutes for the speech of the Leader of a party and ten minutes for the speech of any other Member. I would suggest that the reading of manuscript speeches should be exceptional. (Voices: 'Hear, hear' and laughter.) In regard to such speeches, I propose to prescribe a time-limit of six minutes. The afternoon of Monday, the 2nd March 1936, will be at the disposal of the Hon. Members of Government to make their replies.

"The House will now adjourn and meet again on the 28th instant at 11 a.m."

IV.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

* *Proceedings of the fourth to seventh meetings of the Finance Committee, 1935-36, held on the 6th to 9th January 1936.*

D. K. V. RAGHAVA VARMA,
Acting Secretary to the Legislative Council.

[26th February 1936]

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 792 asked by Mr. A. B. Shetty at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 26th February 1936, page 117 supra.]

	Total number of officers employed.			Total number of Thiyas and Billavas of the Malabar and South Kanara districts, etc., employed at present.					
	Inspection.	Assistant Inspectors.	Sub-Inspectors.	Inspectors.		Assistant Inspectors.		Sub-Inspectors.	
				T	B	T	B	T	B
Southern division ..	31	14	369	2	..	..	..	18	5
Northern division ..	31	28	394	..	..	..	..	2	..
Distillery ..	2	15	68	..	..	..	..	1	..
Total ..	64	55	831	2	..	..	..	21	5

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 794 asked by Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 26th February 1936, page 129 supra.]

(1)

G.O. No. 5304, L. & M., dated 23rd December 1935.

READ—the following:—

File of applications.

Order—No. 5304, L. & M., dated 23rd December 1935.

The Government are not prepared to authorize expenditure of their tax-payers' money by local authorities on celebrations in honour of a political party. They therefore decline to sanction proposals from local bodies to incur expenditure on, or to contribute towards, the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Indian National Congress.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Local Self-Government)

T. B. RUSSELL,
Secretary to Government.

To the President of the West Tanjore District Board.

„ Commissioners of the Municipalities of Masulipatam, Berhampur, Bezwada, Vizagapatam, Vellore, Tirupati, Srivilliputtur, Salem, Madura, Palghat and Dharapuram (through the Chairmen of Municipal Councils concerned).

(Copy to the Presidents of Paramakudi and Cumbum Panchayat Boards (through the Presidents of District Boards concerned).

„ the Executive Authorities of other Municipal Councils.

„ the other Presidents of District Boards.

„ the Presidents of Panchayat Boards of major unions (through the Presidents of District Boards concerned).

„ all Collectors.

„ the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts.

„ the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards.

„ the Revenue Department.

„ the Law (Education) Department.

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(2)

Statement showing the amounts proposed to be spent by local bodies in connexion with the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Indian National Congress.

Serial number and name of the local body. (1)	Amount. (2) Rs.	Serial number and name of the local body. (1)	Amount. (2) Rs.
(i) Local boards—		(ii) Municipal councils—cont.	
1 West Tanjore District Board.	100	8 Bezwada	100
2 Cumbum Panchayat Board (Madura).	10	9 Berhampur	120
3 Paramakudi Panchayat Board (Ramanad).	100	10 Masulipatam	200
(ii) Municipal councils—		11 Vellore	100
4 Mayavaram	50	12 Tirupati	100
5 Coimbatore	100	13 Srivilliputtur	20
6 Palni	20	14 Salem	30
7 Vizagapatam	200	15 Palghat	50
		16 Dharapuram	50
		17 Madura	300

APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 808 asked by Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 26th February 1936, page 129 supra.]

G.O. No. 3740, L. & M., dated 14th September 1935.

READ—the following paper:—

From the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards,
dated 6th April 1935, D. Dis. No. 845/35.

Order—No. 3740, L. & M., dated 14th September 1935.

It was suggested to the Government that if the offices of the District Board Engineer and of the district board functioned as a single office instead of separately as they did in most district boards the following advantages would be secured:—

- (i) Speedy disposal of papers;
- (ii) efficiency;
- (iii) saving of the time and labour of the clerks and officers; and
- (iv) economy in expenditure.

The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards who was asked to report on the matter has submitted his report.

2. The Government agree with the Inspector in the view that in the state of affairs now obtaining in district boards a wholesale amalgamation of the two offices is undesirable. They do not however wish to interfere with any existing arrangement which is working satisfactorily. They also agree that the present method of formal correspondence between the District Board Engineer and the President of the District Board should be avoided *except when the President or the District Board*

[26th February 1936]

Engineer considers it undesirable to dispense with the writing of formal or demi-official letters. The Government therefore suggest that in cases where information is required by the District Board Engineer's office or vice versa it should ordinarily be secured on the files themselves by un-official reference from one office to the other. The President should be careful to see that when such files pass through his office the Secretary and office staff in noting on them confine themselves strictly to the administrative matters which are their concern and do not indulge in unnecessary comments or interfere in technical questions of which the Engineer is the best judge. The Secretary should not refer back such files to the District Board Engineer without the President's orders except in minor routine matters where no difference of opinion has arisen. Where any difference of opinion arises the President should settle it with the District Board Engineer direct and should not allow controversy to be carried on by the exchange of office notes.

3. The Government do not consider that the establishment of a common current branch (for receiving, fair-copying and despatch) and a common record room is at present practicable.

4. The Inspector has suggested that much of the work done by both the offices of the President and the District Board Engineer can be reduced by a comprehensive delegation of the President's powers to the District Board Engineer. The suggestion is commended to presidents of district boards.

5. The Government do not consider it necessary to increase the number of overseers under district boards as suggested by the Inspector in paragraph 15 of his report.

6. The Government consider that the office of the District Health Officer should function separately from the office of the district board but do not wish to exclude un-official references between the two offices where this procedure is found suitable.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Local Self-Government).

T. B. RUSSELL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards.
„ all Presidents of District Boards.
„ the Director of Public Health.

Copy to the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts.

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APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to question No. 813 asked by Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 26th February 1936, page 132 supra.]

G.O. No. 3648, L. & M., dated 7th September 1935.

Under rules 7 (1) and 6 (1), respectively, of the rules relating to establishments under district boards and municipal councils, every appointment to a post in superior service shall be subject to a probation for a period of two years on duty within a continuous period of three years. The question has now been raised as to whether ex-taluk board servants employed under local boards or municipal councils need undergo any probation on such re-employment. Government consider that it is desirable, in the interests of efficiency, to insist on their undergoing fresh probation on re-employment under district boards and municipal councils. They are accordingly pleased to direct that all ex-taluk board servants except the non-ministerial servants of the medical, public health and engineering establishments, who have already been absorbed in posts under district boards and municipal councils or who may be employed in future vacancies under them, should be on probation for a period of two years on duty within a continuous period of three years.

2. The presidents of panchayat boards are competent to prescribe such probation as they consider necessary in regard to posts under their boards, but it is unnecessary for presidents of panchayat boards to insist on a probation in the case of appointments of any ex-taluk board servants.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Local Self-Government)

T. B. RUSSELL,
Secretary to Government.

To all Presidents of District Boards, with copies to Presidents of Panchayat Boards (major unions) and the Valparai Panchayat Board.
„ the Executive Authorities of all Municipal Councils (through Chairmen of Municipal Councils).
„ the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts.
„ the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards.

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APPENDIX V.

[Vide answer to question No. 815 asked by Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 26th February 1936, page 133 supra.]

Name of municipality.	Name of Commissioner.	Date of appointment as Commissioner.	Qualifications.	Previous appointment held.	Scale of pay of substantive post.	Pay drawn in substantive post on the date of appointment as Commissioner.	Scale of pay of the post of Commissioner.	Salary, etc., drawn as Commissioner.	
								Pay.	Conveyance allowance.
Chittoor	G. Rangayya Pantulu	26th November 1935.	Madrasi and special taxa.	Office Superintendent, Nandyal Municipality, Manager, Chittoor Municipality.	Rs. 60-4-80	Rs. 80	Rs. 100-5/2-125	Rs. 100	Rs. 15
Elmalpetam	K. Naresimhaswami Pantulu	6th December 1935.	Do.	Do.	Rs. 60-4-80	Rs. 80	Rs. 100-5/2-125	Rs. 100	Rs. 15

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

Friday, the 28th day of February 1936.

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (the Hon. Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI) in the Chair.

PRESENT :

Venkata Reddi Nayudu, Kt., The Hon. Rai Bahadur Sir Kurma.	Muthiah Chettiyar of Chettinad, Raj Kumar M. A.
Pannirselvam, The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T.	Muthu Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur P. C.
Souter, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., The Hon. Sir Charles.	Nachiyappa Gounder, Mr. K. A.
Bracken, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., The Hon. Mr. G. T. H.	Nadimuthu Pillai, Mr. A. Pl. N. V.
Raja of Bobbili, K.C.I.E., The Hon. the Rajan, The Hon. Mr. P. T.	Nanjappa Bahadur, Rao Bahadur Subadar-Major S. A.
Kumaraswami Reddiyar, The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S.	Narasimhaswami, Rao Sahib D. V.
Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur.	Narayanan Nambiyar, Mr. V. P.
Ahmed Meeran Sahib Bahadur, A. M.	Natesa Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur C. Palat, Mr. R. M.
Alamelumangathayaramma, Mrs. K.	Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R.
Annamalai Chettiyar, Mr. S. A. A.	Patnaik Mahasuyo, Sriman M. G.
Appadurai Pillai, Diwan Bahadur A. Arasu, Mr. V. T.	Patro, K.C.I.E., Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B.	Pattabhiramayya, Mr. K.
Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.	Pattagar of Palayakottai, The.
Basu Dev, Mr. C.	Peddi Raju, Mr. P.
Beyabani Sahib Bahadur, S. M. K.	Pocker Sahib Bahadur, B.
Boag, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. G. T.	Premayya, Mr. G. R.
Dalavoi, Mr. R.	Rajagopala Pillai, Mr. P. V.
Davis, Mr. J. A.	Ramalingam Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur T. A.
Devadasan, Mr. M.	Ramalinga Reddi, Mr. C.
Dharmalingam Pillai, Rao Sahib V.	Ramamurti, Rao Sahib Pandit Ganala.
Ellappa Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur S.	Raman Menon, Mr. K. P.
Gopalaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur, M.	Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. T. S.
Halasyam Ayyar, Mr. N.	Rameswara Rao, Mr. G.
Indrayya, Mr. C.	Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A.
Iswaran Pillai, Mr. I. C.	Ranganatham, Mr. N.
Jagannatham, Mr. H. M.	Ratnavelu Thevar, Mr. P.
Jayaram Nayudu, Rao Sahib C.	Reid, Mr. D. M.
Jones, I.C.S., Mr. C. E.	Rukmani Lakshmi pathi, Mrs. A.
Kesavaramamurti Nayudu, Mr. K.	Russell, I.C.S., Mr. T. B.
Krishnayya Choudari, Mr. P. V.	Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur Mahmud.
Krishnamurti, Rao Bahadur D.	Scott Brown, I.C.S., Mr. W.
Kumararaja of Venkatagiri, The.	Simhachalan Pantulu, Mr. G.
Kuppuswami Choudari, Mr. J.	Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar, Mr. K. S.
Langley, Mr. W. K. M.	Smith, Mr. J. M.
Madanagopal Nayudu, Mr. R.	Sreshta, Mr. M. S.
Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur.	Srinivasan, Diwan Bahadur R.
Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A.	Sriramulu, Mr. G.
Moidoo Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur T. M.	Stanes, Mr. F. J.
Moses, Mr. P. C.	Subbarayan, Dr. P.
Muniswami Pillai, Rao Sahib V. I.	Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
	Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
	Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.
	Thangal, Mr. P. M.

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PRESENT—cont.

Thomas, Mr. Daniel.	Wright, Kt., Sir William.
Uzielli, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. H. R.	Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.
Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.	Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.
Venkatarama Ayyar, Mr. K. R.	Zamindar of Kirlampudi, The.
Venugopal Nayudu, Rao Bahadur R. K.	

I.—SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBER.

Mr. N. Ranganatham made the prescribed affirmation of allegiance to the Crown and then took his seat.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Electricity

Rates charged for consumption of electricity for different purposes.

* 829 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the rates at which electricity is supplied from Government sources are uniform all through, irrespective of the purpose for which it is used such as—

- (i) agricultural,
- (ii) commercial, and
- (iii) domestic;

(b) whether the private companies also adopt uniform rates irrespective of the purpose for which it is used; and

(c) if the answer to clause (a) or (b) is in the negative, why the difference is made and what the rates prevailing are?

A.—(a) & (b) No.

(c) The hon. Member's attention is invited to section 23 (4) of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, under which the charges made for the supply of energy may be based upon, and vary in accordance with, any one or more of the following considerations, namely:—

The consumer's load factor, or the power factor of his load, or his total consumption of energy during any stated period, or the hours at which the supply of energy is required. The rates charged by licensees and by the Electricity department are published in the form of printed booklets by them for the information of their consumers. The rates differ in different localities and considering the time, labour and cost involved the Government do not consider it worth while to compile and print the rates adopted by different licensees, for placing before the House. Information regarding rates in the Pykara system has already been placed before the House—vide answer to question No. 890 (a) given at the meeting of the Council on the 14th March 1935.

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Diwan Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, whether the revision contemplated with regard to rates, especially for agricultural purposes, has been effected? "

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—" Not yet."

Forests

Economy in the working of the Madras Forest College, Coimbatore.

* 830 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the question of reducing the expenditure incurred in running the Forest College and of giving better training and equipment to the students who resort to it, has been considered by the Government or by any committee advising the Government in the matter; and

(b) if so, to what conclusions the Government have come on the matter?

A.—The question of reducing the expenditure of the Forest College was considered by the Retrenchment Committee and by Government. All possible economies have been effected and the Government are convinced that it is not desirable to go further in the matter. Further, the Government have recently issued orders directing that candidates selected by Government for eventual appointment as Rangers should, during their training in the College, pay a fee of Rs. 750 per annum. Formerly they were trained free. Further, private students of this Presidency who were paying Rs. 500 per annum have now to pay Rs. 1,000 per annum.

As regards the question of giving better training the Government have not received any complaints on the score of inefficient teaching; the present standard of instruction is as high as that obtainable in the Ranger's College at Dehra Dun. With a view to giving better engineering training to the students, the Government have recently sanctioned the proposal of the Principal of the College to depute the senior division students for practical training with the Queen Victoria's Own Sappers and Miners at Bangalore for a period of ten days.

Prisons and Prisoners

Request for the transfer of Mr. Mukundalal Sarcar to some jail in Bengal.

* 831 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Mr. Mukundalal Sarcar, a prisoner in the Madras Conspiracy case is still in the Central Jail at Salem;

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- (b) what his present weight and state of health are;
- (c) whether the Government have received the copy of a resolution passed by the Bengal Provincial Committee of the All-India Trade Union Congress at its meeting held on 2nd November 1935 requesting the transfer of Mr. Mukundalal Sarcar (their ex-General Secretary) to some jail in Bengal;
- (d) if so, what orders have been passed thereon; and
- (e) if Mr. Sarcar has not yet been transferred to any of the Bengal jails yet, what the real difficulties that stand in the way are?

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

(b) The Government have no information. On 6th December 1935, his weight was 105 lb. and his health was reported to be 'quite fair.'

(c) Yes.

(d) & (e) The following reply has been sent to the General Secretary of the Bengal Provincial Committee of the All-India Trade Union Congress:—

"... the present health of the prisoner Mukundalal Sarcar is reported to be quite fair. No application from the prisoner for his transfer to any of the Bengal jails has been received by the Government or by the Inspector-General of Prisons, Madras."

Alleged grievances of Mr. Mukundalal Sarcar in the Central Jail at Salem.

* 832 Q.—MR. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. Mukundalal Sarcar, a prisoner in Salem Jail, has asked on the 17th December 1934, in weekly file, that he should be transferred to a Bengal jail on account of food difficulty which shattered his health; if so, what the reply given to him was;

(b) whether it is a fact that Mr. Sarcar is made to work for about eight hours a day in the open veranda of the prison, since his cell is locked up during the period and he is thus prevented from taking his bed when he feels the necessity to do so on account of his indifferent health;

(c) if so, why such a restriction is put on him who is a B class prisoner;

(d) what the work is he is able to turn out usually every day;

(e) whether it is a fact that the medical advice is that Mr. Sarcar should be allowed the use of an easy-chair; and

(f) if so, whether that advice is followed; if not, why not?

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A.—(a) There is no record of such a request having been made, nor of any reply thereto.

(b) & (c) The prisoner is made to work from 7 a.m. to 10-30 a.m. and from 12 noon to 4-30 p.m. According to rule 261 of the Madras Jail Manual, the cells and wards should be thoroughly ventilated during the day and kept locked to prevent prisoners from re-entering them.

(d) He is able to turn out $1\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of twisted thread every day.

(e) No.

(f) Does not arise.

Police

Recruitment of Muslims from South Kanara as Sub-Inspectors of Police.

* 833 Q.—Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state how many Sub-Inspectors of police were recruited from South Kanara during the last twelve years and how many of them were Muslims?

A.—The following table gives the number of Sub-Inspectors selected from South Kanara during the years 1930 to 1934 and the number of Muslims among them:—

	Year.	Number of Sub-Inspectors selected.	Number of Muslims.
1930		2	Nil.
1931		Nil.	Nil.
1932		Nil.	Nil.
1933		3	Nil.
1934		1	Nil.

Figures for the years 1923 to 1929 and 1935 are not readily available and the Government do not propose to call for them.

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I know why for the last five years no Muslim was selected?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"I am afraid an admixture of communal considerations and district patriotism would produce an impossible drag."

Irrigation

Provision for repairs to the Thippayapalem Project, Kurnool.

* 834 Q.—S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have made any provision in the coming budget to complete the repairs of the three breaches in the Thippayapalem Project (Kurnool district); and

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(b) whether the work would be completed this year before June?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) No.

Proposals for the assignment of land on patta in Velliyur village, Chingleput district.

* 835 Q.—Rao Sahib V. DHARMALINGAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased—

(i) to lay on the table of the House the report called for, in answer to question No. 531, dated 11th November 1935; and

(ii) to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a high bund (2 feet in height) is raised above F.T.L. by a private pattadar to the rear of Vaivesikandigai Thangal weir to the prejudice of the water-supply to Velliyur tank;

(b) whether it is a fact that in order to avoid such irregularities the Irrigation Conference of Tiruvallur division suggested the erection of a masonry weir opposite to poramboke (R.S. No. 231) by shifting the position of the present natural by-wash; and

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to carry out the suggestion of the said conference?

A.—(i) The Collector's report, dated 12th November 1935, is annexed.*

(ii) (a) & (b) The Government have no information.

(c) Does not arise.

Course of an unauthorized channel running through S. No. 12/B-1 and 15/1, Karikulavakkam, Tiruvallur taluk.

* 836 Q.—Rao Sahib V. DHARMALINGAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a cheri site has been allotted in S. Nos. 12/B-1 and 15/1 in village No. 110, Karikulavakkam, Tiruvallur taluk;

(b) whether an unauthorized channel is running through this cheri nattam to irrigate some dry lands belonging to the village munsif and his relations;

(c) whether the existence of this channel was found to be detrimental to the source of supply of imperial tank Nos. 477 and 478, by the Collector and the Revenue Divisional Officer during their respective inspections; and

(d) what orders were passed and what steps were taken to give effect to the findings of the Collector and the Revenue Divisional Officer.

A.—The Government have no information but have called for a report.

* Printed as Appendix I on page 218 infra.

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Land Revenue Administration

Difficulty in the collection of assessment in South Kanara due to the existence of joint pattas.

* 837 Q.—Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the existence of joint pattas is causing much difficulty in the collection of assessment in South Kanara; and

(b) what steps the Government have taken for the splitting up of joint pattas?

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

(b) There is provision in the rules in the Board's Standing Orders for the subdivision of joint holdings and it is open to the ryots to take advantage of it.

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government will be pleased to modify the Standing Orders in order to facilitate collection?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"I have had no occasion, Sir, to consider whether such a process is called for."

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—"At least will the Hon. Member be pleased to consider the question now?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"Sir, I see no case to do so."

Commerce

Import of foreign rice and paddy.

* 838 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) what quantities of paddy and rice have been imported into this province from Siam, Indo-China and Burma during each of the last three months, viz., October, November and December; and

(b) what proportion it bears to the quantity imported from the same places during the months of October, November and December in 1934?

A.—Attention is invited to the following figures of imports of rice and paddy:—

				Burma.		
				Broken rice.	Paddy.	Rice.
1934 ..	..	..	..	..	14,446	* 120,528
1935 ..	..	..	..	26,038	12,234	138,268
				Siam and Indo-China.		
1934 ..	..	..	..	86,876	50,825	12,890
1935 ..	..	..	..	24,267	34,315	3,542

* Includes broken rice.

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Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—" May I know whether the Government, in view of its experience, consider it desirable to tell the Government of India that instead of broken rice, whole rice and paddy may be taxed? "

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—" Do I understand the hon. Member to say that he wishes to withdraw the duty on broken rice? "

Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—" Whole rice and paddy may be taxed in addition to broken rice. "

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—" That will be considered. "

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" We see the rice imported from Burma has considerably increased from 1934-35. Will the Government recommend to the Government of India to see that the tariff rate on rice from Siam and Indo-China is removed in order that the competition between two sets of merchants may be fair? "

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—" As I understand the hon. Member, he does not want competition between Burma and Siam. I do not see why preference should be given to Siam. Anyway, it is a foreign country as against Burma. "

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" May I know whether we are not giving preference to Burma against Siam? "

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—" It does not matter if it is preference to Burma. "

Pensions

Cases of forfeiture of pensions of retired Government servants during the last triennium.

* 839 Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the Hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are any instances in which the pension of a retired public servant was forfeited or cancelled within the last three years in this Presidency; and, if so, for what reasons in each case;

(b) whether any applications have been made to the Government by such of those whose pension has been cancelled; and

(c) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table of the House a copy of the same and the orders passed in each case?

A.—(a) Yes. In three cases the pension was withdrawn, as the Government servants concerned were convicted of offences under the Indian Penal Code and in two cases the pension was withheld—in one case the whole of the pension and in the other a part of it—as the Government servants were guilty of 'grave misconduct.'

(b) Yes. Petitions for reconsideration of the orders were received from the person, a part of whose pension was withdrawn for grave misconduct.

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(c) The Government consider that no public purpose will be served by placing copies of these petitions and the orders of Government thereon on the table of the House.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" May I know, Sir, whether the case of Sanyasayya Nayudu, Retired Inspector of Police, whose half pension was cancelled, is included in it? "

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—" Yes, Sir. I think that case is included. "

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" May I know, Sir, whether he was given an opportunity to explain why his pension should not be withheld? "

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—" In cases of judicial conviction, it is not usual to call for an explanation. "

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" May I know as to whether in that case on appeal or revision Mr. Justice Burn found that he was not guilty of any disgraceful character as to merit forfeiture of his pension? "

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—" I have perused that judgment. "

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" May I know, Sir, whether in view of that judgment, Government will modify its opinion? "

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—" No, Sir. "

Mr. G. R. PREMAYYA:—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that Government cannot touch the pension of a pensioner? "

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—" The Government have the power to withdraw pensions for misconduct. "

Procedure to be followed in proceedings affecting the pension of a retired Government servant.

* 840 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether any enquiry of the nature of a judicial enquiry is held, after notice to the man affected, before the pension he is drawing is adversely affected; and

(b) whether there are any rules on the point and, if so, whether they would be placed on the table of this House?

A.—(a) No enquiry of a judicial nature is held nor is such an enquiry required under the rules.

(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to Article 351 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—" May I know, Sir, on what basis the usual pension is cut off? "

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—" Unusually pension is withdrawn with reference to judicial decision of courts. "

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Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" May I know whether the decision of the High Court is not a judicial decision, Sir? "

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—" Certainly, Sir. "

Local Self-Government

Bifurcation of the Ganjam District Board.

* 841 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage the bifurcation of the Ganjam District Board is; and when it is to be completed;

(b) if already completed, whether the election of President for the other board where there is no president, has been conducted and if so, who the person elected as president is;

(c) if it is not completed, what the reasons are for the delay and when it is likely to be completed;

(d) whether the Government have nominated or propose to nominate persons for these bifurcated district boards of Ganjam district and what the names and addresses of these nominees are and to which community each of these persons belongs; and

(e) what the communities are for which reserved seats are already existing on each of these bifurcated district boards?

A.—(a) The bifurcation has been ordered with effect from the 20th January 1936.

(b) The election of President of the new Chicacole District Board has not yet been held.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No nominations have yet been made to either of the boards.

(e) Number of seats reserved for—

Name of district board.	Women.	Adi-Dravidas.	Indian Christian.	Muslims.	European.
New Ganjam ..	Nil.	2	1	1	1
New Chicacole ..	2	1	..	..	..

Co-operation

Operations of the land mortgage banks in relieving agricultural indebtedness.

* 842 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) how many land mortgage banks, districtwar, have so far been started;

(b) what the total amount is of rural debts that the land mortgage banks have cleared off;

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(c) what the percentage of clearance of agricultural debts is to the total amount of agricultural debts; and

(d) whether it is contemplated to launch a vigorous campaign for starting more land mortgage banks?

A.—(a) There are at present 79 land mortgage banks in the following districts:—

Bellary, Kurnool, Ganjam, Anantapur and Cuddapah	1 in each.	5
Ramnad and Tinnevely	2 in each.	4
Salem, Guntur, Nellore, Madura and Trichinopoly	3 in each.	15
South Arcot, Vizagapatam and Chingleput	4 in each.	12
North Arcot .. .. .	.. .. .	5
Kistna and West Godavari	6 in each.	12
East Godavari and Tanjore	8 in each.	16
Coimbatore .. .. .	.. .. .	10
Total		79

(b) Land mortgage banks have issued loans amounting to Rs. 71,63,088 up to 30th June 1935 for redemption of mortgages, discharge of other prior debts, improvements of land and of methods of cultivation and purchase of lands in special cases on condition that such purchase will enable the ryot to round off his holding and work it more economically. No separate figures are available of the total amount of loans granted for the redemption of mortgages and discharge of other prior debts.

(c) The Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee estimated the total debt in the province at Rs. 150 crores. This is admittedly a rough estimate. In his report on Agricultural Indebtedness, Mr. Sathyanathan estimates the total agricultural indebtedness at about Rs. 200 crores. It is evident that this estimate also rests on a great many assumptions and deductions. On the basis of these estimates, the total amount of loans granted by land mortgage banks works out to less than $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent of the total amount of agricultural debts.

(d) No. The effect of the recent amendment to the Agriculturists' Loans Act on the working of land mortgage banks will have to be watched before further expansion can be undertaken. As there is a heavy demand for special staff in connexion with the grant of loans under the amended Agriculturists' Loans Act and as the funds available are limited, the Government have considered that no new banks should be started during 1936-37.

Mr. P. PEDDI RAJU:—" May I know, Sir, in view of the fact that the loans under the Agriculturists' Loans Act are intended to cover only small amounts of money, whether the starting of new land mortgage banks which can give larger loans will not help the ryots in 1936-37? "

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The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"The reasons are given in answer to clause (d)."

Mr. P. PEDDI RAJU:—"I am only referring to clause (d). It is said that the matter is under consideration and that they are watching the effect of the recent amendment, and the Government itself want to lighten the agricultural indebtedness and have decided upon that policy. Therefore, is it not possible to have more land mortgage banks in pursuance of that policy?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"Funds are limited and are not enough both for the land mortgage banks and the other items."

Diwan Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Does it not mean that persons who want loans will be denied relief and that they will not get, as much as necessary under the Agriculturists' Loans Act?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"They will have to be content with what they get for the time being."

Diwan Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Under the rules framed under the Act, the maximum loan that could be given is only Rs. 2,000. So all benefit will be denied to people who want sums more than Rs. 2,000?"

The Hon. P. T. RAJAN:—"Quite so."

Diwan Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"So, is it not the duty of the Government to find funds, especially when they have launched on a policy of dealing with agricultural indebtedness for starting more land mortgage banks?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"All depends upon the amount of funds available."

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"How long will it take for Government to start more banks?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"About a year or so."

Diwan Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Does the Government realize that there are few land mortgage banks in the Ceded districts and other dry areas and that people in need will suffer more and more?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"Yes, Government are aware of it."

Industries

Relief to the handloom weavers of Salem.

* 843 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether representations have been received in the course of the past six months either by the Government or by the District Collector or by both from the handloom weavers of Salem explaining their pitiable plight and praying for early remedy;

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(b) whether any report has been submitted to the Government by the Collector in this behalf and, if so, whether a copy of it will be placed on the table;

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to help them in their sufferings;

(d) whether there are any proposals to allot some amount from the famine relief fund to render some sort of immediate help to these poverty-stricken people; and

(e) if so, what they are and when this help is to be administered to them?

A.—(a) No representations were received by the Government. They have no information whether the Collector received any.

(b) & (c) A copy of the report of the Director of Industries in the matter is laid on the table.*

(d) The answer is in the negative.

(e) Does not arise.

Registration

Vacancies remaining unfilled in the cadres of District Registrars and upper grade Sub-Registrars.

* 844 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the number of permanent vacancies in the cadres of District Registrars and upper grade Sub-Registrars respectively that are yet to be filled up and the period they have been so vacant with reasons for their not being filled up till now?

A.—*District Registrars.*—There are three vacancies which arose on 9th June 1935, 1st July 1935 and 16th July 1935, respectively. The acting officers in the department have not yet completed their probation. Further, pending the formation of the Orissa Province, permanent vacancies in this cadre are not to be filled up.

Upper grade—Sub-Registrar.—There are two vacancies which arose on 25th October 1933 and 26th April 1934, respectively. These have not been filled up pending disposal of appeals preferred by two Sub-Registrars of the lower grade whose promotion the Inspector-General has withheld as a punishment.

Proposal for the revival of direct recruitment to the posts of District Registrars.

* 845 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether any of the District Registrars' posts are proposed to be filled up by direct recruitment; and

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(b) if so, why the practice which had been dropped is now proposed to be revived?

A.—(a) Under the existing rules, appointments to the cadre of District Registrars (Madras Registration Service) are made by transfer of Sub-Registrars of the selection grade (Madras Registration Subordinate Service). After all the Sub-Registrars in the selection grade who are considered suitable have been so appointed, appointment to the cadre of District Registrars may be made either by direct recruitment or by transfer from the category of Sub-Registrars of the first grade. This will be subject to the condition that when a substantive vacancy in the permanent cadre of District Registrars has been reserved to be filled by direct recruitment the next five such vacancies in the said cadre shall be filled by transfer and the substantive vacancy next following shall be reserved to be filled by direct recruitment.

(b) The communal rotation rule does not apply to transfer from the subordinate service and the redress of communal inequalities in the Provincial Service is effected by the application of the communal proportion rule to direct recruitment. The direct recruitment to every sixth vacancy in the cadre of District Registrars is therefore intended to correct inequalities of communal proportion in the service.

Result of the enquiry by the Special Officer appointed to enquire into the conduct of certain Sub-Registrars.

* 846 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the result of the enquiry by the Special Officer appointed about April last to enquire into the conduct of the Sub-Registrars whose claims to promotion to the upper grade had been overlooked previously;

(b) the number of Sub-Registrars whose claims were so overlooked; and

(c) the number of Sub-Registrars who have been removed from the 'ineligible' list as a result of the enquiry referred to above?

A.—The Special Officer conducted enquiries into the work and conduct of seven Sub-Registrars whose claims for promotion to the upper or first grade were overlooked in the past. He has recommended that three of them should be passed over permanently, that promotion should be stopped temporarily in the case of two officers and that the other two may be promoted at once. The Inspector-General has passed orders promoting five of them and superseding the other two.

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Education

Notification of the Madras Services Commission inviting applications from Muhammadan L.Ts. for filling 19 vacancies in September last.

* 847 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) how many L.Ts. have been recruited as headmasters and school assistants under the Madras Educational Subordinate Service in each of the branches of men and women in each year for the past five years including 1935;

(b) what the number is according to communities and according to districts (each separately) in each of those years;

(c) whether it is a fact that applications have been invited for as many as 19 of such posts only from Muhammadans on or about September last by the Madras Services Commission; and

(d) if so, what the reasons are for restricting all those posts to Muhammadans?

A.—(a) & (b) The information required is given in the appended statement.^a

(c) Yes.

(d) Applications from Muhammadans were called for as members of that community were required to hold posts sanctioned for Muhammadan institutions.

Recruitment of Sub-Assistant Inspectresses of Schools for the quinquennium ending 1935.

* 848 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) how many vacancies of Sub-Assistant Inspectresses of Schools have occurred in each year for the past five years including 1935;

(b) of these, how many have been filled up by direct recruitment and how many by promotion from the school staff in each year; and

(c) what the numbers are according to communities and according to districts (each separately) in each of those years?

A.—The information is given in the appended statement.^b

Medical Administration

Inadequacy of provision for the Government hospitals in Salem.

* 849 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what the allotment provided for each of the Government hospitals in Salem district in each year for the last five years including 1935-36 is;

^a Printed as Appendix III on page 227 infra.

^b Printed as Appendix IV on page 228 infra.

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- (b) whether any complaints have been received from any of the institutions stating that provisions under particular items, especially under diet to in-patients, have run out in the middle of the year; and
- (c) if so, what steps have been taken to remedy such defects?

A.—(a) Statements showing the allotments sanctioned to each of the Government Hospitals in the Salem district separately for each of the years 1931–32, 1932–33, 1933–34, 1934–35 and 1935–36 are placed on the table.* The statements do not include the following items as the expenditure on such items is incurred on a provincial basis and no specific allotment for each medical institution is sanctioned:—

- (1) Pay of officers.
- (2) Pay of establishments.
- (3) Travelling allowances.
- (4) Other compensatory allowances.
- (5) Honoraria.
- (6) Stipends to pupil nurses.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

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

III.—GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1936–37.

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—“The general discussion of the budget will commence now.”

* Diwan Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR:—“Mr. President, Sir, the Hon. the Finance Member has made a new departure in two ways. He has made things clear by avoiding, shall I say, verbosity. The whole speech as printed comes to 8 pages of the small size, whereas, the speeches in former years used to occupy very much more space and probably give much less information. So, I like to congratulate him on that, and also, Sir, on the change he has made in not printing the speech earlier which is also good not because of any distinct feature this year, because this year there has been no change from last year. As he himself said it is only a hum drum budget and probably he came to conclusions as to what ought to be included and what ought not to be included several weeks back. But in future, Sir, when responsible Government comes into existence if it means anything they will have to make changes until probably the very last moment, until the Finance Member gets on his feet. So, Sir, for the future it is a very good arrangement no doubt, though for

* Printed as Appendix V on pages 229–230 infra.

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the present year I do not think there was any reason for making the change. But all the same he has been able to give us a very lucid analysis of the financial position of the Province and indeed the speech along with the note that was circulated to us giving the budget abstract puts in a nutshell the position of the Province at the moment. Also, Sir, there are one or two matters in which I entirely agree with him, viz., that this is not a time at which any large changes ought to be made or contemplated. For one thing we are on the eve of the Reforms. They are expecting a responsible Government whatever it may mean under the new Act and provincial autonomy with whatever powers that may remain after all the reservations and responsibilities. We are going to have a new system introduced very soon and it is not fair to the Council, to the new electorates and to the new system that any large changes should be made by this assembly.

“Also, I will mention a second reason. This Council has been sitting under so many extensions, and it has been variously described in various places. Some people have been saying that this Council represents only His Excellency the Governor who has extended its period and not the electorate. Others have been holding different views. Whatever it is, there is no doubt that this Council cannot claim that it represents the electorate at the present moment. Also, the elections that are being held for the local bodies all over the province show that the opinion of the country has been changing for some time, and probably if there is going to be an election at the present moment, most members of this House may not be able to come back. Any way, it is clear that we are not really, under the constitution even as it is, a representative body representing the electorate. Such being the case, it is not fair that a Council like this should undertake to make large changes either in the administration in the various departments or in the financial arrangements. For these reasons, it is fair and it is also proper that no large changes should be made. So, I am entirely in agreement with the Hon. the Finance Member when he said that this is not the time for large changes, and also from the nature of things it is not possible to make changes because most of our revenues are practically covered by standing expenditure. The amount we can play with is very little, and unless we are going to launch on a policy of large new taxation, with the present arrangements it is not possible to provide for any new service.

“Sir, before proceeding further, I should just refer to two questions. One is the question of new taxation which has been raised by the Hon. the Finance Member with a view to support the motion which the Hon. the Revenue Member is going to move in this Council. (Interruption.) I hear from the Hon. the Revenue Member that he is not going to make the motion, and I am glad to know it. Well, Sir, this is by no means the time when we should be thinking of having additional taxation. Also there is the other matter, namely, the question of raising large sums as loans for the purpose of road

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development. Here again, it is a big matter; it is a matter in which probably the ultimate commitment may be some crores. Is a Council like the one I just now described, namely, one that has lost touch with the electorate, to launch on new schemes? Is it justified in going in for such large loans and undertaking a new policy altogether? After all, there are only a few months between the closing of the life of this Council and the coming into existence of the new Council, and is it not forcing on it a policy of a complicated nature? It seems to me that the Hon. the Chief Minister ought to take note of this fact before he presses his scheme in this House. It is a large policy that he is going to enunciate, viz., the policy of taking large sums as loans for giving effect to the recommendations of Mr. Vipani. Well, it is quite possible that the new Council may take the view that we ought to spend more money on village communications or for communications which enable the producers to take the goods to local markets. That is a matter in which there is difference of opinion. People are feeling that the agriculturists should be helped to take their goods to the markets. After all, in the present condition of the local markets, the question will be, are we justified in spending more money on those through traffic roads, trunk roads and things like that, or should we not devote more attention to village roads and the market-feeder roads as they used to be called in the olden days? Anyhow, that is a matter for the new Council which is going to come into existence to decide. It ought not to be forced on the new Council as a sort of *fait accompli* that the matter is already under way, because this Council has passed a resolution and a large sum has been already borrowed. It is not fair to commit the Government to a large expenditure of this sort at the present moment.

"Well, Sir, having said that, I will refer to the present position of our finance, as was done by the Hon. the Finance Member. So far as the debt position is concerned, we are very well off. Of the debts, the productive debt extends to Rs. 1,636 lakhs, whereas the unproductive debt extends only to Rs. 11 lakhs. Of course, I ought to remind hon. Members of this House that it does not mean that these debts only represent our assets in this province. Sir, large sums have been spent out of revenue for capital expenditure, and we have got productive assets of very high value. Financed from revenues as our assets have been for a long time past, though on paper our unproductive debt is Rs. 11 lakhs, it has been covered over probably hundred times or even more by the money spent out of revenues for productive purposes. (The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. Bracken: 'Hear, hear.') So, Sir, there is no question of any unproductive debt remaining unpaid here in this province, and we need not bother about our debt position at all.

"Then, we take the revenue position. There again, what is the position? In the revenue position also, our income is more than the expenditure. They have shown a budget just balanced. But yet the Hon. Finance Member has provided for a large number of extraordinary expenditure. For instance, a sum of Rs. 9 lakhs is provided

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for elections; it is not an ordinary expenditure. That is one of the items for which provision is made. Similarly there are other items for which provision is made, but which are not of a permanent character, and we will be justified in taking the amount necessary out of our surplus. Will the Hon. the Finance Member seriously say that we should not take money for non-recurring expenditure from the surplus, when we have got a surplus available and when we have non-recurring expenditure of that sort? So, it seems to me that there is no justification for the position he takes that he will have either not to think of land revenue remissions or as an alternative impose new taxes. Sir, neither the one nor the other is necessary, because we have got more than enough to cover our expenditure, and so there is no need for additional taxation. We have got enough to pay for the land revenue concessions. Such being the case, the way in which he puts the alternatives before us, I beg to submit, Sir, is not justified. Well, Sir, there is also the question of our expenditure at the present moment and what it is likely to be in future. We have been complaining that our reserves have been spent in ways which probably the future Government which may be coming into existence next year may not approve of. We have been saying that we have been multiplying officers in departments without really trying to take the benefit of things to the people. Sir, I have to say in passing that in the year 1923 the Retrenchment Committee sat. It recommended a number of retrenchments, as a result of which several offices were abolished. What do we find now, within ten years of the sitting of the Retrenchment Committee? Almost every post that was abolished has been restored. I believe the only office that has not been restored is that of the Deputy Directress of Education. Well, Sir, what will a national Government, I shall so put it, which is going to be in charge of our finances say when they survey the additional expenditure and also re-examine the tax position? In the first place, as I have been saying the taxes in this province are mostly paid by the poor people. I do not want to tire the House by repeating all my arguments over again. Whether in the case of land revenue, in excise or in stamps, in every case, it is either the poor landholder who pays Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 kist who predominates in number, or the poor labourer who drinks, or the poor debtor for whose debt suits are filed in court; these are the people who pay. It seems to me that it is necessary to examine the system altogether. We have to see whether the man who can afford to pay, the richer man, pays more than the poor man. Under the present system obtaining in this province, it is not possible to work it out because it goes so much on uniformity, averages and things like that, that it is not possible to make any difference between the rich man and the poor man. Ever since this Council came into existence in 1920, some of us have been saying that land revenue ought to be made permanent at a certain figure, and then all other requirements should be met by an income-tax on agricultural income. That has been one of the things

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we have been pressing for and that has not been seriously taken on hand. I am absolutely certain that if a popular Council is going to come into existence next year, one of the things that that Council will have to consider is the question of making the taxation in this province more equitable. With reference to the expenditure also, it will have to be a question—taking for instance only one item of expenditure like education, whether they have not to pay more attention to elementary education and less for university education. Well, that is a matter which will have to be seriously taken into consideration. Even in poorer countries elsewhere, primary education and vocational education have made larger progress than in this country. But here, unfortunately in India, we have been lagging so far behind. From the figures supplied by the Hon. the Finance Member, what do we find as the amount additionally allotted for primary education—I am not talking about the way in which it is going to be spent because it is not going to be spent more efficiently, but even so—it is a very small sum considering the importance of the subject. It is absolutely necessary that any Government worth the name should seriously tackle this question of primary education and see that we make very much greater progress than we have hitherto done. But the question has been raised where the money is to come from. My answer is funds will have to be found by properly husbanding our revenues. We find for instance, there are too many intermediary officers, people like Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Deputy Conservator of Forests and so on; not only that even below them we have Deputy Superintendent of Police and similar officers. In Excise you have got a whole army, the Commissioner, the Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Inspectors, Deputy Inspectors, Assistant Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and so on. It is really hopeless to have such a galaxy of officers one supervising the work of the other, and I do not know where it may end. It is a matter which requires looking into. Not only that, there are bigger questions also, for instance whether you want the Excise Department separately from the Police Department. After all both are for preventive purposes. The Revenue Department and the Police Department between them could relieve the Excise Department. I do not know whether in other countries we have got a separate department to deal with excise. It is a matter which will have to be looked into and any funds relieved thereby ought to go for purposes like elementary education and not to be diverted as in the past for other purposes.

“Then, Sir, there was the relief from the contribution which we used to pay to the Government of India in the past, and the way in which we spent away the money is tragic. Sir, we were the only province which had had that saving because we were not meeting our demands properly, we were not providing for the interest of the province and saving such a lot of money—we had something like 328 lakhs margin, but the way in which it has been spent and the opportunities we have lost of tackling questions like elementary

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education and prohibition with the funds released from that contribution is, as I said, tragic. In future at least we will have to consider this question, whatever funds are saved by making changes in the present administration ought to be utilised for these purposes which are urgent. Sir, as I said at the start even though the statement of the Hon. the Finance Member is short, it really gives in proper perspective an idea of the finance both current and capital. To that extent certainly we are thankful to him, but we only hope that the idea underlying his speech, namely that on the eve of the coming Reforms we should not undertake anything new, will be borne in mind before allowing any departments to draw up any schemes.”

* Sir WILLIAM WRIGHT:—“Sir, the Hon. Finance Member has described his Budget as dull and humdrum, but I am sure the House will agree that his exposition of it was neither humdrum nor dull.

“I would like to congratulate him on his first—possibly his last—Budget. He referred to the benefits to this province of the prudent policy of his many distinguished predecessors, and it must be a matter of considerable gratification to him that as the last official Finance Member he has been able to maintain that prudent policy and hand over to the new Government the finances of the Presidency in a sound condition.

“On behalf of these benches my Friend Mr. Langley last year referred at some length to the inelasticity of our sources of revenue and I believe this problem is a matter of concern to all parties in this House. It is therefore all the more astonishing that an endeavour to find a new source, as in the Tobacco Bill, should have given rise to so much opposition. As Chairman of the Select Committee on that Bill I believe the Committee returned a Bill to the House which will hardly be felt by the tobacco vendor, and by the cultivator not at all. At a more appropriate time I hope to have more to say on this point.

“In spite of the disappointing reception given to the Tobacco Bill I welcome the reference made by the Finance Member to the intention of Government to consider further sources of taxation. I am afraid that I am bound to agree with my Friend Mr. Langley's remark made last year, that under the Government of India Act the Central Government controls most of the profitable sources of indirect taxation; but within the limits left for the provinces, the European Group will always give its best consideration to any suggestion for extending the field of taxation in the Presidency. The inelasticity of the revenue has been the burden of our song in the General Discussion on the Budget for several years now. We feel that the present system bears hardly on the agriculturist and would welcome any means of improving his lot.

“I would like to endorse much of what the Hon. Member said on the subject of retrenchment. Retrenchment must, however, always be dependent on the maintenance of a proper standard of efficiency.

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"This House may impose various forms of taxation and excise, but for Government to obtain the full benefit of such measures it is axiomatic that the collecting services should be efficient. The sacrifice of efficiency, so often implied by retrenchment, is no economy at all, and I am a firm believer that nothing requires more detailed care than any scheme of retrenchment.

"Before I turn for a moment to other matters I see that the Finance Member admits that the revenue from stamps is likely to decrease as recent legislation will tend to the decrease of litigation, and I sincerely hope that he is correct.

"The Hon. Member referred to his visit to Delhi to interview Sir Otto Niemeyer; but I think Madras has the right to ask why Sir Otto did not visit this Presidency?

"We also read in the Press of the Finance Member of the Government of India visiting this centre and that. But why has he no time to visit Madras? The present Finance Member has never been here. His predecessor never came here and for seven years no Finance Member has found time to come down to this province.

"I have no doubt our case was most ably and effectively put up to Sir Otto Niemeyer and I have no doubt that our view point is always placed before the Government of India with the greatest force when financial relations between the centre and the provinces are under review; this will not, however, make up for the lack of direct touch and we in Madras have the right to claim that the importance of this province should not be ignored by the Finance Department of the Central Government, and we have the right to claim the same consideration as other provinces more favourably situated geographically as regards Delhi and Simla.

"Turning once more to the Budget as introduced, I consider that the loan position of the Presidency is particularly satisfactory, as with the coming of Political Autonomy, much money will be undoubtedly required to finance many new schemes. Schemes which are to be productive of further revenue are always to be welcomed and should be financed by loans. I am a firm believer in not doing too much for posterity, as posterity will do nothing for us.

"One feature of the Budget speech which I must welcome very cordially is the frank admission that the taxation levied on motor vehicles in this province is 'exceptionally high in comparison with other provinces'; and I strongly endorse the criticism, which, the Finance Member admits, has been made, that 'this high level of taxation has hindered the development of motor transport.'

"This question formed the subject of a detailed memorial submitted to the Central and Provincial Governments last year by several of the organizations which we on these benches represent. Figures which were then put forward showed that more than a third of the

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annual running cost of the poor man's vehicle—the motor bus—went in taxation to the Central and Provincial Governments, or to Municipalities or District Boards.

"I sincerely hope that when the Finance Member followed his remarks on the existing scale of motor-vehicle taxation with a reference to the 'comprehensive survey' which he proposes to make, 'to see what more can be done in the way of . . . adjustment of taxation' he meant to convey to the overtaxed motorists that at last their cry was to be heard, and their prayers answered.

"It was comforting to us all to listen to what the Hon. Member had to say about the improvement in commodity prices and his 'hesitant hope' that further improvement might be expected. The alliteration of his phrase 'hesitant hope' was particularly appropriate when expressing aspiration. (Laughter.)

"He referred to my own phrase used in another place of restrained optimism as regards the future. I see no reason to change that view. Subject to no further world cataclysm and a growth of goodwill, both internal and external, thanks to the prudent financial policy of the past with the steady development of our great hydro-electric and irrigation schemes our harbours and transport facilities, the future prosperity of this great Presidency should be quite definitely on the upward grade."

Mr. J. A. DAVIS:—"Mr. President, Sir, the announcement you were pleased to make yesterday goes to illustrate forcibly the helpless position of the Anglo-Indian. Leaders of parties are to get 20 minutes and others 10 minutes. Where does the single representative of the Anglo-Indian community, a community as numerically strong as the European community, come in? I hope with our one per cent representation I will get more than 10 minutes, for my cry in the wilderness. The Anglo-Indian community under the new Constitution will be very much more European than in the past, for it will include the domiciled European, though the percentage of representation will still be in the vicinity of one compared with the strength of the Council.

"That the community can secure nothing under the Government in the future unless it is specially earmarked for it, there can be no better illustration than what has happened in the cases of the filling of the post of Director of Public Health, Inspector-General of Registration and Civil Surgeoncies. Notwithstanding solemn commitments in this Council fully qualified members of the community fail to fill the office of the former two heads of departments, while though one member of the Indian Medical Department is Civil Surgeon of an important station the selection grade open to him has been so filled as to compel him to discharge these duties without drawing the salary of the post. This demands the attention of the Hon. the Minister in charge.

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"I have made these allusions to show that the Anglo-Indian with a 1 per cent representation in the councils can hope to get nothing under Government unless it is earmarked for him.

11-48 a.m. "Some hopes were expressed that he would secure a better proportion of appointments in the Railway, but these have been discounted by the drastic cuts the Assembly has carried. The Calcutta Statesman rightly points out that tea and coffee cultivation and industry employs more labour than the railway. Here also a dramatic situation is to be created, for, the Government has notified that an all-round assessment of tea lands at Rs. 2 per acre is to be levied at a time when the tea planter is only enabled to live with the protection of the quota system. What then is to become of the Anglo-Indian community? There is only one solution—a solution all along advanced by me and that is to give them their legitimate rights. Let them participate in the defence forces of this country. I have shown that the presence of the Anglo-Indian in this country and the part he has played in the past Volunteer Forces and the present Auxiliary Forces of the country has been responsible for saving the Central Government crores of rupees annually."

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—"On a point of order, may I ask if it is relevant to the Budget, Sir?"

Mr. J. A. DAVIS:—"What would to-day be the prospect of a new Constitution if it were not for the part the Anglo-Indians played in the Indian Mutiny onwards to the Great War and the extent to which they were also responsible for that august commitment of our late beloved Sovereign and Emperor? All will be provincialized and Madras will have to furnish its quota of the defence costs of the country. The Hon. the Finance Member has either to find new sources to the extent of Rs. 69 lakhs or he has to have retrenchment to that extent. I am sure he will bring about retrenchment to many times the amount named if he will press before Sir Otto Neimeyer the necessity of having one or more Anglo-Indian regiments for the defence of this country. This will give the community a nucleus on which to expand and admit of its filling the ranks of the Auxiliary Forces of this country to a much greater extent than in the past to the great financial saving to the country. I do not for a moment suggest that the other communities of India, such as the Madrassese, Sikhs, Gurkhas, etc., are not to have their fair share in the defence of the country. Anglo-India, as in the past, so now, in the hour of trial, is liable to conscription and will be still more so in the future, when its ranks will be enlarged by the addition of the domiciled European. I therefore trust that the Hon. the Finance Member will make this his main plank for retrenchment, whereby he will not only have a balanced budget but he will earn the gratitude of a loyal and deserving community. I can also appeal to the European Members in this connexion for, the Anglo-Indians of the future will be made up of so much of the European that any regiment for the community will

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be drawn of the best material and furnish an acclimatised and unitary force whose presence in India, both as regular forces and as auxiliaries, will be invaluable in case of necessity.

"Sir, the Hon. the Finance Member has rightly drawn attention to the deficiency of 69 lakhs that the abolition of tolls has brought about. This has led to the crippling of local bodies and also to the bifurcation of district boards. The main reason for the abolition of tolls was that inconvenience and delay were caused at the gates. Seeing the cost at which these small inconveniences have been set right, I consider that we ought to boldly face the situation and restore the tolls. This will also automatically remove a good deal of the high motor-tax complained of.

"The other item that has resulted in a certain fall in revenue has been the scheme of partial prohibition amongst the Badagas. This was justified for some years, when properly worked, and placed the Badaga on his feet, at a time when he had become the victim of drink. To judge from the manner in which it is worked, it is no longer justifiable. Every Badaga can now get his drink, but at double its price. Intermediaries have sprung up who supply the Badaga with drink for which in most cases he has to pay double the cost, to say nothing of it being adulterated and even drugged. It therefore seems only fair that the Badaga might be allowed to drink pure beer at its real cost and the present loss to Government saved. A Badaga who formerly paid 6 annas for his drink, now pays 12 annas for an adulterated article. I am also informed by the Co-operative department that since there is no restriction outside the Nilgiris, the Badaga, when he comes down to Coimbatore to sell his potatoes drinks and indulges in an orgy of drinking on the plains.

"Sir, with reference to the 101 amendments we have made to the District Municipalities Act, without in many instances amending the corresponding sections, we have rendered parts of the Act unworkable. The recent provision enabling the appointment committees to be constituted is an instance in point. The commissioner now exercises his emergency powers under section 73 (a) and considers that he need not refer the matter to the council under section 73 (b), nor to the appointment committee, while the chairman holds that rule 12 of Appendix III does not apply to the appointment committee with the result that the council is kept in the dark so far as appointments are concerned. The section that requires that a commissioner can be removed if a certain number of Councillors vote against him is having the effect of commissioners having to direct the elections so that the chairman and council are practically in his control. The commissioner, the health officer, the engineer and now the electrical engineer are under Government or provincialized men responsible to Government, with the chairman and councillors mere figureheads. That is what the so-called Local Self-Government has come to mean and municipalities are now run from the Secretariat through the four officers named.

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"To Sir Thomas Moir, to Sir Mahomed Usman and the succeeding Members in charge of European education we are thankful for the provision of Rs. 40,000 annually for the education of poor Anglo-Indian girls which has proved such a blessing. We are thankful that the allotment is continued this year.

"I had drawn a resolution for the last meeting of the Council protesting against the curtailment of grants to aided schools. That was not reached. I am thankful that a provision of Rs. 4 lakhs has been made towards aided schools, otherwise most of these institutions would have been closed this year."

* The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"May I remind the hon. Member that only six minutes are allowed for manuscript speeches?"

Mr. J. A. DAVIS:—"In conclusion I would appeal to the Hon. the Finance Member, on the momentous occasion when we are about to enter upon a period of reforms, to lend his help to the Anglo-Indians in giving them their legitimate right of serving in the defence forces of this country along with the European and other communities which will not only help to balance future budgets but will earn for him the lasting gratitude of a loyal community which has played a great part in the military history of this country, not forgetting that a community that in the past has been liable to conscription, and has had conscription applied to it, must have peculiar claims at a time such as this."

* Khan Bahadur YAHYA ALI SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. Deputy President, the financial year on which we are about to enter will be a momentous one. As the House is aware, we are going shortly to enter upon a constitution which is quite unique. Autonomous provinces will soon be established with a view to turn into Federal units so that in two or three years we may be members of an All-India Federation which is going to be established for the first time in the history of the world. The coming year is a sort of connecting link with the new era. Therefore, the responsibility of the officers who have to bring into shape or put into practice the various changes during this transitional year will indeed be very great. No constitutional fabric can be reared properly unless it is based on sound national finances and sound national education. One ought to look at the budget from that aspect and see whether the province have been satisfactorily prepared to undertake the journey on the road in front of us. Now, Sir, looking at it from the financial point of view, one finds that it is all very well from the administrative point of view. But we have also to see whether the financial management has been such as to improve the lot of the ryots and to enable them to lead a happy life.

"Then as regards sound national education, we have to see whether the education that is imparted to our young men is in keeping with the traditions of the country, is calculated to put the right men in

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the right places and enable every individual to pursue an occupation with the minimum amount of general culture necessary for a civilized being.

"Now, Sir, I do not propose to enter into the details of the budget at this stage, because I am giving notice of cut motions and in moving them I would be in a position to get on to the brass tags. I wish on this occasion to address myself mainly to the financial question. Sir, having regard to the fact that this is a transitional year, one has got to see how far the responsibilities of the Government have been satisfactorily discharged. The Hon. the Finance Member in his characteristically modest way has described his budget as a dry and humdrum budget. It is practically, if I may so call it, an equilibrium budget—equilibrium in the sense that he has maintained the balance in a remarkable degree to the last rupee, leaving neither a deficit nor a surplus in the revenue estimates. It is a budget in which copious and handsome provisions have been made for the expansion of the nation-building activities. In the coming year the budget contains provision for two new avenues of nation-building activities. The Hon. Member has provided 20 lakhs for relief of rural indebtedness and has further given the assurance that if more money is needed for the purpose more will be forthcoming. For the improvement of minor irrigation an ultimate provision to the tune of 50 lakhs has been made for an accelerated programme of minor irrigation works, repairs and improvements. Again, Sir, 35 lakhs have been provided for new schemes, and out of this, about 87 per cent has been earmarked for the transferred departments. So that I believe it is not right to call this a humdrum budget, in the sense that it is a skeleton or a starvation budget. Ample provision has been made for all possible expansion in the direction of national progress.

"Having said that, I consider that I should refer to one or two other matters referred to by the Hon. Member. He referred to the incurable optimism of the spending departments and the local bodies and said that they were responsible to some extent for the lapses and the consequential lax budgeting. I do not hold any brief for the spending departments, but as far as the local bodies are concerned, as I am intimately connected with them, I can say that that criticism is not absolutely fair. For as hon. Members are aware, the budgets of local bodies go up to the Local Government for scrutiny and are there held up for some time. They are not aware beforehand what provisions would be made for spending on their diverse activities, and, when they start spending, the year is so far advanced that it is practically impossible for them to spend quite a large portion of the amount made over to them.

"Another point which I wish to make is about the credit which the Hon. the Finance Member seems to have taken by way of Tobacco Bill proceeds for wiping off a deficit of 5 lakhs of rupees which would otherwise occur in the budget. In another portion of his speech the Hon. the Finance Member has stated that he is going to institute an

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enquiry as regards the incidence of local and provincial taxation, and in view of such an enquiry it was not advisable on the part of the Government to rush through any measures of taxation. After all I do not think the Hon. the Finance Member will find it difficult to balance the budget to the extent of 5 lakhs of rupees. As a matter of fact the Hon. the Finance Member has himself pointed out that the revenue has been coming in to a larger extent and so far as excise revenue is concerned, there is sign of recovery. Having regard to all these considerations, and other factors indicating a rise in the price of food stuffs, I hope the Government will not find it very difficult to cover a comparatively negligible deficit of 5 lakhs of rupees. I would also make an appeal to the Hon. the Revenue Member not to make a reduction in land revenue remissions in consequence of the abandonment of the Tobacco Bill.

"In another portion of his speech the Hon. the Finance Member referred to Sir Otto Niemeyer's enquiry. We have had a sad experience in connection with the Meston award. At that time we had large surpluses in our provincial balances on account of the fact that we were able to balance our budgets in those days, so that it was thought by the Meston Committee that if we required money we would be able to draw from our provincial balances. That went against Madras to some extent. So I am afraid I cannot very much appreciate too closely balanced budgets. I do not say that it is an unsound policy if we have a balanced budget. But the view may be taken that facts have to be recognized and as such those provinces that are in a deficit condition ought to have better treatment than others whose financial position is sound.

"Lastly on the question as to what the balance is likely to be in 1937, I have to make a submission to the Government. The Hon. the Finance Member said that there are some commitments for which these balances stand ear-marked. During previous years I had occasion to point out that these balances should not be utilized for capital expenditure but that such capital expenditure should be met wholly from loan funds. I am sure that if that policy had been pursued, the General Balances would to-day have stood at double their present figure.

"On the question of education I would just address myself a few words. I feel that after the year 1882 when we had an enquiry into the general condition of education conducted by the Hunter Committee, there has been no investigation into the general problems of education and matters have been drifting in a sort of way. I propose to raise this question by means of a cut motion and hence it is unnecessary for me to dilate upon it, especially as my time is up. I only refer to this at this stage with a view to show how both the Government and the local bodies have been following a policy of drift in the matter of education, without any definite aim or appreciation of the ideals.

"One more word and I have done, and that is with reference to my district. There are several irrigation projects which have been either

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kept in abeyance or abandoned for the last so many years. The district has been practically shut out of the Tungabhadra projects. I hope and trust that the Hon. the Revenue Member will at least compensate the district for being deprived of a place in the huge master projects by providing it with a large share out of the Rs. 50 lakhs grant for minor irrigation works and Rs. 20 lakhs grant for relief against agricultural indebtedness."

Mr. T. S. RAMANWAMI AYYAR:—"They say that sometimes Fairy Tales come true. When the Finance Member talked of the expectation of Madras for financial justice at the hands of the Central Government, I thought of Cinderella dreaming by the kitchen fire.

"The Hon. the Finance Member said that he was a pessimist last year and a hesitant hoper this year. Is the change due to his presence at the coming of age ball given by Sir Otto Niemeyer?

"It is stated that Madras attended the Ball clad in the white robe of Rectitude which her Fairy God Mother the Finance Member created by a wave of the wand out of her rags of axe and tax. The sister provinces should have come to the Ball dressed in robes of shining gold made out of debt. The Finance Member thinks that the Central Government has taken a liking for Madras and that Madras will soon come into her own. I trust the vision will come true and that Cinderella will no longer be a mere character in a Fairy Tale. The Finance Member takes pride in the fact that Madras has always done her best to balance her budgets. No doubt it is sound finance and successive Auditors-General have eulogised Madras for her efforts to implement financial maxims. But at what cost? The agriculturist has been bled white. He has got into debt so that the credit of the province may rise high. I wonder how long this strain will continue."

Mr. H. M. JAGANNATHAM:—"Mr. President, Sir, this is the first budget of the Hon. Mr. Bracken and I congratulate him on the ability and care with which the finances of the province have been dealt with. I am sure that the new Government which will soon be inaugurated will be much helped by the sound financial position obtaining now.

"The hon. Member for Ganjam Sir A. P. Patro has on a former occasion said that budget discussions afford opportunities for hon. Members of this House to travel from China to Peru. Though that is so I have neither the time nor the inclination to cover a variety of subjects. I shall confine myself to the position of the depressed classes. Before doing so, I wish to render my grateful thanks to the present day Government for the sympathy that they have evinced in the welfare of the depressed classes. We also owe a good deal to the noble band of Englishmen who have had much to do with the present day Government. Very soon we will be having provincial autonomy and our own Ministers. I sincerely trust that our own Ministers will also show us the same sympathy and evince real interest in us without treating us as merely parts of a big political game. The responsibility of future Indian Ministers in this matter is a good deal more, because, the sad position of the depressed classes is no doubt in some way due to them."

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" Mr. President, it is really unfortunate that year after year it has not been possible to have any discussion on the Labour Demand as it is one of the items to which the Guillotine is applied. The benign Government have nominated some of us to the Legislatures to strive for the uplift of our poor community and discussion on Labour Demand could it have been reached would have been a few of the rare opportunities vouchsafed to us to work in that direction. The Labour department was started by our present great Viceroy when His Excellency was the Governor of Madras. Though His Excellency Earl Willington will very soon be relinquishing the reins of his exalted office, the beneficent work that he did in connexion with the depressed classes will endure for all times to come and His Excellency's name will for ever and ever be cherished with feelings of deep gratitude by all generations of the depressed classes. It is a matter of some sorrow that the Labour department started under such distinguished guidance and for the fulfilment of a great purpose is not working on the same satisfactory lines it used to work. Here I must make it absolutely clear that my complaint is in no way directed against the gentleman who is to-day occupying the position of the Labour Commissioner. I am free to own that the present Labour Commissioner is doing his best for the depressed classes. My complaint is that sufficient funds are not being provided for ameliorative work in the department. Times out of number depressed class members have pointed out that this is a department which ought to be free from the axe of retrenchment. Yet from 22 lakhs of previous years we have to-day dwindled down to 8 lakhs which enables nothing much beyond the maintenance of the department. How can then the department achieve the purpose it is expected to fulfil. The present pitiable condition of the depressed classes is acting as a drag upon the progress of the whole country. Until and unless the dead weight of ignorance and illiteracy prevalent among the depressed classes cease to exist India cannot progress.

" I therefore appeal with all the earnestness that I can command to make more funds available for work in this direction and to give greater opportunities to our down-trodden community to help to live up to civilized standards and facilitate the onward march of our country to take her legitimate place in the British Commonwealth of Nations "

12-15 P.M. * Mr. N. HALASYAM AYYAR:—" Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I do not see my way to congratulate the Hon. the Finance Member on the budget he has presented. I expected to be called on tomorrow to make my observations on the budget, but anyhow, as I am asked to speak even to-day I shall offer a few remarks on the budget that has been presented.

" Sir, in all progressive countries the budget that is presented to the representative body reflects the economic well-being of the people at large in the country. But in a dependency like India the position is just the reverse. The time that is allotted here for the purpose of making general observations unconnected with the problems of finance helps neither the Members present here nor the Cabinet nor the people

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at large. On the other hand the time may be better utilized in scrutinizing carefully the bewildering figures of incomings and outgoings with their pluses and minuses which have been prepared so carefully and with considerable trouble by the Finance Department.

" Sir, if we review at a glance the budgets that have been presented from 1920 to 1935, we will find a remarkable growth in land revenue. Times without number politicians of sobriety, politicians of moderate views, not irresponsible agitators and economists of repute have pointed out that the incidence of taxation on land is something beyond words to describe. But no satisfactory scheme has ever been put forward in this regard by any Finance Member all these years. The Hon. the Finance Member takes credit for the prudent management of the finances of the province. I do not grudge it. But a statesman requires courage and wisdom to inaugurate new policies. The reason that because the new constitution is going to be inaugurated very shortly, therefore the budget must be presented in a hum-drum manner, with hesitant hope, is not convincing. If I may be pardoned for saying so, I may characterize the attitude of the Finance Member as one of hopeless hesitancy. The Government have not taken care of the well-being of the masses. Who are the people who pay the taxes? Whether it be land revenue, or excise or stamps or any other tax? the bulk of the taxes are being paid by the poor people. Therefore there should be a courageous tackling of the problems of finance. The administrative charges should be brought down to the level at which they were before the War. Has any Finance Member had the courage to present a budget with the administrative charges on that scale during the last few years? If that had been done, it would have been possible to do something for the amelioration of the condition of the suffering masses. That not having been done, it is no use warning us members on this side of the House that we should not indulge in criticisms that do not help and that we must offer constructive suggestions with regard to this year's budget.

" Now, Sir, I would request the Hon. the Finance Member to turn to page 11 of the Financial Memorandum which has been presented to us and ask him why it is that the pension curve has had a tendency to constantly rise from 1920 to 1935. It will be noticed that there has been an addition of about Rs. 47 lakhs or so with regard to pensions.

" Sir, if we compare the state of affairs with regard to Medical Relief, Public Health and Education during this period with the state of affairs which prevailed in the United Provinces or Bengal—both these provinces have almost the same population as ours and for that reason are comparable with ours—we will find that they have been able to give better facilities to the people there at a less cost.

" Sir, a balanced budget does not necessarily afford much consolation or comfort to the poor man. Sir, on the eve of the establishment of the new constitution, the guardian of the minor who has been managing the minor's estate naturally feels concern and anxiety about the

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scrutiny to which his management all these years will be subjected. Sir, from 1920 to 1935 the administrative charges have mounted up like anything and they have been out of all proportion to the average income of the Indian. In no other country does the administrative charge bear so high a proportion. It has not been possible for any Finance Member all these years to cut down these administrative charges. No doubt they are governed by rules and regulations over which they may or may not have any control. But if bold schemes of retrenchment had been carried out and if the cuts had not been restored, the economic well-being of the masses would have been much better.

"Sir, the sums earmarked for expenditure on education are absolutely meagre, inadequate and unsatisfactory. The one primary need of the country is the removal of illiteracy by free and compulsory primary education. That is one of the nation-building activities for which Government ought to have paid better attention. For more than three decades statesmen of repute have urged upon the Government, both central and provincial, the necessity of taking steps to introduce free and compulsory primary education. But, Sir, I submit that it is a subject which has been sadly neglected. Balanced budgets have been presented at the cost of neglecting the nation-building departments of the country. Sir, agriculture is the mainstay of three-fifths of the population in the country and one main source of revenue to the Government. If the Government go on squeezing the poor man, there will be no limit to it. I may just bring to the notice of hon. Members here that the revenue officers during this season when the collections are going on, have been using all the coercive processes. If I understand aright, the kist is to be collected in four instalments, but in South Arcot circulars have been issued to village officers that poor ryots who should pay a kist of Rs. 5 only should pay the whole amount outright in one instalment and the ryots are compelled to pay like that, while they are already suffering a great deal of hardship. It is being glibly talked about that the revenues are being collected easily, but what are the steps that the revenue officers, the deputy collector, the tahsildar, the village munsif and the village karnam—the whole array of them—take to collect the revenue? They sit tight over the ryot who is forced to pledge his cattle and jewels to pay his tax. His very life-blood is being squeezed for the purpose. If anything can be done just now to withdraw the illegal coercive processes that are being issued for the purpose of collecting revenue, it will go some way towards the amelioration of the condition of the suffering ryots just now.

"Sir, balanced budgets do not give any comfort to anybody except to the Government who take credit for having prepared a budget at such considerable trouble and cost. I understand that only general observations on the budget are allowed during the ten minutes that are allotted to each member and I should like just now to say a few words on the administration of Local Self-Government during the present regime. Sir, it has been nothing commendable. I need not use

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very violent language with regard to it. There have been municipalities which have been superseded and for which no reasons have been given. A chairman who was re-elected by the voice of the electorate has not been allowed to discharge his duties by entering upon his chairmanship. The uniform policy of bifurcating district boards after trying the experiment of the abolition of taluk boards has been going on merrily. Special officers have been appointed for the purpose of enquiring into the financial resources of local bodies and considering the advisability of bifurcating them. Sir, the administration of local bodies is one supreme test of the advancement of the welfare of the people. If the welfare of the people had been taken into account, the higher powers would not have interfered with the voice of the electorate.

"Sir, with regard to the allotments made for the several grants, I should say that the nation-building departments have been absolutely starved. We find from a glance at the budget that all the allotments are on the other side and absolutely inadequate sums are allotted for nation-building departments such as agriculture and education. Therefore, Sir, one does not feel very happy at the budget that has been presented. The expression 'hopeless hesitancy' was used by me. . ."

* THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"May I remind the hon. Member about the time-limit?"

Several hon. Members:—"This is his maiden speech."

* MR. N. HALASYAM AYYAR:—"I shall obey the Chair and close my speech in a minute."

"Sir, we coming from the villages are quite familiar with the juggler's trick. The presentation of the budget is nothing better than that. The performer knows the trick well and does it; the audience enjoy it and at the end of it, the performer gets a dole, he is thankful for what he gets. Similarly if the Hon. the Finance Member gets his conventional congratulations on the budget that he has presented, we on this side of the House do not grudge it. But we should say we do not feel happy over the continuous strain caused by the growth of land revenue while nothing has been done to relieve the indebtedness of the poor ryot. The total debt of the ryot has been estimated at so many crores and borrowing, it was pointed out the other day, means repaying. Sir, with regard to the national debt I should say that there is no national debt in this country, because the debt is being incurred by the alien Government. If this maxim of being prudent by not borrowing because borrowing means repaying, had been borne in mind during the previous years, these debts would not have been incurred and the poor ryot would have been saved a considerable portion of the taxpayers' money which goes to the repayment of the interest on sums borrowed previously. I speak on this matter subject to correction. With these words, Sir, I end my remarks on the budget."

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12-30
p.m.

* Mr. G. R. PREMAYYA:—" Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I congratulate the Hon. the Finance Member upon having presented a balanced budget to our Council. I do so, because it is the usual custom; and therefore I follow that custom. As was remarked by previous speakers, from the budget estimate one would find that the Government is extracting more and more money from the ryots year after year. But when it comes to the question of the help which the Government is expected to give to the ryot, it spends very little especially on irrigation. Sir, the ryot population is the backbone of our nation. It is admitted on all hands that 75 per cent of our people are ryots. The welfare of the ryot is the welfare of the nation. The ryot is always scared away in different ways. He is always scared by the unseasonal rains; he is scared by legislations, such as the Tobacco Bill which is otherwise called Souter Bill. The ryot is scared away not only by Souter Bill, and the unseasonal rains; the ryot is very much scared by resettlement. Although he pays a large amount of money to the Government, he receives very little money in return by way of expenditure on irrigation works. Of late in Guntur district several projects were investigated by the Government but they have all been abandoned after enquiries were made. Some time ago there was a proposal before this Council that the Kistna Reservoir Project was going to be investigated, which would be of great use to the Guntur and other districts but that project has also been dropped.

"The money which the Government spends on irrigation has no comparison to the money that is extracted in the shape of taxes; such taxes are increasing every year. I think the money which the Government spends on irrigation must be proportionate. At present there is no comparison at all between these two items.

"The Guntur district has been very hard-hit by rains and floods; we get floods from the upper districts such as Kurnool. Repalle and Bapatla taluks will always be submerged by water we get from the Kurnool district. Although we cry for help, it is not given. For example, we have been agitating year after year about a particular drain in Bapatla taluk. About 10,000 acres are being left uncultivated because a Government Order was passed 30 or 40 years ago that no cultivation should be done within six furlongs of the drain. Although the Government spent Rs. 20 lakhs or more for this area, there is no profit either to the Government or to the people, because that big area of 10,000 acres has not been given to the ryots. Instead of the Government bringing forward the Tobacco Bill or any other bill to raise some money, in order to cover the deficit, why should not this area be sold to the ryots? Having no intimate knowledge of the land that is uncultivated, the Hon. the Finance Member or the Revenue Member says that much money need not be spent on this scheme. In conclusion I say that the money that the Government spends for irrigation has no comparison at all to the money that the Government extracts from the ryot. The legs of the ryots are already shaking under their big loans which are increasing year after year. No one

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knows how the ryot is made weaker and weaker every year. I say, Sir, that more funds should be allotted for irrigation to make the ryot more prosperous and happy."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I have on previous occasions given expression to the view that the general discussion of the kind that we carry on on the budget every year does not serve any useful purpose. In spite of that, we are still going on discussing in a general fashion, roaming over the entire area, on issues which do not really matter much. I would not therefore commit the same mistake over again. Anyway I shall confine my remarks to a few points.

"So far as the finances of our presidency are concerned, every one ought to admit that we have got a well-designed system of finance. I think this system which has been well-designed, will continue to be of immense advantage to any future Government that may come into existence. It must be said to the credit of the Finance Members including the present Finance Member, that the system is well-protected and well-maintained. That I think, is a great tribute that can be paid to any financial system that prevails in any country. The finance system that is well-protected and well-maintained can be so only by reason of enlightened public criticism and public opinion. The criticism that deficits are met from balances, has not been heeded either by the Finance Member or other Members of the Treasury Bench. There is of course great difficulty in the matter of administering the finances of this presidency. Nor is great weight attached to the criticism that is offered from the opposition benches. The Government finds innumerable difficulties in the way; but all the same I would urge that there should be some organized effort, or some honest attempt should be made by paying some heed to the criticisms offered from the opposition benches. The taxes levied from the people are very heavy. I think it is weakness on the part of the Hon. the Revenue Member that he has given up one source of revenue which he wanted to tap. I hope the Hon. the Revenue Member would be strong enough and would be supported by the Hon. the Finance Member in the matter of not giving up that source of taxation that he had planned. I think he has given up that source of taxation without finding out an adequate substitute for it. The substitute that has been planned out by the Hon. the Finance Member is one of adjustment in the revenue remissions. I think, Sir, that his proposal would not get the approval of this House or of the public at large. If it is going to be a saving of Rs. 8 lakhs from out of remissions or from out of annual expenditure that has been planned already, it will not receive approval from the public.

"I have already said that there is no fresh taxation; nor has there been any reduction in taxes so as to please the tax-payer. There are other sources from which the Government gets its revenue and that is for the services rendered by it in various directions. There is ample room for reorganization of the fees levied for services rendered by the Government. I refer particularly to the court-fees system that is

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obtaining in this presidency. We have the Taxation Enquiry Committee Report which is pending before the Government for years and the Government has on more than one occasion, made a sort of promise that it will look into the question whether it cannot reorganize the court-fee system that prevails in this presidency. Very valuable suggestions have been made by the Taxation Enquiry Committee but nothing has been done by the Government to change the system. The incidence of taxation, of court-fees especially, should be as low as possible so far as the litigant is concerned, and the Government should derive as much revenue as possible from the reorganization of the system. The Government should overhaul the court-fee system in the presidency. It is a feature that cannot be appreciated, that the Government should take advantage of the rise in prices of certain commodities and add to the revenues of the province.

"I shall refer now to the hydro-electric schemes that are undertaken by the Government. I welcome more and more expenditure in this direction, because that expenditure is a good investment and it brings good return. I would urge upon the Government the necessity to have a very careful system of accounting in the matter of these hydro-electric projects. I do not know the latest method that is adopted for keeping accounts for the hydro-electric schemes of both Mettur and Pykara. I would always welcome more and more efforts made in this matter and more and more money being derived by way of revenue for the Government. I would commend this suggestion to the Government. No doubt it has undertaken several irrigation projects; some of these projects are productive and some of them are not. But there is still much money available with the Government which can be invested in furthering and improving the irrigation projects. It is no use insisting on the old rule of six per cent return and not undertaking projects which will not ensure the Government six per cent return. I think the time has changed; you can borrow money at three and three and a half per cent. Why should not the Government invest at least a portion of its balances for the purpose of providing greater facilities to the ryot by way of improving irrigation sources and wells? There are several schemes that have been examined by the Government and they have been given up only on this account—that they would not fetch the Government six per cent return. I would urge that the Hon. the Finance Member should take steps to revise that policy. I know his predecessor did something in that direction, but we are not satisfied with the result. If the Government would look into the matter and revise its rules as to the circumstances under which a scheme should be considered to be productive or not, it will be doing immense service to the people of the land.

12-45 p.m. "Sir, it is no doubt a golden rule that revenue and expenditure should balance from year to year. It is a good principle of economics no doubt; but all the same, it is no use starving some of those departments which require more and more money. For years now, I should say the Industries department has made no progress. The time has

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now come when in the Education department, you should have reorientation of policy. Where exactly the Government duty begins and where exactly the duty of the Government ends, has to be decided once and for all. It cannot be that the Government are to have a hand at every stage of education. There is primary education, and it has been said time and again that it is the duty of the Government to promote primary education. Then there is the secondary education. Some definite principles must be laid down in regard to it. The present policy, at any rate, is not really tending towards any progress in secondary education. A new policy requires to be laid down by the Government, as to its relation with secondary education, university education and primary education. The old policy of handing over or entrusting the entire question of education largely to private effort has failed in this country. Other countries have shown that when the State takes upon itself the entire responsibility for educating the masses, it has succeeded. In this country, I think the time has come when there should be a revision of policy. I for one would have no objection if Government, after consideration, lay down the policy or say 'we shall confine ourselves to and our entire resources will be spent on primary education'; or they may say that they will have nothing to do with university education. Some such policy should be laid down as soon as possible. The progress of education should be definite and something substantial.

"There is also the converse of that golden rule of economy that the budget should be balanced from year to year. There is always the danger that by accumulating balances from year to year, a good portion of the available funds is being kept sterile without being utilized. It may no doubt be good finance to save even a pie out of the funds that may have to be spent; but all the same, to accumulate from year to year large funds, is very uneconomic so far as I can see. It deprives the nation of the wealth of the country which can be utilized for other and more profitable things, and it also keeps the money idle. So it is that we are tempted to say that the Government should not always be thinking of accumulation of surpluses, nor even to think of retaining the surpluses already accumulated, except it be for some safe or guaranteed purposes. Otherwise, the balances must be made available for investment on more profitable sources of income.

"I only want to add one word more. I do not know if I am finishing my time. I request the Hon. the Finance Member to undertake the enquiry which he has already promised to do, as early as possible, and place the result of the survey which he proposes to make with regard to taxation and expenditure, at the disposal of this House. It may be worth while, if I may so suggest, taking some of the Members of the Opposition also into confidence when the Hon. the Finance Member comes up with any scheme before the Council. It may also be that some of those who take interest in the financial administration of the province will be able to contribute something towards not merely the survey, but also towards the conclusions that may be arrived at as a result of such survey.

"Sir, I am done."

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Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"Sir, I congratulate the Hon. the Finance Member on the businesslike speech that he delivered the other day and not the less so because he made an extempore speech. I think the innovation introduced in that respect is a welcome innovation, and if the new Finance Minister in the coming ministry will also make extempore budget speeches, it will not be an unwelcome beginning; because, it is my belief that when one speaks extempore on so grave a subject as the finances of a province of the dimensions of Madras, there is more of scope in that mode of performing the task for the human and personal element and less for the mechanical, departmental or the institutional point of view.

"One thing that has been made absolutely clear in the course of the speech of the Hon. the Finance Member is that the lot of the poor agriculturist is by no means a satisfactory lot.

"Some reference has been made to the rise in commodity prices. That rise is admittedly very small. (The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. Bracken: 'No, not admittedly.') The Hon. the Finance Member makes a faint dissent when he says 'no.' But I think even taking the three per cent rise that he has referred to at its face value, the rise must be deemed to be very slight, if not negligible. (The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. Bracken: 'Not three per cent, but 40 per cent.') I see what the Hon. Member refers to. He refers to the alleged appreciable rise in the price of groundnuts. But as against that, even when one confines attention to commercial products, one finds that cotton is admittedly in a bad way and pepper is also in an admittedly bad way. Groundnuts form a small part of the agricultural products. Paddy is the main agricultural product; and so far as paddy is concerned, the rise in price is, as already mentioned by me, quite negligible. It will thus be seen that both of us are perhaps in the right when we referred to the commodity prices. It does not look as if everything that could have been done by the Government in regard to the amelioration of the lot of the paddy-grower has been done. Probably, our Government had its say in regard to what might be done by making due representations to the Government of India; but the effect, as judged from the results, is apparently very unsatisfactory. Paddy could have been and should have been protected much more than it was possible for our Government to do. If the Government of India, for reasons of their own, in solving the difficulties which they had with the Government of Siam in a matter like this did not find their way to go forward as much as they should have done, I think the Government of Madras should have gone forward a little more insistently about their business in taking up this question with the Government of India and seen to it that they brought about better results. Anyway, the days of Provincial Autonomy appears to be near, and in regard to a topic like this, probably the future ministry would be able to pull its weight more satisfactorily than now.

"Sir, 'hesitant hopes' have been expressed by the Hon. the Finance Member. But those hopes have been based mainly upon the

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expected improvement in the commodity prices. It is very doubtful if these hopes would materialize. It looks almost as if the hesitancy rather than the hopefulness of it would materialize.

"Again, reference has been made to arrack shop bids as a financial barometer. I doubt very much the evidentiary value of these bids; they are by no means an exact reflection of the financial prosperity of the classes of the population that take to drinking. A man that drinks does so, not necessarily because he affords it. And possibly, under the coming regime, arrack shop bids will come to be acclaimed by the future finance ministers as not at all a safe barometer to go by. Other forces may come into play which would make it very unsafe to make any deductions from arrack shop bids.

"Sir, it looks right that there is no entry made in the budget under the head 'Tobacco tax'. The Hon. Member in charge of the Bill had a sufficient hint even from those from whom he usually derives his support, that he should not bank upon tobacco as a source of revenue. The attitude of non-official Members on this side might not react so as to deflect the Hon. Member from his scheme, but it could not be so when non-official Members of the Ministerialist group were afraid of the consequences in their own interests. The inference seems to be that the mover of the Bill is almost feeling compelled to drop it. I do not mind who is responsible for the result; the result is there, and the Tobacco Bill is to be taken as practically dropped. It is difficult, however, to shut out the view that the burden of the tobacco tax would, in its ultimate incidence, largely be a burden upon the land. In this sense, I am glad of the result, howsoever, reached."

* The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"May I remind the hon. Member that 1 p.m. he has got only one minute more."

Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"I shall come to a close, Sir. In a way, there is a very clear suggestion in the speech of the Hon. the Finance Member that if we want to forego the tobacco tax, we will have to accept less and less of land revenue concessions. That seems to be the alternative way in which his speech has been conceived and delivered. In other words, the proposition of the Hon. the Finance Member is that land and land alone must pay in one shape or another for the huge burdens of this province."

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—"Not so."

Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"I am glad to be assured that it is not the necessary implication or deduction to be made, but it would require a great deal more from the Finance Member before I should feel absolutely relieved or convinced on this point.

"In regard to debt conciliation to which reference has been made in the course of the Finance Member's speech, I find there is a reference made to the provision of about 20 lakhs coupled with a promise of more if necessity should be felt. That is a good sign, though for

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securing or achieving the object of debt relief to the large bulk of the poorer agriculturists, 20 lakhs is a very insignificant drop. It is to be hoped that the Government will rise equal to the occasion, and that the policy of the Debt Conciliation Bill will be implemented by substantial advances of funds to debtors by way of loans to be reimbursed in annual equated instalments.

"As for Part II Schemes, my submission is that if the Hon. the Finance Member meant that as between commitments from which there is no escape and what he refers to as moral obligations, the one thing is a more insistent demand than the other, I think this side of the House could not readily acquiesce in such a view. If by employing the phrase, moral obligations, the Hon. the Finance Member meant that they are of even more a binding nature than the so-called commitments to which we stand committed, I should certainly endorse that view. But I rather thought that the lawyer's difference between legal obligations and moral obligations is the sense in which he has employed the corresponding phrases. From that point of view, I should like to enter a caveat as to that mode of viewing the matter. Obligations such as aid given to aided educational institutions and to local bodies, these are primary obligations which should be regarded as even more obligatory upon any Government than the so-called commitments which are in the nature of undue or excessive overhead charges. What are referred to as moral obligations enter into the very core of the existence of the vast millions of the country and the future Government will at any rate probably find it necessary from the first to appreciate them and to lay more and more emphasis on these moral obligations, and the so-called commitments will have to be brought down to the irreducible minimum consistent with efficiency, so that the moral obligations would expand and be given effect to more and more. It is rather unfortunate that the future Government is made to start almost without funds even for building a house to shelter the very Legislative Chambers."

* The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"May I remind the hon. Member that he has exceeded the time-limit by five minutes?"

Mr. K. R. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"All I want to say is that the idea of retrenchment to which reference has been made as having been given effect to during the period of the Hon. Sir Hopetoun Stokes, will have to undergo radical alterations. In the coming times, probably the retrenchments that will be embarked upon by the new or the next Government will be quite different from the sort of retrenchments which were attempted under the regime of the late Finance Member. What to cut and where to cut? These are problems which might raise grave issues of policy affecting the very fundamentals of the future, so that in the future, the standing commitments would be the largest area out of which the cuts would have to be thought of and made."

The House then adjourned for lunch.

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(After Lunch—3 p.m.)

IV.—ALLOTMENT OF A DAY FOR THE DISCUSSION OF THE DELIMITATION COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"With your permission, Sir, I would like to ask the Hon. the Leader of the House whether he is prepared to allot some time for the discussion of the report of the Central Delimitation Committee which I believe will be published on Monday, the 2nd of March."

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"I have consulted my colleagues, Mr. President, on that matter. We do not see any objection for allotting a day provided the members are prepared to sit an extra day during the ten days. If it is conceded that the interval is sufficient and if the 4th of March be suitable I think the Government will be prepared to give that day for this discussion. (After consultation) It is agreed that 11th will be a working day here and this subject will be the only subject on that day."

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Sir, I would like to make another request of the hon. Member in charge of the reforms, viz., that copies of the report when published may be made available to the members of the House before the discussion on that takes place."

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—"I am afraid copies will not be received in India. I have not heard so. I only had a telegraphic summary."

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"We shall have to do the best we can under the circumstances."

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"May I make a little alteration, Sir? We find 10th may not be suitable and I gather 11th will be more suitable for the members. So we shall have the 11th."

V.—ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY COMPANY—ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I have to announce to the House that as a result of election held today Diwan Bahadur A. Appadurai Pillai and Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan have been declared duly elected as members of the Advisory Committee of the M. & S.M. Railway Co."

III.—GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1936-37—cont.

* Mr. P. PEDDI RAJU:—"Sir, of course the House has been called to hear the balanced budget and whether we congratulate the Hon. Finance Member on furnishing a balanced budget or not it is admitted that it is not a prosperity budget nor a satisfactory budget so far as the representatives of the people are concerned. The Hon. the Finance Member has himself said that he was not himself satisfied with the provision made for the Part II Schemes. (Hear, hear.) I do not want to indulge in the praise or condemnation of it. All that I am interested in I want to bring to the notice of the Government certain

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defects in the provisions made in the budget. Last year, the Hon. the Law Member was pleased to say that so far as the allowance to the jurors and assessors is concerned, he will call for a report from all the district judges and see if anything can be done. While mentioning this fact the Hon. the Law Member has been pleased to say that people must be prepared to spare some of their services as honorary services and be satisfied with the pittance that is given to their services. I think the Hon. the Law Member must have known that the selection of jurors and assessors is not entirely in the hands of anybody and better care could be taken to see that people who can afford to spare time and service can be chosen. I know in my own district there are thousands of names in the list and there are people who cannot afford to leave their house and have to make a living in their own house. How can Government ask these people who cannot afford to come and stay in a place for days together and live at their own expense. I think the House is aware that 5 to 6 annas is given as batta for the jurors and assessors. Does the Law Member expect the jurors to take this money and make a living? At least they have to pay the hotel charges that day. It is not sufficient for one meal. What about conveyance? If you want to get honest work from them they must be properly paid their travelling and other allowances. Otherwise justice would suffer. If the jury system is to be successful we must either provide better allowance or altogether scrap the jury system. With these observations I would request the Hon. the Law Member to consider the matter. Unfortunately we are not informed what action has been taken or what report has been furnished by the district judges or the High Court till now.

"Then the next question I want to deal with is this. The Law Member was pleased to say last year was that so far as simplification of insolvency proceedings are concerned Government is going to take certain steps in amending the law and the matter is being thrashed out by the Special Officer and we know, Sir, that the Special Officer has sent up his report. He has reported that a scheme of rural insolvency should be taken on hand. I want to know what action Government is going to take in improving the insolvency law and curing the defects that are already found.

"Then one other point is the reduction of court-fees. Last year the Hon. the Law Member was pleased to state that there were certain defects regarding the court-fees quite apart from the heavy rate of court-fees now being levied. Whether the Government promise to reduce it or not the point for consideration as the Law Member said was that something is required to be done. The question is how much court-fee is to be levied in money suits, ex parte suits and compromise suits. So far as the Court Fees Act is concerned the suit which involves a trial for a number of days together you will have to pay only a small court-fees; but in the case of suit on pro-notes for 10 or 20 thousands which may not last for half an hour or one hour, why should the ryot be compelled to pay high sums? That is a point to be considered. It may be said that it is a matter of luxury. We are all aware that

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when a man gives loans and again wants to recover it he must go to court and obtain a decree. In such cases I submit the court-fees should be proportionate to the amount of work that is to be done by the court and even if the court-fee is collected in the first instance there must be some provision for rates being made for ex parte suits and suits compromised before trial commences. I think there is such a provision in the Mysore State and we do not see any reason why Government should not come to the help of those who have not given trouble to the courts or anybody.

"Then, one other point which concerns the Hon. the Law Member 3-15
is this, Sir. We are told that provision is being made in this budget p.m.
for a thermal station at Vizagapatam. So far as Vizagapatam is concerned, quite apart from the fact whether a thermal station will be a paying one or not, we have got the Kolaba falls in the Jeypore State wherefrom a hydro-electric scheme can be started. Sir, in and around Vizagapatam, we have got a number of private installations which have got a load. If the Government take into consideration the Kolaba falls and generate electricity in the Jeypore State, I think it would be much more profitable than spending a lot of money at Vizagapatam for a thermal station. It may be argued that Kolaba is being transferred to Orissa. But a lot of money has already been spent on it in investigation by the Government, and the Maharaja of Jeypore has agreed to this Government undertaking an hydro-electric scheme there. I am sure this scheme could never be utilized by the new Orissa Government and it is not very difficult for this Government to negotiate with the Orissa Government and with the Maharaja of Jeypore and produce electricity by means of an hydro-electric scheme at Kolaba and serve the districts of Ganjam and Vizagapatam. Quite apart from that, there is greater necessity for a thermal station at Bezwada, because you cannot think of a hydro-electric scheme in or around Bezwada. There are the Singareni coal-fields nearby, who will be able to supply the coal necessary and to utilize the electricity generated at Bezwada. So, I suggest to the Government that instead of trying to improve or create electricity where already some generation is made by private companies, the Government should have a thermal station at Bezwada earlier than is expected.

"Then, Sir, my only complaint so far as the Hon. the Law Member and the Hon. the Home Member are concerned is this. I am sorry, Sir, that the Hon. the Home Member has not provided for sufficient accommodation to the police in the West Godavari district, and so far as the Hon. the Law Member is concerned, Sir, in spite of the representations made for additional buildings at Ellore for parties and for vakil's chambers, the matter is said to be under consideration, but no steps have been taken all these years.

"Then, Sir, as usual my complaint against the Hon. the Revenue Member is this. It is said in the budget that so far as damage to crops is concerned, it is only by the cyclone in the Tanjore district. No mention has been made of the great loss that has been caused to the

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crops that were harvested already in the northern districts. I think the Government is aware that in the month of February, that is early this month, there has been continuous rain all along in the northern districts and great damage costing some crores to the northern districts has been caused. The reason is this. The tobacco crop is harvested and hung up in barns, and after those rains the whole crop has been lost. Crop worth about a crore or more than that cannot be sold even for one rupee in the current year. Then there is the chilly crop, and it has also been completely lost. The chillies are spread in the fields after harvesting, and the rain came and there was a total loss. The cholam crop also was completely lost. There was a cyclone, and the whole of the plantain gardens in the delta has been completely rooted out. Yet, no mention of these damages to crops has been made in the budget statement, and I want the Government to call for a report and see what can be done for the poor people who have suffered this loss.

"Then, as regards land revenue concessions, the Government have been kind enough to a certain extent, and, as the Hon. the Revenue Member has stated that the ryots are not yet able to lift up their heads after the depression, it is the duty of the Government to continue the concession. But the Hon. the Finance Member has referred to the fact that there was a rise in prices of certain commodities. But the way in which remissions are granted have nothing to do with the rise or fall in prices. The hon. Members referred to the fact that in the case of certain products prices have risen and in the case of other products prices have fallen. For instance, Sir, one fact is that the price of coconuts has risen considerably, but all the same the concession given to the owners of coconut gardens is the same as in the case of others, for example, jaggery which has considerably fallen in price. Coconut gardens are not raised in a day or two, and we know where coconuts are grown and where sugarcane is grown. My submission is that so far as these concessions are concerned, the Government must be able to give a proportionate relief to the ryots with reference to the rise or fall in prices of the respective crops raised on the land. Then, the Hon. the Finance Member says that there has been a three per cent rise so far as paddy is concerned. I think better concessions should be granted in the case of paddy-growing lands, and in the case of dry crops where the prices have risen by 30 to 40 per cent, as the Hon. Finance Member refers to I think lesser concessions would do.

"Then, Sir, as regards the question of irrigation and drainage of the deltas, I have been referring to it year after year, and promises are being made. But I find, Sir, in the budget no provision is made for any drainage in the Godavari delta especially. In fact, I have not found any item of work that is provided for there. One other fact with which I am most concerned is this. A promise was made by the Hon. the Revenue Member last year when I brought it to his notice that an enquiry should be conducted as regards the necessity for communications in the delta so far as the matter of constructing bridges and culverts at the cost of the irrigation fund is concerned. I do not

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know what has become of that report, and we have not got any information yet on the matter. But I see that provision is being made for other places. For instance, in the new scheme contemplated by the Hon. the Chief Minister, we find provision being made for the Cauvery-Mettur project area and for the Trichinopoly-Kattalai scheme. But there are a number of schemes newly formed under the Kistna and Godavari deltas, where no provision is made for bridges or culverts. My complaint is that over the Cauvery-Mettur project the Government have already spent about half a crore of rupees. So, some kind of relief in the matter of communications must also be afforded in the deltas, viz., the Kistna delta and the Godavari delta as also in the Tanjore delta. I would like to know whether the Government will be pleased to lay on the table of the House the report received from the Chief Engineer regarding those matters.

"Then, Sir, there is one other matter regarding the rural areas. The Hon. the Chief Minister was pleased to say last year that in spite of his desire to make better provision for rural water-supply and rural communications he was not able to do so. I am sorry to see, Sir, that the same thing continues even this year. For the coming year about Rs. 8 lakhs has been provided for water-supply in the Presidency, of which only Rs. 2.97 lakhs is provided for rural water-supply, and nearly Rs. 6 lakhs is provided for water-supply in the municipalities. I am only asking whether out of the funds which the Government are drawing mostly from the villagers, they should not provide more liberally for water-supply to the villagers when they have no water at all to drink. It is not a matter of getting a better water-supply for them. I am only asking the Hon. the Chief Minister to consider whether water is not to be supplied to villagers in places where there is not water at all. Even as regards rural communications, Sir, the same old complaint has to be made that the Government have not provided for better communications in the rural areas. A sum of only Rs. 4½ lakhs is provided in the budget of which a portion is to be distributed to the Inspector of Local Boards and the remaining portion to the district boards direct by the Government."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member's time is up."

* Diwan Bahadur R. SRINIVASAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, I congratulate the Hon. the Finance Member on the budget he has presented to this House this year. But as to what it does to the depressed classes direct I cannot enlarge, as the Hon. the Revenue Member thinks that, in dishing out, the depressed classes should be content with half a loaf as it is better than no loaf. Sir, the depressed classes do not enjoy the full citizenship right as other communities do. The responsibility for perpetuating untouchability can safely be said to rest on the shoulders of the British Government that has been ruling India for centuries. These classes of people never interfere with the citizenship rights of the caste Hindus. But the castemen do not wish to see the depressed classes enjoy the same privileges. The castemen commit assaults and other acts on these people. In this connexion, I

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should like to give an extract from the report of the Collector of Chingleput sent to the Board of Revenue some 46 years ago, and it says:

'There are forms of oppression only hitherto hinted at which must be at least cursorily mentioned. To punish disobedience of Pariahs, their masters (a) bring false faces in the village court or in the criminal courts, (b) obtain waste lands lying all round the paracheri, so as to impound the Pariahs' cattle or obstruct the way to their temple, (c) have mirasi names fraudulently entered in the Government account against the cheri, (d) pull down the huts and destroy the growth in the backyards, (e) deny occupancy rights in immemorial sub-tenancies, (f) forcibly cut the Pariahs' crops, and on being resisted charge them with theft and rioting, (g) under misrepresentation, get them to execute documents by which they are afterwards ruined, (h) cut off the flow of water from their fields, and (i) without legal notice, have the property of sub-tenants attached for the landlords' arrears of revenue.

'There are courts indeed; but India does not breed village hampdens. One must have courage to go to the courts; money to employ legal knowledge, and meet legal expenses; and means to live during the case and the appeals. Further most cases depend upon the decision of the first court; and these courts are presided over by officials who are sometimes corrupt and who generally, for other reasons, sympathize with the wealthy and landed classes to which they belong.

'The influence of these classes with the official world can hardly be exaggerated. It is extreme with natives and great even with Europeans. Every office, from the highest to the lowest, is stocked with their representatives, and there is no proposal affecting their interests but they can bring a score of influence to bear upon it in its course from inception to execution.'

That is the report of the Collector of Chingleput, Sir. Such is the condition of these people even to-day.

"I give a few instances: in Devacottah, Ramnad district, because the depressed classes men wore shirts and their women adorned themselves with gold jewels and used metallic vessels, the Nattars (low caste Hindus) committed serious assaults on these people, scattered and drove them out of their cheries, burnt their huts, destroyed all their household properties and murdered some of them on three different occasions. These atrocious acts were continuously committed for the last five or six years. Representation was made and the Government sent special officers. There was only a temporary relief. Out of a hundred and odd occurrences in only one case the police secured conviction.

"Mr. Gandhi visited the place and Harijan Sevak Sangh members toured the districts and tried to bring the Nattars to an understanding. It was the duty of the district Administrator to flood the district with the police and suppress such grave atrocities."

"And in the heart of this city of Madras there arose a dispute between Adi Dravida boys and Anglo-Indians over a playground in Varadarajapuram cheri near the west Chintadripet bridge. Influenced by the latter a Police Sub-Inspector with about 12 constables entered into that cheri one evening, assaulted men, women and even old men and left them terrorised. Complaints were lodged at my instance but could not secure conviction as is generally the case. Such incidents take place throughout the Province denying citizenship to the depressed classes.

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"There is also another aspect for which also the Government can be held responsible. While the depressed classes—the Dravidian race—^{p.m.} are keeping up their full blood, religion, numerical strength, away from the entanglement of the caste system, independence, and loyalty to the Crown, Mr. Gandhi on one side has been trying for co-operation of the caste Hindus in political and religious matters against the strong opposition of the Sanathanists and orthodox Hindus. The Christian Missionaries on the other side with their ingenuity convert the depressed classes to increase the number in their flocks and thereby decrease the numerical strength of these classes. It takes a long-time, Sir, for a man to understand his own religion. These classes of people who were staunch adherents of their religion, to embrace Christianity in a mass without knowing who was Jesus and who was Moses, was nothing more than to seek protection from tyrannous caste Hindus and the policemen. In Karaikudi district, unable to bear the cruel treatment of the Nattars, and the police having joined the side of the wealthy and influential Nattars, about 350 families embraced Christianity. It was not the Christ but it was the priest by his upright and honest work that gave them protection. The caste Hindus and the police dare not interfere with those converts for they know that the steps taken by the priest will have drastic and deterrent effect. Men like Mr. Gandhi and other reformers who are encumbered in politics and religion that supports untouchability cannot possibly act so independently as the priest who has no such encumbrances and who is answerable only to the church authorities. Sir, when a priest can protect his converts through the district Administrator (the Collector) it is inconceivable that the very Collector himself with all his administrative powers and the police under his control could not protect these people. And all the while the Government to sit tight with folded hands saying that one is social and another religious and the third they cannot interfere in, is not at all justifiable or charitable."

* Mrs. A. RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHI:—"May I suggest to the hon. Member, Mr. Srinivasan, to make himself more distinct and audible because I should like to hear his point of view, and offer any suggestions that may occur to me."

* Diwan Bahadur R. SRINIVASAN:—"I therefore, appeal to the Government to give adequate relief to the depressed classes by issuing a circular order to the Collectors, who are now entrusted with the duty of looking into the betterment of the depressed classes to give them peace and tranquillity in order that they may enjoy citizenship rights. Then and then alone the untouchability attached to the depressed classes by the caste Hindus and their tyranny will be removed. This will keep out the other elements that work for their own advantage and shatter the union of the depressed classes.

"When the District Administrators (the Collectors) who are also now as protectors of the depressed classes hold the police and the village officers in particular responsible to restrain the crimes committed on these classes by the castemen and advise the judicial and revenue

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officers to take due interest in these classes and do justice, the weight of oppression will gradually be lightened.

"The Ministry of the Hon'ble the Raja of Bobbili have done much by amendments to the Local Boards and Municipalities Act to give these people the required amenities for which they feel grateful to the ministry. The reserved half have not done anything for the last few years. The monigars and karnams who are a great source of trouble to the depressed classes should be brought to their senses by the Hon'ble the Revenue Member. The Hon'ble the Home Member holds the portfolio of the depressed classes and the police. The fate of these classes are in his hands. He is a Christian and I hope he will act as a Samaritan."

* Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Mr. Deputy President, all that the arts of rhetoric could supply to soften facts, to confuse figures and ingeniously to bewilder the House, were had recourse to by the Hon. the Finance Member in presenting the budget estimates for 1936-37 and the revised estimate for 1935-36. Sir, from a glance of the budget figures presented to this House, and from a perusal of the speech of the Finance Member it would seem as though this is a balanced budget; that we have budgeted for an expenditure exactly equivalent to the amount of revenue that we expect. But, Sir, on a detailed examination you will find that the budget is not a balanced budget, but is actually a surplus budget. As my hon. Friend Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar rightly pointed out this morning, certain items of expenditure have been charged to the revenue account, items which ought not to have been charged to the current revenues of the Province. I believe my hon. Friend Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar gave out as an instance in point the allotment of Rs. 9 lakhs for expenditure on provincial elections which are expected to be held in the course of the coming year. I would also add instances of certain other items of expenditure. I would draw the attention of the Finance Member to the fact that under the budget for 1936-37 we find an increased allotment of about 15.87 lakhs under the head Civil Works. On a close examination of the items I find that a bulk of this increased amount, as compared with the revised estimate for 1935-36, is mainly due to the fact that Government propose to put up certain buildings in various parts of the Presidency for accommodating in many instances the Collectors of the districts, and in some cases some of the hospitals of the Presidency. I submit, Sir, this item is one which ought not to be charged to current revenues but should be financed from other sources, for instance from the surplus. I will presently show to the Finance Member that according to the best canons of Finance it is not right to charge these items to current revenues, for the reason that the comforts and benefits of these buildings are going to be derived not by the present generation, but by the generations to come. It is not right to call upon the present generation to pay for the amenities which are going to be enjoyed by the future generations. Therefore, if these items are removed from the estimates for expenditure for the coming year, you will find that the budget is actually a surplus budget, and according to my rough calculation there will be

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a surplus of 30 to 40 lakhs. Therefore, I submit that it is not a balanced budget. I would submit to the consideration of the Finance Member that the policy of the Madras Government in framing their budgets has been very erroneous from many points of view. I have repeatedly pointed out on the floor of this House that the budget of an individual is not the same as the budget of a nation or of a government. Whereas in the case of an individual income regulates expenditure, in the case of a nation it is expenditure that regulates the income. I would most respectfully point out to the Finance Member that he is wrong when he states that individual and the nation are just on the same level and in both cases the income should regulate the expenditure. That is wrong. I hope that the Madras Government would change their policy. For the coming year they have budgeted for an income which is in excess of the expenditure by about 30 to 40 lakhs.

"Another well-established principle of public finance is that a Government should take from the people just as much as is required for current expenditure. But, as I have pointed out, our Government propose to collect more than what is actually required for current expenditure. I would suggest that the Finance Member would do well to leave this surplus amount in the pockets of the people—perhaps to burn holes there—rather than collect it and leave it to rust in the coffers of the State.

"Under certain heads of expenditure I find there is an increased allotment this year. For instance, under the head Forest Capital Outlay I find that both in the Revised Estimate for 1935-36 and the Budget Estimate for 1936-37 an increase in the expenditure. I have repeatedly pointed out on the floor of this House that the moneys that we are spending on forests are a waste. I believe the Hon. the Law Member would agree with me when I say that although this Province has been spending large amounts on forests, we have not been deriving as much revenue as we ought to. I would take another opportunity to explain this point at some length; but at this moment I would only draw the attention of the Finance Member to the fact that the increased allotment under Forest Capital Outlay is a waste and may easily be cut down. I find under the head Agriculture there is an increased allotment, as compared with the Revised Estimate for 1935-36, of 1.08 lakhs. I believe hon. Members of this House would agree with me when I say that the Agricultural department all these years has been doing next to nothing; and although the number of officers in this department has been going on increasing, I do not believe that any hon. Member of this House would get up and say that we have been in a position to increase or improve the agricultural industry of this Presidency, or even the total volume of the agricultural wealth of the peoples of this Presidency. There are certain statistics published by the Board of Revenue year after year; and I find from a perusal of some of those reports that the yield per acre of land in this Presidency has not increased a bit in spite of all the efforts of my hon. Friend Mr. P. T. Rajan, as head of the department. I also find that under the head Medical, there is an increased allotment of Rs. 1.26 lakhs as compared with

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the Revised Estimate for 1935-36. Although I have absolutely no quarrel with the Finance Member or the Minister-in-charge for the increased allotment, I would suggest that greater care should be exercised in the matter of expenditure on this department. If greater care is exercised, I am sure a considerable portion of the money spent by this department could be saved. Under Part II Schemes for the coming year, I find that a sum of Rs. 50,000 is proposed to be spent on buying extra instruments for the Madras Medical College. I wish the Hon. Minister-in-charge just goes down to the college and, in consultation with expert opinion, sees whether any extra instruments are necessary for the Madras Medical College or for the Madras General Hospital. As one who has some idea of the splendid manner in which the Medical College is equipped, I should like to point out to the Hon. Minister that there are already duplicate, and sometimes triplicate, sets of instruments in every case, both in the Medical College and in the General Hospital. Therefore the allotment of Rs. 50,000 under Part II Schemes for the purchase of instruments for these institutions appears to be unnecessary and may be cut down. There are also small allotments ranging from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 5,000 in each instance as allotment for the appointment of certain paid medical officers for the. . ."

* The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—" May I remind the hon. Member about the time-limit? "

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—" I am coming to a close. I find under Part II Schemes, one item namely, the appointment of an assistant surgeon for the Government Rayapuram Hospital for the Venereal department. I know as a matter of fact that the Venereal department is at present managed by a very eminent doctor of the Madras City as an honorary surgeon. He has got two or three assistants under him, all honorary workers, and that department has been working satisfactorily without any complaint whatever from the public or from the department concerned. I cannot understand why the Hon. Minister should now think of appointing a paid officer to that post.

" I would now make one general remark about the budget. The hon. Member Sir William Wright speaking on behalf of the Europeans of Madras made a very pertinent remark this morning that the revenues of this province are inelastic and that steps should be taken to explore new avenues. This has been my point ever since I entered this House in 1930. I have been every year pointing out that our revenues are inelastic and new sources of revenue ought to be investigated."

* Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—" Mr. Deputy President, Sir, speaking on the budget, I do not think I should either congratulate the Hon. the Finance Member or criticise him, because this is the last of the series of budgets to be presented by a Member of the Executive Council. We have tolerated (laughter) budgets of this kind, willingly or unwillingly we have tolerated budgets of this sort all these years and now that this is the last of its kind, we need not criticise it. The Hon. the Finance Member has gone on the beaten track and our only consolation is that this is the last of these budgets.

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" Speaking about the special grievances of my district I may mention forests and the land revenue as the two grievances from which we in our district suffer. As regards the forest grievances, Sir, I must thank the Hon. the Law Member for having gone to the district and visited day after day forest after forest and tried to do what lies in his power to ameliorate our sufferings. I have not seen the final orders of the Government, but from what I heard, I understand that it is, in the words of the Hon. Member himself largely favourable to the ryots.' I hope it will satisfy the ryots as sufficiently ameliorative for the time being at least.

" On the question of land revenue, Sir, I am sorry that though we have been pressing upon the Government the difficulties of the ryots, our representations have not been successful in getting anything out of the Government. No doubt we have got remissions this year also as we had in the last year. But, unfortunately, so far as this remission is concerned, what has been given by the right hand has been attempted to be taken away by the left, e.g., the remission that has been granted has been set off against the increment remission to which we would have been entitled to even otherwise under the resettlement. So, practically we, unlike the other districts, awaiting resettlement are worse off because our benefit by the general remission is only in papers. They get the benefit of the remission to the full whereas we do not get the benefit of the remission at all. So far as the land revenue question itself is concerned, our district, especially the portion thereof forming the sub-taluk of Hosdrug has been hard hit on account of the revenue policy of the Government. In this connexion, speaking of the sub-taluk of Hosdrug with regard to which I have had occasion in the past to ask a few questions in this House, I may say that this sub-taluk of Hosdrug is strictly speaking a portion of Malabar. The people are Malayalees and the agricultural system there is the same as in Malabar: they have got the pepper plantations and the kumri cultivation as in Malabar; and yet, while in Malabar pepper plantations are treated as dry crop lands and dry crop rates are levied on pepper plantations in Malabar, in South Kanara, on the other hand in this sub-taluk wet rates are levied on pepper plantations. So much so, the people of this sub-taluk are very hard hit, especially in these days of economic depression when pepper has gone down in value from Rs. 600 a candy to Rs. 100 for no fault of theirs but that owing to the exigencies of administration they happen to be joined with Kanara instead of Malabar. They find it absolutely difficult to pay the tax. This invidious distinction between the sister districts of Malabar and South Kanara divided only by the Payyanoor river, has caused untold hardship to the people of this sub-taluk. I trust the Government would consider this aspect of the question and remedy this grievance by bringing this sub-taluk in a line with Malabar in respect of this tax.

" Then again, Sir, in Malabar if a portion of a certain field is cultivated, only that portion is taxed and not the entire field, whereas in

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this sub-taluk if a portion of a field is cultivated, the whole field is taxed and the ryot is made to pay the tax for the whole survey field. This also works very great hardship and must be remedied.

"Then coming to the Registration department, I understand that recently a Government Order has been passed whereby a fee of two annas is levied on every application for search in a registration office. I do not know under what provision of law this additional taxation—for it is nothing else than that—is levied. Under the Indian Registration Act, whenever a man pays a search fee he is entitled to a copy. All that he has to pay is the search fee. But under this new Government Order an additional fee of two annas has to be paid. So far as my knowledge of the law goes, I must say that this taxation is illegal and *ultra vires*. I do not know whether the Government have consulted the law officers of the Crown. If they have not done so, I submit they would do well at least now to consult them and see whether this additional fee that they are trying to collect is legal and within their powers of taxation. Besides coming as it does at this period of slump especially, it works very serious hardship on the poor people.

"Then, Sir, I must refer to the question of withholding of pension which was the subject-matter of one or two interpellations this morning. I am not concerned with the case of Mr. Sanyasayya Nayudu or any other individual. It is on the general question that I wish to say a few words. Sir, pension is a thing which every Government servant earns for service rendered in the past. I do not know how and with what justification the Government can cancel the pension which a Government servant has earned for service rendered in the past. That is one aspect. The other aspect of the question is this: even if they have got power to forfeit a man's pension, may I know whether it would not be right and proper to give an opportunity for the person affected to show cause why such a course should not be adopted? Is it in accordance with the principle of natural justice that a man should be heard before he is punished or when anything is done to his detriment? My earnest appeal to the Government is that they should lay down definite principles in accordance with natural justice and follow them at least in cases of this kind. No doubt, Sir, the matter may not be so very important now and there have not been many cases of forfeiture of pension. But, in the future when party system will come into vogue, the party in power might take this weapon in its hands to deal with persons who may not agree with their views. I do not mean to refer to this party or that. I am merely making this appeal that natural justice requires that a man should be heard before he is condemned. This principle should be followed in dealing with subjects like these.

"Then again, Sir, I do not know how far I would be discreet in referring to the incidents in the Sub-Court of South Kanara on the 9th December being myself a practitioner there. We have got the highest regard for the judicial system in this Presidency and in other parts of British India. In fact, this judicial system in India is the

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finest contribution that the British administration is responsible for. Apart from stray instances here and there which only proves the contrary the judicial system has maintained its integrity in a remarkable manner and we wish, Sir, that this noble institution maintains its integrity unimpaired."

* The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"May I remind the hon. Member about the time? He has exceeded the time limit by one minute."

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"I do not wish to take much time of the House."

"Sir, the incident that has taken place, viz., the search of the sub-4 p.m. court by the District Judge in the company of the District Magistrate who was himself a party in a suit in his private capacity and the taking away of the records in that case are calculated to overawe the judiciary and have caused grave apprehensions in the minds of the public. There might be nothing wrong in all these; but so far as the public are concerned, these have given rise to a feeling that the executive has been trying to overawe the judiciary. I do not know under what circumstances such an incident took place. Whether the District Magistrate, when he complained to the High Court, disclosed the fact that he was himself in his private capacity a party to the suit or whether the High Court ordered the taking away of the papers by the District Judge in the presence of the District Magistrate and whether the High Court sent the order of search through the District Magistrate and not directly to the Judge, are points requiring elucidation. I have made a reference to this matter so that the Hon. the Law Member may make a statement so that the public apprehensions may be removed and the dignity of the judiciary may be maintained and the integrity of the judicial officer concerned be vindicated."

* Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—"Sir, I do not want to lose the very few minutes at my disposal by making general remarks, either by way of appreciative words of congratulation or by way of condemnation at the outset. I propose to go straightway to the subject and touch upon points which I wish to mention.

"My first appeal is to the Hon. the Finance Member and the Hon. the Revenue Member, that nothing has been done in providing for repairs and improvements to irrigation works in my district except providing for repairs of one tank in the whole district. From an analysis of the figures that have been published every ten years in the statistical atlas, it is quite clear that very many irrigation sources in my district have gone into disrepair and therefore the district is becoming poorer and poorer for want of irrigation facilities. It may be said that there is no water available at all in the district. It may be so from the standpoint of the Government and the advice which they receive from their expert advisers but the people do have a hesitant hope—if I may use the language of the Hon. the Finance Member—and experts are not always right—that there is still something for them in the divine dispensation and if tanks are made fit to stock water, God will also help

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them along with the Government. So I urge that projects which have been shelved as unprofitable may be re-examined as to whether they are protective, if not productive. From an examination of the projects that have been shelved it is found that some of them have been kept in abeyance because it was thought that the Tungabhadra project will be soon in sight, but I now see that the Tungabhadra project is likely to take up a long time for its completion. So to keep these small irrigation works away from our mind until the Tungabhadra project comes into fruition would be something like keeping a starving man without giving him even biscuits in the hope that he is going to get a sumptuous dinner later on. As I said ten years back from this place, the Government have not taken any steps in the matter of taking a geological survey of the whole district and finding out all the underground resources that can be tapped for the supply of water. In Sind, the Government have taken the trouble of making a geological survey and keeping a map ready showing the places where underground sources may be successfully tapped for the supply of water. No effort has been made by this Government to go deep down the earth to find out whether sources of water-supply are available there. I am sure underground water has not dried up and consequently it is certainly a matter for the Government to consider carefully and make the necessary investigations. That is what has been done in Sind and what is now being done in the United Provinces. So, that can be very well done in the case of the Ceded districts also where there is not a large amount of surface water. A geological survey of the whole district including other famine areas may be made and the ryots may be allowed to dig their own wells at their own expense in places where underground water sources are available or the Government themselves may dig wells in such places in view of the fact that thermal electric stations are proposed to be located there. If preference is given to Vizagapatam and Bezwada for starting thermal electric stations, I am unable to understand why Government have not taken any steps to give such facilities to the Ceded districts where there are no surface water sources at all. The capacity of almost all the tanks in the tracts from which I come is becoming less and less and though they get filled once, the water is not sufficient to mature the crop, unless there is a second rain and a second filling too. That is a grievance which has been felt for a long time and Government has not moved in the matter of reclassifying the tanks so that the rates of assessments may be reduced. Now the rates of assessment are kept in the same level and water is not enough to mature the crops. This is a great hardship which is being felt for a long time in the Anantapur district. I hope the Hon. the Revenue Member would take up this matter into his hands and see what can be done in that direction. There are a few river-bed channels in Anantapur district and the ryots there take the trouble of digging them all day long and having their supply of water for maturing crops from such channels—it is unfortunate that that they should be taxed on the same level as those who use tank water, without any additional labour of their own. I fail to see the equity or the justice of this method of taxation. It may be that this hardship is not confined to

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Anantapur alone, but may be prevalent in other parts of the Presidency also, where irrigation is carried on by river-bed channels. So it is up to the Government to look into this matter more carefully and see that the rates of assessment are fixed more equitably. In this connexion I should like to point out that in Ellanur of Tadpatri taluk, where there is a tank and also river-bed channels, the tank source is not at all used by the ryots. They say: 'We would rather lose the benefit of the supply of the tank water and it does not pay us.' But if the Government clubs together the tank and the channels as a common source to the whole wet area of the village, the money spent by the Government will be turned into good account, instead of its being mere waste, as it now turns out to be.

"Only last year there was a famine in Anantapur and the Hon. the Finance Member and the Hon. the Revenue Member were liberal enough in giving relief to the people. But in this connexion I would impress upon the Hon. the Finance Member and the Hon. the Revenue Member to exercise their further discretion and see whether they can come to the rescue of the ryots even this year under section 108-A of the Madras Famine Code. I may say that I handed over a memorandum on the present conditions, and I do not want to repeat what I said there. I am sure the Hon. the Revenue Member would go into the whole matter and see what could be done for the suffering ryot by writing off a decent proportion of the loans issued under sections 107 and 108 of the Famine Code.

"The question of giving a Government building for the Government hospital at Anantapur seems to be pending for the last twenty years. I may say that the Hon. the Law Member when he visited that place made his remarks in the visitors' book that the hospital should be shifted to a more healthy locality. The late Raja of Panagal had the honour of visiting that place and he was also of the same opinion. My submission is that this matter has been pending for the last twenty years and no provision has yet been made to give us a better hospital. Now patients are lodged in a hospital which is located in the midst of wet lands where it is impossible to live in or sleep without being infested with mosquitoes all round. The present hospital is nothing but a nursery for malaria. Therefore a new building for the Government hospital is long overdue and a veterinary hospital is also a matter of urgent necessity.

"Sir, I want to say a word or two about the additional taxation in the name of registration fees. My hon. Friend from South Kanara referred only to the additional charge of two annas levied in connexion with the application to the registration officer. The Hon. Minister for Development has developed the art of levying additional taxation in his own way and has asked us to pay Rs. 10 for every appeal petition from the Sub-Registrar to the District Registrar. That is a tax which has been imposed unreasonably. The registration budget is working at a profit (interruption: 'at a loss'). If as a matter of fact it is working at a loss, I say that this depression is not the time for levying additional

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taxes. In Madras, the people have been overtaxed, but the public servants are being paid over much. They may as well be made to bear the burden by reducing their salaries by the salaries cut—recently got rid of rather than put this burden of taxation over the poorer people.

“I want to say one word about education. I believe the Hon. the Law Member said at Red Hills that the present-day education is wanting in religious instruction.”

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—“Do I understand the hon. Member to say that I spoke at the Red Hills?”

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—“Well, Sir, it may not be at the Red Hills. Somewhere, perhaps at Waltair, the Hon. the Law Member made the statement that the present-day education is not up to the moral standard which one would expect. I agree with the remarks of the Hon. the Law Member and I hope he would impress upon the Government that the sooner religious instruction is introduced into schools the better will it be for us.”

Rao Bahadur P. C. MUTHU CHETTIYAR:—

4-15
p.m.

ஹானரபிள் மிஸ்டர் டிப்டி பிரசிடெண்டு, ஸார்.

“இந்த பட்ஜெட் 1,64,00,000 வரவுக்கும், 1,64,00,000 செலவுக்கும், ஆவது தயாரித்திருப்பதைப்பற்றி ஹானரபிள் பைனான்ஸ் மெம்பரவர்களுக்கு நன்றி செலுத்துகிறேன். ஆனால் பிராவின்ஸ் முழுவதும் கஷ்டமான நிலைமையிலிருக்கையில் டிபீசிட் இல்லாத தயாரித்திருக்கிற பட்ஜெட்டானது ரொம்ப பொருத்தமாகவே எண்ணவேண்டும். ஜனங்கள் கஷ்டமாயிருப்பினும் ரூஜாங்கம் உயர்வாயிருக்க வேண்டும். அப்போதுதான் ஜனங்கள் வந்து தெரிவித்து குறைகளை நிவர்த்தி செய்விக் முடியும்.”

“குறை கூறுவதற்காக எதேனும் சொல்வதாக நினைக்கப்படாது. இப்போதிருக்கிற நிலைமையானது ரூஜாங்கத்திற்கு தெரிந்த விஷயம். அதை நான் மாற்றி சொல்லவில்லை. ஸ்டாம்பு டீயைப்பற்றி தெரிவிக்கிறேன்.

“கலால் (excise) சம்பந்தமாக ஒரு கிளர்ச்சி வந்தபோது அதில் ஒரு ரிவினியூ குறையுமென்று சந்தேகித்து 100-க்கு 50% எல்லா வகைக்குமாக ஸ்டாம்பு டீய் டெம்பரவரியாக அதிகப்படுத்தினார்கள். இத்தனை வருஷமாக ஒவ்வொரு வருஷமும் அதைப்பற்றி ஜனங்களுக்காக கதறுவதெல்லாம் காட்டிலிருந்து கத்தினால் போலிருக்கிறதே தவிர அந்த விஷயத்தில் ஆலோசித்து பேருக் காவது ஒருவகை செய்வோமென்று எண்ணாது அதில் வைராக்கியம் காட்டுவது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கதாகும். இதில் பெரும்பாகம் யார் தலையில் சுமத்தும்படி ஏற்படுகிறதென்பதை கவனிக்கவே இல்லை. வாங்கியதை கொடுக்க முடியாதிருப்பவர்களுக்கு ஒரு பளுவும், கொடுத்ததை வாங்க முடியாதவர்களுக்கு ஒரு (fine) அபராதமுமாக இருக்கிறது. ஜாஸ்தி செய்ததையாவது குறைக்கப்படாது. இதற்காக ஹானரபிள் பைனான்ஸ் மெம்பர் ரொம்ப பயப்படுவதுபோல் காட்டினார். சமீபத்தில் பாசான டெட் கன்சிலியேஷன் (Debt Conciliation Bill) பில் உத்தரணத்திற்கு வந்து விடுமென்று அதனால் ஸ்டாம்பு டீயானது எங்கே குறைந்து விடுமோ என்று காட்டியிருக்கிறார். இது ஆச்சர்யம். இந்த பில்லே சரிவர (work) பண்ணுதென்று தெரிந்த மகானே இது சொல்வது வியக்கதகுந்தது. இதற்கு 20 லக்ஷம் லோன் கொடுக்க வருமென்றும் ஒதுக்கியிருக்கிறதாக தெரிகிறேன். சாத்திய மில்லாத விஷயம். லாண்டு ரிவினியூ விஷயம்.

“முந்தின வருஷங்களை பார்க்கிலும் இந்த வருஷமானது காலத்தில் மழை இல்லாதும் அகாலத்தில் அனாவசியமாய் மழை பொழிந்தது. ரொம்ப மோசமான நிலைமை என்பது தெரிந்த விஷயம்.

[Mr. P. C. Muthu Chettiyar]

“பெரியார் திறந்ததும் அதற்காக (ஜனங்கள்) விவசாயிகள் பட்டபாடும் அந்த ஜில்லா கலெக்டரவர்கள் மற்ற அதிகாரிகள் அறிவார்கள். சொல்ப தண்ணீர் பெரியாரில் வருவதை நம்பி ஏராளமான விதைகளை குடிகள் விதைத்து அடுத்தாற் போல மடைகளை எல்லாம் அடைத்து ஒரு, ஒரு கண்மாய்க்கு கொண்டு போனார்கள். அப்போது எங்கள் ஊர்குடிகள் வந்து வருத்தப்பட்டார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு மழையும் இல்லை. lake-ல் தண்ணீர் வருவதற்கு monsoon-ம் இல்லை. சர்க்காரிலும் என்ன செய்வார்கள் என்று சொன்னபோது கலெக்டரவர்களிடம் தெரிவிக்க வேண்டும். என்ஜினியரவர்களையும் கலெக்டரவர்களையும் பார்த்து தண்ணீர் வந்த மடையையாவது திறக்க ஏதாவது அனுசூலம் பெறவேண்டுமென்று கட்டாயம் செய்தார்கள். என்ஜினியரவர்கள் பேட்டி கிடைக்கவில்லை. கலெக்டரவர்களிடம் தெரிவித்தவுடன் அவர்களும் ரொம்ப அனுதாபத்துடன் எங்கள் எல்கையில் வாய்க்காலில் போகிற தண்ணீரில் இரண்டொரு ஸ்லாசில் எந்திர இடங்களுக்கு 1-அங்குலம் 1-அங்குலம் திறந்துவிட சிபார்சும் செய்தார்கள். மழை இல்லாததைப்பற்றி கடவுளை பிரார்த்திக்கும்படியும் சொன்னார். நியாயமாய் எங்களுக்கு ராஜபிரதிநிதியாயிருக்கிற தங்கள் மூலமாய் பிரார்த்திப்பது நியாயமாகும் என்றும் தங்கள் பிரார்த்திப்பது கைகூடுமென்றும் தெரிவித்தேன். பெரியார், மலை யில், ஜலம் வந்தால் வகையாறும் ஜலத்தை அடையும். வகையாறுதான் முமனாதுபுரம் ஜில்லா 2 பெரிய ஜீன்களுக்கு ஆதரவாயுள்ள கால். இதில் தண்ணீர் வந்தால்தான் அந்த கண்மாய்கள் நிரம்பும். இவ்வருஷத்தில் 2-சமஸ் தானங்களும் நெல் வெள்ளாமைக்கு ஏதுவில்லாத கேப்பை வகையாறு புஞ்சை பயிர்களை சாகுபடி செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். அதை கவர்ன்மெண்டு அறியும்.

“ஹானரபிள் பைனான்ஸ் மெம்பர் ஜனங்கள் இன்னும் கஷ்ட நிவாரணப் பூர ஆகவில்லை என்றும் காணுகிறார். காணுவதாகவும் அதை உத்தேசித்து ஏதோ சுல்பபாகம் வஜா பண்ணுவதுபோல் சொல்லுகிறார். ஆனால் அது எதற்கு காணும். வில்லேஜ் ஆபீசர்களோடு குடிகள் நிர்வகிக்கும் தன்மையில் எதை நான் சொல்ல முடியும். தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லா பெரிய ஜில்லா. பெரிய இரிகேஷன். பட்டே பட்டே பிரபுக்கள் இருக்கிற இடம். அவர்களே பட்டே சங்கடங்களையும் கஷ்டங்களையும் நீங்கள் அறிவீர்களானால் மற்ற ஜில்லாக்கள் பட்டே துயரத்தைப்பற்றி சொல்லவே தேவையில்லை.

“ஹானரபிள் பைனான்ஸ் மெம்பர் தேங்காய் 40%-ம் நிலைக்கடலை 40-முதல் 70% விலைகள் ஏறி இருக்கிறதென்றும் அது ஒரு காரணமாக சொல்லுகிறார். மழையே இல்லாது தென்னாந்திரில் குறும்பை பிடிக்காமல் இருப்பது காரணமல்லவா? இந்த பிரிவினசானது தேங்காயும் நிலைக்கடலையும் மாதிரி விளையு province ஆகி. இது ஒரு பெரிய ரெவின்யூக்கு ஆஸ்பதமான பதார்த்தமா? ஹானரபிள் மெம்பர் போக் (Boag) துரையவர்கள் பெரிய ஜில்லாக்களை செட்டில்மெண்டு செய்தவர்கள். அவர்களுக்கு நெல்லை தவிர மற்றவைகள் மைனர் produce என்கிற விஷயம் நன்கு தெரியும். இது ஒரு காரணமாக சொல்லப்படாது. ஹானரபிள் பைனான்ஸ் மெம்பர் லாண்டு ரிவினியூவில் ஏதோ கொஞ்சம் டெம்பரவரியாக தள்ளி கொடுப்பதை நாம் விரும்பியபடி கொடுக்க வில்லை என்பதாக எண்ணி கொடுத்தமட்டிற்கும் அதிருப்தி பேசுவது நியாயமாகாது. ஆயினும் கொடுத்தது கவர்ன்மெண்டு தெரிந்த நியாயமாக கொடுக்க வேண்டிய அளவுக்கு சரியில்லாதவிஷயம் மென்பதையே மறுபடியும் உங்கள் சமூகத்துக்கு வற்புறுத்தி தெரிவிக்கிறேன். ஹானரபிள் பைனான்ஸ் மெம்பர் இந்த டெம்பரவரி வஜா விஷயத்துக்கு கூட ஒரு பதில் பிரயோஜனம் இந்த ஹவுசை எதிர்பார்க்கிறார். சுருட்டு பில்லை பற்றி ஜனங்களும் நம்புகிறார்கள். நானும் அதை சிந்திக்கிறேன். அது ஒரு அனுசூலமாகும். அந்த பில்லை ஊர்ஜிதமாக்குகிறது இந்த சமயம் உசிதமில்லை என்றே பவர்புல் பார்டிக்கும் எண்ணியிருப்பதாகவும் தெரிகிறேன். ஒரு பில் பாசாகவேனுமானால் இந்த ஹவுசிடைய பட்சம் வேனுமா? அல்லது ஜனங்களுடைய எண்ணமாவது வேண்டுமா? வைசிராயுடைய பக்ஷமே கவனிக்க வேண்டுமா? அவரால் ரத்து செய்யப்பட்ட இனம் பில்லையே மறுபடி வேரு பாரத்தில் கொண்டு வர எண்ணியிருக்கும் இந்த சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் சுருட்டு பில்லை ஊர்ஜிதமானால் வஜாவுக்கு ஒரு காரணமாக சொல்ல தேவையில்லை. கவர்ன்மெண்டு ஜனங்கள் மீது நம்பிக்கையுடன் கருணையாய் நினைக்க வில்லையாயின் எதை பற்றியும் தெரிவிப்பது கதையே யாகும்.

[Mr. P. C. Muthu Chettiyar] [28th February 1936]

மதுரை ஜில்லாவுக்கு பெரிய மனிதருக உள்ளவர் மிஸ்டர் பிரதர் அதிகாரத் துக்குள் கட்டுப்பட்டவராய் போய் விட்டார். அவர்கள் எப்படி மதுரை, ராமநாதபுரம் வகை ரு ஜில்லா கஷ்டங்களையும் நஷ்டங்களையும் சொல்ல முடியும்.

* The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member's time is up."

Rao Bahadur P. C. MUTHU CHETTIYAR:—

"சீக்கிரம் முடிக்கிறேன்.

"ரிஜிஸ்ட்ரேஷன் விஷயம்—இரண்டொரு வார்த்தை சொல்லுகிறேன்.

"பீசுகளெல்லாம் ஜாஸ்தியாய் இருக்கிறது என்று தெரிவித்தும் அதைப்பற்றி கவனிப்பதாக சொல்லியது பயன்படாமல் தஸ்தாவேஜை சிறுத்திருந்து துக்கை பெரியதாயிருந்தால் அதிக பீஸ் வாங்கலாம். 4, 10, காகிதம் ஜாஸ்தியாய் இருந்தால் அதற்காக எழுத்து கூலிபீஸ் அதிகமாக வேணுமாம். Evening bazaar எந்த பதார்த்தத்தை எடுத்தாலும் ½ அணா ½ அணா என்று சொல்வதுபோல் இப்போது என்ன காகிதம் கொடுத்தாலும் 2 அணா ஸ்டாம்பு ஒட்டவேண்டுமென்று சொல்வது சரியா?

"வில்லங்க சர்ட்டிபிகேட் விஷயத்தில் இண்டெக்ஸ்க்கு காபிமாதிரி காபி சார்சு வாங்கவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லிவருவதை கவனிக்கவில்லை. அதற்கு வருஷாந்திரம் தேடுவது போலவும் அதில் விபரீதமான பிரிவு பிரிவாக ஏற்படுத்தி சார்ஜ் களை வாங்குவதும் நியாயமில்லாத காரியம்.

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p.m.

"கோர்ட்டுகளிலும் மவுண்டை கட்டுவதில் எக்ஸ்பார்டி தீர்ப்பு ருஜிநாமா இவைகளுக்கு பாதி பீசை வாபஸ் செய்யும்படி ஏற்பாடு ஆகவேணும்.

"சர்க்காரில் பணத்தை கொடுத்து ஸ்டாம்பை வாங்குகிறார்கள். நல்ல எண்ணத்துடனும் ஒரு காரியத்தை உத்தேசித்துதான் வாங்குவார்கள். அவர்கள் அந்த காரியம் நிறைவேறுவிடில் அதற்கு ரூபாய் 1-க்கு 1 அணா வீதம் பிடித்ததுடன் வாபஸ்கொடுக்க நியாயம் ஏற்படுத்தியிருக்கிறது. அதற்கு அநேக நிபந்தனை. அந்த நிபந்தனைகள் நியாயமில்லை. பணத்துக்கு பதிலாக கரென்சி நோட்டைப்போல் ஸ்டாம்பை வாங்குகிறேன். அதற்குள் நிபந்தம். அதற்கு காலவரை என்னத்திற்கு. எழுதிய பத்திரத்தையே வாபஸ் செய்ய நியாய மிருக்கும்போது சீல் போட்டாய் விட்டது. பஞ்சு செய்தாச்சு என்ற காரணம் எதற்கு. இது எந்த நியாயத்தில் மனதிற்கு பொருந்தும். சமீபத்தில் 500 ரூபாய் ஸ்டாம்பு விஷயமாய் ஹானரபிள் லா மெம்பரவர்களிடம் வாபஸ் கேட்டபோது ஸ்டாம்பு தெளிவில்லாதிருப்பதை வாபஸ் கிடைக்கவேண்டியது நியாயந் தான். தெளிவாக சமீபத்தில் கொண்டுவருவதாக சொன்னார்கள். அதைப்பற்றி இதில் கவனித்ததாக தெரியவில்லை. கவனிக்கவேணும்.

"ரிகார்டு வாபஸ் விஷயம்—தஸ்தாவேஜைகள் ரிகார்டுகள் ஒருவனு டைய சொத்துக்கு ஆதரவாயுள்ளவைகள். கோர்ட்டு வுத்திரவுக்கு சம னுக்கு எல்லாரும் கடமையாயிருக்கிறார்கள். சர்க்காரில் இருந்து தாக்க லானால் ஒரு bit பேப்பரையும் திருப்பி அவர்களுக்கு அனுப்பிவிடுகிறார் கள். பார்டிகள் கொடுக்கும் ரிகார்டுகளை அவர்களாய் வாபஸ் வாங்க வேணும். அல்லது வக்கீல் வாபஸ் வாங்கலாம். அநேக சமயங்கள் வக் கீல் குமாஸ்தாவுக்கு அது லாபமுள்ள தொழிலாகும். இல்லாவிடில் பரிகரித்து விடுவதற்கு ரூல்ஸ்கள் இருக்கிறது. இது சரியா? அதை அந்த பார்டிக்கே திருப்பி அனுப்பிவிடவேண்டியது நியாயமில்லையா. அப்படியானால் தஸ்தாவேஜ் தாக்கல் செய்யும்பொழுதே போஸ்டல் ரிஜிஸ்தர் சிலவுக்கு சேர்த்து வாங்கி கிரிட்டு செய்துகொண்டு நேரில் வாபஸ் வாங்காத தஸ்தாவேஜைகளை பார்டிக்கு நேரே கேசு முடிந்ததும் ரிஜிஸ்தர் தபால் மூலம் அனுப்பக்கூடாதா. இதில் ஒரு ஸ்டாம்பு டீடி லாபம் வருவதற்கு பட்ஜெட்டில் ஒரு provision செய்யப்படாதா. இதைப்பற்றி எத்தனையோ தடவை சொல்லியும் யாதொரு முயற்சியும் இல்லை எனினும் இப் போது லா மெம்பரவர்களை உத்தேசித்து இதை தெரிவிக்க முயன்றேன்.

"எல்லா ஆபீசுகளிலும் கோர்ட்டுகளிலும், டிபாசிட்டாகிற எல்லாவித டிபாசிட் பணங்களையும் அவர்களுக்கு திருப்பி வாங்குவதற்கு அநேக காரணங் களினால் முடியாமல் சர்க்காருக்கே கிரிட்டு ஆய்விடுகிறது. அம்மாதிரி ஜனங்க

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ளுடைய பணத்தை பறிமுதலாக்கி கொள்வது நீதியல்ல. அவர்களுக்கு அவர்கள் பணத்தில் மணியார்டர் சிலவு எடுத்து மீதியை அவர்களுக்கு அனுப்பிவிடவேண்டி யது தான் நீதி யென்று தெரிவிக்கிறேன். இந்த விஷயத்தை பலமுறை கூறியும் கவனித்ததாய் இல்லை. இப்போது லா மெம்பரவர்கள் கவனிப்பார்கள் என்று எண்ணுகிறேன்.

"டெல்லி ஆப்ட் ஜெனரல் சர் எர்னஸ்ட் பூடன் (Sir Earnest Bouton) "eminently satisfactory" ஆக எழுதியிருக்கிற தகவலை தெரிய ரொம்பவும் நல்லதே. மற்ற மாகாணங்களைப் பார்க்கிலும் இந்த மாகாணத்தில் strict ஆக இருப்பதால் அதன் பலன் அவ்விதம் எழுத கிடைத்தது.

"வரவு விஷயம் ரொம்ப கண்டிப்பாய் விடாது கவனித்தும் சரியான சிலவு வஜா கொடுக்காமலும் இருப்பதின் காரணமாகும்.

"இந்த பிராவின்சில் லோகல் போர்டுகள் சிலவு ஜாஸ்தி ஆகிறதென்றும் ஆளுகை திறமையில்தான் என்றும் சொல்லி தாலூகா போர்டுகளை எடுத்தும் டிஸ்ட் ரிக்கட்டு போர்டு கையில் ஒப்புவித்து அதற்கு பிறகு அதை உடைத்து உடைத்து ரிக்கட்டு போர்டு கையில் ஒப்புவித்து அதற்கு பிறகு அதை உடைத்து உடைத்து உண்டாக்கியும் நடக்கிற லோகல் போர்டின் ஆப்ட்டை சர். எர்னஸ்ட் பூடன் அவர் கள் பார்த்திருக்கிறாரா? அதைப்பற்றி உத்தேசித்தபடி லாபகரமாயும் சரியாயும் திருப்தியாயிருக்கிறதாகவும் எழுதியிருப்பாரா?

"கமிஷனர்கள் I.C.S. ஆக இருப்பது நானும் ஆதிமுதல் விரும்பியதே. அவர்களும் சரியானதே. ஆனால் ஆங்காங்கு ஜனங்களின் நிலைமையும் சபாவங் களும் ஊரின் சேஷமத்தையும் பொருத்தவராக இருக்க அவருக்கு ஒரு Voice இருக்கவேணும்.

"Agricultureக்கு இந்த வருஷம் லக்ஷ ரூபாய் அதிகம் எதற்கு என்ன செய் யமுடியும். இதுவரை என்ன பயிர் புதுமாதிரி விருத்திக்கு வந்ததென்பது தெரி கிறது. என்ன மேனாட்டு விபசாயங்களை வேண்டிய expert கருவிகள் மூலம் காட்டி கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள்?

"அதைப்பற்றி தனியான சுருக்க வகையான 4-வரி ரிப்போர்ட்டு எங்கு வந்தி ருக்கிறது. இதுவரை சொல்லியும் கவனித்ததாக இல்லையே. ஆதலால் இந்த சமயத்தில் எல்லாவற்றையும் சீர்திருத்தம் செய்யவேணுமாய் விரும்புகிறேன்."

* S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur:—"Mr. Deputy President, Sir, after the very witty and humorous speech of my friend, who has just sat down, I feel rather diffident to speak. This is a very important occasion when Government are considering the budget of the province. As one coming from the interior of the districts I think it is my duty to mention here some of the grievances of the poor ryots, whom I represent in this Council. I think I am justified in commenting upon some of the points which I shall presently deal with and in inviting the attention of the Government to some grievances so that they might be redressed. We all know that it is the ryot who contributes the biggest quota to the revenues and he is responsible for running any Government. But for him, no Government can exist. He is a labourer and he works from morning till evening; he contributes the greatest share to carry on the government of the country. It is but fair that the Government should give due consideration to the difficulties of the poor ryot. There are two important points which the Government ought to consider; the poor ryot is not at all satisfied for this reason, i.e., a major portion of the money that is collected by way of taxes from him is not at all spent on his proper needs.

"I wish to point out that the villagers are scattered in rural parts; they have no communications in the first place. You can just imagine their difficulty. After hard labour, i.e., after the produce is ready,

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the villager wants to sell his produce. He cannot carry cart-loads of his produce to the market because there are no communications at all. Particularly in the rainy season, he suffers most. Recently we had district board elections in our district. Hon. Members who are members of district boards must have felt the difficulty themselves. In our district just a fortnight before the elections, we had rains and the elections had to be finished expeditiously. The villager is very much dissatisfied with the present state of things. I wish that the Government should spend larger amounts on village communications, so that the grievance of the ryot in this matter might be redressed.

"In this connexion I want to refer to the utter want of any water-supply scheme in villages. A man should have fresh water and fresh air to live happily. Fresh air we have in abundance. With regard to the question of water-supply, the villager must be relieved of his great hardship. There are villages in my district, where people have to go a distance of nearly seven miles to get drinking water. I have referred to this point time and again at the time of the budget discussion. I only request the Government to come to the rescue of the poor ryots and relieve their distress.

"This is not the time to devote attention to each and every department of the Government because my sincere opinion is that instead of wasting three days on general discussion, if more time is given for various Demands for Grants, hon. Members might well ventilate the grievances of the ryots.

"Another point I wish to refer to is this: the villager is feeling very much the present rate of land revenue. Of course I know that the Revenue Department are making every effort to relieve the poor ryot of his burden. But he is not at all satisfied, because there are great many grievances which he is feeling every year. My district is in the far interior and we are passing through famine year after year, in spite of the fact that there are some big rivers in our district. For instance, the Tungabhadra passes through the Ceded districts. There is a big tributary by name Hundri also which is one-fourth of the Kistna river and which contributes the greatest quantity of water to the big river, Kistna. This water is wasted; it flows through our districts into the Kistna river and ultimately into the sea without being utilized. The Government would be giving much relief to the ryot if they utilize this water to help the ryot, and if waste lands which are now uncultivated, are cultivated by proper supply of water.

"I only wish that the Government should spend greater amounts on village communications, on water-supply to the villages and on the diversion of some of the big rivers and tributaries whose water is wasted by allowing it to flow into the sea. It is a pity that in spite of the agitation that we are carrying on and in spite of the earnest efforts of the Government to take up the Tungabhadra project, nothing has come out of it. I think it is high time that the Government should take up one of the projects, the Tungabhadra project or the Sangameswaram project, which would supply water to five or six districts.

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"Having mentioned these two points, I should like to refer now to some other difficulties of the district which I represent. The Kurnool district has got a big tank situated at Cumbum. It is one of the biggest tanks in the Presidency, with an embankment, I think, about 60 feet high. Unfortunately, however, for the last sixty years, the ryots under this tank who live in about 27 villages, have been suffering for want of water. In answer to questions put on the subject, the Government have supplied statistics which show that during the past thirty years, this tank never got water in time; that is to say, if the sowing season is June, the water-supply can be got only in September or even in October. The poor ryot who cannot sow anything other than paddy, has got to depend entirely on rain water; and after he once sows, he has necessarily got to depend on water from the tank. On more than one occasion, the crops have failed for want of sufficient water. If Government do not devise some project or other by which this tank can be supplied with sufficient water, the ryots will continue to suffer. I am told, Sir, that this tank is situated at a high level, but I fear that no investigations have been carried on. I have learnt from Members of this Council who represented my district before me, that investigations were made—but I am not quite sure. Anyway, I feel that something should be done to see that this tank gets sufficient water and that the ryots in the 27 villages under it are relieved of their present misery. Recently, I also put a question as to whether a small river Wuppuvagu, which flows below this tank, and which is a tributary of the Gundlagama river, cannot be connected to this tank, or whether water cannot be taken to the tank from Wuppuvagu through a small kathwa. This small river gets into floods occasionally even during the summer—although it may seem strange, it is a fact which has been observed in the past. The Revenue Member however replied that if this diversion was to be made, the ryots living in the far south might be affected. I do not know, Sir, why people who live in the area through which this river passes should be deprived of the benefits of the water and the ryots farther below should get such benefits."

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"May I remind the hon. Member that his time is almost up? He has got only a minute more."

S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur:—"I have spoken only for six minutes, Sir; but, as I said, it serves no purpose if I speak now. One cannot deal properly with any subject in so short a time as six minutes. As I said, Sir, it is my opinion that this period of three days for general discussion may be added on to the time allotted for a detailed discussion of the budget items.

"I shall mention one more point and then finish. In the matter of education, the Muslims are very backward, and particularly so in point of female education. I must thank the Education Minister for his kind efforts in getting a Government Order passed, permitting the inclusion of religious instruction for Muslims in the curriculum. The whole Muslim community is indebted to him for this. But still, though this permission has now been given, religious instruction is not being imparted in all the institutions in the Presidency. The difficulty is

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that in every school—whether it is a municipal school or a board school—(and Government institutions are very few, I think there is only one)—where Muslim boys are reading, this religious instruction is not given. There are about 300 Muslim schools in my district, and I request that the Hon. Minister in charge of Education will kindly see that the demands of the Muslims in this respect are satisfied. For, unless religious instruction is imparted in these schools, no Muslim parent will send his children for education to these schools. I wish, Sir, that the Education department will take note of this.”

* Mr. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI:—“ Mr. President, Sir, the Hon. the Finance Member feels elated at having presented a balanced Budget for the year 1936-37. My own grievance yet remains unanswered. Has any greater relief been afforded to the people either in the removal of or in the lightening of the burden of taxation? No. As a mirasidar, I am mostly concerned with the land revenue policy of the Government, and I dare say that the Government have not moved an inch from their original attitude and the suffering ryots are none the better off than last year, and their future is as dark as ever. Sir, I would draw the attention of the Hon. the Revenue and the Finance Members to the land revenue policy adopted in the sister province of the United Provinces. The conditions and the nature may not be exactly the same as obtained in Madras, but the policy of the Government and their interestedness in the welfare of the landholders and the ryots are things to be proud of and we see a completely different picture in our province. They are trying to place the land revenue system on a permanent and satisfactory statutory basis. They don't plead lack of funds, but on the other hand, the Government have schemed even to forego a recurring expenditure of Rs. 112 lakhs every year for the sake of the suffering agriculturists. Whereas here, they are but tinkering with our considered opinion and try to waive us off by temporary and inadequate relief from year to year. Our Government rest content with the duties of a tax-gatherer, but they turn a deaf ear to the hardships of the agriculturists. The mirasidars have been bled white.

“ The Joint Committee of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms indicated that the land revenue policy can be treated as a purely provincial subject and subsequently the Taxation Enquiry Committee have but clearly pointed out the crushing burden of land revenue tax under which the agriculturists suffer and the urgency of affording immediate relief in that direction. The Government of Madras's policy is yet to be known and we are yet to understand if they have attempted to place it on a satisfactory basis at all.

“ There are sources which could easily be tapped, economies effected and the ryots could be given more adequate relief. Owing to world-wide economic depression, the rate of interest has fallen. But our Government contracts loans with the Government of India at a high rate of 5½ per cent, while the rates of the Imperial Bank and the Bank of England are so low as 2½ per cent. The Government could easily reconvert it into 2½ per cent and the savings can be made available to minimise the sufferings of the poor ryots. I may here point out that

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this outlay on the Mettur scheme by loans at a high rate has but brought two distinctive disadvantages, (i) the loss of silt to the delta area and (ii) the crushing burden of taxation in spite of the poor yield.

“ The top-heavy expenditure on the Civil list should be reduced to the pre-war level. While there has been continuous fall in price steadily, the expenditure on salaries of service remain as heavy as ever and the higher ranks are still on the increase. Even after the release of the Provincial contributions by the Meston Award, the amounts have not been used to ameliorate the condition of the suffering millions but they have raised the expenditure, restored the cuts and have been planning several ten-year schemes for nation-building. The expenditure on irrigation which is vitally affecting 90 per cent of the population is far meagre in comparison to what is being spent by the Native States on the same head. This heartless policy is nowhere else pursued except in our own province.

“ Land revenue is the mainstay of this Government, and the landholders are entitled to all support from them. The continuous fall in prices have enfeebled them and the heavy rains and cyclone this year have left them barely nothing. But what have the Government done? They have followed the usual routine and the announcement of the concession of 11 per cent has shattered the hopes of the stricken mirasidars. The concession given is almost nil to the Tanjore mirasidars owing to the severity of conditions and the reclassification of tarams recently made. The Board's Standing Orders are narrow in their scope and the revenue officers always under-estimate the damages caused.

“ The balanced budget brings no relief to the ryots. Polished words do not cook the broth for the mirasidars. I can only reiterate the same point that unless the Government come forward in all earnestness to place the land revenue system on a clean statutory basis with a view to benefit the landlord and the millions of destroyed ryots, the faith of the ryots in the administration will be rudely shaken and the agricultural industry is doomed. As long as this longstanding grievance remains unredressed, I am sorry I cannot congratulate the Hon. the Finance Member for the balanced budget that he has presented to the House.”

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

VI.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

* *Note of the Development Department, dated 12th February 1936, in connexion with the answer to supplementary questions to Question No. 374 answered on 1st November 1935, regarding publication of the results of experiments carried on by the Agricultural Department.*

D. K. V. RAGHAVA VARMA,
Acting Secretary to the Legislative Council.

[28th February 1936]

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 835 asked by Rao Sahib V. Dharmalingam Pillai at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 28th February 1936, page 160 supra.]

From the Collector of Chingleput-Madras, dated 12th November 1935, R.C. No. 8224/35.

[Assignment—Land—Tiruvallur taluk—Velliyur village—S. Nos. 230, 231 and 232—Legislative Council question.]

S. Nos. 230, 231 and 232 of Velliyur village in Tiruvallur taluk are classed as tank-bed poramboke in the revenue accounts. They were allowed to be cultivated by Adi-Dravida Christians on payment of single assessment and a miscellaneous patta was issued in the year 1907. On the application, dated 29th April 1935, from Rev. C. H. Manohan, M.A., on behalf of the Adi-Dravida Christians to issue permanent patta for the lands the Tahsildar, Tiruvallur taluk, has been asked to submit transfer proposals in consultation with the Public Works Department as the lands are in the foreshore of a tank in charge of that department.

2. The people of the Velliyur village did not object to the assignment of the lands before and the Collector did not uphold their objections in 1934.

3. Single assessment is being levied on these lands in Account No. 7 as ordered by the Collector in 1907.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 843 asked by Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 28th February 1936, page 167 supra.]

Report of the Director of Industries.

I submit the following report.

2. The Assistant Director of Industries (Textiles) and myself visited Salem on the 7th of December and discussed with the Collector of Salem, the Revenue Divisional Officer and the Municipal Commissioner, the situation that has arisen at Salem owing to the unemployment among the weavers said to be caused by the increasing influx of Japanese gadas for conversion into dyed sarees. Subsequently we proceeded to the depot

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of the Salem Weavers' Co-operative Society, met the President, and examined the working of the society, as also the cloths produced by the members. The quarters of the local weavers and dyers were also visited. In the evening a deputation of weavers waited on the Collector at his residence when they made an oral representation and there was a further discussion. The following day I discussed matters with the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Salem, who has a considerable knowledge and experience of the handloom weaving industry of the Salem district, and who had returned from tour that morning. I may mention that the Marketing Officer attached to the Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society had already visited Salem and discussed matters with the Collector.

3. It may be useful at the outset to refer very briefly to the general position in regard to cotton cloth. On the 31st March 1935, there were 31 cotton spinning and weaving mills at work in the Madras Presidency with 919,620 spindles and 5,597 looms. In the last few years several new cotton mills have sprung up in the Coimbatore district, one is being started in the Trichinopoly district and proposals are under consideration for the establishment of additional mills in other areas. The mill production of yarn during the year 1934-35 amounted to 103.10 million pounds as against 98.27 million pounds in the previous year. The mill production of cloth also increased during the year from 65.34 million yards to 75.17 million yards. In the following statement will be found details of the production of woven goods in the mills of the Presidency during each of the last three years:—

		1932-33.	1933-34.	1934-35
Grey and bleached goods	Lb.	8,377,724	7,202,759	9,308,388
	Yards.	33,683,663	30,187,996	38,334,147
Coloured piecegoods	Lb.	11,753,848	11,245,939	11,586,759
	Yards.	36,863,618	35,147,820	36,835,088
Grey and coloured goods other than piecegoods.	Lb.	512,562	404,044	479,200
	Dozens.	105,212	77,531	75,166
Hosiery	Lb.	923,743	669,169	1,228,295
	Dozens.	248,791	181,491	305,913
Miscellaneous	Lb.	35,379	30,567	29,791
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	Lb.	955,075	578,463	897,386
Grand total	Lb.	22,558,331	20,130,941	23,529,819
	Yards.	7,547,281	65,335,816	75,169,235
	Dozens.	354,003	259,022	381,079

Imports into the Madras Presidency by sea during the year 1934-35 amounted to 6.06 million pounds of cotton yarn, and 71.16 million yards of cotton piecegoods. There are also considerable coastwise and railborne imports. In 1934-35, coastwise imports of cotton piecegoods amounted to 69.21 million yards valued at Rs. 251.79 lakhs of rupees of which imports from Bombay accounted for 66.52 million yards valued at Rs. 244.86 lakhs. During the year 1934-35 imports by rail amounted to 148,649 maunds of foreign and 576,239 maunds of Indian piecegoods.

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The imports into this Presidency from Bombay and Ahmedabad consist mostly of the finer varieties of goods such as fancy shirtings, bleached twills, sarees, dhoties and mulls. Suiting cloths and tussorees are also imported to some extent. A portion of the cloth imported into this Presidency from Bombay by sea, and also by rail, represents foreign cloth, chiefly Japanese.

4. The imports of grey piecegoods into Madras Presidency by sea from the United Kingdom and Japan during the first eight months of the current year, with the figures for the corresponding period of the two previous years are given below:—

	United Kingdom.	Japan.	Total of imports from the two countries.
	MILL YDS.	MILL YDS.	MILL YDS.
1933-34 (eight months) ..	10.67	8.96	19.63
1934-35 (do.) ..	7.84	10.17	18.01
1935-36 (do.) ..	6.24	12.35	18.59

The total imports from the United Kingdom and Japan have advanced in 1935-36 to a slight extent, but compared with the corresponding period of 1933-34, a fall of a little over one million yards is noticeable. It is with Japanese goods, however, that the handloom weaving industry is concerned, and imports from Japan have increased by nearly 38 per cent during the current year as compared with 1933-34, while the share of United Kingdom has contracted by over 4.4 million yards, i.e., by about 40 per cent. The total import of cloth from the United Kingdom in 1934-35 amounted to 12.51 million yards whereas for the first eight months of 1935-36, it was only 6.24 million yards, i.e., about half the total imports of 1934-35 from the United Kingdom. On the other hand, the imports from Japan which amounted to 14.99 million yards during the year 1934-35 amounted during the eight months of 1935-36 to 12.35 million yards leaving only 2.64 million yards to make up the total imports of 1934-35 during the remaining four months of the year. The average imports per month from Japan during the eight months of 1935-36 amounted to 1.54 million yards against 1.25 million yards for the whole of the year 1934-35 and if this rate of imports continues throughout the year (imports during September, October and November have in each case been over 2.16 million yards) the total imports from Japan alone during the whole of the year 1935-36 will come to about 18 million yards, i.e., an advance of three million yards over the 1934-35 total. The foregoing figures relate to imports by sea. Coastwise and rail-borne statistics for all the months for which sea-borne foreign import figures are available are not yet to hand, and are not also available in such detail, but it is observed that during the first seven months of the calendar year 1935 the imports by rail of foreign piecegoods amounted to 92,131 maunds as against 78,725 maunds during the corresponding period of the calendar year 1934. The larger portion of the foreign piecegoods brought by rail into the Presidency may be assumed to be of Japanese

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origin, since as the following table will show imports into India of Japanese grey cloth have shown a marked increase during the current year:—

	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36 (seven months).
Plain grey (million yards)	139.97	172.11	119.19
Japan's share	112.53	152.21	105.88
Bordered grey	90.21	119.26	68.20
Japan's share	29.09	41.54	29.96

Imports during the first seven months of each year (April to October) into India.

	1933-34.	1934-35.	1935-36.
Plain grey—			
From Japan	78.65	85.85	105.88
Total, all countries	93.91	100.19	119.19
Bordered grey—			
From Japan	27.47	25.87	29.96
Total, all countries	66.34	73.23	68.20

5. The consumption of yarn is a true index of the amount of cloth woven on handlooms, but statistics of the offtake of yarn in the Salem district during the last few months as compared with the corresponding period of previous years are not readily available. I have, however, been able to obtain from the Madura Mills Company, Limited, a statement showing their yarn sales in the Salem district for each month of the current year as compared with the corresponding month of the previous year, and this is extracted below:—

	In 400 lb. bales.	
	1935.	1934.
January	88	285
February	60	53
March	144	148
April	346	421
May	204	164
June	128	123
July	152	65
August	138	196
September	207	113
October	122	156
November	47	227
Total	1,636	1,951

It will be seen that the offtake of Madura yarn increased in February, May, June and July, and as recently as September, but that there was a heavy fall in November. During the first eleven months of the calendar year 1935, sales declined by about 16 per cent. Statistics of the offtake of other yarns are not available, but the experience of the Madura Mills may, I think, be regarded as typical of yarn suppliers in general.

6. There seems to be some difference of opinion as to the reason for the present unemployment in Salem. Certainly the unemployment among the handloom weavers there, is not peculiar to Salem. There is considerable unemployment on the West Coast owing, according to a report which appeared in the *Madras Mail* on the 11th December

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1935, to the competition of cheap Japanese cloth, and the mass production of cheap cloth by Indian mills. There is also unemployment in Madura and other handloom weaving centres. The Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Salem, does not seem altogether to subscribe to the view that the present situation is attributable to the influx of Japanese gadas, and he appears to be of opinion that the falling off in the demand for the ordinary Salem dyed cloth amongst the middle classes is the cumulative effect of the prevailing economic depression, and further he points out, which is certainly a fact, that there is always a pronounced seasonal slackness after 'Deepavali' and pending the advent of 'Pongal' and that this period of slackness has been accentuated by the existing conditions. It is the case that after 'Deepavali' there is always a pronounced falling off in the demand for all classes of cloth as will be seen from my monthly trade reports. I gather that the President of the Salem Weavers' Co-operative Society is of much the same view. On the other hand the increasing imports of Japanese grey cloth and the falling off in the consumption of yarn in October and November go to support the view that the present state of unemployment amongst the weavers of the Salem district is more than seasonal. Japanese 'gadas' are white mulls of $46\frac{1}{2}$ yards length and 43 inches width, which are cut into saree lengths and dyed. Generally six sarees are made from a piece of Japanese cloth. These sarees cost from Rs. 1-14-0 upwards, whilst sarees woven on handloom cost from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2-4-0 upwards. It is said that the Japanese sarees are prepared as they possess a feel and appearance, which is quite different and distinct from that of the hand woven sarees of a similar type, although according to the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Salem, sarees made from Japanese gadas are in demand only by the lower classes. It is observed that one merchant, who is now dyeing 150 sarees from Japanese 'gadas' a day, was dyeing 450 such sarees a day sometimes back when there was more business. This person who now employs only 150 to 200 looms was formerly employing 400 looms. Another has produced in the last ten months, 43,000 sarees from Japanese gada and 14,000 from Indian mill cloth, against 85,000 handloom woven sarees. In October, the former went up and the latter went down in production. A third merchant has produced 49,000 sarees from Japanese cloth and 35,000 from Indian mill cloth this year.

7. Salem is the largest weaving centre in South India, and out of 318,434 handlooms at work in the Madras Presidency, there are as many as 39,310 looms in Salem district, and 10,920 looms in Salem town alone. Salem is noted for the production of cloth of superior varieties, which are generally used by the upper and middle classes as also on ceremonial occasions, and consequently the Salem weavers have been generally having a higher wage than weavers elsewhere. As a result of the economic depression and the fall in commodity values the weavers in other parts of the Presidency have had to submit to a reduction of their wages to an extent that would enable cloth merchants

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to sell their products in competition with mill goods where such competition exists, and it may be that this adjustment of wages has not proceeded so far in Salem as it has in some other handloom weaving centres. When there is a sudden influx of cheaper varieties of cloth as at present and the weavers do not take to the weaving of such kinds of coarse and inferior cloths at reduced wages, the merchants find it more profitable to buy cheap Japanese cloths and have them dyed locally. I understand that in Madura also large quantities of these gadas are being obtained and dyed, and that under the stress of economic necessity, the weavers of Madura have been obliged to agree to a considerable lowering of their wages.

8. There are two distinct directions in which the handloom weaving industry has to be assisted. The Textile branch of the Department of Industries with its technical staff advises and assists in regard to the improvement of the manipulative processes in weaving, and in the adoption of modern methods of dyeing. The necessary assistance in regard to the organization of the industry on the commercial side calls for the assistance of organizations which are in close touch with market conditions in the yarn and cloth trade, and can advise the weavers what to weave, supply yarn at favourable prices, introduce new designs and assist in the disposal of fabrics produced. In addition to this, co-operative societies have to be set up for the installation of power driven machinery which can be linked to the handloom weavers so as to permit of the distribution of ready-made warps and of the finishing of cloth. The Royal Commission on Agriculture and the Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee recommended the organization of co-operative societies for providing the necessary facilities for the handloom weavers and in order to enable these to be provided the Government of India have provided grants-in-aid to local Governments and Administrations. In Madras, the grant has been utilized to provide a subsidy to the Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society. A secretary, a marketing officer and a number of district marketing agents have been appointed by the society in order to assist the handloom weaving industry especially on the marketing side. As soon as intimation was received from the Collector of the position at Salem, the matter was brought before the executive committee of the board of directors of the society at a meeting held on 9th December 1935 when it was decided that the marketing officers should collect from wholesale merchants in Madras samples of mill cloths which are largely in demand, and that he should then discuss matters with the Assistant Director of Industries (Textile) who, as a result of his examination of the types of looms employed by the weavers at Salem, would be able to select certain styles of cloth which lend themselves to production on the handlooms at Salem. The board also decided that the marketing officer should visit Salem again at an early date in order to assist the president of the co-operative society in increasing the membership of the society, and to bring into its fold such of the weavers as are willing to weave other types of cloths. In passing it may be mentioned that the Salem Weavers' Co-operative Society had about

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280 weavers when it was started in 1930 besides sympathisers who had taken up shares. The classes of cloths produced by the society are dhoties, sarees and upper cloths; it transacted business to the extent of about Rs. 40,000 in the first year. The turnover fell to Rs. 37,000 last year and the number of weaver members to 70, some of whom are master weavers. Already the Collector has asked the Deputy Registrar and the President of the Weavers' Society to take up 200 more members, and if 200 weavers can be found employment, it may relieve the tension to some extent. The prices of cloths made by the Salem Co-operative Society are higher than those manufactured by other weavers in Salem, but the Society's goods are of a higher quality. Details of the cost of production of cloth by the Salem Weavers' Co-operative Society are furnished in Annexure I. It is of course recognized that the measure of assistance to be provided by the co-operative society can at best find employment only for a small proportion of the weaver population of Salem and that the others will have to continue to depend upon orders from sowcars.

9. The Assistant Director of Industries (Textiles) and the marketing officer secured samples of mill cloths from cloth merchants in Deva-raja Mudali street, Georgetown, Madras, and these samples were examined by the former officer for their quality particulars and suitability for manufacture by Salem weavers. The selected samples with their quality particulars and sale prices are being sent to the Collector to-day for transmission to the Salem Weavers' Society. On receipt of specimens, the President of the Salem Weavers' Society will, as agreed upon at the conference, ascertain at what minimum cost below the figures of sale prices, he can arrange to have similar classes of fabrics produced by the Salem weavers, and will communicate with the marketing officer who will then see the merchants in Madras and ascertain whether they can undertake to market such of the cloths as the Salem weavers are willing and able to produce. I may mention that in co-operation with the President of the Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society, Ltd., I have arranged for a meeting of the cloth merchants of Madras on Thursday, the 19th December, and at this meeting the possibilities of developing a market for hand-woven cloths in competition with Bombay and Ahmedabad mill goods will be fully discussed. Pending the installation of finishing plant by the Provincial Society, the cloths produced at Salem will have to be marketed in the grey state. It has already been mentioned that the cloths produced by the society are more costly than those woven by other weavers. This is to some extent unavoidable, but at the same time the society's costs are susceptible of reduction in one direction at least. The society is at present generally using Sholapur mill yarn for the cloths they produce. As yarn of approximately the same quality can be had from other mills such as the Madura Mills at lower prices than yarn of the same kind from Sholapur—vide Annexure II attached—the society might well try the cheaper sassoon or Madura yarns. In order to minimize the cost of production and to allow the maximum margin for the wages of the weavers, the Salem Weavers' Society should avail

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itself of the facilities afforded by the Madras Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society for the supply of yarns of guaranteed quality at favourable rates. An economy may also be effected by using yarns of slightly lower quality for weft instead of the same warp yarn as at present. It may also be necessary for the President of the Salem Society to apply to Government through the Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society, for the grant of a subsidy to meet the overhead charges of the society consequent on the expansion of its activities, and as a special case Government may perhaps consider the question of again lending free of charge the services of a Co-operative Inspector to assist the society in marketing its goods. As regards improvement in technical processes it was observed that the looms at Salem are fitted with fly-shuttle slays and cheap types of dobbies and jacquards for producing figured effects in woven fabrics. But in regard to the dyeing of yarn it was observed that wood fuel is used in open hearths and that the cost of fuel is thus disproportionately large. It has therefore been arranged to furnish the President of the Society with a design of an improved oven which should enable a considerable economy in fuel to be effected.

ANNEXURE I.—Details of cost of production of cloths at the Salem Weavers' Society furnished by the Marketing Officer.

		Dhoties.		RS. A. P	
1	Length	2/6 yards..	Cost of yarn	.. .. .	.. .. .
	Width	50 inches ..	For 84 yards warp length .. .. .	.. .. .	.. .. .
	Ends per inch	68 ..	.. .. .	35 knots .. .. .	.. .. .
	Picks per inch	72 ..	.. .. .	.. .. .	34
	Count of warp and weft	40's ..	At Rs. 3-6-0 per bundle of 5 lb. .. ..	.. .. .	11 11 0
	(Minerva Mills).		For border and heading 12 hanks .. ..	.. .. .	0 12 0
			Winding, warping, sizing and weaving .. ..	.. .. .	9 4 0
			Cost of 84 yards of cloth .. .. .	.. .. .	21 11 0
			Cost of 1 pair of dhoties (2/6 yards) .. ..	.. .. .	1 8 10
2	Length	2/6 yards..	Cost of yarn	.. .. .	.. .. .
	Width	52 inches ..	For 84 yards of warp length—45 knots .. ..	.. .. .	.. .. .
	Ends per inch	76 ..	.. .. .	.. .. .	45
	Picks per inch	80 ..	At Rs. 5-6-0 per bundle of 5 lb. .. ..	.. .. .	16 12 0
	Count of warp and weft	60's ..	For border and heading 12 hanks .. ..	.. .. .	0 12 0
	(Sholapur yarn).		Winding, warping, sizing and weaving .. ..	.. .. .	13 4 0
			Cost of 84 yards of cloth .. .. .	.. .. .	30 2 0
			Cost of 1 pair of dhoties (2/6 yards) .. ..	.. .. .	2 2 5
3	Length	6 yards ..	Cost of yarn	.. .. .	.. .. .
	Width	52 inches ..	For 84 yards of warp length—57 knots .. ..	.. .. .	.. .. .
	Ends per inch	88 ..	.. .. .	.. .. .	57
	Picks per inch	88 ..	At Rs. 7-12-0 per bundle of 5 lb. .. ..	.. .. .	22 1 0
	Count of warp and weft	80's ..	For border and heading 12 hanks .. ..	.. .. .	0 12 0
	(Sholapur).		Winding, warping, sizing and weaving		19 0 0
			Cost of 84 yards of cloth		41 13 0
			Cost of 1 pair dhoties (2/6 yards)		2 15 10

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Sarees.

RS. A. P.

4 Length	8 yards ..	Cost of yarn ..	..	..	..
Width	48 inches.	For 16 yards of warp length 4 knots 7 hanks ..	..	..	..
Ends per inch ..	62 ..	4 knots 7 hanks.	..	..	..
Picks per inch ..	60 ..	Do. for weft : 5 knots 2 hanks.	2	5	8
Count of warp and weft 40's (Minerva).	..	At Rs. 4-12-0 per bundle of 5 lb. (dyed).	..	..	..
		For border and heading 7 hanks	0	7	0
		Winding, warping, sizing and weaving ..	1	7	8
		Cost of 16 yards (2 sarees) ..	4	8	6

Cost of 1 saree—8 yards Rs. 2-1-9
(As 5-6 extra per saree of 8 yards for Indanthrene colours).

5 Length	9 yards ..	Cost of yarn ..	..	..	..
Width	45 inches.	For 18 yards of warp length ..	..	..	..
Ends per inch ..	74 ..	7 knots 6 hanks ..	..	..	..
Picks per inch ..	76 ..	For 18 yards for weft : 8 knots 6 hanks ..	..	..	..
Count of warp and weft 60's (Sholapur).	..	At Rs. 6-14-0 per bundle of 5 lb. (dyed)	3	10	6
		For border and heading 7 hanks	0	7	0
		Winding, warping, sizing and weaving ..	2	4	0
		Cost of 18 yards (2 sarees) ..	6	8	6

Cost of 1 saree—9 yards Rs. 3-2-9
(As 6-3 extra per saree of 9 yards for Indanthrene colours).

6 Length	9 yards ..	Cost of yarn ..	..	..	..
Width	45 inches.	For 18 yards of warp length ..	..	..	..
Ends per inch ..	80 ..	9 knots ..	..	..	..
Picks per inch ..	82 ..	For 18 yards for weft : 10 knots (ten)	..	..	..
Count of warp and weft 80's (Sholapur).	..	At Rs. 9-4-0 per bundle of 5 lb. (dyed)	4	7	8
		For border and heading 7 hanks	0	7	0
		Winding, warping, sizing and weaving ..	3	6	6
		Cost of 18 yards (2 sarees) ..	8	4	9

Cost of 1 saree—9 yards Rs. 4-2-5
(As 6 extra per saree of 9 yards for Indanthrene colours).

NOTE.—1 knot = 10 hanks.					
Under "sarees"—					
40's grey yarn	..	..	..	..	8 6 0 per bundle of 5 lb.
Dyeing charges ..	..	..	..	..	1 6 0
				Total ..	4 12 0
60's grey yarn	..	..	..	..	5 6 0
Dyeing charges ..	..	..	..	..	1 8 0
				Total ..	6 14 0
80's grey yarn	..	..	..	..	7 12 0
Dyeing charges ..	..	..	..	..	1 8 0
				Total ..	9 4 0

RS. A. P.

ANNEXURE II.—Current prices of mill yarn.

RS. A. P.					
80's—Sholapur—Combed	..	..	..	..	7 12 0 per bundle 5 lb.
Sassoon's—Carded	..	..	..	..	7 0 0 Do.
Japanese	..	..	..	..	5 12 0 Do.
English I quality	..	..	..	..	7 2 0 Do.
Do. II do.	..	..	..	..	6 14 0 Do.
Do. III do.	..	..	..	..	6 8 0 Do.
60's—Sholapur—Combed	..	..	..	..	5 6 0 Do.
Madura—Carded	..	..	..	..	5 0 0 Do.
Sassoon's—Combed	..	..	..	..	5 1 0 Do.
Do. Carded	..	..	..	..	4 12 0 Do.
Japan ..	..	..	..	..	4 2 0 Do.

All the above yarns stand good warping, sizing and weaving.

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APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to question No. 847 asked by Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 28th February 1936, page 169 supra.]

Statement.

(a) Number of L.Ts. recruited as Headmasters and School Assistants under the Madras Educational Subordinate Service in each of the branches of men and women in each year for the past five years including 1935.

Men's branch.				Women's branch.			
1931 ..	..	..	Nil.	1931 ..	..	..	8
1932 ..	..	..	Nil.	1932 ..	..	..	1
1933 ..	..	..	Nil.	1933 ..	..	..	8
1934 ..	..	..	Nil.	1934 ..	..	..	8
1935 ..	..	..	2	1935 ..	..	..	2
Total ..	..	..	2	Total ..	..	..	27

(b) Number according to communities and according to districts.

Men's branch.			Women's branch.		
Year.	Community.	District.	Year.	Community.	District.
1931 ..	Nil.	Nil.	1931 ..	Non-Brahman. 3	Guntur 1
1932 ..	Nil.	Nil.	..	Brahman .. 1	Madras 1
1933 ..	Nil.	Nil.	..	Christian .. 4	North Arcot .. 1
1934 ..	Nil.	Nil.	..	..	Madura 1
1935—	..	..	..	..	Malabar 2
	Christian .. 1	Trivandrum.	..	..	South Kanara .. 1
	Brahman .. 1	Ganjam.	..	..	Travancore .. 1
	(Oriya) .. 1		1932 ..	Non-Brahman. 1	Malabar 1
			1933 ..	Do. 6	Madras 1
			..	Brahman .. 2	Tanjore 1
			..	..	Malabar 4
			..	..	South Kanara .. 1
			..	..	Travancore .. 1
			1934 ..	Brahman .. 1	Madras 1
			..	Non-Brahman. 3	Tanjore 2
			..	Christian .. 4	Coimbatore .. 1
			..	..	Tinnevely .. 1
			..	..	Malabar 1
			..	..	Travancore .. 1
			..	..	Cochin 1
			1935 ..	Non-Brahman. 1	Coimbatore .. 1
			..	Muslim .. 1	Madras 1

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APPENDIX IV.

[Vide answer to question No. 848 asked by Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 28th February 1936, page 169 supra.]

Statement.

(a) Number of vacancies of Sub-Assistant Inspectresses of Schools which occurred in each year for the past five years including 1935.

1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
1932	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
1933	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
1934	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
1935	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Total									9

(b) Number filled up by direct recruitment and by promotion from the school staff in each year.

By direct recruitment.					By promotion.				
1931	..	..	..	2	1931	..	..	..	Nil.
1932	..	..	..	1	1932	..	..	..	Nil.
1933	..	..	..	4	1933	..	..	..	1
1934	..	..	..	1	1934	..	..	..	Nil.
1935	..	..	..	Nil.	1935	..	..	..	Nil.

(c) Numbers according to communities and according to districts.

Communities.				Districts.					
1931									
Christians	..	..	..	2	South Arcot	..	..	..	1
					Madura	..	..	..	1
1932									
Non-Brahman	..	..	..	1	Malabar	..	..	..	1
1933									
Non-Brahman	..	..	..	2	Chingleput	..	..	..	1
Brahman	..	..	..	2	South Arcot	..	..	..	1
Christian	..	..	..	1	Tinnevely	..	..	..	1
					Malabar	..	..	..	1
					South Kanara	..	..	..	1
1934									
Anglo-Indian	..	..	..	1	Ramnad	..	..	..	1
1935									
Nil.									

28th February 1936]

APPENDIX V.
[Vide answer to question No. 849 asked by Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 28th February 1936, page 170 supra.]

Statement showing the allotment sanctioned for the Government Hospitals in Salem district.

Serial number and name of Government medical institutions.	(1)	1931-32.		1932-33.		1933-34.	
		Rs.	Paise	Rs.	Paise	Rs.	Paise
1 Government Headquarters Hospital, Salem.	1	403	288	402	270	445	288
2 Government Queen Alexandra Hospital, Salem.	2	144	144	144	144	144	144
3 Government Hospital, Krishnagiri.	3	120	120	120	120	120	120
4 Do. Namakkal.	4	144	144	144	144	144	144
5 Do. Dharmapuri.	5	132	132	132	132	132	132
6 Do. Attur.	6	144	144	144	144	144	144
7 Do. Tiruchengodu.	7						
		Pay of menials.		Electric current and telephone charges.		Purchase and repair of furniture.	
		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
		Rs.	Paise	Rs.	Paise	Rs.	Paise
		300	300	300	300	300	300
		Office expenses.		Cleaning charges.		Freight charges.	
		(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
		Rs.	Paise	Rs.	Paise	Rs.	Paise
		339	60	339	60	339	60
		Other contingencies.		Petty construction and re-		Diet.	
		(14)	(15)	(16)	(17)	(18)	(19)
		Rs.	Paise	Rs.	Paise	Rs.	Paise
		60	60	60	60	60	60
		Medicines and hospital supplies.		Other petty and services.			
		(20)	(21)	(22)	(23)	(24)	(25)
		Rs.	Paise	Rs.	Paise	Rs.	Paise
		3,343	3,343	3,343	3,343	3,343	3,343
		2,055	2,055	2,055	2,055	2,055	2,055
		2,180	2,180	2,180	2,180	2,180	2,180
		1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600
		1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600
		1,880	1,880	1,880	1,880	1,880	1,880
		11,500	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,500	11,500
		1,945	1,945	1,945	1,945	1,945	1,945
		2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100
		3,450	3,450	3,450	3,450	3,450	3,450
		1,483	1,483	1,483	1,483	1,483	1,483
		1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
		1,467	1,467	1,467	1,467	1,467	1,467
		9,250	9,250	9,250	9,250	9,250	9,250
		2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
		600	600	600	600	600	600
		700	700	700	700	700	700
		300	300	300	300	300	300
		400	400	400	400	400	400
		180	180	180	180	180	180
		2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
		2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
		450	450	450	450	450	450
		30	30	30	30	30	30
		210	210	210	210	210	210
		60	60	60	60	60	60
		175	175	175	175	175	175
		100	100	100	100	100	100
		90	90	90	90	90	90
		100	100	100	100	100	100
		25	25	25	25	25	25

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Statement showing the allotment sanctioned for the Government Hospitals in Salem district—cont.

Serial number and name of Government medical institutions.	(1)	Pay of menials.	Electric current charges.	Purchase and repair of furniture.	Office expenses.	Cleaning charges.	Freight charges.	Other petty contingencies.	Petty construction and repairs.	Diet.	Medicines and hospital necessaries.	Other supplies and petty services.
		RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
1 Government Headquarters Hospital, Salem.		445	300	50	340	179	95	500	400	10,320	13,000	450
2 Government Queen Alexandra Hospital, Salem.		288	..	10	175	1	30	50	240	2,250	3,500	180
3 Government Hospital, Krishnagiri.		144	..	100	144	1	30	210	115	550	3,250	60
4 Do. Namakkal.		120	..	20	204	3	60	80	100	818	3,500	75
5 Do. Dharmapuri.		144	..	30	72	1	25	80	105	462	2,250	60
6 Do. Atur.		132	..	20	120	1	20	80	100	500	2,000	50
7 Do. Tiruchengodu.		144	..	20	120	1	25	120	100	500	2,500	55
1 Government Headquarters Hospital, Salem.		458	800	80	176	125	85	430	400	10,350	16,000	410
2 Government Queen Alexandra Hospital, Salem.		288	..	10	175	2	30	50	100	2,300	3,000	180
3 Government Hospital, Krishnagiri.		144	..	50	150	2	30	210	100	600	3,000	60
4 Do. Namakkal.		120	..	20	210	4	50	80	200	850	3,000	85
5 Do. Dharmapuri.		140	..	30	120	2	25	80	100	400	2,000	60
6 Do. Atur.		132	..	20	122	2	25	80	50	500	1,270	50
7 Do. Tiruchengodu.		144	..	40	122	3	25	90	100	500	1,300	55

28th February 1936]

APPENDIX VI.

[Vide item VI on page 217 supra.]

DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

U.O. NOTE No. 3940-III/35-4, DATED 12TH FEBRUARY 1936.

COMMUNICATION TO THE COUNCIL.

With reference to the answer given to question No. 374 at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 1st November 1935, the Hon. Minister for Public Works was asked in a supplementary question whether the Agricultural department publish pamphlets on the results achieved as a result of the experiments carried on during the last four years. The following information is laid on the table:—

No pamphlets have so far been published by the Agricultural department but information as far as available is published in the Note-book of Agricultural Facts and Figures by R. C. Wood. A copy of the catalogue issued by the Agricultural department which gives information regarding the descriptions of various species available at the Botanic Gardens, their habitat, altitude at which they are likely to thrive, prices, etc., is placed in the Council Library. The department proposes to publish pamphlets as and when information becomes available.

2. The figures given under clause (c) of the answer are found to be incorrect due to a clerical error. The following figures may be substituted for them:—

	RS.
1931-32	9,493
1932-33	9,784
1933-34	10,636
1934-35	11,016

C. A. HENDERSON—11-2-36.

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR
OF MADRAS.

Saturday, the 29th February 1936.

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (the Hon. Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI) in the Chair.

P R E S E N T :

Venkata Reddi Nayudu, <i>Kt.</i> , The Hon.	Narasimhaswami, Rao Sahib D. V.
Rai Bahadur Sir Kurma.	Narayanan Nambiyar, Mr. V. P.
Pannirselvam, The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T.	Natesa Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur C. Palat, Mr. R. M.
Souter, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., The Hon. Sir Charles.	Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R.
Bracken, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., The Hon. Mr. G. T. H.	Patnaik Mahasayo, Sriman M. G.
Raja of Bobbili, K.C.I.E., The Hon. the Rajan, The Hon. Mr. P. T.	Patro, K.C.I.E., Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
Kumaraswami Reddiyar, The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S.	Pattabhiramayya, Mr. K.
Abdul Hamced Khan Sahib Bahadur.	Pattagar of Palayakottai, The.
Ahmed Meeran Sahib Bahadur, A. M.	Peddi Raju, Mr. P.
Alamelumangathayaramma, Mrs. K.	Pocker Sahib Bahadur, B.
Annamalai Chettiyar, Mr. S. A. A.	Premayya, Mr. G. R.
Appadurai Pillai, Diwan Bahadur A.	Rajagopala Pillai, Mr. P. V.
Arasu, Mr. V. T.	Ramalingam Chettiyar, Diwan Bahadur T. A.
Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B.	Ramalinga Reddi, Mr. C.
Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.	Ramamurti, Rao Sahib Pandit Ganala.
Basu Dev, Mr. C.	Raman Menon, Mr. K. P.
Beyabani Sahib Bahadur, S. M. K.	Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. T. S.
Boag, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. G. T.	Ramaswami Mudaliyar, Mr. V. M.
Devadasan, Mr. M.	Rameswara Rao, Mr. G.
Dharmalingam Pillai, Rao Sahib V.	Ranganatham, Mr. N.
Gopalaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur M.	Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A.
Halasyam Ayyar, Mr. N.	Ratnavelu Thevar, Mr. P.
Indrayya, Mr. C.	Rukmani Lakshmipathi, Mrs. A.
Iswaran Pillai, Mr. I. C.	Russell, I.C.S., Mr. T. B.
Jagannatham, Mr. H. M.	Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur Mahmud.
Jayaram Nayudu, Rao Sahib C.	Scott Brown, I.C.S., Mr. W.
Jones, I.C.S., Mr. C. E.	Sesha Reddi, Rao Bahadur B. P.
Kesavaramamurti Nayudu, Mr. K.	Sinhachalam Pantulu, Mr. G.
Kolanda Reddi, Rai Sahib C.	Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar, Mr. K. S.
Koti Reddi, Mr. K.	Smith, Mr. J. M.
Krishnayya Choudari, Mr. P. V.	Srinivasan, Diwan Bahadur R.
Krishnamurti, Rao Bahadur D.	Sriramulu, Mr. G.
Kumararaja of Venkatagiri, The	Subbarayan, Dr. P.
Kuppuswami Choudari, Mr. J.	Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
Madanagopal Nayudu, Mr. R.	Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur.	Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.
Manikkavelu Navakar, Mr. M. A.	Thangal, Mr. P. M.
Moidoo Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur T. M.	Thomas, Daniel.
Moses, Mr. P. C.	Uzielli, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. H. R.
Muniswami Pillai, Rao Sahib V. I.	Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.
Muthu Chettivar, Rao Bahadur P. C.	Venugopal Nayudu, Rao Bahadur R. K.
Nachiyappa Gounder, Mr. K. A.	Wright, <i>Kt.</i> , Sir William.
Nadimuthu Pillai, Mr. A. Pl. N. V.	Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.
Nanjappa Bahadur, Rao Bahadur	Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.
Subadar-Major S. A.	Zamindar of Kirlampudi, The.
	Zamindar of Mirzapuram, The.

[29th February 1936]

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Agriculture

Notification fixing the price of sugarcane to be paid for by factories.

* 850 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether a draft notification was issued fixing the price for sugarcane to be paid by factories in this Presidency according to the Sugarcane Act XV of 1934 passed by the Government of India;

(b) whether this notification fixed different prices for different areas of the Presidency;

(c) if so, what the basis was on which these different prices were fixed;

(d) whether the agricultural officers in the different areas were consulted in fixing these prices;

(e) if so, what the rates suggested by them for the different areas were and what their reasons were for suggesting these different rates; and

(f) whether the Government will be pleased to publish the reports from the agricultural officers mentioned in clause (d)?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The cost of cultivation of the different varieties of cane was taken into consideration. To this was added a certain amount as profit to the grower and the price in different areas was arrived at.

(d) Yes. The Director of Agriculture consulted the Agricultural Officers concerned.

(e) & (f) The prices published in the preliminary notification were those arrived at on the basis of costs of cultivation reported by the Agricultural Officers concerned and reported by the Director of Agriculture. The Government do not consider it necessary to publish the reports of the District Officers.

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—“ May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. the Minister will be pleased to state as to whom this fixing of prices of sugarcane is intended to benefit? Is it the manufacturer of sugar or the producer of sugarcane? ”

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—“ Chiefly the producer of sugarcane.”

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—“ Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. the Minister, may I know whether he would not think it more advisable to leave prices to adjust themselves according to the law of demand and supply, rather than fixing prices arbitrarily? ”

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—“ That is what exactly has been done by the Government.”

29th February 1936]

Reasons for the issue of the draft notification fixing the minimum price of sugarcane.

* 851 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) what the reasons were for the issue of the draft notification this year fixing the minimum price of sugarcane;

(b) whether the Government had obtained reports from the agricultural and other officers from the sugarcane areas as to the prices paid by the factories for cane during the last (1934–35) season and whether they will be pleased to publish these reports with the remarks of the above officers as to (i) whether those prices were fair or otherwise and (ii) the margin of profit allowed by these prices per acre for the cane cultivator;

(c) what steps were taken to get the opinion of the cane-growers on the rates published in the notification; and

(d) whether Collectors and Deputy Directors were asked to hold conferences of ryots to find their opinions of the rates published; if so, in how many districts such conferences were held and what the rates suggested in these conferences were?

A.—(a) The draft notification was published by Government with a view to inviting criticism from all the interests affected.

(b) The Government obtained a report from the Director of Agriculture who sent it after consultation with the Deputy Directors of Agriculture concerned. The Government do not think it necessary to publish these reports.

(c) A preliminary notification specifying minimum prices for the purchase of cane by factories in the different areas was published and objections and suggestions as to the rates arrived at were invited from all the interests affected.

(d) No.

Personnel of the meeting convened on the 5th December 1935 to consider the draft notification regarding the fixing of a minimum price for sugarcane.

* 852 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the cane-growers of Cuddalore were represented at the meeting of the Committee of the Hon. Minister and the Directors of Agriculture and Industries that met on the 5th of December last to consider the draft notification regarding minimum price for sugarcane finally;

(b) why no other district representatives were asked to be present;

(c) who the representative was of the cane-growers at this meeting of the Committee;

(d) who the members were that attended this meeting and how many are connected with sugar factories either now working or are being promoted, and what their names are; and

[29th February 1936]

(e) whether Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju was nominated to this meeting as a representative of sugarcane-growers of the Presidency; and (i) whether he is connected with any sugar company and (ii) what his claims are to represent the sugarcane-growers of the Presidency?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) It was a select informal meeting to ascertain the views of non-officials on the question of fixing minimum prices for sugarcane. A representative gathering of non-officials was called but representatives for every district concerned were not invited.

(c) Messrs. V. T. Ramaswami Ayyar, A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar and Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimharaju and two other gentlemen from South Arcot represented the cane-growers.

(d) In addition to the five mentioned in clause (c), the Director of Agriculture, Director of Industries, Sir William Wright, Diwan Bahadur T. Raghavayya Pantulu Garu and Rao Bahadur C. Tadulinga Mudaliyar attended the meeting. Of these, so far as Government are aware, Sir William Wright and Mr. C. V. S. Narasimharaju are connected with sugar factories.

(e) He was invited both as a grower and as a factory owner.

(i) Yes.

(ii) He owns lands under sugarcane cultivation.

Need for fixing a minimum price for sugarcane bought for sugar factories.

* 853 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government now consider that the time has come for fixing a minimum price for sugarcane in view of the fact that on account of the fall in the price of jaggery, the cane-growers are at the mercy of the factories; and

(b) how the rates now paid by the factories compare with the prices fixed by the draft notification for the different areas, and what the comparative figures are?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Press Communiqué published in Notification No. 422, dated 9th December 1935, at pages 1619–20 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 10th December 1935, where the reasons for the Government decision have been explained. It is now too soon to reconsider that decision.

(b) The Government have no information about the prices now paid by the factory owners.

[29th February 1936]

Measures to secure a margin of profit to cultivators of sugarcane vis à vis the manufacturers of sugar.

* 854 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) what steps the Government now propose to take to obtain for the cane-grower a decent share of the profit accruing to the sugar manufacturer on account of the heavy duty imposed on the imported sugar;

(b) whether the Government propose to fix a certain percentage of the value of sugar as the price to be paid for the sugarcane that goes to manufacture it; and

(c) what is the percentage fixed by the Tariff Board for sugarcane; whether the Tariff Board took Rs. 13-8-0 as the price per ton of sugarcane in the field and if so, how many factories are now paying that price and for what varieties?

A.—(a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Press Communiqué published in Notification No. 422, dated 9th December 1935, at pages 1619–20 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 10th December 1935, and the answer given to clause (a) of his question No. 853. The Government do not propose to take any action at present.

(c) The rate fixed by the Tariff Board is 8 annas per maund of sugarcane delivered at factory.

As regards the price paid by factories the Government have no information.

Results of the investigations by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research into the cost of production of sugarcane.

* 855 Q.—Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research is now carrying on for the last three years investigations into the cost of production of cane in different areas of the Presidency; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to get the results of the above investigations published so that they could be taken as a guide to fix the price of cane?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The investigations are being carried on at the instance of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. The publication of the results of the inquiry is therefore a matter for the Council alone to decide.

[29th February 1936]

Local Self-Government*Progress of the scheme for the bifurcation of the North Arcot District Board.*

* 856 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) at what stage the proposal for the bifurcation of the North Arcot District Board is at present;
- (b) when the bifurcation is to come into effect;
- (c) how many proposals have so far been considered for the bifurcation of that district;
- (d) what the details of each of such proposals are;
- (e) what the reasons are for changes in the proposals from time to time;
- (f) when the District Board of North Arcot was first consulted with regard to the question of bifurcation and what reply the district board gave;
- (g) whether copies of the proposal and the reply in this behalf will be placed on the Council table;
- (h) whether it is a fact that the Government have again referred a revised proposal for bifurcation to the district board for their opinion;
- (i) if so, what that proposal is and what opinion the district board has given; and
- (j) whether copies of the orders of Government, and the resolution of the district board in reply will be placed on the Council table?

A.—(a) & (b) The bifurcation was ordered with effect from 1st December 1935.

(c), (d) & (e) Two proposals were considered. The one was to constitute Vellore, Ranipet and Cheyyar revenue divisions into one Local Fund District; and Tiruppattur and Tiruvannamalai divisions into another. The other proposal was to constitute Tiruppattur, Vellore and Ranipet divisions into one, and Cheyyar and Tiruvannamalai divisions into another Local Fund District. After examining the various representations made, the Government considered that the former would be administratively inconvenient and decided in favour of the latter.

(f) 13th June 1934. The Board agreed to the first proposal.

(g) No.

(h) Yes.

(i) The proposal was the second of the two proposals mentioned in the answer to clauses (c), (d) and (e). The Board adhered to its opinion expressed with reference to the first proposal.

(j) No.

29th February 1936]

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"Sir, the answer speaks of two proposals. May I know whether the proposals have been formulated one after another or at a time?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"On the original proposal of Government, they gave notice to the district board, but the other one was finally accepted after consulting the district board."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"With regard to the proposals, the first is said to have been formulated by the Government and that it has been accepted by the district board. May I ask the Hon. Minister what the reasons are for formulating the second proposal and bringing into effect in spite of the district board still adhering to its opinion expressed originally agreeing to the first proposal?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"On further examination it was found that there were no means of communication between Tirupattur and Tiruvannamalai divisions. In order to facilitate administration, the change had to be made."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"May I know, Sir, which of the two proposals was submitted by the expert adviser, I mean the Inspector of Local Boards and Municipalities?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"The Inspector of Local Boards has not submitted any proposal."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"With regard to clauses (g) and (j) the Government give negative answers. May I ask the Hon. the Chief Minister, Sir, what the difficulties are which confront the Government in placing on the table such information which is quite public and not of any confidential nature?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"It was not considered necessary; but there was no difficulty in placing the information on the table."

Progress of the scheme for the bifurcation of the North Arcot District Board.

* 857 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

- (a) at what stage the proposed bifurcation of the North Arcot District Board is;
- (b) whether the bifurcation will come into effect along with the new board which will be constituted by conducting the elections before the end of this year;
- (c) in what way the bifurcation is proposed to be made finally;
- (d) what the proposal originally put forth is for bifurcating this district;
- (e) how many modifications it has subsequently undergone;
- (f) what they are and for what reasons each of the changes has been made;

[29th February 1936]

- (g) whether the said district board was consulted each time;
 (h) what reply the board gave each time; and
 (i) whether copies of the communication of the Government and the board's reply thereto during each time will be placed on the table?

A.—Attention is invited to the answer given to question No. 856.

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is not the practice of Government to consult their expert adviser, the Inspector of Local Boards and Municipalities, before they consider proposals regarding bifurcation?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Government themselves have to decide whether a district board should be bifurcated or not on the materials available to them."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"With regard to the line of division, are we to take it that Government do not consult the Inspector of Local Boards as to where the line of division should be drawn?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"If Government require any information, they ask the Inspector of Local Boards, but as to where the exact line of division should be drawn, the Inspector of Local Boards was not consulted in the past."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"Arising out of the Hon. Minister's answer to a previous question that the lack of facilities of communication between Tiruppattur and Tiruvannamalai divisions was taken into consideration, may I ask him whether this did not prevail originally when the proposals were considered?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"The original proposals were based on population."

Reasons for not conducting elections to the North Arcot District Board prior to the expiry of the normal term of the board.

* 858 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) when the proposal to bifurcate the North Arcot district was first taken up;

(b) what the recommendations, if any, were regarding the bifurcation of North Arcot District Board by the late Mr. Foulkes as the Special Officer;

(c) why the bifurcation was not made and elections held before the expiry of the normal term of the board; and

(d) what the insurmountable difficulties, if any, were in ordering bifurcation and holding the elections within the expiry of the normal term of the board?

29th February 1936]

A.—(a) 13th June 1934.

(b) The late Mr. Foulkes made no recommendations on the subject.

(c) & (d) The bifurcation was ordered with effect from 1st December 1935, i.e., a month before the date on which the term of members would normally have expired. The difficulties in holding the elections before the latter date were explained in Notification No. 1638 published at page 609 of Part I-A of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 23rd December 1935.

Representations from the District Board, Salem, for the creation of a permanent establishment of local fund maistris.

* 859 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether representations have been received from the Salem District Board for reconsideration of the orders passed in G.O. Ms. No. 2739, L. & M., dated 11th July 1935, with regard to the creation of a permanent establishment of local fund maistris;

(b) if so, whether a copy of the resolution of the district board and the covering letter of the president in the matter will be placed on the table; and

(c) what orders have been passed in the matter and whether a copy of it will be placed on the table?

A.—(a) No.

(b) & (c) The questions do not arise.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"With regard to the answer to clause (a) the Government say 'No.' But I am aware, Sir, that a resolution has been passed by the district board and Government ought to have got it. May I ask the Hon. the Chief Minister to verify whether the resolution has been received here and the representations contained therein are carefully looked into?"

The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"As far as I know, no such proposal has been brought to the notice of the Government and when it is received, it will certainly receive due consideration."

Irrigation.

Disposal of the buildings at Cauvery-Mettur remaining unoccupied.

* 860 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many buildings are yet unoccupied at Cauvery-Mettur after some have been provided for the Hydro-Electric establishments and for the use of the Government Training School and its staff and pupils there;

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(b) to what use they are put and what the annual income derived from them is; and

(c) what the present value of these buildings is and what the Government propose to do with them?

A.—(a) Five hundred and fifty-eight in Mettur camp and 782 in Salem camp (including 370 coolie huts, 25 peons' quarters and 7 scavengers' huts in the former and 720 coolie huts and 8 peons' quarters in the latter).

(b) The buildings are vacant and no income is presumably derived from them.

(c) Rupees 2.56 lakhs approximately. Government are making every effort to attract industries to Mettur and they hope that unoccupied buildings will be taken up for occupation by the staffs connected with these industries.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"With regard to clause (c) it is stated in the answer that 'Government are making every effort to attract industries to Mettur.' May I ask the Hon. Member, Sir, what efforts have so far been made and how far they have progressed in their efforts?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"A Special Officer was placed on special duty to enquire into this matter, Sir, and negotiations are going on at present for the development of, what we hope will be, large industries at Mettur."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. the Revenue Member is aware of the fact that the Industries Department have published a pamphlet setting forth in great detail the industrial possibilities of this area and if that is a fact, whether as a result of the publication of that pamphlet, Government have received any enquiries from interested industrialists?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"It is a fact that such a pamphlet has been issued and as a result of that, we have had some enquiries."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"May I ask the Hon. the Revenue Member whether the rate of rent the Government have fixed for these vacant buildings is so exorbitant that it is not encouraging for private individuals to occupy them?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"I am not aware of that fact."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—"May I know, Sir, if Government cannot undertake the starting of industries themselves just as the Mysore Government have done?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"I think that question might better be put to my Hon. Colleague."

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Disposal of the buildings at Cauvery-Mettur on the Salem camp side.

* 861 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any of the buildings on the Salem camp side at Cauvery-Mettur are occupied now;

(b) if so, how many and by whom;

(c) altogether how many buildings are there on this camp, and what the original value and present value of them are;

(d) what the annual cost is for maintaining them including the cost for watching them; and

(e) to what use these buildings are proposed to be put?

A.—(a) & (b) No. With the exception of three maistries' quarters which are occupied by watchmen.

(c) There are 785 buildings of which 720 are coolie huts and 8 are peons' quarters. Their total original value and present estimated value are Rs. 2.56 lakhs and 1.07 lakhs approximately.

(d) Rupees 1,160.

(e) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clause (c) of question No. 860.

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Will the Hon. the Revenue Member be pleased to take the House into his confidence and give us an idea of the nature and number of the enquiries received by Government in respect of this matter?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"I think that would be impolitic at the present moment."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"It is stated that there are about 720 coolie huts. May I ask the Hon. Member whether they are merely temporary huts or permanent buildings?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"They are all in the nature of temporary buildings. I believe the walls were built of fair material, but the roofs were built of kutchha materials."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Will the Hon. Member be pleased to give an assurance to the House that in the matter of disposal of these buildings, Government would take care to see that the sale prices of these buildings do not go far below 2.56 lakhs which according to them represents the cost of the buildings?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"I am afraid Mr. Arasu is not a businessman."

Sale amount of the buildings at Mettur transferred to the Education Department.

* 862 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many buildings at Mettur have been sold to the Education Department for the use of the Government Training School, and its staff and pupils; and

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(b) what they are and what the present book value of each is and what the cost of construction of each is and what the amount charged to the Education Department for each is?

A.—(a) Seventy-one buildings have been transferred to the Education Department.

(b) The information is given in the annexed statement.^a

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"In clause (b) my question is what the amount charged to the Education Department for each building is. In the answer given in the statement, I do not find figures relating to this and I would like to know whether the Education Department has been charged only the present value of the building after deducting depreciation, etc., or the original value or cost of construction?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"I believe, Sir, the Education Department has been charged 40 per cent of the book value."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Does it represent 40 per cent of the original cost of putting up the building, Sir?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"Yes, Sir."

Sale amount of the buildings at Mettur transferred to the Hydro-Electric Department.

* 863 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many buildings at Mettur have been sold to the Hydro-Electric Department; and

(b) what they are, what the cost is of construction of each, and what the present book value of each is and what the rate charged to the Hydro-Electric Department for each is?

A.—(a) Three hundred and fifty-three.

(b) The information will be found in the annexed statement.^b
The buildings were transferred to the Electricity Department at 40 per cent of their original cost.

Diminution of water-supply in the Raja and Komarapalayam channels in Salem district.

* 864 Q.—Mr. P. RATNAVELU THEVAR: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received complaints from ayacutdars under the Raja and Komarapalayam channels of the Cauvery in the Salem district;

(b) whether it is a fact that conditions in Tanjore district determine the regulation of flow of water at Mettur Dam, and that sometimes this causes damage or risk to the crops of the lands irrigated by the Cauvery waters in the Salem district;

^a Printed as Appendix I on page 302 infra.

^b Printed as Appendix II on page 302 infra.

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(c) whether the Government will be pleased to direct the Engineering authorities at Mettur Dam to report whether the perennial water-supply that the Salem ayacutdars hitherto enjoyed has in any way been recently affected injuriously by the regulation of flow at Mettur; and

(d) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table the gauge readings in the Salem channels during the last 12 months to be compared with the readings during four or five years before the Mettur Dam was built and examine the question impartially?

A.—(a) A telegram was received early in January 1936 from the ryots under the Raja channel.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. Conditions in other districts also govern the regulation.

(c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clauses (e) and (f) of question No. 697, dated 3rd February 1936.

(d) The gauge readings are not available with Government but the Chief Engineer for Irrigation reported on 18th January 1936 as follows:—

"As seen from the gauge readings furnished by the Subdivisional Officer, the channels have had more than their full supply steadily before and after the period of shortage; and the periods of shortage would have been greater in number and longer in duration but for the water steadily let down from Mettur. The conditions of supply for these Salem channels are being studied further."

Failure of freshes in the Raja channel, etc., of Namakkal taluk.

* 865 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that water in the Raja channel, Komarapalayam channel, etc., branching from the river Cauvery in Namakkal taluk of Salem district has absolutely failed in the latter half of December last;

(b) what the actual number of days is on which water has failed in those channels;

(c) what the causes were for such a failure;

(d) whether representations have been received by the Government and the Collector in this behalf alleging great loss to crops;

(e) what remedy the Government propose to give to these afflicted ryots;

(f) how many times such failures occurred ever since the construction and regulation of water by the Mettur Dam; and

(g) what the Government propose to do to avoid recurrence of such failures in future and to ensure steady supply always?

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A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answers to questions Nos. 696 and 697, dated 3rd February 1936, and to question No. 864. The Government have no further information to give.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"I remember, Sir, that the answers to the questions referred to here, state that the stoppage of water in the channels was only for a few days, i.e., about 4 to 6 days each time. I definitely know that it has failed actually for more than 20 or 22 days during December 1935. Will the Government be pleased to enquire into the matter and find out the real fact?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"The answer which I gave on 3rd February last covers the case completely."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"On that occasion I quite remember, Sir, that the Government stated that the failure was only for a few days, but my information is that it has failed for more than 20 days in the month of December especially. May I ask the Hon. Member to enquire into the matter and find out facts?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"I think, Sir, the hon. Member's memory has failed him."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—"Not mine, Sir."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"May I know whether the Hon. Member will be pleased to see that in the case of buildings which are not utilized by Government departments, at least 40 per cent of the book value is realized on sale?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"I think we have now passed that question."

The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"But Mr. Arasu has not passed that."

Proposal for the construction of a storage reservoir in the Upper Godavari tract.

* 866 Q.—Mr. K. KESAVARAMAMURTI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state what action has been taken on the representations made by the East Godavari District Association and the Irrigation Advisory Boards, Godavari Eastern and Central deltas, requesting the Government to order an investigation of the scheme for the construction of a storage reservoir in the Upper Godavari tract to feed the Godavari during summer in order to ensure an adequate supply of water for second crop and garden crops in the three deltas?

A.—A report has been called for from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation. It has not yet been received.

Mr. P. PEDI RAJU:—"Will the Government be pleased to place the report of the Chief Engineer on the Table of the House, Sir?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"I can only say that after I receive that report:"

[29th February 1936]

Land Revenue Administration

Principles governing the resumption of inam lands of Muslim Endowments.

* 867 Q.—S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) on what basis Government resume inam lands of Muslim endowments;

(b) whether any proper enquiry is made by the District Collector, before resumption; and

(c) whether the mosque committee is also consulted before final orders are passed?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the provisions contained in Board's Standing Order No. 54.

S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur:—"May I know whether the Mosque Committees which are still in existence, though nominally, have made representations to Government that several of these inams have been resumed by Government and that no service is conducted because though the mosques are in existence, there is nobody to look after these mosques because the lands have been resumed by Government permanently?"

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"So far as I am aware, Government have received no such representation."

Mineral Development

Alleged irregularities on the part of the lessee of the K.V.D. Mica Mine, Patragunta village, Nellore district.

* 868 Q.—Mr. P. C. MOSES: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any complaints were received by the Revenue authorities of Nellore district about the illegal behaviour of the lessee of the K.V.D. mica mine in Patragunta village, Gudur taluk, Nellore district, for showing small quantities of mica as quarries from the mine when he actually quarried very large quantities during the period of lease, i.e., from 1924 to 1934; and if so, what they are;

(b) whether investigation was made into the matter and if so, by whom and with what results;

(c) whether it was ascertained from what sources the quantity of mica sold by him in excess of what was actually shown by him as having been quarried from his mine was obtained by him; and if so, what these mines are and whether their accounts were checked and verified;

(d) whether the quantities of mica, rounds and splittings, sold by him to the Madras Mica Company and South Indian Export Company and other companies were obtained from him and verified with the accounts of these purchasers during these years and if so, whether there are any discrepancies in these accounts and what they are;

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(e) whether it is a fact that the Government are deprived of their royalty amounting to nearly Rs. 4,000 by his transactions with the Madras Mica Company alone from June 1924 to April 1931;

(f) whether the Revenue authorities of the district obtained copies of agreements entered into by the lessee with the Madras Mica Company and South Indian Export Company and other companies for the supply of mica of this K.V.D. mine for the lease period and satisfied themselves that the accounts of this mine as prepared by him are genuine; if so, whether the copies of these agreements will be placed on the table of the House;

(g) what the actual loss of revenue sustained by the Government is by these transactions of the lessee of the said mine for the whole period;

(h) what steps the Government are taking or propose to take to recover the loss;

(i) whether a copy of the full investigation report as well as the complaints received will be placed on the table of the House; and

(j) whether the Government are considering or propose to consider the feasibility of licensing the mica depots also to safeguard the royalties of the Government?

A.—(a) M.R.Ry. R. Venkatakrishnayya held a mining lease for mica over the K.V.D. mine of Patragunta village in Gudur taluk, Nellore district, for the period from the 7th September 1926 to the 11th June 1934. In March 1934, the Assistant Mica Inspector of Sydapuram reported that four bags of mica rounds were illicitly removed from the mine. Again in May 1934, he reported that rounds and films were being fraudulently removed from the mine from the beginning of the lease without payment of royalty. He estimated that the mine could produce 2,000 lb. of rounds and films a month. He stated that at this rate, the mine should have produced 240,000 lb. of rounds during the ten years from 1924 to 1934, whereas the output recorded in the mine accounts was only 38,000 lb. and that this had resulted in a loss of about Rs. 3,000 to Government.

(b) The first complaint was investigated by the Chief Mica Inspector who reported that no case was made out as regards the illicit removal and that the Assistant Mica Inspector had made a hasty report and recommended that the matter might be dropped. The matter was accordingly dropped. The second complaint was sent to the Sub-Collector, Gudur, for enquiry and report. That officer, after a careful examination of the accounts, etc., reported that the alleged illicit removal could not be proved in a court of law and did not, therefore, recommend any action except that the removals from the mine should be carefully watched in future. The papers, along with the Sub-Collector's report, were carefully examined

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by the Treasury Deputy Collector, who had had experience of the mica industry and had formerly held the post of Chief Mica Inspector. The Treasury Deputy Collector was of opinion that the statement of the Assistant Mica Inspector was a gross over estimate and was absurd. The Collector agreed that no case was made out against the lessee and that the Assistant Mica Inspector's report was based not on facts but on surmises and suspicion. The matter was accordingly dropped.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No. There was no necessity to do so.

(e) There was no loss of royalty to Government.

(f) There was no necessity to call for copies of agreements and the accounts.

(g) Please see answer to clause (e).

(h) Does not arise.

(i) The Government do not consider that any useful purpose will be served by placing the papers on the table of the House.

(j) The Government considered the feasibility of licensing mica depots but came to the conclusion that legislation in that direction was not necessary in this province.

Administration of Justice

Representation of Jains in the cadre of District Munsifs.

* 869 Q.—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state with reference to the answer to clause (a) of question No. 532, dated 11th November 1935—

(i) whether the information called for from the High Court has been received; if so, what it is; and

(ii) whether there was any application from a Jain to the High Court for appointment as Munsif this year and the last; if so, what the result is of the same?

A.—(i) In the years 1933 and 1934 there were two applicants from the Jain members of the Bar for selection as district munsifs by the High Court and only one of them appeared in both years. Neither of them was selected. Information regarding the number of applicants from the Jain members of the Bar during the years 1929 to 1932 is not available as the candidates during these years were divided under the major heads (1) Brahmans, (2) Non-Brahmans, (3) Muhammadans and (4) Christians.

(ii) It is presumed that the words "this year" refer to 1935. In that year there was one applicant from the Jain members of the Bar for selection as a district munsif, but he was not selected.

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Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state under what category the Jains are brought in? Is it under the category of Brahmans or Non-Brahmans?"

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"I am not quite sure, but I believe, they come under 'Others'."

Electricity

Reservation of the Palar basin for the development of electric power.

* 870 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (a) for how long the question of the reservation of the Palar basin to be developed for electric power has been under consideration;
- (b) when a decision will be arrived at; and
- (c) whether local bodies will be consulted?

A.—(a) There is no such question under the consideration of Government. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to clause (d) of question No. 694 given on 3rd February 1936.

(b) & (c) The questions do not arise.

Consultation with the Board of Revenue regarding the distribution of power in the Palar Basin under the Mettur Hydro-Electric area.

* 871 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (a) whether Government have called for the opinion of the Board of Revenue on the question of the issue of licence to distribute electric power in the Mettur Hydro-Electric area with special reference to the Palar basin; and
- (b) if they have not, whether they will consider the desirability of calling for the same and place it on the table of the House?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The Government consider it unnecessary to do so.

Public opinion in North Arcot regarding the grant of licences to private bodies for the supply of electricity.

* 872 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (a) what action the Government have taken to ascertain the opinion of the agriculturists of the North Arcot district regarding the grant of licences to private bodies to supply electricity;
- (b) whether the opinions of the local bodies were ascertained in the matter;
- (c) whether the replies of the local bodies will be placed on the table; and
- (d) whether the Government propose to refuse all future licences in view of the public opinion in the district?

[29th February 1936]

A.—(a) & (b) The draft of one of the licences applied for by two private companies was published in the issues of *Justice*, dated 2nd, 3rd and 4th April 1935, and republished in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 30th April 1935. The draft of the other licence was published in the issues of both *The Hindu* and *Justice*, dated the 11th, 12th and 13th March 1935, and republished in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 9th April 1935. In each case, the advertisement specifically stated that every local authority, company, or person desirous of making any representation with reference to the application for a licence might do so by letter addressed to Government within three months of the date of issue of the newspaper containing the first advertisement.

(c) The Vellore District Board has requested the Government to undertake the distribution of energy themselves and not through private licensees. The Walajapet Municipality supported the application of one of the applicants in a resolution, dated 25th February 1935, but in a later resolution, dated 23rd December 1935, has expressed its desire that Government should undertake distribution of energy in the town on behalf of the Municipal Council. The Municipal Council of Tiruvannamalai is not willing to have a distribution system of its own in view of its poor finances. The Panchayat Boards of Arni, Polur, Arcot, Ranipet and Melvisharam have supported the application of one of the applicants.

(d) The Government have tentatively decided to retain in their own hands distribution of power in the areas in the North Arcot district which have not yet been allotted to any licensee except in the Walajapet taluk about which the Government are still in correspondence with the applicants and the Chief Engineer for Electricity.

Application for licence to distribute Mettur electric energy in the North Arcot district.

* 873 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: With reference to the answer to question No. 637, answered on the 31st January 1936, will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (a) the special need for making a reference to this applicant when the other applications have been rejected;
- (b) at whose instance the reference was made; and
- (c) whether the reference and the reply thereto will be placed on the table of the House?

A.—The question is still at the stage of correspondence and negotiation between the applicant and the Government and it is obviously premature at present to supply any further information.

[29th February 1936]

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

II.—GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1936-37—cont.

11-15 a.m. * The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The general discussion on the budget will now be resumed."

Khan Bahadur MAHMUD SCHAMNAD SAHIB Bahadur:—"Sir, is it a dull and humdrum budget that was presented the other day by the Hon. the Finance Member? I do not think it was; it was indeed a very interesting budget, full of information. Spectacular it may not have been and it need not be, as the effect of such is only momentary, but the weighty words uttered have made a lasting impression especially as they were of a valedictory nature.

"A departure there was in delivering the speech extempore, not only from the precedent of this and other provincial councils but also from that of the Indian legislature. But it was a desirable departure. The delivery was also not spectacular, but it was so distinct and measured that every word could be clearly heard and digested before the next word was begun. In my experience of six years in the Assembly and 10 years in this Council, this is the first speech I heard in which there was neither juggling of figures nor overestimating or underestimating. One satisfactory feature of this budget is that our revenue balances have not been applied for financing remunerative capital works as was being done for some time past. Financing capital works from balances is a bad policy. May it not be said that it is a fraud on the tax-payer? Because these large balances are the result of surpluses, viz., collections made by the Government of more taxes than are actually required for normal administration. Such additional collections ought to have been utilized for giving relief to the people by giving remissions, etc., and not for productive capital works which only benefit posterity. Why should we provide for the posterity when we are ourselves starving? What has the posterity done for us as Sir William Wright very aptly put it?

"At the end of 1930-31 our balances stood at about Rs. 4½ crores. Besides this, in 1931-32, 1932-33 and 1933-34 the total surpluses were 88.87 lakhs. As shown in this year's budget the surplus of 1934-35 is 11 lakhs. So the total comes to nearly 5½ crores. But on the 1st of April 1937 our free balances are expected to be just over a crore. Now how did this huge balance of 5½ crores dwindle into one crore? Sir Hopetoun Stokes said in his budget speech last year that from 1928-29 up to the end of 1935-36, we should have advanced from our balances about Rs. 249 lakhs for remunerative capital expenditure. Therefore it is clear that the rest of the 5½ crores should have been applied for financing capital works and for repayment of debts which were borrowed for capital works and which ought to have been repaid from the income of these works. Capital works such as irrigation works, hydro-electric projects, etc., are no doubt great national assets but future generations are to derive their full benefit. These projects must be financed from loans so that posterity also may have a share in the responsibility of repaying them.

[29th February 1936] [Mr. Mahmud Schamnad]

"We have also to thank the Hon. the Finance Member for proposing to provide Rs. 20 lakhs for the relief of rural indebtedness and Rs. one crore for the development of hydro-electric schemes.

"Now having said so much about the present budget proposals, I have to express my disappointment at the inadequacy of the land revenue remission. Remission ought to be given at least to the extent of 33½ per cent. Government will be able to save a sufficient amount to make up for this loss by cutting down the expenditure of the top-heavy departments and if necessary, also by utilizing a sufficient sum out of the balances.

"The Finance Member has made an elaborate explanation to show that what is left out of the balance, will be just enough for expenses connected with the starting of the new constitution, for minor irrigation works, medical buildings, etc. But I think sufficient sum can yet be found for land revenue remission when the people are starving; Government should not waste money in luxuries. Salary cut must be revived if necessary. Contented peasantry is the bed-rock of any Government. Government must try to enter into the feelings of the people and sympathize with them. The rise in price is not appreciable. On the West Coast the price of important commodities such as pepper, arecanut, etc., has fallen considerably. In South Kanara, the price of rice and paddy has not at all shown any improvement and is no better than that of the previous years. There is real distress in the country.

"The Hon. the Finance Member has also in his speech made a reference to the Tobacco Bill and the tobacco tax as a probable source of income to bridge over any gap that might occur between the revenue and the necessary expenditure. This reference was probably made, I think, out of deference to his Colleague, the Hon. the Revenue Member, because his argument in this respect is not convincing.

"One other important thing the Government has to tackle is the question of the unemployment of the educated and middle class people. Some remedy must be found out for this. Otherwise there is a great danger to society. We hear of so many desperate actions by the educated unemployed. This is a big question; yet this province must make an attempt to solve the problem and set an example to other provinces. Our education system must be changed. There must be picking and choosing of the students for different professions at every stage of their education—primary, middle school and secondary before they enter the universities. The Government must also undertake on a commercial basis to convert large areas of our waste lands into cultivable lands and carry on their cultivation through the agricultural department."

MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"Mr. President, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Schamnad Sahib, in his manuscript speech commented on the extempore speech of the Hon. the Finance Member. It is a case of contraries meeting and appreciating the endeavour. I am not enamoured

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of manuscript eloquence; but I am rather doubtful whether the precedent set up by the Finance Member is going to be of definite advantage to the future. No doubt, I congratulate the Hon. the Finance Member on his extempore speech as a sort of achievement. But it is not everyone that can bend the bow of Ulysses. It may be that with a larger assembly and a bigger hall perhaps the future Finance Member would not have such a bold voice as Mr. Bracken to make himself heard and understood by the larger assembly. Even as it is, it is always advantageous to be slow in such things and I confess I was not able to follow his speech so well as I could have done if a printed speech was in my hands. The finance speech on the budget is such an important matter wherein every word and every phrase has got its own weight and bearing on the development of the sequence of the whole argument that if we miss a word we are at a loss to follow the sequence of the argument. I therefore hope that the precedent Mr. Bracken has set us in the present year, may not be a sort of groove which everyone should seek to follow apart from the circumstances and the individual views concerned.

"Coming to the important aspects of the budget proposals I am so glad and happy that the Finance Member has budgeted a provision of 50 lakhs in connexion with the relief of rural indebtedness. We are thankful to the Government and especially to the Law Member for the sympathetic attitude which the Government have taken in connexion with the measures for the relief of rural indebtedness. Now that the Bill for the relief of rural indebtedness has become a statute it is for the Finance Member to make the provision for the carrying out of the measures set out in the Act and also to make larger allotments.

11-30
a.m.

"Sir, I am happy to congratulate the Hon. the Finance Member on the general financial position which has been maintained in this province during all these lean and difficult years. As he has rightly put it in his own inimitable manner, the Government of Madras have followed, in spite of difficulties, the path of financial rectitude, and if there is any truth in the proverb that honesty is the best policy, I hope the honesty of Madras finances will be appreciated in the course of the enquiry which is now proceeding with reference to the adjustment of provincial finances.

"I now come to the important subject of the position of the ryot in this province. The Hon. the Finance Member has referred to some dim, faint silver linings in the general cloud that rests upon the horizon. He has referred to the increase of prices in some commodities and some articles. But at the same time he had added that this has not yet brought about any immediate or substantial increase in the purchasing power of the ryot or improvement in his general financial position. As a matter of fact, Sir, the failure of the monsoons, the irregularities and the abnormalities of the times and seasons and the vagaries of the rainfalls have considerably affected the outturn of crops

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in our province. In my own district of Tinnevely, the last crop, namely, the *Kar* crop, the crop of August-September of last year, has been more or less a complete failure, failure as regards even the ayacut under the Tambraparani irrigation. So far as the present crop is concerned, in some taluks like Sankarankoil, Koilpatti and other dry areas, the crops have been more or less an unredeemed failure. So far as the dry crops are concerned, here again as a result of the failure of timely rains the crops have been a failure. The plight of the ryot in the Tinnevely district, I submit, Sir, is something which is really most deserving of the sympathy not only of the public men but also of the Government of this province. In this connexion, I would refer to the question of revenue remission. But before I actually go on to this question of revenue remission, I may incidentally mention the threat of the Tobacco Bill. The Tobacco Bill—if the Hon. the Revenue Member will pardon me for so putting it—is held as a sort of revolver over the head of this Legislative Council saying that unless money is provided under the Tobacco Bill the question of the extent of remission will be considerably affected. I would submit, Sir, that in view of certain wise and far-seeing observations made by the Hon. the Finance Member in his speech, whatever may be the merits of the Tobacco Bill the time for the immediate consideration and passing of this Bill is not yet come. At the conclusion of the Hon. the Finance Member's speech he has promised—and I think the whole province would be grateful to him for the promise which has been made—that when the budget session is over he proposes 'to make a comprehensive survey of both provincial and local taxation to see what more can be done in the way of economy or adjustment of taxation.' Then again, there is a very wise observation made by him in a subsequent paragraph, and he says:

'I think, in future, the Budget problem will have to be approached from a somewhat new angle by the new Government. They will have, I think first to consider what expenditure is really necessary, and then adjust taxation accordingly, either by increasing or decreasing taxation or substituting one tax for another.'

"He has also referred to the great difficulty which the new Ministry will have in the matter of the levy and adjustment of the various forms and methods of taxation. In the light of those circumstances, I would submit, Sir, that the Tobacco Bill cannot be an advantage to the Government, an advantage to the people and advantage to everybody concerned, till such time as the new reformed Government comes into being. That would be the time when there would be a general stock-taking of the provincial finances, and then the necessity for the introduction of the Tobacco Bill and the extent to which other taxes may be adjusted could be comprehensively gone into, and the question may be properly, fully, adequately and satisfactorily dealt with by them. I would therefore appeal to the Hon. the Revenue Member and to the Government and also to every hon. Member of this House to realize that at the present juncture the Tobacco Bill is unwelcome. Sir, it is a question of responsiveness to public opinion. I would therefore submit, Sir, that if the Government adopt this measure at this

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time, they would stand condemned at the hands of the people of this province. Apart from the need for it, apart from the provision or lack of provision made for necessary items in the budget, the absence of such a Bill in the past years has proved that it was not absolutely necessary for the revenues of this province. Only one other remark I would make on this matter. I would suggest that in this matter of remission of land revenue, it ought not to be a sort of uniform standard rate for all districts. Conditions in different districts vary; rainfalls in different districts vary; some districts are harder hit than other districts on account of the depression and bad seasons. So to give a uniform standard rate of remission for all districts and for all classes of lands, I would submit, would not enure to the fullest advantage that can possibly be got out of that remission. A sort of equitably graded system of remission according to the needs, requirements and conditions in each district should be framed, so that the hardest hit districts could have the largest amount of relief that could possibly be given. If such a policy is adopted, I am sure that my own district of Tinnevely would come in for a large share of remission."

* The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"I may remind the hon. Member that he has exceeded his time by one minute."

Mr. DANIEL THOMAS:—"Then, I shall sit down, Sir."

Mr. P. MADHUSOODHANAN THANGAL:—"Mr. Deputy President, Sir, on this occasion, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to certain appalling conditions obtaining in my part of the Presidency and to certain emergent needs that merit consideration. The land revenue question in the West Coast is one of pressing importance. The financial depression and economic distress prevailing in Malabar may not be peculiar to that district; but the enhanced land revenue after the recent resettlement has become a burden which is impossible for the people to bear. If an enquiry be made into the history of the collection of land revenue from Malabar for the past three or four years, it will be found that in more than 75 per cent of the cases coercive processes had to be employed for the realization of land revenue. Great fall in the prices of pepper and other produce and the diminished yield in pepper and coconuts have thrown Malabar into a sad plight. I can tell this Hon. House without the least fear of contradiction that there is no landholder in Malabar who can pay his land revenue without arrears and in regular instalments by making his collection of rent from tenants and by his income from land alone. It is to a great extent by selling jewels, mortgaging lands and borrowing money that the landholder has somehow been managing to pay revenue during the past four years, and I am afraid that such resources have become completely exhausted by now, so that God alone knows what is going to be their plight hereafter. Unequivocal expressions of public opinion regarding this deplorable state of affairs on the West Coast, are not heeded to by the authorities to any appreciable extent. On the other hand, coercive steps are made use of on a large scale without any hesitation and in utter disregard of the conditions obtaining in the country. I may

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here sound a note of warning; however loyal and law-abiding a people may be, when they are driven to desperation and when it is made impossible for them to obey the law, the result may not be quite desirable. The royts on the West Coast are generally a very poor set. Unfavourable physical conditions and failure of crops and fall of prices have reduced them to misery. They are most of them already in the clutches of unscrupulous money-lenders. Government can do much by way of relief by granting them more liberal loans. Steps should also be taken to see that railway freights are reduced for the transport of West Coast products to all parts of India.

"The land revenue system is unsuited to present-day conditions. The Punjab and the United Provinces are making a new departure in assessment. This Government should also revise its system of land revenue. Government issued a communiqué in December last saying that in districts to be resettled hereafter the percentage of enhancement in revenue will be fixed but the increased assessment will not be collected till the new reforms come. Why should not this communiqué be given retrospective effect to so that districts like Malabar which were resettled after the depression began, may have the benefit of it? I appeal to the Government to make no distinction between one district and another.

"Speaking of the agriculturists, I am reminded of another set of poverty-stricken people for whose relief also the State can do something. The condition of the aided school teachers is such that it calls for bettering at once. The invidious distinction that the State is making between the pay of teachers employed in schools under public management and the grant-in-aid allowed for teachers in schools under private management, is a matter on which I, for one, cannot congratulate the Government.

"In this connexion, I have to draw your attention to another matter. From an already impoverished country exigencies of administration make it necessary that a maximum amount of taxes has to be collected. Education tax is one of them, although included in what is known as local cess. What justification is there, I ask, for levying 11-45 school fees on poor elementary school pupils after having collected a a. m. special tax from them in the shape of education cess? I would therefore strongly urge that steps be immediately taken to see that no fee is levied from pupils up to the fifth standard. Coming to elementary education, both lower and higher, I would also suggest that in all schools provision should be made, and insisted on, for education on industrial lines and for vocational training. Even in secondary schools such training and facilities should be given.

"Sir, I have to place before the House one other matter. Village communications are very inadequately provided in the West Coast, and they cannot be improved until and unless more liberal allotments are made to the district boards and panchayat boards. Sir, I appeal to the Hon. Minister for Local Self-Government to see that it is done."

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* Mr. M. DEVADASAN:—“ Mr. Deputy President, Sir, the Hon. the Finance Member has to be congratulated on his having presented the budget in such an able and satisfactory manner. He made an extempore speech which is a departure from the usual routine for which he is to be congratulated all the more. It is remarkable that he should have done so when he presented the first Budget. It is the general impression that manuscript eloquence is not so effective as extempore speech. The impression made on the audience in the latter case is more effective and lasting than in the former. Sir, I submit on behalf of the depressed classes whom I represent here that there is not so much provision made for them as under certain other items. I find there has been no re-orientation of the policy of the Labour department. Only some amount has been provided as in the last year. I don't think there is much difference this year in the allotment of funds for the depressed classes under the two heads XXVII and XXVIII. In the words of the Hon. Finance Member ‘this Province has sacrificed 69 lakhs in toll revenue, and 55 lakhs in land revenue remission,’ and the Government cannot spare much money for other needs. I find they have allotted 18 lakhs for Minor irrigation, 40 lakhs for buildings, and in Part II scheme 35 lakhs for new works. There is a provision for village communications to the extent of 4½ lakhs, and for village roads and bridges, 10 lakhs. I find, Sir, that Government have started an Economic Council, they have got a Road Board and they have so many other schemes on hand for furthering the interests of the people in so many ways. But what has been done for the depressed classes? As a member of the Public Accounts Committee I have to say that several thousands of rupees which were allotted for the acquisition of house-sites for the depressed classes was surrendered since the Labour department did not make use of the money. The department have not done their work in the way they ought to. In this connexion Sir, I want to cite during the time at my disposal, one or two instances which would justify the extension of the operation of the Labour department to all districts. In the village of Vilathikulam of the district of Tinnevely the Adi-Dravidas were prevented from using a certain public path and it is now claimed to be a private one by some caste people. The Government ought to have acquired the land even if it were private. But they have not done so. Six or seven persons of the village died last year. The people had to go to the authorities concerned for protection in the matter of conveying the dead bodies on all those areas. In another village called Pulyurkurichi surrounded by paddy fields they had to carry a dead body through a pathway running along the paddy fields. On that occasion when trouble was anticipated an order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, was invoked, and the people were allowed to take the corpse along that way. I ask, Sir, what has been done by the Labour department for the construction of roads for the depressed classes? There is the Economic Council, which has got as its object rural reconstruction by providing elementary education and other amenities. There is the road board for the construction of roads in this Province. But is there any member of the depressed classes in the Economic Council or the Road Development Board to

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press the views of the depressed classes on the Government? Has their scope of enquiry included the amelioration of the depressed classes? It is impossible to urge on the attention of the Government the claims of the depressed classes. In view of the difficulties the depressed classes in more ways than one have to encounter, I request the members of the Government to make a larger provision either in the Economic Council or Development Board to meet the needs of the depressed classes in the rural areas where their suffering is much greater than in the cities.

“ Coming as I do from Tinnevely, I should say that something has been done by the Government in the past; members representing Tinnevely urged upon the attention of the Government the necessity of starting the Electricity scheme in Papanasam. Now that has been accepted by the Government. They have included the Papanasam scheme as one of the projects to be investigated. I must thank the Hon. the Law Member who has been kind enough to start this scheme and I hope he will expedite and make it a success. That scheme if brought into effect will help the ryots not only of the Tambaraparni basin but also ryots of surrounding taluks, to make full use of the scheme.

“ Before I conclude, Sir, I would appeal to the Hon. the Home Member who is in charge of the portfolio of depressed classes, to see that sufficient provision is made for the improvement of the conditions of the depressed classes. The Paddison Hostel is in a rented building. I find that 40 lakhs have been allotted for the construction of buildings for officers in the Judicial, Police, and Revenue departments, and the Government could have well done if they allotted one lakh or fifty thousand rupees for the construction of a building for the Paddison hostel.”

Mr. A. M. AHMED MEERAN:—“ Mr. Deputy President, Sir, at this annual function of general discussion, the members are, no doubt, given an opportunity to express their opinion but it stops with that and goes no further. The speeches made are a mere ‘cry in the wilderness’ and the Government wilfully or otherwise pay little heed to them and do not seem either to improve by the suggestions made on the non-official side or take note of their advice in the administration of affairs. However, I hope, this convention of ‘no heed’ will be given a decent burial at least this year and the non-official attitude will be viewed favourably as a happy augury of the coming reforms which require so much mutual good feeling and trust.

“ It is an accepted canon of public finance that the budget of any Government reflects the condition of the mass of people under its protection. Applying this canon to the budget under review, I doubt very much whether there is anything in it in support of this canon. It will be admitted on all hands that this Presidency, nay the whole world, has been witnessing an acute economic stress ever since the onset of the depression early in 1929 and as such the main objective of

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the Government should be to mobilize its forces and counteract the adverse effects of the depression. The agriculturist who constitutes the backbone of the nation, is simply reeling under the effect of the depression. A catastrophic fall in prices coupled with scanty and unseasonal rains and widespread failure of crops have reduced him to severe straits and it should be the primary concern of the Government to lift him up from the slough and place him on his feet. As Mr. Satyanathan has observed in his report, the Indian farmer is the foundation of the economic structure of the country and his weal must be a national concern which cannot be overlooked without leading to serious consequences. Has the Government fulfilled their duty to the ryots in the Presidency? Is there any evidence of it in the budget? The meagre remission which Government grant year after year half-heartedly is the only measure that stands to the credit of the Government in this respect. Time and again, it has been pointed out that the scale of remission which Government are granting is quite inadequate and does not at all offer any substantial relief to the ryot. The specious plea of want of finance has invariably been the stock-in-trade argument of the Government against any liberal scale of remission. Is this plea of bad finance acceptable in the light of what Government are spending lavishly on less important items of public weal? The position of the ryot who contributes the largest state revenue and his being the backbone of the population, must have weighed with the Government in subordinating all other considerations of public expenditure to this predominant need of helping up the ryot at a time of crisis. Even accepting the plea of insufficient finance, is it not possible for the Government to curtail expenditure and divert the amount thus released to the rescue of the ryot. The haste with which the Government did away with the salary-cut speaks much for their concern to placate the official world at the cost of the miserable ryot. Sir Hopetoun Stokes, the previous Finance Member, in one of his speeches in this House, sought to justify the removal of the cut by setting a premium on the promise of the Government to keep on the cut only for a year. I do not know which is greater—the interest of the Government to keep up the so-called promise—or the question of affording relief to the ryot who is undoubtedly the mainstay of the Government. What about the promise made in regard to the reduction of the stamp duty? Have they redeemed this promise? What is the response to the cry of the litigant public? Do not the Government thereby betray an all too poor appreciation of the gravity of the situation? It is high time therefore that the Government, instead of sheltering themselves under flimsy pleas, should liberalize their attitude towards the ryot with a single-heartedness of purpose which alone will bear fruit and should make necessary provisions for granting at least 25 per cent remission for the current fasli. The attitude of Government in regard to resolutions tabled in this House during the last meeting of the Council is far from commendable. While the resolution is itself commendatory, the Government would not care to give even an opportunity for the case of the ryot being placed before it. The privilege of the House to have any item of business

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advanced is denied by the members of the Government and their adherents and all opportunities of ventilation of grievances are shut out in utter disregard of the miserable position of the ryot.

“Rural indebtedness has not received any substantial attention from the Government. The magnitude of the problem cannot be over-estimated. No single prescription, says Mr. Satyanathan, can cure this. It requires the persistent and simultaneous application of a diversity of remedies. Justice delayed is justice denied. Unless something substantial is done, the position of the ryot may well go beyond repair. The Debt Conciliation Bill of my hon. Friend, Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar was looked upon as a panacea for the sufferings of the ryot in spite of its limitations, but it has been mutilated by a number of amendments sponsored by the Government in its own interest with the result that the Bill is an effete measure incapable of doing the ryot any substantial good. The most useful provisions have been deleted and many of the improvements suggested by the hon. Members were stoutly opposed and refused to be accepted by the Government. Even the very important item relating to Government assistance to the ryot by means of loans on proper security which Mr. Satyanathan himself has strongly recommended, has been unscrupulously struck off. What is the earthly use of a Bill which does not guarantee Government assistance to the ryot in times of need? Such truncated Bills only disclose the half-heartedness of the Government, which attitude should be given the go-bye if they really want to help the ryots. The policy of tinkering with the problem just to silence, however imperfectly, public opinion without putting heart into the matter is largely responsible for the present aggravated situation of the ryot. I would, therefore, appeal to the Government to steer clear of halting and half-hearted measures and take up the question of rural relief in right earnest.”

“I do not fail to appreciate the good intention of the Government in having widened the scope of the Agricultural Loans Act with a view to assist the poor indebted ryots. But it is, indeed, too small a measure when we consider the magnitude of the rural indebtedness. It can only be said that something is better than nothing and I request the Government to increase the amount of loan from Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 5,000 and extend the enforcement of the Act throughout the presidency at an early date.”

“If funds are required for adequate rural relief, then, they could certainly be found if the Government makes up its mind. When the purchasing power of the rupee is still high, there seems to be no justification for continuing the higher salaries that are now being paid to Government servants. The present situation is one of a national crisis and it is but fair and reasonable that the only class of people who have gained by the depression should be made to contribute adequately to the relief of the sufferers. A salary cut of 10 per cent on all those who draw Rs. 100 and above will bring a considerable amount and the same could be made available to the relief of rural indebtedness.”

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In several of the business concerns such as the Imperial Bank, etc., such a salary cut still continues and there is no reason why the Government should not reimpose the cut in a modified form if need be.

"Sir, on this occasion I cannot refrain from making a few remarks in connexion with the bifurcation of district boards. When ameliorative measures demand rigid economy in public expenditure, it is really strange that the Hon. the Chief Minister is embarking on such a fruitless scheme as the bifurcation of District Boards. At the time of the abolition of the Taluk Boards, the Chief Minister stated that only big and unwieldy district boards would be bifurcated, but this policy has now been lost sight of and a wholesale bifurcation is being resorted to. Adding insult to injury, seems to be a favourite maxim of the Chief Minister. When public opinion was agitating against stray cases of bifurcation of district boards, out comes the Chief Minister with impunity to embark on a regular policy of bifurcation without the least justification and with an utter contempt for well meant public opinion. How long can this Presidency tolerate such wilful and flagrant disregard of public opinion? Nero is fiddling while Rome is on fire! When the ryot is literally smarting under the weight of depression and indebtedness, the Government fritter away their energy on futile schemes of bifurcation dictated not by public interest but by party ends alone. This has been proved in more than one instance, notwithstanding the futile defence put forth by the Chief Minister. The Reforms are already at the outdoor and why not the matter be left to wait till the reforms come in, as Government do in so many urgent and important cases."

* Mr. C. BASU DEV :—“Mr. Deputy President, I rise to make a few brief observations on the Budget which the Hon. the Finance Member presented to this House on Wednesday last. His lucid exposition of the provincial finances was marked throughout with a measure of sincerity, seriousness, caution and courage unsurpassed by any of his predecessors, which, let us hope, will be copied by his successors in the new and by no means easy order of full Provincial autonomy.

"Before I proceed further, let me, Mr. Deputy President, enter my humble but emphatic protest against the frame of mind of some hon. Members of this House who in season and out of season express what has practically become their obsession that this is not a representative Council and that we are not competent to consider any question or transact any responsible business. If this is their honest conviction, may I ask, what justification they have for continuing to be present in this irresponsible, unrepresentative and therefore illegal institution? I know, Sir, they will say that they are here to raise their voice of protest and warning against the illegal transactions of this House. Let me tell them, that their voice from within the four walls of this narrow Council Chamber will not be as effective and reach as wide a circle as when it is raised from public platforms, like the Tilak Ghat; and that they will be more consistent if they confine themselves to such places.

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"I am sorry my hon. friend from Coimbatore is not present in the House; exigencies of this House do not permit me the luxury of addressing it when he is present. Does he seriously ask this House to believe that because this House is unrepresentative, his Debt Conciliation Bill passed by it is neither acceptable to the public nor beneficial to them? I wish hon. Members desist from advancing such arguments. They will not hold water. I am sure that this is not a conviction of theirs, but only an argument found for the present to obstruct and deny to the present Government, reserved and transferred, credit for progressive and ameliorative schemes calculated to enhance the sum total of the happiness of the people of this presidency. Sir, I know, political parties will always canvass for political credit for things done and sometimes not done by them and perhaps hon. Members opposite feel that the work being now done by Members occupying the Treasury benches will not go into the credit columns of their political ledger. Let me remind them that this House, as a whole, will get the credit for any good that can be done to the people. After all, it is not so much which party gets the credit as the increase in the happiness and the contentment of the people that is and should be the concern of public men and nothing should be done to obstruct any attempt in that direction. In that spirit, let us therefore address ourselves to a great task. I will not be for spending a few of my precious ten minutes on this subject.

"Sir, the Hon. the Finance Member said last Wednesday that on account of what he called the 'incurable optimism' of the spending departments of the Government and of the local bodies, several lakhs of rupees were allowed to lapse. I am afraid it is not so much the 'incurable optimism' as inexcusable indifference on their part. The country is asking for more and more ameliorative measures and it is a great pity if monies obtained with great difficulty and after considerable persuasion from the Government, are allowed to lapse on account of failure to complete the works. I believe that the departments concerned have not taken sufficient care to see that the works are taken on hand and completed expeditiously. I hope that Government will exercise greater care and see that such 'lapses' do not occur in the future.

"Mr. Deputy President, I am unable to share in even the 'hesitant hope' of the Hon. the Finance Member with regard to the expectations of the Provincial Revenues. He bases it on the rise in commodity prices. He is a cautious gentleman and admitted that the whole of the rise in prices did not necessarily go to the cultivator. I would like to ask in this connexion whether the Government know what portion of this rise is the actual profit to the producer—I understand that in Bombay the Government recently appointed a committee to go into the question of the margin of profit of the fruit-growers and that the astounding fact came to light that the fruits sold by the grower for 1½ annas fetched in the retail bazaar as much as Re. 1. Sir, the position here is not likely to be better and unless we here take necessary steps to see that a sufficient margin of profit is retained by the producer, it will not be correct to base any hope on the indication of rise in prices and the prosperity of the ryot will still be far off.

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"Sir, one word with regard to the rise in price of paddy. Sir, some time, the Government of India levied a duty on broken rice imported into India in the hope that such a duty would push up the price of local paddy. That that hope is not realized is now an admitted fact. Would the Government now recommend the abolition of this duty, the only effect of which was to deprive the poor workers of their kanji.

"We are grateful to the Hon. the Finance Member for telling us that experiments are being made in two districts with regard to the question of affording relief of rural indebtedness. I would like to know the nature of those experiments and whether the officers of the Government are taking into account the present economic value of the rupee and effecting any reduction in the amount due to the creditor. I hope Government will concentrate their attention upon this very important question and see that this relief is given in increasing measure.

"Sir, I am afraid I am very near my allotted time. I would therefore very briefly touch upon one or two subjects in which I am interested. I would like to associate myself with the complaint that the depressed classes are not getting what is legitimately their share. I hope Government will find their way to grant more and more money for the amelioration schemes of the depressed classes.

"I am glad that my hon. Friend, Mr. Schamnad and others raised the question of unemployment. This problem of unemployment must sooner or later be tackled by Government and the sooner it is done the better for the country. I do not know at what stage the enquiry which the Government of Madras launched last year into the working class budgets is. I hope the Government will see their way to extend that enquiry to the rural areas also and pave the way for an early adoption of standard living minimum wage."

12-15 P.M. * Mr. H. B. Ari Gowder:—"Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I should have thought that the budget speech of the Hon. the Finance Member was so clear that it did not call for any explanation from the Members of the Treasury Bench or the Ministerial Benches. My hon. Friend the previous speaker referred to the remark of the Hon. the Finance Member who stated in his budget speech that the lapse of grants given to the local bodies was due to the incurable optimism of the local bodies regarding expenditure. In the first place I should take exception to the word 'lapses' and should say that these are resurrections, because it is not so much that the local bodies are unable to spend what they have applied for and got as it is due to the innumerable restrictions placed upon them by the Government. For instance I may say that even the petty water-supply schemes have to be submitted to the Sanitary Engineer for scrutiny. He has to deal with thousands of such applications and hence cannot cope with the work. The result is that local bodies have to wait till after the year for which money is allotted is over. There are other items of expenditure in regard to which the same complaint can be made. My hon. Friend the Finance Member who is new to this House should not be satisfied with the fact that some of the Members of this House have praised him for presenting a

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budget. Some one has to tell my hon. Friend that congratulations are made merely as a matter of courtesy or convention. What really matters is the criticisms. Now these criticisms so far made can be grouped into two classes, viz., (1) that the budget should not have been balanced in the way in which it has been and (2) that it should not have been balanced at all. It has been pointed out that especially at a time when Sir Otto Niemeyer's enquiry is going on Madras must have presented an unbalanced budget to the Government of India so that she may get what is due to her. In the past also this Province's claims have gone by default. At present also I am afraid the same will be the case. This Province cannot possibly balance its budget under any circumstances whatsoever. There are so many essential services requiring funds. Presenting a balanced budget starving such services will not in any way help us at all.

"As regards his remark that borrowing means repaying, I may say that it does not always mean that. If the Allies after the War had thought so, Madras would have been still paying her contribution towards the war debt to the United States of America; there at least it was a case of international obligations. The Hon. the Finance Member seems to have in his mind the case of an ordinary borrower and a creditor and proceeds to draw an analogy, but here the case is one between the Central Government and a Provincial Government. It is a case of this Government getting something from the Central Government, as a matter of right. What we say is 'We are contributing so much to the Central Government every year and therefore we are entitled to get something from them.' If we present a balanced budget, we shall not be able to get anything from the Government of India. The balanced budget that I contemplate is not of the kind that has been presented to us. I would suggest, if I had any say in the matter, that the budget should be thoroughly modified so as to reduce the top-heavy establishments and broad-base the administration. Then as regards retrenchments, I would suggest the scrapping of the Services Commission here as one of the many items of retrenchments. All that is required of the Commission is to give effect to the communal Government Order. That can be done easily by the concerned departmental heads under instructions issued by the Government. I would suggest that the number of appointments allotted to the various communities should be changed by allotting two or three to the non-backward communities and the rest to the backward communities. If this is done a lot of discontent could be removed. The Government of Madras cannot ignore the claims of backward communities. At present the depressed classes are looked after by the Labour Department. That department requires a very sympathetic officer, very sympathetic towards the masses. I hope the Government will see their way to include the backward classes among the classes that are looked after by the Labour Department.

"There is one other thing which I wish to refer to. Now it is well known that the bulk of the revenue of the Province is contributed to educate the better class of people. For instance, the excise revenue—

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although it is theoretically said that the bulk of this revenue goes towards the education of the masses—goes towards the education of the better classes of people. I have pointed this out to the Government several times before but nothing has been done. I do not know whether I have still time to speak. (The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. Pannirselvam:—‘two minutes more.’) I am obliged to the Hon. the Home Member who says that I have got two minutes more. So I shall now refer to his department again. He is in charge of the Labour Department and I am sure he will bear in mind what is best for the betterment of the backward communities. This is the best time for him to do something, because the elections will soon be coming and he will be interested in the party in Power”

“The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—“ I repudiate that statement.”

Mr. H. B. ARI GOWDER:—“ Theoretically it may not be so. Anyway, Sir, this is the best time for every one concerned to do something.” (At this stage as the time was over, the Member resumed his seat.)

* Mr. C. R. PARTHASARATHI AYYANGAR:—“ Madras had the privilege of presenting a balanced budget. I would suggest that we should also introduce a balanced spirit of judgment. I dare say in future we will have a financially balanced administration. But our aim must be not only to have a balance in money, but also balance in mind. There is no use of saying ‘here is a balanced budget.’ But what next is the question? That is the real spirit of the Indian mind. It has always been an accredited fact among Indians that the King is the Protector of the people and so long as there is a well ordered Government, there should not be an ignorant or a poor man. That is the view which animated our late King Emperor and also the Emperors ever since the time of Queen Victoria. Any one reading the history or the lives of the last three sovereigns and especially our late King Emperor would have been very much impressed by the fact that they have always cared for the welfare of their people as the story given by the Rt. Hon. Mr. Baldwin will show. That is the spirit of the Indian people. They want no intermediaries between the King and his people. I dare say that very soon we will realize that this spirit is the correct spirit which one must have. What is it that our Province really wants? It wants a corporate activity and it wants every one who eats the Indian salt to co-operate with the people. The first thing that they should do is the abolition of the communal Government Order and present a united front for the purpose of making a gift to the nation, the greatest gift that you could make to the nation and truly educate a class of people who will embody a spirit of acting together. The communal Government Order here has unfortunately created a wall of separation between different communities. Now what is it that you find in the message of the present King Emperor which he sends out to his various people on the day of Coronation? I wish that his successors also follow the good example set up by the present king. The best way in which we could show our loyalty to him is by abolishing all racial and communal

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differences and certainly not by ‘having this communal Government Order. It is this kind of loyalty that will appeal to the future generations more than all the constitutional changes. If you want to make India an integral part of the Empire, every one has to give up his privilege, official or non-official, Brahman or non-Brahman, and do constructive work for making the real and genuine feelings of good will of the kind to flow through unadulterated channels.

“He would never say, ‘Let the subjects suffer, let the subjects remain in ignorance.’ The first thing to which we have to pay attention is education. The sort of education given in our schools and colleges is absolutely sterile and has to be scrapped at once. Education must be made a real inspiring force. In the new reconstruction of India and the Empire, the first thing that will have to be done is to have a good university curriculum which includes the teachings and the lives of the great teachers of the past and the founders of the several religions. Such teachings as are applicable to the modern conditions of life should be taught to the students. When the Romans allowed the conquered nations of their time to carry on the worship of their gods, I am sorry that with all our boasted modern civilization we would do nothing to impart religious instruction, real religious instruction to our students. I mean by real religious instruction, that kind of teaching which will unite the various people together and not separate them into classes and castes. The giving of such kind of instruction in our schools and colleges is the easiest, the most efficacious and the best way of removing the existing discontent and solving various other problems. Nowadays we see people generally anxious to see how much they can take of this or that, but nowhere do we see people anxious to see how much they can give. Nobody is trained to say: this is my country and I am prepared to give up everything for it. People who want to serve India should be free from a feeling of competition, and they should have no ideas of superiority and inferiority. If education is to be given on right lines, and if it is to serve as an inspiring force in the new reconstruction, I feel Sir, that in Part VII of the B.A. Degree the students should make a special study of Civics and Religion.

“Sir, I want to say a word about the Hindu Religious Endowments Board. I wish, Sir, that more people were found who could truly administer the endowments of the religious institutions. I wish that the Board was put on a more satisfactory basis so that more such people could be available for the purpose of carrying out the real objects of the endowments. Though we have had an Endowments Act for so many years the real reform has not yet begun, because the right type of men do not yet happen to be in office. It is high time that the Endowments Board is made self-reliant so that the very best men may be available who will be able to carry on the purification of the endowments. I mean purification not in the Puritanic sense but in the real sense, that is to say, these institutions must teach the people to serve the country in the best possible way and also to serve the Empire, so that we may become a true League of Nations and set an example to the League of Nations now assembling at Geneva which is not a success.

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The sooner we solve our problems in our little League of Nations, the better it will be, because we will be setting an example to the bigger League of Nations and to the whole world. The whole thing rests on bridging the gulf between the king and the subjects. All impediments and restrictions that exist between the king and the subjects should be removed. The Finance Member and the other Members of the Government must set an example. You cannot ask the representatives of the people alone to solve the problems. It is the duty of all of us combined, Indians and Europeans, Officials and non-Officials and the commercial interests and so on. There is no question of 'you' and 'I'; the only question is that of 'we.' The sooner it is realized the better it will be for the glory of the Empire and for the loyalty of the subjects of the King."

* Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Hon. the Finance Member for presenting a safe budget for the year 1936-37. It is not as a matter of courtesy that I congratulate him, but I do it with the full knowledge of what he has done because this is the last budget under the present constitution and as such it is a very important and momentous one and he has done his best to make it a balanced budget after providing for all the ordinary needs of the Province.

"Sir, the speech of the Hon. the Finance Member is full of information. If it had not been for the Rs. 20 lakhs that he was able to get in connexion with the formation of the Orissa Province, the revised estimate for the current year would have shown a deficit and even the budget for the next year would have been adversely affected.

"I now come to the Labour Department. Sir, I am very sadly disappointed that the provision made in the budget for the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes is not enough. The revised budget for 1935-36 shows that Rs. 8.34 lakhs will be spent for the education and public health among the depressed classes. For the next year the provision is for 8.31 lakhs. While the attention of the whole country is focussed on the amelioration of the condition of this class of people by giving them more educational facilities, I am afraid that the Government are too slow in giving them facilities for education. On one or two occasions when we pointed out that only very small sums were set apart for the Labour Department, the Hon. the Home Member said that it was on account of the economic depression more money was not forthcoming. He also added that he himself came from a minority community. He may come from a minority community, Sir, but the influence of that community has been such that it has been possible for a member of that community to occupy a seat but no member was given the chance to that post or any high post in the Government. Sir, it was possible to allot Rs. 11,200 for the various items required for the depressed classes, of which Rs. 5,600 was allotted for the criminal tribes, Rs. 4,000 for Malabar, Rs. 1,000 for Andhra Desa and only Rs. 200 for Tamil districts, i.e., Trichinopoly. When there was no separate Commissioner of Labour it was pointed out that the amounts allotted could not be spent fully and therefore no more grants could be

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made. But when we have a separate Labour Commissioner in the person of a senior officer like Mr. Rutherford, a very energetic officer, it is a pity that all the schemes sent by him to Government have not been placed before the Finance Committee nor some action taken upon them. It is really a very sad thing.

"Sir, the Hon. the Finance Member has been able to allot Rs. 33 lakhs for Part II schemes for the next year of which he has set apart Rs. 1,53,200 for the depressed classes. Of this amount Rs. 5,600 as already pointed out has been set apart for criminal tribes and Rs. 1,15,700 for the activities of the Labour department in the other districts. Sir, this amount varies from year to year and I submit it is not necessary to include it in Part II schemes. We have labour department activities all over the Presidency except in some districts and therefore it is necessary that amounts should be provided every year. I find that this particular item has been brought before the Finance Committee as a Part II scheme for the last four years. Some time back the amount was Rs. 2½ lakhs, but now it has dwindled down to a little more than a lakh.

"Sir, the treatment accorded to the depressed classes in the districts is not at all happy. My hon. Friend Diwan Bahadur R. Srinivasan spoke yesterday about the harassment of the depressed classes by the Nattars in Ramnad. Sir, this is not a new thing. Myself and other members representing the depressed classes have time and again initiated discussion on this subject on the floor of this House. Now I find that after the advent of Harijan Sevak Sangam they have been able to effect a compromise. Sir, the thing is not confined to Ramnad alone. Even in Tinnevely I had a complaint from a place known as Ambikapuram that the depressed classes are harassed by the Muhammadans and threatened with the demolition of their school building. These are the things which will have to be looked into by the Labour department.

"Sir, I find that the Hon. the Finance Member has made a provision of Rs. 37,500 for loans to depressed classes and labourers for the acquisition of house sites. Including the labourers also, the number will be very great and I do not think the amount provided is sufficient. Again, Sir, this represents only the half-grant. I do not know what rate of interest is going to be charged for the other half which will be granted as a loan and what will be the period of repayment. I request the Government to charge only a very small percentage of interest for the loan and see that the period of repayment is not less than 20 years.

"I now come to the excise policy of the Government. I am sorry, Sir, that no advance has been made in the prohibition policy that has been adopted by this House. Sir, we note that even the Indian States like Hyderabad are making much headway in this direction. The other day Mr. Davis speaking on prohibition in the Nilgiris pointed out that the experiment was not as much a success as it was a few years ago. That clearly shows the want of supervision that is responsible for not getting better results out of the experiment. I am

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sure the Hon. Minister will take note of this and see that he does something to make even possession of liquor illegal. Unless this is done, I fear that the experiment, that is now being carried out will not be a success.

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p.m.

"Coming to Local Self-Government, I have to say that most of the district boards are starving for want of funds. As a result of it, even the ordinary facilities of medical aid in distant parts of the districts are denied to the poor and the depressed. In my own district, due to financial stringency, the district board has unanimously resolved to close all the rural dispensaries and medical institutions. You can very well understand the fate of the people. I know that the President of our district board has made strenuous efforts in this direction and has asked the Hon. the Chief Minister to do something. I hope that these dispensaries and hospitals will not be allowed to be closed.

"Coming to the Agricultural department, I wish to point out that the marketing facilities now offered for the crops chiefly potatoes raised in my district, the Nilgiris, are very meagre. Last year at the time of the general budget discussion I pointed this out. Now with the help of the Joint Registrar of the Co-operative Societies, an association has been formed but I fear that alone will not mitigate the situation but excise duty on foreign importation of potatoes is necessary."

* Mr. K. A. NACHİYAPPA GOUNDER:—"Mr. Deputy President, Sir, first of all let me tender my thanks to the Hon. the Finance Member for having given clear exposition of the budget estimate of the Province, in his speech. It is really a question of exceptional strain for him to prepare various figures for various purposes and I am glad that he has done his duty very successfully even in the very first year of his office; his department also deserves much thanks for having taken all the trouble to give the figures clearly. In spite of the heavy work involved in the matter, I am glad that they have been able to supply us the budget copies some days in advance unlike the previous year.

"Then, Sir, going through his speech I find that he has rendered some help to the ryots by setting apart a sum of Rs. 20 lakhs for distribution among the ryots for taking advantage of the Agriculturists Loans Act which was passed by the Council recently. I fear very much whether it will help the ryots to any appreciable extent, as I find from the report of Mr. Sathianathan that the debt of the ryot population of this Province is as much as or even more than Rs. 200 crores. The present allotment is a paltry sum and I think it will not go much to solve the debt position of the ryots. The Hon. the Finance Member has given the hope that he would be able to find some more money and it is somewhat encouraging. Again, Sir, in his budget speech the Hon. the Finance Member has stated that the finances of this province have been well off in the past and he firmly hopes that, as soon as the Niemeyer enquiry is finished, our province will get the share which is rightly due to it. My hon. Friend, Mr. Ramaswami Ayyar, allegorically stated yesterday that the Central Government and the higher authorities might think that our province is well off and they might ask, why

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they should give our province additional help. I also entertain the same fear that our claims are likely to be overlooked. The Hon. the Finance Member stated yesterday that he had taken the responsibility of presenting the case of our province. I hope he will again put up our case strongly and strive and see that, irrespective of what may be happening in the other province, we get our due share.

"In another place of the Finance Member's speech, Sir, I find that the Hon. the Finance Member has observed that in this province we have been able to cut the coat according to the cloth. Perhaps that was done in the year 1931. But, then, that policy was not adopted. In my opinion the policy adopted by the Government is not one of cutting the coat according to the cloth; it is one of getting the cloth required for the coat irrespective of the paying capacity and the strength to withstand such a great supply. What I mean to say by this is the Government do not pay heed to the actual condition of the ryots; they have been able to squeeze out as much money by way of taxes to have their regular expenditures met. To be true to what they say, they must cut the coat according to the cloth really. I hope the Hon. Member will carry out this maxim in its true spirit.

"Coming to the question of resettlement, I hoped, Sir, the Hon. the Finance Member would express the views of the Government on their present policy with regard to resettlement. I am really thankful to my Hon. Friend, Sir Charles Souter, for revising the policy which has been persistently refused to be adopted in the past. I am sorry to say that, on account of the persistent refusal of the Government to adopt this policy in the year 1934 and at the beginning of the year 1935, my district has become the worst sufferer. I have been ventilating the grievances of the ryots in this matter and I have asked for a lenient treatment to our district by putting off giving effect to the resettlement rates but it was persistently refused. But now I find that they are adopting a changed policy and orders were passed only as late as 1st February 1935. I wish that this policy should be given effect to from the period from which the economic depression has been prevailing. If they do so, they would really be helping some districts which were resettled recently during this woeful period of depression. They are now forced to pay enhanced rates when they are not in a position to pay even the original rate and when general remissions are being granted. I feel, Sir, that it is rather unjust to ask the ryots to pay more by way of resettlement rates than what they were already paying at this juncture. I have been putting questions after questions on this matter. I thought the Government would wake up and see the injustice they are doing to the poor ryots and that they would give retrospective effect to the policy which they have recently laid down. The Government have been persistently saying 'no.' I do not think the Government are doing the right thing. I wish that the Government should look into this matter so far as my district at least is concerned because it is the last one where the resettlement rates have been ordered by the present Hon. Member for Revenue. There is another

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peculiarity with regard to my district which merits consideration in that direction. Incremental remission has been granted to my district and by this we were made to pay only 6 pies in addition in the total increase of 2 annas and 3 annas in fasli 1344. Taking this point also into consideration I think they must give the same amount of incremental remission they gave in fasli 1344 with regard to enhanced rates of resettlement. It may be stated, Sir, that it is only remission but as a matter of fact, for all concrete purposes, so far as the ryots are concerned, they are paying more than what they were paying in previous years if you do not show this concession requested for. If it is not granted, it becomes a matter of increased collection from the ryots this year as a matter of resettlement and this is against the policy of Government recently laid down. So, Sir, the Government should continue to give this incremental remission of fasli 1344 until the question is settled by the new Government as they have laid in their communiqué in this respect. This is a legitimate matter and the Government should pay heed to it.

"Then, Sir, I like to refer to many points but there is no time to do so. As far as the policy with regard to excise is concerned, I should like to say that the Government have absolutely forgotten the solemn undertaking which they gave some time ago. In my district I find, Sir, that the opening of new liquor shops is going on merrily. The Government seem to be adopting a different policy now and they are going on as if they are to encourage drink. They have gone to the length of reducing the rates for country spirits. May I ask whether this is a step in the right direction, in view of the policy of total prohibition within twenty years they have adopted. The present attitude of the Government makes me that they are encouraging drinking rather than putting it down by degrees. Strictly according to your directions as the time is over, I shall avail myself of the opportunity of voting on demands in respect of this and other matters."

* Mr. G. SIMHACHALAM PANTULU:—"Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I should like to appreciate the careful way in which the budget has been presented to us by the Hon. the Finance Member. But permit me to say that the policy which the Government are pursuing is a suicidal one. Time and again it was brought to the notice of the Members of the Government, the serious difficulties that are felt by the present administration of various departments of Government. I have to charge the Government on three counts, supreme indifference, masterly inactivity and profound ignorance. These are the three grounds on which I charge the Government. The increase in the number of civil courts is causing much inconvenience to the litigant public. This is one of the causes for the great difficulties that are felt in the administration of civil courts. The Hon. the Law Member perhaps thinks that by increasing the number of courts, much work will be turned out and the difficulties of the litigant public will be minimized. On the other hand, it has proved otherwise. All sorts of frivolous litigation are increasing considerably and people think it will be a great nuisance to go to court.

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"In several departments there is much scope for improvement. In the Police department for instance, circle inspectors can be very easily dispensed with and the administration can be run more efficiently with the remaining staff.

"After all, taking into consideration the nature of the work they are doing, I do not think there is any necessity to continue these deputy superintendents, probationary deputy superintendents, probationary inspectors and others. It is only an investigating officer or a man on the spot that can really do something; and for purely supervision purposes, so many officers are really not necessary.

"With regard to land revenue policy, the concessions that are being given are certainly inadequate. We have observed that there is a considerable growth on the credit side. I do not understand why they don't try to give some more concessions by way of remissions to the poor ryots. The visit of the Hon. the Revenue Member to our district has not after all proved in any way useful. I do not know the object of the Members of Government when they visit the mufassal places. Why should they not give an audience to the representatives of the people at least when they are in the districts? Of course, here we know that we are not cared for. At least when they go to the districts, why not they allow an interview to the representatives and try to understand the local conditions? Are we not entitled to represent our own constituencies? Even when I asked for an interview, it was not possible for me to get one. That is why I now charge the Government with profound ignorance. The Hon. Revenue Member has not tried to know the local conditions through the representatives of the people. What is the good of blaming the Hon. the Finance Member? He has got to accommodate his colleagues in the Cabinet and give them all sorts of conveniences. There are so many things which the administrative machinery has to know from the representatives of the people. In every branch of the administration, it must be so. For instance, elections have impoverished the country to no small extent. Personally, I have no admiration for the so-called non-co-operation movement. It is only the blunders committed by this Government that are driving the people to it and are converting them to disloyalty. That is all. We know that himalayan blunders are being committed; we are conscious of them, and we are trying to rectify those blunders. But yet, even the ordinary common courtesy of an interview is being denied to the members of this House. We are not able to interview even the Secretaries and the other officers. They don't care for us M.L.Cs. They don't really think that these people represent the country. The people know that himalayan blunders are being committed and that we are incompetent to do anything in the matter. Because, as I said, the Hon. Members of Government have no time to give interviews to the representatives of the people; the Secretaries won't care and hear the representations therefore go in vain. I am only giving vent to my feelings, Sir. This is the only opportunity for doing so. I have tried in several cases so far, and I could

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not interview even the Hon. Ministers—not to speak of the Hon. Members of the Government. Nor could I interview the Secretaries and the Assistant Secretaries who don't care for us. Are we not persons elected by our constituencies? Are we not entitled to these ordinary common courtesies? Sir, on the question of the revenue concessions, I addressed a letter to the Collector; but he gave me a shabby reply. I wanted to say this to the Hon. the Revenue Member, and I had also some statistics ready with me. But, as I said, I was not given an opportunity. Is it sufficient if we simply come to this House, attend the budget discussions and then go away? Why should these elections be held then? Elections are not intended only for spending money, coming here, sitting here like mummies and then going away."

Mr. T. SUNDARA RAO NAYUDU:—"On a point of order, Mr. Deputy President. We are not sitting here like mummies. He may be asked to withdraw the word."

Mr. G. SIMHACHALAM PANTULU:—"There are friends who agree with me. (Laughter.)"

"The abolition of the panchayat courts will be a great advantage to the people. By having these courts in the villages, we are creating troubles, and not finding measures to remedy them. The post of Inspector of Local Boards is quite unnecessary, and there are also so many other posts which are unnecessary. Why not we avoid all expenses on these local board elections by holding elections in every village, so that it may not be difficult for the candidates to bring the voters to a particular station, arranging for conveyance, etc.? If you want to take public opinion, if you want to have persons who are liked by the people, why not the Government nominate somebody in every village, ask him to hold the polling and send the votes for being counted here? That will minimise the difficulties of the candidates. The difficulties that the people are now experiencing are innumerable. You are not giving any prominence to the village officers who are supposed to be very loyal. You have taken away the prominence of those people by creating a number of other institutions in every village, such as the forest panchayats, the panchayat courts, etc. Why do you not give prominence to the village officers? Why do you unnecessarily create quarrels between the people and their representatives? As I said, there are many posts in each branch of the administration that experience has shown to be superfluous. There is, for instance, this white elephant of a Public Service Commission. Another instance is the Hindu Religious Endowments Board which has been doing absolutely no useful work in our province. There is no disposal of cases; no enquiries are held. Everywhere we find quarrels between the trustees and archakas, and a large number of people are coming to Madras asking for some kind of enquiry or other. As I said, the board is not doing any useful work at all. Again, why these panchayat officers? Their powers are not defined; they do not know what to do; but still there are these panchayat boards everywhere and suits are pending about the validity or otherwise of elections. Why give this

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kind of unnecessary trouble to the villagers, I ask? Why don't you solve these problems by abolishing some posts the duties of which are not specifically defined. You may abolish such posts and give greater prominence to the village officers. We can have one officer for the whole village, for all the departments—the development department, the industries department, the agricultural department, etc., just as we had in the pre-Reform days. Was it not possible then to run the administration more efficiently and at less cost? Every quarter, we are having on our table a sheet showing that so many posts have been created, so many officers have been appointed, etc.—for what purpose, God alone knows. There is a lot of such posts in every branch of the administration. I only request the Hon. Members of the Cabinet to find out means to justify their existence and to make their work more productive and useful to the public—at least to sow the seeds for the future generation. In the training colleges, we are giving training to so many students, but we are not able to provide any employment for them. In due course all those students will turn to be disloyal. We are creating only enemies, manufacturing them in our colleges. So many graduates are at present roaming about the streets of Madras and other places in search of employment. Again, so many illegal and arbitrary Government Orders are being issued. For instance, recently there was a Government Order by which anybody could be appointed as a headmaster without reference to seniority and other qualifications; but the people whose claims are overlooked have no right of appeal. Will it not turn any sensible man against the Government? So I say, it is only our own acts, our defects that make these people disloyal—not at all the sanctity of the non-co-operation movement itself. I have absolutely no faith in such a movement; but we are only giving such people a handle to criticize the Government. I have known that they never offered any constructive criticism. It is of course very easy to criticize the Government; and I am sure even if they are placed here, they are bound to commit the same faults. Therefore I say, there is no use finding fault with the Hon. the Finance Member. This is the only way in which he could present his budget. Anybody else would not have done better under the circumstances. It is in that sense, Sir, that I appreciate the Hon. the Finance Member. I appeal to the Government to take a more sympathetic view and see if they cannot do anything of real benefit to the poor people."

* Rao Bahadur Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur:—"Sir, I heartily congratulate the Hon. the Finance Member on his clear and balanced budget. After meeting the expenses consequent on remission, famine all over the country, cyclone and other things, he has prepared the budget very clearly. He has also dealt with many matters very clearly in his speech."

"As a military man myself, I must say that although we are going to get the Reforms, we have still no protection for the province at all. When I first enlisted in the army in 1894, there were 32 Madras regiments including sappers and miners. Where are they now? The Government have wiped off all of them and have deprived the Madras

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soldier of the opportunity to serve. It is a pity. The other provinces are enjoying the fruit of the recent encouragement given in the military, but the Madrasees have been cut down to the lowest possible degree. I brought a resolution in this Council that we should have 12 Madras regiments, to be raised in this province to guard us. Now, the other provinces come here and guard us. We are all soldiers; my father and I have served as soldiers in various parts of India, with distinction too. I may say that Government probably think that recruits cannot be had from among Madrasees. But, Sir, I can give 10,000 good soldiers. It may be said that 120 lb. weight is required. That is not a great thing. I know every British soldier is not weighing 120 lb.; the German weighs 140 or so, but that is not the weight of the Britisher; it is said that it is enough if the Britisher weighs 110 lb. I do not know why all these difficulties should be raised so far as we are concerned. The Central Government must provide some posts for us in the military, because we are also contributing our share to the military budget. We must get our share. The Madras regiments were formed when the British first landed in South India under the name of the East India Company. I think they were in existence from 1757; they were more than 150 years old, and yet they were abolished and we have nothing left, except the sappers and the miners. So, when the new Reforms come, the Government should organize at least a dozen Madrassé regiments in order to keep peace in the country and to guard our shores.

"Sir, we find it very difficult to get Government employment. If we apply for a certain piece of land, the village monegar or karnam says that the land has been given to an Adi-Dravida. If we put in an application, it is simply registered. We have actually to fight for it through what is called the Indian Soldiers' Board. I must take this opportunity to thank the Hon. the Revenue Member for the help he is rendering. He has been trying his best in almost every case that I brought to his notice, for employment of the sons of Indian soldiers. But generally, it is very difficult to get any concession from the civil authorities. My community is an important community. When I once asked the Hon. the Revenue Member that my community's claims should be considered along with others, I was told that there are many communities which are bigger in number and whose claims have to be considered. He said: 'If every community is to be considered, it will be a farce.' I belong, Sir, to the Vanniyakula Kshatriya community which is a prominent and predominant community. There are about 35 lakhs of them in the province. When I asked the Government to let us know how many people of this community are employed in Government service, the Government said: 'We have no list' or 'we cannot furnish the information.' Why, Sir?

1-15 p.m. "There are so many officers among whom portfolios are divided. There are also Ministers and Members of Government. All these officers must know these things; otherwise how can they satisfy the people at all. Recently, Sir, so many appointments have been created. For instance, they have appointed panchayat officers for each district, and many

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commissioners for municipal councils. They have recently made about 50 appointments in the Police department. With all that, none from my community has been appointed, though we form about 9 per cent of the total population of the Madras Presidency. I thought that when the Public Services Commission was constituted, it would do the work impartially and do something good. They have not been doing so. In fact it is a white elephant living upon the money of the poor people. Unless they do their duty properly, what is the use of such a Commission. In reply to a question the Hon. the Home Member gave the names of three candidates from my community who appeared before the Services Commission, but he never gave me the reason why their applications were rejected, even though all of them were B.As. I think it is high time that Government revise the communal Government Order and do something good to members of this community. All I want is that the members of my community should be placed on a level with others. I do not bear any grudge against the members of other communities. The British Government stands for justice and I thought that the Justice Party also would do likewise. I do not understand why they call themselves Justice Party when they are doing justice only to themselves. I think it is not right that they should do so. People of the communities which are already advanced are having everything for themselves and never leave anything for those who are backward. When I represented to Government that members of my community should be given appointments, they say, wait and you will get your turn. Where is the turn and I do not know whether they maintain registers for these different communities. I do not want to say anything further in regard to this matter, except to say that my community is spread over southern India, and our total population is about 35 lakhs; they are mostly in Salem, Trichinopoly, South Arcot and North Arcot and about 3 lakhs in the Northern Circars. I have collected these figures from the latest Census Report for 1931. I therefore request the Government to kindly see to this and do justice to our community. In this connexion I would like to read a letter which I received from the Inspector of Local Boards and Municipalities, in which he says that he received applications from people of all castes, but did not find the name 'Agnikula Kshatriyas'. Probably, Government do not know the name of this community. I would like to read that letter, but I do not know whether I will have time for it. In Tamil districts these people are called as Vanniyakula Kshatriyas and in the northern districts as Agnikula Kshatriyas. I once again request the Government to try and do justice to this big community.

"Lastly, Sir, there is another point I wish to mention. I am a Salemite and water is scarce in Salem as every one knows. On account of the drought, the supply of water is going down. I know that a scheme for drinking-water supply has been sanctioned, but there is no money for it. In reply to a question put by my friend Mr. Nachiyappa Gounder the other day, it was stated that they were going to allot some money by means of a supplementary demand. I hope they will do this and save the people of Salem from our difficulties."

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MR. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I have to congratulate the Hon. the Finance Member on his having presented us with a surplus budget. As I was a Member of the Finance Committee, I know something about it in detail and I also know how anxious he was to provide for irrigation works, although we were not in a position to provide for as many irrigation works as we wanted to. It was not owing to any want of sympathy on the part of the members concerned that we were not able to provide for adequate irrigation projects considering the unseasonal rains and scarcity of rains and the fact that we have entirely to depend upon irrigation schemes; but it was due purely to want of funds."

"The next point I want to bring to the notice of the Government is this. I am not for making any contradictory statements or other things such as my hon. Friend, Mr. Simhachalam, has made a few minutes back. I have to say here that Mr. Strathie has been doing very good work in our district in the interests of the people."

MR. G. SIMHACHALAM PANTULU:—"On a point of order, Mr. President, I never criticized the administration of Mr. Strathie, nor abused him and I do not see any necessity why my hon. Friend should defend him."

MR. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"I was not anxious to defend him or blame any other gentleman. But as my hon. Friend stated a few minutes ago that he received a shabby reply to some representation he made about the grievances of some ryots, I thought it my duty to bring the facts to the notice of the House. As Mr. Strathie is anxious to do a lot in the interests of the people, it is not justifiable on my part if I did not place the facts before the House, especially when Mr. Strathie wrote several times to the Government that on account of the failure of rains adequate remission should be given. He also stated that the remission at present given for dry areas was not sufficient and he wrote to the Government and also to the Hon. the Revenue Member requesting him to pay a visit to the district and see for himself the conditions in the district. When such is the case, I cannot see how he could have sent such a shabby reply. That is all I wanted to bring to the notice of the Government."

"Sir, we are thankful to the Hon. the Revenue Member for his having paid a visit to our district with the Commissioner for Land Revenue and toured throughout the district and spent two days. More than that, in one place—I was not present then—when some ryots requested the Hon. the Revenue Member to pay a visit to the fields, he was pleased to do so and he actually went to some fields. It is seldom that a Member of the Executive Council would go and visit fields. Here when some poor ryots requested him, he actually acceded to their request and visited the fields. It only speaks so much about him and his anxiety to do something good for the people when he finds there is a real grievance. But I am sorry for the remarks of my hon.

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Friend when he stated that the Hon. the Revenue Member did not give him an interview when he visited Guntur. . . ."

THE HON. SIR CHARLES SOUTER:—"As a matter of personal explanation, Sir, I have no recollection of Mr. Simhachalam ever asking me for an interview."

MR. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"Probably he requested him for an interview in the tea party given in his honour at the time. I do not know how a member can ask for an interview at that time when he was being introduced to other members present on the occasion. Probably at that time he had no time . . ."

MR. G. SIMHACHALAM PANTULU:—"On a point of personal explanation, Sir, there is no other Member of this Council who has got more regard for Sir Charles Souter than myself. But as he happens to be a Member of the Government and as an interview was denied to a Member of the Legislative Council, I had this grievance. Personally I have the highest regard for Sir Charles Souter. As a man of 50 years, I need not be told by a young man like Mr. Krishnayya Choudari as to when I should have asked for an interview and I may tell him that I know much better."

MR. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—"I may tell my hon. Friend, Mr. Simhachalam, that I have the very highest regard for him and I always bow before him and respect him as an elderly gentleman and a person who has got much experience in different walks of life. Unfortunately, I cannot say why Sir Charles refused him an interview. I really felt it my duty to bring these facts to the notice of the House. I hope, Sir, that Sir Charles Souter will do his best in the matter of the representations we have made in regard to our district and in regard also to various other districts considering the case of each district on its merits."

"Another thing, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Members of this House. Unfortunately, the District Superintendent of Police of our district is always disturbed by transfer. No doubt we are often getting very good officers, but the pity is they are not often allowed to remain there for a long time so that they may do good work for the district as a result of their experience. But before they pick up some experience and could do useful work, they are immediately transferred. So much so, within a period of one year, we have had as many as four District Superintendents of Police, i.e., they are transferred within two or three months of their posting. Some time back there was a gentleman who was promoted as Deputy Commissioner in Madras; there was another gentleman, Mr. Martin, and he was also disturbed; and now there is another officer posted there and I am told he is also to be transferred within two or three months. I therefore request the Hon. the Home Member to see that officers posted to a district are not frequently changed."

"Then, Sir, in regard to the question of elementary education, they have recently appointed a committee to go into the question. The

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amount of four lakhs allotted for the purpose is not sufficient for the improvement of elementary education. I therefore appeal to the Hon. Minister for Education to see that more funds are allotted as the funds now allotted are not at all sufficient.

"In regard to aided schools particularly, I request the Hon. Minister to see that scale grants are given instead of the present arrangement of having pro rata grants. It is only then that we will be in a position to impart better education to children.

"With these observations, Sir, I resume my seat."

The House then adjourned for lunch.

(After Lunch—2-30 p.m.)

When the Council re-assembled after lunch the Hon. the Deputy President took the chair.

* Mr. K. KESAVARAMAMURTI NAYUDU:—"I congratulate the Hon. the Finance Member on the balanced budget he presented in a clear and perspicuous manner. The Government have by continuing the policy of prudence and economy accumulated balances which stood them in good stead in the days of depression, enabling them to render some help to the ryots by way of concessions in the assessment rates though not to the extent which they deserve. The recently resettled districts like Godavari, Kistna, etc., really deserve greater reductions than the other districts since the boom prices went into the calculation of commutation rates. The Economic Enquiry Committee which was constituted by the Legislative Council came to the conclusion that the Government were not justified in enhancing the assessment rates but the Government would not yield and they had levied enhanced rates against almost unanimous verdict of this House. When the Government have proposed to postpone the levy of the enhanced rates in the newly resettled areas, it is but reasonable that they should extend the same concession to districts which were recently resettled like Godavari and Kistna. I wish to bring to the notice of the Hon. the Revenue Member that the recent rains have affected the tobacco and the other dry crops very badly and the lanka ryots who are already impoverished by the fall of price of tobacco deserve special concession this year. Coming to irrigation, Sir, I am sorry to say that no provision has been made for the Coringa island project even this year though it has been under the consideration of the Government for over a decade. Year after year I have been bringing to the notice of the Government the great need and importance of the project and fondly expected that some beginning would be made before the Council ceased to be. By this project about 15,000 acres would be brought under irrigation and according to the original estimate I learn it would cost about nine lakhs of rupees and in the revised estimate it must have come down much lower. Even levying at the present rates of assessment the whole scheme would bring about Rs. 90,000 yielding more than 10 per cent on the investment. It is really a productive scheme and Sir Archibald Campbell was saying that the scheme was not dropped and that it would

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be taken up. Government do not seem to have bestowed upon it the consideration it deserved. With the advent of the present Finance Member whose knowledge of East Godavari is thorough and intimate, I expected that the sympathy of the Government would be enlisted on behalf of the poor ryots of the island and their condition would be ameliorated by the launching of the project. But I am sorely disappointed. I really feel grateful to the Hon. the Finance Member for having provided 20 lakhs for the relief of rural indebtedness and his assurance that more money would be found if the estimate is below what is necessary is a clear indication that he possesses a heart which pulsates with genuine solicitude for the welfare of the impoverished and indebted ryot although I confess to a sense of disappointment in the case of the Coringa island project. I am glad to see that a better provision is made for primary education this year but the first fruits of the policy of Government were tasted by the Cocanada Municipality and they tasted very bitter. The Special Officer appointed to suggest ways and means of stabilising the financial position of the local bodies suggested that an education-tax of one and a half per cent might be levied so that the proceeds of the tax and an equivalent grant from the Government might make up the deficit in the elementary education fund. The Government advised the Council according to that suggestion to levy the education-tax to meet the deficit and the Council accordingly sanctioned the levy of one per cent on the annual value of properties. When the Government suddenly climbed down and sprang a levy of the tax the Government suddenly climbed down and sprang a surprise on the Council by sanctioning only half per cent. With the full confidence that the Government would sanction the levy of one per cent revised estimate for 1935-36 and the budget estimate for 1936-37 were framed. On this assumption a sum of Rs. 2,500 was provided for the introduction of compulsory education in certain wards and Rs. 1,500 were provided for adopting scales of salaries prescribed by Government. But the order of the Government sanctioning half per cent would upset the whole budget and extinguish all prospects of introducing compulsion in certain wards. In this connexion I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Education that the Government permitted the Rajahmundry Municipality to levy education-tax at two per cent on the annual value of properties. It passes one's comprehension why Cocanada should be treated differently and sanction should be withheld to levy the tax at one per cent even. I request the Hon. Minister to give the necessary financial facilities to the Cocanada Municipal Council and give a helping hand in the matter of launching compulsion in certain wards."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Mr. Deputy President, Sir, this year, the Hon. the Finance Member made a new departure in that instead of delivering a long speech he spoke to us offhand and that so lucidly and made a very clear statement so far as the finances of the Provinces are concerned. It was possible for some of us who are not financiers and who are laymen to follow his speech with greater ease. This year's budget is according to his account a balanced budget. The

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balanced budget has been arrived at on account of the fact that we have definite commitments made year after year on the finances of the Province and those commitments have been made good and it is only by specifying those commitments and here and there making a few changes the budget is considered on the whole, as he himself remarked, a humdrum budget. One feature of this year's budget which has to be deplored is that our balances have been considerably depleted and the finances of the Province have been reduced—especially so far as balances are concerned—reduced to such a stage that we are handing over the Province to the new Government in a position of almost bankruptcy. It is no doubt true that the immediate requirements have been satisfied. But compared to the balances that we had in the previous years the balances have been reduced to such an extent that the new Government will not have much opportunity for extending schemes.

“However, it is the lookout of the new Government, and either by means of finding new sources of revenue or by means of retrenchment, it will have to see how finances of the Province are spent in the best interests of the people. I have always felt that the only one way by which we can test the system of Government of a Province or of a country is from the way in which the finances are handled and expenditure incurred and from the way in which the prosperity of the people increases or decreases. It is no doubt true and it is admitted on all hands that the Province is becoming poorer and poorer; the average man is not only poorer than he ever was but he is also not in a position—particularly the landholder is not in a position—to pay up his tax with any amount of ease. On the other hand, it is an admitted fact that if he pays up the last pie of his land-tax to the Government, he does so by depriving himself and the members of his family of the jewels, silverware and other utensils or property that he might have been able to accumulate in better times. That is the bankrupt situation to which the ordinary land-tax payer is reduced, and yet the Hon. the Finance Member says that prices are on the upward direction and that it will be possible for the Government to collect the tax with greater ease than in previous years. I am afraid, Sir, I cannot agree with the Hon. the Finance Member in that hope. I think that hope might be a hesitant hope.”

The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—“I never said, Sir, that it would be easier for the Government to collect taxes this year. The hon. Member is not correct in that statement.”

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—“But the budget so far as the land-tax is concerned shows that it is based on that hope.”

“Now, I will proceed from land-tax to the question of the import of rice from foreign countries. When we have been demanding that the Government of Madras should recommend to the Government of India that a certain duty should be levied on the rice that is being imported, either broken rice or whole rice, from Siam, we did not at

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that moment have any reservation in mind and did not expect that that would help the import of rice from another foreign country, namely, Burma. The result of the levy of that duty has been that there is a considerable increase in the import of rice from Burma. After all, this province is not benefited by the levy of that duty. If the duty kept away all foreign rice or reduced the import of foreign rice, then the price of rice in this province would have increased. But the result of the levy of the duty has been that instead of one class of rice being imported in the same quantity, the import of other classes of rice has considerably increased. The Hon. the Finance Member does not think that there is anything wrong in the increase in the import of rice from Burma. For after all, he thinks that the only foreign country is Siam and that if we could keep Siamese rice from coming to this country we have done our duty. But the real object in keeping off foreign rice from coming here was to help the agriculturists in this province. If that cannot be achieved, I do not see any purpose in continuing that duty or for not levying a duty on foreign rice. Especially in view of the fact that Burma is going to be separated from our country and the people of Southern India in Burma are not going to receive those benefits which they have been receiving as people belonging to that country, I do not see why any difference should be made between Burma and Siam on that score.

“So far as education is concerned, we have not yet either made an endeavour or have reached a stage when we can say we have increased literacy to any appreciable degree. The illiteracy in the province continues to be the same, and the number of pupils that are going to school to-day have not increased. One of the most important duties of the State is to remove illiteracy, and the Government has not succeeded to remove illiteracy from our province to the extent it should have done. It is no doubt true that as much as a crore or more is being spent on education in this province, but how much does it come to? It does not come to more than four annas per head of the population. That is all that we are spending for our people to remove illiteracy from this land. I hope the angle of vision of our Government will change so far as that matter is concerned, for it is one of the primary duties of the State to see that education is imparted and illiteracy is removed.

“The Government's policy, so far as industries are concerned, continues to be the same. They have not yet made any attempt to see that, instead of adopting a step-motherly attitude, a policy of improving the existing industries and of encouraging the growth of new industries in this province is substituted. The Industries department is starved so far. There are many schemes pending in the Industries department, and the Government has put those schemes on the shelf and they do not even look at them. It is high time that they gave better attention to industries of the province, so that the earning capacity and the wealth of the people could increase. It is only when the wealth of the province is increased and the paying capacity of the taxpayer is increased, the Government itself can levy taxes and collect taxes, and will find it easy to carry on the administration.

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"So far as the City Corporation is concerned, I have to draw the attention of the Government that they will have to give more attention to the requirements of the city. It is no doubt true that some hon. Members who do not belong to the city may come forward and say that the city has been given larger and more attention than the mufassal parts have been. They forget at the same time that after all the city is the metropolis and the capital town of the whole province, and that it does not belong to any particular set of people or section of the people but that it belongs to the whole province; for people from the whole province come here and enjoy the benefit that they get in the city. On that score, gentlemen who come from the mufassal should not stand in the way of the city getting more support from the Government, financial and otherwise. Sir, we have got several schemes. There is the housing scheme, there is the water-supply scheme; these are the two very important schemes which affect the City of Madras. We have asked the Government to help us in putting through these two schemes. So far as the housing scheme is concerned, we have a scheme for one crore of rupees, but we wanted only a small sum of Rs. 20 lakhs per year, so that we could put through the scheme within the next five years.

"Then, I must draw the attention of the Government to the way in which the motor vehicles tax is distributed. The City Corporation should receive all the amount that is collected from motor vehicles that ply in the city, but we do not get the entire amount. As a matter of fact, we get only a portion of it, and I do not know, Sir, whether it will be possible for us to maintain our roads in the manner in which they have to be maintained if the Government does not come forward to pay the entire amount that is collected from the motor buses and motor cars that ply in the city. I hope the Government, and particularly the Hon. Minister concerned, will give his consideration to this matter.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Parthasarathi Ayyangar, in his speech this morning thought that the communal Government Order should be scrapped. I am sure, Sir, that there is nothing wrong in keeping the communal Government Order. But what the Government should do is to see that it is applied in such a manner as to do justice to all the communities concerned without neglecting any particular community. (Mr. Basu Dev: 'Non-Brahmans?') Yes, Non-Brahmans, Muslims, Christians and Brahmans (laughter). I do not agree with hon. Members who wish to divide a major community into sub-communities and try to make a farce of communal representation and communal order. (The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. Bracken: 'Hear, hear.') It is only by such means that they would destroy the communal order itself.

"So far as the policy of prohibition is concerned (interruption)—my Hon. Friends, the Members of Government, do not want me to refer to the policy of prohibition. I hope that one could see signs of that policy in the budget this year or in the year to come. I do not know what the new Government is going to do in the future. But there should have been some sign or other of the intention of the Hon. Minister or the Government for a move in the direction of prohibition.

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I tried to see in vain whether there was any sign in the budget which could show that any attempt has been made to see that that policy was adhered to.

"I am glad, Sir, that the Hon. the Revenue Member has given up the idea regarding the introduction of the Tobacco Bill (laughter). I hope that by his not bringing up the Bill he will not only satisfy all sections of this House but he will also satisfy the people of this province."

* Sriman M. G. PATNAIK Mahasaya:—"Mr. Deputy President, 3 p.m. Sir, I thank the Hon. Finance Member for expressing his regret at the separation of portions of Ganjam district from the Madras province and I hope that the regret is very sincere and he will translate his sincerity by treating the Oriyas still remaining in the province very kindly; and that it would not be like the treatment of the Oriyas at the hands of the High Court in the matter of appointment of Munsifs, for I am told that the High Court did not care to ask one of the Oriya candidates for an interview because he was an Oriya. Of course I shall be glad if that is shown to be wrong. If it is true it deserves to be condemned, and I do not think that the Hon. the Law Member will justify the action of the High Court. An Andhra Judge who has quite recently retired is reported to have said to an Oriya candidate: 'Well, you are going to have your province. Why should you seek to be selected as Munsifs here?' That is the report which I would wish to be authoritatively told to be wrong. So long as you are a citizen of the Madras Presidency, you have a right to be selected. I don't think an ex-Judge or past Judges or Government would like that one should treat Andhras living in the Orissa province in the same manner. Therefore, I request the Hon. Law Member to elicit from the High Court whether the information I have received is correct or not.

"Then Sir, I hear there is a scheme ready for execution in regard to Jeypore. The Hon. the Law Member can take up that scheme if it would benefit any portion of the Madras Presidency. I refer to the Kolabo scheme in the Jeypore Agency. If so, he should arrange with the Orissa Government to give effect to that scheme, if necessary, in partnership. Then with regard to finances, I hear this Government have not been very fair to Orissa in the distribution of the finances. (The Hon. the Finance Member: 'No.') No portion of the balances is given to the new province. There of course, I must say the Hon. Finance Member has been very very unfair. Of course there is nobody to fight for the new province.

"There is another thing to which I invited the kind attention of the Hon. Revenue Member yesterday, viz., the interests of the Oriya servants now in Madras who are to be transferred to that province, and that they should be protected, for I fear they will have lesser chances of promotion there than here. Therefore, if some protection is not given to them they will suffer, and it is the duty of the Madras Government to protect the interests of those whom they are lending to the new province, and I only request the Government to do its duty. With regard to the formation of administrative units I hear there has been

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some bungling; I should like to hear that it is not due to any suggestion by this Government or any of its officers but it is entirely the act of the Bihar and Orissa Government. Of course, I refer to the portion of the Parlakimedi estate being tacked on to the Agency district of Koraput, though it can be easily tacked on to the Ganjam district. About 200 villages forming portions of the Parlakimedi estates are going to be transferred to a non-regulation area, that is to say, the Koraput district. But these 200 villages are placed in the Ganjam district for judicial administration. There is absolutely no reason why this area should be tacked on to the scheduled area. I would like to hear that the whole blame for this rests on the Bihar and Orissa Government and it is not due to any of the suggestions made by this Government or its officers. Then with regard to registration these 200 villages are going to be transferred to the Berhampur sub-registration district. Registration of documents in certain matters is compulsory. It is not left to the option of the debtor. If for executing a simple mortgage deed, say for Rs. 10, he has to go from Parlakimedi to Berhampur at a cost of more than Rs. 10 it will be a horrible state of things. Some device can be adopted such as constituting the Deputy Tahsildar of Parlakimedi as the Registration Officer, instead of forcing the people to go to Berhampur at a great cost. That is what is done in the Agency tracts in the Jeypore district where the Deputy Tahsildar is made to discharge the functions of a Sub-Registrar. If the Madras Government has no hand in such arrangement they may state it so. I want a clear statement from the Members of this Government so that we may fight the question with the new Government there.

"Then there is another difficulty. There is no Act like the Hindu Religious Endowments Act in force in Orissa. Therefore, I think it would be a very good thing if for some time, the Hindu Religious Endowments Board continues to have jurisdiction over the religious institutions in that part of the Ganjam district now going to be transferred to Orissa, as is done in the case of the Co-operative department—I hear the Co-operative department is going to have jurisdiction there—until some such machinery is created by the other Government.

"I then come back to harp upon a subject which has been harped upon for several years, that is education. Everybody says that everybody should be made literate. I have no faith in that statement. I say the kind of education now imparted should be altered, it should be such that the man who gets it should be able to make a living. Therefore, some kind of vocational training should be given; education should be given an agricultural bias. I have been impressing this fact not only on the present Education Minister but also upon Sir A. P. Patro when he was Minister. Of course, I hear that the inertia of the department is so great that the Minister is not able to do anything. I should like that the Hon. the Minister would own the fact here. The Bengal Government had taken the lead in this matter. They have opened their eyes to the importance of this question.

"Then with regard to the Sub-Court in Chicacole, Chicacole is a very important town. There was a District Judge's Court there.

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Gradually it has lost its importance. It is better that a sub-court is located there even though it may not compare favourably in certain respects with Vizianagaram. People in Ganjam will welcome the location of such a court there. Therefore, I request the Hon. the Law Member, though we hear the Hon. Judges of the High Court are in favour of Vizianagaram, to see his way to locate the sub-court at Chicacole and restore its importance in some respects."

* Diwan Bahadur A. APPADURAI PILLAI:—"Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I beg to associate myself with the Members that have previously spoken on the floor of the House congratulating the Hon. Finance Member on the very excellent budget that he has presented to this House. For calmness of delivery, lucidity of expression and clearness of thought, his speech stands unrivalled. I, therefore, have great pleasure in adding my meed of praise to the Hon. Finance Member for the budget he has placed before the House. One or two points I should like to place before the House very briefly. The first is about technical education. We find that in the budget estimate very large provision has been made for minor irrigation, a matter which has been previously brought to the notice of the House on several occasions. There is also a very large provision for primary education, a matter which is absolutely necessary for the advancement of the country. I am very glad to find that a very large provision has been made also for what is now discovered to be a potential source of revenue to the Presidency, namely, the electricity department. At the same time I should like the Government to show the same sort of sympathy with reference to technical education. Somehow or other, technical education has been neglected in this province. We have large Universities in this province; there are three, one in the north, one in the Tamil area and one in the centre of the province, catering to the needs of the youths. Sir, there is not a single technical institute of the kind there is in Bombay or in Cawnpore. There is a Government School of Technology in our city but I believe it supplies only elementary knowledge in some technical subjects. The fact that there is no factory or workshop attached to the School of Technology considerably detracts from its usefulness. This is a point that has been mentioned by me several times on the floor of this House, but unfortunately no attention has been paid to my request up to date. Sir, the students that are undergoing training in the School of Technology are supposed to be apprentices in the several factories or workshops in the city. The workshops and factories, however, fight shy of these apprentices. They are not anxious to take them. Some of them rigorously restrict the number of apprentices to five or six. Sir, considering the number of students that are anxious to undergo technical training, the admission by these factories in the city is absolutely inadequate. This limited admission does not satisfy the requirements of the students who are now gradually turning their attention from literary pursuits to technical education. It is very necessary that larger numbers should be admitted for training. I would very much like that the Government remove this defect by the establishment of a fully equipped factory or workshop attached to the

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Government School of Technology. They should at the same time raise the school to the standard available in Bombay. We know, that there is the Victoria Technical Institute in Bombay, and in Cawnpore there is a large Technological College. These are noble institutions of the kind training a number of students in technical matters. We often tell the graduates of our Universities to turn their attention to the land, to go back to the land or to take to industries. We ask them not to go in search of employment. But what facilities do we provide to those who are in search of industrial education? That is a point which I would like to bring to the notice of Government and of this House so that increasing provision may be made in the budget year after year to remedy the defect that has been brought to their notice several times.

"Let me quote an instance where in the name of technical education a very large portion of the revenues of this province is being frittered away. I refer, without meaning any disregard to the Hon. the Law Member, to the Forest College. This is an institution which does not supply the needs of the Madras Presidency alone. We have a very big College at Coimbatore staffed with a number of highly paid officials trying to cater to the needs of other Provinces and Native States. Candidates are invited every year from the other Provinces and from Indian States in order that the college may be kept running on the present lines. Instead of spending so much money on a Forest College which does not necessarily pull its weight with reference to the training of the youth of this Presidency, is it not desirable that we should divert a portion of the funds spent on it to a technological course of studies?

"Sir, I want to say a word or two with reference to public health. One subject that has been engaging the attention of the public at the present day is the manner in which tuberculosis is dealt with. Sir, there are one or two hospitals looking after the tubercular patients. Unfortunately Madras has gone in for a large share of this disease. The Tuberculosis Hospital has been located in the heart of the City of Madras, viz., Royapetta. Unfortunately, just across the road, there is a very fine hospital with a number of in-patients. Now, is it not a menace to the health of these in-patients and to the general public to have a tuberculosis hospital in its close vicinity? I understand on very reliable authority and my Hon. Friend Diwan Bahadur R. Srinivasan also agrees with me that there has been a perceptible increase of tuberculosis in and around Royapetta after the location of the hospital in its present site. Sir, to have one hospital at Royapetta and another at the Spur Tank Hospital for out-patients is to fritter away energy. It is necessary to find a suitable well-ventilated area for this hospital either within the city or outside it where all the tuberculosis experts may carry on their work? Sir, there is a proposal I understand to take over the tuberculosis institute in Tambaram opened by Dr. Muthu. There is some doubt I understand whether Dr. Muthu's institution at Tambaram is really useful and whether the climatic conditions of the locality would suit this disease. If Tambaram is not suitable, there must be some other area elsewhere where a large tract of land could be

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found and the hospital located to accommodate all the patients. There is a complaint that at the Madanapalle institution admissions have been so insistent and enormous of late that the patients have begun to take all sorts of houses available in the locality, so much so, that they do not get proper treatment either in the hospital or in the private residences they take up. This is a matter which I would like to press on the attention of the Government for necessary remedy.

"I would like to mention one other point in connexion with the public health. The Buckingham canal in the city of Madras is a waterway connecting Madras with the east coast districts. Unfortunately it is silted up and is nothing but a stinking pool. Anything that can be done to remove the silt from the canal and to let in fresh water would be in the interests of public health.

"I now wish to say a word about the services. Sir, the institution of typewriting test for clerks has been my constant complaint. I would once more appeal to the Hon. the Revenue Member, whose sympathies to the subordinate staff in services are very well known, that it would be a very great boon to the clerks in the whole of this province if the typewriting test prescribed for selection for clerks posts is abolished. We are not going to make all the clerks typists, nor are we going to supply typewriters to all of them. What will be the state of an office if all the clerks therein possess typewriting machines and go on striking tick-tick all the time? I think it will be a terrible nuisance. One cannot sit and work silently in their midst. There is a separate staff of clerks for typewriting work and it is only for them that training in typewriting should be insisted upon.

"Then, Sir, one word about my community and I am done. Sir, the higher judiciary has been starved of Indian Christians. I would make an appeal, before I conclude, to the Hon. the Law Member, to see if he could not remedy the longstanding grievance that there is no Indian Christian representation in the higher ranks of the judiciary in this Province."

* Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI:—"Mr. Deputy President, amidst the chorus of praise that has been showered on the Hon. the Finance Member, I am sorry I am obliged to strike a note of discord. Perhaps this note of discord may tend to make the general harmony all the sweeter. Now, Sir, I am very sorry that I cannot bring myself, even if I will, to congratulate the Hon. the Finance Member on the budget that he has placed before this House for the simple reason that he has failed, failed egregiously to provide for rural relief. And not alone that. He has not concentrated his attention upon relieving the deplorable condition of the ryot; he has not realized the gravity and the magnitude of the situation that is obtaining in the rural parts of the Presidency. Sir, that does not prevent me for one moment from congratulating him with regard to one or two things, and one of them is very important. He has dispensed with what I may call manuscript eloquence. Time was when printed speeches were read which tended to lull the Members to sleep, especially the Members on the Treasury

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Bench. (Laughter.) Now, Sir, another redeeming feature is that he has made a very lucid statement of the financial position of the province. His analysis of the matter has been so crystal clear that even poor men who have a dread for figures got a very clear impression of the financial situation. Here my praise ends and the other thing begins. (Laughter).

"Now, Sir, of course the way in which he has dealt with the matter bespeaks the mastermind that he is. But, unfortunately it has been vitiated by what I may call official mentality. I am sorry that he could not take himself out of the official groove and take a broader view and a higher vision of the matter.

3-30 p.m. "Then, of course, I agree with him for one thing and that is in his admission that the budget that he was presenting us is a dull and dry one and also a hum-drum and a common place one. So far we are at one with each other. But I must add that it is a very unjust, unfair and unsatisfactory budget inasmuch as he has not devoted any attention to the ryot, who is the mainstay of the Government and but for whom the Hon. the Finance Member and the Government would be nowhere. Now, Sir, if I may be permitted I may compare this Government to an old decrepit father—an imbecile father too—who for one thing neglects his first wife's son who is the bread-winner and the earner and pampers his second wife's son because she (second wife) is young. By first wife's son I mean the ryot, rather the tax-payer—because in this agricultural country the tax-payer is the ryot—I identify the ryot with the tax-payer, with the first wife's son, and as second wife's sons all those who are gracing the official benches there—I mean the services, the officials or the Government servants. Now, Sir, my friend the Hon. the Finance Member was complacently stating the other day that this Government had wonderful capacity in economising and prudently managing our finances, so much so every big official was patting them upon the back, as for instance the Auditor-General, the Accountant-General, etc. My humble opinion is that all these congratulations or high encomiums or characterising the finances of this Government as eminently satisfactory—all these things, coming as they do from the Auditor-General and the Accountant-General, do not matter much. We have had the wonderful knack of producing almost invariably balanced budgets or surplus budgets and when once you do that, you give no trouble to the higher officials and so they cannot but congratulate you. If the congratulations should be of any real value, you must work for them and get them from the tax-payer. I do not know if things are not going on topsy-turvy in the preparation of our budgets. As the Hon. the Finance Member pointed out there will be a difference in the angle of vision in the preparation of budgets from the time when the new Council will come into existence. Of course that would certainly be the right way of preparing the budget and this is the wrong way about. For, first of all you must ascertain what is the necessary expenditure. That is the first thing you will have to take into consideration and knowing the money that is actually required, the rates of taxation will be fixed. On the other

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hand what you are now doing is simply extorting the last pie from the poor ryot by over-burdening him with taxation in season and out of season, more or less mechanically, and by so many means. The first and foremost is resettlement. Every resettlement means an increase of taxation by 20 per cent, 30 per cent or even 40 per cent. (A voice 18½ per cent last time.) Even that is too much. So the means of resettlement is one thing. There are other backdoor means, viz., changing the tarams and collecting what you call the inclusion fees, etc. My Hon. Friend the Law Member when he was on this side of the House characterised it as morally and legally indefensible."

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"On a matter of personal explanation, Sir. I do not remember to have said anything like that. As far as I can remember, I never sat on that side of the House?"

Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI:—"This side or that side makes no difference."

* The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"Order, order. The Hon. Member must address the Chair."

Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI:—"Very well, the Hon. the Law Member was somewhere this side or that side. Sir, may I go on and have I time?"

* The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"All right."

Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI:—"Very well, Sir, my Hon. Friend the Finance Member was saying that all his predecessors were something like angels at budgeting and they did their task most wonderfully, perhaps the first in all India in economising our finances and in what he called prudently managing the thing. I shall take up one instance to show whether they were prudent or whether they were actually looting the ryot. We shall take up the decade between 1920 to 1930. I ask my Hon. Friend the Finance Member what was the increase in revenue during this decade. I ask him whether it was not 6 crores of rupees."

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"There was a time when it was nearly 17 crores."

Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI:—"I do not know whether he wants to create confusion. If he wants, I shall show him the figures. In one decade there was an increase of 6 crores. I want to know how this sum of 6 crores was spent during that decade. Half of this large amount of 6 crores, i.e., nearly 3 crores have been swallowed up by Government officials in the shape of increased salaries and pensions. Is this, prudent management or looting?"

* The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"May I request the hon. Member to finish his speech within two minutes?"

* Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI:—"I have just begun. Anyhow I shall hurry up. The points that I am raising are un rebuttable by the Treasury Bench. I want to ask how all this money was got. Most of it has been wrung out of the hands of the poor ryot. I may say it

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has been extorted although it may not be a criminal offence because it has been done by the Government. This act of the Government has driven the ryot to chronic indebtedness which has been hanging as a pal over the whole ryot population. There was one other stroke which subsequently fell upon the ryot and which as the last straw broke the camel's back, viz., the economic depression that came in 1929. This stroke broke up the ryot entirely and it turned him topsy-turvy and he is even now dizzy and has not yet recovered from it. As Mr. Sathianathan put it, among every 100 ryots 93 ryots are indebted and most of them are hopelessly indebted. This is not due to the fault of the ryot; it is due to what I may call *vis major* or the act of God as they call it. This has been due to the steep or precipitous fall in the prices of different commodities. The value of the landed property has gone down to one-third of what it was previously. And what has become of his debt? It has been developing by leaps and bounds. It requires no sleep, no food and no rest as the Telugu proverb goes. It is going on developing. The price of land has fallen so very low. The ryot has mortgaged all his property and it is being sold away by court. That is the fate of the ryot. And what is the Government doing now? When they had plenty of money they swallowed up every pie. Are they taking into consideration the insurmountable difficulties of the ryot and have they done anything tangible in the budget to relieve the distress of the ryot. That is why I could not bring myself to congratulate the Hon. the Finance Member although I wanted to do very badly. I request the Government to see whether they are not simply marking time, because there are only a few months more before the new Government comes in, and whether they are not simply shoving everything upon the shoulders of the new Government.

"I heard the Hon. the Finance Member saying 'we have done such wonderful things; we have amended the Agricultural Loans Act and we have passed that most innocuous measure of Debt Conciliation which my Friend Sir Mocherla too says is absolutely useless. The Debt Conciliation Bill has become a still-born child. Even this the Hon. the Law Member took two or three years to pass. The Government are harping on these things as their greatest achievements. I am going to show how futile they are.'"

* The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member has exceeded his time."

Rai Sahib C. KOLANDA REDDI:—"If you want me to sit down, I shall resume my seat."

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Sir, we have to take into consideration the circumstances under which the budget has been presented to us by the Hon. the Finance Member. We know that we are on the threshold of a new Reformed Council and we could not have expected a better presentation of budget than what is presented to us now. If you scrutinize the budget, it will be clear that the Hon. the Finance Member has tried to balance the budget leaving at least one crore of rupees to the future Government, thus giving it a good start. Not only that, in his budget speech he has indicated the ways and means by which the

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finances of the country could be improved and also the lot of the people, especially the ryot population. To me it seems that the root of the evil in the financial condition of our Presidency consists in the fact that our revenue system is not subject to legislation. Our taxation is not bound by legislation. I speak subject to correction on this point. I think that is what is meant by what the Hon. the Finance Member has said in the last paragraph of his speech, when he refers to the fact that he is bound by certain financial conditions and difficulties. It would have been better if the Government had taken up this matter which was suggested as early as 1921, that is to say, that there should be legislation with regard to land revenue. Of course, Sir, we are not entitled to criticise the present Finance Member for not having brought forward the necessary legislation. He has taken up office only this year and from what he has done in the short time of his office, we have every reason to hope that if he continues for a sufficiently long time he would do something to ameliorate the condition of the poor. Already he has allotted Rs. 20 lakhs for the upliftment of the poor ryots by the grant of agricultural loans. He has also suggested that we should explore other avenues of taxation in order that we may be able to relieve the distress of the over-burdened ryot. If a gentleman of that type is allowed to continue in office, I am sure he will bring forward legislation with regard to land revenue and do everything to relieve the overburdened ryot. Already, Sir, as I said, the allotment of Rs. 20 lakhs for agricultural loans is not a small thing. He has clearly seen the central point of the whole thing and said that taxation should be on a scientific basis, that is to say, it must be spread over the whole community and not be confined to a particular community or class. He has said that taxation which is indirect and which does not weigh heavily on any one particular community must be resorted to. He has also suggested that the Tobacco tax and the betting tax are two taxes which will go some way to relieve the burden on the ryot. If a person who is not an agriculturist earns Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 2,000 by some profession or trade he is asked to pay only a tax of 5 or 6 pies in the rupee and such taxation on non-agricultural incomes goes up to only two annas in the rupee. But in the case of the agriculturists it is thought that they are not the owners of the land and as Government are the owners of the land, the ryots should pay a rent to the Government. What the ryots pay is considered to be the rent for the land they hold. So the Government take more than half the net produce of the land. If a man earns Rs. 1,000 in any other profession he is asked to pay only 5 or 6 pies in the rupee, but if a man earns Rs. 1,000 as his net income from agriculture he is asked to pay Rs. 500. As I said the idea behind land revenue is that what the ryot pays is not tax but rent. My Friend who knows everything about land tenure knows that this theory is wrong, but still it is acted upon. Therefore my submission to this House is that steps should be taken to alter the basis on which the ryot is taxed and tax him as an assessee of income-tax at the rate of 5 or 6 or 12 pies in the rupee according to his income. Therefore it is very urgent that the legislature or the Government whether central or provincial should reform the system of land revenue and do justice to the ryot.

3-45
p.m.

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"There is a suggestion that there should be what is called an agricultural income-tax. If you adopt that system, persons getting less than a certain amount from agriculture would not be taxed at all. Only persons who are able to pay will be taxed. After all, Sir, what is a tax? It is the contribution made by the people for meeting the expenses of the Government. Therefore if a man is not able to pay anything it is not necessary that he should be asked to pay. Are we not in a family giving food and clothing to such members of the family also as are not able to earn anything? A son who is earning is asked to pay for the family expenses, but one who is not is not asked to pay anything for the family expenses. Similarly, Sir, small landholders should not be taxed at all and persons who get Rs. 1,000 and more should be taxed on a progressive scale. If a man gets Rs. 10,000 it should be possible for him to pay Rs. 1,000 but if a person earns only Rs. 100, will it be possible for him to pay Rs. 10? So, Sir, it will be better if the Government and the people, the Congress Party and the non-Congress Party, the Justice Party and non-Justice Party concentrate their attention upon this question and better the lot of the ryot. This question has been lost sight of in the midst of the high-sounding words and national and international policies.

"Sir, this Government has been lax in not bringing forward the necessary legislation for this purpose. But the present Finance Member is not responsible for it. I am not trying to defend him or justify him, but I am glad to tell you that there are indications in his speech which show that he wants to do good to the ryot. He has said that if we want to do good to the ryot we must explore other avenues of revenue. (The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. Bracken: 'Hear, hear.') He says: Conditioned as we are, bound as we are, we are not able to do any good to the ryot. He has indicated the ways in which the future Government should proceed, whether it be the Congress Government or Justice Government or any other Government. The sum that he has allotted for agricultural loans shows his sympathy for the ryot. He has moved in the mufassal and he knows their condition well. He has made a gesture and he has also said that if more was wanted more would be allotted for this purpose. Sir, I am not defending the Government, I am only defending the Hon. the Finance Member who has studied the whole thing and got a good picture before him.

"Sir, I want to say a word about capital expenditure and loans. I am familiar very well with the homily and the maxim that we should cut our coat according to our cloth. It is a very good maxim so far as expenditure charged to revenue is concerned. But the question before us is how to increase the prosperity of the people."

* THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"May I remind the hon. Member that he has exceeded his time by two or three minutes?"

MR. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG:—"Sir, the prosperity of the people can be increased only if we can increase their purchasing power. What are the means by which we can increase the purchasing power of the ryot? We all know, Sir, that India, especially the Madras Presidency is an agricultural country and that we depend on foreign markets for the sale of our primary agricultural products. The price we get

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for our produce depends on what the foreign markets are prepared to pay us. We should change this situation and do everything possible to convert our agricultural produce into finished products ourselves. Mr. Deputy President, you will therefore see that so long as we remain an entirely agricultural people and have no means of converting our agricultural produce into finished products, we will have to depend on foreign markets for the sale of our produce and as a consequence our budgets will always be in a precarious condition. Therefore the only way out of the difficulty is to industrialize the country and see that we convert our agricultural produce into finished products in our own industries. For these reasons, Sir, I say I am glad that the Government have borrowed money for remunerative industrial enterprises and that the sums invested in those enterprises are fetching a good return. My suggestion is: borrow for the sake of promoting industries so that the purchasing power of the people will rise. I have no time to touch on other points and as the President has called me to order, I have to resume my seat."

* MR. K. KOTI REDDI:—"Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I am not usually in the habit of congratulating Finance Members on the presentation of their budgets; but this time since it is probably to be the last or the last but one presented to this Council before the New Reforms come into effect, I may congratulate the Hon. the Finance Member not so much for the very brief financial statement that he furnished to this House, and more than that, for the one or two suggestions that he has made in regard to the expenditure of this province."

"First of all, Sir, I find that he has made a statement that during the next year, no money is to be spent out of the revenues for productive schemes. I do think that, that is quite a fair proposal. I remember, Sir, for a number of years we in this House have been complaining that Government were quite unfair in spending out of revenues or revenue balances on productive schemes, the expenditure on which ought to be met from loans. One subject particularly which most of us touched in this connexion is the development of electricity in this country. On this head, the Government were spending from the revenues or from the balances which we consider as good as current revenues, and the amount has come to about a crore—I may not be exact. Anyway, a large amount has been spent from current revenues on the hydro-electric scheme which ought to have been met from loans. No doubt most of us are glad that the Government have been able to take up the development of hydro-electric schemes as a national industry; and time there was when some of us were very suspicious whether Government would take up such schemes themselves at all. I am glad to find that the revenue got under this head this year and the expected revenue for the next financial year is a decent amount. I hope that the Government are now convinced that there are possibilities of getting a large amount of revenue from this source, and that they will take early steps to develop this industry throughout the presidency. I would draw the attention of the Government to the fact that not a pie has been so far spent nor is any pie proposed to be

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spent next year in a part of the province which is neglected ordinarily, except when a great catastrophe such as that which happened last year—absolute failure of rain, etc.—takes place. I refer to the ceded districts, and I thank the Government for all they did and did in time, to give relief to the distressed people during the last famine season. As one who was connected with some sort of private relief work in that connexion, I can bear testimony—and I think this is a very appropriate opportunity to do so—to the relief given by the Government; and I thank them for it. I only request the Government to see that this part of the presidency is not neglected. They ought to see that such measure are taken as would prevent that part of the country which is frequently affected by a series of famines, from undergoing such troubles in future. Irrigation works in that part of the country should be developed. There is the great Sangameswaram project which can very well be taken up. An excuse is often pleaded that to take it up, there will be the interference with the Native States; but, Sir, now that it is practically certain that the Tungabhadra project—even if it is coming into operation shortly or some time in the remote future—is not likely to be useful to all the tracts in the ceded districts, the Sangameswaram project which is a great project and one of the biggest projects in the world, may be investigated and taken up seriously, and not only the ceded districts but also the neighbouring districts such as Chingleput, Nellore and Guntur will be benefited by it.

“Then, Sir, I have often complained in this House that the amount of money devoted for the construction of a new small irrigation works like tanks, etc., is not much. No doubt the Government are spending some amount on the maintenance and repair of such small works, but there has been practically little or nothing spent on construction of new works. I know, Sir, and I am fairly acquainted with a big tract of territory in that part of the country that there is a great possibility of constructing such minor works—in spite of the advice given by the Public Works Department officers—by means of which the water that falls so rarely in the ceded districts can be conserved for the benefit of the people there.

“Another important matter to be considered for the benefit of the ceded districts is the development of electricity. I find there is no provision made in the budget for this purpose. There is a proposal to build a big thermal station at Pamidi. I want the Government to take up that project early. In this connexion, I may also make one more suggestion. There is a tract in the Cuddapah district, the southern portion of it which is closer to Madras, viz., the Rajampet taluk, where you have a chain of hills, viz., Eastern Ghats, with abundance of fuel. There was a time when fuel was being brought from that place and sold in Madras; but now, although there has been a reduction in freight charges, the cost of exporting the fuel to Madras is so high that practically no fuel comes to Madras from there. I think this place can be thought of for the purpose of developing electricity. Why not have a thermal station in that place where you can have any

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amount of fuel for developing electricity and supplying it to the surrounding districts? I want the Hon. the Law Member to take note of the suggestion and have this question investigated.

“Another important thing to which I would draw the attention of the House is this: the Hon. the Finance Member has referred very legitimately to the declining income from stamps. I was one of those who believed all along that it was bound to decrease considerably in the very near future. It may perhaps be the result of the causes suggested by the Finance Member, viz., the passing of the Debt Conciliation Bill of Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar and the amendment of the Agriculturists' Loans Act. No doubt, if Government make a proper use of these Acts, there may be a considerable reduction of debts; but the tardy way in which the provisions have been accepted and worked by the Government does not seem to warrant such a conclusion. If the present debts amount to about Rs. 200 crores, probably they will be scaled down to Rs. 100 crores, if steps are taken immediately and in right earnest, and if this Government are really serious about bringing down the indebtedness of the ryots and if they really believe in the special officer's recommendations—who if I may say so, has produced one of the excellent reports but has felt considerable hesitation in making proper recommendations, viz., to introduce a measure of compulsion for scaling down the debts—they must be prepared to spend vast amounts and not 20 lakhs. The ryot is already beyond redemption, but still I may say there is a chance of saving some of them if you take steps immediately. I would therefore impress upon the Hon. Member in charge that there is no use having an experiment in one or two districts. What is the need for the experiment? You have the report of the special officer. What is his report? It is admitted that a majority of the middle class ryots are very heavily indebted. About 40 to 50 per cent of them are over-indebted. Why should the Governments say: ‘Let us have it in respect of the Chingleput district first; let us know the results, and then let us extend it to other districts?’ Is it fair, I ask? Why not there be a special staff for each and every district? If you are serious and if you want to bring down the indebtedness of the ryots, do not make any more experiments. There is no need. On matters which are well-known and on which the Government agree with us, let immediate steps be taken.

“Sir, I was referring to the reduction of income from stamps. If in this way, the indebtedness is reduced and if public financing agencies such as the co-operative societies and the land mortgage banks take up the business of lending, there is of course very little chance for much litigation in the future. I myself know that for the last two or three years, the filing in the district munsifs' courts has been low. I am very glad of that. So, there is bound to be a reduction in the stamp-fee income. The Government have been making hitherto a profit of something like Rs. 50 lakhs out of court-fee-stamp revenue. I want the Hon. the Law Member to investigate into the question whether it is not a fact that the Government get a fairly decent amount out of the administration of civil justice. I had also in previous years

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shown facts and figures; I have calculated the interest on buildings, I have calculated the pensions, salaries, etc., and from those calculations, I was in a position to say that the Government was making a profit of Rs. 50 lakhs or so which they ought not to do."

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—" May I know whether the hon. Member means from stamps? "

* M. K. KOTI REDDI:—" I say from administration of civil justice. The income from stamps is to be utilized for the administration of civil justice—I mean court-fee stamps. I am glad of the income, but as a matter of principle, no civilized Government ought to make any income out of administration of civil justice. By saying this, I am not suggesting that we should lose under this head—I only want the Hon. the Law Member to investigate the question carefully.

" Sir, I have got to say so many things in regard to the different departments, but my time is up. I believe I will have other opportunities to refer to them. I only want to congratulate the Hon. the Finance Member again on the statement that he has made that the Government will not spend any more money from current revenues or balances this year on schemes the expenditure on which must legitimately be met from loans."

4-15 p.m. * The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—" Are there any more hon. Members willing to take part in the discussion to-day? If there is no one to take part in the discussion, I will now adjourn the House till Monday next."

* Mr. K. S. SIVASUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—" Mr. Deputy President, Sir, at the outset, to an outsider, it may look all right when it is stated that we have a balanced budget. But, as has been pointed out by my hon. Friend Mr. Kolanda Reddi, it is only at the expense of the ryot that this balanced-budget has been framed. His sufferings have not been taken note of, nor cared for and his condition is worse to-day and it is becoming still worse and worse every day and yet the Government are callous to take note of these things and have not come to his rescue. The eye-wash of having a provision to relieve the indebtedness of the ryots by allotting 20 lakhs was considered to be a good sum by some of the hon. Members who have spoken before me. But, Sir, this paltry sum of 20 lakhs provided for this purpose for the current fasli is nothing when compared to the huge figure of 150 lakhs of rural indebtedness, even according to the estimate of Mr. Sathianathan. This 20 lakhs is considered to be a pretty big figure and we are asked to be satisfied with it. Sir, is it really anything when compared with the huge debt under which the ryot is now groaning? There seems to be the opinion among some hon. Members of this House that so far as my district is concerned, it is being given a preferential treatment, the reason for the same must be obviously due to the fact that a large amount has been spent for the construction of the Mettur dam. Though really it must be said that it is a great benefit to have a regulated water-supply for the delta, it was long

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overdue and if at all the Government has done it, it has done it at a very late stage after having had an experience in the past of granting large sums of remissions owing to failure of crops.

" Sir, as has been pointed out by my hon. Friend Mr. Nadimuthu Pillai in his speech yesterday, first of all the land revenue policy itself is not one with which we are satisfied. First, the question whether it is rent or tax has to be decided and then the half-net theory followed is most unsatisfactory; and in the matter of policy followed in resettling a district and arriving at the final figure when fixing the kist they take into consideration the prices ruling in 20 non-famine years prior to the resettlement. Now, in most cases, the advantage has been on the side of the Government especially in districts settled after 1919. So, in such cases, it was on that account the Government was pleased to give a remission of half an anna more; but if the commutation rate is to be compared with the actual prices ruling to-day there is a vast difference between the two. Paddy now sells at Re. 1-4-0 or Re. 1-5-0, whereas the rate fixed at the settlement was Rs. 1-14-9 as the commutation rate. Thus there is a difference of more than nine annas per kalam of paddy and it is uncharitable to expect the ryot to pay his kist with this low price according to the figure settled in the commutation rate. So, a large amount of remission ought to be given in such cases where there has been such a large difference in the commutation rate and the prices selling at present.

" In reply to a question put by my hon. Friend Mr. A. Ramakrishna Reddi, the Hon. the Revenue Member was pleased to say that he would consider and accept any new proposals that might be suggested by hon. Members as to how it could be better settled. Sir, it is the considered opinion of several experts, both non-official and official, that it would be the safest thing for purposes of revenue collection, to base the kist according to the prices of commodities ruling in the previous kist months of the previous years or faslis. Sir, if this is taken as the criterion, it would be most easy and also it would relieve the agriculturists to a great extent and also relieve the Government from being put to the bother of hearing the howlings of so many representatives of the ryots in this House.

" Sir, then again, it has been stated that as the future constitution is likely to come into existence in the next year or so, the Hon. the Finance Member is going to hand over the province to the future Government with the finances of the province 'eminently satisfactory'. It is supposed to be eminently satisfactory. Sir, I would request the Hon. the Finance Member to hand over the presidency to the future Ministry with a population more satisfied and contented than it is to-day. The condition of the agriculturist to-day is more pitiable and deserves consideration at every stage. So far as my district is concerned, I know the details fully and well and I therefore plead for a special treatment at the hands of the Government. Apart from the fact that it has been affected by abnormal world

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depression, and low prices, it has had in the last few years calamities after calamities one succeeding the other. In December 1933 we had a cyclone which practically ruined the agriculturists and the crops; again from the 15th of June to 15th of July last year, for the cultivation of the old delta a steadier supply of water was assured to us but only 3,600 cusecs of water were allowed for raising earlier crops in the old delta; again from the 15th July onwards an assured supply was promised to us for cultivation purposes from the Mettur dam. Relying on the assurance of the reports published by the Public Works Department authorities, the agriculturists began their cultivation operations, but water was not forthcoming in the rivers. The result was, the seedlings dried away, fields ploughed up got dried up and cultivation operations were at a stand-still till the first week of August, the reason being the sudden and unexpected landslips that occurred in the supply outlet channel at Mettur. They were not set right till the first week of August. As a result of this, the tail-end taluks of Tiruturaipundi, Shiyali and Mayavaram taluks and portions of other taluks also suffered very much and cultivation operations were begun only very late. Kuruvai crop was a total failure; samba cultivation also was begun to be cultivated only late in the season. Moreover Sir, in October and November we did not get the usual rains and we had only 5.28 inches in October as against the fifty years' average of 7.94 inches. We had a cyclone which damaged the crops and uprooted the fruit-bearing trees causing heavy loss. Again in December when rains were not wanted we had a heavy downpour of 12.9 inches as against the fifty years' average of 6.8 inches. Sir, any one of the above causes is more than enough to spoil the whole crop. All this has brought in a paddy disease which converted the ear-heads of paddy into mere chaff. When all these causes are combined, the lot of the agriculturist can very well be imagined than described.

"Then, Sir, we were paying a revenue of 73 lakhs to the coffers of the general treasury; but this year owing to the recent G.Os. Nos. 1853, 474 and 1238, it has been raised by ten lakhs nearly. The Hon. the Education Minister too has been kind enough to order the raising of the education tax by two pies at this time of economic stress; and in spite of the protests of the two district boards it has been ordered that it should be raised by two pies and this has added to our existing distress.

"Again, Sir, the total yield of the district, I am afraid, will not be sufficient even to meet the necessary requirements of the district itself. Out of the surplus sold, the kist has to be paid. But the total yield estimated now is only at three lakhs six thousand tons whereas it has been found that more than three lakhs and twenty-two thousand tons are necessary for the consumption of the district.

"There is also another matter to which I wish to draw the attention of the House, namely, provision has not been made for drainage and irrigation improvements of the district and that the recommendations of the Cauvery Committee have not been given effect to.

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"It has been stated by some hon. Members who spoke before me that the provision made in respect of the agricultural department is a waste. Sir, I would be failing in my duty if I do not mention that they are doing a real and useful propaganda in the villages asking the villagers to take to improved methods of cultivation. It is not at all a waste. If at all, Sir, I must complain that the money got is insufficient and that the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture ought to have put up a very strong fight and got more money for this as this is the only department that can do some good to the agriculturists directly.

"Lastly, Sir, I would request the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture just to take into consideration the necessity of starting a model agricultural farm in Mannargudi taluk in order to educate the ryots in this area to learn to the rearing of garden crops, etc., so that they may raise them in those areas. If this experiment is found successful, it may be useful to Government also for many people will come forward to take water in the new delta and thus a larger amount by way of revenue may be expected. It will also relieve the agriculturists in that area to a very large extent."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 2nd March 1936.

D. K. V. RAGHAVA VARMA,
Acting Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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[29th February 1936]

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 862 asked by Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 29th February 1936, page 244 supra.]

List of buildings, Mettur camp transferred to Education Department.

Item number and name of buildings.	Number in each.	Original value.	Present estimated value.
		RS.	RS.
1 Foreman's quarters	1	3,482	2,200
2 Supervisor's quarters	2	5,042	3,000
3 Higher grade clerks' quarters (independent type).	6	9,225	4,500
4 Do. (block type)	41	66,075	34,167
5 Lower grade clerk's quarters (block type)	4	5,022	2,400
6 Fittermates' quarters	15	5,176	2,000
7 Combined office for Engineer-in-Chief and Audit officer excluding portion for Public Works Department	1	59,795	25,072
8 Elementary school	1	1,747	1,747*

* Transferred to the Education Department in 1927-28.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 863 asked by Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder, at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 29th February 1936, page 244 supra.]

List of buildings, Mettur camp transferred to Electricity Department.

Item number and name of buildings.	Number in each.	Original cost.
		RS.
1 Superintending Engineer's quarters	1	19,512
2 Indian Executive Engineer's quarters No. I	1	15,680
3 European Executive Engineer's quarters No. III	1	16,502
4 Subdivisional Officer's quarters	4	22,624
5 Foreman's quarters	2	6,964
6 Supervisors' quarters	16	39,832
7 Higher grade clerks' quarters	18	27,862
8 Lower grade clerks' quarters	18	20,650
9 Higher grade mechanics' quarters	24	29,992
10 Lower grade mechanics' quarters	12	13,324
11 Peons' quarters	48 huts	13,510
12 Coolie huts	200 "	36,512
13 Workshop buildings, portion of Public Health building LOX office building	3 }	Not available.
14 Local fund cement shed	1 }	
15 Old construction division (east) store shed	1 }	
16 Maistri's quarters	3 }	
		2,380

THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

Monday, the 2nd March 1936.

The House met at eleven of the clock. Mr. President (the Hon. Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI) in the Chair.

PRESENT:

Venkata Reddi Nayudu Kt., The Hon.
 Rai Bahadur Sir Kurma.
 Pannirselvam, The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T.
 Souter, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., The Hon.
 Sir Charles.
 Bracken, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., The Hon.
 Mr. G. T. H.
 Raja of Bobbili, K.C.I.E., The Hon. the
 Rajan, The Hon. Mr. P. T.
 Kumaraswami Reddiyar, The Hon.
 Diwan Bahadur S.
 Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur.
 Ahmed Meeran Sahib Bahadur, A. M.
 Alamelumangathayaramma, Mrs. K.
 Annamalai Chettiyyar, Mr. S. A. A.
 Appadurai Pillai, Diwan Bahadur A.
 Arasu, Mr. V. T.
 Ari Gowder, Mr. H. B.
 Basheer Ahmed Sayeed Sahib Bahadur.
 Basu Dev, Mr. C.
 Beyabani Sahib Bahadur, S. M. K.
 Boag, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. G. T.
 Dalavoi, Mr. R.
 Devadasan, Mr. M.
 Dharmalingam Pillai, Rao Sahib V.
 Duraiswami Reddiyar, Mr. K. M.
 Gopalaswami Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur M.
 Halasyam Ayyar, Mr. N.
 Harischandrudu Nayudu, Mr. A.
 Indrayya, Mr. C.
 Iswaran Pillai, Mr. I. C.
 Jagannatham, Mr. H. M.
 Jayaram Nayudu, Rao Sahib C.
 Jones, I.C.S., Mr. C. E.
 Kesavaramamurti Nayudu, Mr. K.
 Kolanda Reddi, Rai Sahib C.
 Koti Reddi, Mr. K.
 Krishnamurti, Rao Bahadur D.
 Kumararaja of Venkatagiri, The.
 Madanagopal Nayudu, Mr. R.
 Manikkavelu Nayakar, Mr. M. A.
 Moidoo Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur T. M.
 Moses, Mr. P. C.
 Muniswami Pillai, Rao Sahib V. I.
 Muthu Chettiyyar, Rao Bahadur P. C.
 Nachiyappa Gounder, Mr. K. A.
 Nadimuthu Pillai, Mr. A. Pl. N. V.

Nanjappa Bahadur, Rao Bahadur Subadar-Major S. A.
 Narasimhaswami, Rao Sahib D. V.
 Narayanan Nambiyar, Mr. V. P.
 Natesa Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur C.
 Obi Reddi, Mr. C.
 Palat, Mr. R. M.
 Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R.
 Patnaik Mahasayo, Sriman M. G.
 Patro, K.C.I.E., Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
 Pattabhiramayya, Mr. K.
 Peddi Raju, Mr. P.
 Pocker Sahib Bahadur, B.
 Premayya, Mr. G. R.
 Rajagopala Pillai, Mr. P. V.
 Raj Kumar M. A. Muthiah Chettiyyar of Chettinad.
 Ramachandra Padayachi, Mr. P. K.
 Ramamurti, Rao Sahib Pandit Ganala.
 Raman Menon, Mr. K. P.
 Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. T. S.
 Rameswara Rao, Mr. G.
 Ranganatham, Mr. N.
 Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A.
 Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. G.
 Rangaswami Reddi, Mr. M. B.
 Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar, Diwan Bahadur C. S.
 Ratnavelu Thevar, Mr. P.
 Rukmani Lakshmiopathi, Mrs. A.
 Russell, I.C.S., Mr. T. B.
 Scott Brown, I.C.S., Mr. W.
 Sesha Reddi, Rao Bahadur B. P.
 Simhachalam Pantulu, Mr. G.
 Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar, Mr. K. S.
 Smith, Mr. J. M.
 Srinivasan, Diwan Bahadur R.
 Sriramulu, Mr. G.
 Subbarayan, Dr. P.
 Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
 Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
 Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.
 Thangal, Mr. P. M.
 Uzielli, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. H. R.
 Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.
 Venugopal Nayudu, Rao Bahadur R. K.
 Wright, Kt., Sir William.
 Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.
 Zamindar of Mirzapuram, The.

[2nd March 1936]

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Administration of Justice

Recruitment to the Judicial Subordinate Service by competitive examination.

* 874 Q.—Mr. M. S. SRESHTA: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it has been decided to throw open all appointments in the Judicial Subordinate Service for competitive examination; and

(b) if so, when will the first examination be held?

A.—(a) All subordinate appointments in civil courts except the High Court will be included in a service called the Madras Judicial Subordinate Service and the Madras Services Commission which will recruit candidates for the service will hold a competitive examination as in the case of the Madras Ministerial Service.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Electricity

Opinion of the local bodies in North Arcot with regard to the agency for the distribution of power in the area.

* 875 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have ascertained the opinion of all the local bodies in the district of North Arcot, as to whether they would prefer Government to distribute them electric power direct; and

(b) if so, how many of them do not propose to take power if distributed through licensees?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 872 given on the 29th February 1936.

(b) The Government have no information that any local body has any such intention.

Representations in favour of Government undertaking the distribution of electricity in Wallajah taluk.

* 876 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: With reference to the answer to clause (a) of question No. 636, answered on the 31st January 1936, will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state what action the Government have taken on the recent resolution of the municipality?

A.—The question is still under consideration.

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Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—“ May I know why there should be this hesitation on the part of the Government and why this question at all should be considered? The question is whether Government can do it. As they have taken up generation, they have also to take up the distribution.”

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—“ There is no hesitation on the point. But a little consideration is necessary. I do not think hon. Members expect us to pass orders without considering the question.”

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI:—“ If the Government has taken up generation, they have also to take up the distribution. What is the consideration necessary? ”

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—“ That question has been answered times out of number. It has been stated that it is not a matter which can be settled offhand. Anyway it depends on various factors, and those factors have been mentioned in the course of the answers on the floor of the House.”

Land Revenue Administration

Percentage of land revenue collected during the last fasli.

* 877 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state what per cent of the land revenue has been collected in each district during the last fasli?

A.—A statement* showing the percentage of the current balance of land revenue to current demand at the end of fasli 1344 (1934–35) is annexed.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—“ The district of Ramnad which is included in the list of arrears shows a balance of 33.05 per cent. What are the special reasons, may I know for this? ”

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—“ The special reason for that is the condition of the estates of Sivaganga and Ramnad, one of which, Ramnad, is under the Court of Wards and the other one has recently been handed over to the zamindar. They are greatly behind in the payment of peshkash.”

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—“ I find so far as Anantapur and Bellary are concerned, it is 1.65 for Anantapur and 4.05 for Bellary. Does it not show, Sir, that it is not possible to collect and therefore remission ought to be granted? ”

The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—“ I cannot see that that follows, Sir.”

[2nd March 1936]

Damage to crops caused by pest in the Tanjore district.

* 878 Q.—Mr. V. NADIMUTHU PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any report from the Collector of Tanjore about the damage caused to the standing crops by pest and the consequent poor yield;

(b) if not, whether the Government will be pleased to call for a detailed report from the Collector of Tanjore about the same;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations from the mirasidars of the Tanjore district about the same;

(d) what action the Government propose to take on the same;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Government have deputed the mycological expert to investigate and report about the causes of the pest and about the poor yield of wet lands this year in the Tanjore district;

(f) whether the Government have received his report;

(g) if so, whether the Government will be pleased to lay the same on the table;

(h) what action the Government propose to take on the same; and

(i) in view of the extensive damage to crops and the consequent poor yield this year, whether the Government propose to grant any special remission in the case of Tanjore district?

A.—(a) & (b) The Collector of Tanjore has informed the Government that a variety of paddy called Kattai Samba in certain villages in the tail end taluks of the delta is affected with pests and that he is considering whether any special remission will be required or not.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Government have informed the Secretary of the Tanjore District Delta Mirasidars and Landowners' Association, Mayavaram, that the necessary representations should be made in the first instance to the local officers and the Board of Revenue.

(e) The Government Mycologist and the Government Entomologist have been asked by the Director of Agriculture to investigate and report on the matter.

(f) Their report is awaited.

(g) & (h) The questions will be considered after the receipt of the report.

(i) No such proposals are at present under the consideration of the Government.

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Education

Representation for the award of a more liberal grant to schools maintained for the benefit of the scheduled classes.

* 879 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representation has been received either by Government or by the Director of Public Instruction suggesting that in respect of grants for aided schools maintained for, and imparting free education for, the children of the depressed classes and other scheduled classes, the 50 per cent increase rule and the general cut imposed owing to inadequate funds placed at the disposal of the District Educational Councils should not operate;

(b) whether any request has been made that the Director of Public Instruction should be empowered to give special grants equal to three-fourths of the net expenditure; and

(c) whether any and, if so, what orders have been passed by the Government in this matter?

A.—(a) One such representation was received by the Director of Public Instruction in September last from the Honorary Secretary, the Depressed Class Mission, Mangalore.

(b) Such a request was made in the representation referred to above.

(c) The Honorary Secretary was informed by the Director that his suggestions were unacceptable.

Rao Sahib V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I know, Sir, if the Hon. Minister for Education received any deputation on this question last year?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"I have no recollection, Sir."

Recruitment of Junior and Senior Deputy Inspectors of Schools for the quinquennium ending 1935.

* 880 Q.—Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education and Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) how many vacancies of Junior Deputy Inspectors of Schools and Senior Deputy Inspectors of Schools have occurred in each year for the past five years including 1935;

(b) of these how many have been filled up by direct recruitment and how many by promotion from the school staff in each year; and

(c) what the numbers are according to communities and according to the districts (each separately) in each of those years?

A.—The information * required is given in the appended statement.

[2nd March 1936]

S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur:—" May I know, Sir, why no Muslim of the Ceded districts has been appointed either by direct recruitment or by promotion? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" Probably because no candidate was available."

S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur:—" There are separate schools in Bellary, Nandyal and Kurnool. May I know if the Hon. Minister will kindly consider the case of representing these four districts? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" The question of appointing Muslims is being considered. I understood my hon. Friend to ask me why Muslims of the Ceded districts have not been appointed. I do not think Government have considered the Muslims of one area as different from another."

S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur:—" Out of the total one Muslim has been appointed for the whole district of Malabar. Will the Hon. Minister kindly give due consideration to the question of the Ceded districts being represented? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—" I cannot make any promise with reference to this question."

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION.

State of health of a Madras Conspiracy Case prisoner, Mr. Joseph.

880-A Q.—Mr. N. HALASYAM AYYAR:—" Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether he received any information regarding the state of health of one Mr. Joseph, Madras Conspiracy Case political prisoner who is said to be lying seriously ill in the sanatorium of Bellary, suffering from consumption having developed affection of both the lungs and intestines, what the exact condition now is and whether the Government will be pleased to consider the advisability of releasing the prisoner in view of the serious condition of his health? "

A.—The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—" Sir, in the first place, I must say that the conspiracy case prisoner is not the same as a political prisoner. In the second place, the present prisoner is not a political prisoner at all but an ordinary conspiracy case prisoner. But after hearing from you and the hon. Member I sent a telegram to the Superintendent of the Jail and from the Superintendent's reply I find that the information received by the hon. Member is rather exaggerated. It is no doubt true that the weight of this prisoner was reduced by a few pounds. On his admission in November last his weight was 95 lb. It came down to 93 lb. as we found from the report of the 15th January. Now the telegram that has been received says that his health has been fair. That would not certainly mean seriously ill as the hon. Member must have been informed. Now as regards the other question whether he is suffering from consumption and whether both the lungs and intestines were affected, Government have no information but

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Government will call for it. As regards the other question whether his condition is growing from bad to worse, it does not appear to be growing worse except that he has lost 2 lb. But certainly every one of these questions will be communicated to the Superintendent of the Jail and information obtained and placed at the disposal of the hon. Member as soon as it is received."

Mr. N. HALASYAM AYYAR:—" For the information of the Government, I may draw their attention to a report appearing in the *Swarajya*."

The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—" All that appears in the newspapers cannot be said to be correct."

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—" Are hon. Members permitted to bring their walking sticks into the House, Sir? According to the convention in the Parliament, I understand, walking sticks should not be brought into the House? "

S. M. K. BEYABANI SAHIB Bahadur:—" I have not got any intention of beating Mr. Arasu."

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—" Does the hon. Member suggest that Mr. Arasu, asked him to bring the stick in? " (Laughter).

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

II.—THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE AND THE FINANCE COMMITTEE—MEMBERS ELECTED.

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—" I have to announce that, as a result of the elections held on Saturday, the 29th February 1936, the following hon. Members have been declared duly elected:—

The Public Accounts Committee for 1936-37—

- (1) Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed.
- (2) Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar.
- (3) Mr. K. Kesavaramamurti Nayudu.
- (4) Mr. U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt.
- (5) Rao Sahib D. V. Narasimhaswami.
- (6) Mrs. K. Alamelumangathayaramma.
- (7) Rao Sahib V. Dharmalingam Pillai.

The Finance Committee for 1936-37—

- (1) Kumararaja of Venkatagiri.
- (2) Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig.
- (3) Mr. P. Peddi Raju.
- (4) Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder.
- (5) Mr. G. Sriramulu.
- (6) Mr. H. M. Jagannatham.
- (7) Mr. P. M. Thangal.
- (8) Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar.

The general discussion on the budget will be resumed."

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III.—GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1936-37—cont.

* Rao Bahadur D. KRISHNAMURTI:—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise to join in the general chorus of appreciation and congratulations showered on the Hon. the Finance Member on his first budget and his first budget speech. I have known the Hon. Member for a considerable length of time. Even to-day his name is very popular among the agriculturists of the East Godavari district as a benevolent and popular Collector. It will not be a matter for surprise if the future Government will think of him as a very able and successful Finance Minister. A word or two in connexion with this will not be out of place if I mention here that he belongs to the much maligned and criticised service, the Indian Civil Service. This service has given rise to an expression coined by the Congress politicians, called "a sundried bureaucrat." Whatever it may be it must be remembered that the financial resources of this Province have been husbanded so carefully and with so much foresight, which does credit to any body of civil servants. We are now on the eve of Reforms. If we are able to present a very satisfactory financial condition it is in no small degree due to the efforts of the Indian Civil Service. It must also be remembered, Sir, that the civil service of this country including both Indian and European has stood the test of time and has established a record for impartial dispensation of justice and injustice to none and has shown to the country what a model service ought to be. My hon. Friend, Mr. Simhachalam Pantulu, the other day made some observations about the Hindu Religious Endowments Board and its work. I would not have cared to trouble the patience of the House but for the fact that most of his criticisms have been ill-directed and are based on ignorance. I remember last year when I was addressing an audience of archakas and trustees in Guntur as Commissioner in charge of that district my hon. Friend exhorted the trustees to co-operate with the Board and was giving me a certificate, for quick disposal of the business. The same gentleman has been now calling the Hindu Religious Endowments Board, a white elephant, that it has not been doing useful work and it must be abolished. I will certainly welcome any constructive criticism which would tell us where we are wanting in so that we may try to set our house in order. But vague, reckless, and indifferent allegations of this type do not require a moment's examination, much less will they help to serve any useful purpose. However, for the information of this House and more for the information of my hon. Friend, Mr. Simhachalam Pantulu, I must mention here a few facts. The Hindu Religious Endowments Board has under its control various kinds of institutions about 20,904 in number scattered all over the Presidency. It has about 70 permanent hands including clerks and attenders and 13 temporary hands at the headquarters and about 35 hands employed in the mufassal for discharging its function. The income from all religious endowments in this province ranges from 3 to 4 crores of rupees, an income equal to the revenues of the Mysore State. Mr. G. Simhachalam Pantulu mentioned the other day that there was no disposal of cases. Five hundred and three enquiries relating to the

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various sections of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act have been disposed of by the Board in 1935 and on 27th January 1936, the outstanding enquiries are only 253 including current and fresh enquiries. Besides, over a thousand objections on the revenue side have been disposed of by the new Board. If only my hon. Friend has taken some pains to study the Administration Report, I am sure he would not have made such baseless and false allegations against the Board. I do not know what personal grievances he has got. But on materials furnished by him, I do not think he has made out any case in support of his sweeping unreasonable proposals. My hon. Friend, Mr. Parthasarathi Ayyangar, has been more restrained in his criticism of the Board. He has visualized himself 'a superman' who if appointed as Commissioner of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board would bring in the spirit of a real League of Nations in the spiritual administration. This is certainly a very high ideal for one to pitch upon. But it is very difficult practical politics. I am sure he is on the Committee of the Tirupati Devasthanam administration, and how far he has been able to translate his ideal into practical politics is a matter of study and examination. I would not tire the patience of the House with any more details about the critics of the Board, but I would proceed to some other topics. It must be remembered that the State recognized long ago that it is one of the most important duties to supervise and control the administration of religious endowments in this province. During the days of the East India Company, the State itself took up the supervision of administration of religious endowments, and managed them. After the passing of Act XX of 1863 supervision was left in the hands of non-official Committees constituted under the said Act, but Government's experience found the same to be wanting. The Hindu Religious Endowments Board has come into existence in the teeth of opposition from powerful vested interests, trustees of maths, temple and orthodox pandits. During the early stages of its life, several attempts were made to throttle its existence, but the Board has come to stay. To-day, Sir, the Board is constantly terrorized by the incubus of a debt of a little over 3 lakhs borrowed from Government in the early stages of its existence on account of certain defects in the legislation. On account of the debt, Sir, the Board has not been able to go in for additional staff to render its work more useful and extensive. Another distressing circumstance is the constitution of the new Orissa Province by which a portion of Ganjam is included in the new province area and income to the extent of Rs. 12,000 will be cut off from the Board's revenues hereafter. May I suggest to the Hon. the Chief Minister that the operation of this Act may be extended to the transferred area during the transition period in the same way as it has been done in the case of the Co-operative department?

"Within the limited time at my disposal, I would like to mention one or two other matters in brief and close my speech. Sir, a stupendous problem baffling easy solution is attracting the attention of public men, the Government, propagandists and various party men. I refer to the problem of unemployment. Thousands and thousands of young men are

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driven of desperation and despondency, and some of them in their desperate moods even resort to very undesirable methods including terrorist activities. It may be said that it is a very difficult question and that it is not a matter with which the State should fully interest itself. I submit, Sir, that Queen Victoria of cherished memory laid down a motto, viz., 'in the contentment of my people lies my strength.' It is certainly one of the duties, though perhaps not a primary duty, of the State to try to alleviate all kinds of discontent by finding adequate methods to solve the problem.

"We have already reached the maximum level of taxation in land revenue, and it is the duty of the State to explore new methods of taxation preferably of an indirect kind. It is a pity, Sir, the Tobacco Bill has to be dropped, and Government are really fighting shy to retrace their steps with regard to legislation for the imposition of tolls. Whatever may be said against it, the absence of toll income has throttled the activities and the very lives of local boards, especially the district boards and municipalities. I think the time has come when Government should open their eyes and try to find out ways and means to augment their revenues with a view to affording relief to nation-building activities and the improvement of the condition of the masses.

"Now, Sir, there are two departments about which I want to refer. One is the Police department and particularly the ill-paid police constable. They are a very low-paid set of people but are entrusted with responsible duties. They are responsible for public peace and tranquillity. It is no doubt a very costly proposal to think of enhancing the pay of the police constables all over the Presidency. But to-day or to-morrow the problem has to be faced bravely.

"I advocate a similar increase of salary in the case of the village officers. For every little piece of work the Government has to do, they have to call upon the village officers, the village karnams and the village munsifs. Sir, one of the ways of solving the problem of unemployment is to increase the salaries in those two departments, viz., the Police department and the village officers, with a view to make these two services attractive to educated young men to join those services. There are thousands and thousands of villages in this province, and if Government care to solve the unemployment problem, they will have to start State technological schools wherein educated young men can be trained in agriculture, spinning and weaving, minor cottage industries, public health, rural sanitation, indigenous crafts, rural economics, agricultural credit and civics, a batch of young men, say two or three, can be set apart for each village on an average salary of 30 to 50 rupees. This would to a great extent relieve the unemployment among our young men, and at the same time it would really bring the villages directly into touch with the administration, so that their grievances may be placed before the Government and take advantage of all the latest improvements to relieve their distress. The scheme may appear to be very gigantic, and

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it may also be considered very impracticable. But, I submit this is a matter worth while being examined into by the Economic Board. I must congratulate the Hon. the Chief Minister, the Raja Sahib of Bobbili, most heartily for having organized the Economic Board in the face of opposition from some sections of this House. It is a step in the right direction, but I should say it is a very bold beginning. The other day, the Hon. the Chief Minister brought forward a proposal to give effect to the recommendations contained in Mr. Vipin's report. It was said that this was a premature scheme and the same should not be proceeded with before again consulting public bodies. This would mean only delay and nothing more. This scheme is intended to promote economic welfare of the ryots, the village artisans and the labourer, by giving better transport facilities for marketing goods, etc. As it is to-day we find the masses of this country are at the mercy of agitators and propagandists who are out to misrepresent and manufacture discontent with a view to organize and carry on their propaganda and programme. The viewpoint of the Government is not placed before them. It is therefore time that the Government should do something in the interests of rural population. The only remedy that is in the hands of Government is to educate them in agriculture, crafts and industries by giving them proper help as far as practicable and thus earn their confidence and everlasting goodwill of the teeming millions of the country."

* Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO:—Mr. President, Sir, the Budget and Memorandum accompanying it reflect much credit on the Hon. the Finance Member and the Finance Department. The Hon. Finance Member said that the budget is not spectacular or that there are no real budget surprises. I believe, Sir, that he is very modest and that he has underestimated his own ability and experience, the great care and circumspection with which he has been able to adjust both the revenue and expenditure without any deficit. Sir, if we make a general review of the financial budgets of the other provinces in India under the diarchic system, except perhaps Bombay, in all other provinces we find that they have been exhibiting a sad spectacle of deficit budgets. Some of them are so worked out that they are on the point of breaking down, and they say that they will not be able to run the administration unless the Central Government or Sir Otto Niemeyer gives them some substantial relief with a view to enable them to carry on the administration. In the face of such a spectacle as that, we see that the Madras budget has been adjusted in a manner that it does not make any attempt of that kind. They have not been managing their finances in the past with care so that their revenues fell, expenditure increased, and therefore they are in deficit. On the other hand, the Madras budget has been so carefully prepared and the department has been such a keen watch-dog that the revenue and expenditure have always been kept in view before any schemes have been allowed to be introduced or carried out. Therefore, it reflects in my view no small credit on the Hon. the Finance Member and his department for producing the budget that we have before us to-day. If it is not spectacular, Sir, the present Finance

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Member is at least free from the pessimism of his predecessors. Let us look at what his predecessors have said from time to time in introducing their budgets. One of them has said that he was placing before us a 'hand to mouth' budget, and this went on for over three years. Another Finance Member said that we are 'living upon our reserves.' But the present Finance Member has not to say that it is a hand to mouth budget nor that it is one in which he has to draw on the reserves for the purpose of current expenditure. Yet he has been able to meet the demand of some of the Part II schemes. It is not a small effort in arriving at such figures as may enable him to provide for Part II schemes. If it is, as I said, even a humdrum budget, if there are no proposals for imposing taxation including the tobacco tax, if there are no salary cuts, if there is no reduction in Court-fees, stamp duties, and registration fees, if there is no real readjustment of the principles of finance on which the Madras finance should be based or if he has not been able to make a larger provision for economic development and rural uplift, it is not his fault. It is the fault of the system which we have got and the system will, we hope, soon disappear. As you know, Part I schemes are obligatory and Part II are optional. In other words, obligatory must first be provided for and only the balance spent on Part II schemes. In adjusting the finances between these two schemes the Hon. the Finance Member has done all he could so that it is unnecessary to have recourse to taxation. Therefore it may not be possible at present to provide for a very flourishing budget. But as it is it is a satisfactory one.

"Then, Sir, there are certain important matters relating to my constituency to which I should refer namely, first the economic depression, secondly the condition of civil administration in that portion of Ganjam that is to remain with Madras. Before I make any reference to them, I should express my satisfaction that we have not to pay tobacco tax for the next year. I regret but I am not surprised at the view taken by the European group with regard to taxation. It is unnecessary for me on this occasion to refer to their assertion. I am not surprised at their statement because we have got the admission by the Chairman of the European group—I refer to the speech of the Chairman of the European Association of Madras, which under the able guidance of Mr. F. E. James who is now in the Assembly, that they wanted to make it an independent organization and to take an active part and co-operate with the different groups with a view to their own consolidation and improvement. Mr. W. K. M. Langley spoke as follows. I am reading from a bulletin of the European Association issued by the committee of the Madras branch in January 1936.

'My own experience is that in proportion to our numbers our influence in the Legislative Council is very great indeed. I believe that that influence will become greater and not less under the reformed Constitution and that for one simple reason. Hitherto inevitably, whether rightly or wrongly we as Europeans have been regarded as part of the Government and consequently we are apt to get kicks for the policies of the Government though we have very little to do and with which on many occasions we have not been in agreement. That is our position now.'

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"The position of the Europeans as described by Mr. Langley is quite clear. I am not therefore surprised that the spokesman of the European group has given expression to his feelings in regard to taxation which I would deal with in detail as and when occasion arises. But it is sufficient for me to say it only speaks of the way of the seasoned bureaucracy, the seasoned banyas who will always be for the classes and not for the masses. We have got instances of it. For instance, in the development of cottage industries through the agency of Government we have had painful experience of how it was argued the Government were competing with the capitalists. I am here as a representative of the masses (voices of 'hear, hear') to present the case on behalf of the masses. Therefore, my point of view is the point of view of those who represent the masses and the rate-payers and the country do fear that great injustice will be done to them if Government would impose the tobacco taxation now. Under the present circumstances, where the European group is part of the bureaucracy, should they not wait till the new Reforms come in when there will be greater freedom for that group to be able to express their opinions? Therefore, I do say it is unnecessary for me to go into the details of it, nor do I wish to enter into what is called protection of rights of any community in India. But I am not surprised at the warmth of expression with which the taxation of the masses is welcomed by the European group.

"Then coming to my constituency it is known that parts of my district, that is, what remains of the Ganjam district in the Madras Presidency, have been very hard hit; scarcity is prevailing everywhere; there is no water, no fodder, no seed grains. That is the state. I am glad that Government have taken prompt steps in the matter. The Collector and a Member of the Board of Revenue visited the affected parts and have suggested measures to ease the situation. The Hon. the Revenue Member and myself discussed the problem, and steps have been taken to relieve the ryot. But the nature of the relief has not been adequate. What the ryot wants is the supply of seed grains; what he wants is the repair of tanks and immediate provision of wells. The recent rain supply will last only for a few days. It is necessary to provide work for the ryot and the labourer till the time when agricultural operations would begin. In Sompeta, Tekkali and Mandasa the relief works are not adequate. What we want is larger provision for the purpose of carrying on till the next agricultural season. Provision should be made for the supply of seed grains. The kist should be remitted, Government should use their moral influence and persuasion in regard to zamindars. The zamindars should be persuaded to spend money on repairs of irrigation sources and to give the help which the Government have now been giving to the ryot so that he may tide over the present difficult season. I am sure that when the report of the needs and necessities of that area reaches the Government, Government will make more liberal provision for helping the cultivator and the labourer in that area.

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"The next point referred to relates to what remains of the Ganjam district. Regarding the bifurcation of the district Mr. Patnaik has referred to certain difficulties. He has pleaded for large finances for that part that will go to Orissa and earnestly advocated for better conditions in that part of Ganjam. My part remains with Chicacole division. In the adjustment of civil administration great injustice is sought to be done to the people of this division. Why this place of all places in the Ganjam district which is a most central place should be neglected. I would ask the Hon. the Law Member why a sub-court at Chicacole should not be established but should be transferred to Vizianagram. Hon. Members may not have experience of the hot weather in Vizianagram from April to August. It is horrible condition there. Where would people remain in that town? I am not speaking of the sub-judge or of the staff. The Government is there to provide facilities for them. But what would be the plight of people from Ichchapur and other places who have to go by train at great expenditure to Vizianagram in the hot weather? Vizianagram is a very hot place. So I won't call it wisdom to select such a place as the centre. It has been the policy of the Government to avoid all these places and the headquarters of the zamindaris. For instance, in north and south there has not been a place where a zamindari headquarters has been chosen for the sub-judge's or judge's court. As regards buildings and accommodation there is ample room available in Chicacole. I would ask the Hon. the Law Member is there not a munsif's court in Chicacole and are not litigants coming to it from various places, and has there been any complaint hitherto? Chicacole is an ancient town. Chicacole is an important town; it is on the banks of the Nagavalli river; good vegetables can be found there in any quantity; if the sub-judge is a vegetarian he will enjoy that place. You have got a Sub-Collector there who has been carrying on admirably. There is the question of distance. But that has been minimised considerably after the advent of the buses which run to and from. Chicacole is still the trading centre for all those areas, though the trade is divided between Chicacole and Amudalavasa. There are buses going from Palkonda and other places and they run almost regularly from one part of the division to the other. Under these circumstances I fail to understand why Chicacole should not be selected for the headquarters of the sub-court. When there is a munsif's court there, when there is a Sub-Collector's office, why should you drive the poor ryot from Ichchapur to Vizianagram? We have not a direct line from Dusi to Chicacole road; even Palkonda people find it easy to go there. If therefore the jurisdiction is readjusted properly and the Law Member examines the point carefully, surely he will be convinced that Chicacole is far better than and in all respects superior to Vizianagram.

11-45 a.m. "We do not like Vizianagram at all because firstly it is a zamindari headquarters and secondly it is a place far removed from the outlying places. The Government ought to look to the convenience of the people generally and not to the comforts of the sub-judge or of the clerks

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who will be working under him. I trust therefore that from the point of view of the people, Chicacole will be chosen as the headquarters for the sub-court and a committee may be appointed to examine the matter if necessary."

* Diwan Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. Deputy President, Sir, while Sir Hopetoun Stokes in his last year's Budget speech had taken the position of trade prices for eight months from April to December, this year to show the tendency in the rise of prices the figures for four months from October to January have been taken by the Hon. the Finance Member. This shows that statistics are being taken by Government to suit the view advanced by them.

"While the increase due to higher prices for groundnut has been put down as four crores, the loss due to fall in the price of cotton especially since December last and the fall in the price of jaggery and pepper have not been even roughly computed. The rise under hides and skins should not be taken as indicating the prosperity of the ryot as the higher price benefits only a few exporters, while the agriculturists have to pay more for their requirements in leather for picottah, etc. In view of this, I disagree with the Hon. the Finance Member's statement that 'on balance I think it is clear that the agricultural population has gained very considerably by the increase in the prices.'

"It is really unfortunate that the Hon. the Finance Member should have considered the rise in excise revenue due to arrack shop sales as 'a financial barometer to be taken as a pointer for better times.' On the other hand, I consider this rise to be a sign of the moral depravity to which the people are driven under the present system of Government.

"While I have expressed my dissent at the increase in the arrack revenue, I congratulate and compliment the Hon. the Law Member and his Chief Engineer Major Howard, for the expeditious way in which the schemes of hydro-electric development are being pushed through for increasing the material prosperity of the country and thereby getting additional revenues to the Government—not to speak of the boon of light brought to the doors of every poor man even in remote villages. If the scheme of industrial development which are rapidly taking place in this province due to hydro-electric schemes are not simultaneously accompanied by correspondingly large irrigation schemes such as Lower Bhavani project and the Tungabhadra project to increase the growth of industrial crops, I am afraid a time will come when, sooner than later, there will be a lack of sufficient raw materials to be used up by industrial concerns started as a result of the hydro-electric development. In this connexion I am reminded of the speech of Sir Hopetoun Stokes contained in paragraph 21 of his last Budget speech wherein he has stated that the capital expenditure may advantageously be applied to more extensive programme of irrigation works. I am sorry why the Finance Member has not taken this House into his confidence to tell us how far the recommendations

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adopted at the Economic Conference held in April 1934 at Delhi to develop irrigation schemes has been pursued and in what stage this matter stands at present. Beyond referring to the approval of this House for an expenditure of 50 lakhs for an accelerated programme of minor irrigation and repairs, the Finance Member has not mentioned a word in regard to major irrigation schemes such as the Lower Bhavani project for Coimbatore and the Tungabhadra scheme for the Ceded districts.

"When I have congratulated the Hon. the Law Member and his Chief Engineer for the satisfactory development of hydro-electric schemes, I should like to bring to their notice that the existing Schedule of tariff rates to high tension consumers is somewhat high and defective in some respects. I request the Government to fix a lower tariff rate to the district consuming double of what is consumed in any other district and also to reduce in particular the existing rate for energy consumed for agricultural purposes. I am sure this must be possible especially when the supply has exceeded the expectations of the Government.

"It grieves me to state that in recent years the administration of local bodies has received a set back mostly due to the several legislative enactments made by Government and their frequent interference with their normal functioning. I have in the past emphasized the need for investigation into the causes for the lapse of funds allotted to local bodies. But I am sorry to say that Government have not done anything in that direction. Funds are allotted almost at the tail-end of the year and conditions difficult of fulfilment by local bodies, without having regard to their slender resources and financial commitments, are imposed. A way has not been found to relax the conditions nor are the allotments made earlier. The demand for sanction of additional grants to local bodies either a fixed percentage of general revenue or by assignment of certain portions of earmarked revenues has been ignored.

"That far-sighted statesman the late Sir P. Rajagopalachariyar who realized the need for the augmentation of the resources of local bodies made ample provision for expanding sources of revenue in the Acts of 1920 which he piloted with conspicuous ability and the policy underlying which was pursued well by the eminent statesman the late Raja of Panagal. Due to the short-sighted policy pursued by Government in later years, several of such resources are not now available to local bodies. The abolition of tolls, the withdrawal from the municipalities of the power to levy vehicle tax on motor vehicles, the abolition of private scavenging fees and of companies tax, the unjust and in several instances illegal executive orders issued by Government in the matter of assessment of Government and railway properties, the withdrawal from the local bodies of the power to levy tax on non-motor vehicles that only ply for hire within their limits, have all crippled their finances to such an extent that they are unable to provide for the ordinary amenities they are expected to do.

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"The Motor Vehicles Taxation Act has grievously disappointed the expectations of the Government and the local bodies in compensating the latter for the permanent loss incurred consequent on the abolition of tolls. This loss and the abolition of taluk boards and the Road Development Fund and the delay in bifurcating the larger district boards have thrown the entire local board administration out of gear and have only tended to prolong the difficulties of administration, not to speak of the uneasiness caused to Government.

"The Madras District Municipalities Amendment Act of 1932 as drafted originally provided for the appointment of Commissioners only to ten bigger municipalities in the Presidency. It is no doubt true that the Government took power in the Act to notify other municipalities also as suitable for appointment of Commissioners. But it was little thought then that Commissioners would be appointed to all the municipalities in the presidency irrespective of their size and finance. The result is that municipal administration especially in smaller municipalities has checked the enthusiasm of non-official agency who were looked upon under the Minto-Morley and Montford Reforms to gain experience and to willingly shoulder the responsibilities attached to Local Self-Government. It is unfortunate that the responsibility for civic administration has now been placed mostly in the hands of Secretariat and other clerks who are not fitted for the job either by training or by experience in local board administration and who cannot be expected to possess the same enthusiasm as local citizens to improve civic amenities. As a result of this and to avoid the possible rub and misunderstanding, the non-officials are in many cases ceasing to take real interest in civic administration.

"May I in conclusion hope that whatever may have been done in the past the Government will before the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy take the necessary steps to restore the financial equilibrium of local bodies and to bring about harmony between them and the Government."

* Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. Deputy President, I wish to associate myself, if I may, with the felicitations offered to the Hon. the Finance Member and to his Secretary, for the good Budget presented to us this year. Sir, I hope I shall not be traversing the ground already covered by the previous speakers.

"Sir, the other day when the Debt Conciliation Bill was passed all sections here expressed gratification, and the Government also, if I may say so, gave it their good will and wished it success. The idea underlying that gratification was that that Bill would enable the heavily indebted people to liquidate their debts and that those unfortunate people would not be required to pay up their debts to the last pie, but only to the extent their resources permitted. And, Sir, if I remember rightly, the Hon. the Revenue Member remarked the other day, when he visited a place where his staff was working, that they were working well and doing good work, but that his own view was

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that the officers concerned might have taken a little more trouble to reduce the debts due by the ryots still further. I want to suggest, Sir, that the Government also, in regard to money-lending, are playing a very important part in our presidency. The huge Agricultural Loans department, I do not want to call it by hard names, is there. I want the Government to recognize the fact that they are lending money to the ryots on a large scale. Now, if really the Government mean that the ryot should benefit, they should enable him to start on a clean slate. If that is their object, the Government, as creditors, must fall in line with the other creditors to whom these ryots are owing money. I therefore respectfully suggest to the Government, whatever rules of theirs may stand in the way, not to class themselves as a class apart from the other money-lenders. They should allow their own loans to be adjusted as well. Only if this is done, the ryots will be enabled to start with a reasonable chance of making good their position. If this is done, I venture to say that in some districts where the loans are pressing very heavily on the ryots, the ryots will be able to stand on their legs. I am referring to the loans specially advanced in the years of famine. As I ventured to say once before, these sums given out as loans, should have been spent by the Government without an idea of return. I say so because the purpose for which such loans were granted was the relief of distress—to enable people to find employment. Under the rules the Government should themselves have done relief work with that money. In the circumstances, though the amounts have been granted as loans, there is a moral obligation on the part of the Government to see that the ryots do not suffer beyond their capacity for the sin of taking these loans. I suggest that the Government should pursue a liberal policy specially in districts in the famine area and earn the lasting gratitude of the people.

“The second thing I want to urge upon the Government is this: the Government have a big hierarchical system. They must be very careful when they are doing with the institutions that are immediately in contact with the people. The public are not very much concerned if one Member of Government here or a high officer elsewhere is taken away. But they will be very much affected if their village officers are removed or their taluks are abolished. The above fact should be borne in mind. At one time when they wanted to effect retrenchment, the Government asked the Collectors to effect 25 per cent reduction. Some Collectors took the Government's intention seriously and submitted proposals accordingly. But others who were more venturesome did not do so and their districts were let alone. I want the Hon. the Revenue Member to examine all these cases well and see whether, in their case a uniform principle has been adopted. In Bellary district, one or two taluks were abolished, but subsequently one, viz., Siruguppa was restored, but in respect of the other taluk Hadagalli which is a fairly big area the abolition remains and the people are obliged to walk miles and miles to carry out some of their day to day business with the Revenue Department. It is very hard indeed that they should be compelled to do so. But that is what the abolition of a

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taluk has resulted in. I suggest that a taluk be reopened in that place. If the district officials are asked, to give their opinion freely I am sure, they will to a man say that the abolition of the Hadagalli taluk was a mistake.

“Sir, on the same principle, I would argue that the registration offices should not be reduced. Even as it is, they are not far too many considering the vast area of this province. Now, I understand that there is a move to do away with a very large percentage of the registration offices. I respectfully submit that if it is so it is a very wrong move on the part of the Government. As a matter of fact it has been the declared policy of Ministers that if possible more facilities should be given to the people for registration. In fact, at one time, the Ministers were opening new offices every year and tried to extend the system of itinerating Sub-Registrars. So, in my opinion, to say that there are far too many Sub-Registrars' offices now and that they should be reduced by 10 per cent, 20 per cent or 25 per cent is a mistake. I would respectfully urge on the Hon. Minister as well as on his financial advisers, who I know have very much to say on these matters, to look at the question from the point of view of the people and see that they are not put to greater hardship than they are having at present.”

Mrs. A. RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHI:—“Sir, the Congress Members do not concern themselves to know whether the Hon. the Finance Member has been able to give us a debit balance or a credit balance. My hon. Friend Sir A. P. Patro congratulated the Hon. the Finance Member for having been able to bring about a satisfactory condition regarding the finances of this Province. Our concern, viz., the concern of those who represent the wishes of the people at large, is about the welfare of the masses. Though my hon. Friend, Sir Patro, advocated or put in a strong plea on behalf of the masses, yet we, as Congress Members, have always been anxious more than any other political party about the welfare of the people of this country. Therefore, our interests, our policy, our programme and our work do not consist in producing a well-balanced budget, but to see that the economic welfare of the people is brought about. That is our concern. Our concern is not to bother ourselves with these budgets and figures, and also the various proposals and plans for the coming year. We want a thorough reorganization of the present system of Government. What we have been demanding all these years is that the man, who pays the tax, should be in a position to control the expenditure. What we have been advocating all these years is that there should be a complete transference of power from an alien bureaucracy to the electors. We want responsible Government. We do not certainly want a Legislature of this kind, a Legislature to which the Executive is not responsible. Here we have a Legislature which is not able to control the financial policy of the Government or the manner in which money should be spent for the people. What we have been therefore advocating is to get power into our hands. That is the essence of Swaraj. Until and unless the

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transference of power takes place and until and unless the tax-payer is in a position to control expenditure, there is no use of an alien bureaucratic administration like this. I should like to ask this hon. House what this British Indian administration has done so far, especially in our Province to bring about its industrial development? Has it been able to relieve the agriculturists of their indebtedness? What we see before us to-day is an enormous debt to the extent of 2 crores. Provision to the extent of 20 lakhs has been made in the budget for the year 1936-37 for the amelioration of the condition of the agriculturists regarding agricultural indebtedness. The Hon. the Finance Member in his speech has given us some hope by saying that if this sum of 20 lakhs is not sufficient, he will be able to provide more funds for the relief of the agriculturists. What I would like to suggest to this House is that these petty measures, that these small mercies of the kind would not be adequate, and therefore the Hon. the Finance Member—I mean the Government—should take over the entire debt of 200 crores and relieve the agriculturists from their indebtedness and realize this amount from them in small amounts of annual instalments, say, 30 or 40. They must charge a nominal rate of 2 per cent or 3 per cent and not $7\frac{1}{2}$, 8 or 9 per cent. If this is done it will really bring about a great deal of relief to the agriculturists. Instead of trying to bring about the industrial progress or relief to the agriculturists, the only concern of this Government seems to be to get more and more from the tax-payer, squeeze the life-blood out of him, harass him and get the last pie out of him. That has been the policy of this Government. This is what the British Indian Government have done for us. They have landed us in an enormous debt. The Government are more particularly concerned in getting salaries. In the Constitution Act of 1935 sufficient safeguard has been provided for the services getting their salaries. The other concern of this Government seems to be to get pensions. The Government in order to pay their servants want to get as much money as possible from the tax-payer. On this occasion I should like to draw the attention of this House in what manner the poor ryot is being harassed in the collection of land revenue. The other day I had a letter from a friend of mine in Tanjore district stating that the Revenue Inspector, while on duty to collect the land assessment, went about harassing the people. I understand that he went to a village at midnight, harassed the people, pulled down the tiles from the roofs of houses, pulled away the cloths and the ear-rings that the people were wearing and worried them as much as he could. That was what was done in the name of collection of land revenue and that is the way in which collections are made. Then, again, in the South Arcot district I understand from a reliable authority that all those ryots who pay a land assessment of Rs. 5 and less than Rs. 5 are asked to pay straightway the entire amount. After all Rs. 5 is a very small amount and this could be collected in two or three instalments. I further understand that the ryot who pays a land assessment of Rs. 5 does not really pay that amount from the income that he derives from his lands. I have come to know that he pays his kist of Rs. 5 from his earnings other than that from the land.

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People who pay a land kist of Rs. 5 are very poor people, poor labourers. When land is so unproductive and so unremunerative in these days, it is but natural that these poor people fall back upon their other earnings for paying the kist. Therefore I would suggest to the Hon. the Finance Member and the Hon. the Revenue Member to see that these poor people are not harassed in the matter of collection of land revenue.

“Further, Sir, from the figures in the budget memorandum with regard to the growth of revenue and expenditure from 1920-21 to 1934-35, I find that the income from land revenue even during this depression period, i.e., from the year 1929 down to 1935 has not decreased to the slightest extent. With regard to land revenue you know that depression has been working a great deal of harm among the agriculturists, because they are not able to get proper value for their produce on account of depression and also on account of terrible fall in the prices of commodities. But the Government go on year after year without any commiseration whatsoever and collect the same amount of land revenue as they did during the olden days. 12-15 p.m.

“Then, Sir, with regard to the excise policy of the Government, the Hon. the Finance Member the other day in the course of his speech felt rather sorry because he feared that there would be a fall in the excise revenue. May I ask whether the Hon. the Finance Member wants the people to drink more and more so that the Government may get more money through this department? I thought, Sir, that the goal of the Justice Party was total prohibition. Some years ago, I do not remember which year it was but I am told it was in 1927, the Justice Party said that total prohibition was their goal and that that goal should be reached within a period of 20 years. As regards that, except for a decrease in the excise revenue, I am unable to see how far the Party in power have been able to advance towards that goal. Sir, the Hon. the Finance Member wants the people to drink and he wants also more litigation in order that this Government might run the administration through the revenue derived from litigation and drink.

“Sir, I should like also to say a word about the Department of Industries. I do not mean exactly the Department of Industries but about the industrial progress of the province.”

MR. G. SRIRAMULU:—“May I ask what is the time allotted for the speech of the hon. Member?”

* THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—“Twenty minutes as representing the Congress Party.”

Mrs. A. RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHI:—“Sir, since the Government has not done much in the way of the industrialization of the Province, I would have no hesitation in recommending the abolition of this department. As regards the Fisheries Department, they have been able to do nothing except indenting for new trawlers. If this department can do something to start the industry of canning fish just as the Western,

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countries like Canada and the United States of America have done, it will help the fishing industry. Sir, this department has done precious little for the fishing industry."

"Sir, finally I should like to end by striking a note of warning to the Government that unless the present Government brings about a radical change in their policy towards the agrarian problems, I am sure that an agrarian revolution and crisis will come up. Sir, land reform has got a great deal of bearing on national taxation and finance. Sir, it is the duty of a benign Government—I do not think this Government deserves to be called a benign Government—it is the duty, the fundamental duty of a good Government to see that its people are contented and happy and that sufficient facilities are provided for maintaining public health particularly for getting plenty of water-supply in the rural areas. Sir, I have seen many a village where the people suffer a great deal for want of good drinking water. Of course the Central Government has given a contribution of Rs. 14 lakhs for rural development and this Government proposes to spend a portion of that Rs. 14 lakhs for rural water-supply."

* The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"May I remind the hon. Member that the time allotted for her is over?"

MRS. A. RUKMANI LAKSHMIOPATHI:—"I shall finish in a minute, Sir. Sir, it is also the duty of a good Government to see that its people are literate and to this end provide sufficient facilities for education, especially elementary education. I feel that the Government should introduce free and compulsory primary education and it should be made obligatory on parents to keep their boys and girls up to a certain age in school. In Western countries, in England particularly, I read the other day that they have increased the age up to which boys and girls should remain at school to 16. Sir, when these Western countries have been able to go ahead, I do not understand why in India even free and compulsory primary education has not been introduced."

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"May I request the hon. Member to resume her seat?"

* Mr. V. P. NARAYANAN NAMBIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, however profoundly hon. Members may differ from the economic views which underlie the remarks of the Hon. the Finance Member, they will all agree in saying that the Hon. Gentleman has taken the House and the public of the province into his confidence."

"The Hon. the Finance Member characterized his general attitude towards the budget as one of hesitant hope. But to my mind it appears that alongside with that hesitant hope the Hon. Gentleman the Finance Member has not been able to escape the feeling that he is a slave of routine and a victim of circumstance. The budget, as it is one for the brief period preceding momentous constitutional changes, has attempted but to maintain *status quo* and that on two grounds: one, the concern for the future Government and second, financial experts have held that

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the position of the finances of the province is 'eminently satisfactory.' But when we examine the two grounds urged in support we realize the hollowness of the stand taken by the Finance Member. The first ground is the concern for the future Government. As I have said on more than one occasion previously, that is but citing scripture to aid. The Government have absolutely no right to safeguard the future by perpetrating an injustice in the present. The other day, Sir William Wright, to whose moderate optimism the Hon. the Finance Member referred with satisfaction, said that we need not care so much for posterity. Again if the present Government has any real concern for the future Government, then why not the present Government be guided by such policy as would be the policy of the future Government. But the speech of the Hon. the Finance Member recognizes that the policy of the future Government should necessarily be different, for at one place he says:

'I think, in future, the Budget problem will have to be approached from a somewhat new angle by the new Government. They will have, I think, first to consider what expenditure is really necessary, and then adjust taxation accordingly.'

"That is, if I may say so, a confession that hereafter, at least, the Government should exist for the people. The second ground that has been urged is that financial experts have held that the present financial position is eminently satisfactory. But did the financial experts go into the question whether there is a just correspondence between the condition of the people and the condition of the finances? Did they take into account the hard realities of the hard situation? Here I wish to refer to the speech of the hon. Member Mr. Langley so that hon. Members might know at what cost the Government have obtained the 'eminently satisfactory' certificate from successive Auditors-General and Accountants-General. Mr. Langley said in February, 1935:

'Actually it is amazing that this should be so and when one reflects on the course of prices since 1920 and when one looks at prices obtaining now as compared with the early twenties one can only come to the conclusion that even to obtain the existing revenue the agricultural industry of this province has in the process been virtually white.'

"That is how the certificate was obtained. Agriculture is the only surviving economic standby of the masses and yet no industry is in deeper distress than that industry. I trust that the Government will read aright the significance of the profound and far-reaching change which is taking place in the public opinion of the country. The Government should not misread it because of the uncomplaining manner in which taxes are being paid. My hon. Friend Rao Bahadur D. Krishnamurthi said that the profound and far-reaching change in the public opinion is the result of the work of the propagandist. That is not so. A volume of new feeling is gathering, which requires to be treated with care. New generations are rising up whose notions of the character and ideals of the British rule are derived only from their experience of the last few years and whose minds are not restrained by the thought of the work which England has on the whole accomplished in the past in this land. I wish that the Hon. the Finance Member realized

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that more than efficiency what is wanted to-day is bold and generous statesmanship. Perhaps Sir Otto Niemeyer will help to bring about that realization.

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"Sir, the criticisms that I have offered do not blind me to some of the welcome features of the Budget. I am glad that an amount of Rs. 20 lakhs has been provided for relief of rural indebtedness, and I particularly welcome the assurance that if that amount is not enough, more money will be found. All glory to the Hon. Gentleman the Finance Member for the assurance.

"Again, I am glad that larger development has been made possible in the hydro-electric department. Last year, when I spoke at the time of the general discussion of the Budget, I said:

'If the future was really the concern, then I should have found some lead in paragraph 28 of the speech of the Hon. the Finance Member in respect of the absence of elasticity in our revenues. The future that I visualize is indeed a gloomy one. The only silver lining in the dark cloud is the hydro-electric department to which an eloquent tribute was paid by the hon. Gentleman, Mr. Langley, the other day.'

"It is really gratifying to find provision of a crore of rupees for the Hydro-electric department.

"Another highly welcome feature of the Budget is the reference to the comprehensive survey which the Hon. Gentleman the Finance Member proposes to make, with a view to see what more can be done in the way of economy or adjustment of taxation. That is indeed a right move, a move which should have been taken long long before.

"I would have felt much relieved had the Hon. Gentleman the Finance Member said that alongside with the survey the question of unemployment in the country would also be considered. Nowhere else in the world do we find young men of ability and education in tens of thousands without employment. My friend, Rao Bahadur D. Krishnamurthi, has eloquently pleaded that case and I do not want to add my weight also to his own weighty words as that would be an unbearable load for the Government (Laughter).

"Sir, now to the question of the land revenue concessions. I am glad that the Hon. the Finance Member has said that land revenue concessions are necessary. But I am really sorry that land revenue concessions have, in a way, been tacked on to the Tobacco Bill. The Hon. Gentleman the Finance Member said that he did not want to anticipate the verdict of the House with reference to the Tobacco Bill. But I can tell the Hon. Finance Member that the House will not pass the measure, and my only regret is that a pleasant gentleman of the type of Sir Charles Souter should be associated with such an unpleasant measure as the Tobacco Bill. The attempt to again bring up the Tobacco Bill is, if I may use the expression of a distinguished parliamentarian elsewhere, but adding obstinacy to stupidity. I want the Government to recognize, now when we are on the eve of momentous constitutional changes, that in laying down the policy of our country,

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our say must be respected. That is what the future Government is expected to do, and I hope that the Hon. Gentleman, the Finance Member will hereafter, atleast, accept that position of fundamental importance and usher in an era of prosperity and contentment. There is a greater reason for doing so now. We understand, though not officially, that His Majesty the King-Emperor is visiting Indian soil. And there is a lively hope that the visit of the Emperor to his Indian capital will be signalized, as was of his father's visit by further evidence of sympathy for Indian wishes and Indian aspirations." (Applause.)

* Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I am glad the Hon. the Finance Member has given us a very clear idea of the financial position of this province both with regard to our balances as well as the revenue and expenditure. He also took pride in stating that the budgeting in this province has been very sound and prudent, and quoted that successive Accountants-General and Auditors-General have praised the manner in which the budgeting was carried on in this province. It was stated that it was 'eminently satisfactory' and so on. But they can be true only as far as theoretical budgeting is concerned; I should say that the Government have made a fetish of this theory of balanced or surplus Budget and neglected the substantial good to be done to the people. Looking at it from a practical point of view, I should say that the budgeting in Madras has been a failure. While in other provinces like Bengal and the United Provinces, they have spent, comparatively speaking, more money on ameliorative enterprises such as education, medical relief, etc., we have not been spending much here. Even in the matter of giving relief to the agriculturists we find that, comparatively speaking, the United Provinces Government have given greater relief than we have been doing here. I must state, Sir—and I do not know whether the Hon. Member is fully aware of it—that the condition or plight of the agricultural population is hopelessly bad. In olden days, the rulers used to be in personal touch with the actual condition of the masses and they were in a position to give adequate and satisfactory relief to the people according to the needs of the situation. But under the present system there is not that personal touch or the human touch as between the Government and the masses. The system is grinding us down in this age of machinery and we are suffering from this vicious system. Hon. Members will be aware that great revolutions are caused in countries on account of agrarian discontent and trouble. Even taking the instance of Russia, Sir, it was mainly due to agrarian discontent that the revolution took place and altered the entire administration of that country. It was so in the case of England in the middle ages and in the case of so many other countries. I may state, without fear of contradiction, that India is not going to be an exception. I would therefore urge on the Government that they should take immediate steps to improve the position of the agricultural population. Roughly, the income of this province is about Rs. 16 crores, and out of that a little less than half, or about Rs. 7 crores is derived from the agricultural people by way of land revenue. That being so, is it not

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the duty of the Government to see that that section of the population is kept in a fit condition without any discontent? But the system now is such that no great relief can be given to the agricultural population; and I may also state that the method of taxation is quite wrong. I understand that it is thought in high quarters that the present system of land taxation is entirely wrong and steps should be taken to change it. The other day some Members of Government stated that they were examining the question of varying taxation according to the variation in prices. It seems that system is being tried or is going to be tried in the United Provinces, and that it was being considered by the Board of Revenue here. I would urge on the Government to expedite that examination and to introduce a system of taxation as early as possible, based on the variation of prices, and to discontinue the present system of taking a fixed amount of tax, whatever be the prices or other circumstances.

"I was saying, Sir, that the discontent of the agricultural population was a very dangerous factor. If the Government will take the warning and do the needful, it is all the better for them. Though the direct connexion between certain unnecessary expenditure and this state of affairs may not be seen at first sight, by keeping the agricultural population in a contented state, the Government will be saving a lot of money by way of medical relief, criminal prosecutions, expenditure on jails, and even expenditure on political prisoners, etc. If people are in a contented position, there will be no need for many kinds of expenditure and even leaders of civil disobedience movements cannot find supporters for their campaign. I would even say, Sir, that even ten Gandhis cannot muster a hundred or a thousand civil resisters, if you make the agricultural population quite contented and happy.

"Sir, it may be asked that some suggestion should be made as to how to find money for giving greater relief to the agriculturists. The one item which the Government can at once think of is the salary cut. I do not know, Sir, why no attempt was made at that. If any section of the population is quite in affluent circumstances now, it is the salaried people. They are not only having their usual income, but on account of the low prices, they are in an advantageous position. The purchasing power being nearly double now, I should say that they are actually receiving double of what they used to get. The question of salary cut is not an innovation, because that had been in force, and it was removed only two or three years ago. At this stage when the prices have not in any way improved, I think there is every justification to re-impose the cut—either a regular cut or a graduated cut and thereby gain Rs. 20 or Rs. 30 lakhs for the province.

"Then with regard to motor taxation it was stated that the incidence of motor taxation is very high in this province as compared with other provinces. It should not be thought that motor transport is for the rich only. At present motor transport is to a large extent useful to the poor people also. Therefore, the Government should take steps to reduce the incidence of motor taxation.

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"Then a word I should say about the backward classes. Whenever claims of the backward communities are brought to the notice of the Government, the Government think that this question of communal representation is going too far and so they want to shut their eyes. Sir, it is a pity that the present day civilians do not attempt to understand the grievances that are put forth. They neither have the patience nor the desire to understand what is asked of them, to examine the question and to do justice. In the past about thirty or forty years ago, civilians had a great desire to understand the view points of the people and do justice, but that cannot be said of the present-day civilians barring certain honourable exceptions.

"Sir, I do not want that each and every community should be given a mathematical proportion of the appointments that would be distributed by the Government. Now, according to the communal Government Order as far as the Hindus are concerned, they, both Brahman and Non-Brahman Hindus, get seven out of twelve. I shall not now deal with the question of the proportion for Muhammadans and other minorities. When the Hindus, both Brahman and Non-Brahmans, get seven seats, is it too much to ask that for backward classes they should set apart two or three or anything like that. If they do not want to subdivide the communities further, they can abolish the present division of Non-Brahman Hindus and Brahmans because the Non-Brahman Hindus as a whole have now advanced to some extent in the matter of representation. That being so, they can abolish this division so far as they are concerned and some proportion given to backward classes among the Hindus. The backward classes in this Presidency do not represent a small proportion; they are in fact about 19 millions out of a total of 47 millions, that is, they are more than one-third of the total population. Therefore, Sir, is it not justifiable to ask the Government to have a classification on behalf of a third of the population of the province and to do them justice. If they abolish the communal Government Order I won't claim any representation for any community, but as long as they adopt the principle of communal representation and have it as a working principle they should do justice to the backward communities also. Another objection is . . ."

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"May I remind the hon. Member that it is time?"

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—"Another objection, Sir, is that it is impossible to give representation to each and every community. Sir, we, I mean about 100 communities that form the backward group, are prepared to take our chance and we do not mind which of our communities gets the chance, just as the non-Brahman Hindu community which includes about 300 communities, takes the chance now. Similarly, we, who form about 100 backward communities, are prepared to take our chance; and is it not reasonable to ask of Government to accept and adopt this division for communal representation."

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"As there are many hon. Members to speak, may I request that the speeches be limited to five minutes."

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* Raj Kumar M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR:—“ Mr. Deputy President, Sir, I am very thankful for giving me an opportunity to speak and I shall take not five minutes but only three minutes. Sir, I had no opportunity of listening to the *extempore* speech of the Hon. the Finance Member and I congratulate him especially on the departure that he has made from the usual written speech and thank him for giving us—especially latecomers like me—a printed copy of his speech. I wish to associate myself with what has been said by many of my hon. colleagues in appreciation of the financial statement made by the Hon. the Finance Member. Sir, the Budget that has been presented to us is for the interim period between the old and the new order of things. That being so, the Hon. the Finance Member was right in saying that it would not be expedient to embark on new projects. As he has admitted and as everyone admits, though the downward trend of the provincial finances has been arrested the depression has not been got through fully. As businessmen, we have felt the depression more than anybody else. I do agree that the ryots also have suffered equally along with other communities who are interested in trade and business. As bankers, we do realize that we are not yet out of the woods. Taking all things into consideration, I realize that the Hon. the Finance Member has been able to present his Budget in as best a manner as one would expect and he deserves the congratulations of all of us. In doing so, I do not pay mere formal compliment. I shall not deal with all the points as I would be accused of repetition, but I would only say that 35 lakhs has been set apart for Part II Schemes. Certainly we all agree that more money could have been provided. Then, Sir, relief of rural indebtedness and provision for hydro-electric projects have been made. Now, Sir, with regard to the question of rural indebtedness, I shall only say this much, that if the Act that we have passed quite recently should be a success, it all depends upon the working of it. I see that 20 lakhs has been set apart for the purpose. I saw a few days ago in the newspapers that they have begun the work in two taluks and that a lakh of rupees were spent so far, but I should say that the progress that has been made is rather slow. I agree, that, to start with, it will be slow. I would urge on the Member in charge of the department to set up the machinery in all the districts in order to implement the provisions of the Act and see that not only 20 lakhs is given, but more is given for relieving the agriculturists. Sir, considering the indebtedness of our province which ranges somewhere between 150 to 200 crores, this 20 lakhs is only a drop in the ocean. Of course they have made a beginning and I thank the Government for having allotted so much for the purpose and also thank the Hon. the Finance Member for the assurance he has given, namely, that if more money is needed in the course of the year, he will give. I won't blame the Hon. the Finance Member, but I request the Hon. Member in charge who will actually direct the disbursement of the loans, to set up a big machinery throughout the province and go into the whole question of applications and distribute the money. I see that Government have so far committed themselves to issuing loans up to Rs. 2,000 to each applicant and there is no use in asking

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the Government to increase the amount at present, but the only thing I want to urge on the Government is that they must be able to distribute it to as large a number of people as possible during the course of the coming year. If they do so, they will justify the Act that has been passed by this legislature.

“ Sir, with regard to the question whether it is a sin or otherwise to have presented a balanced budget, as a businessman I should say that it is not at all a sin to present a balanced budget. If it is a deficit budget, I should say it is foolish, for, one should not always borrow and live. In view of the coming Reforms and in view of the inauguration of the new Constitution, we should not hand over a deficit budget or place the new Government in a position to face deficit budgets in the future. It will be a great credit not only to the officials sitting on the Treasury Benches but also to the Members of the legislature if we help the Government in seeing that a balanced budget is presented. Otherwise, we will be rightly accused of having landed the new Government in difficulties. I was rather surprised at the remark made by the hon. the Lady Member representing the Congress group, that they are not concerned whether the budget is balanced or not, but that they are concerned with the material prosperity of the people. I wonder even if they accept office and are placed in charge of the portfolio of Finance, how they will be able to give material prosperity to the people if they are not able to adjust their finances. Probably they will finance by borrowing indefinitely and not pay the loans and then repudiate the debt. That is the only way, by which, I think, they can get on. I believe that no Government could carry on unless they are able to have a balanced budget.

“ Sir, this is the last occasion when a Member of the Civil Service, an Executive Councillor, will be presenting a budget to this Council and I should take this opportunity of openly acknowledging the services rendered by the members of the Indian Civil Service to this province. The fact that a member of the Civil Service and a member of the Executive Council has been in charge of the finances of the province, has not adversely affected the interests of this province all these years, is a matter of great congratulation to that great order of service. In the coming Constitution they will not be sitting in this Assembly and taking part in the discussions but they will, I hope, still give us their help in the administration and I have no doubt that their help will be very valuable and that we can reckon on their valuable support and advice.

“ Only one word more, Sir, in regard to Sir Otto Niemeyer Committee. Sir, I am sure the Hon. the Finance Member has put forward the case for Madras in a proper manner before that Committee. There is a feeling that because Madras has had a balanced budget and was the first to put her case and the other provinces showing deficit budgets followed later, they will have a march over Madras. I have no doubt the Hon. the Finance Member will be watching the work and progress of the Sir Otto Niemeyer Enquiry Committee and if necessary make further representations to the Committee to the effect that we have

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been able to show a balanced budget this year and in previous years at great cost, sacrificing many of the projected schemes and also by not giving greater relief to the people by way of land revenue remissions. If we have not been able to give land revenue remissions in a greater degree it was because we were anxious to see that a balanced budget was maintained. For all these reasons, I am sure Sir Otto Niemeyer will do justice to this province.

"There is only one word more and I am done. We are thankful to the Hon. the Finance Member for the comprehensive survey he hopes to make. It is a long needed one. I have no doubt the results of that enquiry will have far-reaching effects on the new Constitution and will usher in a new era of peace, prosperity and contentment to the province."

* Mr. G. SRIRAMULU:—"Mr. President, Sir, in the speech of the Hon. the Finance Member which has been printed and circulated to us, I find a sentence to the effect that his attitude towards the Budget is one of hesitant hope. Sir, this Government has forgotten that it has been also the hesitant hope of hundreds of Andhras for a direct recruitment of District Judges from among Non-Brahman Telugus. Sir, the Hon. the Law Member, who is himself a lawyer, has started his practice as a lawyer over 30 years ago and he knows what are the facts. Let him collect facts and figures about the number of District Judges in the Presidency and of whom how many are Brahmans and how many are Non-Brahmans. And I would ask him further to find out, how many Non-Brahman District Judges there are and how many of them are Andhras. He comes from the Andhra-desa. It is from the Andhra country that more than half the revenues come to the Government and a larger proportion of the people of the Presidency, I should think, is Telugu-speaking population. In extent more than a half of the Presidency is Andhra-desa. Now, Sir, if you are pleased to call for information at least for the last 15 years or even 12 years and place it before hon. Members of this House, you will find how many appointments have been made from the Andhra-desa. Can you say with confidence that even among the Non-Brahman District Judges, that many Telugu Non-Brahmans have been appointed as District Judges? I can say emphatically, the answer is 'No.' Is it because that there are no able vakils practising in any of the courts in the Andhra-desa that they have not been appointed? I can say with confidence that there are many able advocates, vakils, Barristers-at-Law and also Doctors of Law among Telugu Non-Brahmans. And may I know the reason why there has not been even a single recruitment to cadre of District Judges from among the Non-Brahmans in the Telugu area? I would, therefore, press the claims of the Andhras on the Government, for they have been systematically neglected in the past. May I know the reason for this neglect? I believe that the Government will do justice even hereafter.

"Apart from that, Sir, there is another grievance and that is with reference to the appointments in the Secretariat. It has been urged on the floor of this House many a time that there has been no adequate

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representation of Andhras even in the Secretariat or in the Revenue Board. Sir, I do not know what importance Government has given to the claims of the Andhras in the matter of their appointment as District Judges and as officials in the Secretariat and Revenue Board. Now, Sir, the Hon. the Law Member will find out from statistics whether there is a dearth of candidates for direct recruitment as District Judges from among the Telugus. I think in the impending recruitment, preference should be given to Non-Brahman Telugus.

"Sir, there is another sentence on page 2, paragraph 4 of the Hon. the Finance Member's speech, namely 'What I would like to say on the deficit at present is that national finance is not in essence different from the finances of individuals.' According to the speech of the Hon. the Finance Member, every ryot is expected to keep his budget balanced. It is not possible for the ryot to do so unless Government come forward and stretch out its helping hand to the ryot. Sir, I may tell you one instance. Sir, there are cattle coming from East and West to the Godavari districts, probably because they are rich districts in the Presidency. Every year the ryot population purchase cattle and the cattle never survive after a year, because cattle which are infected with epidemics are brought to the shandies, and soon after they die. It has been pressed more than once on the Government that a Veterinary Hospital at Bhimavaram is absolutely necessary, but it has not been cared for. In Bhimavaram and especially in the West Godavari district there are not less than five shandies where these cattle are sold but on account of infectious diseases all these cattle are dying year after year and the ryot population has been reduced to poverty. Under such circumstances, if you do not lend them your helping hand by starting a Veterinary Hospital at Bhimavaram, how can you expect the ryot to keep balanced budgets."

* The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"May I remind the Hon. Member 1 p.m. that it is time?"

* Mr. G. SRIRAMULU:—"Just one more second. As regards industries there is an agitation that sugar can be prepared directly out of palmyra juice. A representation was made to Government that an experimental station may be started this year. I think the season is from January to June. During that period if an experimental station is started, I think sugar can be manufactured easily as a home industry. They can thus earn more and balance their budget. The experimental station may be started now in West Godavari district purely for the benefit of poor toddy-drawers who number more than 10,000."

* Mrs. K. ALAMELUMANGATHAYARAMMA spoke in Tamil and the following is an English summary of the speech:—

Mr. President, Sir, it is good news to hear that 16 out of 44 lakhs from the Famine Relief Fund was to go for the benefit of the Bellary and Anantapur districts. It is also gratifying to note that the public and the Collector of Bellary co-operated in giving this relief to the needy. The demand of the mirasidars of Tanjore for more remission in

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consideration of the economic distress deserves a sympathetic consideration at the hands of the Government. The paper 'Mirasidar' published by the landholders and widely circulated mentions about their grievances and they should be taken note of by the Government. It is also known that there was a fall of 15 lakhs in the land revenue. I request the Hon. the Revenue Member that in spite of fall he should see his way to give remission. As regards education more money should be expended on elementary education and the amount against higher education may be reduced. It is also desirable that more additional grant should be provided for elementary education. The country has more need for agricultural and industrial schools than for higher education. Industries like the glass industry, button industries, match factories, etc., which could turn out the local raw produce into manufactured articles, thus affording means of livelihood to the poor, should be started in large numbers. Research stations doing experimental work in agriculture should be made to find out methods that would yield immediate results to the ryot instead of devoting all time for fundamental research which will not yield immediate results. The agriculture products which we export to other countries like cotton should be examined. The cotton growers were unable to pay the kist even, because of low prices and some remedy must be found to enable them to live. The province will gain 20 lakhs in expenditure by the separation of Orissa. In conclusion, I congratulate the Hon. the Finance Member on his able speech and on the economic budget proposals placed before the House in view of the coming reforms.

* The DEPUTY PRESIDENT:—"I request Mr. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar to finish his speech in four minutes."

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Certainly I won't take more than four minutes. I have got only three points: famine, Tungabhadra project and illiteracy. I have said enough and enough. I have been crying hoarse. No Tungabhadra yet and not even the intention. May I appeal now, now that Lord Willingdon is going away and Sir Mirza Ismail will be there, to see that something is done to expedite the scheme and give us water? Government have been wasting crores on famines. They must have spent about 10 or 15 crores. Earth work and stone cutting, stones and nothing but stones; this seems to be the order of the day. All have to be frittered away. I am grateful to the Revenue Member both on my behalf and on behalf of the Ceded districts for the statement he made in connexion with the prior claim to the Tungabhadra project which bears repetition and which with your permission I will read:

The Tungabhadra project had a prior claim to be taken up at once. The people that would be served by that project were the people of the Ceded districts mainly. The Ceded districts were constantly in the grip of economic distress. One had to see them during the famine there to realise what the real suffering of the people was. People there, had not a morsel of food during the last famine. As such, there was an immediate necessity for taking up the Tungabhadra project.

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"We are indeed very grateful for these words. Only one thing more; he has to translate these into action. I hope he will do it before he lays down his office.

"I also join the chorus of congratulations to the Finance Member. But nothing has been done to give relief to the ryot. The debt bill is a dishonouring bill. There is no measure which deserves greater condemnation at the hands of the public than this. There is no use of such a measure.

"First and foremost illiteracy must be removed. We are asked to elect members. When 90 per cent of the members are illiterate, how can they properly exercise their vote? I think the members of the treasury bench will attend to the question of their education."

* Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am indeed glad, that the Hon. the Finance Member broke the usual convention and delivered an extempore speech. Because it is a good precedent, I hope the Finance Members succeeding him in the country will follow the good example he has set. Written speech has some advantages; but, on the whole, it has more disadvantages than advantages. Because people generally know what is being said the House will become thinner and the atmosphere for a good budget speech is lost on the audience by the Hon. Member reading his speech which has already been printed and circulated. I am also glad, Sir, that the Hon. Gentleman, the Finance Member, referred to the careful way in which the finances of this province have been handled during the last 15 or 16 years since the reforms were inaugurated and I do hope and sincerely trust that Sir Otto Niemeyer whose enquiries are about to conclude, will take into consideration the point that Madras has managed the finances in a manner worthy of consideration by him in the matter of the distribution of income-tax to the provinces and will see that we do not suffer because we have been prudent and others have budgeted for deficits. The Hon. the Finance Member quoted the famous statement of Micawber. May I remind him that a reference to the finances of a private individual has no bearing on the question of Public Finance. I have been told by my professors that it is not a private man's finance which ought to be the guiding principle of any public financier for the simple reason that the private man has got to cut his coat to the cloth he has. On the other hand, it is in the hands of all Governments to so manage their finances that they can in cases of emergency find money, when they think it necessary for the well-being of the people whose fortunes they have under their guidance. To this extent, the question of public finance differs greatly from that of a private man.

"I am also glad, Sir, that the Hon. Gentleman, the Finance Member, in the end of his speech referred to the fact that our budgeting has been on a different principle from the usual Parliamentary Budget. Because, generally, the Chancellor of the Exchequer finds out what would be the expenditure that is necessary for the public

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weak and then proceeds to calculate the income on that basis. But I can understand the difficulties that have confronted the Hon. Gentlemen who have been in charge of the finances of this province. Because we have worked under a peculiar system by which the Government of India have virtually been the financial guide of this province, we have not had our own way, and we have not had financial control over our own income and expenditure. As has been told us, the future Government have got to provide balances for their treasury besides putting in a certain amount in the Reserve Bank as reserve for our expenditure. As he himself has pointed out, when we have calculated these things, our balances which now exist will really vanish into thin air, and the new Government that will come in to-morrow will have to begin anew and try to see how far they can find necessary funds for carrying on the administration. But I am sure that in spite of what has been said, the future Government will be thankful to the Finance Members of the old Governments for the way in which they have managed their finances because, to use a well-known Roman term, the present Finance Member is certainly not handing over a *damnosa hereditas* to the future Government of this province. I would like to proceed a little further than what my hon. Friend, Sir William Wright did in the matter of the complaint he made of the way in which this province has been treated by Members of the Council of the Imperial Government. As he said, it is nearly now ten years since a Finance Member of the Government of India visited this province. Does that mean that the Government of India think that Madras is doing so well that they need not visit us at all, or does it mean that the Government of India think that Madras is doing too well to need their help? I am also sorry, Sir, that Sir Otto Niemeyer did not visit the capital of this province, because, if he had done, he would have at least come to know the strong feeling that exists in this province over his own financial enquiry. But I hope with the Hon. Gentleman, the Finance Member that our case, which has been particularly well put both by the Finance Member and the Finance Secretary at Delhi, will be considered favourably and that we shall not be treated unfairly. In this connexion, I would like to ask the Hon. Gentleman, the Finance Member whether he will not now at least publish the Memorandum that they have submitted to Sir Otto Niemeyer so that the public may know what our Government did in this matter of Sir Otto Niemeyer's enquiries. Sir, so much about the budget, and I hope this will be the last time when I follow the precedent of traversing the whole system of administration. Because I hope there may be no other budget before the new Council comes in. (Interruption.) The Hon. the Finance Member nods his head, thereby meaning that I am hoping too much. I hope this will at least be the last but one budget (Laughter).

"Sir, in the matter of revenue remission, I think the Government have not gone far enough although the economic condition of the ryot is still as bad as last year and is in many ways worse for the simple

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reason that when there have been successive failures of rain and the depression has persisted for the last three years, the plight of the ryot to-day is worse than it was last year and his economic strength is becoming less and less. I hope at least in cases of districts where there has been extreme distress like Tanjore, where I believe the cyclone has caused great havoc, it will be possible for the Hon. Gentleman, the Revenue Member to think of giving further concessions, however costly they may be, in order to alleviate the economic condition of those districts.

"In the field of Local Self-Government, I would again point out to my Hon. Friend, the Chief Minister, now that he has decided that all districts which are financially possible of being bifurcated, should be bifurcated, whether he would not consider it possible to bifurcate the districts now and allocate the areas and divisions necessary and have the elections to these district boards conducted immediately, so that there may be no question of nomination. Whatever may be the bona fides of the Hon. Gentleman, he cannot get away from the remark that is often made that these nominations are made in order to bolster up certain individuals in those bodies. If for any reason he finds it not possible to hold these elections, I would like to make one further appeal, and that is, where he finds the minority communities are represented on the particular bifurcated board, he should not go and upset the majority or minority that may exist by the nominations he proceeds to make.

"I would also like to bring to his notice the question of the grant to the headquarters hospital of the Tanjore district. I believe, Sir, a notice has been served on the President of the West Tanjore District Board that the grant to second-class roads would now be stopped because the amount that is due from the board with regard to the maintenance of the headquarters hospital has not been paid by the old Tanjore District Board or the President of the West Tanjore District Board. (Interruption.) My Hon. Friend the Home Member reminds me that it is from the chatram funds. Whatever that may be, whether it is from chatram funds or the funds of the board, my point is that once the Government made it a policy under the report of the Financial Relations Committee to take over the headquarters hospitals, then I think it is their duty as they have done in other districts to find the funds from general revenues and not mulct the poor district board for the funds required, even though this board has got the Tanjore Raja's charities under its control.

"My Friend Mr. Krishnamurti talked about unemployment, and in this connexion, I would like to commend to the notice of the Hon. Members of Government the report of the United Provinces Unemployment Committee. I think Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru has added to the services he has rendered to this country, by that report, and there are points in that report which are well worthy of consideration, specially in the matter of university, secondary and primary education, which

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may really show us a way of dealing with this great problem of unemployment which is confronting every Government of the day in every province in this country. I am afraid in spite of sixteen years of the Reformed Government we have not been able to find out methods by which compulsory primary education could be introduced into this province. I myself know the practical difficulties that confront the Education Minister in this respect. The question of finance always confronts us and the inelasticity of the revenues that are under our control raises, I know, a most difficult problem for any Minister to solve. But at the same time I hope my Hon. Friend the Education Minister would think of the words of my hon. Friend, the Lady Member for the City of Madras; because I think when considerations of finance come in, there ought to be ways and means by which we can compel all children of school-going age to be at school for a particular number of years and make it possible for parents who can afford to pay, to pay for the education of such children. When in countries like England they are thinking of keeping a boy or girl at school till the age of fifteen, I think we are lagging behind far in the van of progress, if at least for four years we could not keep our own children at school, say from the age of eight to twelve. I know it is too late now to think of it. But I hope the Economic Council and the enquiry which the Hon. the Chief Minister is conducting to-day will find out ways and means for practically carrying out this question of compulsory, if not free, education.

"Then Sir, I would like to add my voice to that of my hon. Friend Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar to the question of the reduction of registration offices. It is a clear need of the ryot population and by cutting down the number of offices you are really doing away with the facilities that you are affording to the poor ryot. I hope my Hon. Friend the Minister in charge will think twice, nay thrice, before he thinks of accepting the reduction of the number of registration offices.

"Finally, Sir, I would like to say that I was indeed sorry to hear that this is not the last budget and that we are going to have one more. I predicted as long ago as the year 1933 when this Council was extended that, that was not the only extension that this Council was going to have. We have had three extensions of this Council, and we are warned that a fourth is coming. I hope this fourth will be the final and last one, and as my hon. Friend Sir Parasuram Patro pointed out, the country is really getting tired of the present system of Government (The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. Brancken: 'Hear, hear.') Because as my Hon. Friend the Development Minister pointed out in a speech at Vizagapatam, the Ministers are always able to hide themselves behind the coat-tails of the Reserved Half and complain they are not able to effect this and that kind of reform and bring in the millennium which they might have easily done if it were not for the existence of those four estimable Gentlemen on the Treasury Bench. I hope that that plea will be a thing of the past, and these four estimable Gentlemen in their retirement will look with amusement on the extreme difficulties that confront the Treasury Bench of to-morrow and feel satisfied

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that they had played their parts well in the governance of this province."

The House then adjourned for lunch.

(After Lunch—2-30 p.m.)

II.—A.—ANNOUNCEMENT RE MEETING NEXT DAY.

* The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I wish to inform the hon. Members of this House that as originally arranged, we are not meeting to-morrow to transact any business."

III.—GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1936-37—cont.

* The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"Mr. President, Sir, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition in the speech which he made just before we dispersed was good enough to pay a compliment to the Executive Councillors to the effect that they might feel satisfied in their snug corner that they had played their parts well in the governance of this province. I think, Sir, if I may be permitted to say so, the Executive Councillors of the past and of the present do undoubtedly deserve the compliment which my hon. Friend opposite has so handsomely paid. In doing so however, Sir, he, as the leader of the party in opposition, was not able to pay a similar compliment to the Hon. Ministers. He was under the impression that they hid themselves behind the backs of the Reserved Half and always explained any defects, any failures on their part as being due to that position."

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"As a matter of personal explanation, Sir, I was casting no aspersion on the Ministers, but the system of Government is such that it naturally leads to that inference."

* The Hon. Sir K. V. REDDI NAYUDU:—"I entirely agree, Mr. President, that the system has its defects. On more than one occasion I gave expression to the defects in the diarchic system, but one thing I may surely tell the hon. Members of this House, that is, whatever may have been the defects in that system, so far as this province is concerned, it has been admitted by the highest statesmen from their responsible places as Ministers of the Crown and as Members of the Mother of Parliaments, that this province of all in this country has worked the Montford Reforms to a degree and to an extent which cannot perhaps be claimed by others. Sir, in that aspect it must be admitted by all concerned that a part of the credit of the success is due to the happy co-operation between the Members of the Executive Council and the Ministry. It has been recognized that we have worked as a happy family and the House will be glad to learn that the conditions of that happy family continued from the beginning in 1920 to this day, and we hope it will be so to the last day this diarchy system continues. To that extent, I think we ought to be very proud and if to-day it is possible to extend these reforms—new provisions are coming into existence with larger rights, with the abolition of the Executive Council, with full responsible Government in the provinces, and complete autonomy—I for one may be permitted to claim, as one who

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had been in this Council from the beginning, beginning as a Minister and closing as an Executive Councillor, that that has been possible because of the hearty co-operation of the two halves of this Government.

"Now, Mr. President, having said that, I think, I shall have to proceed to the various criticisms that have been levelled against the departments in my charge. Sir, I think I shall have to begin with the main department, the Department of Law. The criticism has been started by my esteemed friend Mr. Koti Reddi with his hardy annual that the Department has been making a lot of money which it has no business to make. Year after year, on this happy occasion of the general discussion, when one can travel as they used to say from China to Peru, my friend has riveted his attention and criticism to this main point, namely, that the judicial system in this country is not satisfactory, because the system has no business to make any profit, that justice should be dispensed as cheaply as possible and the civil courts at any rate ought not to make any profit from the levies in the shape of stamp duties or otherwise. Well, Sir, time and again, the hon. Member has been told on the floor of this House that it was not a fact. My esteemed predecessor, Sir M. Krishnan Nair, distinctly told the House and pointed out on two occasions that our system of judicial administration has not been one of profit but one on the debit side. Last year, on this very question, my hon. Friend raised the same point and I had occasion to point out to him that the basis on which he has worked was defective, a basis which showed no doubt, a profit of 50 lakhs, as he would have it, whereas as a matter of fact, the judicial system, taking the civil and the criminal branches into consideration, is working at a loss of 40 lakhs of rupees, every year. Well, Sir, so far as the civil administration is concerned—even as regards that—I have contended and still contend that we are working at a loss. The fact is, the basis on which my hon. Friend proceeds does not take into account the various items of expenditure such as, for instance, cost of copy stamp papers annually amounting to about Rs. 9 lakhs; he does not take into account the cost of the portion of the overhead charges in the Secretariat. He takes as receipts items, such as the sale-proceeds of property, stamps, fines, fees for registration of pleaders, and Court-fee stamps affixed to documents presented to officers who do not constitute courts of law. When all these are taken into account it will be surely found that the civil administration is working at a loss. Last year I placed before the House a statement; a copy of it was supplied to him, and I ask my hon. Friend to let me know where the mistake lay. I must say therefore that my hon. Friend has not been able to show to me where the fault lay in the statement placed before him. So, Sir, I do not propose to enter into further details. I have got another statement prepared this year up to date and I find therefrom that in 1933-34 there was a loss of 28.85 lakhs and in 1934-35 a loss of 38.67 lakhs. In the revised estimates there is a loss of 49.22 lakhs and in the budget estimates it comes to about 49.98 lakhs. After all, the judicial system of administration is only a part of the entire system. It may be that in some cases a certain amount of revenue is

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received. But to judge of any one single department and from that to draw an inference of the administration of the province is not a just or fair one. And I really fail to see why my hon. Friend should distinguish between civil justice and criminal justice. The Government are responsible for both and it is only fair that the expenses of the one or the revenues of the other should be treated together and not separately.

"I shall now proceed to the next point, and that was raised by my Friend Mr. Bhatt. He has asked me to make a statement regarding certain incidents that would seem to have taken place in the Sub-Court of Mangalore. I regret to tell him that Government have no information on the subject—at least no official information. I cannot therefore make any statement. I can only say that the District Judge did not act on the orders of this Government. But as the hon. Member is fully aware, the District Judge has got the power of inspecting any court subordinate to him and the Sub-Judge's Court at Mangalore is one such Court.

"The next point so far as the judicial administration is concerned refers to a small matter which however seems to be looming large in the minds of those that represent Ganjam. Both Mr. Patnaik and Sir A. P. Patro were telling us that Chicacole ought to be the place where the sub-court is to be located, and not Vizianagaram. All that I can tell the House at present, Sir, is simply this, that the matter is under consideration of the Government, and the remarks made by both the hon. gentlemen will be given their due weight and will be duly considered before final orders are passed.

"Mr. President, Sir, I shall next proceed to a subject which has not perhaps attracted so much attention. I had to pass through the fire of criticism of one hon. Member of this House regarding certain matters and on the attitude of the Government concerning the Debt Conciliation Bill. It was my fortune or misfortune to have assisted the member who introduced the Bill and here we find criticism of a very unjust and unfair kind. We are told for instance that the Bill was mutilated by a number of amendments sponsored by Government in its own interest. The hon. Member was not good enough to tell us what those amendments were, nor did he tell us what the interest of the Government in the matter was. He also told us that the most useful provisions have been deleted and finally he ended with the criticism that the provisions regarding Government assistance were unscrupulously struck off—an unhappy word to which I should have taken exception at the time. So far as I remember, the Government moved only one or two amendments to the Bill as introduced by Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar. The hon. Member referred to the provision enabling the Board of Revenue to collect the debts. Government refused to accept that proposition for the simple reason that Government cannot collect private debts due to private individuals.

"So far as the provision regarding mortgages was concerned, it was a provision which was accepted by Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar's Bill 2-45 p.m.

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as introduced and it was a provision, in making which Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar himself supported the Government. Now, Sir, as for the unscrupulous striking off of provisions regarding Government assistance, I must say it is equally untrue. The hon. Member could not have reasonably expected any Government to agree to a provision in a private Member's Bill imposing a responsibility upon Government to spend moneys. That function, as hon. Members are perfectly aware, is that of the Crown, and can be discharged only by His Majesty's Ministers, and, in this country, by the advisers of the representative of the Crown. It will thus be noticed, Sir, that the hon. Member's criticism is very unfortunate, is a perversion of truth and, above all, an undeserving insult not only to the Members of Government but also to the whole House which passed the Bill. Sir, even here, though we may not have the truth, we are at least entitled to have good manners.

"Mr. President, Sir, the next item of criticism relates to the Forest department. The criticism so far as this department is concerned is two-fold. One is that the revenue is not commensurate with the large expenditure now being incurred and that much of the capital is a waste or that much capital is being wasted upon these forests. That, Sir, in my humble view, is taking a very narrow view of the subject. Money had to be spent for the purpose of preserving these forests not merely as a protection for irrigation works, but also for the purpose of conserving them as national assets. These national assets may be realized immediately or may take their own time to yield the expected profits. These are not things which could be decided in a day or two. True, it has been said in this House that posterity has not done anything for us and that there is no reason why we should do so much for posterity. That proposition, Sir, must have its limitations. If that proposition is to be carried out to its logical conclusion, the danger arises of a father ignoring the welfare of his own child; and, even as a father in domestic affairs has got his responsibility to his children, the State, Sir, has its responsibility for posterity. In trying to preserve these forests, in trying to exploit them and in trying to regenerate them, the Government have only been doing their proper duty and if they fail in that, they will have to answer the historian at least, if not posterity.

"I shall now proceed, Sir, to a more happy subject. That is the one subject on which the hon. Members of this House have given unstinted support to Government. Whatever might be said of the services that are rendered by this Government as being useful to future Ministers, may I take this opportunity to say that this one asset which we are handing over to the coming Government will be not merely a service rendered to the people of this province, but also a source of assured revenue, the payment of which people will not grudge as they do in the case of land revenue. This source will yield a revenue which is easily paid, or, if you like that expression,—a tax which is easily paid and which will go into the general revenues of the province thus affording an opportunity of readjustment of the taxation of this province.

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"Some criticism does exist, as has been pointed out by the Hon. the Finance Member, that we in this province have not been able to do what others have been able to do in other provinces. He has himself answered that criticism and pointed out how, year after year, large sums are being spent and how every year there has been an increase in the expenditure. Now, Sir, from the figures that were given to hon. Members on the day when the Budget was presented, it would have been noticed that as much as Rs. 158 lakhs were spent in 1934-35 and in 1935-36 some Rs. 200 lakhs were spent, and that in the estimates for the coming year the figure is Rs. 300 lakhs. The activities of the Hydro-electric department have been varied and have been extending from one end of the province to another. The Pykara scheme has extended its wings so as to reach the Bay of Bengal. Tanjore and Negapatam are just now having the benefit of the scheme and, when Mettur is completed, it is hoped that not only Salem and North Arcot will be covered, but that it might come down still farther east, almost to the boundaries of the city of Madras.

"I have been asked, Mr. President, to expedite the Papanasam scheme. I may inform the House that departments of the Government have not been inactive in that matter. The subject has been investigated some three or four years ago, but it was found that a purely electrical scheme may not be paying. There may not be sufficient demand so as to make the scheme a success in the sense in which the Pykara scheme has been a success. Then, it was considered that a combination of the electrical scheme with an irrigation scheme might perhaps be paying. I may assure the House that so far as the Government are concerned, they are prepared to encourage the scheme being brought into existence, and, unless technical advice stands in the way, hon. Members may fairly expect that funds would be provided if both the irrigation officers and the electrical officers assure the Government that we might go on with it.

"I just now heard, Mr. President, a voice from some corner of the House, remarking 'What about the west?' meaning thereby that these schemes or the benefit of these schemes are all going to the east coast and perhaps to the south. That is no doubt true. But it would be very unfair indeed on the part of anyone to suggest that the Government deliberately wanted it. (Mr. K. Koti Reddi: Nobody suggested that.) There was that suggestion by Mr. P. V. Krishnayya Choudari who is not now present in the House. (Laughter.) I may however say, Sir, that if the schemes are where they are, it is due to natural circumstances. They had to go that way because the schemes themselves originated in a particular place. It does not thereby mean that the Government are not prepared to do their best so far as the northern districts and the Ceded districts are concerned. So far as the northern districts are concerned, I may inform the House that a thermal scheme is under consideration and almost sanctioned at Vizagapatam. Regarding that, a criticism has been levelled that the best course would

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have been to take up the Kolab scheme which, as hon. Members are aware, will be out of our hands within a month from this date. It is in the Jeypore estate and the estate will be part of the Orissa province within another month. That may therefore be left out of consideration. But, there is another scheme which, if not as great as that, would at least be equal enough to that for the purpose of electrifying the northern districts and that is known as the Lammasinghi scheme. I may also assure the House that the Lammasinghi scheme and the Vizagapatam scheme will not be in conflict with each other. It is intended that we should start with the Vizagapatam scheme and, later on, assist it by the hydro-electric scheme at Lammasinghi with the result that the combined power might be enough not merely for Vizagapatam as it would be hereafter, but also for the East Godavari district. For the other districts lower down, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur, a scheme is under consideration. It may take some little time, but I hope that I will be able to place it before this House under a supplementary grant in August. This is a scheme according to which an equally good thermal plant will be constructed at Bezvada with the result that these districts will be given power both for lighting and industries.

"The question still remains, and Mr. Koti Reddi staring at me implies, 'What about the Ceded districts?' I can quite understand his anxiety in the matter; but at the same time, I must assure him that the Government have never been silent on this matter. If he had only access to the files that are moving from one department to the other within the last 12 or 16 months, he would have noticed that the Government are exhibiting as much sympathy and as much anxiety as the hon. Member himself. But unfortunately we are confronted with difficulties which could not easily be overcome. First there was the difficulty of the demand for the electricity that may be generated. There are no industries worth mentioning. There are no factories or mills in such large numbers as would make the proposition a profitable one. As for utilizing the energy for pumping up water, the unfortunate state of affairs remains that it is very difficult indeed to know where exactly water can be tapped in these districts. The Government are not discouraged even by these great difficulties, and the hon. Member from the Ceded districts will be glad to know that a small sum of money has been allotted—just about Rs. 20,000 in the beginning—to employ the services of engineers and a water-diviner in the hope that wherever the water-diviner thinks that there is water to be tapped, bore-wells would be sunk and, if the experiment proves successful, much more money will be allotted. The Government are aware of the great troubles through which the districts of Anantapur and Bellary have passed during the recent famine. As much as 14 or 16 lakhs of rupees were spent for the last famine. It is not their desire that these famines should repeat themselves. If it is within the competency of engineers and electricians, Government will only be too glad to stop these famines and to supply water and electric power. But only let

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it be remembered that electric schemes are in the nature of commercial transactions and they must be economically sound.

"Mr. President, I have very nearly reached the end of the criticisms that have been levelled at us so far as this item is concerned. I would only say this: that it is not possible for me to reply to every one of the criticisms, big and small. Such points as were raised by my friend, Mr. Peddi Raju, as regards jurors and assessors and so on and so forth, I am perfectly willing to answer at question time and also at the time of the discussion of cut motions. I feel there will be a little more time for me to answer those points at question time or at the time of the discussion of cut motions than I could find here at present. Before closing, I wish to say that I feel thankful to hon. Members of this House for the great assistance they have rendered to the Government in general and to me in particular so far at least as particular electrical schemes are concerned. Even their criticisms on the departments of Law and Forest are well-meant and good-natured and such criticisms will always be welcomed and will be made use of for the good of the country."

* The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"Sir, let me begin by thankfully acknowledging the total absence of any criticisms on the department of Police. I take it that I shall not be wrong if I can construe it as a tribute, silent no doubt but none the less an eloquent one, to the very efficient manner in which this useful department has been discharging its duties during the past year. I may take this opportunity of also stating how much the Police department in the discharge of its duties has been helped by the co-operation which it has been having at the hands of the public. And I can only express the hope that the new scheme of seeking the co-operation of the villagers in the rural parts by what are called Vigilance Associations, would continue to improve the efficiency of the department both in its preventive and its detective branches. Before I leave the Police department, I will have, however, to refer to one or two points which have been raised by hon. Members of this House. The hon. Member from Guntur stated that in his district there had been too frequent transfers of District Superintendents of Police. I have to acknowledge that his complaint is not ill-founded. There has been unfortunately during the past year a transfer of as many as four District Superintendents of Police in that district. I have to state that as a matter of policy, when we post an officer to a district, he is not ordinarily disturbed for a period of three years, but is allowed to continue there so that, having known the district, he might be able to be of use to the people of that district. But this principle has sometimes to be deviated from owing to exigencies of service such as, officers having suddenly to take leave or other senior officers returning from leave necessitating the junior officers being posted to less responsible posts. But at the same time I may state that every case of transfer which entails the transfer of another officer who had been only recently posted to a place would be scrutinised with care and frequent transfers would be avoided.

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"Then my hon. friend representing the Hindu Religious Endowments Board very generously suggested a more liberal scale of pay for police constables. If only it could be done, none would be happier than myself. The whole question is what the cost involved in raising the scale of pay to constables even by a few rupees, would be and I am not quite sure if this House would sanction any such proposal if I were to come forward with the same. At the same time I may state that the scale of pay that is now being given to police constables cannot be said to be niggardly, considering the average income of the class from which the police constables are generally drawn. By a comparison with the pay given in other departments, their scale of pay cannot be said to be too low. One point that was sought to be made for this increase was this: that we should be able to draw into the rank and file of the police better educated men, probably S.S.L.Cs. or Intermediates. As a matter of fact, even now we have had a few of them. As far as men of that type are concerned, all I can say is that their pay, prospects and promotion in this department are far more rosy here due to their education than they are in other departments. Therefore even with the present scale of pay, we should be able to draw men with a higher standard of education in spite of the low initial start, because it is usually not impossible for a man who enters the department as a constable, if he can show himself to be efficient, to rise to the cadre of Inspector or Sub-Inspector.

"There is one other remark which was made by my Friend Mr. Simhachalam Pantulu and that is the usual criticism of the department being top-heavy. He wanted the abolition of the posts of Deputy Superintendents and Inspectors and the case has only to be stated to realize how impracticable it is. Hon. Members could very well imagine the state of police administration in a district if they had one District Superintendent of Police with 50 Sub-Inspectors under him scattered in various parts of the district and the work of all of them being scrutinized by this one officer. With the little experience I have had of the way criminal cases are worked up and conducted, I might state that if we are to have one District Superintendent of Police with 40 or 50 Sub-Inspectors under him, the whole system will break down within 24 hours.

"Turning to the Labour department, there has been a greater amount of criticism from hon. Members. In fact, I welcome their criticisms. If I were in their position, I am not quite sure if I should have been as restrained as they have been in the language which I should have used. But at the same time I have to state that in dealing with a problem of that magnitude with the history of centuries behind it, we cannot look forward to good results all too suddenly. The first and the most important criticism which was directed, as far as this department is concerned, is this: that there is no sufficient or adequate provision made for ameliorating the condition of the depressed classes. There was even a suggestion that the provision made for the coming year was less than that of the preceding

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years. I can only point out that that is not the case. From 1925-26 up to date I find, that barring the three years of prosperity, 1928-29 to 1930-31, the provision which we have made in the revised estimates for the year 1935-36 and for the coming year 1936-37 is about the largest. We have made a provision of Rs. 14,84,000 in the revised estimates for 1935-36 and a provision of Rs. 1,000 more for the coming year. I do not by any means suggest that this is adequate in the sense that we shall be able to meet all the necessary demands. I do not know if the whole revenue of the Province in any particular year would suffice for such a purpose. I can only say that within the restricted finances available to us, that is the only amount that could be provided under this head. On this occasion I may acknowledge with thankfulness the fact that the Hon. the Finance Member, however strict he may be with regard to other departments, has always been generous as far as provision for the depressed classes is concerned. Hon. Members would also be aware that there has been a change of policy in the matter of acquiring house-sites for the depressed classes. While in the past they were asked to pay the full cost of the sites acquired for the purpose of their houses, in future they will have to pay only 50 per cent, the other 50 per cent being found from out of the general revenues. Even out of the 50 per cent they have to pay, they need pay only 25 per cent at the time of acquisition and the remaining 25 per cent they will have to pay in ten annuated equal instalments. The building cost will have to be borne by them. The House is also aware of another change in the policy of the Government in the matter of acquiring house-sites. In addition to acquiring house-sites for the depressed classes, we propose to acquire house-sites for all people who do not own lands but who live on agriculture irrespective of caste.

"Then a complaint was made about the hardship which the members of the depressed classes are subjected to in the matter of use of roads for carrying of dead bodies or for processions connected with marriages and things of that sort. There again, wherever cases have been brought to the notice of the Government, the Labour department has taken pains to acquire special roads for the benefit of the depressed classes. If it was not found possible owing to claims of private ownership and things of that sort or if it was not advisable to make available public roads for the benefit of these people specially, lands have been acquired and roads constructed for their benefit.

"Then my hon. Friend, Diwan Bahadur R. Srinivasan, detailed instances of particular hardships to which the depressed class people were subjected at the hands of the caste people. I may state that none is more painfully aware of the fact that such instances do occur even in the year 1936 in certain villages of our Province in spite of all the work carried on from various sides—propaganda work for the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes and the so-called untouchables, propaganda work carried on by the Government and on behalf of the Government by the officials, and by non-officials even under the leadership of Mr. Gandhi.

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"That such hardships do exist I do not deny, but my hon. Friend would also acknowledge at the same time that it would not be possible for the Government at one stretch to put down these things all of a sudden. After all, the Government or the Government officials can take action only when instances are brought to their notice or when they otherwise become aware of them. But at the same time it would be realized that it would not be possible for either Government officials or the Government to take effective action in matters of this kind unless they were able to get evidence. In my experience especially in the interior parts of the district I can state that in many places where these poor people are subject to most cruel treatment, the fact is that the crueller the treatment the scarcer becomes the evidence available. On behalf of the Government I can only assure my hon. Friend, Diwan Bahadur R. Srinivasan and other representatives of the depressed classes that where instances come to the notice of the Government all possible measures would be adopted to see that no section of the community is subjected to unjust treatment at the hands of any other community. And if it should appear that in any particular case the Government officials themselves have been responsible for encouraging the one side against the other, the matter will certainly be suitably dealt with. As far as we are concerned, I believe, Sir, that we have been trying to do the best we can. Laws have been laid down that all public roads in the province are open to everybody irrespective of the caste to which he belongs; all public wells are at the disposal of everybody. The Education department has at the same time been seeing to it that all public schools whether they are under the control of the Government or of the local bodies or in any way receiving Government aid, should be open to everybody irrespective of caste. What more in a general manner we can do I for one am not able to see just now.

"There was just one other remark made by my hon. Friend from Ootacamund, Mr. Muniswami Pillai. He said that the recommendations of the Labour department did not receive proper treatment at the hands of the Government and that they were not even referred to the Finance Committee but were actually shelved. On scrutiny I find that such has not been the case. Every recommendation sent up by the Commissioner of Labour has been duly considered and sent up to the Finance Committee who in their turn have scrutinized it and approved of it to the extent possible. Therefore I can only say that my hon. Friend's information must be incorrect because the office has not been able to find out any instance where schemes for the amelioration of the condition of the depressed classes or for their benefit were sent up to the Government but have not been favourably considered or have been rejected without even being referred to the Finance Committee.

"I hope, Sir, I have dealt with the various points that were raised by the several hon. Members."

* The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"Mr. President, Sir, I wish I were in the very comfortable position of my Hon. Colleague who has

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just sat down in that the departments with which he is mainly concerned have had no adverse criticisms passed on them. I am afraid the poor old Revenue Department has, as usual, come in for the most of it. However, I trust that hon. Members who criticized my department in this way did not wish also to criticize my personal administration of it. For I assure you, Sir, that the Revenue Department must in the nature of things always be open to such criticism, no matter who the Member in charge of it might be.

"Sir, criticisms have been so varied that in the twenty minutes which have been allotted to me to speak to-day it would be impossible to traverse the whole ground. I propose therefore to confine myself mainly to those matters of more general interest which have been brought forward and leave out matters of detail which will be considered by the office separately and orders passed on them.

"There are however one or two matters of detail which I think I must mention specifically. And first of all, as I did last year I must refer to the Lady Member first. My hon. Friend from Madras referred to a certain revenue inspector in Tanjore who at dead of night took off the tiles of a certain house, entered the house, took off the upper clothes from the ladies, extracted their ear-rings. . ."

Mrs. A. RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHI:—"On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I never said ladies."

* The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"From the men? All the worse then. (Laughter.) Sir, any one who knows Tanjore, can't think of such a thing, for any revenue inspector who dared to do such a thing in Tanjore would know full well that he could not leave that place alive. I may assure the House that if the name of the informant, the name of the village and the name of the revenue inspector are given, the case will be proceeded with.

"Then, Sir, there are one or two matters like our old friends the Bhavani project and the Tungabadra project and so on. I am afraid that in these cases I cannot give any more information than I was able to give last time when I spoke in this House on the subject. I do know that the Tungabadra project is under the careful consideration of the Government of India. I have reminded them recently that this matter ought to be expedited and I hope when I go to Delhi next week I may have an opportunity of reminding them personally of the matter. As regards the Bhavani project, it must go its natural course by which I mean that we must complete our investigations on the agricultural side before we can come to a final decision. At the same time, I understand that the borings for the foundations have not been completed yet and unless they are completed we cannot proceed any further. But I do assure the hon. House that the matter will not by any means be delayed.

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"Then, Sir, there is the allegation that the Finance Member and myself are playing into each other's hands. I do not know what it means. We have been very good friends although we have had some fights on paper now and then. But as for playing into each other's hands, I assure you, Sir, that there has been nothing sinister whatever in our relations. If one can do something for the other he does it, and if the other can do something for the one, he does it also. And if this budget which the Finance Member has presented is found to be as acceptable as the speeches of most members have made out, I assure you, Sir, it is because of the amicable relations that have existed between him and the other Members of the Government and for no other reason whatever.

"Then there was a small point raised about retrenchment. I think, Sir William Wright in his speech dealt with this matter very adequately, when he said that retrenchment was carried out at a time when it was really necessary. We certainly had to carry out measures of retrenchment which were necessary. But in a good many cases we have since found that the sheer necessities of the case have obliged us to restore offices and officers which we had done away with. We have had demands from South Arcot for instance, from Vizagapatam for instance, for the restoration of deputy tahsildars' offices and taluk offices which had been retrenched. We have also had a request from Bellary that we should re-consider the restoration of the Hadagalle taluk. I may mention generally that all these offices which we have had in the Presidency have been created after long experience and my personal opinion is that in most cases these offices are necessary. And when a good case is made out for restoration and when we find that the finances permit of our doing so, we have been restoring such offices without hesitation. With regard to those offices which have not been restored and for which there is a demand that they should be restored, hon. Members may be certain that the question will be examined very carefully.

"Then, Sir, there were certain questions about small projects here and there, in Guntur, in Kistna and so on. As regards Guntur, I think when I was there the other day I gave a sufficient answer to the deputation there on the points raised. Those schemes which the local officers recommend should be re-investigated, will be re-investigated. I understand that the Collector proposes to recommend the Kandleru scheme. If he does so, it certainly will be re-investigated.

"As regards the drainage in West Godavari which has been mentioned by my hon. Friend, Mr. Peddi Raju on many occasions I may tell him that the Chief Engineer has proposed a programme extending over four or five years and costing between 4 to 5 lakhs of rupees. The proposal has just now been received and the matter is under examination. The hon. Member may be certain that the drainage of that very important part of the delta will not be neglected."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—"Projects in Ceded districts."

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The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"I was coming to them. As regards projects in the Ceded districts we must know of course that some of them are affected by the Tungabhadra project. It must of course be very galling to the people of the Ceded districts to be told regularly that we cannot consider their projects because they will be covered by the Tungabhadra project. We have to take this point into consideration, namely, if the Tungabhadra project is—I hope it will not be—to be postponed to the Greek Kalends then those other projects must be examined on their own merits. As I said the other day in Guntur, I personally consider that the Tungabhadra project ought to have the first attention of the Government.

"It is long overdue and it will serve a country which is in more need of water for irrigation than any other part of the Presidency. 3-30 p.m.

"The other projects mentioned by hon. Members such as the Cumbam tank and so on—they will be examined, as I said before, in the Secretariat.

"Then, Sir, I come to the question of remissions which has been ringing in our ears for the last three or four years. And there has been a request from members representing Tanjore that Tanjore should get more remission than any other district. It may perhaps be that Tanjore people do not know the Telugu proverb—I may even venture to say it in Telugu విడవడంచేత కానివాడు వ్యవసాయము చేయకూడదు. Edavadam chetakanivadu vyava-sayam cheya kudadu."

(Those who cannot cry, should not cultivate.) Well, Sir, no one can say that the Tanjore people do not know how to cry. But why should the Tanjore people, I ask, have a monopoly of crying? That is what I want to know. And to say to any one outside Tanjore that they want more concessions and so on, simply makes people laugh. You ask it of somebody in Nellore district or in Salem district or in Trichinopoly district where conditions are very similar to those in Tanjore. You may ask again of the people of Malabar or of Kanara. All of them have the same story to tell. But perhaps the distress in Tanjore is greater. Now, Sir, I cannot go through the whole of the districts of the Presidency; with that obviously, I think everybody will agree. But I have to remind you of this: these remissions, small as they are, are a substantial portion of the Government revenues. They amount to about Rs. 60 lakhs. It may be small; people may be dissatisfied with it, but after all, in the words of several of the speakers yesterday, we must cut our coat according to our cloth; and however much the hon. the leader of the opposition may argue against it, there is a certain amount of truth in this, that Government also have to cut their coat according to the cloth they have."

Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"On a point of personal explanation, what I said was that economies in public finance should always be held to be necessary and there can be no conflict in this respect as between private and public finances."

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* The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"Sir, I accept that statement which does not disagree with what I have said in any way whatever. But I must remind this House also that these special remissions have nothing to do with seasonal remissions. For instance in the Tanjore district an enquiry has been made as regards the cyclone and the insect pest which has been infesting certain parts of it; if that enquiry shows that seasonal remissions must be granted, they will be granted—quite outside these general remissions. In Guntur, East Godavari and West Godavari they had exceptional rains recently. If on account of those rains it is found that there has been any special damage to these districts, special remissions in accordance with the rules will be granted there, quite outside the general remissions.

"Now, Sir, one other point was raised and that was that Government should make the resettlement policy which I announced some little while ago retrospective. I am afraid, Sir, there I cannot agree. That policy was introduced quite recently, and it is a policy for the future and not for the past. And so far as I am concerned, I am afraid I can hold out very little hope that it will be given retrospective effect.

"Then, Sir, the next question was about the debt conciliation—at least so far as I am concerned, about the loans to agriculturists for the relief of debt. You all know of course that the amount that we have put in the budget for the coming year, as the Hon. the Finance Member stated, can be supplemented and will be supplemented, if necessary. Now, I may say that this Rs. 20 lakhs which we have provided is intended for an expansion of our activities. We have at present two Deputy Collectors at work in two small areas in the Presidency. We now propose straightaway next year, should this Council pass the budget, to appoint 10 Deputy Collectors, 40 Revenue Inspectors, 40 clerks and 60 peons. That, Sir, will anyhow enable us to expand our measures very considerably."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—"May I know in what districts?"

* The Hon. Sir CHARLES SOUTER:—"It is not yet settled. But all the same, as my hon. Colleague stated, if we find that these staffs are working satisfactorily, there is no reason at all why we should in this coming year, limit ourselves to that number, so long as we have the money to provide for more.

"I was asked if I can tell the House how the present experiment had worked. On the whole, I think rather disappointingly, for this reason, that in Chingleput, this enquiry covered an amount of debt to the extent of Rs. 1,18,000 and the scaling down was to about Rs. 91,000, that is to say, by about 22 per cent altogether. In Godavari the scaling down has resulted only to something like 12½ per cent. Now, Sir, it seems to me that if we are to give the ryots any considerable benefit from this measure, it is necessary that the creditors should be more accommodating. It seems to me that if you are going to work at a margin merely of 12½ per cent in scaling down, you are not doing

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very much. It is therefore I say that it shows the wisdom of the course adopted by the Government, in trying this experiment in two areas where we could first see what we could do. As I said, the first results have been disappointing. We really expected the scaling down to be anything like 30 to 40 per cent, but the maximum we have had is 22 per cent. Well, that is all I can tell you at present, except of course that we hope that the position will be considerably better in the future.

"Then, Sir, unfortunately I was not present in the Chamber at the time Mr. Simhachalam made some remarks. It seems he said that I was discourteous. I am sorry, Sir, that I should have given any such impression to anybody or that I should have been discourteous to anybody. It was never certainly intended, and I have no recollection of any such incident at all or of having done any such thing.

"Then, Sir,—I think my time is up: I must hurry up now—I come to the question of the Tobacco Bill. Has any one heard of a better Bill or of a Bill that ought to be passed by this Council? It is a Bill that affects nobody, although it has been stated that it affects the ryot; but it does not. Let me give an example. Supposing my hon. Friend the leader of the opposition—I think it will shock him to hear it—(Laughter)—decides to sell "jillebis" near his house and the municipality charges Rs. 5 per month or whatever it is as licence-fee. It is a matter of having to pay a licence-fee only, but does it increase the price of sugarcane or the price to the grower of sugarcane? No. It is exactly the same thing with regard to tobacco.

"Then, Sir, it was said that this Bill is not worthwhile because of the small amount of money that it brings in; no doubt it is a small amount; I accept that, but that does not seem to me to be a sufficient reason to reject the Bill. Besides, for this small amount why make all this fuss?

"Thirdly, it was said that this is the wrong time to bring it in. That argument is based on two grounds; one is that at present money is tight amongst the growers—and here I repeat, it would not affect them. Therefore, in my opinion, that argument does not hold water. The second ground is of course that the elections are very near. That second argument—I quite recognize the force of it—is there, although personally it does not appeal to me for a minute.

"But, Sir, there was another point advanced with a considerable amount of force, and that is that the Hon. the Finance Member has stated that it is now intended to have a comprehensive survey of the finances of this Presidency, and that until that survey is completed—and we know definitely what our real needs are—it may be unnecessary to bring in this Bill. Therefore, Sir, I propose on behalf of the Government, not to introduce the Bill at present. (Applause.) Do not mistake me, it is not dropped; it is by no means dropped. Perhaps when once the elections are over, we might reintroduce it. Anyhow, Sir, the House will not be troubled with sitting to-morrow.

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"I think, Sir, I have finished now. I am sorry if I have missed anything else; but I may tell hon. Members that if I have missed anything, it will be very carefully examined in the Secretariat."

* The Hon. Diwan Bahadur S. KUMARASWAMI REDDIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, the discussion which we listened to for the last two days and a half has been not merely in name but in reality a general discussion this time. Hon. Members of the House, with perhaps a few exceptions, have not entered into any detailed criticisms at any rate of the departments which we the members of the transferred half are administering. But I expect to get from them thoughtful and valuable criticisms when the Demands come in for detailed discussion. And I venture to submit that will be the proper time for such detailed criticism of the acts of commission and omission for which we are responsible in our respective departments. So, the reply that myself and my Hon. Colleagues the other Ministers would be called upon to give to the present discussions has to be brief.

3-45 p.m. "First, in the Department of Education, the hon. Member from Coimbatore, Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar, said that for the next year 1936-37, the Government have made more liberal provisions for secondary and university education than they have made for elementary education. I am sorry that my hon. Friend, who usually is a careful student of figures, should have made a statement like that which is not borne out by the budget figures. For the information of the hon. Members of this House, I may perhaps mention very briefly what the provisions in respect of these different grades of education are. With regard to Government institutions, the expenditure, you will see, remains fairly constant. The variations are in respect of grants given to the local bodies and other agencies which are in the management of educational institutions.

"Taking the universities first, the increase in the Budget for 1936-37 over the provision in the Budget for 1935-36 is .87 of a lakh. I may mention that this increase is mainly due to the larger contribution that will have to be paid to the Christian College authorities for the Tambaram College buildings. Hon. Members may know that in respect of this Tambaram scheme, Government are already committed to a certain amount of aid and till that is wiped out, the Government's liability will continue and if more rapid progress is made next year than in the previous one the contribution that will have to be paid by the Government will correspondingly increase. This is the main item under which there has been an increase though there are also certain other items which are responsible for this increase.

"With regard to secondary education, hon. Members will find that there is an increased provision of 2.09 lakhs over the budget provision of 1935-36. This again is largely due to the grants which are to be paid for school buildings. There are other items also in regard to which there have been increases, but this is the main item under which there have been increases. I may also mention that during the time of our financial stringency, a ban had been placed on the launching

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of any new building schemes. The Director was advised not to investigate any schemes for building sent up by managements and so Government were not incurring any liabilities with regard to these buildings. That ban was removed last year and with the removal of that ban, a number of schemes which have been pending for three or four years are now coming up for examination, and as they are examined and found eligible for Government help, such help has to be given. This accounts, Sir, for an increase under building grants.

"But, when we come to elementary education, hon. Members will find, if they scrutinize the budget figures, that there has been a large increase over the budget provision of 1935-36. The increase is really 8.42 lakhs. It is mainly under grants to private aided schools disbursed by district educational councils and also under the head of contributions by Government equivalent to the education-tax levied by local bodies. Hon. Members will also realize that while the increases under university and secondary education are mostly non-recurring expenditure, the increases under primary education are under recurring expenditure. A very important distinction which has to be borne in mind in adjudging the relative values of the increased provisions that are being made is that, while non-recurring items of expenditure will not be repeated in the next year, recurring items of expenditure which become standing commitments on the part of the Government, will necessarily have to be repeated year after year and I need not also repeat to the hon. Members of this House that the policy of this Government has been for some years at any rate to spend the bulk of its available resources on the improvement of elementary education.

"So far as secondary and university education are concerned, the Government have of course to respect their past commitments and they are also under an obligation to help local bodies to maintain efficiently the schools that existed prior to 1930. So, with regard to these schools, when the managements desire to put up proper buildings and to equip them satisfactorily, Government are bound to help them; but with regard to new schools which were brought into existence after the year 1930 by local bodies, Government do not aid them in any manner either by helping them to put up buildings or in equipping these schools. But in regard to elementary education, the Government's policy is just the opposite. They want to encourage and improve not only the existing schools, but also encourage the healthy and systematic expansion of elementary schools throughout the Presidency. In addition to 8.42 lakhs which I said represents the increased provision for elementary education in the Budget of 1936-37, there is also another item of 1.06 lakhs which must be taken into account. Till last year, Government were recovering from local bodies subsidies which were ear-marked for certain schools opened by them but discontinued. But now they have introduced a new system of lump sum subsidies which are given outright to local bodies as in the case of secondary schools. The recoveries made annually were about a lakh and the receipts used to take

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into account the amount of about a lakh or thereabouts under the head of recoveries of subsidies to schools which have been closed or have ceased to exist otherwise. Now, on account of the introduction of the lump sum subsidy system, this item of receipt has not been brought into the budget and so that is also a source of additional income to local bodies for their elementary schools. So, I do not think it is at all legitimate for hon. Members of this House to complain that the Government have neglected primary education and have shown a greater generosity towards university and secondary education.

“The next point of general criticism which was raised was that the present system and policy of education require thorough overhauling. This point was raised by the hon. Member Mr. Yahya Ali and some others also. Of course, this expression of dissatisfaction with the existing system of education is not confined to the members of this House, but it is heard all over the country. Public interest on this question has been roused recently by the proceedings of the Third Conference of Indian Universities which was held in March 1934. One of the resolutions passed at that conference drew pointed attention to the urgent need for a readjustment of our present system of education so as to make it more practical and useful. The Government of India, to whom the Inter-University Board has communicated a copy of this resolution, have proceeded to take action on it. Of course, the Government of India are cognizant of the fact that all these educational questions come within the purview of provincial Governments; and they also recognize that local initiative, as they say, is preferable to inert centralization on a matter like this. But, however, they do feel that they can make a most valuable contribution towards the right development of education by the provision, as they say, of a clearing house of ideas and a reservoir of information. For this purpose, they decided to revive the Central Advisory Board which they had some years ago abolished. The Central Advisory Board has now been revived and its first meeting has been held. We are awaiting now the proceedings of that meeting to be communicated to us by the Government of India. So, the Government of India will soon be helping local Governments to co-ordinate, as they say, educational discussions in matters of such vital importance as educational reconstruction. The re-adjustment of education so as to become more practical and useful, is a matter of universal interest and is engaging the attention of the Government of India and of all local Governments. So far as this Government is concerned, pursuant to a resolution of the Provincial Economic Council we have set up a sub-committee to go into certain aspects of elementary education and to suggest the best method of spreading literacy in rural areas taking particularly the larger villages with a population of 5,000 and more; the revision of the present system of grants of elementary schools, the revision of the existing curriculum and matters like that which are of vital importance to the spread and improvement of elementary education are engaging the attention of this committee.

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“With regard to grants, it is a complaint that we often hear from the hon. Members of this House and from others who are acquainted with the condition of elementary schools, that the grants now given by the Government are inadequate and that year after year there are large cuts in the assessed grants payable to elementary schools. It is no doubt true. The Government are not reducing the provision they are making in the budget for these teaching grants, but the system is such that automatically the amounts of assessed grants payable to these elementary schools increase year by year; the grants do not depend upon the number of students in the schools or upon the efficiency of the teaching or upon the results of the instruction given in those schools but depend upon the number and qualification of the teachers. As a result of the system that is now in vogue the assessed grants, as I said, increase year after year in amount without producing a corresponding improvement in the condition of elementary education in this Presidency. How best this system could be modified so as to produce better educational results is a matter which has been engaging the attention of the Government and in which we have sought the help of the sub-committee that is now sitting.

“So we have also been alive to the necessity for an examination of the system and the condition of elementary education in this Presidency and we have taken what steps we can in the matter. I am glad to hear from my hon. Friend Dr. Subbarayan who was Minister in charge of Education before me about the serious difficulties that confront us when we undertake any scheme of compulsory education. He referred particularly to the financial difficulties of carrying out any such scheme. Of course the financial difficulties are serious. But equally serious are other difficulties connected with the introduction of compulsory education. The poverty of the parents is a very important matter to be taken into consideration. The main reason which causes the premature withdrawal of pupils from schools is the inability of the parent to keep his children in the school after they come to be of any economic value to him. The children employed in the fields are able to give something to the parents, something to live upon. When the child reaches that age the parent is naturally disinclined to keep the child in school. The unpopularity therefore which necessarily follows any scheme of compulsion forced upon unwilling parents is the main obstacle to the successful working of compulsion. Of course these and other difficulties have to be surmounted one day or the other. They cannot be done in a day or two. This sub-committee may not be able to evolve a scheme which could be immediately introduced and successfully worked in the villages with a population of over five thousand but it will make a serious attempt to substantially deal with the problem of the spread of literacy in the rural areas.

“Well, Sir, with regard to the other departments in my charge the criticisms have been comparatively speaking less important and I shall not be justified in taking up any more time in dealing with them.

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As I said, there will be a future occasion when I can deal with these criticisms and I hope hon. Members will forgive me if I do not deal with them now. It does not mean any disregard of their criticisms but it is due to my inability to deal with them in the allotted time."

* The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"Mr. President, Sir, I propose to confine my remarks to general questions raised by certain hon. Members, leaving the details to be replied to at the time of voting of grants. My friends, Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar and Dr. Subbarayan, asked me whether there was any proposal to curtail the facilities offered to the registering public by way of closure of Sub-Registrars' offices and, if so, they liked to urge on the Government the need to retain them and see that these facilities are not in any way interfered with. Sir, I should like to just refer to the budget of the Registration department which has been said to be working at a profit and as such Government have no business to effect any cut. The facts of the case are otherwise. From 1869-70 there were 300 and odd offices and in 1934 there were 606 offices, practically double the number. I will merely refer to the receipt side and the expenditure side for the last 4 or 5 years. In 1930 the receipt was Rs. 32,58,869 and the expenditure was Rs. 32,21,153 and there was a surplus of Rs. 30,000; in 1931, we had Rs. 29,46,670 on receipt side and expenditure Rs. 31,13,897 thus leaving a deficit of Rs. 1,73,000. In 1932 on the receipt side there was Rs. 33,88,160 as against an expenditure of Rs. 27,93,000 and odd leaving a surplus of 5 lakhs. The surplus has been reduced to 2 lakhs and odd in 1933 and a lakh and odd in 1934. The surplus is a small one; but if we take into account pensionary charges, interest on outlay of buildings, superintendence by Secretariat, etc., there will be a deficit of nearly 2 lakhs of rupees. It is with a view to balance the budget of this department that the head of the department is trying to make the necessary adjustments. The Retrenchment Committee which went into the question of the working of the various departments recommended that in this department retrenchment could be effected by the closure of offices. Government would not accept the advice nor would they increase the fees. But as it was found difficult to make both ends meet this question has to be considered again. There are two alternatives, either to close down the Sub-Registrars' offices or raise the scale of fees. I believe it comes to the question of choosing one or the other. I dare say the House would prefer the sub-registrars' offices being kept to the present strength. If that is so, probably, we will have to go for additional fees. On the other hand, if the House is for maintaining the same level of fees, the effect will be a number of offices will have to be closed down. (Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: 'If the income increases?') In any case, I will bear in mind the expression of opinion by the hon. Members who occupied the Treasury benches once upon a time. Sir, there is the complaint that in some registration offices the staff is undermanned so much so that the permanent staff could not cope with the work; that is a complaint of most of the hon. Members. The department has been provided with some relief during the time of heavy work. With that purpose in view the Registration department

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made certain proposals. The proposals of the Inspector-General of Registration are: (1) to levy a fee of two annas in respect of applications for certified copies; (2) a fee of two annas in respect of an application for inspection or search; and (3) a fee of Rs. 10 in respect of every memorandum of appeal and application under sections 72 and 73 of the Registration Act for the trouble taken by the Registrar. Unless this increase in the scale of fees payable was agreed to, it was found that we could not give the necessary relief to the staff which in certain offices are overworked.

"Some hon. Members questioned the legality of this thing and asked whether it is not *ultra vires* of the Government to increase the scale of fees. I should like to reply to them that under section 78 of the Indian Registration Act under sub-clause (i), Government have got powers to raise the scale of fees for such other matters as appear to the Local Government to be necessary. So that it will be seen that it is not *ultra vires* on the part of the Government to raise the scale of fees. In this connexion I should like to point out to the hon. Members of the House that the two major provinces of Bombay and Bengal charge a very much higher scale of fees than is the case in Madras. In the case of Bombay, Government have been informed that they also charge fees for the applications in the same manner in which we have proposed. So that it will be found, Sir, that Government have not done anything which is beyond their power or anything which is not warranted. Now, I come to my friend Mr. Patnaik. His complaint was that in the case of those villages or portions of the present Ganjam which is going to be transferred to the Orissa Province he is afraid that the facilities that will be offered by the Orissa Government to the registering public are not such as would meet with his approval and he found fault with this Government for having made recommendations which in his opinion would affect the people adversely. I can assure my hon. Friend without disclosing the correspondence between this Government and the Orissa Government that the opinions which we have been asked to offer on their proposals, which are of a temporary character, are such as, if revealed by that Government, would meet with his approval. I am quite sure that when my hon. Friend goes to the new Orissa Province, by his 4-15 persuasion he may be able to bring round the Government of Orissa P.m. to decide the matters in a way which will give him satisfaction.

"My hon. Friend Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai said that enough encouragement has not been given to agriculturists in his district. I do not know what exactly he meant by it. As a matter of fact, the main crop in the Nilgiris district is potatoes. We have got a research farm to give all the facilities to the agriculturists, and the Co-operative department recently opened a society for supplying manure at reasonable rates, and all other facilities which could possibly be given by the various departments are being given. I believe he said that sufficient protection should be given to the Nilgiris district by imposing a duty on foreign potatoes. It is a matter which is not within the province of this Government, but it is a matter really for the Government of India. I dare say it may be possible to convey the feelings of hon.

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Members who come from the Nilgiris to the Government of India for such action as they may think fit to take.

"Sir, there is one other thing I should like to refer to, and that is the speech of my hon. Friend Mr. Arasu. I have great admiration for the fund of information he has got on subjects like finance, especially the hospitals which he appears to have specialized in. (Laughter.) But as regards agriculture he made a sweeping statement which I am afraid is of no value whatsoever. He said that the Agricultural department has done next to nothing, as far as he is aware. It is too late in the day to enumerate the various items of work done by the Department of Agriculture. But I would like to point out to the House and through the House to the public at large the opinion of one who is entitled to consideration and respect. Speaking last year on the Budget Demand, on Demand XXI—Agriculture, Mr. K. S. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar said as follows:—

'With regard to the work done by the Agricultural department I will be failing in my duty if I do not congratulate the Hon. the Minister for the able and efficient work done under the present Director of Agriculture, Mr. S. V. Ramamurti. Especially in our parts, Sir, where the existence of the department was not felt at all before now, wherever we go the officers of the Agricultural department are trying their level best, of course, within their limited sphere and scope to help the poor ryots. I am really glad of it and I congratulate the Hon. Minister for the good work done under the present Director of Agriculture. Thirdly, Sir, the Agricultural department is advising the poor ryots to give up paddy cultivation and take to the rearing of garden crops.'

Mr. V. T. ARASU:—"Does it mean that the yield per acre has increased?"

The Hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"The observations of Mr. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar who is one of the leading mirasidars of Tanjore, will carry more weight than the expression of dissatisfaction of my hon. Friend Mr. Arasu.

"There is one other item which I should like to refer to, though it does not come under any one of the departments under my control. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition in his speech said that the Development Minister when he made a speech in Vizagapatam took shelter behind the coat-tails of the Reserved Half. I do not know what exactly he means by it. I should have been thankful to him if he had mentioned why he made that remark. Again, Sir, one sentence of my speech in Vizagapatam in reply to a number of addresses given to me came for a good deal of criticism from a local daily. I said that when provincial autonomy comes in, the finances of the province will be transferred to the ministry who then will be in a position to think of more comprehensive schemes. On that statement a construction was put, viz., that I found fault with the Finance Department and the Hon. the Finance Member. It was not so. I merely made a statement of fact. As a matter of fact, Sir, apart from the question of finance, the departmental subjects which are dealt with by Government are divided into two halves, the Transferred Half and the Reserved Half. The relationship between the two halves has been cordial and the Members of the Reserved Half have been giving all the help that they could possibly

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think of. Yet, we the Ministers, for that matter any other ministry, could not contemplate any schemes which would affect the departments under the control of the Reserved Half. My Hon. Colleagues are responsible for the management of their subjects, not to this House, but to the Secretary of State. Coming to the financial aspect of it, I can say that I cannot give a reply more adequately and in a better manner than the one my Hon. Colleague, the Finance Member, gave in his budget speech. He said—

'We at present are bound by a number of financial restrictions, but when provincial autonomy comes, those financial restrictions will cease to be operative.'

He also says—

'I think, in future, the Budget problem will have to be approached from a somewhat new angle by the new Government. They will have, I think, first to consider what expenditure is really necessary, and then adjust taxation accordingly, either by increasing or decreasing taxation or substituting one tax for another.'

Sir, that is a reply to which I cannot add anything more. What I meant by my statement then was that in provincial autonomy the Ministers will be in charge of all the departments, and they can make adjustments here, there and anywhere. Now, we are not in a position to do so. I should like to point out at the same time that no one is more alive than myself to the position that the task of the future ministry under the reformed constitution is not going to be an easy one. They can easily promise that they will abolish this tax or that tax; or they will make retrenchments here, there and everywhere. I do not for a moment envy the position of the future Ministers and the ministry. Sir, I believe that by the action of the present ministry it cannot in any way, by any stretch of imagination, be said that they have any complaint against the personnel of the Finance Department or the present Finance Member or his predecessors. If there is any criticism, it is a criticism against the system and not against individuals. I am happy to state that the relationship of the Ministers with the Members of the Reserved Half has all along been cordial, and as such we have not found it very hard to work a system which is inherently defective."

* The Hon. the RAJA OF BOBBILI:—"Sir, within the time available, I shall endeavour briefly to refer to the various points raised by hon. Members. My hon. Friend Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar who started the general discussion on the budget has stated, referring to the comprehensive scheme of road development put forward by me, that this Council has ceased to be representative of the electorate and that they should not undertake any work of importance which has the effect of committing the future government. Sir, I am really surprised that any responsible Member of this House should come forward and say, on the ground that the term of this Council has been extended beyond the normal period, that the Government should not undertake any new scheme, but that they should mark time. I am afraid that it is quite against all principles of public administration, if any Government is asked to adjust its schemes so as to last only for the duration of time

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they are expected to be in office. Whichever Government may happen to be in power, the administration must be carried on, and schemes which in some cases may extend over a period of years have to be laid down in the most economical manner, in the interests of the country. I am afraid the position taken up by my hon. Friend Mr. Ramalingam Chettiyar is quite untenable.

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"As regards the comprehensive scheme of road development, no doubt from day to day there will be an opportunity for a full-dress debate on the question, but I will only say this much, that it is not at all the intention of the Government that we should immediately borrow Rs. 3½ crores and spend that money before the future ministry comes into office. The intention is, as I have stated more than once in moving that resolution, to lay down a clear-cut programme, so that the local boards might be in a position to know what funds would be available for them to undertake schemes of development, and these loans will be taken as and when they are required with reference to the actual expenditure incurred by local bodies. As I have stated, this scheme is intended to cover a period of about seven years, and it will be always open during this period for any future government to modify or slow down or accelerate the progress of this scheme.

"Several hon. Members have drawn the attention of Government to the inadequacy of allotments for rural water-supply and village communications. I may state that this year we are providing about 15 lakhs for roads and bridges, 4½ lakhs for village roads, nearly 3 lakhs for rural water-supply, 2.38 lakhs for mufassal water-supply and drainage schemes and nearly 3½ lakhs for the Madras Corporation. From a perusal of the figures of the previous year, it will be seen that the allotments have been substantially increased. Of course, I do realize that these amounts in some cases may be found inadequate to meet all the requirements of the districts, but taking into consideration the finances of the province at present, they have no reason to be dissatisfied with the allotments made to these departments.

"Several hon. Members, including Sir William Wright and my hon. Friend Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar, referred to the high rate of motor taxation in this province. Unfortunately I realize that it is so. But unless we are prepared to find alternative sources of taxation, I can hold out no hope of relief in this direction, and the only consolation I can offer will be the fact that motor taxation, especially that of buses, to-day is at a lower level than what it was four years ago when the Act was originally passed.

"My friends Mr. Simhachalam and Mr. Rameswara Rao have suggested that the Religious Endowments Board should be abolished. I am sure if it was in their power, they would not hesitate to do so. But I am afraid unfortunately that the Government and the public have now realized that an institution of that kind is absolutely necessary to look after the religious institutions in our Presidency. I do not mean to say that the administration of the Endowments Board has been

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free from all defects. No institution is perfect. Apart from that, I may state that the Board is doing very useful work and its work is being appreciated by the public. Of course, my hon. Friend Mr. Parthasarathi Ayyangar is apparently not satisfied with the work of the Board as it is not up to his ideal and he considers the real man is not in his right place and the best man must be selected. But unfortunately he has not helped me by saying where he has discovered that best man.

"Again Mr. Simhachalam appears to be very angry with the Inspector of Local Boards and he wants that post to be abolished. Unfortunately, he has not given any reasons; but experience has shown that the work of the Inspector,—he has got various statutory duties to perform,—has been increasing, and proposals are now being considered for strengthening his staff, and I think this office must continue to be part of the governmental machinery for all time to come.

"One or two hon. Members have referred to the representation of backward communities in the various appointments to local boards. I may state we have already advised the Inspector, in making recommendations in future, to bear in mind the claims of backward communities.

"Various criticisms have been made regarding the lapse of grants to local bodies and it has been stated by several hon. Members, of course quite wrongly, that Government are responsible for this, as they are in the habit of sanctioning funds at the tail end of the year. Of course it will certainly be helpful both to the Government and the House if instead of vague generalizations hon. Members would be kind enough to quote particular instances. As far as I am aware, the policy of the Government to place the funds voted by the House at the disposal of the local boards as soon as possible after their budget is passed, is being followed. Of course, in the case of other schemes like water-supply and drainage schemes, funds cannot be sanctioned and placed at their disposal until the various conditions laid down by the Government are accepted by the local bodies concerned; and it is always usual to enforce such conditions when public moneys are concerned. Although it will no doubt entail some delays, such small delays are inevitable. As regards the delay in local boards, it is not fair to hold Government responsible; for, the main reason for the delay as regards local board works is their delay in submitting their budgets for the approval and sanction of Government. Although budgets should come up to the Secretariat early in the year, more often than not, there is considerable delay and applications are made for further time. Unless all these budgets are received in time, it is not possible for the Secretariat to scrutinize them and after carrying out certain alterations send them back with the orders of Government for their adoption. I am reminded that the time at my disposal has already been exhausted and I shall try to be brief. Several hon. Members have stated that wholesale bifurcation is going on merrily. I may state that the policy of bifurcation which has been fully endorsed by this House must be carried out with the greatest care and deliberation and in the interests of the local board

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administration; this is a thing which cannot be done hastily or without due consideration. On the other hand, Government have been accused of delay in giving effect to this policy.

"My friend Dr. Subbarayan suggested that during the current year Government should carry out the bifurcation of these boards as far as possible simultaneously, immediately before the elections. Of course we are attempting to carry out this work by the appointment of a special officer and staff as expeditiously as possible, but it will not be possible for me to give an undertaking that they will be bifurcated on any particular date. Moreover, experience has shown that there must necessarily be an interval between the bifurcation and the actual date of elections, as it is also necessary to start the two boards to function and to carry out the carving of new circles in consultation with the two boards. I shall see as far as possible that this work is done before the elections. Now as regards nominations, I may state to my hon. Friend that these nominations are made with a view to give representation to the minorities. That is the intention of the provision made in the Act. I may also state that no case has been made out; none of my hon. Friends sitting on the opposite benches have been able to quote a single instance where Government by these nominations, have upset the balance of parties or abused this power of nomination. I may state that in all cases where bifurcation has been carried out, nominations are made. Actual results have shown that these nominations have not actually affected the result of the elections. (Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar: 'What about Tiruvannamalai and Vellore?') As regards Vellore, I may state that there have been no nominations. (Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar: 'That is exactly the grievance.') As far as I understood, the grievance was that Government should not make any nominations, not that no nominations were made to Vellore. Of course, if my hon. Friend Mr. Manikkavelu Nayakar had any special grievance in that respect, this is the first time I am aware of it. As regards Tiruvannamalai, I may refer my hon. Friend to the actual result of the elections. It will show that these nominations have not affected the result of the elections. (Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar: 'They did.') (Mr. V. Nadimūthu Pillai: 'What about Tanjore?') What I say as regards nominations is that they have not been used to swamp the parties in the boards to which elections are being held. I do not see why the Minister in charge of the department should not avail himself of the right conferred on Government by Statute. I may also state that the Leader of the Opposition, when he was on the Treasury Bench, was also making use of nominations.

"Sir, I am afraid I have exceeded my time-limit. I would therefore conclude by saying that I will have all the other points considered and probably take occasion to reply to them in the course of the discussion on Demands for Grants."

* The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—"Mr. President, Sir, I am afraid the time left at my disposal is hardly adequate to sum up the budget discussions."

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The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—"Even as his money is being distributed among the Hon. Member's Colleagues, his time also has been distributed." (Laughter.)

* The Hon. Mr. G. T. H. BRACKEN:—"Sir, it is the business of the Opposition to oppose and of the critics to criticize. I do not think I have any reason to complain of either the volume or the nature of the criticisms. On the whole I think I am gratified that the budget has had so favourable a reception and certainly as favourable as any Finance Member can reasonably expect.

"The criticism of the Budget may be summed up under three heads: firstly, the agricultural population are over-taxed and land revenue concessions have been quite inadequate; secondly, the alternative forms of taxation suggested are monsters and ought to be strangled at birth, especially the Tobacco Bill; and thirdly, the expenditure on nearly every head, and especially on education is grossly inadequate. Well, it is rather difficult to reconcile these conflicting opinions.

"As regards revenue, I must just set right one erroneous statement about the increase in revenue which was stated to be Rs. 6 crores in the last decade. If hon. Members will refer to the memorandum, and especially the graph, they will see that in 1920-21 the revenue was Rs. 587 lakhs, in 1929-30 it rose to Rs. 850 lakhs, in 1933-34 it fell to Rs. 550 lakhs and in 1935-36 it was Rs. 571 lakhs, i.e., actually less than the figure for 1920-21, instead of being six crores more.

"Complaint has been made of the debit to revenue of what is really capital expenditure. I have already stated that everything that could be debited to capital or to balances has been so debited. We are bound by certain financial rules and restrictions as for example the rule which says that no scheme costing less than 5 lakhs should be debited either to loans or to balances. Then again, expenditure on the repairs of roads is not an expenditure that can be debited under the rules to capital, or again, election expenses. I may say that actually I have somewhat strained the rules to debit rather more to capital than perhaps under the strictest interpretation of the rules could have been so debited.

"Complaint has been made from several quarters that nothing has been done for the masses or the rural population, but I think those critics ignore what has been done and what is proposed to be done. As regards the provision of Rs. 20 lakhs for relief of rural indebtedness, I should explain that enquiries take time and it is not possible that more than 20 lakhs could be spent in the time available. If that turns out to be incorrect, well, more money will be provided.

"One bright spot that has since appeared is the speech of the Hon. the Finance Member of the Government of India. We are told that we are going to get a grant for rural uplift calculated on the basis of the agricultural population and that the distribution is going to be on this fair basis. I hope that the system of distribution of income-tax will be on a similarly fair basis.

[Mr. G. T. H. Bracken] [2nd March 1936]

" Criticism has been made as regards the pension charges that they are too high; but the increase in pension charges is inevitable. I have been attacked for reducing pensions. So how can hon. Members suggest that our pension charges should be reduced?

" Again, some hon. Members talked about the salary cut. Well, if all the salaries above Rs. 50 were cut, it would actually produce only Rs. 28 lakhs a year at a 10 per cent cut. Actually it is not in our power to cut the salaries of many officers not only of the Indian Civil Service but also officers of the Provincial and Subordinate Services. Hon. Members also have ignored the reduction in the expenditure which will be effected by the new salary scales. That will amount to a saving of Rs. 51 lakhs ultimately.

" I propose to push on the taxation enquiry as quickly as possible, but it will take some time. One hon. Member suggested that the result might be placed before the House. I am afraid that might embarrass the House. Hon. Members will be thinking not how many rupees would come into the treasury but how many votes they would lose over approving the proposals.

" As to the Tobacco Bill I am entirely unrepentant. I wish to accept full responsibility for it just as much as my Hon. Colleague the Revenue Member. In one quarter he was described in so many words as my evil genius. (Laughter.) Well, now he has withdrawn the Bill and I suppose he will be classed as my guardian angel. (Renewed laughter.)

" Sir, I see that my time is up almost. But before I conclude I should like to say that in regard to land revenue remissions, I hold no revolver at the head of the House. I only said it might be necessary to reduce it, but I will look into the matter and there is no need to come to a decision until quite the end of the year.

" I would close on a note of optimism. Though things might be better, I think they might be a good deal worse. The Hon. the Finance Member of the Government of India has been distinctly optimistic about the prospect of the future and not only are we going to get something for rural uplift and other deserving objects, but I think that the prospects of our getting some share of the income-tax are not so remote as I at one time feared. There may be fears that we shall not get our fair share of the proceeds of the income-tax; we can only hope for the best." (Applause.)

IV.—ANNOUNCEMENT RE. DEBATE ON DELIMITATION COMMITTEE REPORT.

" The Hon. the PRESIDENT:—" Hon. Members are aware that when we meet next, on the 11th March, the Delimitation (Hammond) Committee Report will be discussed. The Hon. the Finance Member has already given notice that the Delimitation Committee Report might be taken into consideration. (A voice: 'When will the copies be available?')

2nd March 1936] [The President]

They will come in time. I wish to point out to hon. Members that hitherto we had strange experience about the conclusions of the debate on such motions. It serves no useful purpose when a number of amendments are given notice of by individual Members and not all of them are even moved by the end of the day. I wish to draw the attention of the leaders of the several parties as well as of the whips that they should take particular care in seeing that amendments by individual Members are discouraged as much as possible, so that enough time may be allowed for the proper discussion of the main principles that have to be dealt with in connexion with that report. If only a few important principles are discussed on that date, they will be able to utilize the day at our disposal very profitably. I hope hon. Members will take this suggestion and see that the day that is allotted for this purpose is utilized as usefully as desirable. The House will now adjourn and meet again at 11 a.m. on the 11th instant."

The House then adjourned.

D. K. V. RAGHAVA VARMA,
Acting Secretary to the Legislative Council.

[2nd March 1936]

APPENDIX I.

Vide answer to question No. 877 asked by Mr. A. B. Shetty at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 2nd March 1936, page 305 supra.]

Statement showing the percentage of the current balance of land revenue to the current demand in the several districts at the end of fasli 1344 (1934-35).

Serial number and name of the district.	Percentage of balance.	Serial number and name of the district.	Percentage of balance.
1 Ganjam	0'08	14 North Arcot	0'07
2 Vizagapatam	0'04	15 South Arcot	4'08
3 East Godavari	1'08	16 Tanjore	2'03
4 West Godavari	0'08	17 Trichinopoly	0'04
5 Kistna	0'74	18 Madras	1'04
6 Guntur	0'67	19 Ramnad	33'05
7 Nellore	1'06	20 Tinnevely	0'24
8 Cuddapah	0'86	21 Coimbatore	0'01
9 Anantapur	1'55	22 The Nilgiris	0'02
10 Bellary	4'05	23 Salem	0'58
11 Kurnool	0'02	24 South Kanara	4'09
12 Chingleput	1'04	25 Malabar	1'00
13 Chittoor	4'04		

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 880 asked by Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 2nd March 1936, page 307 supra.]

STATEMENT.

(a) Number of vacancies of Junior Deputy Inspectors of Schools and Senior Deputy Inspectors of Schools in each year for the past five years including 1935.

Junior Deputy Inspectors.			Senior Deputy Inspectors.		
Year.		Number.	Year.		Number.
1931	..	Nil.	1931	..	6
1932	..	1	1932	..	2
1933	..	12	1933	..	Nil.
1934	..	16	1934	..	Nil.
1935	..	17	1935	..	Nil.
Total	..	46	Total	..	8

(b) Numbers filled up by direct recruitment and by promotion from the school staff in each year.

By promotion.			By direct recruitment.			By promotion.			By direct recruitment.		
Year.			Year.			Year.			Year.		
1931	..	Nil.	1931	..	Nil.	1931	..	6	1931	..	Nil.
1932	..	1	1932	..	Nil.	1932	..	2	1932	..	Nil.
1933	..	12	1933	..	Nil.	1933	..	Nil.	1933	..	Nil.
1934	..	9	1934	..	7	1934	..	Nil.	1934	..	Nil.
1935	..	17	1935	..	Nil.	1935	..	Nil.	1935	..	Nil.
Total	..	39	Total	..	7	Total	..	8	Total	..	Nil.

[2nd March 1936]

(c) Numbers according to community and according to the district.

Community.	District.	Community.	District.
1931			
Nil	Nil	Non-Brahmans .. 4	Chittoor .. 1
		Brahmans .. 2	Bellary .. 1
		Total .. 6	Tanjore .. 1
			Trichinopoly .. 1
			Tinnevely .. 1
			Ganjam .. 1
		Total .. 6	

1932			
Muhammadian .. 1	Nellore	Non-Brahman .. 1	Chittoor .. 1
		Brahman .. 1	Kurnool .. 1
		2	2

1933			
Brahmans .. 8	Ganjam .. 4	Nil.	Nil.
Non-Brahmans .. 4	Vizagapatam .. 4		
	East Godavari .. 3		
	Bellary .. 1		
12	12		

1934			
Brahmans .. 10	Bellary .. 1	Nil.	Nil.
Non-Brahmans .. 6	Ganjam .. 2		
	Madras .. 1		
16	West Godavari .. 1		
	East Godavari .. 2		
	South Arcot .. 1		
	Tinnevely .. 1		
	North Arcot .. 1		
	Chittoor .. 3		
	Guntur .. 1		
	Anantapur .. 1		
	Ramnad .. 1		
	16		

1935			
Brahmans .. 10	Ganjam .. 3	Nil.	Nil.
Non-Brahmans .. 5	East Godavari .. 2		
Muhammadian .. 1	Malabar .. 3		
Christian .. 1	Guntur .. 1		
	Kistna .. 2		
17	Cuddapah .. 1		
	Coimbatore .. 1		
	Trichinopoly .. 1		
	Tinnevely .. 2		
	Tanjore .. 1		
	17		

