

6th September, 1922

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OF THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1922



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CONTENTS.

	PAGE
TUESDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER, 1922	1-9
Oaths.	
His Excellency the Viceroy's Speech.	
WEDNESDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER, 1922	11-138
Death of Sir Vithaldas Thackersey.	
Statement laid on the Table.	
Questions and Answers.	
Unstarred Questions and Answers.	
Governor General's Assent to Bills.	
Panel of Chairmen.	
Member to serve on House Committee.	
The Police (Incitement to Disaffection) Bill.	
The Cantonments (House-Accommodation) Amendment Bill.	
The Indian Official Secrets Bill.	
The Criminal Tribes (Amendment) Bill.	
The Court-fees (Amendment) Bill.	
The Parsi Marriage and Divorce Bill.	
The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill.	
The Indian Boilers Bill.	
The Official Trustees and Administrator General's Acts (Amendment) Bill.	
The Indian Transfer of Ships Restriction (Repealing) Bill.	
THURSDAY, 7TH SEPTEMBER, 1922	139-248
Questions and Answers.	
Message from the Council of State.	
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill.	
Statement of Government Business.	
Resolution <i>re</i> : Votes of the Landholders' Constituencies.	
Resolution <i>re</i> : Revision of the Railway Act of 1890.	
Resolution <i>re</i> : Travelling Facilities for Third Class Railway Passengers.	
Resolution <i>re</i> : Restrictions on the Export of Wheat, Pulses and Oil-seeds.	
FRIDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER, 1922	249-344
Member Sworn.	
Questions and Answers.	
Unstarred Questions and Answers.	
Conflicts in Asia Minor between the Greeks and Turks.	
Motion for Adjournment of the House.	
The Cantonments (House-Accommodation) Amendment Bill.	
Resolution <i>re</i> : Grant of Full Dominion Self-Government to India.	
Vol. III-I-137—Pt. I.	

	PAGE
MONDAY, 11TH SEPTEMBER, 1922.	345-406
Questions and Answers.	
Unstarred Questions and Answers.	
Motion for Adjournment.	
The Cantonments (House-Accommodation) Amendment Bill.	
Resolution <i>re</i> : The Weekly Rest Day in Commercial Establishments.	
Resolution <i>re</i> : Hours of Work in Inland Navigation.	
Resolution <i>re</i> : Employment of Young Persons as Trimmers and Stokers.	
Resolution <i>re</i> : Emigration for the Purpose of Unskilled Work to Malaya and Ceylon.	
Resolution <i>re</i> : Recruitment to Indian Forest Service.	
TUESDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER, 1922	407-466
Questions and Answers.	
Unstarred Questions and Answers.	
The Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill.	
The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill.	
The Civil Marriage (Amendment) Bill.	
The Criminal Tribes (Amendment) Bill.	
The Adoption (Registration) Bill.	
The Exclusion from Inheritance Bill.	
The Indian Contract (Amendment) Bill.	
The Married Women's Property (Amendment) Bill.	
The Illegitimate Sons Rights Bill.	
The Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill.	
WEDNESDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 1922	467-499
The Indian Boilers Bill.	
The Workmen's Compensation Bill.	
The Court-fees (Amendment) Bill.	
The Parsi Marriage and Divorce Bill.	
The Official Trustees and Administrator Generals' Acts (Amendment) Bill.	
Election for Standing Committees.	
Resolution <i>re</i> : Committee on Electoral Rules.	
Message from the Council of State.	
THURSDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER, 1922	501-566
Petition from Madras Voters <i>re</i> : Provincial Contributions.	
Riots at Multan.	
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill.	
Propaganda in Chamber.	
Resolution <i>re</i> : Provincial Contributions to the Central Exchequer.	

FRIDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER, 1922

PAGE
567-655

The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill.
 Messages from the Council of State.
 Questions and Answers.
 Unstarred Questions and Answers.
 The Negotiable Instruments (Amendment) Bill.
 The Indian Mines Bill.
 The Police (Incitement to Disaffection) Bill.
 The Criminal Tribes (Amendment) Bill.

MONDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER, 1922

657-689

Bills passed by the Council of State.
 Questions and Answers.
 Unstarred Questions and Answers.
 The Police (Incitement to Disaffection) Bill.
 The Indian Boilers Bill.
 The Workmen's Compensation Bill.
 The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill.
 Election of Standing Committees.
 Conduct of Business.

WEDNESDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER, 1922

691-734

Questions and Answers.
 Sittings of the Assembly.
 The Indian Mines Bill.
 The Indian Extradition (Amendment) Bill.
 The Indian Museum (Amendment) Bill.
 The Indian Transfer of Ships Restriction (Repealing) Bill.
 Election of Panels for Standing Committees.
 The Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill.
 The Supreme Court of British India Bill.
 The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Bill.
 The Hindu Coparcener's Liability Bill.

FRIDAY, 22ND SEPTEMBER, 1922

735-794

Questions and Answers.
 Unstarred Questions and Answers.
 Panels of Standing Committees for Departments of Education and
 Health and Revenue and Agriculture.
 The Criminal Tribes (Amendment) Bill.
 Resolution *re*: Moplah Train Tragedy and Disturbances.
 Resolution *re*: Establishment for Work of Legislative Assembly.
 Date for Discussion of Supreme Court Resolution.

	PAGE
SATURDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER, 1922	795-846
Questions and Answers.	
The Cotton Transport Bill.	
The Abolition of Transportation Bill.	
The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill.	
The Indian States (Protection against Disaffection) Bill.	
Demands for Supplementary Grants.	
Resolution <i>re</i> : Imperial Medical Research Institute.	
Resolution <i>re</i> : Supreme Court for British India.	
Messages from the Council of State.	
Resolution <i>re</i> : Supreme Court for British India.	
 MONDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER, 1922	 847-919
Statement laid on the Table.	
Questions and Answers.	
Unstarred Questions and Answers.	
Motion for Adjournment.	
Sittings of the Legislature.	
The Indian Mines Bill.	
The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill.	
The Indian Naval (Armament) Bill.	
The Criminal Tribes (Amendment) Bill.	
The Police (Incitement to Disaffection) Bill.	
The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill.	
Message from the Council of State.	
The Cotton Transport Bill.	
The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill.	
Demands for Supplementary Grants.	
 TUESDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER, 1922	 921-951
Questions and Answers.	
Unstarred Questions and Answers.	
The Indian States (Protection against Disaffection) Bill.	
Demands for Supplementary Grants.	
Message from the Council of State.	
Adjournment of the Assembly.	
 APPENDICES	 1-12
Vernacular Speeches and Translations.	
 INDEX	 I-85

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 6th September, 1922.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock. Mr. President was in the Chair.

DEATH OF SIR VITHALDAS THACKERSEY.

Mr. President : Before we enter upon the business set down for this day's sitting, I desire to refer to the loss which the Legislative Assembly and the public life of India have suffered through the death of Sir Vithaldas Thackersey, the representative of the Bombay Mill-owners Association in this Chamber. Neither to the Members of the Legislative Assembly nor to his colleagues in the world of Indian commerce, nor indeed to the political world in India generally, is it necessary for me to describe or to estimate the services which Sir Vithaldas Thackersey rendered to his fellow country-men. A figure well known in the public life of Bombay and throughout India, Sir Vithaldas Thackersey had wide social, commercial and political interests and his removal by death leaves a vacancy not only on the benches of this Chamber but in the general life of the whole Indian community which it would be difficult to fill. In paying this tribute to the memory of our late colleague, I am sure that I shall be expressing the unanimous desire of his colleagues in this Assembly if I convey to his family our sense of the public loss which India has suffered and our sympathy with them in their bereavement.

Dr. H. S. Gour (Nagpur Division : Non-Muhammadian) : Sir, on behalf of the Democratic Party in this House and my other friends, I think you for the very handsome tribute you have paid to our dear, lamented colleague Sir Vithaldas Thackersey, whose untimely death has been a grievous loss to the Members of this House and to the country at large. His life was a life of not only a successful captain of industry but of a public spirited patriot, who had devoted his time and money for the advancement of his country. His private charities are well known. Only recently he endowed the Women's University in Poona with a munificent grant of Rs. 15 lakhs. As a member of this House his counsels were specially valuable to his colleagues and to the members of our party. It was only on the occasion of the last Budget that his voice was heard in the matter of retrenchment and public economy, and whatever he said, Sir, was well worthy of the deepest consideration. In losing Sir Vithaldas Thackersey we feel that the House is poorer, for, as a member, his arduous duties in this House had impaired his health, with the result that he was advised by his medical advisers to tender a temporary resignation. But I betray no secret when I inform the House that it was his desire to resume his seat in this House at the earliest moment, but Providence had dictated otherwise. We feel, Sir, that the loss of Sir Vithaldas Thackersey is a great national loss, and I therefore echo the sentiments which have fallen from the Chair on this occasion.

Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Sir, in associating myself with the remarks which have just fallen from you, with your permission, I wish to say a few words. Coming from Bombay it is natural that we should feel the loss of Sir Vithaldas Thackersey to a much greater extent than the other parts of India may feel. I know that Sir Vithaldas Thackersey was a national asset. His services to this country have been so great that it would be futile to make an attempt to enumerate them in the brief space of time that we have at our disposal. But I can assure you, Sir, that in Bombay Sir Vithaldas Thackersey's services were almost indispensable. There was not a single movement of importance during many years just past in which Sir Vithaldas Thackersey did not take an active part and to the success of which he did not largely contribute. Bombay can never forget the obligation that Sir Vithaldas Thackersey has conferred on her and India, I am sure, can never feel too grateful for the services that he has rendered. Sir, on behalf of myself and other friends, I associate myself with the sentiments that you have been pleased to express.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey (Finance Member) : Sir, I should like to take the opportunity of associating myself on behalf of my own colleagues and on behalf of Government with the remarks which you have made regarding the lamented loss of Sir Vithaldas Thackersey. We have all lost a personal friend, but more than this, I feel that Sir Vithaldas is a peculiar loss to us here, because he brought to the newer atmosphere of this Chamber a long experience of the deliberations in the old Imperial Legislative Council. Those of my colleagues who worked with him there will remember the acumen he displayed on all financial questions and the unfailing vigour with which he expressed his convictions.

It is on the financial side perhaps that we shall feel his loss most. He was often a critic of Government finance, but, Sir, he was a critic whose loss we shall deplore, for he was no armchair critic : he had a long and profound experience of affairs. It is because he voiced to us the feelings of a powerful community—a community whose good-will is essential to us—and voiced them with frankness and full information, that we feel his loss so keenly to-day. As Dr. Gour has said, we shall all,—not only the Indian public but Government—be the poorer for his absence from our debates.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee (Industries Secretary) : Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay on the table a statement furnished by the High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom of cases in which the lowest tender in regard to stores purchased for this country was not accepted by him during the two half years ending the 31st December 1921 and the 30th June 1922. These statements have been submitted by the High Commissioner in accordance with the Resolution* passed in this Assembly last September on the motion of our late lamented colleague, Sir Vithaldas Thackersey.

* *Vide* Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume II, pages 933—42.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.
INDIA STORE DEPARTMENT.

Abstract of cases in which Tenders, not the lowest complying with the requirements of the Stores Department and of the Inspecting Officer, were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the firm tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

HALF YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1921.

Part A.—Cases in which lower foreign tenders, including British tenders for foreign made goods, have been set aside wholly or partially in favour of British tenders.

Stores ordered.	Contract Number.	Name of Contractor.	Amount of Contract.	Lowest Tender not accepted.	Reason for acceptance.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1. Wheels and Axles	3127-4703, 28th July 1921.	Patent Shaft & Axle Co.	64,000 0 0 (853 fr.)	24,000 0 0 (245 fr.) German.	There were many conflicting considerations in this case, account having to be taken of uncertainties as to the internal German position and its probable effect on ultimate cost and deliveries. The original British tenders were much reduced as the Germans made more nearly than at first to the German offer and the order was finally given to them. In this case a measure of preference was allowed to the British firm, in accordance with the policy at the time temporarily in operation but since abandoned, under the direction of the Government of India, and having regard to the specially good work they had done for us in the past.
2. Insulator Cups	2295-1465, 12th August 1921.	Taylor Funnell & Co., Ltd.	550 0 0	450 0 0 (G. E. Co. on behalf of German firm).	On account of quicker delivery. The stores were very urgently required and the lowest tenderer could not promise delivery under 7 months.
3. Insulator Cups	2295-5040, 24th August 1921.	DH&O	1,273 10 0	1,048 10 0	On account of quicker delivery. The stores were very urgently required and the lowest tenderer could only commence delivery in 6 months.
4. Fishbolts and Nuts	4924-3127, 13th December 1921.	W. Kelsey-Bamber	1,464 0 5	1,204 14 5	Being the lowest tender with satisfactory delivery and also on account of greater reliability.
5. Copper plates	5070-4038, 24th December 1921.	Limley & Co.	2,163 17 0	2,027 8 6	The best tender having regard to delivery and extra cost of inspection allowed.
6. Dog splices	5072-4469, 26th December 1921.	J. Price & Sons, Ltd.	1,290 7 0	1,220 12 6	Accepted as best having regard to delivery and the extra cost of inspection allowed. The lowest tender was for stores made in Belgium, delivery 14 weeks against British delivery of 8 weeks.

Part B.—Cases in which the discrimination is between British or between Foreign firms, and not between British and Foreign.

Stores ordered.	Contract Number.	Name of Contractor.	Amount of Contract.	Lowest Tender not accepted.	Reason for acceptance.
1. Lamps	2957-3009, 29th June 1921.	Oil Lightings, Ltd.	£ 4. 4.	4 4 4.	
2. Banding	3012-3008, 26th June 1921.	W. Bancroft & Sons	39 6 3	39 7 1	Stores offered were of better quality.
3. Funnels, etc.	2950-3245, 1st July 1921.	Down Bros., Ltd.	328 2 6	325 10 5	Lowest firm not on King's Roll.
4. Moleskin	3166-3264, 2nd August 1921.	A. R. Gibbon	128 11 3	125 5 8	Ditto.
5. Tubes, W. I.	3003-3405, 2nd September 1921.	Stewarts & Lloyds, Ltd.	54 5 0	28 6 9	The higher tender was accepted in view of special urgency the delivery promised being 2 weeks against 12½ weeks by the lower tenderer.
6. M.H. Tank	3405-4129, 8th September 1921.	Dairy Supply Co. ...	320 15 2	345 16 7	Lowest tenderer not on King's Roll.
7. Sheets ground, 40,000	3017-3023, 13th September, 1921.	C. Macintosh & Co., Ltd.	16 5 0	11 6 0	
" " 20,000	3115-3253, 13th September 1921.	Broadhurst & Co., Ltd.	21,100 19 4	...	In view of urgency the order was divided at an extra cost of £219-12-4 over Macintosh & Co.'s tender for whole quantity.
" " 20,000	3219-3223, 13th September 1921.	North British Rubber Co.	13,988 19 4	...	
8. Fat	3332-3451, 13th September 1921.	Total	62,900 0 0	44,983 6 8	Superior trustworthiness.
9. Amy Nitris	3273-3288, 5th October 1921.	Mitchell, Ashworth Stansfeld & Co., Ltd. (Richard Ashworth & Co., Ltd.)	461 6 10	439 2 2	
10. Glycerinum	3272-3285, 5th October 1921.	T. H. Dickinson, Preston & King	94 11 8	88 19 2	The lower tender was from firm not on the King's Roll.
11. Knives for Cutting Machine	3262-3268, 5th October 1921.	J. Crawford & Sons, Ltd.	681 8 4	681 1 0	The lower tender was from Price's Patent Candle Company, who have refused to grant facilities to Indian students.
12. Thread, linen	4057-4058, 14th October 1921.	H. Rowell & Co., Ltd.	46 6 0	45 6 0	Superior quality.
13. Rubber solution...	4274-4283, 15th October 1921.	W. & J. Knox, Ltd.	523 4 3	499 3 6	Quicker delivery offered. Early supply was asked for in the Incident from Quartermaster General.
14. Syringes	4164-4261, 22nd October 1921.	County Chemical Co., Ltd.	8 10 10	Delivery 10 weeks.	Superior quality and quicker delivery.
15. Hose rubber	4275-2508, 20th October 1921.	Johnson & Jorgensen Flint Glass, Ltd.	41 11 1	35 3 10	Superior quality.
		G. Spencer Moulton & Co.	46 5 0	42 18 4	Superior quality.

16. Fishboits	457-565, 26th October 1921.	Guest, Keen and Nettelfields Ltd.	1,578 5 10 Delivery 5-6 weeks	1,561 1 0 (accepted for half-delivery in 1-3 weeks.)	The order was divided to secure quicker delivery as India had telegraphed asking that supply might be expedited.
17. Imhoff Tubes, motor cycle	428-5115, 26th October 1921.	Capron Heston & Co., Ltd.	121 0 0 Delivery in 3 weeks.	116 17 6 Delivery in 15 weeks.	Quicker delivery.
18. Bimmers	4310-5828, 2nd November 1921.	T. Chutwin, Ltd.	29 14 6	29 1 0	The lowest tenderer was not on King's Roll.
19. Boxes, distribution	4318-4870, 3rd November 1921.	Parmler, Hope & Egerton, Ltd.	2,250 0 0 (1,000 Couplings)	2,100 0 0	Superior quality offered.
20. Couplings screw	4356-4713, 6th November 1921.	Birmingham Railway C. & W. Co.	4,400 0 0 (3,000 Couplings)	4,350 0 0	To secure the best delivery to meet the urgency of the demand. The order for the 5,000 Couplings required was shared between the three lowest firms, the lowest tender being accepted for 2,000 Couplings.
21. Ditto	4389-4713, 6th November 1921.	Metropolitan C. W. & Finance Co.	1,065 0 0	1,045 0 0	Item 798 was for 24,500 Thermometers 22,800 were ordered from Comor & Sons, 1,700 per dozen and 11,000 from A. Peroni, at 11% per dozen less 21 per cent. Peroni's tender for this item was not accepted in full as the firm is new to this Department.
22. Thermometers, clinical	4389-4867, 7th November 1921.	A. C. Cosser & Son	303 0 0	297 10 6	Superior quality.
23. Files	4447-4715, 16th November 1921.	Howell & Co., Ltd.	1,397 5 6 Delivery in 2-11 weeks.	1,090 5 0 Delivery in 18-20 weeks.	The hump were urgently required in India. Refcom Lighting Company's tender was the lowest complying with the requirements having regard to delivery and quality.
24. Lamps	4530-5007, 16th November 1921.	Refcom Lighting Co.	1,968 13 4	1,860 0 0	In regard to delivery the order was divided 4,000 Couplings to each viz. --- J. Klypp & Son, £1,000-18, 4d. for delivery 700 in 10 days and 600 per week J. Dunsden & Co. £1,960 delivery 500 weekly commencing in 3 weeks.
25. Counterscales	4604-6046, 6th December 1921.	J. Klypp & Son, Ltd.	26 16 6	26 10 0	On account of superior quality and better delivery.
26. Grinding Machines	4608-6000, 12th December 1921.	Lake and Spencer, Ltd.	9,600 0 0	9,019 0 0	On account of greater reliability. The lowest firm had no experience in the manufacture of these cranes. The whole order was, however, divided between the two lowest firms, Messrs. S. Budler & Co., being given the order for 2 Cranes at £9,010 and Messrs. Ransomes & Rapier for 2 Cranes at £2,600.
27. Cranes	4656-5667, 12th December 1921.	Ransomes and Rapier, Ltd.	2,923 7 0 Approx. (Rate £14-00 per ton).	2,911 3 0 Approx. (Rate £14-00 per ton). (Messrs. Grace Bros.)	To secure best delivery in view of the urgency. The order was approximately equally divided between the two lowest firms.
28. Screw spikes	4691-5134, 16th December 1921.	A. de Barry	18 1 6	14 0 0	On account of superior quality.
29. Grinding Machine	4808-4867, 16th December 1921.	R. H. Leah, Ltd.			

Stores ordered.	Contract Number.	Name of Contractor.	Amount of Contract.	Lowest Tender not accepted.	Reason for acceptance.
30. Ground Sheets --	8219-2822, 28th December 1921.	Broadhurst & Co., Ltd.	£ s. d. 10,312 10 0	£ s. d. 10,108 13 4	To secure quicker delivery. The demand was for 66,000 shorts required immediately for Ordnance Arsenal. The order was divided between the two lowest firms in order to secure quicker delivery, viz.— Broadhurst & Co., No. 46,000 at 16-11. Chas Macintosh & Co., No. 20,000 at 10-08.
31. Cloth Pegs --	8277-7021, 28th December 1921.	L. Behrens & Sons	£ s. d. 4,869 18 16	4,313 10 10	To secure quicker delivery. The demand was for 326,000 yards asked for by telegram by the Army Clothing Department and shipment was required to be completed by 18th March, 1922. Half the order was placed with Messrs. A. Stockwell & Co., the lowest tenderer, at £4,312-10-10 and the balance from the next suitable tenderer, L. Behrens & Sons at £1,556-18-16.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA.
INDIA STORE DEPARTMENT.

Abstract of cases in which Tenders, not the lowest complying with the requirements of the Stores Department and of the Inspecting Officers, were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the firm tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

HALF-YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1922.

Part A.—Cases in which lower foreign tenders, including British tenders for foreign made goods, have been set aside wholly or partially in favour of British tenders.

Stores ordered.	Contract Number.	Name of Contractor.	Amount of Contract.	Lowest Tender not accepted.	Reason for acceptance.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
1. Pipes, W. L.	550-7752, 10th February 1922.	Edwin Lewis & Son, Ltd.	3,985 0 0	2,682 14 2	Accepted as best tender in view of extra cost of inspection in Germany and the superior quality and reliability of the British tender.
2. Copper plates	762-7760, 26th February 1922.	William Fowler & Co. and Messrs Greenfall & Sons, Ltd.	3,609 9 0		
	762-7760, 26th February 1922.	Virvan & Sons, Ltd.	5,941 15 0		
	764-7760, 26th February 1922.	P. & W. MacLellan, Ltd.	1,129 12 11	13,480 6 4 (French firm).	The order was shared between the lowest British tenders on the ground of superior reliability and quicker delivery of the firm tendering.
	765-7760, 26th February 1922.	Thos. Bolton & Sons, Ltd.	1,891 14 0		
	765-7760, 26th February 1922.	J. B. Garnham & Sons	3,426 15 0		
			14,379 4 11		
3. Springs, laminated	B-1004-7760, March 1922.	S. Fox & Co., Ltd....	1,750 5 6	10,091 16 6 for the whole	The order was shared between the lowest British firms on account of the much quicker delivery offered.
	B-1005-7760, March 1922.	Steel Peeth & Torser	2,186 3 0	Bochumer Verein & Co.	The two German firms offered delivery in 70 weeks and 25 weeks respectively against 5 to 9 weeks by the British firms. Supply was urgently wanted and stated to be required in the financial year 1921-22.
	B-1004-7760, March 1922.	J. Spenser & Sons, Ltd.	4,218 15 0	10,486 18 0	
	B-1005-7760, March 1922.	S. Osburn & Co., Ltd.	4,218 15 0	F. Krupp.	
			12,373 17 6		

Stores ordered.	Contract Number.	Name of Contractor.	Amount of Contract.	Lowest Tender not accepted.	Reason for acceptance.
A. Sheet	B-1000-2001, 2nd May 1922.	London Zinc Mills, Ltd.	£ 77 0 0	£ 71 10 0 H. Gardner & Co. P. O. B. Antwerp.	Tender accepted as was really the lowest having regard to extra cost of inspection abroad.
B. Boiler tubes	B-1000-2004, 24th May 1922.	Eber Yale Steel Iron and Coal Company.	837 1 8	4941 11 8 (American firm) plus additional cost of inspection.	Supply was very urgently required and it was considered desirable to share the order between the three lowest British tenders in order to secure earlier delivery by a month to six weeks. The American firm already hold a large contract.
C. Vacuum Brake Gear	B-2000-154, 27th May 1922.	The Vacuum Brake Co., Ltd.	604 7 0	1,125 0 0 (French firm).	Extreme accuracy in manufacture is required for this apparatus and it was deemed advisable to pass over the lowest tender, a French firm on this occasion, pending experience of their work on the contract already held by them.
F. Wire, Galvanized	B-3100-1700, 6th June 1922.	Dorman Long & Co.	Items 10 & 19 £,149 15 0 (English). Item 102. 870 0 0	4,980 0 0 (German). 502 10 0 (German). 129 0 0 German manufacture.	The tenders were referred to India and in reply it was requested that the quickest tenderer be accepted. The delivery promised by the English firm was much quicker than promised by the German firm. It was not considered worth the trouble and extra cost of inspection to place this relatively small part of the contract separately in Germany. In view of urgency of the requirements and the much quicker delivery offered.
G. Glass, plate	B-7001-0703, 23rd June 1922.	B. & C. Bishop & Co.	1,60 13 9		
I. Lamps	99-3122, 8th January 1922.	British Thomson Houston Co., Ltd.	51 6 8	£ 47 13 4	Better value for money.
J. Cotton	99-7442, 7th January 1922.	Central Agency, Ltd.	300 17 9	333 6 8	In view of the urgency and quicker delivery the order was shared between the two lowest firms, 20,000 yards being allotted to Central Agency Limited and 30,000 yards to the next lower tenderer.

Part B.—Cases in which the discrimination is between British or between Foreign firms and not between British and Foreign.

3. Batteries	69-697, 9th January 1922.	The Ever Ready Co. (Great Britain), Ltd.	98 13 8	98 13 4	Lowest suitable having regard to the urgency. Demanded by the Ordnance Ammunition and required to be sent out by the first available ship. Accepted on the grounds of superior quality. The higher efficiency of the lamps offered was considered to be well worth the extra cost.
4. Lamps	148-700, 15th January 1922.	General Electric Co., Ltd.	348 9 0	297 18 4	This order for 2,500 Couplings was shared between Messrs. P. & W. MacLellan (No. 1409 at £ 1-17-6 each) and Messrs. Cammell Laird & Co. (No. 1020 at £ 1-19-4 each) in order to secure best delivery, the time promised by P. & W. MacLellan being too long for the whole quantity.
5. Couplings	273-728, 20th January 1922.	Cammell Laird & Co., Ltd.	1,978 0 0	1,978 0 0	Harris accepted as lowest suitable. Heath's samples being of doubtful quality. Heath & Co. were however given a small order for trial in India.
6. Compasses	327-329, 20th January 1922.	W. J. Harris	45 0 0	38 15 0 (Heath & Co.)	On the grounds of urgency. The axes were required in India before the end of the financial year and Messrs. Vickers Limited gave the better delivery.
7. Axes	675-708, 4th February 1922.	Vickers, Ltd.	783 15 0	777 10 0	Being the lowest suitable having regard to quality and delivery. In view of the urgency and to insure payment as far as possible before the end of the financial year the order was shared between the four lowest firms. The lowest firm A. C. Pearce, was allotted 180,000 yards at 12½d. yard.
8. Mosquito Netting	520-41, 9th February 1922.	J. Heathcoat & Co.	13,000 0 0 (yards 270,000 at 19s.)	13,750 0 0	In view of the urgency. India requested supply by return air work on the Sutlej Valley Project would be hindered by delay. Delivery promised was 4 weeks against 7 weeks by lowest tenderer.
9. Ditto	521-44, 9th February 1922.	T. Adams Ltd.	9,548 10 0 (yards 170,000 at 19½d.)	9,051 5 0	Better value.
10. Ditto	522-44, 9th February 1922.	Taylor Bros. (Sandiware) Ltd.	7,419 5 5 (yards 122,000 at 19½d.)	6,379 18 9	The order was divided between these two firms in order to comply with India's requirements as to delivery. A special sum had been allotted from the year's grant and it was essential that this should not lapse.
11. Paper Section	574-524, 12th February 1922.	Waterlow and Sons	181 15 0	143 6 0	The lowest firm was not on the King's Roll and the difference in price was inconsiderable.
12. Glasses diamonds	560-705, 12th February 1922.	E. K. Pitts	21 19 0	21 14 0	Superior quality.
13. Wire	591-766, 14th February 1922.	Shropshire Iron Co.	627 6 0 (528 cwt. at £23-10-0 ton.)	683 4 0	
14. Ditto	592-766, 14th February 1922.	Wm. Bain & Co., Ltd.	668 4 6 (527 cwt. at £23-10-0 ton.)	683 1 0	
15. Knives	608-5106, 21st February 1922.	H. Rosnell & Co., Ltd.	20 6 0	16 6 0	
16. Brass Latens and Girthing	654-998, 2nd March 1922.	Wm. Notting, Ltd.	20 19 10	20 19 0	

Items ordered.	Contract number.	Name of Contractor.	Amount of Contract.	Lowest Tender not accepted.	Reason for acceptance.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
17. Jernys	B-1022-022, 13th March 1922.	S. D. Stutton & Sons	100 10 0	171 13 4	Lowest firm not in the King's Hall and difference in price small.
18. Lorry spares	B-1112-009, 22nd March 1922.	Automotive Spares, Ltd.	20 13 0	31 13 0	On account of much quicker delivery.
19. Ichthyol	B-1121-023, 22nd March 1922.	May & Baker, Ltd.	40 5 4	40 14 0	In view of the much quicker delivery offered.
20. Cord, Cotton, Kinkhi	B-1122-021, 24th March 1922.	E. Spinner & Co.	9,000 11 11	7,607 10 3	The order was shared between the only two firms tendering in view of the very large delivery (about two years for the whole quantity) offered by the lowest tender, Messrs. Stewart Thomson & Co. were given 25,000 yards (25,000-15-0 delivery in 20 weeks) and Messrs. E. Spinner & Co. 62,800 yds. (25,800-11-11 delivery 21 weeks.) and quick delivery offered by the lowest tender was Indiana.
21. Amarridi Bromidum	B-1122-1020, 20th March 1922.	T. Marston & Son	20 15 0	26 0 0	In view of urgency and the delivery offered by the lowest tender was Indiana.
22. Wheels and Axles	B-1222-523, 31st March 1922.	Boehmer Verdin	7,800 0 0	7,640 0 0	The order was divided between the two lowest tenders to secure better delivery.
23. Serum	B-1222-2020, 5th April 1922.	Léster Institute	10 10 0	7 0 0	Boehmer Verdin were given 200 pairs at £7 240-0-0 and P. K. 120 pairs at £7 240-0-0.
24. Drain Pipes	B-1222-1020, 12th April 1922.	Devilton & Co., Ltd.	610 2 11	774 3 9	The order was for the monthly supply of serum, and in view of the urgency the order for the first instalment was given to the firm offering quickest delivery. The order for the remaining instalments was placed with the lowest tender.
25. Steel strip	B-1222-1022, 4th May 1922.	J. J. Habershon & Sons, Ltd.	3,000 0 0	4,100 11 0 (Habershon's complete tender).	Being better value for money and also on account of quicker delivery.
26. Dikko	B-1222-1022, 4th May 1922.	S. Fox & Co., Ltd.	1,110 10 0	202 0 0	In view of urgency the order was divided to secure quickest delivery. Extra cost only 22-7-0.
27. Lashes	B-1222-1071, 6th May 1922.	Drummond Bros.	200 10 0	175 10 0	Lowest suitable having regard to delivery.
28. Cotton tape	B-1222-2241, 6th May 1922.	G. H. Whatecroft & Co.	100 10 0	175 10 0	Lowest suitable having regard to delivery. Supply urgently required by the Clothing Department and the lowest firm's delivery was contingent on the acceptance of other contracts.

29. Berry couplings..	B-1286-2907, 18th May 1922.	The Metropolitan Wagon & Finance Co.	1,750 0 0 Delivery 6 weeks.	1,062 10 0 Delivery 16 weeks after settlement of labour disputes.	Being the lowest acceptable giving suitable delivery. The same were urgently required by the Oadh and Rohilkhand Railway, and the lowest firm's delivery was long and dependent on settlement of labour disputes. Better value for money.
30. Cabiniers ..	B-1312-1327, 16th May 1922.	G. H. Williamson & Sons, Ltd.	9 7 0	8 16 0	On account of better delivery offered.
31. Pumps, copper ..	B-1664-892, 19th May 1922.	Elliot's Metal Co., Ltd.	653 7 0	630 11 3	On account of superior quality of the stores offered and the greater reliability of the firm.
32. Pipes, stoneware	B-2074-389, 1st June 1922.	Douglas & Co., Ltd.	267 5 11	127 10 0	On account of quicker delivery offered, and also greater reliability of the firm who had also satisfactorily executed a previous contract.
33. Insulator caps ..	B-2310-1750, 16th June 1922.	The General Electric Co., Ltd.	13,540 0 0 made in Germany	3 tenders lower. 7,397 10 0 6,680 0 0 11,263 15 0 (all for Cups of Continental Manufacture.)	The three lowest tenders were also for makers of Continental manufacture. None of the works were known to the Department but were all believed to be on a small scale. The deliveries offered (86 weeks, 63 weeks and 89 weeks respectively) were also abnormally long in view of the fact that supply was stated to be required in India by 20th June, 1922.
34. Netting Mosquito	B-2328-651, 19th June 1922.	Taylor Bros., Ltd.	5,264 11 8	5,312 10 0 Equal with another.	To secure best delivery. The three lowest offers were accepted for 160,000 yards each, two at £5,312-10-0 and one at £5,264-11-8. Being better value for money.
35. Anemometers ..	B-2320-6013, 20th June 1922.	E. W. Munro, Ltd.	89 10 0	94 7 0	
36. Pump Connections	B-2398-2021, 22nd June 1922.	Bismar Bros., Ltd.	4 15 8	4 8 8	The lowest tenderer did not comply with "Conditions of Contract" and also offered longer delivery.
37. Taps, compression	B-2398-2574, 22nd June 1922.	Best & Lloyd, Ltd.	20 9 4	31 10 3	Being better value for money.
38. Bolting ..	B-2140-2306, 7th June 1922.	Automotive Products Co.	100 0 0	98 13 4	On account of superior quality of the stores offered.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES OF OFFICIALS.

1. *Mr. J. N. Mukherjee : Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether in regard to the majority of establishments under the Imperial and Provincial Governments the scales of pay of Government officials have been revised on account of rise in the cost of living during recent years ?
- (b) Whether the status of officials for purposes of travelling allowances by rail, boat, or road was raised in accordance with the rise in pay, as a result of such revision ?
- (c) If the answer to the above question be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for granting higher class accommodation by rail or boat, or higher rates of mileage allowances for travelling by road, to an official whose pay was raised not because of added duties and responsibilities but only on account of higher cost of living ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The status of officials for the purposes of the travelling allowance rules being fixed mainly in consideration of pay, the increase of pay had sometimes the effect of transferring an official into a higher class. The question of revising the pay limits for the different classes is under consideration.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES IN THE PUNJAB.

2. *Mr. J. N. Mukherjee : (a) Are the Government aware that the Punjab Government have issued a circular order in regard to the establishments under their control ruling that the status of officers for purposes of travelling allowance will remain the same as before the revision of pay ?

(b) Will this Government be pleased to state the reasons for the Punjab Government following a different course to other Governments ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state the approximate extra costs to the public Exchequer due to Governments other than the Punjab not taking the same course as the Punjab Government ?

(d) In view of the great need for retrenchment in public expenditure, do the Government propose to consider the advisability of issuing orders similar to those of the Punjab Government ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : (a) The Punjab Government issued a circular, which came to the notice of the Government of India in September 1921, ruling that, pending revision of the pay limits, officers would remain in the same class as before the revision of their pay. It has recently fixed limits differing in some respects from the older limits for different classes of officers.

(b) I am not in a position to state the reasons which actuated the Punjab Government, but I imagine that the change was made in the interests of economy.

(c) I regret that it is not possible to frame such an estimate, but I may point out that the Punjab Government raised their rates of daily allowance, a course which was not followed by other Local Governments.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to the last question.

COMPLAINT OF MR. SAHNEY AGAINST A GUARD.

3. *Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas : (i) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a letter from Mr. Bodhraj Sahney in the *Leader*, dated 17th April 1922 complaining against the high-handed action of a railway guard in forcibly evicting him from a second class compartment ?

(ii) Has an enquiry been held to ascertain the facts of the case ?

(iii) What action has been taken against the guard in question and to compensate the complainant for the loss of some of his luggage and the inconvenience caused to him ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : (i), (ii) and (iii). The attention of Government was drawn to the article, and at their request an inquiry was held into the matter by a Magistrate. Departmental action has been taken against the guard of the train and the Station Master but in view of the Magistrate's findings the Railway Administration has rejected the claim for compensation.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WAR BY INDIA.

4. *Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar : (a) With reference to the answer of the Honourable Sir Reginald Craddock, dated the 7th March 1917, to question No. 19 asked in the late Indian Legislative Council by the Honourable Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola, has the Government ever published the information promised ? If not, has the Government any intention of compiling and publishing such information and if so when ?

(b) Will the Government, in case the information is to be published, obtain from the Home Government and give to the House particulars of similar contributions made by Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) The information has not yet been published. The question of publication at present forms the subject of correspondence between the Government of India and the Secretary of State for India.

(b) Complete information regarding the contributions of different kinds made by the Dominions named towards the prosecution of the Great War is not available in India, and cannot at present readily be obtained.

SANCTION TO RAISING LOAN.

5. *Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar : (a) Will the Government be good enough to state why the sanction of Parliament was sought for raising an Indian loan in England ?

(b) Having regard to the speech of the Under Secretary of State for India, will the Government take steps to avoid the necessity for obtaining similar sanction in future ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : (a) Because, as the law now stands, the loan could not be raised without such sanction. The Honourable Member is doubtless aware that the sanction given was not confined to the current year's loan, but will cover loans raised during the next few years, up to a total limit of £50 millions.

(b) If the statutory restrictions were abolished, the loans would automatically cease to be trustee securities under the Trustee Act, and this would greatly lessen their value from the investor's point of view. In order to keep them in the category of trustee stocks, we should have to

secure legislation in the United Kingdom on the lines of the Colonial Stock Act of 1900. This Act requires the observance by the borrowing colony of certain conditions, a copy of which I shall be happy to supply to the Honourable Member, if he so desires. The present time is, I think, inopportune for asking the Home Government to undertake legislation of this nature.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF MILITARY REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE.

6. *Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what recommendation, if any, the Military Requirements Committee in India made to the Sub-Committee of the Imperial Defence at Home ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what action, if any, has been or is proposed to be taken on the said recommendation ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) The Government regret that it would not be in the public interest to give at present the information asked for in the first part of the question.

(b) No final decision has yet been reached on the recommendations of the Military Requirements Committee in India. It is accordingly not possible at present to make any announcement.

Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar : Has the Government of India sent to the Secretary of State its views upon the question ?

Mr. E. Burdon : Yes.

INCONVENIENCES TO RAILWAY PASSENGERS.

7. *Baba Ujagar Singh Bedi : (a) Is it a fact that at starting stations even after trains have arrived at the platform and been occupied the fans are not in working order, and in reply to inquiries by passengers they are informed that the fans are allowed to be set in motion only 15 minutes before the starting time ?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative do the Railway Authorities propose to remove this general public inconvenience by issuing an order that when such trains arrive at the platform and if desired by passengers the fans may be put in working order ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : On most railways the practice is that electric fans in carriages are available for the use of passengers half an hour before the departure time of trains from the starting station. On the North Western Railway the existing orders are that fans should be switched on 15 minutes before trains are due to start but the Agent has arranged to bring the orders into conformity with those on other Indian Railways in respect to this matter.

RESERVING SEATS ON RAILWAYS.

8. *Baba Ujagar Singh Bedi : (a) Is it a fact that it has become a practice in railways to reserve seats for passengers on through service trains from any station though the passenger is catching the train at an intermediate station ?

(b) To be more clear, if a passenger desires to reserve a seat from Gujranwala station can the Station Master of Lahore reserve a seat for him from Gujranwala Station and label it at Lahore from "Gujranwala to such and such station" ?

(c) If the answer is in the affirmative is such Station Master authorised under any provision of the Railway Act to reserve such seats for passengers from stations which are not directly under his charge ?

(d) Are such passengers charged the railway freight from the stations at which they catch train or from the original station where the Station Master has ordered reserved accommodation and has labelled the seats ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : (a) The practice generally on Railways is to reserve seats from the starting station for passengers entraining at intermediate stations on sufficient notice being given : but reserved accommodation at intermediate stations is not guaranteed.

(b) The reply is in the affirmative provided the train starts from Lahore.

(c) Such reservation of seats for passengers is not inconsistent with the provisions of the Indian Railways Act.

(d) Passengers are charged for seats from the station at which they entrain on all railways except the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway undertakes to reserve seats for passengers at intermediate stations provided fares are paid as from the starting station and provided also that room is available on the train.

RESERVING SEATS FROM JULLUNDUR TO KALKA.

9. * **Baba Ujagar Singh Bedi :** (a) Is it a fact that on 8th May 1922 on Bombay Mail carriage No. 540 through service from Lahore to Kalka in a 1st Class Coupé two seats were reserved for a Captain from Jullundur to Kalka and were booked from Lahore by the Lahore Station Authorities and the label was placed at Lahore from " Jullundur to Kalka " while other travellers who desired to secure these seats at Lahore were refused on the ground that these two berths were reserved ?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, was the excess fare from Lahore to Jullundur charged from the passenger and if not why not ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part no 1st class passengers desiring to travel from Lahore were refused accommodation as berths in a Coupé were still unbooked and available before the train in question started.

(b) The reply is in the negative, as in reserving berths for passengers travelling to foreign lines from intermediate stations on the North Western Railway the fare is charged from the station at which the berth is occupied and not from the station from which the train starts.

SALARIES ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

10. * **Bhai Man Singh :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of officers getting salaries of Rs. 200, between Rs. 200 and Rs. 500, and over Rs. 500 in the East Indian Railway respectively and how many of them are Indians ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the total amount paid in salary every year to officers of the East Indian Railway getting Rs. 200, between Rs. 200 and Rs. 500, and over Rs. 500 and how much of this amount is paid to Indians ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : A statement giving the information asked for is placed on the table.

Statement showing the number of European and Indian officers of the East Indian Railway on and above Rs. 200 and the amount paid to them every year.

	(a)		(b)	
	Total number of employes.	Number of Indians included in those figures.	Total amount paid in salaries every year to employes.	Amount included in those amount paid to Indians every year.
On salary of Rs. 200 ...	101	30	Rs. 2,16,000	Rs. 33,000
" " between 201-500 ...	1,677	149	59,51,832	4,97,280
" " over Rs. 500 ...	317	24	36,04,500	2,35,360

Owing to constant fluctuations, the figures given above can only be approximate.

RAID AT SHERU KOHUD.

11. *Baba Ujagar Singh Bedi : (a) Is it a fact that a raid was committed in the village of Sheru Kohud in the district of Dera Ismail Khan in the first week of May last and a young Hindu girl and a Mahomadan girl were kidnapped by the raiders ?

(b) If so, what steps have the authorities taken to get them back and restore them to their parents ?

Mr. Denys Bray : (a) There was a raid on Sheru Kohud (not Sheru Kohud) on the night of the 8-9th of May in which a Hindu boy and a Hindu girl were kidnapped.

(b) The Frontier Constabulary at Draban receiving the alarm turned out parties to hold the Passes into the hills, but failed to get in touch with the raiders. As soon as the Deputy Commissioner heard of the raid on the 9th, he sent out a police officer to investigate. The Political Agent, Wana, at once took action to find out the whereabouts of the kidnapped children and try to secure their release. Meanwhile the boy escaped and returned to his home, and on or about the 27th May the girl also returned. She stated that she had been released without ransom, but there is reason to believe that her parents had paid 400 Kabuli rupees for her release.

CONVICTION OF MEMBERS OF UNITED PROVINCES PROVINCIAL CONGRESS COMMITTEE.

12. *Rai Bahadur Bishambhar Nath : (a) Is the Government aware that 55 members of the United Provinces Provincial Congress Committee were convicted under Criminal Law Amendment Act, by the District Magistrate of Allahabad, in December last, and sentenced to undergo an imprisonment of 18 months, in some cases simple, in others rigorous, and with a fine varying from Rs. 500 to Rs. 100 ?

(b) Is the Government aware that the cases of the said persons, along with others, convicted under Criminal Law Amendment Act, were revised by a special officer, appointed for the purpose, by the United Provinces Government ?

(c) Is the Government aware that the United Provinces Government has admitted that there was irregularity in the trial of the said 55 persons ?

(d) Will the Government, in view of the totality of circumstances, be pleased to direct the release of the said persons ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). The cases of these persons were examined by the Special Officer appointed by the Local Government. From the reply given in the Provincial Legislative Council it appears that the examination disclosed only a technical irregularity, which could have been cured in the Appellate Court by an alteration of the section, and the Government of India see no reason to interfere, nor has any application been made to them under section 401, Criminal Procedure Code.

PROVISION OF LAND TO ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

13. ***Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur :** (a) Is land for railway purposes provided by Government free of cost to the Assam Bengal Railway Company ?

(b) If so, what is the amount paid up to 1920-21 from the revenues of the country ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : (a) Land supplied to the A. B. Railway Company falls under two categories as follows :

(i) Land which the Secretary of State shall consider requisite for the railways of the undertaking and for stations, station yards, etc., necessary or proper for the purposes of the railways and which he has under the contract to provide free of cost. The cost of such land does not affect the capital or the revenue account of the railway.

(ii) Land which the Secretary of State may allow the Company to have possession of for the purposes and conveniences of the undertaking in respect to the provision of foreshores, wharves, jetties or quays. The value of such land is treated as capital contributed by the Secretary of State and ranks *pari passu* with the rest of the capital contributed by the Secretary of State and by the Railway Company in regard to interest and share of surplus profits if any.

(b) The cost of land provided up to end of April 1922 under the two categories is Rs. 56,42,654 and nil respectively.

PROVISION OF RAILWAY CARRIAGES.

14. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi :** With reference to the answer given on 27th February 1922 to my question (No. 221) will Government kindly state the approximate distribution between 1st, 2nd and 3rd class of the 4,500 coaches included in the provisional programme for the next five years ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : The distribution of the coaches included in the quinquennial programmes as revised by railways is as under :

					(in terms of four wheelers).
First class .. .. .	..	..	..	..	454
Second class .. .. .	..	..	..	..	474
Third class .. .. .	..	..	..	..	3,559
					4,787
			Total		4,787

STATE RAILWAY CODES.

15. *Mr. P. L. Misra : (a) What was the cost respectively of preparing and printing the last edition of the State Railway Codes ?

(b) Do all, or a majority of, the rules apply to company-worked State railways also ?

(c) If not, what other corresponding codes of Government rules available to the public are in force, where can they be had, when was the last edition issued, and what was the cost, respectively, of preparing and printing their last edition ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : (a) The cost of preparing the last edition of the State Railway Codes is estimated at about Rs. 3,000. The edition consisted of three separate volumes and 6,000 copies of each volume were printed. The cost of printing was Rs. 12,000.

(b) The rules in the Code are based on orders of the Government of India and the Railway Board, the majority of which are applicable to State lines worked by Companies.

(c) No separate set of Codes of Government rules has been issued specifically for the Company-worked State Railways.

MILEAGE OF STATE RAILWAYS.

16. *Mr. P. L. Misra : What was the total open mileage on 31st March 1922 respectively of State railways proper, and company-worked State railways ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : The total open mileage of State owned railways on 31st March 1922 was 26,698.92. Of this 7,592.36 miles were worked by the State and 19,106.56 miles by Companies.

CENTRAL PROVINCES PRODUCTIVE RAILWAYS.

17. *Mr. P. L. Misra : With reference to Appendix 10 to the Railway Administration Report for 1920-21, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement shewing only such lines in the Central Provinces as were, as a result of the survey or reconnaissance, estimated to give a return not less than the rate in forecast at the time for productive works ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : None of the projects in the Central Provinces referred to in Appendix 10 to the Railway Administration Report for 1920-21 was, as a result of survey or reconnaissance, estimated to give a return equal to or more than the rate in force at the time for productive works.

INDIANISATION OF RAILWAY SERVICES.

18. *Mr. N. M. Joshi : With reference to paragraph 2 of the Honourable Mr. Innes' speech printed at page 3110 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume II, No. 46, will Government kindly state the present position of the question of the Indianisation of the railway services, particularly in non-technical departments like the Agency, Stores, Printing and Audit ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : I have had the point examined and I think that I can best answer the Honourable Member's question by giving certain comparative figures. In 1916 the number of Indians holding superior posts in all Departments of Company and State Railways in India was 85 ; in 1922 it was 212. The increase has taken place chiefly in the Engineering and Traffic Departments. In the former the number has risen in the period mentioned from 39 to 81, and in the latter from 32 to 82. The departments particularly mentioned by the Honourable Member are small departments in which vacancies are not so common. But the figures are as below. In the Audit Department there are now 23 Indians against 7 in 1916. In the Stores and Printing Department there are 7 against none in 1916 and in the Agency Department there are 4 against 3 in 1916.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : Do these appointments include acting posts ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : I am afraid I cannot answer that question without notice.

COST OF LAND FOR RAILWAY PURPOSES.

19. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi :** With reference to the undertaking given on 15th March 1922 by the Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey in his speech printed at pages 3131-32, of the Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume II, will Government kindly state what decision has been arrived at in connection with the cost of land provided free for railway purposes being debited to Government capital account instead of to the Revenue account as at present ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : The point raised by the Honourable Member has been examined in consultation with the Auditor General. The payments to which his question refers are payments for land which is made over free of cost to subsidised railways, that is to say, railways which are both owned and worked by companies and the receipts and disbursements of which do not appear in the Government accounts. Government makes what is in effect a free gift of the use of the land to the companies as an inducement to them to take up enterprises which are likely to be beneficial to the public. The proprietary rights remain vested in Government. So far as the companies are concerned, the cost of the land, if they had to pay for it, would doubtless appear in the capital section of their accounts. So far as Government is concerned, the concession is practically a free gift, which must be made from revenue. In case the land at any time reverted to Government, it would of course be possible for Government to use it for other purposes ; but even then, unless it were employed for the purposes of a commercial department, it would not be in accordance with our system of account to charge the cost of the land to capital.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask a supplementary question, Sir ? If the Railway Department is a commercial department, is it not necessary that the cost of the land should also bear interest.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : In that case, Sir, it would not be the free gift to the companies which I have described.

CAPITAL GRANT SPENT IN ENGLAND.

20. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi :** With reference to the answer given on 16th March 1922 in the Council of State to question No. 125, will Government

kindly state how much of the capital grant spent in England is for loss by exchange ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : The loss by exchange adjusted in the accounts to end of December 1921 on the sterling payments in England is Rs. 3,55,82,000 and is included in the figure shown against India in the answer given on 16th March 1922 in the Council of State to question* No. 125. This loss operates against the capital grant for expenditure in India and not against that for expenditure in England.

CAPITAL OUTLAY ON RAILWAYS.

21. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi :** Will Government kindly say how much of the capital outlay of Rs. 558.82 crores referred to in paragraph 5, Chapter VII of the Railway Administration Report for 1920-1921, was met out of productive debt, how much of the same outlay represents capital not bearing interest and whether the figure includes the cost of ' protective ' railways ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : (a) The capital outlay on Railways directly incurred by Government and classed as productive to end of 1920-21 is Rs. 308 crores.

(b) The figure of " capital not bearing interest " which relates to the share-capital and debentures raised by guaranteed Companies does not represent direct outlay and is not included in the total outlay of 558 crores.

(c) The total outlay of Rs. 558 crores represents the whole capital outlay on Railways including that provided by guaranteed companies and cost of protective railways.

CHARGES FOR MILITARY TRAFFIC.

22. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi :** With reference to (f) of the answer given on 14th March 1922 to question No. 298, do Government propose to consider the advisability of showing the cost of these and other concessions in the Army accounts ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : Government have given this matter their consideration and are of opinion that nothing will be gained by altering the existing procedure.

The primary object of the special charges made to the Army is the simplification of the method of payment, accounting and audit in connection with the carriage of Military traffic by rail.

Calculation of the difference between the charges made at Military Traffic rates and at public tariff rates would involve time, labour and extra cost in clerical establishment incommensurate with the results to be obtained.

RATES ON STRATEGIC RAILWAYS.

23. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi :** Are the Army Officers, men and goods carried, on the non-paying strategic railways also, at the concession rates referred to in Army Regulations, India, Volume X, Appendices V and IX ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : The answer is in the affirmative.

* Vide page 1112 of Volume II, Part II of the Council of State Debates.

RAILWAY RATES AND FARES.

24. *Mr. N. M. Joshi : Is it a fact that Government have powers to compel a railway company to alter its rates and fares within the prescribed maxima and minima charges, and if so, under what conditions, if any ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : The question is not free from difficulty as the Honourable Member will see from paragraphs 144 to 147 of the Acworth Committee's report. But whatever our powers under the contracts may be, it is obvious that the proposal to establish a Rates Tribunal which is now under consideration will necessitate a re-examination of the whole position.

CARRIAGE OF COAL ON RAILWAYS.

25. *Mr. N. M. Joshi : Is there any difference between the railway rates charged to the public and those to railway administrations for the carriage of coal, and if so, on what basis is the distinction made ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : Yes. The rates charged to Railway Administrations for the carriage of coal are less than the rates to the public. The basis of the distinction is that in the circumstances of India it is unnecessary to allow the same margin of profit in transactions between railways as in the case of public traffic. If this principle were not applied to coal the effect would be on the one hand a considerable increase in working expenses on the Railways receiving the coal and an increase in the profit of the Railways delivering the coal. The principle is of course subject to the further principle that coal even for other railways should not be carried at a loss.

CARRIAGE OF RAILWAY STORES.

26. *Mr. N. M. Joshi : With reference to the item " carriage of revenue stores " appearing in appendix B to the Statement of Demands for railways will Government kindly state what are the rates charged for the carriage of the stores, and whether the freight charges are not added to the cost of the stores, and if not, why not ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : The rates for the carriage of revenue materials and stores differ on the different railways, but on most Railways they are .09 pie per maund per mile.

Freight charges are not now added to the cost of the stores except in the cases of large purchases required for immediate consumption on works.

In 1912, the investigations of the Stores Accounts Committee brought to light that the distribution of freight charges over a multitude of items of Revenue stores involved a large amount of labour without a corresponding degree of advantage or even of real accuracy. On the recommendation of the Committee therefore it was decided to charge freight in a lump sum direct to a separate head in the Revenue Account and the procedure was altered accordingly.

Many stores are issued to Capital works or sold, a fixed percentage charge based on the actuals of past years is added to the book value of such stores for freight and certain other incidental charges.

SARA-SANTAHAR RAILWAY.

27. *Mr. N. M. Joshi : With reference to the Sara-Santahar Railway mentioned in paragraph 9, Chapter II of the Railway Administration Report for 1920-1921, will Government kindly state what credit, if any, was received on account of the dismantlement, and what items it represented ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : A sum of Rs. 7,65,477 was received and credited to the Capital Account of the Sara-Santahar Railway on account of the dismantlement of the metre gauge line. It represented the cost of permanent way and bridge materials.

Mr. J. Chaudhuri : May I ask the Honourable Member what has been done with the metre gauge railway which formerly existed between Sara and Santahar ? What has been done with the railway lines, plant, carriage and the whole of the stock ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question.

DUTIES OF RAILWAY AUDITORS.

28. *Mr. N. M. Joshi : With reference to paragraph 6515, Volume III of the Indian Railway Committee's Report, will Government kindly state what steps, if any, are proposed to be taken to place their auditors in a position to establish some kind of correlation between the renewal programme and the financial accounts ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : The collection of necessary preliminary information has been undertaken, and this question has also recently been considered in the Central Advisory Council. Arrangements are now being made to initiate measures to place the renewal programme on a definite basis which will be dependent on and directly related to the capital liability shown in the financial accounts.

RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

29. *Mr. N. M. Joshi : With reference to paragraph 6468, Volume III of the Indian Railway Committee's Report, is it a fact that on account of the railways not having been able to spend money on renewals, the net railway receipts were very much swollen ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : Yes, during the war period.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Is the Honourable Member aware that this has been characterised as dangerous finance by the Acworth Committee ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : May I ask which question ?

Mr. K. C. Neogy : The system to which Mr. Joshi refers in Question No. 29.

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : I am quite aware of what the Acworth Committee said on the matter.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Is he also aware that the Acworth Committee have unanimously come to the conclusion that the War is not a sufficient excuse for this system.

SHORTAGE OF RAILWAY COACHES.

30. *Mr. N. M. Joshi : With reference to the Answer given on 31st January 1922 to question No. 234, will Government state why the provision of additional coaches was allowed to fall into arrears to the extent indicated by the figures furnished in that answer between 1905 and 1915 ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : At this distance of time the Government of India do not think that any useful purpose would be served if they attempted to go into the merits or demerits of the expenditure programmes of the different railways during a period which ended seven years ago.

ADVISORY LOCAL COUNCILS.

81. ***Mr. P. L. Misra :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state when the Local Advisory (Railway) Councils recommended in paragraphs 139-142, of the report of the Railway Committee will be established, also to state the local centres where the local councils are to be established ?

(b) Have any rules been framed to regulate the business of the Central and the Local Advisory Railway Councils ? If not do the Government propose to submit them to this Assembly before bringing them into force ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : (a) Government are not in a position at present to give the information asked for. The necessary preliminary opinions of those concerned are being collected.

(b) No regular rules have been framed for conduct of business in the Central Advisory Council whose proceedings are for the present governed by the general instructions contained in Government of India Resolution No. 1194-F., dated 10th March 1922, under which the Council was constituted. In respect of local Advisory Councils the Honourable Member's question is covered by what is said in respect to first part of this question.

REVISION OF RAILWAY ACT.

82. ***Mr. P. L. Misra :** Will the Government be pleased to state when they propose to revise the Indian Railways Acts to embody the recommendations of the Acworth Committee and other provisions to assimilate the Indian law with the railway law in England and America ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : The Honourable Member is referred to the answer* given in the Assembly to Raja Kushalpal Singh on the 16th January 1922 on the same subject.

There is nothing to add to the answer then given.

ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.

83. ***Mr. P. L. Misra :** (a) Is it a fact that the Assam Bengal Railway has been working at a loss for the last 25 years ? If so, will the Government state the total amount of the losses in interest, etc., incurred by Government through the operations of that Railway Company ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Company working that line has raised only about 1-8th of the Capital instead of the 3-11ths required under its contract, if so, why have not the terms of the contract been enforced ?

(c) Will the Government state whether any enquiries as to the financial success of this line were made before its construction was authorized ? If not, why not ? Why was the principle that the construction of railways from borrowed funds be limited to those schemes only which are estimated to yield an annual income equal to the interest on the Capital expended in their construction laid down by the Secretary of State in 1874 and repeated by the Parliamentary Committee of 1879 departed from in the case of the Assam Bengal Railway ?

* vide page 1579 of Volume II, Part II, Question No. 181.

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : If the Honourable Member will be good enough to refer to page 1580 of Volume II of the official Report of the Legislative Assembly Debates, he will find that the same question, in literally the same words, was asked by Raja Kushalpal Singh on the 16th January last. It was also answered.

TRAINING OF INDIANS FOR RAILWAYS.

34. ***Mr. P. L. Misra :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take upon the recommendations contained in paragraph 184 of the Report of the Indian Railway Committee with regard to :

(i) Technical training of Indians in the different provinces of India both for the superior and the subordinate grades of the Railway Services.

(ii) The system of selection and training of the young men appointed as probationers in the Traffic Department on Indian Railways ?

(b) Do the Government intend to complete the establishment in the near future of a Railway College in India for the training of young men for employment in the Agency, Traffic, Audit, and Stores Departments of the Indian Railways ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : (a) (i) An officer has been placed on special duty to go into the whole question of the training of Indians for both Superior and subordinate grades of all Departments and a definite scheme is in hand, the proposals in connection with which it is hoped to publish in due course.

(ii) A scheme for the selection and training of young men as probationers in the Traffic Department is also in preparation.

(b) Government do not at present propose to start a separate Railway College but to make use of existing institutions.

INDIAN JUDGES IN HIGH COURTS.

35. ***Lala Girdharilal Agarwala :** Has the attention of the Government been invited to the opinion of the British Indian Association regarding the number of Indian Judges in High Courts and Chief Courts and the suggestion that one-third of the Judges be recruited from pleaders and that 50 per cent. of the Judges should be Indians (*vide Leader, Allahabad, dated 23rd June 1922, page 5, column 3*) ? If so, have the Government made any move in the matter, if so what ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Yes. In accordance with an assurance given by the Honourable Mr. O'Donnell in the Council of State on the 22nd February 1922 in replying on behalf of Government to the debate on the Honourable Mr. Sethna's Resolution* recommending an increase in the number of Indian Judges in the High and Chief Courts, the Government of India asked Local Governments in March last for their views. At the same time they also asked for opinions on the question of the proportion of barrister, and pleader judges of High Courts. Their replies are awaited.

* *vide page 789 et seq. of Volume II, Part II (Council of State Debates),*

(Question No. 36 was withdrawn.)

LLEWELYN SMITH COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

37. ***Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur** : Will Government be pleased to place in the Members' Library a copy of the Llewelyn Smith Committee's Report with the parts dealing with confidential matters cut out ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : A copy of the curtailed report has been sent to the Library as suggested.

CREDITS FOR GOVERNMENT SUPERVISION (RAILWAYS).

38. ***Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur** : With reference to the item "credits for Government supervision" appearing in the Railway Budget under "12-Miscellaneous Railway expenditure in India," will Government kindly state what these credits represent, from whom they are obtained, on what basis and when was that basis last revised ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : The credits in question represent the recoveries made by Government from railway Companies on account of Government supervision, audit and control of the affairs of the Companies. The charge is made at the rate of Rs. 40 per half year per mile of railway open for traffic except in the case of the Bengal and North Western and Rohilkund and Kumaon Railways where the charge is Rs. 20 per half year per mile.

The above rate of charge is in terms of the contracts with the railways concerned and the question of altering it does not consequently arise. The adequacy or otherwise of the rate will be considered when the execution of any new contract is taken up.

EXPORT OF WHEAT.

39. ***Baba Ujagar Singh Bedi** : (a) Is it a fact that the restrictions stated in the Communiqué of the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, dated Delhi, March 15th, 1922, on the export of wheat (including wheat-flour) and other food-grains and pulses are still in force ?

(b) If the answer to (a) above be in the affirmative,

(i) Is Government aware that since the restrictions were imposed, the prices of food-stuffs such as wheat, etc., have fallen enormously, i.e., by more than half, and still show a tendency to fall further ?

(ii) Is Government also aware that at the time of sowing *Rabi* crops the prices ruled very high and the Zamindars had to sow their lands with seeds costing more than double the present rates ?

(c) In view of the conditions given above, will Government be pleased to declare if and when they contemplate taking any action towards the removal of the restrictions ?

Mr. J. Hullah : (a) Yes, the restrictions on the export of wheat (including wheat flour) and other food-grains except rice are still in force.

(b) It is a fact that since the last harvest there has been a big fall in prices, and that the prices of wheat and other *rabi* cereals and pulses are now much lower than they were at the time of last year's sowings.

(c) It is hoped that the Assembly will shortly have an opportunity of discussing the question of removing these restrictions, which forms the subject of a Resolution of which notice has been received.

PAPER-BOOK DEPARTMENT OF CALCUTTA HIGH COURT.

40. *Mr. K. C. Neogy : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a statement made by His Excellency the Governor of Bengal in the Bengal Legislative Council on the 3rd July 1922, to the effect that the Government of India had instructed him to restore the vote for the Paper-book Department of the Calcutta High Court which had been rejected by the Council last Session, and that he was not entirely his own master in that matter ?

(b) Has the attention of Government also been drawn to a statement made by the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Judicial Department, in an explanatory memorandum accompanying a supplementary demand for a grant for the same Paper-book Department in the Bengal Legislative Council in its July Sessions of 1922, to the effect that on a previous occasion a sum of Rs. 43,800 was, under the orders of the Government of India, restored by the Governor of Bengal for that Department after the demand was refused by the Council in March 1921 ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state under what specific provisions of law the Government of India are authorised to give any such " orders " or " instructions " to the Governor of a Province in regard to the exercise of his powers, under section 72-D. of the Government of India Act, for the restoration of a grant rejected by the Local Legislative Council ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The extent to which Governors may be required to give effect to the instructions of the Governor General in Council in regard to matters under his control when they are exercising their statutory powers is under examination.

Mr. J. Chaudhuri : The power of control referred to is given by section 8 of the Letters Patent with regard to the appointment of ministerial officers, etc. Is it convenient for the Government of India which is now located at Simla and Delhi to exercise that control ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : If the Honourable Member thinks that he is going to draw me into a discussion of a delicate point like this in answer to a question he makes a very great mistake indeed.

Mr. J. Chaudhuri : Does the section give any power to the Government of India to direct the Government of Bengal to pay any money ? It only gives power for sanctioning appointments.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : I thought I had explained to the Honourable Member but I will do it again, that I decline to be drawn into any legal discussion in reply to a question of this character.

REPORTS OF INDIAN JAILS COMMITTEE.

41. *Mr. N. M. Joshi : With reference to the reply given by the Honourable Sir William Vincent on the 15th September 1921, to Mr. Kamat's question *re* : the report of the Indian Jails Committee, will Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether they propose to introduce in the Simla Session legislation to give effect to their decision of abolishing the punishment of transportation recommended by the Indian Jails

Committee ? If the reply to the above is in the negative, will they be pleased to give the approximate time by which they would be able to introduce the promised legislation, and,

- (b) whether they have arrived at any definite decision in the matter of the creation of the Children's Courts recommended in paragraph 369 of the said Committee's report ? If so, will they be pleased to announce their decision ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) It is proposed to introduce a Bill this Session.

(b) No definite decision has as yet been arrived at but the views of all Local Governments have now been received and are under examination. The question is largely whether we should introduce central legislation or leave provinces to frame their own legislation in accordance with local conditions. Bengal and Madras already have their own Children's Acts. Bombay have informed us they are coming up with a Bill and in other provinces too, *e.g.*, the United Provinces and Burma practical steps have been taken to deal appropriately with child offenders.

WAGE CENSUS OF MINERS.

42. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi :** With reference to the reply given by Mr. A. C. Chatterjee on the 15th September 1921, to my question No. 162, *re* : mines and miners, will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether they have taken the wage census and also prepared the Cost of Living Index Numbers ; and if so, will they be pleased to give now the information asked for in (a) and (b) of my said question ? And,
- (b) whether they have decided to revise the Indian Mines Act 1901 ? If so, when ? If not, why not ?

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : (a) Owing to the necessity for retrenchment, the Government of India have been compelled to abandon the proposal to appoint a special staff for the wages census for which provision was made in this year's budget. In the absence of any special staff, it will not be possible to undertake any comprehensive inquiries, but an endeavour is being made to collect figures in some of the important and organised industries.

As regards the preparation of index-numbers, I would refer the Honourable Member to the Government of India Resolution No. L-919 of 1st May 1922 which was published in the *Gazette of India* of 20th May 1922 and a copy of which will be placed in the Library.

(b) Government have decided to revise the Indian Mines Act, VIII of 1901, and it is hoped that an amending bill will be introduced in the Assembly during this Session.

WOMEN DOCTORS AND INSPECTORS IN FACTORIES.

43. ***Mr. N. M. Joshi :** With reference to the reply given by the Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes on the 22nd February 1921, to my question No. 292 *re* : women doctors for factories, will Government be pleased to state whether the Local Governments have taken steps to appoint women inspectors of factories and women doctors for looking after the health of women working in factories ? If so, will they be further pleased to give

the numbers of such women inspectors and women doctors in each province ?

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : The attention of Local Governments was drawn to this matter. In Bengal and Bombay qualified medical women were appointed to conduct investigations into the conditions of women's work before and after child-birth, and to assist employers who desired to institute maternity schemes. The Government of the Central Provinces intend to appoint an Inspectress of Factories with medical qualifications at an early date.

PARSIK TUNNEL BETWEEN THANA AND KALYAN.

44. *Mr. N. M. Joshi : Will Government be pleased to give the following information :

- (a) When was the Parsik tunnel between Thana and Kalyan on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway first opened for traffic and since when it is closed for traffic ?
- (b) What works are going on inside the tunnel, when are they expected to be finished and when it is likely to be re-opened for traffic ?
- (c) What was the cost of the tunnel when it was opened for traffic ? Who were the contractors ? Did the contractors complete the work as per agreement that was made with them ? Will the agreement be laid on the table ?
- (d) What is the estimated cost of the repairs and other works undertaken since the closing of the tunnel for traffic ? Are they being done by the Government Department, by piece work or by contract ? If the latter, who are the contractors ? And is there any time-agreement with them ? If so, what is the time limit ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : (a) The Parsik tunnel was first opened for traffic on the 31st March 1917, and closed on the 1st April 1919.

(b) No works are at present going on inside the tunnel which has been ready since July 1921. It, however, cannot be brought into use until the erection of new girders at Thana bridge is completed.

This work is practically ready for opening.

(c) The cost of the tunnel when it was originally opened for traffic amounted to Rs. 22,42,000.

The contractors were Messrs. Pauling and Company, Limited, and they completed the work according to the agreement but certain matters in dispute were settled by arbitration.

The agreement in question is between the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company and the Contractors, and cannot be laid on the table.

(d) No repairs were undertaken but the cost of the additional lining necessitated by falls of rock amounts to Rs. 5,74,590.

This work was carried out departmentally by the Railway.

WORK AND COST OF COMMITTEES.

45. *Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : (a) Will the Government be pleased to say how many Committees as resolved on by either Chamber of the Indian Legislature, have sat since the formation of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly, the titles of the Committees and their individual cost ?

(b) Will the Government also be pleased to state how many of the reports submitted by these Committees have been forwarded to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, and on how many action has been taken by him and by the Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : The information asked for by the Honourable Member is contained in the two statements now laid on the table. It will interest the Assembly to know that the cost of the Committees appointed by the Government of India as the result of Resolutions in the Legislative Assembly or Council of State is Rs. 1,67,952. The cost of Standing Committees or Select or Joint Committees is Rs. 14,503.

I. Statement showing the number and names of Committees appointed by the Government of India since 1921 as a result of Resolutions moved in the Legislative Assembly or the Council of State.

Serial No.	Names of Committees.	Cost.*	Whether the Committee has presented its report and if so, whether it has been submitted to the Secretary of State or not.	Whether action has been taken by the Government of India and the Secretary of State on the Report of the Committee.	REMARKS.
1	Committee of Public Petitions.	Rs. A. P. Nil.	The Committee presented its report but it was not submitted to the Secretary of State.	The report was published in the Gazette of India, and the Government of India left the further action to be taken on the report to the members of the Indian legislature.	
2	Staff Selection Board Committee.	Nil.	.. ..	.....	The Committee has submitted its preliminary report.
3	Arms Rules Committee.	*18,000-0-0	The Committee has not submitted its report as yet.	.....	*This is only the estimated cost. Exact figures cannot be obtained at present.
4	The Press Laws Committee.	18,817-0-0	Yes ..	All the recommendations made by the Committee have been given effect to.	
5	The Repressive Laws Committee.	714,088-0-0	Yes ..	Most of the recommendations have been carried out. Others are under consideration.	†This amount does not include the cost of printing the report which is not known.
6	The Racial Distinctions Committee.	38,821-9-8	Yes ..	The report is under discussion between the Government of India and the Secretary of State.	
7	Frontier Inquiry Committee.	140,780-0-0	No ..	No ..	†The Government of India have been asked to sanction a further expenditure of Rs. 27,780. Their Report is expected shortly.
8	Piece Workers' Committee.	2,911-13-3	The Committee has submitted its report but it will not be necessary to submit it to the Secretary of State.	The report is under the consideration of the Government of India.	
9	Railway Industries Committee.	Nil	No.	.	
10	Seamen's Recruitment Committee.	7,383-13-11	The Committee has submitted its report which has not yet been submitted to the Secretary of State.	The report is under the consideration of the Government of India.	

Serial No.	Names of Committees.	Cost.	Whether the Committee has presented its report and if so, whether it has been submitted to the Secretary of State or not.	Whether action has been taken by the Government of India and the Secretary of State on the Report of the Committee.	REMARKS.
11	The Military Requirements Committee.	Rs. A. P. 6,220-0-0*	Yes	The report is under the consideration of the Secretary of State.	*Excluding the cost of printing which is not known.
12	The Committee appointed to consider the Esber Committee's report.	Nil	†	†	†The action taken by Government on the report was furnished to the Legislative Assembly on the 16th January 1922.
13	Government Securities Committees (one in Bombay and one in Calcutta).	11,000-0-0	Yes. Not yet submitted to the Secretary of State.	Government are not yet in a position to say what action they will take on the Report.	
14	Railway Finance Committee.	9,455-0-0 approximate	Yes	Yes.	
15	Railway Risk-note Committee.	3,336-0-0	No ... ..	.....
		1,67,953-4-10			

II. Statement showing the expenditure incurred on Standing Committees and Select or Joint Committees.

Serial No.	Name of Committee.	Dates of sitting of Committee.	Cost of sitting of Committee.	REMARKS.
			Rs. A. P.	
1	The Standing Emigration Committee.	19th to 23rd June 1922	5,140 12 0	
2	Statute Law Revision Committee...	12th December 1921 (The President held conferences with some shipping people on 3 other days.)	694 5 0	
3	Joint Committee on Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill.	5th to 9th, 12th to 17th, 19th, 20th 24th and 29th June 1922.	3,978 6 0	
4	Standing Finance Committee ...	30th, 31st May and 1st to 4th and 6th June 1921.	4,700 0 0	
		Total ...	14,508 7 0	

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS WITH INDIA.

46. *Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas : (a) What is the present situation as regards Radio Communications between India and other parts of the British Empire, especially the United Kingdom ?

(b) Have Government expressed any views to the Imperial Government as regards the method by which the Government will co-operate in the Imperial Wireless Scheme ?

(c) Is it a fact that the proposed Imperial Wireless Scheme contemplates that traffic between India and the United Kingdom shall pass through the General Post Office station at Cairo ?

(d) Will this not cause delay which is avoidable and reduce the Indian share of the revenue derived from such traffic ?

(e) Is it not possible to erect stations which provide direct communications in normal times and at the same time can work *via* Cairo when conditions so require and also handle such Egyptian traffic as is offered ?

(f) What objection is there to providing direct Radio Communications between India and the United Kingdom by means of a commercial company operating under license from or contract with Government of India ?

(g) Is it not possible to lay down in the form of a license or contract such terms as will ensure an adequate service in every way in accordance with the requirements of Imperial Radio Communication being maintained whether in normal times or times of war or emergency ?

(h) Has any private firm applied for a license to erect and maintain the necessary service to provide the Indian link of the Imperial Scheme ? If so, with what result ?

(i) What is the Indian share of the estimated capital cost and recurring expenditure of the Imperial Wireless Scheme as proposed by the Imperial Government ?

(j) What would be the estimated cost to India if the Indian link of the Scheme was carried out by private enterprise under the license or contract from Government ?

Colonel Sir Sydney Crookshank : (a) The manner in which the Government of India should co-operate in the Imperial Wireless Scheme is under consideration.

(b) Yes.

(c) The latest proposal put forward by the British Government does not contemplate this method of transmission.

(d) This question does not therefore arise.

(e) Yes.

(f) The question is not so much one of objections as of the balance of advantages. The Honourable Member will no doubt appreciate the value of retaining direct wireless communication with the United Kingdom in the hands of the State.

(g) The experience of the method of control suggested by the Honourable Member, available in India and abroad, is not yet sufficient to enable the Government of India to answer this question with confidence.

(h) Yes. The matter is under consideration.

(i) The Imperial Government propose to advance the whole capital cost, so far estimated as £185,000 of the Indian Station, the recurring cost of which has been placed at £42,000 per annum, and

(j) As so much depends upon the terms of the contract it is not possible at this preliminary stage to state exactly what the estimated cost to India would amount to.

Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas : With regard to the estimated cost will the Honourable Member state if it has any relation to the Norman estimate ?

Colonel Sir Sydney Crookshank : So far as our information goes it has relation to the estimate prepared by the Norman Commission.

Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas : Is the Honourable Member aware that the size of the station proposed to be created is double the size for which the Norman estimate has been made ?

Colonel Sir Sydney Crookshank : The question of technical detail and of estimated cost has been considered by the Government of India and is now being gone into.

CHARGES AGAINST DR. KARTAR SINGH, DERA ISMAIL KHAN.

47. ***Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal** : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the order of Lieut.-Col. T. W. Irwine, the Chief Medical Officer, North-West Frontier Province, dated 24th August 1912, against Dr. Kartar Singh, Senior Sub-Assistant Surgeon No. 457 of the Punjab Provincial Service, who was then serving at Kulachi District Dera Ismail Khan in the North-West Frontier Province in consequence of the six charges framed against the said Dr. Kartar Singh by Mr. Mohamad Azim, the then officiating Civil Surgeon, Dera Ismail Khan.

(b) Were these charges in connection with some persons wounded by Mahsuds and brought in by the said Dr. Kartar Singh on 14th April 1917, on receiving a telegram to the effect from the Officer Commanding Frontier Coast Constabulary ?

(c) Is it a fact that he had to travel some miles in the Trans-border territory on the night of the 13th April 1917, and had to undergo a lot of trouble in bringing these men to Kulachi hospital ?

(d) What escort was actually provided for him ?

PUNISHMENT OF DR. KARTAR SINGH.

48. ***Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal** : (a) Is it a fact that for Dr. Kartar Singh was awarded one major and 8 minor punishments, the former being the degradation of Dr. Kartar Singh from his senior grade to 1st class ?

(b) Is it a fact that under the Departmental rules sanction of the local Government of the North-West Frontier Province was necessary to award the said major punishment ?

(c) In this connection will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the Punjab Medical Manual, paragraph No. 228, and the Government of India, Home Department, No. 5-256-269, dated the 22nd June 1885 ?

(d) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to lay the said order of sanction by the local Government of North-West Frontier Province on the table ?

(e) If no such order was passed, what action has been taken against the Chief Medical Officer for his passing an unauthorised order and what steps have been taken in the matter ?

CHARGES AGAINST DR. KARTAR SINGH.

49. ***Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal** : (a) Is it a fact that the patients in whose connection charges were framed against Dr. Kartar Singh were private individuals and not officials ?

(b) Is it also a fact that they as private individuals were not entitled to any free attendance by the said Dr. Kartar Singh ?

(c) Is it also a fact that they were given free attendance by the said Dr. Kartar Singh ?

(d) In this connection will the Government be pleased to lay on the table copies of Punjab Medical Manual, paragraph No. 409 and the

Government of India, Home Department, No. 12-334-335, dated the 15th August 1884 ?

WITNESSES CALLED BY DR. KARTAR SINGH.

50. *Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal : (a) Is it a fact that during the enquiry of the charges against the said Dr. Kartar Singh he asked for about 27 defence witnesses to be examined, a good many of whom were men of high position including Mr. Mohamad Azim as chief witness ?

(b) Is it also a fact that the said request of Dr. Kartar Singh about these witnesses was refused ?

(c) Do not the Departmental rules require the examination of defence witnesses in such cases ?

(d) In this connection will the Government be pleased to lay on the table copies of Punjab Medical Manual, paragraph No. 147, the Government of India, Home Department, No. 37-1387-1404, dated the 20th July 1879 and the Punjab Government Circular No. 1-27, dated the 4th January 1884 ?

ACTION BY MR. MOHAMAD AZIM AGAINST DR. KARTAR SINGH.

51. *Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal : (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Mohamad Azim had made certain alterations in an indent to prove a Departmental charge, etc. (Charge No. 4 in the original list), against Dr. Kartar Singh ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table copies of the charge note in the list and of the indent in the office of the Civil Surgeon, Dera Ismail Khan, and of the copies of the indent submitted to the Chief Medical Officer in respect of which the charge was framed ?

REPORT OF COMMISSION ON DR. KARTAR SINGH.

52. *Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal : Is it a fact that Dr. Kartar Singh was refused the copies of the report by the commission of inquiry into his case and of other necessary papers regarding the case ?

RESIGNATION OF MR. MOHAMAD AZIM.

53. *Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal : Is it a fact that Mr. Mohamad Azim has resigned Government service on account of Non-co-operation ?

RECONSIDERATION OF DR. KARTAR SINGH'S CASE.

54. *Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal : Do the Government propose to order Dr. Kartar Singh's case being reconsidered if it finds that some injustice has been done to him ?

Mr. Denys Bray : Information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

DISABILITIES OF INDIANS IN COLONIES.

55. *Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the public meeting held at Bombay on 19th July 1922 under the Presidentship of Sir Dinshaw Maneckji Petil (Baronet) and to the speeches made and Resolutions passed in the meeting with regard to the disabilities of Indians in the Colonies ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state what steps it proposes to take in order to safeguard the Indians' status of equal citizenship with European Colonists in the British Empire ?

Mr. J. Hullah : (a) Yes.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the speech of His Excellency the Viceroy at the opening of the Session. The Government of India are closely following the course of events and are taking such measures as seem suitable to secure the removal of any disabilities upon Indians as such that are now in existence, and to prevent any fresh discrimination against them.

STATE vs. COMPANY MANAGEMENT OF RAILWAYS.

56. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a leaflet, issued in the month of July from the Central Bureau of Information and re-published in certain newspapers, dealing with the question of State vs. Company management of the Indian Railways ?

(b) If so, at whose instance and under whose instructions was the said leaflet prepared ?

(c) Is it a fact that the object of the said leaflet is to influence public opinion in favour of the system of Company management as recommended by certain members of the Acworth Committee, and to condemn State management ?

(d) Do the views expressed in the said leaflet represent the considered opinion of Government ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : (a) The Government of India have seen the leaflet referred to.

(b) The leaflet was prepared by the Publicity Bureau on material supplied by the Railway Board.

(c) No, the object was not as stated by the Honourable Member. The question of the best form of management for Indian Railways is a matter of vital importance to the welfare of India, and it is therefore necessary that the pros and cons of State vs. Company Management should be carefully considered by those with whom the decision may finally rest. Most of the references to this matter in the public press had advocated State Management as though there was nothing to urge in favour of Company Management. The Railway Board, therefore, on the principle of "*Audi Alteram partem*" thought it advisable that the arguments in favour of Company Management should be set out to enable those who have to decide this important question to have all the arguments pro and con before them before coming to a decision.

(d) Government have not yet formulated their considered opinion and will not do so until the final views of the Central Advisory Council are known to them.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar : I hope the Government will also take the views of this Assembly into consideration before they come to a final conclusion.

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : Of course they will.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED IN ASSEMBLY.

57. ***Rao Bahadur C. S. Subrahmanayam :** Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Resolutions passed by the Assembly since

its inauguration in 1921 and the number accepted in whole or in part or with modifications by the Government and the number of those not accepted ?

The Honourable Dr. T. B. Sapru : The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the three statements furnished in reply to questions by Mr. Agnihotri, M. K. Reddi Garu and Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal and printed at pages 1605-08, 1830-31 and 2906 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume II.

A further statement in regard to the Resolutions adopted during the last Delhi Session is laid on the table. This statement together with the three statements referred to contain all the information, up to date, asked for by the Honourable Member.

Statement showing Resolutions adopted by the Legislative Assembly during the Delhi Session 1922 and action of Government taken thereon.

Serial No.	Date on which moved.	By whom.	Subject of resolution.	Department concerned.	Action taken by Government.
1	12-1-22	Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal.	*Utilisation of the indigenous systems of medicine.	Education ...	The proceedings relating to this Resolution were sent on 27th February 1922 to Local Governments and Administrations for any action which might be considered necessary. (Nothing can be done by the Government of India until the Imperial Research Institute is completed.)
2	12-1-22	*Mr P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyar.	Indian Mercantile Marine.	Commerce ...	The Resolution has been accepted by the Government of India and it is proposed to appoint the Committee during the forthcoming cold weather. Questions relating to personnel, etc., are at present under consideration and the Legislative Assembly will be asked to vote a supplementary grant to meet the cost of the Committee.
3	12-1-22	Rai Bahadur C. S. Subrahmanyan.	Prevention of overcrowding on railways.	Railway ...	Railways and Government Inspectors have been specially addressed on the subject (Letter No. 552-T.-17, dated the 23rd January 1922).
4	16-1-22	Babu K. C. Neogy	Elected Standing Committees with the different Departments of the Government of India.	Home ...	It has been decided to appoint standing Committees for subjects in certain Departments. Draft rules relating to these Committees are under consideration.
5	24-1-22	Mr. N. M. Joshi...	Abolition of impressed labour, conveyance and provision.	Revenue and Agriculture.	The results of the examination of the subject which the Government of India have made have been communicated to Local Governments of Governors' provinces and the Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, for consideration. The military aspect of the subject is still under consideration.
6	25-1-22	Mr. P. P. Ginnwald	Abolition of distinctions between votable and non-votable items in the Budget.	Finance ...	The question as to whether the Governor General has the power to direct that the non-votable portion of the Budget shall be submitted to the vote of the Assembly under Section 87-A (3) of the Government of India Act was referred to the Law Officers of the Crown for a decision and they held that the Governor General had no such power. No action could therefore be taken on the Resolution.
7	1-2-22	Mr. N. M. Joshi	Women's Franchise	Home ...	Effect has been given to this resolution.
8	2-2-22	Dr. H. S. Gour ...	Committee on Retrenchment.	Finance ...	A Committee will shortly assemble in order to report on the possibility of effecting economy in central expenditure.

Serial No.	Date on which moved.	By whom.	Subject of Resolution.	Department concerned.	Action taken by Government.
9	7-3-22	Hon. Sir W. Vincent	Suppression of traffic in women and children.	Home ...	The International Convention adopted by the second Assembly of the League of Nations was duly signed at Geneva on behalf of the Government of India, on 26th March 1922 by the British Minister at Berne, with the necessary reservation in regard to Article 5 of the Convention.
10	1 5-3-22	Baba Ujagar Singh Bahi.	Committee on New Arms Rules 1922.	Home	A Committee has been appointed by the Governor General in Council and commenced its sittings on the 16th July 1922. From that date to the 20th idem the Committee examined a number of Official and Non-Official witnesses and also considered memoranda received from various Associations, Public Bodies and individual members of the general public. The Committee then adjourned till some date to be fixed in September next when it will meet to consider and frame its report.
11	9-3-22	Mr. K. R. L. Agnihotri.	Equality of status for Indians in South Africa.	Revenue and Agriculture.	The Resolution was communicated to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India and a Press Communiqué was also issued.
12	11-3-22	Mr. Jamsudas Dwarakadas.	Indispatch of the Services.	Home ...	Local Governments were addressed on 30th May 1922. Their replies are awaited.
13	20-3-22	Mr. N. M. Sawarbh	Technical training of Indian and Anglo-Indian youths.	Industries ...	The question of the admissibility of expenditure from Central revenues on technical scholarships has been carefully examined in consultation with the Auditor General and with the several Departments dealing with the subject named in the resolution. The subject of the resolution was also discussed at the Conference of Departments of Industries held in April last in order that the question of the extent to which local Governments were giving technical scholarships, and were prepared to do so in the future, might be examined. The subject is being further examined by the Government of India, and they hope shortly to be in a position to make definite recommendations.
14	27-3-22	Hon. Mr. C. A. Isaacs	India's participation in the British Empire Exhibition to be held in 1924.	Industries ...	The Government of India have received replies from the majority of local Governments and a number of Indian States on the subject of participation in the Exhibition, but in most cases definite guarantees to participate cannot be given by the provinces until their respective Legislative Councils have had an opportunity of deciding whether funds can be voted or not. In the meantime the Government of India have appointed a Commissioner for all-India who, after a short period of duty in India, during which he was able to consult with and advise the Government of Madras and Bombay and the Durbars of certain Indian States, has proceeded to London to make the preliminary arrangements for the erection of buildings and to settle other details in consultation with the High Commissioner for India, the Indian Trade Commissioner and Advisory Committee for India which has been appointed in London.

Serial No.	Date on which moved.	By whom.	Subject of Resolution.	Department concerned.	Action taken by Government.
15	27-2-22	Dr. H. S. Gour ...	Prohibition of traffic in minor girls.	Home ...	It has been decided to introduce a Bill to give effect to his Resolution as soon as possible. The Legislative Department were asked to furnish the Home Department by the middle of July last, with a précis of opinions received on the Bill circulated in 1916, in order to enable the Government of India to decide the policy and the lines on which the old Bill is to be modified. That précis is awaited.
16	2-3-22	Sir V. D. Thackersey.	Establishment of Railway Industries in India.	Industries ...	In pursuance of the Resolution a Committee was appointed in March last. The Committee held two meetings during the last session of the Legislature. It was to have held its final meeting in June but as the Chairman considered that it would be of great help to the Committee to see the Report of the Fiscal Commission before it submitted its own report, the meeting has been postponed until September.
17	9- -22	Rao Bahadur C. S. Subrahmanayam	Committee on Railway Risk Notes.	Railway ...	The Committee has been formed and the question of the revision of Risk Notes is being examined by it.
18	0-7-22	Haji Wajihuddin...	Opening of the Ports of Chittagong and Calcutta to pilgrim traffic.	Education ...	The proceedings relating to this Resolution were sent to the Government of Bengal on 20th May 1922, and they were asked to submit their proposals for giving effect to the Resolution, together with an estimate of the recurring and non-recurring expenditure which the scheme would impose on Central and Provincial revenues, respectively. (No reply has been received yet.)
19	25-3-25	Mr N. M. Samarth	Resignation of Mr. Montagu.	Home ...	Effect has been given to this Resolution.
20	27-3-22	Hon. Mr. C. A. Innes.	Adoption of the Railway Finance Committee's proposals.	Railway ...	Part of the Resolution relating to Capital expenditure during the next five years of Rs. 150 crores was accepted and the amount distributed to the railways concerned. The second part relating to separation of railway finance from general finance is to be taken up in the September Session.

MANUFACTURE OF STAMP PAPER AND STAMPS.

58. **Rao Bahadur C. S. Subrahmanayam** : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they are taking any steps to arrange for the manufacture of stamp-papers and postage-stamps in India ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : The question of printing stamps and stamped papers in this country is under the consideration of the Government of India and inquiries are being made with the object of ascertaining whether such arrangements are possible.

Dr. H. S. Gour : Is it a fact that the Government of India through one of their accredited agents have published their views to persons interested in the printing of stamps in this country that any future contract for the printing of stamps in this country would be given only for one year and no more ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : Not so far as I know.

Dr. H. S. Gour : Will the Honourable Member assure the House that if the printing of postage stamps in India is undertaken, a contract for

a reasonable term of years would be given to enable the contractors to instal the expensive machinery necessary for that purpose ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : I will have inquiries made on that point.

PRINTING PRESSES.

59. ***Rao Bahadur C. S. Subrahmanayam :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the work turned out by all the Government of India Printing Presses has been valued at market rate to find out whether the expenditure incurred on account of the printing presses is economically justifiable ?

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : The whole question was examined by a committee in 1902. This committee, on which the managing proprietor of one of the most important private presses in India served, arrived at the conclusion that it had established the fact that Government printing does not cost more, but rather considerably less, than the private presses would charge. Since then the question has not been taken up as a general question. But attention has been paid to costs in Government presses and a comparative valuation has been made from time to time of the cost of particular pieces of printing work executed in the Government press and the cost which would have been incurred had the same work been executed in private presses. The results of such enquiries have invariably been in favour of the Government presses. I must remind the Hon'ble Member that the case for Government printing presses does not rest solely on the question of cost.

Dr. H. S. Gour : Is the Honourable Member aware that it is the expert opinion that many Government presses are obsolete and old and cannot be worked with the same degree of economy as the latest printing presses installed by private companies ?

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : I am not aware of that fact.

Dr. H. S. Gour : Will the Honourable Member make inquiries to make himself aware of that fact ?

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : Inquiries are being constantly made.

Rao Bahadur C. S. Subrahmanayam : Is it not a fact that since the last inquiry the number of printing presses have increased in number and have also materially improved their machinery ? Will it not be useful now to ascertain how the matter stands ?

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : Is the Honourable Member referring to private printing presses, Sir ?

Rao Bahadur C. S. Subrahmanayam : Yes.

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : The matter will be taken into consideration.

Dr. H. S. Gour : How soon may I ask ?

GOVERNMENT vs. PRIVATE PRINTING.

60. ***Rao Bahadur C. S. Subrahmanayam :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether a large portion of printing work turned out by the Government presses may not be got done by private printing presses ?

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : I refer the Honourable Member to the answer to his previous question. It is impossible in an answer to a question to give full details, but I may say that the Government are satisfied that their own printing presses must be retained. Among other reasons, they are required for urgent and confidential work. For instance, we must have our own presses to print the debates of this Assembly, budget papers and the like. Such work comes in seasonal rushes. The presses have to be maintained at a certain standard in order to enable them to deal with these rushes, and as the staff has in any case to be retained for this work, it is only economical to keep it occupied with other Government work during the slack seasons.

So far as printing in bulk is concerned such as the printing of forms, a great deal of the work is actually done already through private agencies. I may mention in this connection that this system has not proved entirely satisfactory. A virtual monopoly was established of the Government contracts. Steps are now being taken to secure competition in these contracts and it is hoped that the new arrangements, when completed will secure efficiency as well as economy.

PROVISION OF FANS AT JANDOLA.

61. ***Rai Bahadur Bishambhar Nath :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that electric fans have been supplied to European British officers living in tents in Jandola (Waziristan Field Force) and that the tents of Indian I. M. S. officers of the place have not been fitted with electric fans ?

(b) What is this distinction due to ?

(c) Does the Government propose to remove this distinction ? If so, when ?

(d) At what other military stations, has the Government distinctions, such as the above, in the supply of amenities of life to Indian and European officers of His Majesty ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) The tents of most of the British officers serving at Jandola are equipped with electric fans ; those occupied by Indian officers of the Indian Medical Service are not so equipped, but, since the beginning of the hot weather, have been furnished with punkahs.

(b) The distribution of fans, the supply of which was limited, was made in accordance with the recommendations of a local Committee who, it is presumed, gave preference to those officers whose health was most likely to be endangered by the heat.

(c) and (d). At ordinary Indian stations fans and punkahs are provided under private arrangements, but where they are provided by Government, no distinctions are made between British and Indian officers holding His Majesty's commission.

DISCOMFORTS ON ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY.

62. ***Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur :** With reference to the answer given to question No. 307 asked by me on 27th March 1922, calling the attention of the Government to ascertain discomforts of passengers on Kulaura-Sylhet Branch Line, Assam-Bengal Railway, has any reply been received from the Agent ? If so, what is it ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : A reply has been received from the Agent, Assam-Bengal Railway, and the substance of it will be communicated to the Honourable Member.

COST OF DEMOBILISATION.

63. ***M. K. Reddi Garu :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the total cost that the country will have to bear on account of demobilising the surplus officers of the Army and offering facilities to them to settle in various parts of the Empire ?

(b) Is the Government in a position to state the additional expenditure imposed on India in the matter of discharging the surplus British Officers ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) and (b). It is estimated that the total cost of the gratuities and passages which will be granted to the surplus officers of the Indian Army who are now being discharged will be in the neighbourhood of 730 lakhs of rupees. The expenditure will be spread over a period of 4 years. Certain of these surplus officers were permitted to draw travelling allowance for journeys undertaken in India to interview representatives of the Dominion Governments regarding land settlement schemes. But apart from this, no expenditure is being incurred on providing facilities to enable the officers in question to settle in various parts of the Empire. The Government of India have claimed that the cost of gratuities and passages should be distributed between His Majesty's Government and Indian revenues ; but the ratio of incidence has not yet been settled.

Sir Montagu de Pomeroy Webb : May I ask if that figure includes gratuities to Indian Defence Force Officers ?

Mr. E. Burdon : Indian Defence Force officers are not being demobilized under the Surplus Officers scheme.

STAFF OF CALCUTTA HIGH COURT.

64. ***Prince Afsar-ul-Mulk Mirza Md. Akram Hussain Bahadur :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) how many Officials and Ministerial officers there are in the High Court of Calcutta on the Original and Appellate Side getting a monthly salary of Rupees 500 per month and upwards and how many amongst them are Muhammadans if there be any ?

(b) how many Law officers or Lawyers amongst the Barristers, Vakils, Attorneys and Pleaders are acting for both the Government of Bengal and the Government of India there and elsewhere in Calcutta in that capacity or otherwise, on the above scale or on daily fees and amongst them how many are Muhammadans ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) The number of officials on a pay of Rs. 500 a month and upwards employed on the Original and Appellate sides of the Calcutta High Court is 10 and 5, respectively. None of them is a Muhammadan.

(b) I assume that the Honourable Member desires to know how many Law Officers in Calcutta plead and act for both the Government of India and the Government of Bengal, and of these how many are Muhammadans. The number of such officers is 3, and none of them is a Muhammadan.

JUDICIARY OF CALCUTTA HIGH COURT.

65. *Prince Afzar-ul-Mulk Mirza Md. Akram Hussain Bahadur : Is it a fact that there are now sixteen Judges in the Calcutta High Court and amongst them there is only one Muhammadan Judge ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Yes.

SEPARATION OF JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS.

66. *Rai Bahadur Lachmi Prasad Sinha : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what progress the scheme for the separation of Judicial and Executive functions has made in the various Provinces in India ?

(b) Is the Government aware that although the general scheme is ripe for introduction in the province of Bihar and Orissa, the introduction on a wholesale scale has been delayed on account of alleged want of buildings ?

(c) Has the Government taken any steps to facilitate the introduction of the aforesaid reform ?

If so, will it be pleased to state them in detail ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) and (b). The Government of India have no information on the subject.

(c) I invite a reference by the Honourable Member to the Resolution of the Government of India dated the 7th December 1921, on the subject. The Resolution was published in the Supplement to the Gazette of India and copies were supplied to Local Governments. A copy will be supplied to the Honourable Member if he applies to the Home Department.

ABOLITION OF DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONERSHIPS.

67. *Rai Bahadur Lachmi Prasad Sinha : (a) Is the Government aware that there is a widespread feeling and opinion in favour of the abolition of the posts of Divisional Commissioners ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to inform the Assembly if any communications have been made to it by the Provincial Governments on the subject ? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table copies of the communications and of the replies given by the Government of India ?

(c) Is the Government aware that there is a widespread belief that the abolition of the above posts is being thwarted on account of the opposition of the Civil Service as curtailing the number of high appointments ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to inform the Assembly as to the time that will be taken in the final disposal of this question ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) Government are aware that this opinion is held in some quarters.

(b) The Government of India have asked Local Governments to examine the question. Their replies have not yet been received. It is understood that some Local Governments have appointed Committees to consider and report on the subject.

(c) No.

(d) It is not possible at present to indicate when this question the decision on which rests with the Secretary of State is likely to be settled.

POLITICAL OFFENDERS.

68. ***Rai Bahadur Lachmi Prasad Sinha** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the steps taken to revise and review the sentences passed against political offenders and will it be pleased to indicate the results of such enquiry and scrutiny in each province ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether any steps were taken by the various Provincial Governments in ascertaining the opinions of District Officers relating to the release of the political prisoners by means of communication or otherwise ?

(c) If so, will the Government be pleased to give the Assembly the gist of the replies received from the various District Officers, particularly of Bihar and Orissa, to the said circular or communiqué ?

(d) Is it a fact that some District Officers did not even care to reply to such communiqué and if so, will the Government be pleased to state their names ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) In December last the Government of India asked Local Governments to have the sentences passed under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908, and the Seditious Meetings Act examined for the purpose of securing uniformity and of ensuring that where the sentences passed were unduly severe, they were reduced. They believe that in many cases sentences have been reduced (or mitigated by the extension of special treatment) by Local Governments, but they have no detailed information as regards the action taken by Local Governments in cases under these Acts, or in cases relating to other offences connected with political offences.

(b) The Government of India have no information.

OCCUPATION OF WAITING ROOMS, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

69. ***Rai Bahadur Lachmi Prasad Sinha** : (a) Is the Government aware that troops were allowed to occupy the waiting rooms, both gentlemen's and ladies', on all the important Railway Stations on the East Indian Railway line during the time of the last strikes to the great inconvenience and annoyance of the travelling public ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state why this was done whether on account of the want of sufficient supply of tents or any other reason ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : (a) It is not true that troops were permitted to occupy the waiting rooms at all the important stations on the East Indian Railway during the last strike.

A portion of the waiting room accommodation was used for this purpose at Allahabad and Cawnpore stations only, and any inconvenience or annoyance caused to the travelling public at these places would probably have been much greater if the troops had not been present to deal with certain features of the strike.

(b) Wherever possible, accommodation for troops was provided without utilizing the waiting rooms, in some cases in railway carriages, in others in Railway quarters. It would not have been advisable on grounds of health for British troops to stay under canvas.

PUSA AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE.

70. *Rai Bahadur Lachmi Prasad Sinha : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the period for which the Pusa Agricultural and Research Institute has been in existence ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to inform the Assembly of the practical results so far achieved by the aforesaid institution in the development and improvement of agriculture in the country ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state the total expenditure both recurring and non-recurring hitherto spent over the said institution since its foundation ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state if any graduates or diploma holders have been turned out of the said college ?

(e) If so, will Government please state the number of each and also indicate how they have been employed and what practical work they have been doing in the field of agriculture ?

Mr. J. Hullah : The information asked for is being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member as soon as possible.

INTERMEDIATE CLASS, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

71. *Rai Bahadur Lachmi Prasad Sinha : (a) Is the Government aware that several of the main line trains including 27 up and 28 down on the East Indian Railway do not contain cushions in the inter-class compartments ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for adopting this economy while the fares have been increased from time to time ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The omission of cushions from intermediate class carriages was a war measure, due to suitable material not being procurable, but the deficiencies are being gradually replaced.

It is perhaps worth adding that for the last two years and at the present time, the Railway Administration has to contend with deliberate destruction of the cushions by passengers. It is a daily occurrence for a train to arrive at Howrah with the cushions in the intermediate class carriages badly cut with knives, and the destruction of these cushions has been so great of late that the question of replacing American cloth with canvas is under the consideration of the Railway Administration.

GRANT OF BONUS AFTER STRIKE ON EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

72. *Rai Bahadur Lachmi Prasad Sinha : (a) Is the Government aware that after the settlement of the last strike on the East Indian Railway, some bonus was allowed to those railway employees who worked during the time of strike ?

If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the lists of employees who were allowed the bonus, as also of those who were not allowed this benefit ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for the giving or withholding of the bonus ?

(c) Will the Government be further pleased to state if the railway employees at Jamalpur, Sahebganj and Kiul were allowed the benefit of this bonus ? If not, why not ?

(d) Will the Government be further pleased to state whether the bonus was granted on some principle or otherwise ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : (a) (b) (c) and (d). Certain rewards were granted by the East Indian Railway administration after the close of the last strike. The general principle laid down in respect of these rewards was that Heads of Departments in selecting the staff for rewards should be guided by the circumstances of each case so that all members of the permanent subordinate staff who had extra duties or responsibilities thrown on them by the strike and who worked satisfactorily under conditions of grave discomfort or intimidation might receive the rewards. The Government of India are not prepared to ask the Agent of the East Indian Railway to furnish nominal lists of employees who received these rewards and of those who did not receive these rewards. The cases of the employees at Jamalpur, Sahebgunj and Kiul were decided on the above principle.

BARRISTERS AND RIGHT OF PRE-AUDIENCE.

73. ***Mr. K. Ahmed :** (a) Are the Government aware that there is a rumour afloat in the High Court of Calcutta, as well as throughout Bengal, that in the Appellate Side of the High Court, the Barristers are going to be deprived of their right of pre-audience and that both the Vakils and Counsel will appear according to the seniority of their standing in the profession and irrespective of any distinction as members of different branches of the profession ?

(b) Is it a fact that a vakil instructing a Barrister, if senior in standing to the latter, will have the right of audience in preference to the latter ? If the answer be in the affirmative do the Government propose to take such steps as may be deemed necessary to conform the practice in these Courts with that which is followed in the High Courts of Allahabad, Patna, Punjab and other places, viz., authorising Barristers to take instructions direct from clients and to file Motions, Appeals, etc., on their behalf without the intervention of pleaders ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) and (b). The Government have no information as regards the alleged rumour. It will be possible for this Assembly to consider the points raised in connection with a Bill of which an Honourable Member has given notice of his intention to move for leave to introduce.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Is not the High Court of Calcutta under the Government of India, Sir, in the matter of control of these subjects ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Will the Honourable Member kindly repeat the question ?

Mr. K. Ahmed : Is not the High Court of Calcutta under the Government of India with regard to the control of the subjects set forth in parts (a) and (b) of the question ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : The Calcutta High Court is for certain purposes under the control of the Government of India.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Are not these subjects, (a) and (b) in the question No. 73 also under the control of the Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : I believe the Calcutta High Court have their right to prescribe their own rules for the

appearance of Barristers and Vakils on the different Sides of the Court, and I am not aware that they are under the control of the Government of India in that respect, save legislative control, but I will examine the question further.

Mr. K. Ahmed : How can a Vakil have a right of pre-audience....

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : I really cannot hear one word the Honourable Member says.

Mr. K. Ahmed : How can a Vakil have a right of pre-audience and at the same time deal with the client when a Barrister is engaged (by the client) to be instructed by him (the Vakil) ?

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar : May I ask, Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Kabeer-ud-Din Ahmed, whether Barristers.....

Mr. K. Ahmed : I do object, Sir.

Mr. President : Order, order. Mr. Rangachariar.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar : Is it not a fact that Barristers do take instructions from clients in mofussil cases ?

Mr. K. Ahmed : Is my Honourable friend speaking from the Government benches ?

INDIANS AND INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION.

74. ***Mr. K. Ahmed :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the total number of applications from different provinces from candidates who applied to appear in the last Indian Civil Service Examination held in India, the number of candidates permitted to appear from different provinces, giving full particulars with regard to the test of their selection and the reason why the full number of candidates as prescribed by the rules, were not allowed to appear and the number of candidates who actually appeared in that examination ?

(b) Do Government propose to prescribe the popular rule followed hitherto in England for the said examination, and make it a rule that it should be an open competitive examination without any restriction whatsoever, and hold the examinations by rotation in provincial centres such as Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Allahabad and other places ? If not, why not ? Will Government state the alternative suggestions if there be any ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) A statement is laid on the table giving the figures asked for. The adoption of the *quota* system did not result in any reduction of the number of candidates who might have appeared for the examination. Only 178 candidates applied in all, and in no province did the number of candidates permitted to appear come up to the prescribed quota. The applicants not permitted to appear were ineligible under the rules framed by the Secretary of State in Council under section 97 (1) of the Government of India Act.

(b) The answer is in the negative. The *quota* system was adopted after full discussion between the Secretary of State, the Government of India and the Civil Service Commissioners, a representative of whom visited India for the purpose. The Civil Service Commissioners held as the result of wide experience of examinations that the success of an

examination of University Honours standard depends on the limitation of numbers to such a total as would make it possible for one examiner to read and study the exercises of all the candidates on any one paper, and to value their work not by any mechanical rule of thumb, but by the individual appraisal of the qualities or defects of each. Experience in England of examination of the Indian Civil Service and University Honours standard has shown that the number with which one examiner can deal is about 200—and in fact in England the number of candidates for the open competition is now generally less than or has rarely exceeded 200. Larger numbers may be examined in a more mechanical way but for so important a trial as the I. C. S. 200 was decided to be the limit. Under any rules that could be drafted many thousands of candidates could be eligible to appear, whether they actually competed or not, and the alternative of holding a qualifying examination was rejected as unsuitable as being exposed to the defects mentioned above and on account of the practical difficulty of examining perhaps several thousands of candidates. Accordingly after careful consideration the Government of India agreed that the necessary preliminary selection should be carried out on a provincial basis, and a provincial quota was fixed for each province. As regards holding the examination by rotation at provincial centres, the Government of India do not at present contemplate this step. Allahabad was selected as being most convenient for all concerned owing to its central situation.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Is not the Central Provinces centrally situated, Nagpur for instance ?

Statement showing the number of applications received for the Indian Civil Service open competition held at Allahabad in 1922, the number of candidates permitted to appear and the number which actually appeared.

Province.	Total number of applications received.	Number of candidates permitted to appear.	Number of candidates who actually appeared.
Madras	85	15	15
Bombay	15	9	9
Bengal	46	23	22
United Provinces	21	13	11
Punjab	23	6	5
Burma	4	1	1
Bihar and Orissa	23	6	6
Central Provinces	3	1	1
Assam	8	4	4
TOTAL	178	78	74

RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE.

75. ***Mr. K. Ahmed :** (a) Are the Government aware that there are no Muhammadans in the Retrenchment Committee appointed by the Government of India, and that the personnel of the Committee and its scope have not given satisfaction to the people ?

(b) Do Government propose taking in some non-official Muhammadans in the said Committee, or in the alternative reconstitute it by appointing non-officials representing different classes or get the personnel of it elected by the people ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : (a) Government are aware that there are no Muhammadans on the Committee. They are not aware that the personnel and scope of the Committee have not given satisfaction, this however must be a matter of opinion.

(b) No. The members of the Committee have been selected as being the persons best qualified to consider a question of this kind, and Government are unable to see any advantage in constituting the Committee on class lines.

Dr. H. S. Gour : Is the Honourable Member aware that on this Committee there is not a single representative of this Assembly ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : The Committee was selected on lines which we believed would give the very best authority on retrenchment, and we took no regard of any other consideration whatever.

Dr. H. S. Gour : Does the Honourable Member imply that the members of this House will discharge their responsibilities in vicarious fashion, by accepting the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee on which they are not represented ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : I do not know why the Honourable Member should think that I implied anything of the kind. If considerations of that kind are present in his mind, they are not in my mind, for it is differently constituted.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Are none of the members of this Assembly in any way superior to or equal in status to any of the gentlemen on the Retrenchment Committee ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : The Honourable Member must form his own conclusions as to the capacity of the members of this Assembly : just as the members of this Assembly will no doubt form their own conclusions as to the capacity of the Honourable Member.

JAILS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

76. ***Mr. K. Ahmed :** (a) With reference to the observations made in paragraphs 474 and 475 of the Report of the Indian Jails Committee, 1919-1920, regarding the segregation of the undertrial prisoners from the hardened criminals, and the prolonged detention of the untried prisoners in Jail, will the Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Committee ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps they have taken to give effect to the recommendations made by the said Committee in paragraph 477 for allowing half of the period spent as undertrial prisoners to be counted as part of the sentence, and also other recommendations regarding the undertrial prisoners, made in paragraphs 478 to 487 ?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of giving effect to all these recommendations without any delay ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : The action taken on the recommendations referred to is described in paragraph 19 of the Home Department letter No. 104, dated 4th April 1921, a copy of which was laid on the table with the reply I gave to question No. 160 asked by Mr. Kamat on the 15th September 1921.

Since then Government have received and considered the opinions of Local Governments on the proposal that half the period of detention

before and during detention should be counted as part of the substantive sentence. In view of the many objections taken the Government of India have decided not to attempt to alter the law. They believe that in practice the period of detention under trial is taken into account by the Courts when passing sentence, but they have passed on to Local Governments for consideration a suggestion that High Courts might be moved to issue instructions to this effect to all Courts subordinate to them.

RAILWAY SERVANTS AND MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURES.

77. *Mr. K. Ahmed : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a paragraph of the *Englishman* of the 25th July 1922 about a notification alleged to have been issued by the Railway Board forbidding the railway servants from approaching the members of the Legislatures for the redress of their individual grievances ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the above notification ?

(c) Are the Government aware that the above notification has caused great dissatisfaction among the railway servants, and also has been adversely commented upon by the Press ?

(d) Do Government propose to withdraw the above notification ?

If the answer be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state in full the reasons for circulating such notice ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the letter to the Railway Officials will be sent to the Honourable Member.

(c) The Government have no information regarding any dissatisfaction amongst railway servants but they are aware that there have been some comments in the Press.

(d) Only those communications to members of the Indian Legislature which involves an infringement of the Government Servants' Conduct Rule 17 are prohibited. In the circumstances, the Government do not intend to withdraw the order.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Do I understand that the Government Servants' Conduct Rules are such that they interfere with the liberty and freedom of Government servants as voters, and that a member of this Assembly has no voice in ameliorating that condition ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Government servants are bound by Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar : May I ask whether it is a fact that similar circulars have been issued to all Departments of the Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Yes, Sir, I believe so.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar : Was there any occasion for issuing the Circular ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : The Government of India had reason to suspect that information which came to the knowledge of officers of Government through official sources was being communicated

to the public, and for that reason they thought it necessary to remind Government servants of their obligations under the Government Servants' Rules.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar : Would that apply to communications to members of the House of Commons ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : I am not aware whether it does or does not apply, but it is the rule in this country that no official is permitted to disclose information which comes to his knowledge in the course of his official duties to anyone outside his office.

Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar : Is the Honourable Member aware that the Home Department Circular issued last May in connection with the Indianization of services was available to members of the House of Commons ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : I am not aware of that fact.

Mr. N. M. Samarth : Is the Honourable Member aware that it was published in a Calcutta newspaper ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Yes, I am aware of it. It was improperly published.

RESOLUTION re ELECTED STANDING COMMITTEES.

78. ***Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal** : (a) Have the Government accepted the Resolution passed by the Assembly regarding elected standing committees with the Government of India ?

(b) Have the Government done anything as yet or do they propose to do anything in the matter ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Rules published in the Home Department Notification of the 22nd August 1922 on the subject.

RESOLUTION re INDIGENOUS SYSTEM OF MEDICINE.

79. ***Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal** : (a) Have the Government accepted the Resolution, regarding the appointment of a committee to recommend practical steps under the Indigenous system of medicine for the prevention and cure of the epidemics, passed by this Assembly in January last ?

(b) Have the Government done anything as yet or do they propose to do anything in the matter ?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler : The Resolution referred to related in the main to a provincial (transferred) subject, and the Government of India, as promised in the course of the debate, have sent to all Local Governments copies of the speeches made in the Assembly in this matter. The only direct action open to the Government of India lay, as explained at the time, in the field of research. The arrangements for a central research institute under the control of the Government of India have not yet been completed, so no action in this respect has as yet been possible.

SAHEBPORE KAMAL AND MAWSI RAILWAY STATIONS.

80. ***Rai Bahadur Lachmi Prasad Sinha** : (a) Is the Government aware that there are no wells within the Railway compound of the

Sahebpoore Kamal and Mansi Railway stations on the Bengal and North-Western Railway ?

(b) Is the Government also aware that the station hydrants open just a few minutes before and a few minutes after each train time, during which short time it becomes impossible for all the station staff to get sufficient water for their use ?

(c) Is the Government aware that on account of the inadequate arrangement of water supply as mentioned above the passengers who have to wait at the junction stations are put to great inconvenience ?

(d) Is the Government aware that inspite of the above facts having been brought to the notice of the Traffic Manager on behalf of the public as well as by the Station staff concerned no steps have been taken ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Government Examiner of Railways inspected the Bengal and North-Western Railway line recently ? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of his report and specially the portion relating to water arrangement ?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps, if any, they propose to take in the matter ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : (a) (b) (c) (d) and (f). The Railway Administration is issuing orders that the station hydrants should be kept open continuously.

(e) The Senior Government Inspector of Railways, Circle No. 3, has carried out a special inspection on the Bengal and North-Western Railway. The question of publishing his report will be considered.

INCONVENIENCE OF PASSENGERS AT THE SAHEBPORE KAMAL, MANSI AND KHAGARIA RAILWAY STATIONS.

81. ***Rai Bahadur Lachmi Prasad Sinha :** (a) Is the Government aware that the Sahebpoore Kamal, Mansi and Khagaria Railway stations on the Bengal and North-Western Railway line are Junction stations where numbers of passengers collect ?

(b) Is the Government also aware that these junction stations are not provided with " Mosafirkhana " (passengers' shed) to the great inconvenience of the passengers ?

(c) Is the Government further aware that the small space, just sufficient enough to give shelter to few passengers, on the verandah is even used for storing grain bags resulting in great inconvenience to passengers ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state what steps if any, they propose to take in the matter ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : Provision has been made in the quinquennial forecast for passenger sheds at Sahebpoore Kamal and Mansi. The Government of India are advised that the need for a shed at Khagaria is less urgent.

ACCIDENT AT TAHSIL DEWRIYA ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

82. ***Rai Bahadur Lachmi Prasad Sinha :** (a) Is it a fact that there was an accident between two passenger trains at or near about Tahsil Dewriya on the Bengal and North-Western Railway line resulting in loss of several lives and prosecution and conviction of Station Master Niranjan Das ?

(b) Is it also a fact that the said Station Master has been allowed to join his post and the Traffic Manager has ordered that he may not be put in charge of any important station ?

(c) Is it also a fact that after being kept for five months on relieving duty he has again been, contrary to the orders of the Traffic Manager, posted to Ekman Railway Station on the main line ? If so, why ?

(d) Is it also a fact that the brother of Niranjana Das is a contractor in the Railway and that Niranjana Das has been allowed to be reposted on his brother's recommendation ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : The facts are as stated in part (a) of the question.

As regards parts (b), (c) and (d), the matter is one entirely within the competence of the Agent. The Government of India however have ascertained that the Agent taking into consideration the fact that the Station Master had been heavily fined decided not to dismiss him but to repost him to a smaller station. He was posted to Ekma on the recommendation of the District Traffic Superintendent. It is not known either by the Agent or the Government whether the brother of the Station Master is a contractor on the Railway.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

APPOINTMENT OF PROVINCIAL CIVIL SERVICE OFFICERS TO FOREIGN AND POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

1. **Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any Provincial Civil Service officers have been appointed to the Foreign and Political Department ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state separately the number of Indians and members of the Domiciled Community so appointed ?

(c) If none of the latter have been appointed, will Government be pleased to state why they have been excluded ? And

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to bring it to the notice of the Provincial Governments ?

Mr. Denys Bray : (a) Yes.

(b) Five Indians. The recent appointments do not include any member of the Domiciled Community.

(c) The appointments in question were made in pursuance of the policy adopted by the Government of India, with the approval of the Secretary of State for India, of admitting a substantial proportion of Indians to the Political Department. The question of admitting members of the Provincial Civil Service who belong to the Domiciled Community has not been considered.

(d) The Government of India hardly think it necessary to take any special steps to bring the above facts to the notice of Provincial Governments.

STATISTICS OF RAILWAY WORKING.

2. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : Will Government kindly lay on the table a comparative statement shewing :

- (i) The amounts paid as compensation for goods lost or damaged ;
- (ii) the cost of superior supervising staff of the traffic departments ;
- (iii) the gross earnings from goods traffic—of the different Budget railways for the last 5 years for which accounts have been made up ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : A statement showing (i) the amounts paid as compensation for goods lost or damaged, (ii) the cost of superior supervising staff of the Traffic Department and (iii) the goods earnings of the different Budget railways for the years 1916-17 to 1920-21 is being sent to the Honourable Member.

The information for 1921-22 has not been given in the statement as complete returns have not been received from all railways.

AUDIT OFFICERS.

3. Mr. N. M. Joshi : Will Government lay on the table a list shewing audit officers at present working in executive or administrative capacity and the period for which they have been so employed ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : A statement is laid on the table.

Name of Officer.	Administrative post at present held.	Period (approximate) for which an administrative post has been held up to 1-9-22.	
		Years.	Months.
<i>Officers holding administrative posts inside the Audit Department.</i>			
1. Mr. W. Alder, C B E., I.C.S.	Auditor General ...	9	5
2. " H. B. Rau ...	Accountant General, Punjab	0	9
3. " C. W. C. Carson, O.B.E.	" " United Provinces	3	9
4. " H. Minson, I.C.S. ...	" " Central Provinces	1	0
5. " D. R. Matheson, I.C.S.	" " Bihar and Orissa	2	2
6. " U. L. Mazumdar ...	" " Central Revenue	10	6
7. " J. C. Mitra ...	" " Bengal ...	5	10
8. " M. K. Ghatak ...	" " Burma ...	5	4
9. " W. D. Woolam ...	" " Madras ...	2	4
10. " J. S. Milne ...	" " Bombay ...	6	7
11. " G. W. V. deRhe Philippe	" " Railways ...	8	3
12. " J. C. Nixon, I.C.S. ...	" " Posts and Telegraphs.	1	3
13. " B. G. Jacob ...	Comptroller ... Assam ...	4	9
14. " C. C. Fink ...	Chief Auditor ... Eastern Bengal Railway.	0	10
15. " J. M. Hartley ...	" " ... North Western Railway.	1	5
16. " P. P. B. Wood ...	" " ... Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway.	1	1
<i>Officers holding administrative and executive posts outside the Audit Department.</i>			
17. " K. V. Iyer ...	Joint Secretary, Railway Board ...	1	0
18. " S. C. Tomkins ...	Secretary, Railway Board ...	5	0
19. " B. Stanley ...	Assistant Secretary, Railway Board...	15	4
20. " S. D. Gupta ...	Controller of War Accounts ...	0	9
21. " Commander A. W. Wood.	Deputy Financial Adviser, Military Finance.	2	3
22. " B. N. Mitra, C.I.E., C.B.E.	Financial Adviser, Military Finance	11	8
23. " P. R. Rau ...	Under Secretary, Finance Department.	1	5
24. " D. N. Dutt ...	Additional Deputy Secretary, Finance Department	0	4
25. The Honourable Mr. E. Burdon, C.I.E., I.C.S.	Secretary, Army Department ...	6	9
26. " Honourable Mr. E. M. Cook, C.I.E., I.C.S.	Secretary, Finance Department ..	7	7
27. Mr. A. A. L. Parsons, I.C.S.	Deputy Controller of the Currency, Bombay.	5	11
28. " A. V. V. Aiyar, C.I.E.	Deputy Controller of the Currency, Calcutta.	8	
29. " C. A. G. Rivaz ...	Deputy Controller of Northern India.	2	7

RAILWAY STATISTICS.

4. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : Will Government kindly lay on the table a statement shewing for the year 1920-21 :

- (i) Total capital outlay to end of 1920-1921 ;
- (ii) Gross earnings for 1920-1921 ;
- (iii) Net earnings for 1920-1921 ;
- (iv) Interest for 1920-1921 on capital outlay ;
- (v) Difference between (iii) plus (iv) , and (ii), in connection with the following railways :

Ahmadpur-Katwa,
Arakan Light,
Bankura-Damodar River,
Cawnpore-Banda,
Dasghara-Jamalpurganj,
Thazi-Aungban,
Trans-Indus ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : With reference to items (i), (ii) and (iii) of his question the Honourable Member is referred to the History of railways constructed and in progress, corrected up to 31st March 1921, copies of which are available in the library of the Legislative Assembly.

The information regarding item (iv), viz., interest on capital outlay for 1920-21, is contained in the History for certain of the railways only. A statement giving information in regard to all the railways is appended.

Statement shewing the total interest charges on the capital outlay of the Ahmadpur-Katwa, Arakan Light, Bankura-Damodar River, Cawnpore-Banda, Dasghara-Jamalpurganj, Thazi-Aungban-Heho and Trans-Indus railways for the financial year 1920-21 :

	Rs.
Ahmadpur Katwa	72,518
Arakan Light	1,79,925
Bankura Damodar River	1,27,113
Cawnpore Banda	2,74,564
Dasghara Jamalpurganj	10,496
Thazi Aungban Heho (Southern Shan States)	5,51,114
Trans-Indus (Kalabagh Bannu)	6,88,276

RAILWAY COACHING STOCK.

5. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : Will Government state the total carrying capacity of coaching stock available on Indian railways for each of the three classes, viz., 1st, 2nd and 3rd, and the percentage of freight carried, on the total carrying capacity available for the year 1920-1921 ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : The total carrying capacity of coaching stock on Indian Railways for each of the three classes, viz., I, II and III and the percentage of freight carried on the total carrying capacity are not readily available and the information cannot be compiled without reference to the several railway administrations. The Government do not propose to undertake this work as the value of the result does not appear to warrant the expenditure of time and labour involved.

The Honourable Member will find the percentage of freight on capacity hauled separately for each year and for each railway in the Appendix containing the Analysis of Working in Volume II of the Administration Report for 1919-20 and for previous years.

RAILWAY EMPLOYEES LIVING ON PREMISES.

6. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : Will Government name the classes of railway employees on whom it is incumbent to live on railway premises ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : It is incumbent on all railway servants, for whom quarters on railway premises are provided, to live in those quarters. Those of the staff whose duties involve their being suddenly called out at any hour of the day or night are, as far as possible, provided with quarters rent-free. A list of such staff is given in paragraph 541 of State Railway Open Line Code, Volume I.

(Question No. 7 was withdrawn.)

RAILWAY SINKING FUNDS.

8. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : Is it a fact that there are two classes of sinking funds in connection with the East Indian, the Eastern Bengal and the Scinde Punjab Delhi Railways, viz., one sinking fund, proper, and the other in the form of annuity payment in purchase of the railways ? If so, what is the difference between the functions of the two classes ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : When certain Railways were taken over by the State, payment of their value was made in the shape, not of a lump sum payment, but of annuities fixed for a period of years. These are the annuities to which the Honourable Member's question refers. In certain cases, shareholders of the railways were permitted to exchange their annuities for India Stock, while other India Stock was issued later in exchange for debentures of the original companies which Government had taken over at the time of purchase. It was in order to redeem the India Stock issued for these two purchases that the sinking funds to which the Honourable Member refers were created.

RAILWAY STATISTICS.

9. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : With reference to :

the Kalabagh-Bannu,
the Nowshera-Durgai,
the Lalamusa-Kundian,
and the Sind-Sagar

Railways mentioned at pages 756 and 3299 of Volume II respectively of the Council of State and of the Legislative Assembly as remunerative railways, will Government kindly give the following figures for the latest year for which accounts have been made up :

Total capital outlay,
Gross earnings,
Working expenses,
Net earnings,
Interest charges,
Loss or gain by exchange,
Net loss or gain to the State ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : A statement shewing the total capital outlay, gross earnings, working expenses, etc., on the Sind-Sagar, Kalabagh-Bannu and Nowshera-Durgai sections of the North Western Railway for the year 1920-21 is appended.

The Lalamusa-Kundian section forms part of the Sind-Sagar section. Separate figures for the former are not available.

Statement showing the total capital outlay to end of 1920-21 and gross earnings, working expenses, net earnings, Interest charges, loss or gain by exchange and net gain or loss to the State during 1920-21 on the Sind-Sagar, Kalabagh-Bannu and Nowshera-Durgai Railways.

Railway.	Total Capital outlay.	Gross earnings.	Working expenses.	Net earnings.	Interest charges.	Loss or gain by exchange*.	Net gain or loss to the State.	REMARKS.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Sind-Sagar and Khushalgarh branches (including Lalman Kundian section).	6,08,09,600	74,44,307	61,32,214	13,12,093	20,37,667	...	-7,24,574	
Kalabagh-Bannu (Commercial line).	1,24,45,768	12,25,464	24,26,002	-12,00,538	5,16,761	...	-17,16,804	
Nowshera-Durgai	29,66,733	3,24,319	4,42,500	-1,17,180	1,04,340	...	-2,21,836	

* Loss by exchange is included in figures for "working expenses."

RAILWAY ANNUITIES AND SINKING FUNDS.

10. **Mr. N. M. Joshi:** Will Government kindly lay on the table a copy of the correspondence with the Secretary of State ending with his instructions about charging payments on account of annuities and sinking funds to the Railway Revenue Account referred to at page 4 of the Railway Administration Report for 1916-17 ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: The correspondence referred to by the Honourable Member is placed on the table.

No. 441, dated Calcutta, the 13th December 1906.

From—The Government of India,

To—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, John Morley, O.M.

We have for some time past had under our consideration the question of the propriety of charging the Railway Revenue Account with the whole amount of the annuity payments made as part of the arrangements under which certain lines (the East Indian Railway, the Eastern Bengal Railway, the North Western Railway and the Great Indian Peninsula Railway) were bought by the State.

2. The main points for determination are whether that portion of these annuities which represents purchase money is correctly shown in the Railway Revenue Account, and whether this Account, on the other hand, should not show the interest on the purchase money of the lines for all time.

3. The question is not a new one. It was discussed at considerable length at the time of the purchase of the East Indian Railway in 1879-80; and was again broached in 1899. On the former occasion the issue new under consideration was to some extent obscured by other controversial matter. The Government of India were at the time strongly averse to the purchase of the Railway by the method of terminable annuities; and their proposals for distinguishing the capital portion from the interest portion of the annuities were rejected by the Secretary of State as complicated and difficult to understand. In this Despatch No. 458, dated the 20th November 1879, he agreed "that all expenditure on the construction of productive public works should be treated as borrowed money, so that if, instead of borrowing to the full extent of such expenditure, a part of the surplus revenue of the year can be devoted to this purchase, the general debt of India be treated as relieved, and the productive public works debt as increased to such extent"; but he directed that, under the head of "Working Expenses, Interest and Annuities," the Railway Revenue Account should show the whole annuity payments. The Government of India in their Despatch No. 52 of 4th February 1880 urged the disadvantages of this instruction at considerable length. Their arguments, however, were mainly directed against the adoption of the method of payment by means of terminable annuities.

at all, and their recommendations were that a loan should be raised for the purpose and that the interest thereon should remain as a charge upon the tax-payers of succeeding generations. The Secretary of State in replying to this representation in his Despatch No. 209, dated the 24th June 1880, decided that it was "an essential part of the arrangement which has been made, that the whole of the annuity shall form a charge on the revenues of the railway, and be deducted therefrom before the surplus profits are declared."

4. The question was revived at the time of the purchase of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, when the proper classification of the annuity payments was again discussed. Lord Curzon's Government in their Despatch No. 54, dated the 3rd August 1899, urged that to repeat the system which had been laid down for the East Indian Railway in 1880 would be to burden the Railway Revenue Account with "a heavy charge for the repayment of capital included in the annuities, which would obscure the true working of our railways." They strongly recommended "that the annuities should be charged upon our general revenues, and that the charge upon the railway should be limited to a sum representing the probable rate of interest on the purchase money, had that been raised by loan, to continue not only for the term of the annuities but in perpetuity." Lord George Hamilton in his Despatch No. 238, dated the 7th December 1899, opposed the proposal, remarking that, if it were accepted, the debit of interest to the Railway Revenue Account would only be some hypothetical sum; and that even if it were possible to fix the true annual charge for interest on the cost of the railway, the removal of part of the annuity payments to another head of account would obscure the result of purchasing the lines. He stated, however, that he had no objection to showing as a footnote in the Finance and Revenue Account (No. 8) the part of the annuity payments which were equivalent to repayment of capital. This footnote is still printed; though it has recently been decided to adopt certain modifications in the method of calculating the figures shown therein.

5. Theoretically, the case is a simple one. When the State buys a railway under the annuity system, it does not raise a loan for the purpose and does not therefore increase its public debt. It buys on credit and pays by equated instalments; each instalment being made up of (a) part payment in discharge of liability; and (b) interest for the credit given. As time goes on and the liability is reduced, the portion of the payments representing interest diminishes and the portion representing discharge of liability increases until the account is cleared. The latter ingredient is a true capital charge, being consideration given for increasing the assets of the State. The former ingredient is truly interest on debt, although no debt has been raised in the sense of taking a cash loan. From the point of view of the general accounts, therefore, the interest portion of the annuities should be met from revenue, and the portion which represents a discharge of liability should be treated as outlay on the railway not charged to revenue. From the point of view of the railways, the position is the same, though looked at from another aspect. In the purely railway accounts, the main object is to show whether, after paying working expenses, the net receipts of the line are sufficient to meet the interest, at such rate as Government may fix, on the capital cost of the line, and to leave any surplus as profit to the owner. Strictly speaking, therefore, these accounts ought to be debited with the full amount of interest on the growing capital outlay on the line, irrespective of the manner in which the money is found. It would be incorrect to debit them with any part of the original cost of the line or with the repayment of any part of the debt incurred in buying or building it. No such debit would be admissible in the case of a private line; for it would not be conceivable that the profits of a company's railway should be devoted to buying out the shareholders.

6. We recognize that it is impracticable to adopt the theoretically correct classification of our annuity payments, inasmuch as the law requires the annuities to be paid out of the "revenues of India." It is, therefore, impossible to take any part of the charges otherwise than to revenue; but it must not be forgotten that repayment of capital or debt—whether railway debt or not—is not made from railway earnings. The repayment is necessarily made from our general revenues, of which the railway earnings are only one item. These considerations therefore seem to point conclusively to the following modifications in the present form of our accounts:—

- (1) The full amount of the annuity payments should be taken, in the first instance, as a charge against the general revenues. This might be effected by opening a new head "Annuities in purchase of railways"

(capital portion applied to repayment of liabilities)," which together with the head "Sinking Funds," referred to in your Despatch No. 17 (Financial), dated 9th February 1906, would be placed under a new group head "Redemption of Railway Liabilities charged to General Revenues."

- (ii) The interest portion of the annuities, being a varying (decreasing) amount each year, should be transferred from this head, by a deduct entry, to the Railway Revenue Account.
- (iii) The capital portion, being a varying (increasing) amount each year, should be shown in the Railway Capital Account under the head of expenditure on construction charged against revenue. A new column might be opened for this purpose in Finance and Revenue Account No. 75, before the present column 15, and headed "capital cost of purchases effected by means of annuities."
- (iv) The capital portion of all past annuity payments should be recorded in a similar manner in Finance and Revenue Account No. 75, and in all subsidiary and departmental capital accounts by a single entry made, with an explanatory note, in the accounts for 1906-07. Interest on the amount so recorded will thus be chargeable to the railways concerned, in their ordinary revenue accounts in perpetuity; and an amount equivalent to the sum so recorded will be transferred from Ordinary to Productive debt in Finance and Revenue Account No. 83.
- (v) It will be necessary, however, to have regard to the whole annuity payment, without discrimination between the capital share and the interest share, in making up the accounts of profits for those railways where a defined surplus has to be divided between the Government and the working Company, as is the case under the East Indian Railway Company's agreement.

7. The main argument that has been advanced against any change in the past has been that the debit of the full annuity payments to railway revenue, before the surplus profits are declared, was an essential part of the understanding on which the lines were purchased. In the agreement with the East Indian Railway Company, for instance, the annuity charge has to be deducted from the net working profits before determining the surplus divisible between Government and the working Company. We cannot think, however, that our proposed presentation of the figures can in any way prejudice this arrangement. The payment of the annuities from the railway revenues is merely a matter of accounts as between Government and the Company, and need nowise affect the classification of the charge in the Government books and returns.

8. We may refer briefly to the other arguments against change, though these do not appear to us to have any great force. There is nothing, for instance, in the view that the proposed treatment of the annuities would obscure the result of purchasing the lines: for the portion of the annuity which represents the cost of purchase would be a definite item in the statement of capital expenditure charged to revenue. A similar objection was raised some years ago when it was argued that the purchase by annuities is part of the condition on which the money was found for the construction of the railway; and that, therefore, no reason exists for relieving the Railway Revenue Account of one part of the cost of the purchase. It was added that the railways are lightly treated in having no payments to meet for the Secretariat in England, training of officers, furlough pay and pension. We cannot attach much weight to this argument. One defect in the system is no reason why another should be thrown in to counterbalance it; and the fact that the annuities were a condition of the purchase is not decisive as to the manner in which they should be presented in the accounts.

9. We therefore recommend for your favourable consideration the proposals summarized in paragraph 6 above. In particular we consider it desirable to effect a transfer from Ordinary to Productive debt in respect of the capital portion of the annuities which has been in the past, and may be in the future, repaid from general revenues. This appears to be clearly the correct course and, if our proposals are accepted, it would present no difficulties. Moreover, it will be seen from paragraph 14 of his Despatch No. 458, dated the 20th of November 1879, that the Secretary of State contemplated that a transfer of this nature should eventually be made. We are of opinion that it is unnecessary to await the cessation of the annuities before this is done.

No. 48-(Financial), dated India Office, London, the 12th April 1907.

From—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, John Morley, O.M.,

To—His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, in Council.

I have considered in Council your letter of 13th December 1906, No. 441, relating to the method of recording in the Accounts the payments annually made in respect of terminable annuities created for the purchase of railways. At present the whole payments are treated as a charge against the Railway Revenue Account. In your letter you make certain proposals of which the effect may be summarised as follows, *vis.* :—

- (1) To charge against the Railway Revenue Account, under the head "Annuities," only that portion of the Annuity payments which is actuarially calculated to represent interest on unredeemed capital.
- (2) To charge the remainder of the annuity payments, together with sinking fund payments, against a new head in the Finance and Revenue Accounts outside the Railway Revenue Account.
- (3) To deduct from the total of ordinary debt in each year's accounts and to add to the total of Railway debt, the amount of the capital repaid to the end of the year by means of annuities. This involves (1) the reduction of the charges now recorded as interest on ordinary debt by an amount equal to interest, at whatever conventional rate may be adopted, on the capital discharged by annuity payments, and (2) the addition of the same amount to the interest now recorded as chargeable to railways.

2. I regret that I cannot accept these proposals.

Taken as a whole they appear to me to be open to objection both because they are exceedingly complicated and because they necessitate the use in the general accounts of figures representing, not actual payments, but the result of an actuarial analysis of actual payments; such figures should, in my opinion, be used only in subsidiary accounts and explanatory statements. It is not necessary for me to dwell on these points because I attach greater importance to the special objections to particular portions of your proposals.

3. To transfer from the Railway Revenue Account a considerable portion of the annuity payments would, in my opinion, result in conveying a less correct impression of the nature of the transactions which they represent than can be gathered from the accounts as they now stand. The annuity payments are made in consequence of the decision to forego a portion of the immediate increase in net railway revenue that would have been realised if the purchase price of the lines affected had been paid in one sum out of borrowed money. It was thought better to liquidate the liability by annual payments from revenue, each consisting of a payment towards the discharge of the original liability plus interest on the portion of the liability still outstanding. This decision having been taken, and the annuity payments being made in accordance with it, it would not, in my opinion, be correct to show the net receipts from railways as though the policy of accepting the temporary additional burden involved in purchase by annuity had not been adopted. Nor would such a method of account keeping accord with the general practice of the British Government or of public bodies in this country, which is to show payments from revenue in discharge of liabilities (such as sinking fund payments) as a charge against the undertakings in respect of which they are made.

4. The further proposal to show (in the classification of the debt in Account 83) the amount of the ordinary debt as reduced, and the railway debt as increased, by the amount of the capital payments included in railway annuities is, in my opinion, equally open to objection as obscuring the real facts. The total of the debt there shown is a known quantity (consisting of the amounts of India Stock, Rupee paper, and the other funded obligations of the Government of India), classified on certain principles under three heads "Ordinary Debt," "Railway Debt," "Irrigation Debt." No sum representing either annuities, or the liabilities which annuities are intended to discharge, has ever been included in this total. The proposal to alter the classification of the total whenever an annuity payment is made from revenue appears therefore to be *prima facie* inadmissible; for while the annuity payments by increasing the value of your assets render more favourable the comparison between your assets and your liabilities, they do not affect the liabilities of which account is taken in the Debt statement. I presume that your proposal is prompted

by the fact that it is your practice, when applying revenue surpluses for capital expenditure, to treat the Ordinary debt as reduced, and the Public Works debt as increased, by the amount so applied. This practice can be justified because in such cases it would be possible to use the revenue surpluses for paying of Ordinary debt and to raise simultaneously a corresponding amount of money by the issue of Public Works debt; and the direct application of the surplus to capital expenditure is merely a less cumbrous way of carrying out the combined transaction. But this justification does not exist in the case of annuity payments which are necessarily made from revenue. In this connection I would draw your attention to the latter part of paragraph 6 of my Despatch of 27th July 1906, No. 87 (Financial), in which I expressed doubt as to the correctness of the practice of making a transfer from Ordinary debt to Public Works debt (and a corresponding transfer of interest charges) in respect of expenditure charged to revenue on Protective Railways and Irrigation Works.

5. While I am unable to concur in your proposals regarding changes in the Railway Revenue Account and in the Debt Classification, I fully realise the importance of including in the Finance and Revenue Accounts, information regarding the effect of the Annuity and Sinking Fund payments on the financial position of Indian railways. The effect of the payments of each separate year is shown in the footnote appended to Account 3 of the Finance and Revenue Accounts. The information there given is always reproduced in the Explanatory Memorandum annually presented to Parliament, and the fact that the railway surplus of each year is arrived at after providing for large payments for redemption of capital included in the annuities (as well as for separate sinking funds) is frequently mentioned in Parliamentary discussion. There is no reason why the cumulative effect of the Annuity and Sinking Fund payments should not be made as clear as the annual effect. For this purpose I suggest that you should include in Section N of the Finance and Revenue Accounts of each year a statement showing the total liabilities redeemed up to the end of the year by Annuities and Sinking Fund payments. If you desire to act on this suggestion, I will instruct the Accountant-General at this Office to transmit to you annually the necessary information.

No. 811, dated Simla, the 22nd August 1907.

From—The Government of India,

To—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, John Morley, O.M.

We have the honour to refer to the correspondence ending with your Despatch No. 48-(Financial), dated the 12th April 1907, on the subject of the treatment in the accounts of the annuities created for the purchase of certain railways.

2. We accept the suggestion in paragraph 5 of that Despatch, and propose to introduce, after Account No. 76-H in Section N of our Finance and Revenue Accounts, an additional account in the form of the statement annexed, showing, with details for each railway, the total liabilities in connection with the purchase of railways redeemed up to the end of the year by annuities and sinking fund payments, as well as the unredeemed balance of such liabilities outstanding at the end of the year. Suitable footnotes will also be added to Accounts Nos. 76-B to H, giving similar information in respect of each individual railway.

3. We request that arrangements may be made to transmit to us the necessary information annually, commencing with the figures for 1906-07, so as to reach us not later than the first week in December.

No. 155-(Financial), dated 1st November 1907.

From—His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, John Morley, O.M.,

To—The Government of India.

With your letter in the Finance Department, No. 811 of 22nd August 1907, you forward a specimen form of a statement which you propose to include in your Finance and Revenue Accounts, so as to carry out the suggestion conveyed to you in my Financial Despatch No. 48 of 12th April last, that those accounts should show the cumulative as well as the annual effect of the redemption of railway liabilities by means of annuities and sinking fund payments.

2. The statement forwarded by you contains, however, particulars, the inclusion of which was not contemplated in my Despatch of 12th April, and which are not, I think, required. It will be sufficient to give the details of those payments only which are included in the Railway Revenue Accounts under the sub-heads "Annuities" and "Sinking Funds." I append a form of account prepared on these lines, and giving the necessary particulars up to the end of the year 1906-07, for insertion in your Finance and Revenue Accounts for that year. Similar particulars will be forwarded in future years so as to reach you not later than the first week of December.

Statement showing Progressive Discharge of Liabilities incurred through the Purchase of Railways.

Railway.	Capital Obligations being discharged by means of Annuity.				Amount of Capital discharged by Annuity Payments.		Capital Obligations being discharged by Sinking Fund.				Amount of Stock cancelled by Sinking Fund Payments.	
	Price payable in respect of Existing Stock Capital of India.	Debt.		Balances being Net Amount in course of discharge by Annuity.	During 1906-07.	To end of 1906-07.	India Stock issued in exchange for Annuity.	India Stock issued in exchange for Debenture Stocks.	Total Liability in process of discharge by Sinking Funds.	During 1906-07.	To end of 1906-07.	
		Portion of Obligation discharged by annuity of India Stock.	New Com-pay ^a Stock issued in exchange for portion of Annuity.									
East Indian ...	£ 22,740,000	£ 7,956,774	£ ...	£ 25,463,226	£ 154,245	£ 2,528,951*	£ 7,578,467	£ 89,765	£ 7,654,232	£ 84,478	£ 1,454,807	
Eastern Bengal ...	£ 3,391,917	£ 543,472	£ ...	£ 3,848,445	£ 16,944	£ 260,180	£ 541,055	£ 67,718	£ 608,768	£ 6,297	£ 94,632	
State Punjab and Delhi ...	£ 14,009,124	£ 4,911,816	£ ...	£ 9,097,908	£ 50,329	£ 742,777	£ 4,911,621	£ ...	£ 4,911,621	£ 59,396	£ 773,020	
Great Indian Peninsula ...	£ 24,839,216	£ ...	£ 1,750,000	£ 23,109,316	£ 382,823	£ 2,82,802†	£ ...	£ ...	£ ...	£ ...	£ ...	
			Total during 1906-07	603,829		5,834,110		Total during 1906-07	143,101		2,832,519	
			Total to end of 1906-07					Total to end of 1906-07				

* Includes Deferred Annuity.

† £7 Annuity is suspended in respect of Disclaimed Stock of the Company.

POLITICAL OFFENDERS.

11. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : (a) What is the total number of persons arrested in India during the Royal Visit for political or quasi-political reasons and how many of them were convicted ?

(b) How many persons were arrested after the Royal Visit and how many of them have been convicted ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) and (b). The precise information asked for by the Honourable Member is not available, but I place on the table a statement which gives as nearly as possible the information required.

Statement.

Period.	Prosecutions for offences connected with political movements.	Convictions.	Number of political prisoners in jail on the 15th August 1922.	REMARKS.
November and December 1921	9,136	9,018	2,664	*The United Provinces figures for July 1922 are included in the figures for April to June 1922.
January to March 1922 ...	10,832	8,424		
April to June 1922 ...	3,786	2,722		
July 1922 ...	608	470*		

N. B.—The figures for convictions, etc., during the Malabar rebellion are not included in the above statement.

POLITICAL PRISONERS.

12. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : (a) How are Political prisoners classed and what is the difference in the treatment of each class ?

(b) How many of each class were in jail on the date of Royal departure from India and how many are now in jail ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) Local Governments have power under section 60 of the Prison Act, 1894, to make rules for the classification and treatment of political prisoners. The Government of India have recently addressed all Local Governments on the subject of the treatment of persons convicted of offences in connection with political movements and have indicated the principles which they desire to see followed in the matter.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to his question No. 47, which gives all the information available.

THE HONOURABLE SIR WILLIAM VINCENT.

13. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : (a) Have the Government recommended or do they propose to recommend to the British Parliament to abolish the post of the Honourable Sir William Vincent, Member of the Executive Council in future after the retirement of the Honourable Member from that post, and redistribute the work ?

(b) In any case, do the Government propose to keep the post vacant till the finding of the Retrenchment Committee ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : The answer is in the negative. This statement, however, should not be understood as in any way committing the Government in regard to the action to be taken on any recommendation which the Retrenchment Committee may make.

WORKING OF BRANCH RAILWAYS.

14. **Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur** : With reference to (c) of the answer given on 17th March 1922 to my question No. 305,* are any steps being taken to transfer the working of the Ahmadpur-Katara, the Arakan Light, the Bankura Damodar River, the Burdwan-Katwa, and the Dasghara-Jamalpurganj Railway mentioned in the statement laid on the table in reply to my question No. 231 on 31st January, 1922 † If not, why not ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : No steps have been taken to transfer the working of any of the lines in question to some other agency, as none of the conditions laid down in paragraph 3 (viii) (c) of Branch Line Terms (See Appendix B to Railway Administration Report for 1920-21, Vol. I), has been fulfilled. The question of improving the financial prospects of the Arakan Light Railway is, however, under consideration.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO RAILWAYS.

15. **Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur** : With reference to (d) of the answer given on the 17th March, 1922, to my question No. 305‡ will Government kindly give an instance where the guarantee form of financial assistance was extended to a line shewing promise of a return less than the guaranteed interest, and indicate the special reasons for which it was so extended ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : The only instance in which the estimated traffic receipts were not shown to be at least equal to the guaranteed rate of interest is the Arracan Light Railway. This railway was originally promoted as a tramway with a 4 per cent. District Cess guarantee. After considerable expenditure had been incurred, it was found impossible to obtain the necessary funds to complete the construction without a Government guarantee, which was eventually given at 3½ per cent., in order to prevent the railway, which was then almost completed, being abandoned.

PERSIAN TRAFFIC.

16. **Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur** : Will Government kindly say what railway concessions, if any, are given to traffic coming from Persia ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : The Honourable Member is referred to the following publications of the North-Western Railway in which he will find an answer to his question and further information on the same subject :

- (1) Page 366 of Goods Tariff, Pamphlet I, in force from 1st April 1922.
- (2) Pages 260 and 569 of Goods Tariff, Pamphlet II, in force from 1st April 1922.
- (3) Page 90 of Coaching Tariff, Part I, in force from 1st July 1922.

(Question No. 17 was withdrawn.)

POSTAL AND RAILWAY CONCESSIONS.

18. **Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur** : With reference to the answer given on 20th March 1922 to my question No. 326,§ will Government kindly state what are the orders now in force ?

Colonel Sir Sydney Crookshank : A copy of the different extant orders, as consolidated in an Appendix to the *Post Office Manual*, will be supplied to the Honourable Member direct.

* Page 3221, Volume II, Part III.

† Page 2060, Volume II, Part II.

‡ Page 3221, Volume II, Part III.

§ Page 3329, Volume II, Part III.

PRODUCTIVE WORKS.

19. **Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur** : With reference to paragraph 2 of the " Guide Book " for investors in Government of India securities, will Government kindly state :

- (1) What constitutes a productive work chargeable to Productive Debt ?
- (2) Whether interest on capital before completion of work capitalised value of land revenue and of leave allowances, pensions, etc., are included in the capital account of such works ; if not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : (1) A productive work is a work of a remunerative character of which the first cost is met from borrowed money. No work is classified as productive unless there is good reason to believe that the revenue derived from it will within a few years after its completion give such return every year on the capital invested as is fixed by the Secretary of State in Council from time to time with reference to the prevailing market rate.

(2) The capital account of a productive work includes any excess of total interest over total net revenue as well as the capitalised value of land revenue and leave allowances and pensions.

FIRST CLASS RAILWAY PASSES.

20. **Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur** : Will Government kindly lay on the table a statement shewing the particulars of the First Class railway passes, casual or periodical, issued by Government during the half year ending 31st March 1922 ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : A statement giving the particulars required is being sent to the Honourable Member.

INDIAN REPRESENTATIVE AT GENOA CONFERENCE.

21. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : Was the representative of India to the Genoa Conference nominated by the Government of India or selected by the Secretary of State direct ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : The ordinary practice on these occasions is that nomination is made after consultation between the Secretary of State and the Government of India. In this case the telegram conveying the proposal of the Government of India was crossed by a telegram from the Secretary of State intimating that as it was necessary to come to an immediate decision he had decided to appoint the same person.

POSITION OF INDIANS IN THE EMPIRE.

22. **Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** : Will the Government be pleased to state or lay on the table the Resolution of the last Imperial Conference on the position of Indians in the Empire ?

Mr. J. Hullah : A copy of the Resolution is laid on the table. It was published in the Resolution of the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 126-R.A., dated the 5th October 1921.

Resolution of the last Imperial Conference on the position of Indians in the Empire.

The Conference, while reaffirming the Resolution of the Imperial War Conference of 1918, that each community of the British Commonwealth should enjoy complete control of the composition of its own population by means of restriction on immigration from any of the other communities, recognises that there is an incongruity between the position of India as an equal member of the British Empire and the existence of disabilities upon British Indians lawfully domiciled in some other parts of the Empire. The Conference accordingly is of the opinion that in the interests of the solidarity of the British Commonwealth, it is desirable that the rights of such Indians to citizenship should be recognized.

The representatives of South Africa regret their inability to accept this Resolution in view of the exceptional circumstances of the greater part of the Union.

The representatives of India, while expressing their appreciation of the acceptance of the Resolution recorded above feel bound to place on record their profound concern at the position of Indians in South Africa, and their hope that by negotiation between the Governments of India and of South Africa, some way can be found, as soon as may be, to reach a more satisfactory position.

ORDERS ON RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

23. Babu Ambica Prasad Sinha: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of orders executed by the different workshops of the Railways in India for the public?

(b) On what basis are the charges fixed for such supplies? Is the same rate charged as for their own requirements?

(c) Is it a fact that the Government has in the past paid advances to manufacturers and contractors of railway rolling stock and other requirements to enable them to complete such orders?

(d) If so, will the Government be pleased to give the figures for each year since 1912?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn: (a) The following represent the amounts of orders executed for the public in the workshops of the principal railways in India, during 1921-22.

State Railways.

	Rs.
North Western Railway	9,585
Eastern Bengal Railway	8,000
Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway	1,600

Company Railways.

	Rs.
Assam Bengal Railway	7,311
Bengal Nagpur Railway	48,882
Bengal and North-Western Railway	313
Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway	4,01,245
Burma Railways	458
East Indian Railway	21,274
Great Indian Peninsula Railway	24,500
His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways.	983

Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway	3,856
Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway	2,923
South Indian Railway	10,628

(b) On State Railways, a percentage is charged on the cost of Supervision, Interest on Buildings and Plant, Depreciation of Plant, and Maintenance of Buildings and Plant.

A percentage is added to the book value of stores, and a percentage is further added to the total cost of the work as profit. Practically

all the Company-worked Railways follow the same system, and in all cases, the public are charged higher rates than those charged against work done for the Railway.

(c) The reply is in the affirmative.

(d) The information is not immediately available and to collect it would involve labour incommensurate with any object which could be served.

LABOURERS IN MINES, ETC.

24. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : With reference to the reply given by Mr. A. C. Chatterjee on the 15th September 1921, to my supplementary question* that arose out of my question No. 166 re : labourers, will Government be pleased to publish or make available to the Members of the Indian Legislature the information regarding the conditions of the labourers working on mines and on tea, coffee and indigo plantations in India, collected by the Labour Bureau in the Department of Industries of the Government of India ?

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : (a) As regards labour in mines, the most recent information available is contained in a report submitted by two Officers who examined conditions in the Raniganj and Jharia coalfields in September last. As much of the information was supplied on the understanding that it would not be published, this report cannot be made public. If the Honourable Member desires information on any particular point, it may be possible to supply it.

(b) As regards labour in plantations, the most recent investigations are those conducted by the Committee appointed to examine conditions in the Assam tea Gardens ; their report has not yet reached the Government of India.

REPEAL OF WORKMEN'S BREACH OF CONTRACT ACT AND INDIAN PENAL CODE.

25. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the opinions of the Local Governments and other public bodies regarding the desirability or otherwise of the repeal of the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act, No. 13 of 1859, and of Sections 490 and 492 of the Indian Penal Code, which the Government of India may have received in response to their request for such opinions after the Resolution asking the repeal of the said Act and the said Sections was discussed in the Legislative Assembly at the last Simla Session ?

(b) Will they be further pleased to state whether they have decided to repeal the said Act and the said Sections of the Indian Penal Code ? and if so, when ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : The replies of Local Governments to the reference made to them in October last are not yet complete. Government are not prepared to place copies of replies received on the table and they have arrived at no decision in the matter.

MOPLAH REBELLION.

26. **Mr. Kavalappara Muppil Nayar** : Is it not a fact that the Moplah rebellion in Malabar was chiefly confined to the Moplah taluks of Ernad, and to the Moplah tracts in portions of Walluyanad, Calicut and Ponnani taluks ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Yes, the rebellion was chiefly confined to the areas mentioned in the Honourable Member's question.

"MILITARY AUTOCRACY."

27. Lala Girdharilal Agarwala : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article in the *Leader*, dated July 22nd, 1922, page 1, headed "Military Autocracy" ?

(b) Is it a fact that India was saddled with additional military expenditure on account of British troops in this country to the extent of about 9½ crores by the War Office without any formal consultation with the India Office or the authorities in India ? If so, why ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) Yes.

(b) It is a fact that the cost of British troops in India has increased since pre-war days by approximately the amount stated. The increase is due, in part, to increased rates of pay, and, partly, to the general increase in the prices of commodities. In the case of British officers the higher rates of pay were fixed with reference to increases of pay given in the United Kingdom, but after consultation with, and on the recommendation of, the Government of India. In the case of the British soldier, the higher rates of pay are merely those sanctioned by His Majesty's Government for the British Army generally after the war, converted at 1s. 4d. to the rupee : this being in accordance with long established practice. The Government of India were not consulted before the increase was sanctioned, and it is believed that the India Office were not consulted either. It is understood, however, that steps have been taken to ensure that in future the Government of India and the Secretary of State shall invariably be consulted before any alteration in the rates of pay, etc., of British troops, which involves a consequential liability on Indian revenues, is sanctioned by His Majesty's Government. It will be apparent that British troops belonging to the British Army cannot be obtained for service in this country on a lower rate of remuneration than that which is fixed for service in the United Kingdom : and I may mention that in the case of British troops employed in Mesopotamia, a colonial allowance is given in addition to the universal sterling rates of pay converted at the current rate of exchange.

"COLD WEATHER MOVES."

28. Lala Girdharilal Agarwala : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a note in the *Pioneer*, dated 7th July 1922, regarding "Cold Weather Moves" ? If so :

- (i) Is the information given therein accurate ?
- (ii) What will be the total cost of the proposed moves ?
- (iii) What are the respective distances to be covered in each case ?
- (iv) Is it not possible in the interests of economy to substitute short distance moves if at all necessary for those already advertised ?

Mr. E. Burdon : Yes.

(i) The information, subject to certain minor alterations which have been made since the publication of the article, is correct.

(ii) The total cost chargeable to Indian revenues is approximately Rs. 3,30,000.

(iii) The distances to be covered in each case can be ascertained by a reference to an all-India railway time-table.

(iv) The moves have been planned with due regard to economy, but the scope for reduction or avoidance of expenditure on moving units is limited by the necessity of restricting the stay of units in localities with climates specially deleterious to health, and the necessity of distributing equally amongst all units the liability of frontier service. As a result of these factors, long journeys are in certain cases inevitable.

BRAHMAN POLITICAL PRISONER IN THE ANDAMANS.

29. **Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary** : (a) Has the attention of the Government been called to reports circulated in various newspapers about the sacred thread of a Brahmin political prisoner in the Andaman Islands having been taken away during the period of his imprisonment, in consequence of which he refused to take food for many days and died of starvation ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a detailed statement of the facts and circumstances of the case and state what action has been taken by it in the matter ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the communiqué issued by the Government of India on the 4th July 1922, explaining that the reports appeared to be a pure fabrication, that there was no record of any such incident, and that in fact the prisoner in question died of disease.

IRON ORES.

30. **Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, as a result of recent surveys and inquiries, in what parts of India iron-ores are believed to be in existence and to what extent ?

(b) Will the Government also please lay on the table a statement in detail, as far as possible, of the concessions made and prospecting leases given to firms and individuals in respect of areas in which iron-ores are believed to be in existence and the terms and conditions upon which such concessions and leases have been granted ?

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : (a) A statement is laid on the table : this statement deals with areas in British India. The Honourable Member is also referred to pages 271 to 281 of Volume LIII, Part 3 of the Records of the Geological Survey of India, which contains a detailed account of the iron-ore deposits in Bihar and Orissa, the most important province in India as a source of iron-ore. Copies of the Publication are on sale at the office of the Geological Survey of India, Calcutta.

(b) The Central Government is not in possession of the information necessary for answering the question. •

The development of mineral resources which are Government property, is a provincial subject under the rules issued under section 45-A of the Government of India Act and Local Governments have full powers to grant prospecting licenses and mining leases without reference to the Government of India, provided that they are in accordance with the Mining Rules prescribed by the Government of India.

With the exception of the great alluvial plains of the Indus, Ganges, Brahmaputra and Irrawaddy, nearly every district in India and Burma contains iron-ores of high enough grade and in large enough quantities to meet the demands of the primitive smelter. From the point of view of modern smelting processes however, ores of sufficient purity and in the large quantities required, occur in a comparatively small number of places.

In British India the best known examples of ores suitable for modern smelting are :

- (a) The deposits of Singhbhum.
- (b) The deposits of the Chanda, Drug and other districts of the Central Provinces.
- (c) The deposits of the Kadur district of Mysore.
- (d) The deposits of Ratnagiri.

Bihar and Orissa.—The ore from the Kolhan Estate of Singhbhum is an extremely high-grade hematite containing over 60 per cent. of iron, with a very small amount of phosphorus. Comparatively little prospecting work has been done on these deposits, but surface observations indicate that the quantities of ore available are considerable. It seems probable that the hard surface ore will be found to pass into a soft rich micaceous hematite in depth.

CENTRAL PROVINCES.

Chanda District.—Ten separate deposits have been located, some of which are of large size. The ore here is usually a high-grade hematite containing some 69 per cent. of iron, and 0.005 per cent. of phosphorus.

Drug District.—Prospecting operations on the Rajhara Hills proved the existence of 2½ million tons of good quality hematite, and an adjoining deposit is assumed to contain 7½ million tons, making a total of 10 million tons, containing 67 per cent. of iron and 0.06 per cent. of phosphorus.

Ratnagiri.—There are some outcrops of hard ore composed mainly of limonite and hematite which are probably available in large quantities. The hard ore at a depth of about fifty feet below the surface passes into a soft micaceous hematite. The hard ore contains nearly 60 per cent. of iron and 0.056 per cent. of phosphorus.

The principal deposits of lesser importance are :—*Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.* Iron ores of the Ironstone shale group occur in large quantity in the Raniganj coalfield. These however contain a large proportion of phosphorus, and only about 43 per cent. of iron. They were originally used by the Barakar Iron Works Company, but the present Bengal Iron Company, Limited, obtain their supplies of ore from Singhbhum.

Bombay.—Lateritic ores are widely distributed, but little information is available as to their quality or abundance.

Burma.—Deposits of iron ore occur in the neighbourhood of Singaung and Twinngone on the Shan Plateau in the Mandalay district. In 1920 there was probably 200,000 tons available ; this ore contains 56.3 to 60.1 per cent of iron.

Central Provinces.—Iron ores are widely distributed ; of these the ores of the Chanda and Drug districts have been described above. Lateritic ores are most abundant near Katni in Jubbulpore district, and are also found in Drug, Saugor, Yeotmal and other districts.

Deposits of soft micaceous hematite with a capping of laterite occur in the neighbourhood of Sihora in the Jubbulpore district. One deposit is estimated at 14 million tons, but only about 750,000 tons of this is said to be fit for blast furnaces under present conditions.

Madras.—Large quantities of magnetic iron ore and quartz-magnetite-schist occur. The latter occurs in the Salem district and is said to be practically inexhaustible. It contains 38 per cent of iron, and would probably have to be concentrated by magnetic separators.

United Provinces.—Iron ores occur in the Kumaon division, but precise information is not available.

IMPERIAL SCHOOL OF MINING AND GEOLOGY

31. **Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary** : (a) Would the Government please state what progress has been made for the establishment of the Imperial School of mining and geology, Budget grants for which were made in March last ?

(b) Would the Government also please state when work is expected to be commenced and when classes are expected to be opened ?

(c) Is it not a fact that the Selection Board which recently interviewed candidates for appointment to the Geological Survey Department of the Government of India was not able to make any recommendation for appointment of Indians as there were no suitable candidates, with sufficient practical training ?

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : (a) A sum of Rs. 1 lakh was voted by the Assembly last March for the School of Mining and Geology. This sum is intended to be spent mainly on the collection of bricks for the building of the School, for which tenders have already been called. The plans and estimates of the School have been referred back to the Governing Body for revision on more economical lines. It is hoped that the bricks will be collected this year, to enable building operations to commence in 1923 if funds can be provided.

(b) It is expected that the first year class will be opened in the autumn of 1924 if sufficient funds are allotted in the next year's budget for building a portion of the School.

(c) Yes.

FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, DEHRA DUN.

32. **Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary** : Would the Government please state what progress has been made since the last sessions of the Assembly regarding the work of the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun and the educational institutions there in connection with it ?

Mr. J. Hullah : A statement is being sent to the Honourable Member.

CHEMICAL SERVICES COMMISSION.

33. **Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary** : Would the Government please state what action has been taken on the recommendation of the Chemical Services Commission ?

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given on the 23rd March 1922, to a question on the same subject put by Mr. J. N. Mukherjee. The question of the constitution of an

all-India Chemical Service was discussed at the fourth Conference of Departments of Industries held in April last. The Ministers attending the Conference were opposed to the constitution of such a service. As, however, these Conferences are of an informal character, it is proposed, as soon as the full proceedings of the Conference have been published, to consult the local Governments officially in the matter.

With regard to the establishment of a Central Chemical Research Institute, the Government of India have nothing to add to the reply given to Mr. J. N. Mukherjee in March last.

TANNERY RESEARCH.

34. **Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary** : (a) Is it not a fact that some time ago a scheme for an Imperial Research Institute in Tannery had been sanctioned and funds had been provided for its work ?

(b) Would Government be pleased to state what progress has been made with the scheme and what has been done with its funds ?

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : (a) No such scheme was ever finally sanctioned. Funds were voted for expenditure in 1921-22 on a scheme for the establishment of an Imperial Tanning Research Institute.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given on the 24th January 1922 to part (b) of a question on the same subject put by him. It has been decided that owing to the financial position the scheme for an Imperial Tanning Institute should be abandoned for the present.

TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIPS.

35. **Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary** : Would the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken for establishment of technical scholarships abroad as recommended by the Assembly on Mr. Samarth's motion during the last session of the Assembly ?

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : The Honourable Member will recall that in the course of the debate on the Resolution to which he refers, the Honourable Mr. Innes foreshadowed certain difficulties arising out of the fact that it is not permissible under the constitution to provide from Central revenues for expenditure on any subjects which are classified as provincial. It was necessary in the first place to examine in consultation with the Auditor General the question whether expenditure from Central revenues on State technical scholarships was permissible in connection with any of the subjects of study mentioned in the Resolution, and if so, on which and under what conditions. This preliminary question has been settled. It was then necessary to examine in consultation with the several Departments concerned the question whether the grant of State scholarships was desirable or feasible in connection with any, and if so, which of the subjects classed as Central by the Auditor General ; whether there were facilities for Indian students to study such subjects abroad, and whether openings existed in India for returned students who had specially qualified themselves by such study. As a result of this examination certain provisional conclusions have been reached, but the Government of India are not yet in a position to make definite recommendations regarding budget provision for such scholarships.

The question was also brought before the Ministers in charge of the development of industries in the provinces at the Conference of Departments of Industries held in April last, and information is being collected

regarding the extent to which provincial Governments have instituted, and propose to institute, State technical scholarships.

STORES PURCHASE COMMITTEE.

36. Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary : Would the Government be pleased to state what orders have been passed on the recommendations of the Stores Purchase Committee and when final orders are intended to be passed ?

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : The Honourable Member is aware that orders have been passed on the main recommendation made by the Stores Purchase Committee, namely, that an Indian Stores Department should be constituted. The Indian Stores Department, the nucleus of which has been created on a temporary basis, has been in operation since the 1st January, 1922. In accordance with another recommendation made by the Stores Purchase Committee, the Metallurgical Inspectorate and the Government Test House have been placed under the Chief Controller of Stores with effect from the 1st July. The recommendations made by the Committee cover a wide field, and certain of them involve highly important questions of policy. Some of these are now under consideration. The revision of the Stores Purchase Rules has been subjected to examination by a Committee of the Legislature whose report it is hoped shortly to lay before the Assembly. It is not possible to say by what date orders will have been passed on all the recommendations made by the Stores Purchase Committee, and progress will to a large extent depend on the Assembly itself.

SANDHURST CADETSHIPS.

37. Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary : (a) Would the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement of the number and qualifications of candidates for cadetships at Sandhurst during this year and the last two years and the result of their applications ?

(b) Is it not a fact that a sufficient number of suitable candidates have not been coming forward during these years from the different provinces ?

(c) Would the Government be pleased to bring the scheme more largely to public notice and take steps for securing a larger number of suitable candidates ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) A statement is laid upon the table.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative.

(c) The Government of India, as my Honourable friend is aware, have recently established a college at Dehra Dun to train from an early age Indian boys who desire to enter the Indian Army through Sandhurst. There are already 37 cadets in residence, and the accommodation is being increased to enable a larger number to be taken. The report of the first term's work of the college, which is in the hands of Honourable Members, is satisfactory. There is every reason to hope that this college should make good the deficiency which has hitherto existed, and as soon as an adequate flow of candidates for Sandhurst is obtained from the Dehra Dun College, it is proposed to abandon the existing system of recruitment which admittedly has not been wholly satisfactory. The policy of the Government in granting to suitable Indian candidates opportunities to qualify for the King's commission in the Indian Army should be widely known. Under the present arrangements, Local Governments are addressed on the subject twice a year. The regulations governing the matter are on sale to the public, and this has been advertised in the press. The first report on the Dehra

Dun College is also being widely distributed through Local Governments. At the same time, the Government of India, as a result of the consideration which they have recently given to the matter, are impressed with the necessity of probing more deeply the causes of the deficiency to which the Honourable Member has drawn attention, more particularly as some time may elapse before the supply of cadets from Dehra Dun is fully established. They propose therefore to have the matter thoroughly investigated by Local Governments, and to ask Local Governments to suggest any further means that can be adopted to ensure greater publicity and to stimulate the recruitment of suitable candidates.

Statement showing the number of Indian candidates for admission to the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, whose names were submitted by Local Governments and Administrations, giving reasons for rejection in the case of candidates who were unsuccessful.

Year.	Number of candidates put forward by Local Governments, etc.	Education : qualifications.	Nominated by :-	Results of Entrance examination.
1920 (2 examinations).	46	16 passed Matriculation examination. 2 passed Intermediate (F.A.) examination. 6 passed Government High School examination. 1 passed Jr. Cambridge Local examination. 7 passed Diploma examination. 3 passed School Leaving Certificate examination: 1 passed Entrance examination. 2 passed Lower V Form. (Details not received in the case of 10 applicants).	9 by Punjab Government. 2 by Bihar Government. 2 by Burma Government. 4 by Bengal Government. 8 by United Provinces Government. 4 by Bombay Government. 3 by Madras Government. 6 by North-West Frontier Province. 5 by Rajputana. 2 by Baroda. 2 by Kashmir. 1 by Baluchistan. 7 by Punjab Government. 1 by Bihar and Orissa Government. 1 by Burma Government. 2 by Bengal Government. 4 by United Provinces Government. 1 by Bombay Government. 3 by North-West Frontier Province. 1 by Rajputana. 1 by Ajmer-Merwara. 1 by Coorg. 1 by Assam. 6 by Punjab G. v. Government. 3 by Bihar and Orissa Government. 1 by Burma Government. 1 by Bengal Government. 1 by Madras Government.	Not qualified educationally ... 11 Physically unfit ... 11 Below age limit ... 3 Above age limit ... 7 Failed to pass oral test ... 4 Considered generally unsuitable ... 3 Suitable but no vacancy ... 1* Accepted for nomination to R. M. C., Sandhurst. ... 8† Total ... 46
1921 (3 examinations).	23	10 passed Matriculation examination. 4 passed Intermediate (F.A.) examination. 1 Cambridge Senior Local examination. 1 passed Government High School examination. 2 passed School Final examination. 2 passed Diploma examination. 1 passed School Leaving Certificate examination. 1 passed VII Standard ... 1 passed Lower V Form.	1 by Bihar and Orissa Government. 1 by Burma Government. 2 by Bengal Government. 4 by United Provinces Government. 1 by Bombay Government. 3 by North-West Frontier Province. 1 by Rajputana. 1 by Ajmer-Merwara. 1 by Coorg. 1 by Assam. 6 by Punjab G. v. Government. 3 by Bihar and Orissa Government. 1 by Burma Government. 1 by Bengal Government. 1 by Madras Government.	Qualified but medically unfit. ... 1* Failed to pass written examination. ... 9 Failed to pass oral and written examinations. ... 5 Failed to pass oral examination. ... 3 Qualified and nominated to R. M. C., Sandhurst. ... 6† Total ... 23
1922 (1 examination).	11	5 passed Matriculation examination. 3 passed Intermediate (F.A.) examination. 1 passed Government High School examination. 1 Lower VI Form. 1 passed Anglo-Vernacular High School examination. 1 passed Secondary School Leaving certificate examination.	6 by Punjab G. v. Government. 3 by Bihar and Orissa Government. 1 by Burma Government. 1 by Bengal Government. 1 by Madras Government.	Failed to pass oral and written examinations. ... 8 Failed to pass oral and medical examinations. ... 2 Did not appear at examination. ... 2 Qualified and nominated to R. M. C., Sandhurst ... 4 Total ... 11

* Included in the total for the following examination.

† In addition two candidates were nominated by the Secretary of State from Indians resident in the United Kingdom.

‡ In addition three candidates were nominated by the Secretary of State from Indians resident in the United Kingdom.

COAL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE.

38. **Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary** : Would the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken on the recommendations of the Coal Conservation Committee ?

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : The provisional conclusions of the Government of India on the recommendations of the Committee were communicated to the local Governments and the Mining Associations concerned in May 1921. The replies and criticisms received tend to show that it will be difficult to establish a case for a system of State regulation of the methods of coal mining in general unless it can be proved that there are inadequate reserves in the country of high grade coal suitable for its probable requirements for metallurgical and transport purposes. It is necessary therefore to make further geological investigations of the known coalfields before a decision can be arrived at. Research is also necessary on the point whether by any scientific processes the low grade coal of the country can be rendered suitable for metallurgical industries. Steps are being taken in these directions.

The recommendations of the Committee on the subject of sand-stowing and the amendment of the Land Acquisition (Mines) Act of 1885 are being examined in the light of the criticisms received. The difficulties regarding transport that were pointed out by the Committee are, as the Hon'ble Member is aware, receiving attention in the Railway Department.

RAILWAY WAGONS.

39. **Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary** : (a) Would the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken since the last sessions of the Assembly for removing difficulties of the public about getting the requisite number of railway wagons in time, particularly for coal traffic ?

(b) What further steps are proposed to be taken and when, for relieving the situation ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : (a) The Honourable Member's question embraces a wide field. Government regret it is not possible to deal with a subject of such magnitude within the limits of a reply to a question in Council, but I shall be happy to explain to the Honourable Member what has been done and what is proposed if he will call at my office.

(b) The proposal of the Railway Finance Committee, that the Government should undertake capital outlay of 150 crores of rupees on railways in the current and next four years which the Assembly approved of recently, will, when carried into effect, it is hoped, do much to relieve the situation.

E. B. RAILWAY TRACK UNFENCED.

40. **Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary** : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that a considerable section of the Railway track on the E. B. S. Railway (Canning section) is unfenced and that in consequence a large number of cattle are killed every year ?

(b) Is it not a fact that many public representations have been received on the subject by the Railway authorities ?

(c) If so, what action has been taken thereon ?

(d) When is it proposed to fence this portion of the track ?

(e) Is it not a fact that under the law it is obligatory to fence the track and has not this view of the case been pressed on the Government? If so, with what effect?

(f) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of cattle killed and injured on this section of the Railway during the last five years and their value?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn: (a) and (b). Yes, but inquiries have been made and it has been ascertained that the number of cattle killed or injured has been grossly exaggerated. The number reported averages between 2 and 3 per annum.

(c) and (d). No action is possible until funds can be spared.

(e) No.

(f) A statement is placed on the table.

Statement showing the number of cattle killed or injured on the Canning Branch, Eastern Bengal Railway, during the last 5 years with their value.

	VALUE.
	Rs.
5 cows killed ..	225
2 calves killed ..	10
2 bullocks killed	120
3 buffaloes killed	240
12	595

September 1922.

COST OF COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS.

41. **Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur:** Will the Government kindly furnish a statement of the cost of the Committees and Commissions appointed during the last 5 years?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent: The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to-day to Lieutenant-Colonel Gidney's starred question No. 45 which gives the cost of Committees appointed by Government since the introduction of the Reforms. The collection of statistics for a period of five years would entail an amount of extra labour which Government do not consider would be justified.

COST OF POLICE.

42. **Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur:** Is it true that the whole cost of the police including that of the Railway police is thrown on the Provinces, but the contribution which railway companies make towards their maintenance is appropriated by the Central Government? If so, do the Government propose to make over to Local Governments the contributions which the Railway companies at present make towards the cost of the police supplied for service on the Railways?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The Government of India have already decided to distribute to Local Governments the amount of the contributions which are paid by Railway Companies under the terms of their existing contracts. The principle on which the amount should be

apportioned between the Local Governments is, however, a matter of considerable difficulty and the details of this apportionment are still under consideration.

WAST OF FEMALE INTER CLASS COMPARTMENTS.

43. **Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur** : Is the Government aware that there is no provision of a female inter class compartment on the Kulaura-Sylhet Branch Line, and ladies holding inter class tickets are compelled to travel third class, when the only inter class compartment provided in the train is fully occupied by male passengers ? Will the Government see to the removal of this inconvenience ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : Instructions have been issued by the Assam Bengal Railway authorities that two Inter Class compartments shall be provided on each of the two trains running daily each way on the Kulaura Sylhet Branch, one of which will be reserved for females holding Inter Class tickets.

ACCOMMODATION AT KULAURA RAILWAY STATION.

44. **Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur** : Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that the waiting room for 1st and 2nd class passengers, Indian style, in the Kulaura railway station is not sufficiently spacious, ill-ventilated, and is inadequately furnished, there not being even a sleeping cot therein, and the situation of the lavatory in the middle of the room is very inconvenient ? Do the Government propose to ask the Railway authorities to remedy the defects, and make this waiting room as well furnished and comfortable as the waiting room provided by its side for the same class of passengers of European style ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : Government have no information on the subject but the matter will be taken up with the Agent.

MOPLAH TRAIN TRAGEDY.

45. **Rao Bahadur T. Bangachariar** : (a) Have the Government of India received the Report of the Government of Madras on the Moplah Train Tragedy as well as the Report of the Knapp Committee ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay the same on the table ?

(c) If the answer to part (b) is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state the reason why they decline ?

(d) What action has been taken by the Government against the officers responsible for the arrangements as to transport of prisoners ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : I invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Resolution on the subject published on the 30th August.

EXEMPTION FROM ARMS ACT.

46. **Beohar Baghubir Sinha** : (a) With reference to the reply by Mr. S. P. O'Donnell to part (a) of my question No. 335* put at the Assembly meeting held on the 1st March, 1921, have the Government received by this time, the formal proceedings of the Resolution carried in the United Provinces Legislative Council on the 15th February, 1921, and are they now prepared to make a statement on the same ?

(b) Will they submit the points raised in the above mentioned question parts (a) and (b) for the consideration of the Arms Rules Committee ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) Government have seen the proceedings in the United Provinces Legislative Council on the Resolution mentioned by the Honourable Member.

(b) The question whether the present list of exemptions should be maintained, extended, or curtailed is already before the Arms Rules Committee. Government see no need to place before the Committee the question of the position under the Rules of the successors of hereditary title-holders because, as the Honourable Member was informed in reply to his previous questions, Government do not share his doubt as to the effect of the Rules.

COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS.

47. **Beohar Raghubir Sinha :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) What are the ways and methods, rules and regulations or is there any fixed procedure, for the selection of members of Committees and Commissions appointed by the Legislature or Government and the witnesses to be examined by them ?
- (b) Had the members of the New Arms Rules Committee been elected by the Assembly ? If not, how was the selection made ?
- (c) Was any number of witnesses to be examined, fixed as a whole or for each province separately ?
- (d) Have different associations and political parties and press representatives been asked to submit their views or send their representatives to give evidence ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) The constitution and procedure of Committees appointed by the Legislature is regulated by the Indian Legislative Rules and the Standing Orders of the two Chambers. The constitution and procedure of Committees and Commissions appointed by the Government are not regulated by fixed rules.

(b) No. The Committee was a Committee appointed by the Governor General in Council and the members were selected by him.

(c) No. Local Governments were invited to nominate a suitable number of officials and non-officials, and invitations were also issued to a number of gentlemen nominated by members of the Committee.

(d) A general notice was published in the Press inviting all who were interested to send in memoranda for the consideration of the Committee. A large number of memoranda were received in response to this invitation, both from associations and from individual members of the public.

ABVAB.

48. **Beohar Raghubir Sinha :** (a) Are the Government aware that an additional due called *Abvab* is realized from *Malguzars* in Central Provinces over and above the Land Revenue assessed on them ?

(b) Are any such dues fixed in other Provinces ?

(c) Will the Government please state the object for which such additional dues are levied ?

(d) Whether the whole or a part of such amount is spent for the purpose, it is meant ?

Mr. J. Hullah : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Usually for certain local purposes such as roads, schools, dispensaries and the like, which fall within the purview of local boards.

(d) The expenditure is in the hands of the local bodies, and the Government of India believe that the proceeds are duly spent on the purposes for which the cesses are collected.

LAND REVENUE SYSTEMS.

49. **Beohar Raghbir Sinha :** Will the Government please furnish a statement on the following lines :

Name of province.	Localities with area under permanent settlement.	Localities with area settled for less than twenty years.	Localities with area settled for twenty years or more.	Localities with area settled for thirty years.	Localities with area settled for more than thirty years.	Localities with area having Ryotwari system.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Mr. J. Hullah : The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member.

LAND REVENUE.

50. **Beohar Raghbir Sinha :** Will the Government please state the percentage of land Revenue assessment in different Provinces ?

Mr. J. Hullah : If the Honourable Member will state what he means by the percentage of land revenue assessment, an endeavour will be made to supply him with the information that he requires.

PUBLIC DONATIONS.

51. **Beohar Raghbir Sinha :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state for the last 10 years for each Province, the total contributions or donations received by Government for public purposes from Land-holders or Zamindars and other citizens ?

(b) What amount of above is paid by Europeans and Anglo-Indians ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : The Government of India have no information on the subject and do not propose to endeavour to collect such information.

EXEMPTION FROM CIVIL COURTS.

52. **Beohar Raghbir Sinha :** (a) Will the Government please lay on the table a list for each Province of persons, exempted from personal appearance in Civil Courts ?

(b) What are the qualifications for admission to such lists ?

(c) Are there any exemptions from attendance in Criminal Courts ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) Section 132 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, exempts from personal appearance in Civil Courts women who, according to the customs and manners of the country, ought not to be compelled to appear in public. The Government of India have no information as to the lists of persons exempted by the Local Governments in exercise of the power vested in them by sub-section (1) of section 133 of the Code.

(b) The criterion of eligibility for exemption under section 133 of the Code in "rank" as is definitely stated in the section.

(c) There are no general provisions for exemption from attendance in Criminal Courts, but the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, empowers courts in particular cases to dispense with the personal attendance of accused person or persons against whom proceedings are taken, and to permit them to appear by their pleaders, *e.g.*, sections 116, 205, 353, 366 and 488(6).

RESERVED ACCOMMODATION ON RAILWAYS.

53. Beohar Raghurib Sinha : (a) In view of the assurance given by Colonel W. D. Waghorn in connection with the Resolution moved by Mr. W. M. Hussanally asking for the abolition of the reservation of compartments on Railways for Europeans and Anglo-Indians, will the Government please state, what action have the different Railway Companies taken in the matter and how far they have acceded to the recommendation underlying the Resolution ?

(b) Is it a fact that so far only the Great Indian Peninsula Railway has taken action in the matter on the representation made by the Railway Board ?

(c) Do the Government propose to correspond with the Railway Companies who have not yet taken action in order that prompt action is taken by them ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : (a) and (b). In April last the Railway Board issued instructions to Railways to the effect that the reservation of an Inter or 3rd Class compartment for Europeans and Anglo-Indians should be restricted to through mail and fast passenger trains only, the accommodation in such cases being limited to one compartment designed to seat about 10 passengers only. Reports received from the principal Railways show that the instructions have been carried out generally. In order to suit local conditions a few railways still retain a reserved 3rd class compartment for Europeans and Anglo-Indians on certain slow passenger trains.

(c) In the circumstances mentioned above Government do not propose to take further action in the matter at present.

EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN ENGLAND.

54. Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary : Would the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken in the Central and the Provincial Governments as well as in England for pushing on arrangements in connection with the forthcoming Exhibition in England ?

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : As regards the Central Government, a Commissioner for India has been appointed and is now in London consulting with the High Commissioner, the Indian Trade Commissioner and the Exhibition authorities regarding the design and lay-out of the buildings and other details. In the short time at his disposal before leaving India he was able, after consultation with the Government of India, to visit

Madras and Bombay and to give advice to and receive information from those provinces regarding their participation. On his way to England he visited the French Colonial Exhibition at Marseilles where, it was thought, he would be able to gain useful experience. The High Commissioner has, with the approval of the Government of India, appointed an Advisory Committee for India in London which includes in its personnel representatives of commercial and industrial interests connected with India. As regards the organization and collection of actual exhibits, preliminary arrangements are being made for the exhibition of a section relating to tropical diseases, sanitation and hygiene and a forests section, both of which will be shown on an all-India basis. Sir Havelock Charles, Medical Adviser to the Secretary of State, has been appointed as the representative of India in connection with the first-named section, and the Commissioner for India is consulting with Messrs. Howard Brothers, the Indian Government Timber Agents in London, regarding the second. No definite action has yet been taken in the matter of other specific classes of exhibits pending the receipt of further detailed information from London and also from the provinces, who have been informed of the provisional scheme approved by the Central Government for classifying the exhibits.

As regards the provinces, the Government of Burma have, with the approval of the Government of India, decided to hold a separate exhibition of which they will meet the cost. Burma timbers will, however, be included in the all-India forestry exhibit in addition to their appearance in the provincial exhibition. The Governments of Madras, Bombay and the Punjab have asked for space to be allotted to them for provincial 'courts' in addition to space for exhibits in the Central portion. Bengal, the United Provinces and Bihar and Orissa all propose to participate with the concurrence of their Legislative Councils, and further support is expected from other provinces and some of the Indian States. In Madras, in particular, the proposal to participate has been adopted with enthusiasm and it is understood that preparations are actively being made for the organization of a preliminary provincial exhibition in India. As regards Indian States, the Baroda, Travancore, Cochin and Tonk Darbars have so far expressed a desire to participate in the exhibition.

POSTCARDS AND POSTAGE STAMPS.

55. **Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary** : Would the Government please place on the table a statement showing the results of the rise in the price of postcards and postage stamps since the rise came into force ?

Colonel Sir Sydney Crookshank : It has not been possible to keep special statistics to show accurately the financial results of the increase in the price of postcards and the postage on letters. There has been a slight decrease in the gross sale of ordinary stamps for postal, telegraph and revenue purposes during April, May and June 1922 compared with the corresponding months of the year 1921, as will appear from the following figures :

			1921.	1922.
			Rs.	Rs.
April	..	..	64,23,000	49,13,000
May	..	..	65,23,000	64,29,000
June	..	..	55,31,000	56,31,000
			<u>1,84,77,000</u>	<u>1,69,73,000</u>

The separate figures for July 1922 are not yet available, but the total sales of stamps, including service stamps, in that month were Rs. 65,52,000 against Rs. 60,80,000 for July 1921.

The above figures comprise the value of stamps sold for revenue, postal and telegraph purposes and do not give an accurate idea as to the financial effect of the increase in postage rates upon postal revenue. The Act came into force only from April 24th last, and the decrease in April must be largely due to other causes such as trade depression. It may be mentioned also that the figures for 1922-23 would be increased by about 2 lakhs a month were it not for the use of Cash Register machines in the Central Telegraph offices at Calcutta and Bombay, as these machines dispense with the use of stamps on telegrams.

An estimate prepared on a 3 days' count in August 1922 shows that, on postcards and letters alone, in spite of a reduction of about 26 per cent. in number, the post office is now earning an additional revenue amounting to about 1½ lakhs weekly as compared with the revenue earned from letters and postcards during August 1921.

RAILWAY FARES.

56. **Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary** : Would the Government please place on the table a statement showing the results of the recently introduced rise in railway fares class by class and railway by railway ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : The information has been collected and a detailed statement will be sent to the Honourable Member.

As the enhanced fares were introduced by individual Railway Administrations on different dates, the results as shown in the statement cannot be summarised, but speaking broadly, a comparison with the figures for the corresponding periods last year discloses a considerable reduction in the number of 1st and 2nd class passengers with a small increase in earnings ; the number of Intermediate class passengers and the earnings therefrom have increased largely, though these increases have been confined almost entirely to the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway. The number of third class passengers has shown a decrease, and the earnings therefrom a marked increase.

The effect of the enhanced fares is being watched carefully, but it is too early yet to form an opinion.

CURRENT DEFICIT.

57. **Sir Montagu de Pomercy Webb** : Will Government be pleased to say what arrangements have been made to meet the anticipated deficit of Rs. 9,16,28,000 on the current year's Budget Estimate ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : Any excess of expenditure over revenue in the current year will have to be met from the proceeds of Government's borrowings.

TREATMENT OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

58. **Rai Bahadur Bakhshi Sohan Lal** : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article in the *Tribune of Lahore*, dated 4th August 1922, under the heading "*Indians in South Africa—Three Indians convicted for protesting against Racial Segregation*" ?

(b) If so have the Indian Government received any appeal of the Indian community of Durban in South Africa to make representations to

the Union Government for the removal of racial restrictions and for the restoration to Mr. Rustomji of his sacred shirt and cord taken away by the Prison Authorities ; and what steps if any have the Indian Government taken or do they intend to take in the matter ?

Mr. J. Hullah : (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India have received an unsigned telegram from Durban stating that a meeting of the Indian community appeal to the Indian Government to make representations to the Union Government for the restoration of the sacred shirt and cord to Mr. Rustomji and for the removal of racial restrictions at the departure of boats for India.

As regards the removal of the sacred shirt and cord the Government of India have addressed the Natal Administration.

The Government of India are unaware of the nature of the racial restrictions complained of at the time of the departure of Indian boats and do not propose to take any action at present. It is a matter on which in the first instance the Indian Community should address the Provincial or Union Government.

ADVANCES TO MILITARY OFFICERS.

59. **Munshi Iswar Saran :** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement :

- (a) showing the total amount of advances, without interest paid to officers of the Indian and British (military) services including staff officers for the purchase of motor cars and chargers in the years 1914, 1918 and 1921 and also the number of instalments in which the advances were paid back by the officers in the case of motor cars and of chargers ?
- (b) Showing the amounts paid to officers of the Indian and British (military) services including staff officers for syce and forage allowance or for the upkeep of motor cars in lieu thereof in the years 1914, 1918 and 1921 ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) In order to give the information required by the Honourable Member it would be necessary to have a special compilation of figures made in the office of every Controller of Military Accounts in India. This would involve an expenditure of time, labour and money which, in the opinion of Government, could not be justified by the results obtainable, and they regret, therefore, that they are unable to comply with the Honourable Member's request. I may, however, mention for the Honourable Member's information that the budget provision made in the Cash Requirements estimates for the grant of motor car advances to military officers in the current year amounts to Rs. 3,00,000.

(b) The payment of syce and forage allowance was not in force during the years 1914 and 1918. The Government regret that they are unable to supply the remaining figures for which the Honourable Member has asked—the reason being that stated in the first part of my answer.

TRANSPORT CHARGES PAID TO MILITARY OFFICERS.

60. **Munshi Iswar Saran :** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the transport charges including railway fares from their stations and back of (a) British (military) officers and (b) their

families and dependents who were sent out of India on medical certificate in the years 1914, 1918 and 1921 ?

In how many of these cases were the disabilities due to field service and what portion, if any, of these charges were met by the Home Government in such cases ?

Mr. E. Burdon : In order to obtain the statistics desired by the Honourable Member, it would be necessary to undertake both here and in the United Kingdom, a special compilation of figures. This would involve an expenditure of time, labour and money which could not be justified by the results to be obtained. The Government regret, therefore, that they cannot comply with the Honourable Member's request.

MILITARY SERVICES CHARGED TO INDIAN REVENUES.

81. Munshi Iswar Saran : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement :

- (a) showing the amount of charges incurred by the Indian revenues towards the recruiting, equipment, training, transport (inland and overseas), bonus and housing of the second and third lines of fighting units and towards the same of non-combatant units which were raised during the War or augmented in strength, with a view to feed the expeditionary forces which were sent out to all the theatres of War ?
- (b) Showing the total amount of invalid and family pensions and gratuities incurred by the Indian revenues for casualties and deaths of the expeditionary forces and their feeders referred to in clause (a) of this question ?
- (c) Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the portions, if any, of the charges referred to which have been contributed by the Home Government ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) No expenditure of the kind stated was borne by Indian revenues.

(b) A statement furnishing the information desired by the Honourable Member is laid on the table.

(c) As pointed out in reply to part (a) of the question, all the expenditure referred to in that part was borne by His Majesty's Government.

Statement showing the amount of expenditure, incurred by Indian revenues, in the grant of invalid and family pensions and gratuities, in respect of casualties and deaths occurring amongst the expeditionary forces sent out from India.

The figures are as follows :

	Rs.
1914-15	18,491
1915-16	4,48,264
1916-17	18,25,630
1917-18	31,89,256
1918-19	45,89,888
1919-20	57,71,882
1920-21	71,29,173
Total	2,29,72,584

In addition, certain payments were made on this account in England. The following are the approximate figures :

				Pensions and gratuities to the widows and families of officers killed in action during the war.	
				£	Rs.
1914-15	..	..	..	15,020	2,25,300
1915-16	..	..	..	51,188	7,67,820
1916-17	..	..	..	55,504	8,32,560
1917-18	..	..	..	57,917	8,68,755
1918-19	..	..	..	55,710	8,35,650
1919-20	..	..	..	89,574	13,43,610
1920-21	..	..	..	1,13,783	11,87,830

These payments are being made by India as forming part of the further contribution promised by her towards the cost of the war.

INDIAN ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

62. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : (a) Will Government kindly state the number of Indian Army Reserve of Officers on the strength of the Army in the years 1914, 1918 and 1921 ?

(b) Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the total amount of gratuities, bonuses and transport charges incurred by the Indian revenues in respect of the demobilisation charges of such officers ?

(c) Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the portions, if any, of the charges referred to which have been contributed by the Home Government ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) The following are the numbers shown on the rolls on the 1st September of each year :

1914	..	..	..	..	..	48
1918	..	..	..	..	..	4,532
1921	..	..	..	..	..	5,870

During 1921, only 473 were actually serving.

(b) The charges referred to were borne by His Majesty's Government, except those arising in the years subsequent to the Great War in respect of Indian Army Reserve officers employed in the Afghanistan and North-West Frontier campaigns. No separate record has been maintained of the charges debitable to Indian revenues ; and as the labour entailed in making a special compilation of the figures required by the Honourable Member would be out of all proportion to the result, the Government regret that they are unable to furnish the detailed information asked for.

(c) No separate record has been maintained of the charges in question, and, for the reason stated in reply to part (b) of the Honourable Member's question, the Government of India regret that they cannot undertake a special compilation now.

BRITISH ARMY STATISTICS.

63. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government please state the number of units of different arms, i.e., cavalry, artillery and infantry of the British Army in India in the years 1914, 1918 and 1921 ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The information required by the Honourable Member in respect of the years 1914 and 1921 is obtainable from the Army Lists of those years. Details of the strength of the army in India in the year 1918, as for the other years of the Great War, were not published for reasons of public policy, and it is not considered desirable that the figures should be furnished now.

STATISTICS OF WARRANT OFFICERS, ETC.

64. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the strength, i.e., the number of officers, Warrant officers and other ranks of the Army Education Corps, Staff Clerks Corps, Armoured Car Unit, Military Farm Department, Educational schools and colleges and Indian Supply and Transport Corps in the years 1914, 1918 and 1921 ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The information desired by the Honourable Member in respect of the years 1914 and 1921 can be obtained from the budgets for those years. The figures for 1918 cannot be given for the reason stated in reply to question No. 63.

COST OF MILITARY MOVE TO HILLS.

65. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government kindly lay on the table a statement showing the cost of the transport and other charges incurred in connection with the movement of British troops to hills in the years 1914, 1918 and 1921 ?

Mr. E. Burdon : No separate record is maintained of the charges in question, and for the reason given in reply to questions of the same character recently asked by the Honourable Member, the Government of India regret they cannot undertake a special compilation.

STATISTICS OF REGIMENTS.

66. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the authorised establishment, i.e., the number of British officers, Indian officers and other ranks in a regiment of cavalry and infantry and the numbers actually present in the years 1914, 1918 and 1921 ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The authorised establishment of British officers, Indian officers, and other ranks in the years 1914 and 1921 is given in the budget estimates for those years.

A statement is laid upon the table, showing the actual numbers present on the 1st April in each of those years. The Honourable Member will understand that the statement does not pretend to absolute accuracy. During the war, figures of the strength of the army in India were, for reasons of public policy, not published. Accordingly, the figures desired for the year 1918 cannot be given.

Statement showing approximately number of British Officers, Indian Officers and Indian other ranks actually present at duty on 1st April 1914, and 1921.

Units.	British Officers.	Indian Officers.	Indian other ranks.
	1914		
39 Indian Cavalry Regiments	566	663	23,263
138 Indian Infantry battalions (including Pioneers and Gurkhas).	1,850	2,208	115,208
	1921		
83 Indian Cavalry Regiments	615	615	17,522
144 Indian Infantry battalions (excludes units on Imperial service but includes 22 units under orders on that date for disbandment).	2,037	2,774	118,504

COMBATANT AND NON-COMBATANT UNITS.

67. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the number of combatant and non-combatant units in the years 1914, 1918 and 1921 on the strength of the Indian Army, i.e., cavalry, artillery, sappers and miners, infantry, transport corps including mechanical, mule (pack, draught, cavalry, training corps) canal corps, bullock corps, labour corps, syce corps or depôts, followers depôts and signal corps ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The information desired by the Honourable Member in respect of the years 1914 and 1921 can be obtained from the budgets of those years. For the reason given in reply to the Honourable Member's question No. 53, the figures for 1918 cannot be given.

COMBATANT AND NON-COMBATANT UNITS

68. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government state the names and numbers of the combatant and non-combatant units of the Indian Army which were raised as measures of emergency during the War but are still on the strength of the Army ?

Mr. E. Burdon : I will furnish the Honourable Member with a statement giving the particulars he desires.

STATISTICS OF MILITARY OFFICERS, ETC.

69. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the number of British officers, Warrant officers and other ranks including Indian clerks employed in the years 1914, 1918 and 1921 in the offices of the Army Headquarters, i.e., the offices of the Military Secretary, General Staff Branch, Adjutant General and Quartermaster General and in the administrative staff offices of the four commands and their brigades ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The information desired by the Honourable Member in respect of the years 1914 and 1921 can be obtained from the budgets of those years. The figures for 1918 cannot be given for the reason given in reply to the Honourable Member's question No. 63.

AIR FORCE.

70. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the strength of the Air Force its initial expense and the cost of its maintenance in the years 1914, 1918 and 1921 ?

Mr. E. Burdon : There was no Royal Flying Corps or Royal Air Force in India in 1914. The only air establishment then existing was the Indian Central Flying School, the provision made for which is, with certain other particulars, given in the budget estimates of that year under Grant XII—Education—Central Flying School. The accounts for 1921-22 are not yet completed, but the provision made for the Royal Air Force in that year, and the other particulars required by the Honourable Member, can be ascertained from the budget estimates of the year. The information in respect of the year 1918 cannot be given for the reason stated in reply to the Honourable Member's question No. 63.

AUXILIARY FORCE.

71. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government kindly lay on the table a statement showing the present strength of the Auxiliary Force in all its branches, i.e., cavalry, royal artillery, royal engineers, railway corps, infantry, machine gun corps, royal army service corps, royal army medical service corps and also showing the strength of the Volunteer Force in the year 1913 ?

Mr. E. Burdon : A statement, furnishing the information asked for by the Honourable Member, is laid on the table.

Statement showing (1) the present strength of the Auxiliary Force, India and (2) the strength, by branches of the service, of the Volunteer Force on the 1st April 1913.

Branch of Service.	AUXILIARY FORCE, INDIA.	INDIAN VOLUNTEER FORCE.
	Strength on 1st August 1922.	Strength on 1st April 1913.
Cavalry	3,004	4,913
Royal Artillery	1,652	2,601
Royal Engineers	416	
Railway Corps	14,096	16,045
Infantry }	15,316	20,106
Machine Gun Corps }		
Royal Army Service Corps	62	Nil
Royal Army Medical Corps	50	Nil
TOTAL	34,586	43,595

COST OF AUXILIARY FORCE.

72. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the cost of maintenance of the Auxiliary Force in the year 1921 ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The amount of provision made for the maintenance of the Auxiliary Force during 1921-22 will be found in the budget for that year. The figures of actual expenditure cannot be furnished at the moment as the Finance and Revenue Accounts for the year have not yet been completed.

MILITARY INVALIDS.

73. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the authorised total bed accommodation and the total average daily sick of British and Indian Army in the years 1914, 1918 and 1921 ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The information desired by the Honourable Member in respect of the years 1914 and 1921 is given in the statement laid on the table. As regards 1918, a war year, information of the character required was not published at the time, and Government do not consider it desirable to publish it now.

Statement showing the authorised total bed accommodation, and total average daily sick of British and Indian troops during the years 1914 and 1921.

Year.	NUMBER OF BEDS.	
	British Troops.	Indian Troops and Followers.
1914	6,769	8,815
1921	6,992	12,904

Average number sick.

Year.	British Troops.	Indian Troops.	Followers.
1914	1923.58	2614.05	Not available. 2179.11
1921	3070.04	6031.41	
		8210.52	

In 1921 the highest number of British Troops in hospital on one day was 6,422, and the highest number of Indian Troops and Followers in hospital on one day was 14,274.

R. A. M. C. AND I. M. S. OFFICERS.

74. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the total number of R. A. M. C. (Royal Army Medical Corps) and I. M. S. (Indian Medical Service) officers in military employ doing administrative and executive duties in the years 1914, 1918 and 1921 ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The figures for the years 1914 and 1921 are given in the statement laid on the table. As regards the year 1918, for the reason given in reply to other questions of the same character asked by the Honourable Member, Government do not propose to publish the information.

Statement showing the number of Royal Army Medical Corps and Indian Medical Service officers in military employ, who were employed on administrative and executive duties during the years 1914 and 1921.

		1914	1921
Officers of the R. A. M. C.	.. ..	338	334
Officers of the I. M. S. . .	.. ..	276	574

MILITARY ASSISTANT SURGEONS.

75. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government state the number of military assistant surgeons and sub-assistant surgeons in military employ in the years 1914, 1918 and 1921 ?

Mr. E. Burdon : A statement is laid on the table furnishing the information asked for by the Honourable Member in so far as the years 1914 and 1921 are concerned. As to the year 1918 : during the war information was not published regarding the strength of combatant and administrative services, and Government do not consider it desirable to publish such information now. They trust that the particulars given will meet the Honourable Member's purpose.

Statement showing the number of military assistant surgeons and sub-assistant surgeons in military employ during the years 1914 and 1921.

	1914.	1921.
Military assistant surgeons . . .	421	446*
Military sub-assistant surgeons ..	710	1100†

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE OFFICERS, ETC., IN CIVIL EMPLOY.

76. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the number of I. M. S. officers and military assistant surgeons employed in civil departments in the years 1914, 1918 and 1921 ?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler : A statement is placed on the table.

Statement showing the number of Indian Medical Service officers and military assistant surgeons employed in civil departments in the years 1914, 1918 and 1921.

	1914 (January).	1918 (January).	1921 (January).
Indian Medical Service officers ...	475	163	217
Military Assistant Surgeons	237	22	231

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE OFFICERS AT INDIA OFFICE, IN ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENTS, ETC.

77. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of Indian and European I. M. S. officers employed on duty in the India Office, in the office of the Director General of the Indian Medical Service (D. G. I. M. S.), in the Army Headquarters, in Command Headquarters, in Brigade Headquarters, in the Foreign and Political Departments, in Medical colleges as Professors in the Bacteriological Department, in the Sanitary Department, in the Chemical Examiner's and Jail Departments and as Civil Surgeons of first class stations in the year 1921 ?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler : A statement is placed on the table.

* 386 serving in India and 60 overseas.

† 223 serving in India and 277 overseas.

Statement showing the number of Indian and European Indian Medical Service officers employed in certain civil and military departments in the year 1921.

	Indians.		Europeans.	
	December 1921.	December 1921.	December 1921.	December 1921.
India Office (a)
Office of the Director General, Indian Medical Service (b).	1	..	6	..
Army Headquarters	4
Command Headquarters	8
Brigade Headquarters
Foreign and Political Department	1	28
Professors in Medical Colleges	5	86
Medical Research (Bacteriological) Department	1	18
Sanitary Department	16
Chemical Examiners' Department	6
Jail Department	1	27
Civil Surgeons of first class stations (c).

INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE CADRE.

78. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the total strength of the cadre of the I. M. S. including temporary commissions and re-employed officers in the years 1914, 1918 and 1921 ?

Mr. E. Burdon : A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the total strength of the cadre of the Indian Medical Service, including temporary commissioned and re-employed officers, during the years 1914, 1918 and 1921.

Year.	Regular officers.	Temporary Commissioned officers.	Re-employed officers.	Total.
1914	770	59	Nil	829
1918	768	838	20	1,626
1921 (July)	748	840	3	1,086

INDIAN ARMY OFFICERS.

79. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the number of Indian Army Officers employed on duty at the War Office and India Office in the years 1914, 1918 and 1921 ?

Mr. E. Burdon : A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of Indian Army officers employed on duty at the War and India Offices during the years 1914, 1918 and 1921.

	War Office.	India Office.
During 1914	3	2
During 1918	2	2
During 1921	7	2

COST OF MILITARY MEDICAL PUPILS.

80. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the total annual expenditure incurred by the Indian revenues for the education of military medical pupils for the military assistant surgeons class in the years 1914 and 1921 ?

(a) There are 3 retired Indian Medical Service officers employed in the India Office.

(b) Excludes Public Health Commissioner.

(c) Classification of Civil and agency surgeons as "1st class" and "2nd class" was abolished from the 1st December 1918.

Mr. E. Burdon : The expenditure incurred in the year 1914-15 on the education of military medical pupils was Rs. 56,307. For the year 1921-22, a sum of Rs. 97,350 was provided in the budget for this purpose. The actual expenditure for 1921-22 cannot be given, as the accounts for this year have not yet been closed.

INTERMEDIATE CLASS ON SIMLA-KALKA RAILWAY.

81. **Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan :** (a) Does the Government realise that Indian ladies travelling in the Intermediate class suffer a great deal of inconvenience at Simla-Kalka Railway by having no compartment allotted for ladies only as is done for 1st and 2nd class lady passengers ?

(b) Do the Government propose to remove this inconvenience on this railway and other railways where it might be existing ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : (a) Reserved accommodation for ladies in the Intermediate class is provided on one down and two up trains on the Kalka-Simla Railway. It can not be provided on other trains owing to the limited nature of the Intermediate accommodation on those trains.

(b) It is not always practicable to provide sufficient Intermediate accommodation on trains to allow compartments to be reserved for ladies. But where a demand exists for reserved accommodation of this class for ladies, Railway Administrations may be trusted to endeavour to meet it as far as possible.

ROUBLES FOR GANDHIST MOVEMENT.

82. **Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas :** (a) Is there any truth in the statement, as wired by Reuter, some time ago, made by a Soviet Chief Zinovieff at a meeting of the Central Communist organization that about 7 million gold roubles were spent in subsidising the Gandhist movement in India ?

(b) If so, have the Government taken any and what steps in that connection ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) and (b). Government have no information as to the accuracy of the statement wired by Reuter.

SUTLEJ VALLEY CANAL SCHEME.

83. **Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas :** (a) Is there any truth in the belief that the completion of the Sutlej Valley canal scheme will result in such failure of water supply in the Indus in the irrigation season as to disastrously affect the agriculture of Sind ?

(b) If so, do Government contemplate taking steps to avert such disaster ?

Colonel Sir Sydney Crookshank : (a) The question of the effect of withdrawals of water for the Sutlej Valley Canals on irrigation in Sind was carefully considered by the Government of India before the Sukkur Barrage and Canals project was submitted to the Secretary of State ; the Government of India were advised that both the Sukkur and Sutlej Valley Schemes could safely be constructed at the same time and that when the Sutlej Valley Canals come into operation there will be sufficient water

in the Indus at Sukkur to provide fully for the Sukkur Barrage Scheme. However, the completion of the Sutlej Valley Canals with full withdrawals from the Sutlej may prejudice agriculture in Sind, as at present practised, by affecting the level of the water in the Indus at the beginning and end of the inundation season.

(b) The construction of the Sukkur Barrage on the Indus will make the Sind Canals independent of the lowering of the water level by the withdrawals of the Sutlej Valley Canals, and, as the Government of India are advised that there is sufficient water in the Indus at Sukkur for both series of canals, the adverse result referred to will be prevented by the construction of the Sukkur Barrage.

BRANCH RAILWAY WORKING.

84. **Mr. K. O. Neogy** : Will Government be pleased to make a statement in respect of the branch railway lines owned by private concerns but worked as parts of the different State-managed Railway systems, showing, for the year 1921-22, for each such line :

- (a) the maximum rate of working expenses chargeable for the line by Government under the terms of contract as compared with the actual rate of working expenses for the entire railway system of which the said line forms a part ;
- (b) the amount actually spent on working the line ;
- (c) the amount actually recovered from the owners of the line as working expenses ;
- (d) the amounts paid to the owners as rebates and for office expenses and expenses of management and direction ; and
- (e) the net amount gained by the managing railway over the traffic obtained from the branch line managed ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : The information asked for is being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member as soon as ready.

STATE-MANAGED BRANCH RAILWAYS.

85. **Mr. K. O. Neogy** : (a) Has any amount been paid by Government as loan to the private owners of any State-managed branch railway lines ?

(b) If so, what are the terms and amount of such loan in each case ?

(c) Is such amount of loan treated as part of the capital of the line for purposes of estimating the rebate, in any case ; and if so, will Government be pleased to state the details of such arrangement, indicating the net profit, realised during 1920-21, by way of interest on the loan after deducting the rebate payable on the amount of the loan thus treated as part of capital ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : (a) Yes, the Sara Serajganj Railway Company was permitted in 1917 to overdraw its deposit with Government such overdraft being virtually a loan to the Company.

(b) The overdraft is limited to Rs. 7½ lakhs and Government charge interest at 5 per cent. per annum on the sum actually overdrawn.

(c) The amount in question is treated, for purposes of rebate, like share capital of the Company.

During 1920-21, the net earnings of the Branch Line were sufficient to make up 5 per cent. on the capital of the Company and no rebate fell

duc. Consequently the whole of the interest realised on the overdraft can be considered as profit.

RAILWAY SIDINGS.

86. **Mr. K. C. Neogy** : Will Government be pleased to make a statement, in respect of private and assisted sidings in connection with the different railway systems, showing, separately for each system :

- (a) the total capital outlay made by the Railway on the sidings ;
- (b) the amount of net profit made by the Railway from the traffic passed over the sidings, during 1921-22, after allowing for the cost of maintenance, repairs and depreciation of the sidings ; and
- (c) the percentage rate of such net profit, on the capital outlay on the sidings, during the last five years ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : The information is not available.

The collection of these statistics will involve an expenditure of time and labour incommensurate with the results to be obtained and Government are therefore not prepared to call for them.

SALARY OF PUBLIC SERVANT.

87. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : Is the pay of a public servant serving on the time-scale (not holding any scheduled post or special appointment for which special salary is fixed) his personal salary or does it involve the performance of a particular kind of work and does a change in the office automatically involve a change in the pay of that officer ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : The pay of a public servant in permanent civil employ who is on a time-scale is admissible to him for as long as he holds one of the posts which make up the cadre of the service to which that time-scale is applicable. If he is transferred from one post to another within that cadre the change in office does not automatically involve a change in pay.

TIME-SCALE PROMOTIONS.

88. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : What are the rules governing time-scale promotions ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : The rules generally applicable to time-scales of pay are rules 22 to 29 and 32 of the Fundamental Rules, of which there is a copy in the Library.

RESULTS OF INCREASED TAXATION.

89. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement showing how far the increased taxation, tariff and postage have brought in additional revenue to the Government under the last budget ?

(b) In what cases has the income not increased and if so, why ?

(c) Has the income decreased in any case ? If so, why ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : (a), (b) and (c). I regret that it is not possible at any rate until the new taxation has been in force for a complete 12 months to prepare a statement on the lines indicated by the Honourable Member nor to give precise answers to the other questions.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY STRIKE.

90. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : Will the Government be pleased to state what loss has been suffered by the Government on account of the Railway strike (E. I. R.) referred to in my motion for adjournment on 13th February 1922 in this Honourable House at Delhi ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : The loss in gross earnings of the East Indian Railway consequent on the strike on that railway from the 2nd February to the 15th April 1922 is estimated at Rs. 151 lakhs as compared with the budgeted earnings. This does not take into account the net saving in working expenses which is estimated at Rs. 9 lakhs.

EFFECT OF EAST INDIAN RAILWAY STRIKE.

91. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : (a) For how many days did the E. I. Railway strike last ?

(b) What were the demands of the E. I. R. strikers and how far have they been complied with ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : The strike lasted for about 2½ months. The men struck work without formulating any demands. The main demands made later were for a general increase of pay, the recognition of the East Indian Railway Unions and the modification of the gratuity rules. This last question, which was under consideration before the strike began, has been settled, and the gratuity rules have been modified by the Government of India. The Agent after full examination has declined to grant an all round increase of pay, but various minor adjustments have been made. Concessions have been made regarding the pay of the lower paid menial staffs at Howrah and neighbourhood and on the coalfields, and certain improvements have been sanctioned in the allowance rules of Indian guards, the Indian staff employed in large yards and the Indian locomotive running staff. The Agent has stated that for the present he is not prepared to recognise officially the East Indian Railway Indian Labour Association.

INDIANS AND NON-INDIANS ON RAILWAYS.

92. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : What distinctions do still exist between Indians and non-Indians employed in the Railways with regard to their initial pay, rates of promotions, over-time and other allowances, hours of duty, travelling passes and other matters, on various posts ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : It would be a very laborious task to collect all the information asked for by the Honourable Member and the Government do not propose to attempt it. It will perhaps be sufficient to say that the Government believe that outside the gazetted ranks of railway service there are distinctions on most railways between the pay and allowances of Indians and non-Indians respectively. Fundamentally these distinctions are probably due to the fact that Railway Administrations think that it pays them to employ a proportion of non-Indians and are willing to pay the salaries necessary to attract them. The whole question however is one of great difficulty and has already been taken up with Agents.

RAILWAY BOARD.

93. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : (a) What is the constitution of the Railway Board and what are its duties and responsibilities ?

(b) How many Indians are members of the Railway Board ; if none or very few, why ?

(c) Are Indian commercial interests represented on the Railway Board ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : (a) I am sending the Honourable Member a copy of the Resolutions of the Government of India on the subject which gives the desired information.

(b) and (c). As the Honourable Member is already aware, none of the 3 Members of the Railway Board are Indians. The Railway Board is recruited almost invariably from Agents of Railways and no Indian has ever risen to the appointment of Agent.

KUAR MAHINDRA PRATAP SINGH'S ESTATE.

94. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table any representations and memorials made by the wife, family or relations of Kuar Mahindra Pratap Singh regarding their allowances or release of property from attachment or both or any other matter concerning the estate in question ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : The Government of India are not prepared to lay representations received from the wife, family or relations of Kuar Mahindra Pratap Singh on the table.

LOYALTY OF KUAR MAHINDRA PRATAP SINGH'S FAMILY.

95. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : Has the loyalty of the family and children of Kuar Mahindra Pratap Singh ever been questioned ? If so, when and by whom ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : The Government of India have no information to show that the loyalty of the family and children of Kuar Mahindra Pratap Singh has ever been questioned.

REDUCTION OF GRANTS.

96. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : (a) In what manner was the situation created by reduction of grants made by the Legislative Assembly in the last budget eased ? Whether by curtailment of the expenditure as intended by the Assembly or by borrowing money ?

(b) Was the borrowing of money recently ever authorized by the Indian Legislature ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : (a) By curtailment of expenditure.

(b) No.

RETRENCHMENT SCHEME.

97. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : Have the Government considered the question of retrenchment in the Central Government and has any preliminary or provisional scheme of retrenchment been drawn up ? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay the same on the table ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : Preliminary inquiries into the possibilities of retrenchment have been in progress for the last three months and are approaching completion. Decisions on the proposals

will probably be arrived at, in some cases, before Lord Inchcape's Committee assembles. In other cases, the proposals will be referred for the consideration of that Committee. Government regret that they cannot at present lay the proposals on the table.

TAXES AND RAILWAY FREIGHTS.

98. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : Has it come to the knowledge of the Government by means of newspapers or otherwise that while in India taxes and railway freights are on the increase, in European countries they are going down ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : Government have no information of any general tendency to reduce taxation in European countries. The majority of such countries cannot balance their budgets with taxation at the present level. It is true that there has been a reduction of railway freights in the United Kingdom, but, as the Honourable Member doubtless knows, the railways in that country are not the property of the State, and the amount of their freights is fixed largely by competition.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

99. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : Have the Government considered the advisability of realizing their share of expenditure on British Empire Exhibition from persons and trades who are most likely to be benefited thereby rather than saddle the general taxpayer therewith ?

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : No. The method of financing the Exhibition which is suggested by the Hon'ble Member is obviously impracticable. As explained to the Assembly during the last Session, it is expected that a considerable portion of the expenditure will be recovered from private exhibitors.

UNSANCTIONED EXPENDITURE.

100. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : Will the Government be pleased to state how much money was spent within the last two years without previous sanction ? Is it permissible, if so under what rule and to what extent ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : The accounts for 1921-22 have not yet been closed. As regards 1920-21, complete figures of excesses over sanctioned grants have not yet been received from the Auditor General. I may remind the Honourable Member that all excesses, which are not covered by supplementary grants, will, under the new procedure, be reported by the Audit authorities to the Public Accounts Committee.

There is no rule which permits excesses over grants.

ORDERS ON RESOLUTIONS.

101. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing how far the Resolutions passed by the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State have been given effect to and what action has been taken thereon in each case ?

The Honourable Dr. T. B. Sapru : The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the three statements furnished in reply to questions by Mr. Agnihotri, M. K. Reddi Garu and Rai Sahib Lakshmi Narayan Lal and printed at pages 1603-1608, 1830-1831 and 2902-2906 of the Legislative Assembly Debates, Volume II.

In regard to the Resolutions adopted by the Legislative Assembly during the Delhi Session 1922, the attention of the Honourable Member is also invited to the statement laid on the table to-day, in reply to a similar question by Rao Bahadur C. S. Subrahmanayam.

A further statement as regards the Resolutions adopted by the Council of State during the last Delhi Session is laid on the table. This statement together with the four statements referred to contains all the information up to date asked for by the Honourable Member.

Statement showing the Resolutions adopted by the Council of State during the Delhi Session, 1922, and the action taken by Government thereon.

Serial No.	Date on which moved.	By whom.	Subject of Resolution.	Department concerned.	Action taken by Government.
1	26-1-22	The Honourable Mr. Phiroze Sethna.	Increase in the appointment of Indians in Port Trusts.	Department of Commerce.	The Resolution has been accepted by the Government of India and the views of the Maritime Local Governments have been invited. Replies are still awaited.
2	31-1-22	The Honourable Mr. S. F. O'Donnell.	Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children.	Home Department	The International Convention adopted by the second Assembly of the League of Nations was duly signed at Geneva on behalf of the Government of India, on the 28th March 1922, by the British Minister at Berne, with the necessary reservation in regard to Article 5 of the Convention.
3	13-3-22	The Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Ismailjee.	Carriage of Human beings in Cattle Trucks.	Railway Department.	Copies of the Resolution were forwarded to Railways with the request that effect be given to its terms as far as practicable and that in the cases of company worked Railways, a copy of the Resolution should be communicated to the Boards of Directors.
	13-2-22	The Honourable Lala Hans Saran Das.	Maintenance of separate accounts for Military and Strategic Railways.	Finance Department.	The question is being put by the Railway Department before the Central Advisory Council for Railways.
5	13-3-22	The Honourable Khan Bahadur (Now Sir) Ahmedthamby Maricar.	Opening of the Port of Madras for pilgrim traffic.	Department of Education and Health.	A copy of the Resolution and Debate thereon was forwarded to the Madras Government on the 20th March 1922 and they were asked to submit proposals for giving effect to the Resolution, together with an estimate of the Central and Provincial expenditure involved. No reply has yet been received from the Local Government.
6	23-2-22	The Honourable Mr. Phiroze Sethna.	Congratulations to Her Royal Highness Princess Mary on the occasion of her marriage.	Home Department	Effect was given to this Resolution. A message conveying Her Royal Highness's warm appreciation of the congratulations of the Council of State was read out in the House by the President on the 6th March 1922.
7	23-2-22	The Honourable Mr. V. G. Kale.	Indianization of State-owned Railways.	Railway Department.	The matter was again impressed on Railway Administrations and with a view to ascertain the progress made in increasing the number of Indians in the higher grades, Agents have been asked to furnish half-yearly statement showing the number of such appointments made.

Serial No.	Date on which moved.	By whom.	Subject of Resolution.	Department concerned.	Action taken by Government.
8	23-2-22	The Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas.	7 per cent. Sterling Loan.	Finance Department.	The Resolution was communicated to the Secretary of State in Council.
9	23-2-22	The Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas.	Status of Indians in East Africa.	Department of Revenue and Agriculture.	The Resolution was brought to the notice of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India in connection with the negotiations that are proceeding on the subject of the position of Indians in Kenya.
10	27-2-22	The Honourable Lala Sukhbir Sinha.	Reduction of Provincial Contributions.	Finance Department.	The whole question was discussed by the Government of India at a Conference held in Simla in April 1922 which was attended by the Secretaries and Finance Members of all the provincial Governments and the conclusions reached at the Conference were reported to the Secretary of State. His orders are awaited.
11	15-3-22	The Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhai.	Resignation by the Rt. Honourable E. S. Montagu of his office of Secretary of State for India.	Home Department	Effect has been given to this Resolution.
12	15-3-22	The Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas.	Carriage of Government and Railway materials by Indian Shipping Companies.	Department of Commerce.	The Resolution has been accepted by the Government of India and the authorities concerned have been asked, where possible, in future, to give Indian Shipping Companies an opportunity for tendering for the carriage of Government stores.
13	16-3-22	The Honourable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas.	Shipbuilding Industry in India.	Department of Commerce.	The Resolution has been accepted by the Government of India and it is proposed to appoint the Committee during the ensuing cold weather. Questions relating to personnel, etc., are at present under consideration and the Standing Finance Committee will be asked if it agrees to a supplementary demand being placed before the Legislative Assembly to meet the cost of the Committee.
14	22-3-22	The Honourable Mr. V. G. Kato.	Remittance Transactions.	Finance Department.	(a) The Statement referred to in the Resolution is under preparation and will be laid on the table as soon as ready. (b) The figures of the current year's Budget with exchange figures distributed over the several heads of account have already been published with Government of India Finance Department Resolution No. 1707-F, dated 31st July 1922. The method of the exhibition of exchange in future Budgets is under consideration and a decision will be arrived at before the next Budget.

PROVINCIAL RETRENCHMENT.

102. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : What proposals, if any, have been received by the Government, regarding the retrenchment of expenditure in the Provinces ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : Retrenchment of expenditure, which is at present engaging the attention of several provincial Governments, is principally the concern of those Governments and it is suggested that the Honourable Member obtain the information he desires by interpellation, if necessary, in the provincial Councils.

INDIANS AND EUROPEANS IN SERVICES.

103. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing throughout India, the departments in which and the superior posts on which the number of Indians is less than 50 per cent. and also showing the number of Indians and Europeans with their pay and allowances ? What steps have been taken to Indianize those services within recent times ?

SUPERIOR POSTS HELD BY NON-INDIANS.

104. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : Is there any department or service in India in which the superior posts are held exclusively or mostly by non-Indians ? If so, what are they ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : I will reply to this question and the next question standing in the Honourable Member's name together. I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement I laid on the table on 15th September 1921 in answer to a question by Mr. Joshi, and to a statement laid on the table by the Honourable Finance Member in reply to a question put in September last by the Honourable Member. These statements and the civil lists will give most of the information required, and Government are not prepared to undertake the labour involved in the compilation of the statistics in the form now asked for.

VAKIL AS CHIEF JUSTICE.

105. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : (a) Is there any rule or law which disqualifies a High Court Vakil from appointment as Chief Justice of a Chartered High Court ? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay the same on the table ?

(b) Have the Government taken any steps to move the Home Government or the British Parliament to have the disqualification removed in view of the great progress made by the Vakil bar in India ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) Under sub-section (4) of section 101 of the Government of India Act High Court Vakils are not eligible for permanent appointments as Chief Justices. The Honourable Member will find a copy of the Act in the Library.

(b) The answer is in the negative, but an Honourable Member has given notice of a Resolution on the subject, and the Government of India's attitude will be announced when that Resolution is discussed in the Chamber.

UNITED PROVINCES RESIDENTS IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

106. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : How many residents of the United Provinces have been employed on permanent posts under the Central Government in 1922 and on what posts with what salaries ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : The information is not available and Government regret that, in view of the labour involved, they are not prepared to collect it.

RAILWAYS IN UNITED PROVINCES.

107. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : What Railways are going to be constructed in the United Provinces within the next two years ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : Government are not in a position to say what railways, if any, will be constructed in the United Provinces within the next two years.

No railway construction from Government of India resources is contemplated in these Provinces at present.

MUTHRA RAILWAY BRIDGE.

108. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : What further progress has been made for freeing the Railway Bridge at Muthra from tolls like other Bridges ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : The Government of India understand that the question is still under consideration by the Government of the United Provinces.

DIVISIONAL COMMISSIONERSHIPS AND BOARDS OF REVENUE.

109. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : What further progress has been made towards abolition of the posts of Divisional Commissioners and Boards of Revenue throughout India ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : As regards Divisional Commissioners the position is as stated in the reply I have given to-day to starred Question No. 67 asked by Rai Bahadur L. P. Sinha.

Proposals for reducing the strength of the Board of Revenue in Madras will shortly be submitted by the Government of India to the Secretary of State.

KASGANJ-AGRA RAILWAY.

110. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : (a) How much money has already been spent by the Government over the Kasganj-Agra Railway project ?

(b) Do the Government propose to reconsider the question of the construction of Kasganj-Agra Railway whether on meter gauge or broad gauge ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : (a) The expenditure incurred by the Government on the survey of (1) the Kasganj-Agra Railway Project and (2) from Soron to a point on the Kasganj-Agra alignment amounts to Rs. 13,533.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

CONSTRUCTION OF KASGANJ-AGRA RAILWAY BY PRIVATE AGENCY.

111. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : In case the Government are at present unable to spend money over the construction of the Kasganj-Agra Railway, have they any objection to consider any proposals for construction of a Railway between Agra and Kasganj by private agency ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : The Honourable Member is referred to the last paragraph of the answer given to him on the 10th January 1922 on the same subject.

INDIAN ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

112. **Munshi Iswar Saran** : Will Government please state the number of Indian Army Reserve of Officers who originally belonged to and served with the British (Home) Army but were transferred for service with the Indian Army in 1916, 1918, 1920 and 1921 ?

Mr. E. Burdon : I am not sure if I have understood correctly what information the Honourable Member desires. If, however, he wishes to know the number of British other ranks of British units (including Territorials) who were granted commissions in the Indian Army Reserve of Officers during the years in question, I would point out that to compile this information would involve appointment of a special staff and the expenditure of an amount of time and labour that the results could not justify.

2,519 officers in all, however, were commissioned in the Indian Army Reserve of Officers during the years mentioned, and there is little doubt that the majority of them were taken from British units serving in India at the time.

TEMPORARY I. A. R. OFFICERS.

113. Munshi Iswar Saran : Will Government lay on the table a statement showing the total number of the officers of the Unattached List and of the Indian Army Reserve of Officers who did not belong to the authorised establishment of the Indian regiments but were attached to them for duty up to the end of June 1922 ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The Honourable Member's question is not understood. There was no authorised establishment during the war ; officers were commissioned and drafted into Indian regiments according to the needs of the moment, in order to replace casualties or to meet expansion to third and fourth battalions. As the Honourable Member is probably aware, the bulk of the Indian Army Reserve of Officers have now been gazetted out, with effect from the 1st May 1922 ; and, regular officers who are surplus to the requirements of the Indian Army are now being retired.

"JAIL OR HELL" PUBLISHED IN "NEW TIMES."

114. Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if their attention has been drawn to an article headed " Jail or Hell " published in the " New Times " of Karachi of the 26th July last wherein there appears an account, by Messrs. Bhojraj Motunmal Ajwani, B.A., Headmaster, Tilak National High School, Sukkur, and Verhomal Vaparimal, Secretary, District Congress Committee, of the treatment they received during their imprisonment in the Visapur Jail ?

(b) If so, are the statements wholly or partially true ?

(c) If so, is this treatment accorded to all prisoners or is it specially meted out to political prisoners and is the treatment confined to Visapur Jail or obtains in other jails also ?

(d) Do Government propose to take action to mitigate the horrors of such treatment and to take notice of the conduct of those responsible for it ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the statements issued by the Bombay Government in their two communiqués dated the 11th August 1922 and 16th August 1922, of which copies are placed on the table.

Communique, dated the 11th August 1922.

With reference to an article which appeared in the issue of the *Bombay Chronicle*, dated the 3rd August 1922, under the heading " A Jail Scandal " alleging ill-treat-

ment of the prisoners Bhojraj and Verhomal in Visapur Prison in the Ahmednagar District, Government have issued the following statement :

" The facts are that the above prisoners were sentenced to six months' imprisonment for being prominent members of an unlawful assembly, and guilty of intentional insult of an indecent and particularly foul nature to a respectable Hindu gentleman of Sukkur, and under Sections 143, 149 and 504 of the Indian Penal Code. The allegations of ill-treatment are untrue. No punishments were inflicted on these prisoners while undergoing their sentences. Their health was good both on admission to and on discharge from jail. A further statement dealing with the details of the allegations will follow."

Communique, dated the 16th August 1923.

With reference to the statement issued by this office on August 11th, denying certain allegations which have been made in the Press and repeated in a pamphlet which has been widely published regarding the alleged ill-treatment of two prisoners, named Bhojraj and Verhomal in Visapur Jail, the following additional details are now available :

" These two men who as stated in the communiqué referred to above were sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment for being prominent members of an unlawful assembly guilty of intentional insult described by the trying Magistrate as "foul" and "indecent" to a respectable Hindu gentleman of Sukkur were transferred to the Deccan convict gang on February 6th and were released on July 18th. On arrival at Visapur Jail these prisoners being men of education were given the task of corn grinding inside the prison as this is a lighter form of punishment than work outside the prison with the convict gang.

As is usual in camp jails fetters were imposed. But the allegation that the prisoners were "almost regularly beaten with thick canes for the first two months and then occasionally," "that once Bhojraj got 18 canes without fault," that "he while grinding once fainted yet the beating continued," etc., are palpably false. No complaint was ever made by them to the Superintendent or the Medical Officer or the Inspector General of Prisons that they had been ill-treated so that the matter could have been investigated on the spot. Nor can it be suggested that they were afraid of making complaints or did not know the procedure because the history ticket of Verhomal shows that he did complain on one occasion that the amount of corn issued to him was excessive and that the complaint was investigated and found to be unfounded.

Nor were any complaints made as to the quality of the food and the history tickets of these prisoners show that they received immediate medical attention for even slight ailments and whenever necessary were given special food and excused work.

Other allegations refer to the sanitary arrangements of the jail. It is stated that two or three men had to use the same receptacle at the same time. It is reported to be physically impossible for such a thing to happen. There are 30 latrines in use for inside prisoners. Nor is it true to say that there is a specified time allowed for latrine parade. Prisoners are marched off only when they have finished. The allegations with regard to 6 men using the same urinal are also obviously untrue. There is a break three times a day in working hours to allow prisoners going in between those times if it is necessary. The unpleasant suggestions made in this connection are as untrue as they are ridiculous as not less so is the statement with reference to compulsory shaving that "top hair was pulled out sometimes by hand when scissors were not available."

INDIAN RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

115. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : What steps have the Government taken or do they propose to take to satisfy the grievances and demands of Indian Railway employees ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : It is impossible to answer a question couched in such general terms.

KUAR MAHINDRA PRATAP SINGH.

116. **Lala Girdhari Lal Agarwala** : (a) Where is **Kuar Mahindra Pratap Singh** of **Muthra District** whose property has been attached on

political grounds under Bengal Regulation 3 of 1918 or some other Regulation ? Will the Government be pleased to state briefly (1) the previous history of his family, (2) his training in early life, (3) his educational activities, (4) his political activities while in India, (5) his whereabouts and activities outside India and how long has he been away from India, and (6) has any order been passed against his return to India ?

(b) Has Kuar Mahindra Pratap Singh of Muthra District whose property is under attachment for political reasons, got any wife and children and if so, where are they living ?

(c) How long has the property of Kuar Mahindra Pratap Singh been under attachment, was the estate encumbered and what has been its income after payment of Government revenue and taxes and how much has been spent on management ? What amount has now accumulated and how has it been invested ?

(d) To what family does the wife (if any) of Kuar Mahindra Pratap Singh belong ? Having regard to all circumstances, what allowance is given to the wife and children (if any) of the aforesaid gentleman and has any complaint been ever made about its inadequacy ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) The Government of India have no definite information, but it is believed that he is at present in Germany.

(1) The Honourable Member is referred to pages 123—125 of the Muttra District Gazetteer.

(2) and (3). The Government of India have no information, except that he was believed to be a person full of enthusiasm who consorted with educationists of advanced views.

(4) The Government of India have no information.

(5) He left India early in 1915 (i.e. not long after the outbreak of war) for Switzerland where he devoted himself to revolutionary activities. He next went to Berlin and throughout the war he did all he could to help the King's enemies. For the furtherance of their ends he visited Central Asia in 1915, where he remained until 1917. Since then he has spent his time mainly in Germany, where he is believed to be at present.

(6) No.

(b) He has a wife and two children. It is not known where they are living.

(c) The estate has been under attachment since July 1916. The Government of India were informed in 1919 that the normal surplus was 10,000 per annum, and that there was a balance of Rs. 22,500. As to the rest of this question the Government of India have no up to date information.

(d) The wife of Kuar Mahindra Pratap Singh is a sister of Raja Ranbir Singh of Jhind. She receives an allowance of Rs. 200 per mensem and the children receive Rs. 400 per mensem including the salary of a European governess. She asked in 1917 that the full profits and income after meeting expenses should be paid to her, but not specifically on the ground of the alleged inadequacy of the allowances which are those recommended by the United Provinces Government.

CONTRACTS WITH TELEPHONE COMPANIES.

117. **Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary :** (a) Would the Government be pleased to place on the table copy of the contracts between the various Telephone

Companies in India and the Secretary of State for India (or the Government of India as the case may be) and the Licenses granted to those companies ?

(b) Would the Government be pleased to state when those contracts and Licenses were granted or renewed ?

(c) Would the Government be pleased to state whether the public had any information about the terms of the contracts and Licenses when they were made or renewed and had opportunities of discussing them in any way ?

(d) Would the Government be pleased to state whether negotiations are going on or have been completed for any of those companies taking over any of the Government Trunk-Lines between various cities in India ?

(e) If so, would the Government please lay the particulars of such negotiations on the table and state what portions of the capital charges involved in taking over, improving and maintaining these lines are to be met by the company or companies concerned and how they propose to meet these charges ?

(f) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the agitation caused by the proposal of some of these companies to raise the telephone charges, particularly in Calcutta ?

(g) Would the Government be pleased to state what steps the Government proposes to take to prevent or reduce such increase ?

Colonel Sir Sydney Crookshank : (a) The Bengal Telephone Company, Limited, Calcutta, the Bombay Telephone Company, Limited, Bombay, and the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company, Limited, London, hold licenses granted under section 4 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, in practically identical terms, and a copy of the license granted to the Bombay Telephone Company, is placed in the Members' Library, together with copies of the supplementary Agreements recently concluded with the Bombay and the Bengal Telephone Companies.

(b) A statement giving the required information is placed on the table.

(c) The terms of the licenses were settled by the Government of India direct in 1903 without prior publication. The supplementary agreements were concluded after reference by the Government of India to the Local Governments concerned, and by the latter to the principal commercial bodies at the different places.

(d) and (e). No negotiations have been opened.

(f) Yes.

(g) From clause (3) of the supplementary agreements it will be seen that the companies may charge up to Rs. 350 a year for connections, subject to the condition in the case of Bombay, Ahmedabad and Karachi that the rate is not to exceed Rs. 300 until the telephone systems there have been converted to central battery or automatic working with a view to securing greater efficiency. These limits do not appear to have been exceeded. So far as the Government of India are aware, the Bengal Telephone Company does not propose at present to raise its maximum rate at Calcutta beyond Rs. 300. There are therefore no grounds for interference. The opportunity is taken to invite the Honourable Member's attention also to the provisions in the same clause of the agreements to the effect that the rate, so far as it exceeds Rs. 300 in any case, is subject to revision upwards or downwards every 5 years, and that

one-third of the net profits of the companies in excess of 12½ per cent. in any year is to be divided by way of rebate among the telephone subscribers.

Statement furnishing the dates of the telephone licenses and supplementary agreement referred to in part (b) of the reply given to Sir D. P. Saravdhikary's question in the Legislative Assembly regarding the licenses granted to the telephone companies in India.

Name of the Company.	Location of the telephone system.	Licence.	Date of	
			Subsequent revision.	Supplementary agreement.
Bengal Telephone Company, Limited, Calcutta.	Calcutta ..	17-3-1903	20-7-1910	11-4-1922
Bombay Telephone Company, Limited, Bombay.	Bombay	17-3-1903	9-2-1911	} 30-3-1922 Negotiations with a view to the conclusion of supplementary agreements are in progress.
Ditto	Ahmedabad ..	9-9-1903	...	
Ditto	Karachi	9-9-1903	21-3-1912	
Oriental Telephone and Electric Company, Limited.	Madras ...	17-3-1903	...	
Ditto	Rangoon ..	17-3-1903	28-6-1909	
Ditto	Moulmein ...	20-5-1903	...	

CONFISCATION OF PROPERTY UNDER REGULATION III OF 1818 AND OTHER LAWS.

118. **Lala Girdhari Lal Agarwala :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement for the last 10 years showing briefly the cases in which and the circumstances under which the provisions of Regulation 3 of 1818 have been put in force with regard to attachment of property and in what cases if any has property been confiscated and if so of what value ?

(b) Property of what value has been acquired by the Government by confiscation :

- (1) under Regulation 3 of 1818.
- (2) under Indian Penal Code,
- (3) under any other law, and
- (4) by escheat ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) The statement attached gives the information required by the Honourable Member in so far as Regulation III of 1818 is concerned.

(b) (1) Regulation III of 1818 does not confer any powers of confiscation of property. As regards (2), (3) and (4) statistics under these heads could not be procured without an expenditure of time and labour entirely incommensurate with the value of the results obtained.

STATEMENT.

Sardar Arjan Singh Ahluwalia of Kapurthala.—During the war, in November 1916, the Government of India learnt from a reliable source that when in Europe Sardar Arjan Singh was consorting with the King's enemies with the result that his estates were attached under Regulation III of 1818 by an order dated the 28th February 1917.

In 1918 Sardar Arjan Singh was declared to be insane by competent medical advisers and his continued detention in the Lahore Lunatic Asylum was considered

necessary. In view of this circumstance the Government of India, acting on the suggestion of the Punjab Government issued an order dated the 28th June 1918, releasing the estate from attachment.

(2) *Kunwar Mahindra Partap Singh, a Landholder in the United Provinces.*—In May 1916 the Government of India were apprised of the treasonable activities of Mahindra Partap Singh in Europe. To ensure that no part of the income from his estates reached him to further his propaganda it was deemed advisable to attach them under Regulation III, 1818. The necessary order was issued on the 1st July 1916. Mahindra Partap is still a fugitive from justice. In the circumstances there is no question of releasing his estates from attachment and returning them to him. It has, however, been represented by the Local Government that the present restricted system of management under the Regulation does not admit of the property being administered to the fullest advantage of the parties interested, chief amongst whom is a minor son. To remedy this state of affairs the Government of India propose to introduce a scheme whereby the interests of Mahindra Partap in the estate will be extinguished and conveyed to his minor son.

Ghulam Qasim Khan, ex-Nawab of Tank.—Ghulam Qasim Khan, *ex-Nawab*, of Tank, whose estate is on the extreme edge of British India, had long been notorious for his violent and uncontrollable temper, and for the eccentricities of his conduct. Complaints against him of tyranny, rapacity, vindictiveness towards his tenants, intrigues with the tribes across the border and of hostility against Government became so serious after the outbreak of the war that in 1915 it was necessary to convey to him a solemn warning from the Government of India that his misconduct must cease. The warning had no lasting effect. In 1917, Ghulam Qasim Khan once more openly concerted measures with Mahsud malcontents, collecting arms and money and advertising the arrival of enemy forces in Mahsud country. He was arrested on a charge of treasonable conduct under Rule 12 of the Defence of India (Consolidated) Rules and on the 12th May a warrant was issued for his internment under Regulation III of 1818.

2. The *ex-Nawab's* estate consists of a cash jagir of Rs. 25,000 per annum (of which Rs. 5,000 is paid to the Nawab's uncle), a fluctuating revenue grant averaging Rs. 9,000 per annum in the seven jagir villages, about 20,000 acres in area, of which the *ex-Nawab* is the recorded proprietor, and some 15,000 acres of land including houses, gardens, brick-fields, etc., of which the value is given as Rs. 50,000 per annum.

3. An allowance of Rs. 2,000 per mensem is being paid to the *ex-Nawab* from the revenues of the attached estate.

4. The release of the estate is now under consideration and on release any profits which may have accumulated during the attachment will be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of section 11 of the Regulation.

INDIANS IN IMPERIAL SERVICES.

119. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the progress made in the direction of introducing an Indian element into the various Imperial Services in India from the time, when the statement showing the percentage, etc., of Indians in certain Imperial Services in India which was laid on the Assembly table by the Honourable Sir William Vincent on the 15th September 1921 in reply to my question No. 170*, to the end of July 1922 ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : The Honourable Member is referred to the statement to be laid on the table in reply to Mr. J. Chaudhuri's Question No. 246 on the same subject.

INDIANS OVERSEAS.

10. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : Will Government be pleased to publish a list of the publications issued by the Government of India and the Secretary of State for India, regarding the Indians overseas ?

Mr. J. Hullah : The only publications issued by the Government of India regarding Indians overseas are Press Communiqués, Resolutions and special reports, all of which are issued, not periodically, but from time to

time as circumstances require, and are supplied to the library of the Legislature. There appears to be no need to publish a list of these. The Secretary of State for India issues no publications on this subject.

INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

121. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : Will Government be pleased to place on the table all the representations that they may have sent to the Government of the Union of South Africa since the middle of the year 1921 with a view to secure better treatment of Indians settled within the Union and the Union Government's replies thereto ?

Mr. J. Hullah : Correspondence with the Union Government is still proceeding. The Government of India consider it inadvisable to lay copies of it on the table.

COLONIALS IN INDIAN SERVICES.

122. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : Will Government be pleased to give the number of (1) South Africans, (2) Canadians, (3) Australians, and (4) New Zealanders, in the several civil and military Services of India ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : As the information required is not readily available and cannot be procured without an expenditure of time and labour entirely incommensurate with the results obtained Government are not prepared to undertake its collection.

RAILWAY EARNINGS.

123. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement containing the following information :

- (a) The earnings of the Indian Railways, both state-managed and company-managed, made by the sale of first, second, inter and third class railway tickets during the quarter ending 31st July 1921.
- (b) The budgeted earnings of the same railways, expected to be made by the enhanced rates of fares of the first, second, inter and third class railway tickets, during the quarter ending 31st July 1922.
- (c) The actual earnings of the same railways made by the sale of first, second, inter and third class railway tickets, during the quarter ending 31st July 1922.
- (d) The net increase or decrease, if any, in the actual earnings of the quarter ending 31st July 1922 over the corresponding quarter of the last year and also, over the budgeted earnings ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : The information asked for in part (b) of the Honourable Member's question is not available.

The information asked for in the rest of his question is not available in the detail asked for and cannot be got ready without an expenditure of time and labour which is hardly warranted by the result.

A Statement has, however, been prepared comparing the number of passengers and earnings of each class for certain periods and a copy of this statement is being sent to the Honourable Member and will, it is trusted, meet his requirements.

POSTAL EARNINGS.

124. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : Will Government be pleased to give (a) the net postal earnings made by the sale of post cards, envelopes, and stamps during the quarter ending 31st July 1920, the corresponding quarter of the last year and, also, of this year ; and (b) the increase or decrease, if any, in the earnings of the quarters ending 31st July 1921 and 1922 over the corresponding quarter of 1920 ?

Colonel Sir Sydney Crookshank : It is regretted that it is not possible to give information as to the net postal earnings from the sale of postcards and stamps ; but the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary's question on the same subject to-day.

ADEN RAILWAYS.

125. **Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur** : With reference to the provision of a loss of Rs. 85,000 in the working of the Aden Railway apart from the interest charges on the capital cost of the line, will the Government kindly inform the House why was this line built at all ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : The Aden Railway was originally projected with a view to relieve the overcrowding in Aden. The immediate object however for which the construction was undertaken in 1915 was for Military purposes during the war.

LOSSES ON RAILWAY WORKING.

126. **Rai G. C. Nag Bahadur** : (a) With reference to the dozen Railways which the "History of Indian Railways" shows to be working at a loss, will Government kindly inform the House whether all these lines were not estimated to yield revenue at least sufficient to cover their working expenses and interest charges on the capital outlay ?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, who is responsible for this bad estimating ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : If the Honourable Member wishes his question to be answered, he should specify the Railways to which he refers. But in any case the Government do not think that any useful purpose would be served by examining estimates which presumably were prepared several years ago.

RAILWAY CONNECTION BETWEEN BHIWANI AND DELHI.

127. **Rai Bahadur Pandit J. L. Bhargava** : With reference to my question No. 309* asked in the meeting of the Assembly held on 19th September 1921 regarding broad-gauge connection between Bhiwani and Delhi, will the Government be pleased to state if any decision has by this time been arrived at about the said project ? If so what is that decision ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : No decision as yet has been arrived at regarding the Bhiwani Delhi Railway *via* Rohtak.

RAILWAY WATER SUPPLIERS.

128. **Lala Girdharilal Agarwala** : Has the system of employing travelling water suppliers to Railway passengers been ever tried ; if so when, where and with what result ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : Government have no information on the subject, but *prima facie* they see no advantage in the proposal.

RESTAURANT CARS.

129. Lala Girdharilal Agarwala : On what Railway lines are restaurant cars supplying Indian refreshments at present run ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : So far as Government are aware Restaurant Cars supplying Indian refreshments are run at present on the Madras and Southern Mahratta and South Indian Railways.

In this connection I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer* given in this Assembly on 2nd March 1921 to a similar question (No. 345) put by Mr. M. K. Reddiyar.

RAILWAY REFRESHMENT ROOMS.

130. Lala Girdharilal Agarwala : On what stations are refreshment rooms provided for Indian refreshments and what is the total number of such stations and what is the total number of stations at which refreshment rooms in English style are provided ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : I would refer the Honourable Member to the time tables and guides published by railways from time to time in which he will find the information he requires.

"THE STORES SCANDAL" BY MR. ST. NIHAL SINGH.

131. Sir Montagu de Pomeroy Webb : (a) Has the attention of the Government of India been drawn to an article by Mr. St. Nihal Singh entitled "The Stores Scandal" which was published in the *Hindu* of the 5th May, 1922 ?

(b) If so, will they be pleased to state whether the allegations which it contains regarding the policy adopted by the High Commissioner for India and the Director General of Stores, London, in purchasing Stores for Government Departments in India, are true ?

Mr. A. C. Chatterjee : The allegations made in the article that undue favour is shown by the Director General of Stores to British manufacturers at the expense of the Indian tax-payer are entirely untrue and have not the slightest foundation in fact. The instructions given by the Government of India to the High Commissioner in December last are strictly followed. Non-British tenders are given the most careful consideration by the Director General of Stores and the High Commissioner, and where a contract is given to a British firm rather than to a non-British firm whose tender is the lower, the sole reason is that reliance cannot be placed on the quality of the goods or on the ability of the firm to deliver the goods in a short enough time. In some cases, again, where the two tenders are near to each other, the extra cost involved in having local inspection made abroad turns the scale in favour of the British tenderer.

An instance of a specifically false statement made by the writer of the article is the allegation that orders received from India are cut up and placed in instalments with selected firms in order that the necessity of publicly calling for tenders may be avoided. It is, of course, a fact that contracts are sometimes split up among different tenderers, but when this is done the object is to obtain quicker delivery, and, in fact, such splitting up of a contract is sometimes distinctly to the advantage of a foreign

tenderer, since in some cases he is given portions of the whole order in respect of which time of delivery is not a material condition.

ACTION ON RESOLUTIONS.

132. **Beohar Raghubir Sinha** : (a) Are the Government aware that the Central Provinces Government publish periodically a memorandum in the Local Gazette showing the action taken on resolutions moved and carried in the local Legislative Council ?

(b) Do the Government propose to recommend the above procedure to other local Governments and to introduce the practice of publication of the similar memorandum in the Government of India Gazette so far as the action taken on resolutions carried in the Council of State and Legislative Assembly, are concerned ?

The Honourable Dr. T. B. Sapru : (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) With regard to the first part of (b), the matter is entirely one for each Local Government concerned and the Government of India do not propose to make any suggestion or recommendation.

As regards the second part Government do not consider that the regular publication of such memoranda or statements in the Gazette of India would fulfil any sufficiently useful purpose to justify the labour and expense involved. A Member of the Indian Legislature can always obtain information by means of a question as to the action taken on any Resolution adopted by the Council of State or the Legislative Assembly in which he is interested. In important cases Government also as a general rule announce the action they have taken or propose to take.

REDUCTION OF MILITARY EXPENDITURE.

133. **Beohar Raghubir Sinha** : Will the Government make a detailed statement as to what earnest steps, if any, are taken or are under contemplation, to improve its financial position by appreciably reducing the military expenditure of this country ?

Mr. E. Burdon : With a view to explore every possibility of retrenchment, the Government of India have under preparation, on the lines laid down by Lord Incheape, a detailed statement of pre-war and post-war military charges. This will be laid before the Retrenchment Committee. A Committee presided over by the Honourable Mr. Innes has already investigated the question of reducing Army Headquarters staffs, and the report of this Committee is under the consideration of Government. Further, the Government have recently appointed a Committee of military experts and non-official business men to hold a searching inquiry into the organization and administration of the Quartermaster-General's services.

INDIAN JAIL COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

134. **Mr. B. S. Kamat** : (i) With reference to Government of India Home Department's letter No. 307 of 17th December, 1920, quoted in reply to my question No. 160,* last September regarding the Indian Jail Committee's recommendations, will Government be pleased to say what decision has been arrived at after receiving the opinions of Local Governments in the matter of (a) introduction of a Star Class in Indian Prisons, and (b) the question of the special treatment of "political" prisoners ?

(ii) In this connection will Government be pleased to place on the

table the opinion of the Government of Bombay regarding the treatment of "political" prisoners received in reply to the proposals of the Government of India ? (*Vide* paragraph 8 of the letter of Home Department referred to above.)

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (i) (a) The Government of India in consultation with Local Governments have accepted the Indian Jails Committee's recommendation regarding the introduction of a Star class in Indian prisons and Local Governments are being instructed to give practical effect to it as soon as circumstances permit.

(b) The rules passed under 60 of the Prisons Act have not been uniform in all provinces. The Government of India have recently addressed all Local Governments on the subject of the treatment of persons convicted of offences in connection with political movements and have indicated the principles which they desire to see followed in this matter.

(ii) The Government are not prepared to place the letter referred to on the table.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SUBORDINATE SERVICE.

135. Mr. Harchandrai Vishindas : (i) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons which led them to the adoption of the revised scale of pay and prospects of the subordinate service in the Public Works Department as contained in the Government of India No. 1309-F.E., dated 7th August 1920, whereby the pay and prospects of the Divisional Accountant have been placed lower than those of the Head Clerks and 1st Clerks, Executive Engineer's Office ?

(ii) Is it a fact (a) that the Divisional Accountant has been always recognized as the head of the office establishment, *vide* paragraph 369 of Public Works Department Code, 9th edition and paragraph 99 (c) of Public Works Accounts Code, (b) that he has to pass preliminary and another high test examination whilst the head and 1st Clerks have not, (c) that the Accountant is inter transferable in the whole of the Presidency but not the clerks, and (d) that before the revision of 1920 above-mentioned the accountant was always in receipt of higher pay than the above-mentioned clerks ?

(iii) Do Government propose to reconsider their orders ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : The information required by the Honourable Member will be given later.

"SADDAR BAZAR CONTROVERSY IN AMBALA" IN THE CANTONMENT ADVOCATE.

136. Mr. Pyari Lal : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article headed "Saddar Bazar Controversy in Ambala" published in the *Cantonment Advocate*, dated the 10th August 1922 ?

(b) Is the Government aware that Colonel Newnhan, Commandant, Ambala Brigade, a day or two before his retirement made a fresh nomination of the Indian members of the Cantonment Committee on the 24th July 1922 ?

(c) Is it a fact that by this nomination two old and experienced members of the Cantonment Committee were removed from the Committee simply because they supported the separation of the Saddar Bazar of Ambala against the wishes of the local authorities ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state the necessity of this nomination ?

(e) Is it a fact that their seats on the Cantonment Committee were filled up by those who opposed the separation ?

(f) Is the Government aware that Lala Mahesh Das, Honorary Magistrate of Ambala, and a non-official member of the Cantonment Committee, has resigned the seat on the Committee as a protest against the principle underlying the new nomination ? Will the Government lay a copy of his resignation on the table ?

(g) Is the Government aware that the nomination was condemned in a public meeting of Ambala and the Government was requested to direct a fresh nomination to be made in consultation with the people's wishes ?

(h) Do the Government propose to favourably consider the request of Ambala public ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. From a report which the Government of India have received it appears that the reason for the recent removal of two nominated members from the cantonment committee of Ambala is not as stated in the question.

(d) It is within the power of the local military authority to nominate to or remove from the cantonment committee any additional member of the committee at any time. The Officer Commanding, Ambala Brigade Area, considered that, in the interest of good cantonment administration, certain changes should be made.

(e) Government are not aware of the opinions held by the gentlemen appointed to fill the vacancies as additional members of the cantonment committee, regarding the proposed separation of the Sadar Bazar.

(f) Yes. Government are not at liberty to lay a copy of the letter of resignation on the table, as they have not obtained Lala Mahesh Das's consent to their doing so.

(g) Yes.

(h) Government see no reason to interfere with the action taken by the local military authorities in the case.

" ALLEGED ACTIVITY OF A CANTONMENT UNDERLING " IN THE " CANTONMENT ADVOCATE."

137. **Mr. Pyari Lal :** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the article headed " Alleged Activity of a Cantonment Underling. Sensational statement of a Landlord in Ambala," published in the *Cantonment Advocate*, dated the 25th July 1922, and the article headed " Cantonment Corruption Enquiry Committee," published in the *Cantonment Advocate*, dated the 10th August 1922 ?

(b) If so do the Government propose to appoint such a Committee of Inquiry ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to make a statement about the cases mentioned in those articles ?

(d) Is the Government aware that one Lala Bahadra Mall of Ambala has made a statement to the General Officer Commanding, Ambala, that the Head Clerk of the Cantonment office, Ambala

demanding from him a sum of Rs. 200 as bribe for getting the construction of the upper storey of his house sanctioned by the Cantonment Magistrate? If so what action has the Government taken against this public official?

(e) Is the Government aware that Rai Sahib Lala Panna Lal, Member of the Cantonment Committee, gave a notice about 20th July 1922 of a discussion of Lala Bahadra Mall's case in the next meeting of the Cantonment Committee coming off on the 31st July 1922?

(f) Is it a fact that immediately after his sending this notice he was removed from the Cantonment Committee under cover of a new nomination?

(g) Will the Government be pleased to state if there is any connection between his sending this notice and his removal from the Cantonment Committee?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government do not consider it appropriate or necessary that they should appoint directly a Committee of Inquiry as proposed by the Honourable Member. They have, however, referred to the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, the articles referred to in clause (a) of the Honourable Member's question, and have suggested that he should investigate the malpractices which are alleged to have occurred in the Ambala Cantonment.

(c) Until the inquiry just referred to has taken place, Government are not in a position to make any further statement.

(d) The allegation to which the Honourable Member refers will no doubt be investigated in the course of the inquiry which it is proposed that the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command, should hold. At present Government have no authoritative information on the subject.

(e) Yes.

(f) It is a fact that Rai Sahib Lala Panna Lal's appointment as additional member of the Cantonment Committee was revoked after he had sent the notice requesting a discussion of Lala Bahadra Mall's case by the Cantonment Committee.

(g) No.

ARTICLE ON "FREE SPEECH" IN THE "CANTONMENT ADVOCATE."

138. **Mr. Pyari Lal:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article headed "An unwarranted interference with the rights of free speech," published in the *Cantonment Advocate*, dated the 10th June 1922? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the circumstances under which the Cantonment Magistrate, Ambala, served the said notice curtailing the public rights of freedom of speech?

(b) If the Magistrate's action be supported by no law, do the Government propose to take suitable action to prevent such interference with the freedom of public speech?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The circumstances in which the notice was issued are stated in the notice itself.

(b) The notice was of a purely executive character. The action of the magistrate in issuing it appears to have been unnecessary and possibly unsuitable. The magistrate in question has since left Government

service, and as in the opinion of Government such an incident is unlikely to recur, they do not propose to issue any general orders such as appear to be suggested by the Honourable Member.

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH ON INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

139. **Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary** : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the speech of the Right Hon'ble the Prime Minister in Parliament on the 4th of August 1922 in the course of the Debate on the Indian Civil Service to the effect that the reforms are in the nature of an experiment, liable to be withdrawn in certain eventualities ?

(b) Will the Government please state what steps have been taken by it to protest against such an idea and to bring to the notice of the Right Hon'ble the Prime Minister and the Cabinet the agitation caused by the speech in India and to obtain an explicit, definite and authoritative pronouncement to the effect that the reforms are not an experiment liable to be withdrawn in certain eventualities ?

(c) If no such steps have been taken by the Government in this behalf will the Government please state if it proposes to take any steps ? If so, what steps does it propose to take and when ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Government have nothing to add to the statement made by His Excellency the Viceroy on the subject in reply to the deputation which waited on him on the 19th August 1922, and in his opening speech on the 5th September.

EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

140. **Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary** : (a) Would the Government please state what portion of excise work has been transferred as a provincial subject and how much, if any, portion of the work has been retained in the Central Government ?

(b) If any portion of the work has been retained by the Central Government would the Government please state what portion of the work has been so retained and for what reasons ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : (a) "Excise" is now a wholly "provincial" subject in all Governors' provinces.

(b) The work devolving on the Central Government in connection with "Excise" is limited to the administration of "Excise" in minor Administrations, and to the exercise of that measure of control which is reserved by Rule 49 of the Devolution Rules.

NON-PAYMENT OF INCOME-TAX.

141. **Mr. A. B. Latthe** : (a) What is the total amount collected during the year 1921-22 on account of penalties for non-payment of Income-tax within the prescribed time in British India and in the Southern Division of the Bombay Presidency ?

(b) Is it the intention of Government to instruct the Income-tax Collectors not to levy the maximum penalty unless it is in cases of wilful default proved after a hearing is given to the person to be fined ?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : (a) Government have not the information asked for but it is being obtained from the various Commissioners of Income-tax and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

(b) In the absence of any proof that the practice is such as the question of the Honourable Member would seem to suggest, Government do not propose to issue instructions on the subject. Any assessee who considers that he has been harshly or unreasonably treated, can always bring the matter to the notice of the Local Commissioner of Income-tax, or if necessary, to that of the Board of Inland Revenue.

DRESS OF INDIANS.

142. **Mr. B. N. Misra** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if there are any circulars or rules insisting on the use of English dress in the case of Indians in Government Service (i) Imperial (ii) Provincial (iii) Upper subordinate and (iv) Lower subordinate in any of the Provinces in British India ?

(b) Do the Government propose to issue circulars removing restrictions in the matter of dress of such Indian public servants ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) Government are not aware of any such circulars or rules.

(b) The question does not arise.

PONTAGE CHARGED BY BARSII LIGHT RAILWAY.

143. **Mr. B. S. Kamat** : With reference to my questions at the March Session of the Assembly regarding the pontage charged by the Barsii Light Railway Company, will Government be pleased to give the result as to the enquiries into the representations made by the public as to the pontage being excessive ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : The matter is under consideration in communication with the Board of Directors of the Barsii Light Railway Company and it is hoped that a decision will be arrived at shortly.

CONTRACT WITH BARSII LIGHT RAILWAY.

144. **Mr. B. S. Kamat** : Will Government be pleased to place on the table the terms of the contract made with the Barsii Railway, or at least the relevant clauses thereof, giving the said Railway Company the right to levy the pontage across the Willingdon Bridge ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : I shall be pleased to furnish the Honourable Member with a copy of the relevant portion of the contract entered into with the Barsii Light Railway Company.

PONTAGE ON BARSII RAILWAY.

145. **Mr. B. S. Kamat** : Will Government be pleased to quote the total amount of the pontage realised by the Barsii Railway from the commencement up to the end of July 1922, so also the total cost of construction incurred by the said Railway for the Willingdon Bridge ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : The total amount of the pontage charge realised by the Railway from the commencement up to the end of June 1922 was Rs. 8,36,396. Figures for July 1922 are not available. The cost of construction of the Bhima Bridge was Rs. 5,78,000.

ODDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY STAFF AND MEMBERS OF LEGISLATURE.

146. **Mr. Manmohandas Ramji** : (a) Is it true that the Ouddh and Rohilkhand Railway has issued a standing order to its staff in connection with giving information to members of the Legislature ?

(b) Has this standing order published a Railway Board's circular letter on the same subject ?

(c) Has the attention of the staff been drawn in this circular letter to Rule No. 17 of Government Servants' Conduct Rules ?

(d) Are members of the Legislature considered as non-officials under this rule who cannot be approached by the Railway staff with regard to their individual grievances ?

(e) Does this Rule No. 17 of Government Servants' Conduct Rules apply to members of the Indian Civil, Medical and Police Services communicating their grievances to members of the House of Commons and the Indian Legislature ? And

(f) If so, has the Government issued a circular letter to members of these services drawing their attention to Rule No. 17 of Government Servants' Conduct Rules ?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Non-official members of the Legislature are non-official persons for the purposes of Rule 17 of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

(e) The rule applies to all Government servants in civil employ, other than menial servants.

(f) No. The necessity for such action has not arisen.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE AND INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

147. **Mr. B. S. Kemat :** (i) With reference to the recent speech of Mr. Lloyd George in the House of Commons during the I.C.S. debate, will Government be pleased to say if they have noticed the intense and universal feelings of indignation evoked by the speech throughout India and also if they have cabled the state of public opinion at present prevailing in the country to the Secretary of State for India, for communication to the Premier and the British Cabinet ?

(ii) Will Government be pleased to place on the Table in this connection their cables or communications, if any, sent to the higher authorities ?

(iii) Will Government also be pleased to say, if they have received any replies so as to clarify the pronouncement of the Premier or to allay public feeling in India ? If so, will Government be pleased to place any such correspondence on the Table ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Government have nothing to add to the statement made by His Excellency the Viceroy on the subject in reply to the deputation which waited on him on the 19th August 1922, and in his opening speech on the 5th September.

ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.

148. **Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether Provincial Governments have been vested under the provisions of the Government of India Act and the Local Excise Acts in the various Provinces with complete control over the production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase, and sale of all alcoholic liquors, including foreign liquors and of intoxicating drugs, except opium ?

(b) If the import and export of any of the above mentioned articles are in any way under the control of the Government of India, will the

Government be pleased to state whether its intervention in Excise administration in Local Provincial Government is any longer necessary—and why ?

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : (a) Yes.

(b) The import and export of all alcoholic liquors, including foreign liquors, and intoxicating drugs is under the control of provincial Governments except in the case of imports into British India which come within the provisions of the Sea Customs and Indian Tariff Acts. As regards the necessity of intervention by the Central Government the Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the Devolution Rules.

RESIGNATIONS OF INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

149. Sardar Gulab Singh : (a) How many Civil Service men resigned in each province on account of the introduction of the new reforms ?

(b) Did the said Civilians point out any special grievances under the reforms scheme in their representations ?

(c) What other Imperial services were similarly affected and with what results as to the abandonment of the service ?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table any special representation to the Government made by such services ?

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : (a) and (c). Government are not prepared to furnish the information desired for each province, but for India as a whole the number of applications to retire on proportionate pensions (received up to 31st August 1922) is as follows :

Indian Civil Service	..	..	..	39
Other services	..	..	..	108

(b) and (d). An officer is not required to mention any special grievances in support of his application to retire, and the Government of India have no official information on this point.

REVENUE FROM POSTAGE.

150. Sardar Gulab Singh : Will the Government be pleased to inform the Assembly as to the difference of income during the first quarter of the current and the preceding years on account of the change of postage for letters and cards ?

Colonel Sir Sydney Crookshank : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary's Unstarred Question on the same subject to-day.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS DEPARTMENT.

151 Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary : (1) Would the Government please state :

(a) the amount received by and paid out by the Postal Savings Banks Department since the beginning of the War, Province by Province ?

(b) How and at what interest the sums so received have from time to time been invested and what interest was thus earned during the period and what amount has been paid out as interest and what have been the working charges ?

(2) Do the Government propose to consider the necessity and desirability of revising the terms of deposit by the public in the Postal Savings Banks, particularly with regard to increased rate of interest and increased facilities for withdrawal of deposit, with a view of making the Post Office Savings Banks more popular ?

Colonel Sir Sydney Crookshank : The information required by the Honourable Member is being collected and will be supplied as soon as it is available.

LIFE INSURANCE THROUGH POST OFFICE.

152. **Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary :** (a) Would the Government please state the amount of Life Insurance effected through the Post Office during the last three years, the amount of the premium received and the mode of its investment and the amount of the working charges during the period ?

(b) Is it not a fact that this system of Insurance is only open to Government servants ?

(c) Do the Government propose to consider the necessity and desirability of throwing open the Postal Insurance System to those not in Government service and particularly those engaged in teaching work ?

Colonel Sir Sydney Crookshank : The information asked for by the Honourable Member is being collected and a reply will be sent as soon as possible.

INCOME OF POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

153. **Sir D. P. Sarvadhikary :** (a) Would the Government please state the income earned by the Postal Department during the last three years Province by Province on account of (1) Money Order (2) Insurance of postal articles ?

(b) Do the Government propose to consider the necessity and desirability of raising the rates of insuring postal articles ?

Colonel Sir Sydney Crookshank : The information asked for is being collected and a reply will be sent to the Honourable Member as soon as possible.

GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ASSENT TO BILLS.

Mr. President : I have to acquaint the Assembly that His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to give his assent to the following Bills :

- (1) The Ranchi Mental Hospital Act, 1922.
- (2) The Press Law Repeal and Amendment Act, 1922.
- (3) The Indian Ports Amendment Act, 1922.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

Mr. President : I appoint to the Panel of Chairmen Rao Bahadur Tiruvenkata Rangachariar,
Maulvi Abul Kasem,
Mr. Campbell Ward Rhodes, and
Sardar Bahadur Gajjan Singh,
for the present Session.

MEMBER TO SERVE ON HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Mr. President : I have to acquaint the Assembly that Mr. Darcy Lindsay has been appointed to serve on the House Committee.

THE POLICE (INCITEMENT TO DISAFFECTION) BILL.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent (Home Member) : Sir, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide a penalty for spreading disaffection among the police and for kindred offences.

THE CANTONMENTS (HOUSE-ACCOMMODATION) AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. E. Burdon (Army Secretary) : Sir, I beg to move that :

“ This Assembly do recommend to the Council of State that the Bill further to amend the Cantonments (House-Accommodation) Act, 1902, be referred to a Joint Committee of this Assembly and of the Council of State and that the Joint Committee do consist of 10 Members.”

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN OFFICIAL SECRETS BILL.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent (Home Member) : Sir, I move :

“ That the Bill to assimilate the law in British India relating to official secrets to the law in force in the United Kingdom be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable the Law Member, Mr. Burdon, Mr. J. Chaudhuri, Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas, Mr. Rangachariar, Mr. Darcy Lindsay and the Mover.”

When I introduced this Bill into this Assembly last Session, I explained that it was very largely a consolidating measure. The English law on the subject of official secrets is contained in two Acts, one of 1911, which is in force in British India, and one of 1920, which is not in force here. There are also two Indian Acts which obtain out here, those of 1899 and 1904. The present Bill is intended to consolidate these enactments, and if it is accepted by the Assembly we hope to repeal the two Indian Acts to which I have referred.

The Bill was circulated after motion in this House on the 25th of March last. The opinions of Local Governments have been received ; they have been appended to the Bill and I think circulated to all Members. The general principles of the Bill have been favourably received by, I think, nearly everybody ; but there are points of detail, indeed points of difficulty also, which will have to be considered very carefully in a Select Committee of this House. If any other names are suggested for the Select Committee, of persons who are particularly interested in this subject, or who have any special knowledge, I am quite prepared to add them ; but I do not think that at this stage I need detain the House with a detailed examination of the criticisms which have been received.

Mr. President : The question is :

“ That the Bill to assimilate the law in British India relating to official secrets to the law in force in the United Kingdom be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable the Law Member, Mr. Burdon, Mr. J. Chaudhuri, Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas, Mr. Rangachariar, Mr. Darcy Lindsay and Sir William Vincent.”

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, the House is aware that one of the reasons why this Bill has been brought forward is that the English Statute of 1920 does not apply to India. A question was asked during the Committee stage of that Statute

in Parliament as to why it was not made applicable to India and the then Attorney General, Sir Gordon Hewart, said that "it is not being applied to the Dominions or to India because the Dominions and India have under contemplation legislation which goes somewhat further." When I read that, naturally I was apprehensive as to the scope of the legislative measure which the Government of India might bring forward in this connection. But I am glad to be able to say from what little I have been able to see of the Bill and the connected literature, that it is practically a copy of the English law as amended up to date. But, Sir, it has been our experience that the letter of the law is not so much at fault in India, as the spirit in which it is administered. Therefore, the mere copying out of an English Statute is far from being an assurance that it will be administered in the same fair and just manner as in England. Sir, the English Act of 1911, I find, was rushed through the House of Commons and the House of Lords in anticipation, it would seem, of some emergency; and the Act of 1920 which made the law much more stringent than it ever was, must be pronounced to be essentially a war measure. It was the direct result of the experience of the working of the Official Secrets Act of 1911. The Attorney General said in connection with that Act, that "the period of the war partly revealed and partly, created fresh developments in the mischief of spying. During the actual hostilities the omissions of the Statute were temporarily made good by Regulations; but some of these Regulations have to-day disappeared and the rest will disappear before long. Hence the necessity of the present measure." It was, as I said, the result of experience gained in the working of the Official Secrets Act during the troublous days of the war, and it was the direct outcome of a departmental committee of Government. Now, even in England when the measure of 1920 was introduced there were vehement protests in the press as also in Parliament. Sir Donald Maclean said: "The war habit is a habit which the departmental mind finds it very difficult to get rid of," and referring to the vehement opposition of the press, he said: "Their position as public servants in and through the press would be very completely hampered, and the press should be more amply protected." Now, Sir, whatever that be, as I said, the Act of 1920 was the result of experience gained by the British Parliament in the working of the older Act. Can we say that we have the same necessity and the same justification, at the end of 1922, for bringing forward a measure on those lines? Can you say, for instance, with reference to clause 4 of the present Bill, which abrogates the well-known principle of the English jurisprudence that an accused person is to be presumed to be innocent till he is proved to be guilty,—can you say that a provision of this kind is necessary in India to-day, as the Attorney General said with reference to the corresponding provision of the English law that it was quite a deliberately drastic provision, which experience showed was vitally necessary? I would ask the Honourable the Home Member to answer my question. Is it vitally necessary in the interests of the administration in this country to-day? That is the question that I put to him. Then, Sir, in the papers that have been circulated to us embodying the opinions of the different Local Governments, it is interesting to find that no less a person than a responsible Minister of the United Provinces, the Honourable Mr. Chintamani, is vehemently opposed to this measure.

[Mr. K. C. Neogy.]

The Honourable Mr. Chintamani "is of opinion that the disclosure of official secrets relating to the Army, Navy and Air Force, and also perhaps relations with foreign powers is a far graver offence than the disclosure of secrets relating to the Civil Administration, and that in respect of the latter the law should be much milder. He thinks that the present Bill does nothing to remove or even mitigate the objections urged against the Indian Official Secrets Act of 1904, which aroused considerable opposition, and he is accordingly unable to approve of or support the Bill." It is rather interesting to note also that the popular view in this matter has been voiced from an unexpected quarter, I mean the North-West Frontier Province. This is what we find in the letter of the North-West Frontier Province Government :

"A minority of those consulted, however, are of the opinion that, while the Bill might have been fully justified under war conditions, it is unduly wide and drastic for the ordinary conditions of peace, and that it contains clauses which may easily become an instrument of oppression in the hands of unscrupulous officers. There is no doubt that such a provision as section 4 (2) (ii) of the Bill, if not carefully and justly treated might be so utilised."

This is the opinion of the Local Government :

"Again, the Judicial Commissioner, who had special experience of the English and French laws on the subject of espionage during the war, has pointed out that the presumption arising from the presence in an accused person's note book of the name and address of a person believed to be a spy is one which, if pressed, might result in the conviction of innocent persons, and it seems doubtful whether there is sufficient justification for retaining it in a Statute which applies to peace conditions."

This practically sums up the position.

Now Sir, when the English Act of 1911 was being considered in Parliament, the then Attorney General, who was no other than our present Viceroy, said as follows :

"The sense of justice in this country is perfectly fair to all persons and there will be no danger to any one engaged in something perfectly innocent."

Is the Honourable Member in a position to say that the sense of justice in this country is quite as fair as it is in England? Sir, it is in no obstructive spirit that I offer these criticisms, because this is as much a consolidating measure as a measure to assimilate the law to the English Statute. I hope, however, that all these serious questions will be considered in the Select Committee and the Bill will be toned down as much as possible.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Sir, before I reply to the Honourable Member, may I ask him if he is willing to serve on this Committee, because I should be very glad to have his name, and he will have the guarantee that the points to which he referred are fully examined.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : With pleasure.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Then, with your leave, Sir, I should like to add his name.

The Honourable Member has characterised the Bill as being too severe, and he says that though the Act in its letter may be fair, yet in this country we might use it oppressively. Will he point to a single instance in which the Government of India have used the Official Secrets Act at all improperly.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Surely that is no answer. When the Honourable Member was challenged to give an example he has been unable to do so, and that is the real answer to his charge. What would be the effect of a refusal to refer this Act to a Select Committee? More than three fourths of it is a purely consolidating measure as I explained, and the only effect will be, as the Honourable Member knew perfectly well, to leave the law in a confused state. Our main object in this Bill is to get the law into some real, intelligible form at present, and that is really the reason for the present measure. I am quite prepared to consider any amendments or the points which have been mentioned by him, particularly those relating to the Act of 1920, but I do take exception to the suggestion that the Government of India are seeking to impose a severe law on this country. Mr. Chintamani's objection was not based on this Act. It was based entirely, as Honourable Members will see if they read it, on the old Act of 1904. Who else has the Honourable Member got to support him? The Local Governments have not a word of complaint about this. Being unable to find support from anybody else he has wandered very far afield, right up to the Frontier province. That is the advanced province from which he can secure support to his opposition to this Bill. May I say that every other Government has supported the general principle of this Bill? We are not now dealing with the details because they will be considered in the Select Committee, but I hope that the Assembly will accept the present motion.

Mr. T. V. Seshagiri Ayyar (Madras : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I should not allow this Bill to go before the Select Committee without saying a word upon section 4 of the Act as it is now found in the Bill. Sir, it has been the common feature of legislation in India in recent years to throw the burden of proof upon the accused person. As civilization advances, we find in civilized countries the reverse is the case, namely the prosecution establishing that the man has been guilty. In this country we find the process reversed altogether—it is the accused who is asked to establish his innocence.

Sir, it has been the practice for some years when it was said that the country is not sufficiently advanced and that the safety of property should be preserved, to introduce legislation of this kind. But now, Sir, after so many years of British rule in this country, is it right to say that the time has not come when the legislation passed by this Assembly so far as criminal matters are concerned, should not take it for granted that the accused person should be called upon to establish that he is not guilty. I think care should be taken in the Select Committee to see that this provision is not allowed to go unchallenged. Certainly we will have the power when the Bill comes before the Assembly to say a few words on it, but I ask the members to take note of this grave and serious abuse of the process of law which is being indulged in by the Government of India in recent years.

Mr. President : The question is :

“ That the name of Mr. K. C. Neogy be inserted after the name of Mr. Burdon.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President : The question is :

“ That the Bill to assimilate the law in British India relating to official secrets to the law in force in the United Kingdom be referred to a Select Committee

[The President.]

consisting of the Honourable the Law Member, Mr. Burdon, Mr. K. C. Neogy, Mr. J. Chaudhuri, Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas, Mr. Rangachariar, Mr. Darcy Lindsay and the Honourable Sir William Vincent."

The motion was adopted.

THE CRIMINAL TRIBES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent (Home Member) : Sir, I move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Criminal Tribes Act, 1911, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable the Law Member, Mr. Darcy Lindsay, Mr. Bradley-Birt, Mr. Kamat, Chaudhuri Shahabuddin, Mr. Cotelingam, Prince Afzar-ul-Mulk Mirza Muhammad Akram Hussain Bahadur, Mr. Neogy, Mr. Roddi and myself."

I have of course ascertained that these members are willing to serve on the Committee. I introduced this Bill in the last Session. I had circulated it to all Local Governments, and I may say that the reception has been very favourable, but here too there are points of detail which will have to be considered very carefully by the Select Committee, many of them being points of drafting. I do not think that there can be any controversy on this measure, and I make the present motion with confidence that it will be accepted.

The motion was adopted.

THE COURT-FEES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent (Home Member) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce :

"A Bill further to amend the Court-fees Act, 1870."

The Bill really is a simple one and I shall not have to detain the House for any length of time in regard to it. Section 4 of the Court-fees Act deals with the levy of fees on documents filed in High Courts established by Letters Patent in cases coming before such Courts in the exercise of their jurisdiction. It prescribes that the court-fees in certain particular cases shall be as indicated in the Schedule. The case dealt with in the Bill relates to an appeal under the Letters Patent of the various High Courts from the Judgment of one Judge of the Court. The provision in the Act runs as follows :

"In the exercise of its jurisdiction as regards appeals from the judgment of two or more Judges of the said Court or of a Division Court."

Now many members of this House are aware that, though the appellate jurisdiction of High Courts is generally exercised by two Judges, yet in some cases—petty cases generally, it is exercised by one Judge, and from the decision of that one Judge there is an appeal under the Letters Patent ; what is commonly called in the High Court as the Letters Patent appeal. The Allahabad High Court have, I believe, ruled that the provisions of section 4, to which I have just referred, do not apply to such Letters Patent appeals. That was never the intention of the Legislature. It was never intended to apply a different rule to an appeal from the Judgment of one Judge from that which applies in other appeals and it was merely to rectify that small error—it is our duty to accept the interpretation of the Honourable Judges as necessarily correct—that the present Bill is introduced.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE PARSİ MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE BILL.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent (Home Member) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce :

“ A Bill further to amend the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1865.”

Under that Act, a Chief Matrimonial Court is constituted in certain Presidency towns and district matrimonial courts constituted in districts. Matrimonial suits are heard by a Judge aided by 11 delegates in the Chief Court and by 7 delegates in the district court, questions of law and procedure being decided by the Judge. The decision on the facts is the decision of the majority of the delegates. Well, last year, the Bombay High Court pointed out the difficulty in disposing of these cases because of this large number of delegates who have to be present during the hearing and at the conclusion of the case. Both the High Court and the Bombay Government thought that, if 9 delegates attended continuously while hearing the case in the Chief Matrimonial Court, that would answer all reasonable requirements.

That appeared to us to be a reasonably satisfactory proposal and we were of opinion also that the same provision might be extended to the Parsi District Matrimonial Courts. We consulted Local Governments, and I think I may say that our proposal has been generally approved. What the Bill provides is that the hearing may continue and any such case may be concluded if at least 9 of the delegates in the Chief Court and at least 6 of the delegates in the District Court have attended throughout the proceedings. The only difficulty is that this may possibly result in an equal division of opinion among the delegates and the Bill, therefore, provides that, where they are equally divided in opinion, the decision on the facts shall be with the presiding Judge. I merely move to-day for leave to introduce the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg for leave to introduce :

“ A Bill further to amend the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881.”

That, Sir, is a small measure that is fully explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and has been approved by all authorities consulted on the subject.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN BOILERS BILL.

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes (Commerce and Industries Member) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce :

“ A Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to steam-boilers in India.”

I think, Sir, that this Bill has already been in the hands of Honourable Members for some days and the Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to that Bill explains why we have thought it necessary to place this

[Mr. C. A. Innes.]

legislation before the House. The necessity for boiler legislation is ultimately due to the fact that a steam-boiler is a very dangerous instrument. Faults in design and construction, wear and tear, faulty management, or careless handling may at any time lead to a disastrous explosion. It was an explosion in December 1863, which caused the loss of no less than 13 lives, that led the Bengal Government to pass the first Boiler Act in India. The Bengal Act of 1864—and it was two fatal explosions in Bombay City that led the Bombay Government to follow suit with the Bombay Act of 1869. Other Local Governments, with three exceptions, have found it necessary to pass similar Acts and the position now is that we have 7 different Acts in force relating to steam-boilers. Now, all these Acts have one object. Their object is to protect human life and property from the danger of these explosions. They endeavour to achieve that object by a system of inspection. A boiler, when it is first installed in India, is surveyed. Its design and construction are tested with reference to a specified standard of safety and the maximum pressure at which that boiler can be worked with safety is fixed. Subsequently, the boiler undergoes periodical inspection in order that any deterioration may be detected and that the reduction in pressure necessitated by that deterioration may be determined. The common principle of all Boiler Acts in India is that no boiler may be permitted to be used except under cover of a certificate which specifies the maximum pressure at which that boiler can be worked with safety. But there uniformity ends. I do not propose to relate at present the various differences between the different Acts. I propose to refer merely to one fatal defect in our boiler legislation—a defect which arises from the fact that different Local Governments have legislated at different times on different models instead of there having been framed one uniform Act by the Central Government. The defect I refer to is this. There is no uniform standard of safety in India. All technical questions relating to pressure, standard of construction, and so on, are dealt with by regulations under these different Acts. The constants and the formulæ vary in the different provinces and we have arrived at the position that the maximum pressure may vary from province to province for the same boiler. That is to say, we have in the different provinces of India a different standard of safety for human life. I think that everyone will agree that this is an impossible position and of course there are other grave disadvantages. Boiler manufacturers for instance who cater for the needs of India are greatly hampered by the fact that there are different standards in the different provinces. Boiler users are similarly put to difficulties. I am afraid that this reform has been long overdue. We have long known of this defect in our legislation but, owing to the war and other causes, it was only in 1920 that we were able to appoint a small expert committee, which toured all over India and which wrote a valuable report. I think that report has been distributed to Members of the Assembly. We have consulted Local Governments and all these Local Governments agree in what indeed is a self-evident proposition, namely that there should be a uniform standard for boilers throughout India and that that uniform standard should be achieved by All-India legislation. As has been stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons

though boilers are a provincial subject, yet the devolution rules expressly made provision for All-India legislation. Now, I am quite sure that I have got the House behind me as regards the principle of the legislation that I propose. That is all that I want the House to agree to at the present stage. I do not propose to go into details. The division of functions between the Central Government and the Local Governments will be that the Central Government will issue the technical regulations under the Act. These regulations will be issued under clause 27 of the Bill. They have already been framed by this expert committee. But, as the House will readily understand, it is of the utmost importance to boiler users and to workmen generally that our regulations should be thoroughly consistent with modern boiler practice and theory, and, consequently, these regulations are now being subjected to further expert examination. If this Bill is passed into law, the regulations will be published for criticism before they are brought into force. The Local Governments will be entrusted naturally with the administration of the Act, and the body of the Bill deals with the machinery necessary for carrying out our regulations,—that is to say, with the registration and inspection of boilers. In this part of the thing, we have done our best to stick to the existing Act as closely as possible. But before I sit down, there is a point on which I should like to touch. Most of our existing Acts deal with prime movers as well as with steam-boilers. With the concurrence of all Local Governments we have dropped all reference to prime movers in this Bill, the reason being that prime movers are an entirely different proposition from steam-boilers,—they are not liable to explode. They have their dangers but these dangers can adequately be safeguarded by legislation under the Factories Act.

I do not think I need detain the House any further. I am quite sure that they will all agree with me that it is a matter of urgent importance that we should have one uniform standard of safety in regard to boilers throughout British India. There are, no doubt, some controversial points in the various sections of the Bill, but, at a later stage, I propose to move that the Bill be referred to a Joint Select Committee. I have no doubt that in that Select Committee all these points will be most carefully examined.

I move, Sir, for leave to introduce the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE OFFICIAL TRUSTEES AND ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL'S ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent (Home Member) : Sir, I move for leave to introduce :

“ A Bill further to amend the Official Trustees Act, 1918, and the Administrator General's Act, 1918.”

Though there are seven clauses in the Bill the purpose really is very simple. Under the Devolution Rules Official Trustees and Administrators General are controlled by the Provinces. Under rule 14—I think it is—of the Devolution Rules all the revenues that accrue from this source also

[Sir William Vincent.]

go to the Provinces. But under the Act, as at present drafted we, the Government of India, are liable to make good certain defalcations on the part of Official Trustees and Administrators General. It appears to be obviously unfair that this should be the case if the Provinces are to get the revenues. This arrangement was all right in the days before the reforms, when really the revenues of the Provinces and of the Government of India were much more closely connected and allied than they are now. But now that certain revenues have been allotted to the Provinces it seems only reasonable that any defalcation on the part of officers of the Provincial Government should be met from the Provincial revenues, and it is simply to effect this that the present Bill is proposed.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir William Vincent : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

**THE INDIAN TRANSFER OF SHIPS RESTRICTION
(REPEALING) BILL.**

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes (Commerce and Industries Member) :
Sir, I move for leave to introduce :

"A Bill to remove the restrictions imposed on the transfer of ships registered in British India."

This is a very small Bill the objects of which are fully explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. There is no longer the slightest necessity for retaining this Act, which was passed as a piece of war legislation, on our Statute Book. The reasons which led us to pass it are no longer in operation. On the other hand the Act causes a certain amount of inconvenience to trade. We propose, therefore, that it should be repealed and that this dead matter should be removed from the Statute Book.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Mr. C. A. Innes : I introduce the Bill, Sir.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 7th September, 1922.