

5th February, 1924

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THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SECOND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1924



SIMLA
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1924.

1/2/24

CONTENTS—

contd.

	PAGES.
Monday, 4th February, 1924—<i>contd.</i>	
The Indian Cotton Cess (Amendment) Bill—Taken into consideration and passed	175-176
✓ Election of the Deputy President	176-177
✓ Election of Panels for Standing Committees	176-177
Tuesday, 5th February, 1924—	
Members Sworn	179
Questions and Answers	179-216
Unstarred Questions and Answers	217-221
Resolution <i>re</i> the Grant of full Self-Governing Dominion Status to India—Debate adjourned	221-222
Resolution <i>re</i> the Amalgamation of the Indian Territorial Force With the Auxiliary Force—Adopted as amended	123-252
Wednesday, 6th February, 1924—	
Member Sworn	253
The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	254-255
The Indian Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	255-259
✓ The Central Board of Revenue Bill—Introduced	259-260
✓ The Indian Coinage (Amendment) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	260-272
✓ The Indian Passport (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	272-273
✓ Election of the Public Accounts Committee	273
✓ Election of the Standing Finance Committee	274
✓ Message from His Excellency the Governor General	275
Thursday, 7th February, 1924—	
Member Sworn	277
Questions and Answers	277-281
Unstarred Questions and Answers	281-284
✓ Election of the Standing Finance Committee	284
✓ Resolution <i>re</i> the Imposition of a Countervailing Duty on South African Coal imported into India—Adopted	285-329
Resolution <i>re</i> reduction of the Provincial Contributions—Debate adjourned	330-346
Friday, 8th February, 1924—	
Election of Panels for Standing Committees	347
✓ Message from H. E. the Governor General	348
Resolution <i>re</i> the Grant of Full Self-Governing Dominion Status to India—Debate Adjourned	348-400
✓ Election of Panels for Standing Committees	400-401
Statement of Business	401
Monday, 11th February, 1924—	
Member Sworn	403
Questions and Answers	403-440
Unstarred Questions and Answers	440-445
Panel of Chairman	445
✓ The Library Committee	445

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 5th February, 1924.

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

MEMBER SWORN :

Khan Bahadur Muhammad Shams-uz-Zoha, M.L.A. (Burdwan and
Presidency Divisions: Muhammadan Rural).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

UNION OF ORIYA-SPEAKING TRACTS.

137. ***Mr. Bhubanananda Das:** (a) Are the Government aware of the strong desire among Oriya-speaking people of every class residing in the three provinces of Bengal, Madras, and Central Provinces to be joined together with their compatriots of Orissa under the same administration, and will Government be pleased to state what stage the consideration of the matter has reached?

(b) Have the Government of India consulted Local Governments of the four provinces concerned on this subject?

(c) Have they received the replies from these Governments?

(d) Will Government be pleased to place these replies on the table?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state what conclusion they have reached on the subject?

(f) If no steps have been taken, will Government be pleased to state whether it is their intention to take any steps in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: (a), (b), (c) and (e). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to Mr. Misra's question† No. 196 given on the 20th January of last year. Much material on the question has been collected, but the Honourable Member will agree that one of the most important factors in the case is the wish of the inhabitants of the areas in question. The most important areas not now included in Orissa in which there are large Oriya populations are the Ganjam district and the Agency tracts in the Madras Presidency. Government are not yet satisfied as to the wishes of the inhabitants of those areas, and they propose therefore to send two officers to make a detailed inquiry into this question in those areas and to report the result to them.

(d) Not at present.

(f) This part of the question does not arise.

† Vide pages 1287-1288 of L. A. Debates, Vol. III.

Mr. Bhubanananda Das: Will Government take early steps to despatch these two officers to Ganjam to arrive at an early decision?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: I understand that as soon as funds are provided for them by the vote of this Assembly we shall be able to send them.

Mr. Bhubanananda Das: Why does not Government sanction these funds?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: No doubt the Honourable Member will use his influence with his friends to secure funds for the appointment of the two officers.

LIQUIDATION OF THE ALLIANCE BANK.

138. ***Mr. Bhubanananda Das:** Will Government be pleased to state if, as the largest creditors of the Alliance Bank, they are watching the efforts of the liquidators to realise the assets of that Bank and whether their attention has been drawn to advertisements which appeared under the signatures of the liquidators inviting private offers for certain properties instead of arranging for an auction?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Government are not interfering in any way with the arrangements for liquidation.

Mr. Bhubanananda Das: Is it not necessary that Government should have their own inquiry?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Government have not officially instituted any inquiry, but they have got their ears open.

REPORT OF THE CREDITORS' COMMITTEE, ALLIANCE BANK OF SIMLA.

139. ***Mr. Bhubanananda Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have received any report from the Creditors' Committee appointed at the Creditors' Meeting of the Alliance Bank in June last?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to place the said report on the table?

(c) Have Government entrusted the report to the Public Prosecutor with a view to frame charges against any parties that may, according to that report, be guilty of criminal neglect or misfeasance?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The remaining portions do not arise.

ALLIANCE BANK FAILURE.

140. ***Mr. Bhubanananda Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Imperial Bank was acting on behalf of the Government as their Agents in the guarantee which they gave to creditors of 50 per cent. payment forthwith?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, will Government inform this Assembly whether Sir Bernard Hunter who declared that he came to the meeting on behalf of the Imperial Bank was present at the said meeting of creditors held in Calcutta as the Agent of the Government?

(c) Are Government aware that Sir Bernard Hunter who was acting on behalf of the Imperial Bank, who were acting on behalf of Government opposed the proposal for appointing an Indian liquidator?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The Honourable Member's question is not clear. The actual facts are that the Imperial Bank before making advance payments to creditors of the Alliance Bank received a guarantee from the Government against any loss arising out of such payments.

(b) Sir Bernard Hunter was not acting as the Agent of the Government at the meeting of creditors.

(c) The Government have no information on this point beyond what has appeared in the Press.

ALLEGED FRAUDS ON THE ALLIANCE BANK OF SIMLA.

141. ***Mr. Bhubanananda Das:** (a) Have Government made any attempt independent of the liquidators of the Alliance Bank to get information with regard to several frauds said to have been committed in connection with the affairs of the Alliance Bank before it was wound up?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state if they have decided upon any prosecutions as a result of these inquiries?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Government have not formally instituted any inquiry such as is suggested. The second part of the question does not arise.

RECORDING OF VOTES IN LANDHOLDERS' CONSTITUENCIES.

142. ***Sardar V. N. Mutalik:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Resolution *re* the arrangement for recording the votes in the Landholders' Constituencies for the Indian Legislative Assembly which was adopted by this Honourable House, was communicated to the Provincial Governments, with any recommendation of this Government?

(b) whether any Provincial Governments have acted upon the recommendation made in the Resolution?

(c) the reasons, why it was not acted upon by some of the Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: I presume that the Honourable Member is referring to the Resolution adopted by the Assembly on the 7th September 1922. That Resolution recommended that steps should be taken to amend sub-rule (4) of Rule 12 of the old electoral rules so as not definitely to require that the electors in Landholders' constituencies should vote in person. If the Honourable Member will refer to sub-rule (4) of Rule 14 of the present electoral rules for the Provincial Legislative Councils and the two Chambers of the Indian Legislature, he will find that effect has already been given to the recommendation of the Assembly by the amendments of the rules which have been made by Government with the sanction of the Secretary of State in Council.

RECRUITMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE INDIAN ARISTOCRACY FOR THE ALL-INDIA SERVICES.

143. ***Sardar V. N. Mutalik:** Will Government be pleased to state whether any special facilities are provided for recruiting persons, with necessary qualifications, from the "Aristocracy and Landed Gentry," by

reserving any places, or by any sort of preference, in the various branches of the Imperial or All-India Services and whether there are any men already in service, who are admitted into the service on this consideration?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: The answer is in the negative.

INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE.

144. ***Sardar V. N. Mutalik:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the total strength of the Indian Territorial Force, and the strength of the Force in each Province?
- (b) whether there are any orders to form companies of any particular communities? If so, of what special communities, and the number of such companies in each Province?
- (c) whether any difference is observed in respect of clothing, diet, dress, etc., on communal or racial considerations?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) The total actual strength of the Indian Territorial Force, including the University Training Corps battalions, is 15,595. The information asked for by the Honourable Member in the second part of this question is contained in the statement laid on the table.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The other parts do not arise. I may mention, however, that in practice the men are, as far as is possible, grouped together in companies according to classes.

(c) As a general rule no such distinctions are made. Members of the University Corps however are not restricted to the army scale of rations; they receive a lump sum annually to cover the cost of messing while in camp. The 11th and 12th Battalions, Bombay Pioneers, which are composed of Parsis, receive rations on the scale laid down for British troops. There are no other exceptions to the general rule.

Statement showing the strength of I. T. F. units by Provinces.

Punjab	4,024
North-West Frontier Province	765
Bombay	2,114
Bihar and Orissa	158
United Provinces	2,209
Ajmer-Merwara	460
Madras	3,060
Burma	1,189
Bengal	1,616
Total	<u>15,595</u>

RECRUITS FOR SUPERIOR POSTS ON THE RAILWAYS.

145. ***Sardar V. N. Mutalik:** Will Government be pleased to state whether any facilities are provided to train recruits for higher services in the various branches of the Railway Service and if so, what? If not, do Government intend to make any provisions for this purpose?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: Assistant Engineers have been recruited from the Indian Engineering Colleges for a number of years. Similarly many Assistant Traffic Superintendents have been trained on railways. Several candidates for appointment as Assistant Locomotive Superintendent have been given a training in the workshops of the East Indian Railway and some of them, who qualified, have been sent to England to complete their course, prior to appointment.

More recently technical training has received much attention and the Honourable Member has doubtless seen the Report upon the Training of Railway Officers and subordinates submitted by Mr. Cole, the officer placed on special duty to examine the matter. The recommendations contained in this Report are receiving careful consideration and a statement in regard to the action to be taken on them will be issued as soon as certain details have been settled.

EFFECT OF ENHANCED SALT DUTY ON THE CONSUMPTION OF SALT.

146. ***Sardar V. N. Mutalik:** Will Government be pleased to state the effect of the increase in the Salt Tax, on the consumption of Salt, and on the amount of duty realized, by giving a comparative statement for five years, for the period of nine months, *viz.*, from April to December?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The answer† to this question was given yesterday.

KOHAT AND LANDIKOTAL MURDER GANGS.

147. ***Mr. K. C. Roy:** Will Government be pleased to state the effect of the operations of the Kohat and Landikotal murder gangs over civil administration in the North-West Frontier Province and on the working of railways beyond the Indus?

Mr. E. B. Howell: The effect of the operations of the Kohat and Landikotal gangs on the civil administration of the North-West Frontier Province is now happily a matter of history. While the gangs were at large, their activities imposed much expenditure of thought and energy on all officials in devising and carrying out measures of protection. Besides the provision of extra guards, where required, it was found necessary to surround the Cantonments of Kohat and Bannu by wire entanglements and to acquire certain lands adjoining those Cantonments.

Beyond the Indus the night running of trains was so far as possible temporarily discontinued.

Mr. K. C. Roy: May I ask, Sir, what will be the probable estimated cost of the precautions taken?

Mr. E. B. Howell: I would ask for notice of that question.

TRIBAL RAIDS IN THE INDUS PLAINS.

148. **Mr. K. C. Roy:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table figures showing the tribal raids in the Indus plains since the semi-occupation of Waziristan as compared with those in the two years previous to it.

† *Vide* Answer to Question No. 70.

Mr. E. B. Howell: I am quite sure what the Honourable Member means by the semi-occupation of Waziristan. The number of raids for each year during the last four years is laid on the table. The figures are:

1919-1920	. . . . .	324
1920-1921	. . . . .	233
1921-1922	. . . . .	129
1922-1923	. . . . .	73

HEALTH OF TROOPS STATIONED AT RAZMAK AND RAZANI.

149. ***Mr. K. C. Roy:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table statistics regarding the health of troops stationed at Razmak and Razani as compared with those at Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan?

Mr. E. Burdon: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement giving statistics in respect of the health of British and Indian troops stationed at Razmak, Razani, Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan.

For the purpose of comparison the period 1st June 1923 to 31st December 1923 has been chosen as during this period conditions were normal.

The average monthly admission ratios per 1,000 of strength during the period were :

British Troops.

Razmak	. . . . .	548.0
Razani	. . . . .	289.5
Bannu	. . . . .	1581.1
D. I. Khan	. . . . .	1093.9

Indian Troops.

Razmak	. . . . .	205.3
Razani	. . . . .	96.2
Bannu	. . . . .	432.4
D. I. Khan	. . . . .	366.5

OFFICIAL OR TRADE UNION STAFF MAINTAINED BY FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN INDIA AND VICE-VERSA.

150. ***Mr. K. G. Lohokare:** Will Government be pleased to state:

1. If there is any Official or Trade Union Staff with Official approval maintained in India by Foreign countries or British Dominions for watching and promoting the interests of their trade and commerce in India?
2. If the Government of India is maintaining any establishment in Foreign countries and the British Dominions for watching and promoting the interests of Indians in such countries? If so, what is the annual expenditure on such staff and how many and in what countries, are Indians employed on such staff?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: 1. The Government infer that the Honourable Member desires information about the representation of other

countries in India. Trade Commissioners have been appointed by the Board of Trade to Calcutta and Bombay in the same way that Trade Commissioners have been appointed by the Board of Trade to all the Dominions and some of the more important Crown Colonies. Their duties are to assist with information and advice the extensions of British Trade in India. For a similar purpose the Canadian Government have appointed a Canadian Trade Commissioner to Calcutta. Most foreign countries have Consular representatives in India either paid or honorary.

2. There is an Indian Trade Commissioner attached to the Office of the High Commissioner in London for the furtherance of Indian trade and Indian industries. The cost of that establishment is £2,500 a year. Until last year when, as a result of retrenchment that Office was reduced in strength, the senior assistant was an Indian. The Government of India have no other representatives abroad directly charged with watching the trading interests of India. They have appointed, however, Emigration Agents to Ceylon and British Malaya. Both of these officers are Indians. The total estimated cost of these two establishments is Rs. 49,000 a year.

Mr. K. G. Lohokare: Was there ever any idea of sending out persons to watch the trading interests in foreign countries from India?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: We appointed about 2 years ago a Trade Commissioner in Kenya but as a measure of retrenchment we had to abolish that appointment last year.

INCOME PER HEAD IN INDIA.

151. ***Mr. K. G. Lohokare:** Have the Government of India taken any action to find out the income per head in India? If so, (a) when was the enquiry made? (b) What was the income per head then and (c) What is it now?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blckett: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The remainder therefore does not arise, but I may add that statistics professing to give the average income per head in any country are apt to be extremely misleading.

ASSESSMENT OF INCOME-TAX IN THE PUNJAB.

152. ***Lala Duni Chand:** 1. Will Government be pleased to state whether there exists a strong feeling of dissatisfaction and resentment throughout the Punjab against the assessment of income-tax generally owing to the unjust and indiscriminate nature of the assessment?

2. Is the Government prepared to admit or not that in a large number of cases in the Punjab income-tax is assessed in disregard of the correct amount of the profit made by the assessee?

3. Is the Government prepared to admit or not that the Income-tax Officers are in a good many cases, while assessing, prompted by a desire to increase the revenue of the Government and thereby show good results of their work with a view to earn promotion?

4. Is the Government aware of the fact that in a large number of cases the Income-tax Officers assess the profits at an arbitrary rate of profit on the sale proceeds in utter disregard of the fact whether the assessee has really made any profits or actually suffered losses?

ASSESSMENT OF INCOME-TAX IN THE PUNJAB.

153. ***Lala Duni Chand:** Is the Government aware of the fact that owing to the unsettled state of trade and finance in the country the market of a number of articles has considerably fallen resulting in the bankruptcy of a good many firms of old standing but the Income-tax Officers do not take cognizance of this fact while assessing?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: With the Honourable Member's permission, I will answer questions 152 and 153 together.

152 (1). The Government are aware that the contrary is the case. It is not the fact that assessments are unjust or indiscriminate. The increased efficiency of the administration of the Act due to the creation of a special Department has no doubt aroused the opposition of persons who are no longer able to avoid contributing their due share to the public revenues.

152 (2) and (4). The answer to both these questions is in the negative. Fifty-six per cent. of the assesses in the Punjab produced no accounts before the assessing officer in the year 1922-23 and consequently the income of those assesses had to be estimated. I would remind the Honourable Member that, if assesses do not provide the materials, which they alone possess, for an exact assessment, the only course open to the Income-tax Officer is to estimate their income as the law provides.

152 (3) and 153. Assessments are based on the actual results of the assesses' business when these are disclosed. The Commissioner of Income-tax has instructed the Income-tax Officers personally that what they should aim at is a correct assessment irrespective of its effect on the revenues. Government have no reason to suppose that any bankrupt firms have been assessed to income-tax.

ASSESSMENT TO INCOME-TAX OF TIMBER MERCHANTS IN THE PUNJAB.

154. ***Lala Duni Chand:** Is the Government aware of the fact that during the last two years or so the market of timber has considerably gone down so much so that the cost of the timber floated down the river and canals from the various forests is far in excess of the price it fetches in the various timber markets and in consequence thereof a number of firms have become bankrupt and if so, whether the Government has issued any instruction to the Income-tax Officers to deal leniently with the timber traders?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Government have issued no such instructions, nor do they see any necessity to do so.

ATTACHMENT OF PROPERTY OF INCOME-TAX ASSESSEES IN THE PUNJAB.

155. ***Lala Duni Chand:** Will the Government be pleased to state in how many cases in the Punjab during the last 3 years the assesses have refused to pay willingly the income-tax either on the ground of inability to pay or as a protest against the unjust assessment and the authorities have been forced to resort to forcible recovery?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Government have no statistics as to the number of cases in which property had to be attached during the last three years in the Punjab.

Sardar V. N. Mutalik: May I know whether political opinions are specially taxed?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: They are not usually remunerative.

Lala Duni Chand: With regard to my question No. 156, may I be permitted to say one word? Certain words have been left out in printing. After the words "Great War" there should be added the words "and explain the difference"; those words have been omitted.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I trust my answer will explain the difference.

REVENUE FROM INCOME-TAX IN THE PUNJAB.

156. ***Lala Duni Chand:** Will the Government be pleased to state for the information of the House and the public the total amount of revenue derived from the income-tax during the last five years in the Punjab and also the total amount of revenue derived from the same source during the five years preceding the Great War making allowance for the increase of the rate?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The total gross revenue from income-tax in the Punjab was Rs. 81 lakhs during the period 1909-10 to 1913-14 and Rs. 261 lakhs during the period 1918-19 to 1922-23. The collections attributable to increases in rate during the latter period are roughly estimated at Rs. 80 lakhs. The balance of increase, namely, about Rs. one crore is attributable to the increase in prices, the natural expansion of business, and the efficient working of the special staff.

ALLEGED BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION ON THE RAILWAYS.

157. ***Lala Duni Chand:** 1. Is the Government aware of the fact, too well known to the general public, that the Station Masters in combination with the Goods Clerks, etc., illegally make a lot of money mostly out of goods traffic which in cases of certain important Railway Stations amounts to thousands of rupees a month?

2. Is the Government aware of the fact that a standard of black-mail is generally fixed for every wagon that is taken for loading purposes?

3. Is the Government also aware of the fact that undue preference is given to certain persons in the matter of supplying wagons in order to extort a larger amount of black-mail?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the speech of the Chief Commissioner for Railways in this House on this question on March 14th, 1923.

ALLEGED BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION ON THE RAILWAYS.

158. ***Lala Duni Chand:** 1. Is the Government aware of the fact that in case of good many stations the large amount of illicit gain made by the Station Masters is also shared by the higher railway Officers?

2. Is it not a fact that there is a tendency on the part of higher railway Officers to condone the levy of the black-mail?

3. Is the Government prepared to admit that in view of the facilities open to the higher railway Officers to detect easily the mal-practices of the Station Masters and the Goods Clerks, the conditions can be much improved if they are really earnest?

4. Has the Government taken any steps to remove or minimise the above state of affairs?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The Government certainly are not aware of the facts alleged by the Honourable Member. If he will name the high railway officers against whom he makes the charge, I can assure him that the matter will be fully investigated.

OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN ARMY, HOLDING THE KING'S COMMISSIONS AND VICEROY'S COMMISSIONS, RESPECTIVELY.

159. ***Mr. K. G. Lohokare:** Will Government be pleased to state:

1. The number of Combatant Officers holding King's Commissions in the Indian Army on permanent and temporary lists in 1923 and the number recruited from 1900 A. D.?
2. The preliminary standard of education and the course of training for recruitment to such Commissions?
3. The number of Combatant Officers holding Indian Commissions on permanent and temporary lists in 1923?
4. The preliminary standard of education and the course of training for recruitment to such Commissions?
5. The number of Schools for training to such Indian Commissions and the number of pupils recruited from such Schools from 1900 A. D.?
6. If no such Institutions exist, have Government under consideration starting any such for direct recruitment, to Indian Commissions, of educated Indians from such classes at least as provide recruitment of Indian Soldiers in these days?

Mr. E. Burdon: 1. In 1923 there were 3,775 officers holding permanent commissions and 8 holding temporary commissions. These figures are exclusive of 92 officers holding commissions in the I. A. R. O.

The total numbers recruited from 1900 onwards cannot be given without making a special compilation from all the London Gazettes of the period and Government do not consider that the results to be obtained would justify the expenditure of the time and labour involved in doing this.

2. To qualify for the King's Commission, a candidate is normally required to pass through the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. A few commissions are given direct to graduates of certain English universities after satisfying certain prescribed tests. Admission to Sandhurst is normally secured by passing an entrance examination the standard of which is higher than that of the Matriculation examination of an Indian University.

3. The number of Indian officers holding the Viceroy's commission is 3,296.

4, 5 and 6. The Viceroy's commission is, as a rule, obtained by promotion from the non-commissioned ranks of the Indian Army. No fixed standard of education is prescribed, but all candidates have to satisfy their Commanding Officer in regard to their general efficiency and the majority of those promoted have received a course of training at one or other of the special instructional institutions of the Army. A certain number of direct Viceroy's commissions are also granted to selected Indian gentlemen who are not over 20 years of age. In the case of these also, no fixed standard of

education is laid down. In the circumstances described, no institutions are maintained specifically for the purpose of training candidates for the Viceroy's Commission: and no such institutions are necessary.

ARMY TRAINING SCHOOLS.

160. ***Mr. K. G. Lohokare:** 1. How many and in what places are there Army Training Schools or Colleges in India for imparting special or advanced instructions to Combatant Officers holding King's Commissions?

2. If so, how many such officers were deputed to these Schools since 1900 from (a) the Indian Army; (b) the British Army?

3. What was the annual expenditure on such special Military training from the Indian Treasury during the last 5 years?

4. How many Officers of the Indian Army holding Indian Commissions were detailed for training to these Institutions since 1900?

5. Have Government under consideration the starting of any such course for Officers of Indian Commissioned rank?

Mr. E. Burdon: 1. There are two schools providing advanced instruction, one at Quetta and the other at Belgaum; and nine schools providing special instruction, namely, at Kakul, Saugor, Pachmarhi, Satara, Ahmednagar (two), Poona, Ambala and Wellington.

2. The information desired is not readily available, and to collect it would involve an expenditure of time and labour disproportionate to the result. Approximately, however, officers of the Indian Army and officers of the British Army attend these schools in the proportion of 7 to 3.

3. I will furnish the Honourable Member separately with a statement giving the information desired. I do not think it is necessary to lay it on the table or to have it printed in the proceedings, as the current expenditure on these institutions can be ascertained from the published annual estimates and accounts.

4. Precise figures for the period mentioned cannot be given; but it will probably serve the Honourable Member's purpose if I inform him that, for the year 1924, approximately 320 vacancies at the schools providing special instruction have been allotted to officers holding the Viceroy's Commission.

5. The two schools for advanced instruction cater for King's commissioned officers only and are open both to British and Indian officers holding the King's Commission. Indian officers holding the Viceroy's Commission are already eligible to attend the great majority of the schools providing special instruction.

GRANT OF FURTHER REFORMS.

161. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what action it has taken upon my Resolution on the grant of further reforms passed by the Assembly at its sitting on the 18th July last?

4. Has the Government taken any steps to remove or minimise the above state of affairs?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The Government certainly are not aware of the facts alleged by the Honourable Member. If he will name the high railway officers against whom he makes the charge, I can assure him that the matter will be fully investigated.

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education is laid down. In the circumstances described, no institutions are maintained specifically for the purpose of training candidates for the Viceroy's Commission: and no such institutions are necessary.

ARMY TRAINING SCHOOLS.

160. ***Mr. K. G. Lohokare:** 1. How many and in what places are there Army Training Schools or Colleges in India for imparting special or advanced instructions to Combatant Officers holding King's Commissions?

2. If so, how many such officers were deputed to these Schools since 1900 from (a) the Indian Army; (b) the British Army?

3. What was the annual expenditure on such special Military training from the Indian Treasury during the last 5 years?

4. How many Officers of the Indian Army holding Indian Commissions were detailed for training to these Institutions since 1900?

5. Have Government under consideration the starting of any such course for Officers of Indian Commissioned rank?

Mr. E. Burdon: 1. There are two schools providing advanced instruction, one at Quetta and the other at Belgaum; and nine schools providing special instruction, namely, at Kakul, Saugor, Pachmarhi, Satara, Ahmednagar (two), Poona, Ambala and Wellington.

2. The information desired is not readily available, and to collect it would involve an expenditure of time and labour disproportionate to the result. Approximately, however, officers of the Indian Army and officers of the British Army attend these schools in the proportion of 7 to 3.

3. I will furnish the Honourable Member separately with a statement giving the information desired. I do not think it is necessary to lay it on the table or to have it printed in the proceedings, as the current expenditure on these institutions can be ascertained from the published annual estimates and accounts.

4. Precise figures for the period mentioned cannot be given; but it will probably serve the Honourable Member's purpose if I inform him that, for the year 1924, approximately 320 vacancies at the schools providing special instruction have been allotted to officers holding the Viceroy's Commission.

5. The two schools for advanced instruction cater for King's commissioned officers only and are open both to British and Indian officers holding the King's Commission. Indian officers holding the Viceroy's Commission are already eligible to attend the great majority of the schools providing special instruction.

GRANT OF FURTHER REFORMS.

161. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what action it has taken upon my Resolution on the grant of further reforms passed by the Assembly at its sitting on the 18th July last?

(b) Has the Government received any reply from the Secretary of State on the subject? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay it on the table?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state what recommendation it made on the Resolution aforesaid? What intermediate correspondence has taken place between the Secretary of State and the Government of India?

(d) What prospect is there for the disposal of the matter referred to in that Resolution?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: (a) A copy of the Resolution adopted by the Assembly and of the debates in the Assembly on the Resolution was forwarded to the Secretary of State.

(b) No reply has been received from the Secretary of State.

(c) No recommendation has been made by Government on the Resolution, and there has been no intermediate correspondence with the Secretary of State.

(d) I suggest to the Honourable Member that he should await the discussion on the Resolution which refers to this part of the question.

Dr. H. S. Gour: May I inquire from the Honourable the Home Member when the copy of the Resolution of this House was forwarded to the Secretary of State?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: I forget the exact date; but it was very shortly after it was passed by the Assembly.

Dr. H. S. Gour: What is the usual time, Sir, for a reply from the Secretary of State to important communications like these?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: It varies, Sir, it varies.

LIMITATION OF THE POWER OF CERTIFICATION OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

162. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what action the Government of India has taken upon the Resolution of this House on the subject of limiting the power of certification of the Governor General by amendment of section 67-B of the Government of India Act, adopted by this House at its sitting on the 10th July, 1923?

(b) When was the copy of the Resolution forwarded to the Secretary of State and what recommendation, if any, did the Government of India make thereon?

(c) What orders, if any, have been passed by the Secretary of State, and what action does he propose to take thereon?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence between itself and the Secretary of State on the subject?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: (a) and (b). A copy of the Resolution was forwarded to the Secretary of State on the 9th August 1923 with the recommendation that no action should be taken on it.

(c) None.

(d) I have already stated the purport of the letter to the Secretary of State, and it is not proposed to lay a copy of it on the table.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUPREME COURT IN INDIA.

163. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** With reference to my question[†] on the Supreme Court of India, to which the Honourable the Home Member replied in this House on the 2nd July, 1923, may I beg to inquire whether the Government of India is now in a position to give the information required as to the action it proposes to take in the matter of the establishment of a Supreme Court in India?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: The Honourable Member asks for information as to the action we propose to take in regard to the establishment of a Supreme Court in India. The question is an important one, and, with your permission, Sir, I should like to make an announcement on the subject which go rather beyond the limits normally set for an answer to a question.

It will be remembered that on the 26th March 1921, the Assembly adopted a Resolution on this subject, and we then, in conformity with the Resolution, collected opinions from Local Governments, High Courts, legal authorities and legal bodies throughout India. The opinions received have been placed in the Library of this House. Again, on the 23rd September 1922, a Resolution was moved in this Assembly recommending the taking of steps for the establishment of a Supreme Court in India. This Resolution was rejected without a division.

2. We have carefully considered the opinions expressed in the correspondence and in the debates in this Assembly. We consider that they indicate clearly that there is no identity of opinion between Local Governments, High Courts or legal authorities, whether Indian or European, in favour of the early institution of a Supreme Court, while the question of its location also involves much difficulty. We consider also that the opinions clearly indicate that there will be great difficulty in any circumstances in securing a personnel for the Court which would be likely to give it a status and reputation equal to that of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Further, our financial conditions render the institution of a Supreme Court impracticable at the present time.

3. We have therefore decided that in the present circumstances, in which opinion as to the advantages of a Supreme Court is much divided, and in which our financial position in any case makes the establishment of such a court difficult, serious consideration cannot be given to the proposal on its merits.

ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY.

164. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** Will the Government of India be pleased to lay on the table a tabular statement showing the action taken on the recommendations of this House made during its sitting in July last?

Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith: The statement asked for by the Honourable Member is laid on the table.

[†] Vide pages 4058-4059 of L. A. Debates, Vol. III.

Statement showing the Resolutions adopted by the Legislative Assembly during the Simla Session, 1923, and action taken by Government thereon.

Serial No.	Date on which moved.	By whom.	Subject of Resolution.	Department concerned.	Action taken by Government.
1	4th July 1923.	Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer.	Effect given to Resolutions 7, 8, 10 and 11 of the Assembly passed on the 28th March 1921, regarding Esher Committee's Report.	Army	The Secretary of State's attention was specially invited to the views expressed by the Legislative Assembly.
2	4th and 10th July 1923.	Dr. Nand Lal	Amendment of section 67-B of the Government of India Act.	Home	A copy of the Resolution passed together with the debates thereon was forwarded to the Secretary of State.
3	12th July 1923.	Rao Bahadur C. S. Subrahmanayam.	Embarkment Project for protecting the prosperous town of Dera Ismail Khan.	Industries and Labour.	<p>1. In July last the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner and Agent to the Governor General, North-West Frontier Province, was informed that the Government of India had accepted the recommendation contained in the Resolution of the Assembly, and with a view to the construction of the protection works being completed as early as possible, the local Administration was asked to submit a revised estimate for the project immediately the location of the works could be finally decided upon; it was, at the same time, authorised to proceed immediately with the collection of materials for the work. Considerable progress has already been made.</p> <p>2. As regards the financing of the scheme (which is estimated to cost Rs. 14 lakhs) the Government of India have agreed to bear half the cost, and have sanctioned a loan of the remaining moiety to the Dera Ismail Khan Municipality on the understanding that the citizens of the town will be required to subscribe a sum of not less than Rs. 2 lakhs towards this loan as soon as the project is completed. A sum of Rs. 3 lakhs out of the loan has already been placed at the disposal of the local Administration who</p>

Serial No.	Date on which moved.	By whom.	Subject of Resolution.	Department concerned.	Action taken by Government.
4	18th July 1923.	Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer.	Alliance Bank of Simla.	Finance	reported that it would be able to incur expenditure up to this amount on the collection of materials, etc., during the current financial year. Steps are also being taken to include the additional funds required for the completion of the work in the next year's budget. The Resolution was telegraphed to the Secretary of State and was also submitted to His Excellency the Viceroy for orders. In accordance with His Excellency's orders the Secretary of State was also informed of the statement on the subject made in the Assembly on 19th July 1923 by the Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey.
5	18th July 1923.	Dr. H. S. Gour.	Further Reforms	Home	A copy of the Resolution passed together with the debates thereon was forwarded to the Secretary of State.
6	21st July 1923.	Mr. T. V. Seehagiri Ayyar.	Consideration of the claims of Indians in Kenya.	Education, Health and Lands.	The Resolution and a summary of the debate was communicated to the Secretary of State for India by telegram.

LOSS OF OPIUM REVENUE.

165. *Dr. H. S. Gour: (1) Will the Government state the amount of revenue sacrificed by the Indian Government on account of the restriction of the export of opium to foreign countries?

(2) Was such restriction conditional or unconditional, and what steps have been taken to see that the conditions, if any, were duly fulfilled by countries like China to which the restriction applied?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (1) The annual loss of opium revenue to India by the cessation of the export of opium to China has been estimated at Rs. 6 crores. The exports of opium to non-China markets have been reduced in recent years from 16,000 chests to about 8,000 chests. The loss to India on account of the decrease in these exports amounts roughly to a further 3½ crores a year.

(2) The agreement with China which was made in 1908, and continued in 1911, for progressive reduction of opium exports from India *pari passu* with progressive reduction of cultivation in China was conditional. The Government of India carried out their side of the agreement as they were satisfied that the Chinese Government of the time were in earnest in their policy of reducing cultivation and consumption of opium in China.

There is unfortunately evidence that the disturbed conditions in China in later years have led to a recrudescence of opium cultivation on a large scale. The restriction of exports of Indian opium to countries other than China is in accordance with the principles accepted at the Hague Opium Convention; that is, India exports no opium to any country that prohibits imports, she is ready to export no opium to any country in excess of the amount which the Government of that country expresses a wish to obtain and she has followed, since 1915, a policy of selling her opium direct to foreign Governments whenever that course has proved possible in order to place the responsibility for regulating import directly and publicly upon the Government of the importing country.

DISQUALIFICATION FOR ELECTION TO THE LEGISLATURES.

166. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** Will the Government be pleased to state the names of persons who had applied to His Excellency the Viceroy for the removal of their disqualification for election to the Assembly and the Provincial Councils, stating the result in each case?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: Five persons applied for the removal of their disqualifications; in four cases the disqualification was not removed, and in one case it was held that no disqualification existed. I propose to leave it to the gentlemen concerned themselves to publish the fact of their having made an application.

Mr. V. J. Patel: Has disqualification in any case been removed without any application?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: No, Sir.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCES OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

167. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state as to who is responsible for the reduction of the travelling allowance of the Honourable Members of the Assembly?

(b) Is the Government aware that on a motion being made in this House for a reduction of the travelling allowance of Members of the Council of State, Sir Muhammad Shafi requested the House to desist from voting the reduction which he promised to request the Members of that Council to make by a voluntary act of their own?

(c) If the Government of India considered a reduction justifiable, why was not that House even consulted?

(d) Will the Government state the amount of retrenchment effected by the reduction of the Members' travelling allowance?

(e) Is the Government aware that Members of local Councils in several Provinces still draw a double first class fare?

(f) Is the Government aware that Government servants drawing the allowance admissible in the case of first class officers continue to draw their salary while performing their journey, whereas Members of this House do not draw even their daily allowance while travelling?

Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith: (a) The travelling allowance admissible to Members of the Assembly is, and always has been, that admissible to an officer of the first class. The Government of India are responsible for the reduction in the travelling allowance admissible to officers of the first class and therefore for the consequential reduction in the allowance admissible to Members of the Assembly.

(b) Yes. The attention of the Honourable Member is however invited to the fact that the debate to which he refers related only to the proposed curtailment of concessions not affecting the number of fares admissible as travelling allowance. In this respect the general reduction applies equally to Honourable Members of the Council of State.

(c) It is presumed that the Honourable Member's reference to 'that House' is to the Legislative Assembly. It would not be in accordance with the practice prevailing in this or any other country to consult the Legislature concerning a matter of a purely administrative nature, such as, a reduction in the rate of the travelling allowance admissible to Government officers. The travelling allowance of Members of the Legislature was not, as has been explained, reduced as such.

(d) Approximately Rs. 15,730 have already been saved by the reduction in its application to Members of the Legislature.

(e) The Government of India have no official information.

(f) Yes.

Mr. V. J. Patel: Are Government aware that some Members of this Assembly travel by third class and second class and yet charge first class fare?

Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith: We have heard rumours to that effect, Sir.

REDUCTION OF BRITISH TROOPS IN INDIA.

168. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence between itself and the Secretary of State on the several Resolutions passed by the Assembly on Lord Esher's Report?

(b) Will it also lay on the table the report of the Military Requirements Committee together with such orders as the Government of India and the Secretary of State may have passed thereon?

(c) If the replies to the last two questions be in the negative, will the Government state whether it is not a fact that its recommendation for the reduction of British troops in India was overruled by the Secretary of State?

(d) And whether it is not a fact that Whitehall overruled the Government of India because such reduction would have relieved India at the expense of England?

(e) Is it not a fact, as was admitted by Colonel Guinness in the House of Commons, that a part of the British garrison in India was maintained for Imperial purposes?

(f) If so, what action has the Government of India taken to relieve India of this burden?

(g) What is the annual cost of this garrison?

Mr. E. Burdon: (a) The Government of India are not prepared to lay on the table the correspondence in question.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer which I gave to part 6 (a), (b) and (c) of his question† No. 38 asked in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd July 1923.

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is again invited to the reply which I gave to his question† of the 2nd July 1923. The reply which I

† Vide pages 4124-4125 of L. A. Debates, Vol. III.

then gave, however, is now supplemented by the information given by me on the 1st February 1924 in answer to Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao's question No. 40 in regard to the decision that only two and not three British cavalry regiments are to be withdrawn from the Indian establishment.

(d) The answer is in the negative.

(c) It is not a fact that a part of the British garrison in India is maintained for Imperial purposes. As regards the admission alleged to have been made by Colonel Guinness in the House of Commons, I again refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave to his question No. 38 on the 2nd July 1923.

(f) and (g). These questions do not arise.

INDIANIZATION OF THE HIGHER JUDICIARY.

169. *Dr. H. S. Gour: Will the Government be pleased to state what action it has taken to fulfil its promise given in the Council of State while replying to Mr. Sethna's Resolution on the Indianization of the higher judiciary?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: In accordance with the promise given, the Government of India consulted Local Governments and High Courts and the replies received were taken into careful consideration. The Government of India decided that efficiency must be the real criterion in making appointments to the benches of the highest Courts in the land. They, however, agree that, with due regard to efficiency, efforts should be made to increase the number of Indians holding such appointments. Local Governments and the High Court of Calcutta were informed of this conclusion in June 1923, and it was suggested to them that the claims of Indian candidates should be considered when vacancies occurred provided always that due regard was paid to efficiency.

I may add that the percentage of Indians, which in 1896 was 17.7 per cent., rose in 1921 to 31.6 per cent. and is now 32.2 per cent.

INLAND DEFERRED TELEGRAPH RATES.

170. *Dr. H. S. Gour: (a) With reference to my question No. 175, and the reply given by Sir Sydney Crookshank, may I beg to inquire what action has been taken to consider the possibility of introducing inland deferred telegraph rates?

(b) What is the number of telegrams redirected and the amount collected on account of redirection fee?

(c) In view of the heavy inland rate for telegrams, may I enquire whether it is not possible to redirect telegrams free of charge, or at any rate to reduce its rate?

(d) What is the surplus revenue from telegrams since the telegraph charges were raised?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) The introduction of Deferred telegraph rates has been considered, but it has been decided that, for the present, it would be undesirable to introduce a third tariff which would undoubtedly involve a loss of revenue. When the task of working out the actual cost of the Telegraph Department on a commercial basis has been concluded, the matter will be reconsidered.

(b) No separate statistics are maintained but account will be made and results furnished to the Honourable Member.

(c) Government consider that the present charge is fully justified in view of the additional service involved in the re-direction of telegrams.

(d) I place on the table a statement compiled from the Annual Administration Reports. I would, however, warn the Honourable Member that the figures of cost of maintenance and signalling operations do not give a correct view of the total cost of the Telegraph system—for example, the Telegraph share of the working expenses of combined Post and Telegraph Offices, which is a heavy item, rightly debitable to the Telegraph side, has not been included. A proper commercial account for each branch of the Department is now in course of preparation and, when this is complete, the exact relation between Telegraph Revenue and Expenditure will be known.

Statement comparing the receipts and working expenses on account of telegrams.

Year.	Total value of paid telegrams in lakhs of rupees.	TOTAL WORKING EXPENSES IN LAKHS OF RUPEES.			Surplus revenue in lakhs of rupees.
		Line maintenance.	Signalling.	Total.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1917-18	180.77	22.46	105.06	127.51	53.26
1918-19	252.52	27.50	121.29	148.79	103.73
1919-20	299.96	29.94	136.31	166.25	133.71
1920-21	261.65	39.59	175.54	215.13	46.52
1921-22	263.32	43.56	199.44	243.00	20.32
1922-23	243.11	45.45	193.16	238.61	4.50

Note.—The inland telegram rates of 12 annas for Ordinary and Re. 1-8-0 for Express telegrams were introduced from 1st September 1918. The working expenses of the telegraph branch in combined post and telegraph offices are not included in the above figures. Arrangements are in hand to ascertain and include these charges in future years.

IMPROVEMENT OF RURAL POSTAL FACILITIES.

171. *Dr. H. S. Gour: (a) With reference to Mr. Geoffrey Clarke's speech, dated 22nd March, 1922, on the enhancement of postal rates for letters and post cards, will the Government be pleased to state in detail the improvements made in postal communication and the development of rural postal facilities therein promised?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of post offices that existed in March, 1922, and those since added?

Mr. G. R. Clarke: (a) If the Honourable Member will read my speech again he will see that no promise was made to improve rural postal facilities as stated by the Honourable Member in his question. It was merely pointed out that with the postal rates in force at the time small offices could not be opened with any hope of their becoming self-supporting.

(b) The number of post offices in India on the 31st March, 1922, was 19,557. Since then 464 new offices have been opened and 523 unremunerative and unnecessary offices have been closed. The closure of unremunerative offices on such a large scale has been due to the absolute necessity for retrenchment and the heavy reduction of the working expenses allowed to the Department by the Legislative Assembly.

INCOME FROM ADVERTISEMENTS ON POSTAL PUBLICATIONS AND TELEGRAPH FORMS.

172. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** What revenue does the Government make from the advertising contracts given to a Syndicate for displaying advertisements on post offices, postage books, telegraph forms and other postal matter?

Mr. G. R. Clarke: (a) The scheme for advertisements in wall spaces and in compounds of post offices, has just been started. No correct estimate of the revenue to be derived on this account can be given at present. It is estimated that the annual receipts on account of advertisements in (1) postage stamp booklets and (2) postal publications will amount to Rs. 12,000 and 4,500 respectively.

(b) The income from advertisements on telegram forms based on the present number of forms used, is expected to be about a lakh of rupees a year. This amount will increase as telegraphic traffic increases and more forms are required to be printed.

PRINTING OF STAMPS IN INDIA.

173. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** What steps are the Government taking to ensure the early printing of stamps in this country?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: As the answer is a somewhat lengthy one, with the Honourable Member's permission, I lay it on the table.

In reply to a question† by the Honourable Mr. Phiroze C. Sethna in the other House in July last, the Honourable Mr. McWatters stated that the officers deputed to study the matter had submitted a preliminary report and that Government had accepted their recommendation that an experimental press should be started at the earliest possible moment. The complete report of the officers deputed has since been received and copies are being placed in the hands of Honourable Members. In view of the contents of that report, and of what is believed to be the desire of the Assembly, namely, that postage stamps and other security printing should, if possible,

† No. 15, dated the 16th July 1923—*Vide* page 1474 of Council of State Debates, Vol. III.

be transferred to India, the Government of India have, with the approval of the Standing Finance Committee, sanctioned provisionally an amount of Rs. 2½ lakhs for the purchase and operation of this experimental press.

The necessary plant and material has been purchased and Colonel Willis is now in Delhi getting the plant into running order in a spare room of the Government Press behind the Secretariat. The plant is expected to be in full operation in the course of the next few weeks, and, when it is working, Colonel Willis will be glad to show the processes to any Members of this House who may be interested in them. Specimens of the productions by the press will, it is hoped, be available for distribution to Members for their inspection.

RETRENCHMENT IN NATIONAL EXPENDITURE.

174. *Dr. H. S. Gour: Will the Government lay on the table a statement showing the retrenchments in national expenditure actually effected in consequence of the recommendations of the Incheape Committee or otherwise.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The Honourable Member is referred to the revised statement laid on the table on the 1st February 1924 in reply to a question by Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao.

PAYMENTS TO DEPOSITORS OF THE ALLIANCE BANK.

175. *Dr. H. S. Gour: Will the Government be pleased to state the actual sums paid out to the depositors of the Alliance Bank of Simla by the Imperial Bank, stating what amounts were paid to Indian and European depositors, both in India and in Europe?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: Until the end of December 1923. Rs. 3.83 lakhs were paid out in India to the depositors of the Alliance Bank of Simla by the Imperial Bank of India. The Government have no information regarding amounts paid in Europe or to Indian and European depositors, respectively.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

176. *Dr. H. S. Gour: Will the Government be pleased to state the number of meetings held of the Standing Committees appointed in consequence of a Resolution of the Assembly, dated 19th January 1922 (Assembly Debates, page 1788), and the nature of work entrusted to and disposed of by them?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: A statement indicating the number of meetings held by each of the Standing Committees appointed in accordance with the rules published in the Home Department Notification No. F-49, dated the 22nd August 1922, and the subjects laid before the Committees for advice has been laid on the table. No meeting of the Committee attached to the Revenue and Agriculture Department was held before that Department ceased to exist.

Statement showing the number of meetings held and the subjects laid before the Standing Committees attached to the Home Department and the Departments of Commerce and Industries and Education, Health and Lands for advice.

Name of Department.	Number of meetings held.	Subjects laid before the Committee for advice.
Home	3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Gour's Bill to amend the Legal Practitioners Act, 1879. 2. The Hon'ble Mr. Sukhbir Sinha's Registration of Chelas Bill. 3. Mr. Latthe's Inter-caste Hindu Marriage Bill. 4. Mr. Seshagiri Ayyer's Bill to amend the Hindu Law of Inheritance. 5. Mr. Abul Kasem's Bill to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure. 6. Lala Girdhari Lal Agarwala's Bills (i) to amend the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, (ii) to amend the General Clauses Act, 1897, and (iii) to amend the Indian Limitation Act, 1908. 7. Proposal to establish an Indian Bar. 8. Mr. Bangachariar's Bill to consolidate and amend the Law relating to Legal Practitioners in India. 9. Lala Girdhari Lal Agarwala's Bill to amend the Code of Civil Procedure. 10. Mr. Neogy's Bill to amend the Legal Practitioners Act, 1879. 11. Mr. Reddi's Bill to amend the Hindu Law of Succession. 12. Proposal to amend section 60 of the Code of Civil Procedure.
Commerce and Industries.	2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Action taken by the Government of India towards the Indianization of the superior services and appointments under the control of the Departments of Commerce and Industries. 2. A general statement of the Government of India's policy in regard to the development of ports and a general review of the present situation. 3. A general statement showing the reductions and alterations in the statistical publications which it is proposed to carry out on the score of retrenchment. 4. The proposed central legislation for the sake of Provincial Governments for raising certain stamp duties. 5. The Indian Trade Commissioner in East Africa. 6. Proposal for a temporary increase in the leave reserve for the Imperial Customs Service. 7. Training of apprentices by Indian firms holding Government contracts. 8. The Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for the year 1921. 9. Draft Conventions and Recommendations adopted at the Third Session of the International Labour Conference held at Geneva in 1921. 10. Proposed Legislation for the registration and protection of Trade Unions. 11. Amendment of the Factories Act. 12. Central Chemical Research Institute at Behra Dun.
Education and Health.	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proposal for opening the port of Madras for pilgrim traffic to Mecca and other holy places.

TENDERS FOR RAILWAY WAGONS, ETC.

177. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** (1) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a Reuter's cable, dated London, December 12, stating that important orders had been placed in Britain during the past few days involving the supply of 150 covered wagons to the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, and 1,366 tons of fabricated steel for the erection of extensive workshops for the South Indian Railway Company, at Trichinopoly, and that British Engineers were preparing estimates to be submitted in February for the supply of some 3,000 goods wagons, both broad and metre gauge, and 60 locomotives for the Indian Railway Board?

(2) Will the Government state how much of the 150 crores of rupees sanctioned by the last Assembly for the rehabilitation and improvement of the Railways has been spent, and how much of it has been spent upon orders in India, and how much in England and other countries outside India?

(3) Is it a fact that the Railway Board had invited tenders? Were these open and in what countries were the notices inviting tenders published? What tenders were received and at what rate. Were the lowest tenders rejected, and if so, why?

(4) Is it a fact that some Indian wagon companies had submitted tenders for the supply of wagons which compared favourably with those of the British and continental firms in normal times, but the Railway Board rejected these tenders and placed their order in England?

(5) If the answer to the last question be in the affirmative, will the Government place on the table all the correspondence on the subject and explain the discrimination made to the prejudice of Indian manufacturers?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (1) The Reuter's cable mentioned has been seen.

(2) Up to the end of last November 30½ crores had been charged against the 150 crore programme. I cannot give an exact distribution of this sum between expenditure in India and in England since a considerable portion of the disbursements for stores in England represents the cost of material which is only temporarily debited to capital and will be transferred to revenue when the material is actually issued from store. But, allowing for this, out of the 30½ crores approximately 13½ crores were spent in England and 17 crores in India.

Disbursements were only made in India and England and Government have no information as to the cost of actual purchases made outside these two countries.

(3) Arrangements for the supply of the 150 wagons and 1,366 tons of fabricated steel are in the hands of the two railway companies concerned. The Railway Board have invited in the press tenders from India and, through the High Commissioner for India, from all other manufacturing countries. It is not known in what journals the High Commissioner has had the notices inserted but in response to the similar call last year, tenders were received from America, Canada, and five countries in Europe. The tenders are to be received in January and February.

(4) Recently the Railway Board called for tenders from the leading firms in India for 250 wagons. The tenders received were 22 per cent. higher than prices quoted in England. No orders were placed as, owing to traffic conditions, it was found that the provision of these wagons could

be deferred. If the Honourable Member is referring to the tenders for 3,000 wagons in January last, the tenders submitted by Indian firms were so much higher than those of English firms that orders were placed with the latter. This action was taken after a long discussion with, and on the advice of a joint meeting of the Standing Finance Committee and the Central Advisory Council.

(5) The Government of India do not propose to place the correspondence on the table.

Dr. H. S. Gour: Is it a fact that the tenders of the Indian Companies compared favourably with the tenders of the Continental Companies, and is it not a fact that English Companies who had for the first time brought their tenders down compared quite unfavourably with the tenders of the same Companies in previous years?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I am placing a statement on the table in reply to a subsequent question by the Honourable Member from which he will be able to draw his own conclusion.

GOVERNMENT'S FUTURE POLICY REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF STORES.

178. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** Will the Government explain its future policy regarding the placing of future orders for the supply of its stores including Railway material?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: The policy of the Government of India has been, and will continue to be, to make their purchases of stores for the public service from Indian sources of supply, so far as is consistent with economy and efficiency. The Honourable Member is no doubt aware of the terms of the present rules relating to the supply of articles for the public service, and is equally aware that the revision of these rules is at present under consideration.

CONSTRUCTION OF LOCOMOTIVES AT JAMSHEDPUR.

179. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** Is the Government aware that a firm had started for the construction of locomotives at Jamshedpur? If so, what orders and encouragement has it received from Government to carry on and develop this most useful key industry?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the reply given yesterday to Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas on the same subject.

WAITING ROOMS AT THE VICTORIA TERMINUS, BOMBAY.

180. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that at the Victoria Terminus station of the G. I. P. Railway in Bombay, no gentlemen's waiting room is provided for first and second class travellers, although there are two waiting rooms for first and second class lady travellers?

(b) Is the Government aware that in the long shed in front of the ladies' waiting room there is not a single bench or other sitting accommodation for travellers waiting for their trains?

(c) Is the Government aware that travellers are put to considerable inconvenience and trouble while waiting for their trains, and that the want of waiting rooms for higher class passengers is an absolute necessity?

(d) Will the Government take immediate steps to remove this inconvenience?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: There are no waiting rooms for gentlemen in the present Station. The deficiency will be supplied when the station is remodelled† but it has been ascertained that it is impossible to put up temporary rooms in the existing structure. Benches used formerly to be kept in the circulating area opposite the ladies waiting room, but it was thought that the convenience of the travelling public would be served by transferring these benches to the departure platforms. Government understand that the Railway Administration will be quite willing also to put benches in the circulating area if there is any public demand for them. Copies of this question and answer are being forwarded to the Agent.

Dr. H. S. Gour: How is the public demand to be communicated to the railway authorities concerned?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: I am sending a copy of this question and answer to the Agent and I have no doubt he will consult his Local Advisory Committee, which I hope will come shortly into existence.

Dr. H. S. Gour: Will the Honourable Member also ask the Local Advisory Committee to improvise a waiting room pending the remodelling of the station?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: It is not my business to ask the Local Advisory Committee to do anything, and I have already told the Honourable Member that I have been informed that it is not possible to put up temporary rooms in the existing station.

LETTER POSTAGE BETWEEN INDIA AND ENGLAND.

181. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the letter postage from England to India is $1\frac{1}{2}d. = 1\frac{1}{2}$ annas, whereas the postage from India to England is 2 annas = $2d.$?

(b) If the answer to the last question is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state why it is cheaper to send a letter from England to India than it is to send it from India to England?

(c) Since how long has such postage rate been fixed?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) The letter postage from England to India is $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ for the first ounce and $1d.$ for each additional ounce; the letter postage from India to England is 2 annas for the first ounce and $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas for each additional ounce.

(b) and (c). Up to 31st March 1923 letter postage receipts between India and the United Kingdom were pooled and the rates of postage in India were assimilated as far as possible to those which were fixed in England. The initial Empire letter rate was for a long time $1d.$ After the outbreak of war it was raised to $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ and then to $2d.$ On the 29th May 1922 it was reduced in England to $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ As India had raised her internal rates of postage, with effect from the 24th April 1922 in the general interests of the postal revenues, it was deemed inadvisable to reduce the rate for letters

† N.B.—Plans and estimates are ready, but it will be some time before a new station can be built.

from India to England. The loss by reducing this rate will be heavier now than would have been the case had the pooling system continued.

LETTER POSTAGE BETWEEN INDIA AND ENGLAND.

182. *Dr. H. S. Gour: (a) Was not the postage the same for a letter from England to India as for a letter from India to England before the recent changes in the postal rates?

(b) Is it a fact that letters from India to England pass through France, the postage to which is 3 annas = 3d.?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) Yes, up to May 1922 rates were assimilated as far as possible.

(b) Yes.

LOSS OF POSTAL LETTERS.

183. *Dr. H. S. Gour: (a) Is the Government aware that constant complaints are being made of letters going astray since the enhancement of the letter postage rate?

(b) Will the Government explain why the defacement of postal stamps is not permitted as was allowed formerly?

(c) What objection is there to the defacement of stamps?

Mr. G. E. Clarke: (a) So far as is known to Government there has been no increase in the number of such complaints since the enhancement of the letter postage rate.

(b) and (c). The introduction of unified (postage and revenue) stamps in 1905 rendered it imperative to prohibit the practice of pen-marking postage stamps, as otherwise it would always be open to any one to utilise for the payment of postage stamps which had already served their purpose as receipt stamps. This objection still holds good. Moreover, pen-marking stamps, which, so far as is known, is allowed by no Post Office in the world, would afford no complete safeguard against the theft of stamps affixed to letters to be posted, as marked stamps removed from one letter could be used with perfect safety on another letter.

STATE PRISONERS.

184. *Dr. H. S. Gour: (a) Will the Government be pleased to give the names of all persons arrested or detained under Regulation III of 1818, and the Criminal Law Amendment Act, Part II?

(b) In how many of these cases was the sanction or consent of the Government of India obtained?

(c) Is the Government aware that the majority of members of the Repressive Laws Committee had recommended the repeal of both these enactments?

(d) And that the Government had accepted their recommendation?

(e) If so, what action has the Government taken to give effect to its decision?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: (a) The following 24 persons have been detained under Regulation III of 1818:—

Shaukat Usmani, Ghulam Hussain, Muzaffar Ahmed, Nalini Gupta, Jadu Gopal Mukharji, Manoranjan Das Gupta, Bhupendra Kumar Dutt, Jibanlal Chatterji, Kali Prasad Banerji, Manmohan

Bhattacharji, Ramesh Chandra Datt Chaudhuri, Babindra Mohan Sen Gupta, Amrita Lal Sarkar, Satish Prakash, Atindra Mohan Roy Chaudhuri, Upendra Nath Banerji, Bhupati Mazumdar, Amarendra Nath Chatterji, Jyotish Ghosh, Satish Chakrabarti, Atul Chandra Ghosh, Arun Chandra Guha, Gopendra Lal Ray and Kiran Kirwar Mukerji.

The action taken by Local Governments under Part II of the Criminal Law amendment Act is not primarily the concern of the Governor General in Council, and the Government of India are consequently unable to supply the information asked for.

(b) All these cases were carefully considered by the Government of India who authorised the action taken.

(c) The Honourable Member's statement of the position is inaccurate. The Committee recommended the retention of the provisions of Regulation III of 1818 for the purposes specified in paragraph 13 of their report, including the security of the British Dominions from foreign hostility.

(d) Yes: the Government of India announced their intention of accepting the recommendations of the Committee as a whole.

(e) In pursuance of the recommendations of the Committee, the following enactments were repealed:—

(1) The Bengal State Offences Regulation, 1804.

(2) The Madras State Offences Regulation, 1808.

(3) The State Offences Act, 1857.

(4) The Forfeiture Act, 1857.

(5) The Defence of India (Criminal Law Amendment) Act, 1915.

(6) The Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act, 1919.

(7) The Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908, Part I.

No Legislation for the amendment of the Regulation has yet been undertaken; nor does the Government of India consider that in present circumstances it is possible to undertake it.

Mr. V.-J. Patel: Are the Government of India aware that the use of these obnoxious Regulations and Acts would be absolutely unnecessary if full responsible Government were introduced in India?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: That is a matter entirely of opinion.

Mr. V. J. Patel: What is the opinion of the Government of India?

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Sir, do I take it that the Government do not accept the proposition laid down by the Repressive Laws Committee that it is undesirable that any Statute should remain in force which is regarded with deep and genuine disapproval by Members of the Legislature?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: The Honourable Member is aware of the extent to which we have followed the Report of the Repressive Laws Committee, and to which we have already given effect to its recommendations.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: Will the Honourable Member say why action cannot be taken under the ordinary law against persons against whom steps have been taken under the Regulation?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: I am not quite sure that that question does arise but I am perfectly prepared to answer it. If the Honourable Member will refer to the reasons given, first of all, by Lord Carmichael, secondly, by Lord Ronaldshay, and thirdly, by Lord Lytton, in their addresses to the Bengal Council dealing with this question, he will be in full possession of the reasons why such action cannot at the moment be taken.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: I wish to know, Sir, what the opinion of the Government of India is,—whether they can say why they think that action cannot be taken. I do not care to know what the Provincial Governments think.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: Our view is in entire accord with theirs.

Dr. H. S. Gour: How does the Honourable Member reconcile his view that the Government of India had accepted the recommendations of the Repressive Laws Committee with the statement just made that the Government of India have, as far as possible, given effect to the recommendations of the Repressive Laws Committee?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: If there is not a perfect reconciliation in the matter, I am afraid I can only say that the circumstances have made this inevitable.

NEW DELHI.

185. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the progress made on the construction of new Delhi, and the estimated and actual cost of such progress, the amount of work done and that which remains still to be done, the time requisite for completing it, and the cost thereof according to the revised estimates?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state when the new Secretariat buildings are likely to be ready for occupation?

(c) When will the new Parliamentary buildings be ready for occupation by the two Chambers?

(d) When will the new Viceregal Lodge be completed? What will be its cost, estimated and actual, or probable?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) The total amount of the Revised Project Estimate for the construction of New Delhi stands at Rs. 13,07,00,000 net. The actual outlay incurred up to the 31st March 1923, which is the latest definite figure, is Rs. 8,02,06,000. It is anticipated that by the 31st March 1924, the total outlay will be Rs. 9,84,00,000.

(b) It is hoped that unless labour and other unforeseen difficulties supervene the new Secretariats will be so far completed that it will be possible to occupy them by the 1st November 1925.

(c) It is similarly hoped that the New Parliamentary buildings will be so far completed that it will be possible to hold the first session in the buildings early in 1926.

(d) It is anticipated that the New Government House will not be ready for occupation until the autumn of 1926, and that the cost of Government House and the buildings on the estate will amount to about Rs. 140 lakhs.

RAILWAY STATION FOR THE NEW IMPERIAL CAPITAL.

186. *Dr. H. S. Gour: (a) Is it a fact that it is proposed to construct a new bridge over the river Jumna as an approach to a new Railway station to be constructed in the new Imperial Capital? If so, what would be its cost? Will the Government explain its necessity?

(b) Is it a fact that a new Railway station was intended to be constructed for the Imperial Capital? If so, what would be its cost? Will the Government explain its necessity?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) There is no intention of constructing a new bridge at present.

(b) It was originally proposed to provide a large interchange passenger station but, in view of the necessity for economy, the proposals have been reduced. For the present a roadside station only is being constructed at an approximate cost of Rs. 5½ lakhs.

The provision of this station is considered necessary in order to serve the area of the New Capital.

RESERVATION OF LAND IN RAISINA FOR PRIVATE BUILDERS.

187. *Dr. H. S. Gour: (a) What amount of land in Raisina was reserved for disposal to private builders and how much of it has been sold up to date? What price has been obtained?

(b) Have any private builders commenced construction upon their allotments?

(c) What is the net return to Government from the buildings rented out to its officials and others?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee: (a) No definite amount of land has been reserved for private buildings. Up to date, however, about 319 acres of land have been disposed of to private persons, the actual amount of premium received being Rs. 5,97,503-2. It is possible that after keeping in reserve a small area for future Government requirements, a further 120 or 130 acres may be available for private persons.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative.

(c) The estimated rental on the whole residential scheme is Rs. 60,250 per mensem. The total amount actually received in 1921-22 was Rs. 1,43,175.

TENDERS FOR RAILWAY WAGONS AND LOCOMOTIVES.

188. *Dr. H. S. Gour: (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the rate of tenders for the supply of wagons for the last four years and state how the tenders in the preceding years compared with the tenders made by the Indian Standard Wagon Company?

(b) Will the Government be also pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the rate at which the English Companies have tendered for locomotives during the last four years?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: A statement is laid on the table.

Tenders for wagons (excluding wheels and axles) received by the Railway Board during the past four years.

Type.	English.	Jessops.	Burn & Co.	I. S. W. Co.
1 Tenders received in April 1920—				
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
A1	6,060	7,445	7,062	} Did not tender.
A2	6,463	7,748	7,280	
A3	6,797	8,264	7,776	
C1	6,026	7,348	6,682	
C2	6,206	7,434	7,034	

Orders placed in England.

2. Tenders received in August 1920—

A1	7,430	7,718	7,779	} Did not tender.
A2	7,980	7,976	7,920	

Orders placed in India.

3 Tenders received in December 1920—

		Approx.	Approx.	Approx.
A1	9,127	8,900	8,690	8,690
A2	9,847	9,260	8,940	8,940
A3	10,460	9,570	9,560	9,560
C1	9,087	8,590	8,300	8,300
C2	9,393	8,940	8,650	8,650
C3 . . . . .	...	9,090	8,820	8,820

Orders placed in India.

4. Tenders received in December 1921—

A1	4,300	5,399	5,294	5,294
A2	4,445	5,510	5,419	5,419
A3	4,686	5,525	5,668	5,668
C1	4,018	5,110	4,886	4,886
C2	4,167	5,210	5,069	5,069
C3	4,545	5,439	5,439	5,439

Orders placed in England.

5. Tenders received in October 1922—

A1	3,494	5,233	5,179	5,179
A2	3,610	5,316	5,286	5,286
A3	3,957	5,331	5,455	5,455
C2	3,435	5,044	4,897	4,897
C3	3,425	5,373	4,899	4,899
B. A. 1	7,599	...	11,291	11,291
B. D. 1	6,911	...	10,241	10,241

Orders placed in England.

6. Tenders received in July 1923—

A1	3,987	4,997	4,880	...
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No orders placed. Demand cancelled.

Prices paid for locomotives for the State Railways (0-6-0 & 2-8-0 types) during the past 4 years.

(1) Contracts placed by the High Commissioner—

	0-6-0 type.	2-8-0 type.
	£	₹
October 1920	10,507	...
November 1920 . . . . .	...	13,633
February 1921	10,466	...
May 1922	5,080	
August 1922	4,572	

(2) Tenders received by the Railway Board in January 1923

0-6-0 type.	4,041	5,120
2-8-0 type.		

NOTE:—Sterling quotations, after adding freight and other sterling charges, are converted to rupees at the rate of exchange that would be ruling at the time of the transaction. To these are added the Indian charges.

In the case of Indian tenders, to which an exchange variation clause applied in regard to imported parts, the cost of such parts are assessed at the rate of exchange that would be ruling at the time of the transaction.

TENDERS FOR LOCOMOTIVES.

189. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** (a) Is it a fact that in 1920-21 certain British firms had tendered for a certain type of locomotives at £16,000 and £10,000 respectively, but in 1922 they reduced their quotation to £5,000, and this was the year in which the Peninsular Locomotive Company started operations at Jamshedpur?

(b) Is it not a fact that the quotation at £5,000 per locomotive is at least £1,000 below the cost of production and £3,000 to £4,000 below the ruling price in England?

(c) How does the Government account for this gross underselling of Indian manufactures and what steps has it taken to protect the Indian industries against unfair combinations and dumping of goods in India with a view to squeeze out similar nascent enterprises in the country?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) In 1920 locomotives of the H. G. and S. G. types, were purchased for the State Railways from British firms at between £10,500 and £13,600 each. In 1922-23 the same types were purchased at approximately £5,100 and £4,000 respectively. In each case the orders were placed on competitive tenders. In 1922-23 tenders were received from the Peninsular Locomotive Company which it is understood, had just started operations. Tenders were also received from firms in the U. S. A., Germany, France, Belgium, Italy, Sweden and Czecho-Slovakia.

(b) The Government of India have no evidence that the prices quoted in 1922-23 were less than the cost of production or less than other competitive prices quoted at the same time in England.

(c) The prices quoted by the Indian firms were much higher than those quoted by any competing firm. There does not seem to be any reason for believing that the low prices quoted in 1922-23 were specially directed towards underselling Indian manufacturers as distinct from competing firms elsewhere.

BRITISH TENDERS FOR RAILWAY MATERIAL.

190. *Dr. H. S. Gour: (a) Before accepting the British tenders for Railway material, what assurance did the Government obtain that the low quotations made would be repeated in future years?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what effect the acceptance of British tenders had on the indigenous industries?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) The tenders are competitive and the prices quoted depend on market conditions. It is not possible to obtain assurance that the prices of any one year will be repeated in following years except by adopting long-term contracts.

(b) It is of course one of the difficulties of firms building railway wagons and locomotives in India that they depend upon Railways for their orders. If they do not get those orders, the effect on them must be serious.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF AJMER-MERWARA.

191. *Dr. H. S. Gour: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the revenue and expenditure on Ajmer and Merwara Province for the last three years?

(b) Is it a fact that representations have been received from Ajmer and Merwara for its amalgamation with other Provinces? If so, what steps have the Government taken or intend to take in absorbing this small administration with other neighbouring Provinces?

Mr. E. B. Howell: (a) The figures are:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	Rs.	Rs.
1921-22, Actuals	12,91,000	23,24,000
1922-23, Actuals	17,50,000	17,91,000
1923-24, Revised Estimate	18,45,000	19,23,000

(b) A representation from the Ajmer Bar Association was received in July 1923. As regards the steps taken by Government in the matter, I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the full statement given in the Honourable Mr. Crerar's speech in the Council of State on the 21st February 1923. A copy of this can be supplied to the Honourable Member

if he so desires. The examination of the present financial position of the province, to which Mr. Crerar referred, was completed. It indicated that the province is not self-supporting and that in fact there were annual deficits which were in some years large. The Government of India, therefore, concluded that as the Government of the United Provinces had previously demurred to accepting the financial liabilities involved by the merger of the province in the United Provinces, no useful purpose was likely to be served by making a further reference to that Government at the present time. A strict inquiry has, however, been ordered into the circumstances of the province with a view to the ascertainment of the possibility of making such changes as will secure that the province is self-supporting.

Rai Sahib M. Harbilas Sarda: Are Government aware that the people of Ajmer-Merwarā are strongly opposed to the amalgamation of that province with any other province as being detrimental to their interests? The amalgamation would be tantamount to the absorption of that small but important province into a much bigger province.

Mr. E. B. Howell: I accept the Honourable Member's statement.

IMPORT OF FOREIGN COAL.

192. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether in 1920-21 the quantity of foreign coal imported into India amounted only to 86,000 tons, whereas in the year 1921-22 it had risen to approximately 15 lacs of tons, and that in 1922-23 it was approximately 900,000 tons?

(b) What is the approximate value of these imports and from what countries were they made?

(c) Is the Government aware that this large importation of foreign coal is due to the heavy cost of transport from the coal fields to Calcutta entailed by the want of facilities for dealing with inland coal by the Railways and the Ports, whose methods are described as antiquated by Sir T. S. Catto in his speech to the Bengal Coal Company on the 17th December 1923?

(d) Will the Government see that open wagons are provided for collieries with mechanical loading plants and that other facilities are given to the Coal Companies to cope with the foreign competition threatened?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) Yes.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to page 37 of the accounts relating to the sea-borne trade and navigation for British India for March 1923, of which a copy is in the Library.

(c) No. The increase in the cost of transport from the coalfields to Calcutta is only one factor in the case. The Honourable Member is not evidently aware that the average pitsmouth value of Indian coal has risen from Rs. 3-5-0 per ton in the five years ending 1915 to Rs. 7-11-0 per ton in 1922. Further, complaints are made in Bombay that whereas coal from

foreign countries, especially South Africa and England, is carefully graded and sorted before shipment, the quality of Indian coal varies with each shipment. But this is a complaint with which the trade itself is now dealing.

(d) The general practice is for open wagons to be specially supplied to collieries having mechanically loading plant, provided that there are sufficient open wagons available. The East Indian and the Bengal-Nagpur Railways are increasing their open wagon stock yearly and their attention has been drawn to the need of supplying open stock to collieries provided with mechanical loading plant. This, however, is only one aspect of the question. It will be necessary also for the Port Trust authorities in Calcutta to provide adequately for the mechanical loading of coal into steamers at the berths. This question was taken up with the Port Commissioners and the two Railways in 1920 and 1921, and at once serious difficulties emerged. Apart altogether from the question of the provision of special wagons of a uniform type suitable for mechanical loading, one difficulty lies in the pooling system of wagons and in the fact that both open and closed wagons are dealt with in the coalfields. If only open wagons were used for the carriage of export coal to the Kidderpore docks, this would mean that these wagons would have to be sorted in the coalfields and much additional shunting and delay would be caused. In addition it is always necessary to supply a certain number of covered wagons to the docks for the carriage inland of commodities which cannot suitably be conveyed in open wagons. The Honourable Member will therefore see that the question is a difficult one, but it is constantly receiving attention.

Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal: Can the Honourable Member kindly supply this House with information regarding the quantity of coal imported into India from South Africa?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The Honourable Member will find all that information in the monthly volumes of the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of India which will be found in the Library.

REDUCTION IN MR. GANDHI'S WEIGHT.

193. ***Dr. H. S. Gour:** Has the attention of Government been drawn to a report published in the "Bombay Chronicle," to the effect that Mr. Gandhi had lost 15 lbs. in weight and weighed only 96 lbs.?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: The Honourable Member's question, if I may say so, is a little out of date and my answer perhaps would be without interest in the circumstances. But we were acquainted with the fact to which he refers.

INDIAN POPULATION IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES, ETC.

194 ***Mr. K. G. Lohokare:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

What is the (number of) Indian population in Foreign countries, British Colonies, Dominions, Dependencies and Protectorates and Mandatory Protectorates?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: A statement is laid on the table.

Indians Overseas.

Name of Country.	Indian Population.	Date of Census.
BRITISH EMPIRE—		
<i>Dominions—</i>		
Canada	1,200	1920
Australia :—		
Western Australia	300	} 1922
Southern Australia	200	
Victoria	400	
New South Wales	700	
Queensland	300	
Tasmania	100	} 1921
New Zealand	606	
South Africa :—		
Natal	141,336	} 1921
Transvaal	13,405	
Cape Colony	6,493	
Orange Free State	100	
<i>Crown Colonies—</i>		
Hong Kong	2,555	1911
Straits Settlements	104,628	1921
Federated Malay States	305,219	1921
British Malaya	61,819	1921
Ceylon	750,000	1921
Seychelles	332	1911
Mauritius	264,527	1921
Zanzibar	12,841	1921
Kenya	22,822	1921
Uganda	3,500	1920
Nyasaland	407	1918
Northern Rhodesia	56	1921
Southern Rhodesia	(Asiatics) 1,250	1911
Swaziland	(Asiatics) 7	1911
Basutoland	179	1911
Jamaica	18,401	1922
Trinidad	121,420	1921
British Guiana	124,938	1921
Fiji Islands	60,634	1921
<i>Mandated Territories—</i>		
Samoa . . . . .	...	...
New Guinea . . . . .	...	...
Tanganyika Territory	9,411	1921
South-West Africa Protectorate (late German South-West Africa).	11 (Asiatics)	1921
FOREIGN COUNTRIES—		
United States of America	3,175 (Asiatics)	1910
Madagascar	5,272	1917
Reunion	2,194	1921
Dutch East Indies	Not separately enumerated.	1917
Surinam	34,957	1920
Mozambique	1,100 (Asiatics)	Not known.
Persia	3,827	1922

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INDIAN STUDENTS COMMITTEE.

195. ***Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** Will the Government be pleased to make a statement as regards the action taken up to date by the Secretary of State and the Government of India in regard to the various recommendations made by the Committee on Indian Students?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: The views of Local Governments and Administrations on the recommendations made in the Report of the Committee on Indian Students were called for. When they have been received, the Government of India will proceed to the formulation of their own views.

Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta: Is official guardianship still insisted on by the Universities before admission is granted?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: No action has yet been taken by the Government of India on the Report pending the receipt of the views of Local Governments and the Universities.

I. M. S. AND R. A. M. C. OFFICERS.

196. ***Mr. K. G. Lohokare:** Will Government be pleased to state:

1. The number of I. M. S. Officers on the permanent and temporary lists at present in the Indian Army?
2. The number of R. A. M. C. Officers in the British Army in India at the same time?
3. The average number of fighting men and followers for every I. M. S. in the Indian Army and for every R. A. M. C. in the British Army in India as per permanent list?
4. The number of Military Medical Administrative appointments at present?
5. The number of such appointments held by the I. M. S. and the R. A. M. C. on 1st January 1924?
6. How many of the appointments were held by the Indians from (a) 1900 to 1913, (b) 1914 to 1920, (c) 1920 to 1923?
7. Are there Indians in the I. M. S. who have been superseded in promotion to such ranks?
8. If so, how many and for what reasons were they so superseded since 1900?

Mr. E. Burdon: 1. The number of I. M. S. officers serving with the Indian Army on the 30th January 1924 was as follows:—

Permanent officers	286
Temporary officers	169

2. The number of R. A. M. C. officers on the same date was 294.

3. The average number of Indian troops and followers to each officer of the I. M. S. is estimated at 430. The average number of British troops (including families) to each officer of the R. A. M. C. is 311.

4. The number of military medical administrative appointments at present is 56. 5 of these appointments are held by Officers Commanding, Indian Hospital Corps Companies, in addition to their substantive duties.

5. The number of such appointments held by officers of the I. M. S. and R. A. M. C. on the 1st January 1924 was as follows:—

I. M. S.	...	...	...	...	21
R. A. M. C.	...	...	...	...	35

The latter figure includes an officer who is officiating temporarily in an appointment normally held by an officer of the I. M. S.

6. The information desired by the Honourable Member in respect of the first two periods mentioned by him is not readily available. It could only be furnished after an exhaustive examination of monthly records covering a period of 21 years and the time and labour which this would involve would not, in the opinion of the Government of India, be justified by the result. During the period 1920 to 1923, one administrative appointment was held by an Indian officer of the I. M. S.

7 & 8. There is at present one Indian officer in the Indian Medical Service to whom certain other officers of that service junior to him have been preferred for appointment to certain high administrative posts. These posts are filled by selection and the fact that an individual officer is not selected for such a post does not constitute supersession. I desire in this connexion to invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the answer which I gave on the 23rd July 1923 to Mr. Samarth's question No. 356.

Mr. K. G. Lohokare: As regards part (6) of the question, will the Honourable Member be able to give the figures for 1920 to 1923?

Mr. President: When the Honourable Member reads the reply, I think he will find that that part was answered.

BRITISH AND INDIAN STATION HOSPITALS.

197. ***Mr. K. G. Lohokare:** Will Government be pleased to state:

1. How many admissions were there to British Station Hospitals in India, during the years 1921, 1922 and 1923 and the daily average number of beds occupied by admitted and detained cases during these years?
2. How many admissions were there to Indian Station Hospitals during these 3 years, and the daily average number of beds occupied by admitted and detained cases?
3. The total strength of Medical Officers, members of the Indian Medical Departments and nurses in the British and Indian Station Hospitals respectively during this period?
4. The average of this Staff per hundred daily patients of admitted, detained, and out-door patients in British and Indian Station Hospitals respectively during this period?
5. A comparative table giving the Staff in the 'A' or 1st Class Station Hospitals:
 - (a) In the British Station Hospitals in India?
 - (b) In the Indian Station Hospitals in India?
6. Average daily cost per bed occupied for admitted and detained cases in Indian and British Station Hospitals respectively?

Mr. E. Burdon: 1 and 2. A statement is laid on the table. I trust that the information given will serve the Honourable Member's purpose.

† Vide pages 4874-4875 of L. A. Debates, Vol. III.

3. The average total strength of medical officers, members of the I. M. D. and of lady nurses employed in British and Indian station hospitals during the period in question was as follows:—

British Station Hospitals and Field Medical Units.

In 1921.—R. A. M. C. officers 263, Lady nurses 226, Assistant Surgeons 363.

In 1922.—R. A. M. C. officers 257, Lady nurses 211, Assistant Surgeons 386.

In 1923.—R. A. M. C. officers 234, Lady nurses 199, Assistant Surgeons 390.

Indian Station Hospitals and Field Medical Units.

In 1921.—I. M. S. officers 567, Lady nurses 81, Sub-Assistant Surgeons 999.

In 1922.—I. M. S. officers 412, Lady nurses 60, Sub-Assistant Surgeons 841.

In 1923.—I. M. S. officers 355, Lady nurses 55, Sub-Assistant Surgeons 813.

4. It is not possible to answer this part of the Honourable Member's question without a reference to every military station in India. It is therefore regretted that the information asked for cannot be given.

5. (a) and (b). No fixed staff is laid down for 1st class station hospitals in India. The staff varies considerably in size according to requirements and is dependent on varying factors, such as climate, fluctuating sick rate, etc.

6. The approximate daily cost per bed occupied has been estimated approximately as follows:

In British station hospitals at Rs. 14 and in Indian station hospitals at Rs. 9.

Statement showing the number of admissions and beds occupied daily in British and Indian Station Hospitals during 1921, 1922 and 1923.

	1921. (b)		1922. (c)		1923. (a)	
	Admissions.	Beds occupied daily.	Admissions.	Beds occupied daily.	Admissions.	Beds occupied daily.
British Station Hospitals.	71,077	3,345	46,252	2,191	43,181	2,050
Indian Station Hospitals.	1,65,429	8,344	98,758	4,714	77,350	3,450

(a) Approximate figures taken from monthly returns.

(b) Approximate figures for Aden have been added.

(c) Includes Aden and Persian Gulf Ports.

The figure in the case of British Station Hospitals for each year include officers and families; in the case of Indian Station Hospitals, followers.

Mr. K. G. Lohokare: Is the staff in the 'A' Class Station Hospital regulated by any regulations?

Mr. E. Burdon: No fixed staff is laid down for a 1st class Station Hospital in India.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE RAILWAY INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE.

51. **Mr. Bhubanananda Das:** (a) Would Government be pleased to place on the table a report of the Railway Industries Committee?

(b) Is it true that one of their recommendations was that Government should spend as much of the 150 crores of five years programme in India as possible?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state how much of the 150 crores has been spent since the programme was approved of by the Assembly and how much in India?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state if they had invited or had consultations with any industries existing or prospective, and if so, which were the concerns?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether any officials of the Government or Railway Board had an interview with the Directors of the Peninsula Locomotive Company about the second week of November 1921?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state if these Directors were promised or assured of any support of any kind, and if so, in what manner?

(g) To what extent have these assurances been put into practice, and if not, why not?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state how many Locomotives have been ordered during the last three years for Indian Railways and how many have been ordered in India?

(i) Will Government be pleased to state whether there was any correspondence with the Secretary of State for India over the question of according preference to tenders from concerns located in India for Railway materials including locomotive?

(j) Will Government be pleased to put this correspondence on the table?

(k) Will Government be pleased to state what is the present position of affairs regarding Indian concerns tender and whether Government has decided to give no preference to a manufacturer established in India?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member has mixed up, (a) the report of the Railway Finance Committee, (b) the Resolution passed by this Assembly on that report on 27th March 1922, and (c) the report of the Railway Industries Committee. He will find a copy of the last named report in the Library. As regards the report of the Railway Finance Committee and the Resolution passed by the Assembly, his attention is directed to the debate in this Assembly on 27th March, 1922.

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to the Honourable Dr. Gour's starred question No. 177.

(d) to (k). The Honourable Member's attention is directed to the reply given to Honourable Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas' starred question No. 128.

TARIFF VALUES ON COTTON GOODS.

52. **Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai:** I. Is it not a fact:

- (a) That, Government notifies, under Section 7 of the Cotton Duties Act, about 40 to 50 main kinds of piecegoods for fixing tariff values?
- (b) That, the above classification of manufactures does not take into account differences in the percentage of size?
- (c) That, the tariff values are fixed per lb. and are based on the average of prices of different localities?

II. Are Government aware that heavy-sized cotton goods fetch less value per lb. than light-sized manufactures?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The answers to the first three questions in Part I are in the affirmative.

The Government is not prepared to express an opinion on the point raised in Part II of the question, but it is obvious that those who make a practice of selling heavily sized cloth would not do so unless it paid them to do so.

TARIFF VALUES ON COTTON GOODS.

53. **Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai:** (a) Are Government aware:

1. That, the Ahmedabad Millowners have been protesting against the present system of fixing tariff values?
2. That, excise duty is being recovered from them in excess of 3½ per cent. authorized by the Statute?

(b) (1) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take to remove the higher levy?

(2) If Government are not aware of the higher levy, are they prepared to call for the following information in respect of the Ahmedabad mills separately for the years 1921, 1922, 1923:

- (a) The gross realisations from sale of their manufactures.
- (b) The amount of duty paid in respect of those sales?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: The Ahmedabad Millowners' Association who are represented on the Advisory Committee which is consulted before the tariff valuations are fixed have made representations in the sense suggested. But the present method of tariff valuation is expressly authorised by the Act; it has been in force for many years and is believed to be convenient to, and well understood by, the industry as a whole; and, though mathematical accuracy is not claimed for its results, it is believed that any minor inequalities which the system may result in, are more than counterbalanced by its administrative advantages and general acceptance by the trade.

LEVY OF TAXATION BY EXECUTIVE ACTION.

54. **Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) What steps have been taken to carry out the recommendations made by the Joint Select Committee of Parliament in paragraph 11 of their Report in November, 1919, relating to the dis-

continuance of the system of levy of "certain classes of taxation in India by executive action without, in some cases, any statutory limitation of the rates and in other cases, any adequate prescription by statute of the method of assessment"?

- (b) What are the classes of taxation besides land revenue, which are now levied, imposed, enhanced or lowered by executive action or notification by the Central and by the Provincial Governments and whether any, and if so, what steps have been taken by these Governments to give effect to the Joint Parliamentary Committee's recommendation that "the imposition of new burdens should be gradually brought more within the purview of the Legislature"?
- (c) Whether they would lay on the table the instructions of the Secretary of State and the correspondence with the Provincial Governments and the India Office on the whole question?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The question is being considered by the Government and a reply will be given at an early date.

LAND REVENUE LEGISLATION IN THE MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

55. **Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** (a) Has the attention of the Government of India been drawn to the debates in the Madras Legislative Council on land revenue legislation and re-settlement on the 13th December, 1923, and on the 15th December, 1923, and the speeches of Sir A. R. Knapp on behalf of that Government in the course of the said debates in which he disclaimed his own Government's responsibility for the delay and stated that the proposals in this behalf made by the Committee appointed by that Government in 1921 had been vetoed by the Government of India?

(b) Will the Government lay the connected papers in regard to this proposed Madras legislation relating to land revenue settlements on the table?

Mr. M. S. D. Butler: (a) The Government of India have not yet received the official reports of the debates referred to. They have asked for their submission.

(b) On receipt of the reports this matter will be considered.

REGULATION OF ACTION OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS IN REGARD TO PROVINCIAL SUBJECTS.

56. **Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) Whether there are any instructions, directions or regulations, apart from the Devolution Rules and the Reservation of Bills Rules, issued by the Secretary of State and the Government of India for regulating the policy or action of the Madras and other Provincial Governments in regard to subjects definitely made over to the latter as "Provincial Subjects" like the Land Revenue or Excise?

(b) If so, whether they will lay the same on the table?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I should be glad to do what I can to assist the Honourable Member, but I would point out that he has not

differentiated between reserved and transferred subjects. So far as transferred subjects are concerned, I would invite his attention to the rules relating to the Secretary of State's powers made under section 19A of the Government of India Act, and reproduced at page 272 of the published Volume of Rules made under the Government of India Act. As regards reserved subjects, the general powers of superintendence, direction and control of the Secretary of State in Council and the Government of India remain of the same type as before the passing of the Act of 1919.

It would, I fear, be a long and unprofitable task to search for and inform the Honourable Member of all the instructions, etc., which have been issued. So far as financial powers are concerned, I would invite his attention to the Rules made by the Secretary of State for India and published in the Gazette of India in April, 1921, to govern the powers of Governors in Council in relation to expenditure from Provincial Revenues on reserved subjects. If the Honourable Member wishes, I will send him a copy of the rules referred to.

REGULATION OF THE POWERS OF SUPERINTENDENCE, DIRECTION AND CONTROL OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL IN COUNCIL, ETC.

57. **Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether any rules have been made under Section 19-A of the Government of India Act relating to subjects other than transferred subjects, for regulating and restricting the exercise of the powers of superintendence, direction and control vested in the Governor General in Council, Secretary of State and the Secretary of State in Council; if so, whether they will lay the same on the table?
- (b) If no such rules have yet been made, whether the Government of India have pressed for the provision of such rules from the Secretary of State "in order to give effect to the purposes of the Government of India Act, 1919"?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: (a) and (b). The reply is in the negative.

TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS.

58. **Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether any, and if so, what, instructions or suggestions have been issued by the Governor General in Council to the Governors in Council of the provinces in regard to rules and orders under Section 49 (2) of the Government of India Act in regard to the transaction of business by the Governor in his Executive Council and with his Ministers and the regulation of the relations of his Executive Councillors and Ministers in this behalf; and
- (b) whether they will lay the correspondence in connection therewith on the table?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: (a) A specimen collection of rules under section 49, sub-section (2), of the Act was informally forwarded to

Local Governments by the Reforms Office in 1920, with the object of assisting the Provincial Governments in the task of preparing draft rules and orders under the section for the orders of the Governor concerned.

(b) Government do not propose to lay the correspondence on the table.

PROCEDURE *re* RESIGNATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE OFFICE OF MINISTERS
IN THE PROVINCES.

59. **Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** (a) Have the Government of India recently circularised the Provincial Governors or Governments laying down, indicating or advising the procedure to be adopted by them in respect of the resignation and the acceptance of office of Ministers in the several provinces on the conclusion of a general election?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state whether the procedure of keeping Ministers in office during the general election and of requiring their resignations after they get re-elected has been advised as part of the policy laid down by the Secretary of State for the working of the Reforms Act of 1919?

(c) Whether the Government of India will lay the correspondence on this subject on the table?

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: (a) No.

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

RESOLUTION *RE* THE GRANT OF FULL SELF-GOVERNING
DOMINION STATUS TO INDIA.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I beg to move:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to take at a very early date the necessary steps (including if necessary procuring the appointment of a Royal Commission) for revising the Government of India Act so as to secure for India full self-governing Dominion status within the British Empire and Provincial autonomy in the Provinces."

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey (Home Member): The Honourable Member will, I know, excuse me if I interrupt him at this point. I may say that in the last two or three days I have had conversations with many of my friends opposite, in which we have mutually endeavoured to come to the assistance of the House in trying to frame the issues involved in what I may describe as the "constitutional" Resolutions somewhat more clearly than would be the case if they were moved in the form in which they now stand on the agenda paper. We both felt that it would be to the interest of the House, as it certainly would be to the interest of the Government, if we could clarify those issues, and I am aware that many conversations and meetings have taken place with a view to securing this result. I offered on my part that I would endeavour to arrange, if it were necessary to do so, that another day should be given for this discussion. I understand that the matter is not yet at a stage when we can say that the issues have been fully clarified and that a little more time is required. I am prepared on my part to set aside Friday next—I had

[Sir Malcolm Hailey.]

originally intended Saturday, but that I understand is a public holiday—Friday next for all discussions relating to this matter. If that will suit my friend and his friends I should be very glad to make that arrangement.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar: It will suit us. I reserve my right of speech for Friday.

Mr. President: I understand that the Honourable Member has moved his Resolution in order that it may be put on the order list on a future day.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar: That is why I have moved it.

Mr. President: Resolution moved:

“ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to take at a very early date the necessary steps (including if necessary procuring the appointment of a Royal Commission) for revising the Government of India Act so as to secure for India full self-governing Dominion status within the British Empire and Provincial autonomy in the Provinces.”

I understand that the Honourable the Home Member wishes to postpone discussion of this Resolution.

The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey: I beg formally to move that this Resolution be deferred until Friday next.

Mr. President: The question is that the debate be adjourned till Friday.

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION RE THE RELEASE OF MR. GANDHI

Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty (Salem and Coimbatore *cum* North Arcot: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I do not propose to move the Resolution that stands in my name.*

RESOLUTION RE THE SEPARATION OF RAILWAY FINANCE FROM GENERAL FINANCE.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I have been assured that Government propose to bring forward their proposals in regard to the question of the separation of railway finance from general finance before this Assembly at an early date. I do not therefore propose to move this Resolution†.

* “ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that Mahatma Gandhi be immediately and unconditionally released.”

† “ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to publish the proposals of the Government of India on the question of separation of Railway finance from general finance, before final adoption thereof.”

RESOLUTION RE THE AMALGAMATION OF THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE WITH THE AUXILIARY FORCE.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju (Ganjam *cum* Vizagapatam: Non-Muham-madam Rural): Sir, the Resolution which stands in my name runs as follows:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that necessary steps be taken:

- (a) for the amalgamation of the Indian Territorial Force and the Auxiliary Force for the combined purpose of supplementing the regular Forces in support of the civil power and for internal security and as a second line to the Regular Army and removal of all distinctions whatsoever as well as in the matter of duties and privileges;
- (b) to increase the strength by the annual addition of ten thousand till it reaches the figure which would enable the gradual reduction of Regular Forces by one-half of the present strength for peace establishment;
- (c) to provide adequate funds for the efficient organisation and training of the same serviceable for military purposes by corresponding reduction in other avoidable military expenditure."

We have met now on a happy occasion, because the whole country rejoices that the heart of Government has changed a little bit and that Mahatma Gandhi has been released, and we have as our Viceroy Lord Reading, once Chief Justice of England, who from the beginning of his career as Viceroy stated more than once that he wanted to remove all racial distinctions as far as possible. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has already expressed the opinion that he would not tolerate the interference of Whitehall, if he is convinced that it is for the good of the country that a change should be made in the matter of military organisation, and we have the advent of the Labour Party in England, and there are the stalwart patriots of the Swaraj party who are strong in numbers in this House. All these would make us believe that there is a possibility of securing the consent of the Government to all reasonable requests, and this request is nothing more and nothing less than what was more than once stated, that there should be no racial discrimination or racial distinction, if that can be secured. Secondly, to provide for the defence of our country, we must train a citizen army not entirely depending upon the regularly paid troops. Thirdly, we want that deeper interest should be shown in increasing the number of the Territorial Force, for it would be ridiculous that a country which has furnished recruits to the extent of 6,40,000 in the course of two years during the war could not provide a larger number for a citizen army of more than 14,000. There must be something which makes people unresponsive, for which provision must be made. Lastly, we have to consider why should these Indians who are on the eve of getting self-government be deprived of opportunities of serving in the various branches of the Army and why should they be limited to any particular branch of the Army. Why are not Indians allowed to learn these things? Enlistment in Artillery and Engineering corps are provided for in the Auxiliary Force but not in the Territorial Force. Perhaps I may state when the Auxiliary and Territorial Force Bills were introduced in the year 1920, then Indian representatives, the astute statesmen of the day, definitely pronounced that such invidious distinctions would create discontent in the country. Why should there be one Bill for one section and why should there be another Bill for another section? At that time, the then Commander-in-Chief stated that a time would come when such restrictions would be removed. To be accurate, I may

[Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju.]

be permitted to quote what His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief stated on that occasion. In reply to the criticism of the Indian Members he said :

“ I would remind the Honourable Members that we only began two or three years ago to take measures which will, we hope, in time, I cannot speak for my successors or the future Government of India, we have, I repeat, taken measures which will lead in the direction which many Honourable Members desire now.”

What they desired was that this distinction should be removed. In order to see what is the real distinction that is noticeable, you find in the Auxiliary Force the training is only for a short period. I will not complain that the training for a larger number of days is provided in the Territorial Force, because it was explained, when the Bill was introduced, that we want the Territorial Force to be a second line in the army and for that purpose we want efficient training. But for the Territorial force if 28 days or a larger number of days is necessary for efficient training, perhaps for inefficient training of the Auxiliary Force 7 days or in the earlier part 14 days may be necessary. But I ask why should you prefer the inefficiently trained of the two forces to deal with guns and artillery and engineering and other things? Is it because Indians are not capable of dealing with them? Are our graduates, studying in England, to be told, “ Unless you get nomination either from the Government of India or the Secretary of State, you will not be admitted for artillery training at Woolwich ”? But I may tell you that all other persons of the world, who are otherwise qualified, are admitted except poor Indians, whose taxpayers contribute large funds for the military training institutions formerly directly, and now to the War Office, as a capitation charge. The fact that we will not be allowed to be trained there and the fact that we are not allowed to be trained here in India shows either that there must be distrust on the part of the Government in Indians, or there must be some other cause. In order to find out whether there is any distrust, we have to refer to the Esher Committee's Report, which has disclosed the real mentality of the Government. With reference to the existing state of things, when the Local Governments were consulted about this Territorial Force, they practically discouraged the idea by stating that it was neither practicable nor serviceable, but they said that anyhow as an experiment it might be tried in small units. When the military authorities were invited to express their opinion, they stated :

“ Of course we welcome the national defence; we are prepared to encourage the aspirations of Indians, but we must recognise that we are running a risk.”

What is the risk they are running in trusting the people to be trained? The Esher Committee at page 74 say :

“ The higher military authorities in India accept the principle of the defence force and are of opinion that it is to be encouraged. They have told us, however, that we must not shut our eyes to the practical difficulties. They add, not only have we to bear in mind the risks that we run in organising a force which may be used against us in one way or another, but we have to create the necessary military qualities in a collection of different races who are striving, under our control, to evolve a common nationality and with it the ideal of national solidarity in the defence of their country. We do not want to run more risk than is necessary.”

This, Sir, is the underlying principle which keeps Indians back from realising what they desire and what they deserve and why liberal measures were not taken in several branches of the administration. This fear, this distrust, kept us back in military matters, because they felt that, if a larger number of Indians were trained, what would be the fate of their-

supremacy? That is the principle now; but even in pre-Mutiny days, even at the time of the East India Company, from the battle of Plassey 1757 up to 1857, the only guiding principle in the matter of military organisation was how to secure the British domination. Now, after the tragedy of 1857, another thing was added to this, distrust, not only in the Indian Army, but in training a large number of Indians. For that purpose, as soon as the Mutiny was suppressed, the first thing done was to reduce Indian troops and increase the British troops. I ask, should that feeling continue even now, when you are prepared to grant us self-government, if not to-day, to-morrow? The Esher Committee in their report state that they are reminded that, whatever recommendations they make, should not be inconsistent with conferring Dominion status or responsible self-government on India. Sir K. G. Gupta, in his dissenting minute clearly stated, in the recommendations of the Esher Committee, that they had not fully realised that aspect of it, though the majority denied the charge. Now, a series of questions were asked during the last three years, more particularly by Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer, as to whether it was not possible for Indians to be trained in other arms. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief said:

“ We are considering the matter; we are in correspondence with the military authorities in England.”

And when a specific question was put whether an Indian section should not be added to the Auxiliary Force, the reply was given on behalf of the Government of India, “ There is no obstacle in providing an Indian section to the Auxiliary Force.” Now I ask if there is no difficulty, if there is no distrust, if they are cognisant of the fact that they are prepared to give us self-government, if not to-day, to-morrow, if not to-morrow, some day, I ask, is it not high time to give up the old distrust and let it be substituted by confidence? Trust begets trust. I may tell you that you cannot maintain and continue this spirit of distrust when the people are awakened to the feelings of nationality. Even British statesmen have stated, when once the people are awakened to the sense of nationality, the only course open is not subjection, but co-operation. We must make them our allies, not our subjects, just as they did with Canada, after the declaration of the independence of America. They became more friendly because there were no restrictions when liberty was given and freedom was general, and they felt that the British Government looked upon them as their allies and not as their enemies. So long as you look askance at any military training to be given to Indians, I think there is a legitimate grievance on the part of the people and that something should be done to show that there is no more distrust in the training of Indians.

I just want to mention one fact. After giving training to Indians and opening other branches, as are open to the Auxiliary Force, if there is no difficulty in employing or enlisting Indians in the Auxiliary Force, why should there be any distinction? Do you want to maintain any difference in status, and why should not the original complaint made by our Members in the old Imperial Council be listened to in order to remove all such distinctions. If either the Auxiliary Force is joined to the Territorial Force or the Territorial Force joined to the Auxiliary Force, they will constitute a second line of defence to the Army proper. They will not be required ordinarily to serve outside their military area. Now the reason why the Auxiliary Force is limited to its particular military area, as it was stated at the time, is that the persons enlisted in that force are either planters or merchants or persons who have come out from England for

[Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju.]

short periods and who will not stop longer in order to be able to serve in the Force. That may be an explanation in reference to one section, but you have not stopped short there. You have gone further and included the domiciled community. We do not want to complain of the privileges enjoyed by others; but I ask, have you got distrust of only pure Indians? If that is not so, then you ought to be prepared to take persons born in India; what is the difficulty in taking persons of pure Asiatic origin? You can without difficulty of military organisation provide in the Auxiliary Force for persons who are labouring under the same difficulty as those you then contemplated in regard to enlistment in the Auxiliary Force. There are several persons whose vocations will not permit them to be trained for any length of time, as is required in the Territorial Force, and therefore, wherever you have got an Auxiliary Force, you should enlist such Indians and form Indian sections there. And once you are prepared to form Indian sections in the Auxiliary Force, I don't see how you can be in a position to stop Indians from being employed in the Artillery or the Cavalry. When you do not have a separate Auxiliary Force, you will necessarily be compelled to show the same consideration to the Territorial Force. In reference to the Territorial Force the reply was given by Mr. Burdon that so far as Parsis are concerned who enlist in the Territorial Army, they are given pay and allowances on the footing of the British Army. They want it. If it is necessary to adopt this course, by all means do it. But you must always remember, when you set up racial discrimination in favour of anybody, that you will naturally create heart-burning. Avoid that. It matters very little if you want to do the same for all. You are paying for a very short period of service—for 28 days in the case of Territorials or 7 days ordinarily in the case of the Auxiliary Force. You are not paying from year's end to year's end. And if you pay higher allowances, give them all equally, because we wish that all should be treated alike. We should be given equal status. There should not be any indiscriminate distinction that one should be on a higher status and the other on a lower status. A person, if he does the same work as another, should be given the same treatment, whether he has got a white face, a brown face or a black face.

Now, Sir, I want these distinctions to be abolished. That is my main ground. The second ground I have stated is that you can increase the numbers in two ways. In the first place you have to find out why there was so little response. It was stated "We were prepared to enlist 19,000 and we have got 14,000." Surely there is some defect somewhere; because if persons are prepared to go and fight thousands of miles off to the extent of 6 lakhs, why should you not be able to get more for these Forces? Either the conditions imposed are not suitable or some changes ought to be brought about. Even the Esher Committee in their report stated that this continuous training for a number of days prevents a number of people from joining the Territorial Force; and, therefore, you should provide the same facilities as are now given to the Auxiliary Force in this respect as well as providing other attractive features in order that a larger number might be drawn into the Force.

In every country where there is a Volunteer or Territorial Force it is either equal to or larger than the regular military force. We have something like one lakh and thirty or forty thousand Indian troops. Should we not get in our Territorial Force at least this number? And how long would it take to train 150,000 men? Would it not take at least 15 years, if we

have to begin with say 10,000? That is why, in order to raise the number at least to the number we have in the Army, I suggest there should be an additional recruitment to the extent of 10,000 every year. It will not cost very much when compared with the extraordinary amount which you are spending on the Military, namely, 60 crores. After all on ten thousand recruits the recurring charge does not come to more than about 20 lakhs. Even the equipment charge does not come to more than 50 lakhs. Even if you take it as an Auxiliary Force, it will not cost more than 40 lakhs, and equipment more than a crore. In any case, it is absolutely necessary that the Government and the military authorities, if they really want to advance the cause of India, if they really want to improve the efficiency and to increase the numbers, should do something. I think where there is a will there is a way. The Commander-in-Chief, if he likes, can do it. I do not know whether the warning of the Esher Committee that it is a risky business and you should therefore be cautious only to utilise it for educational purposes will still be ringing in the ears of the authorities here; but I respectfully submit that these warnings are unnecessary at the stage we have now reached and, therefore, my submission is you must go ahead. Thirdly, I would ask this question. What the Esher Committee say is that whatever you do, whatever strength you maintain, whatever amount you spend for this Territorial Force, do not ever entertain the idea of reducing a single soldier or sepoy. I ask why? Why should you have a different system in India alone? I submit, therefore, that when you have got an efficient trained army always at hand, ready for the purpose, you can utilise that force, and all avoidable military expenditure should be cut down and the amount utilised for increasing this force, and, when the military authorities are satisfied, you can reduce even the number of the regular troops. With these few words, Sir, I commend this Resolution for the acceptance of this House.

Captain Ajab Khan (Punjab: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I rise to oppose this Resolution on account of its being impracticable and productive of more evil than good, if it is accepted. The basic principle on which the Auxiliary Force was formed was that the scope of their duties would be confined to local areas. There are men in the Auxiliary Force whose centres of activity and business lie in a particular province or a town and, on a nominal sort of training allowance, they have undertaken this duty in their own interest and in the interest of the public. If we expect those people to leave aside their affairs and make themselves liable to general service throughout India, I do not believe that one of them will accept it. Conscription or compulsory service in the Territorial Force or Auxiliary Force is not in vogue, and I do not know how it would be practicable to ask people to accept general service throughout India without great loss to their interests and great expense to Government. The Territorial Force is still in its infancy. The training started in the end of 1922, or the beginning of 1923, and those who were enrolled then have had two trainings so far; the first training period extended over two months; the second training period is in operation now and will extend for about 28 days or a month. Those that have any insight into military training will at once say that three months training to a man from the fields is of no avail, unless the training has been completed and kept up constantly. The recruit in the regular army takes at least eight or nine months to pass the recruit course, and, after passing the recruit course, he has to be put to the advanced training of a trained soldier, to learn advanced ideas and the work that he is expected to do. If I am not wrong, military

[Captain Ajab Khan.]

experts are of opinion that a man who has not spent four to five years in the ranks is not much of a success on the field. Now, the use of arms and using one's commonsense in critical moments and generally doing successfully what is expected of him is not a very small matter that could be dispensed with. I am in agreement with the sentiment of the Honourable proposer, but I differ from him on the ground of its practicability. I am not even now certain whether the Honourable proposer wants the members of the Auxiliary Force to adapt themselves to the conditions for members of the Indian Territorial Force or whether he wants the Indian Territorial Force to be raised to the status and privileges of the Auxiliary Force. For the sake of argument, let us take it for granted that the latter part of this proposal is accepted. Then what about the regular Indian Army, Sir? The regular army, which fights in India and outside India, will say that these Territorials who undergo just a few months' training in India, get far more privileges. How can they reconcile themselves to such a difference? Besides, if the regular army is reduced, the Territorials will not be fit to take the field at once, and in a case of emergency I do not know what the military authorities will do. If there is an aggression or foreign invasion of India, the Territorials will have to be called up, mobilised and trained for at least eight months before they can take the field and supply the deficiency of the regular army. Will the enemy be requested to wait till our combatant strength is completed? I do not think, therefore, that it is practicable at the present moment to reduce the regular army. The members of the Auxiliary Force enlisted on the pure understanding that their work will be limited to local areas only and if they are made liable to general service throughout India I do not believe that anybody will be willing to come forward. They will not give up their own business and take up general service throughout India, leaving aside their own affairs. Take the question of the quelling of civil disturbances. It requires a great deal of high class discipline, commonsense and training, because the situation is usually very difficult to handle. I do not think that the members of the Territorial Force with their scanty training will be fit to take part in quelling civil disturbances at least in the near future and I think the Auxiliary Force or the regular army are the only people who can take an effective part in the quelling of civil disturbances.

I quite agree with my friend to some extent that there is great scope for developing and a general desire for exploring the conditions of the Territorial Force with a view to its betterment. The force has been in existence for two years, and I think there is great scope to make it more attractive and popular. If my friend had suggested something in the nature of the appointment of a committee to explore further avenues for popularising and making it more acceptable to our people, I would have agreed with him. I quite agree with his sentiment, but, Sir, sentiment alone does not go far enough in matters of this kind. I have got great respect and sympathy for the Indian Territorial Force; I know that regular officers from the Army are taken away for giving them training. They are all well trained in whatever is possible in the short period of their annual training and they are supposed to be the second line to the regular army. But to consider seriously the question of amalgamation of the two non-regular forces requires time; it cannot be done by a stroke of the pen nor can it be effected just for the sake of sentiment. With these words, Sir, I oppose the Resolution.

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Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar (Madras ceded districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Indeed, Sir, I am surprised that there should be opposition from an Indian Member of this Assembly to a proposition to which we thought there ought to be no opposition from the Indian section at least. The Resolution that has been moved by Mr. Venkatapatiraju has been a question which has been engaging the attention of all Indians for a very long time. Before going into the merits of that Resolution itself, I would only deal with the preamble with which Mr. Raju has prefaced his speech. The Honourable Mover fully relies upon several circumstances as indicating a change of heart, and notably he puts first the release of Mahatma Gandhijee, which has been received with acclamation throughout India this day. But so far as that position is concerned, I am prepared only to congratulate the Government on the wisdom they have exhibited and the statesmanship which they have shown in releasing Mahatmajee. -

The next asset upon which he relies is the assurance by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and by His Excellency the Viceroy to avoid, as far as possible, racial distinctions in the Army. So far as these assurances are concerned, I would consider it too premature to place reliance upon them until these assurances are translated into action. There is one other matter which my friend considers as a most precious asset this day, and that is the power of the Labour Party in England at this time. For my part, Sir, I have not been quite confident of how far we can rely upon the Labour Party being in power to-day. It seems to me, Sir, that the position of the Labour Party in England this day is on a par with the position of the Ministerial Party in the Madras Legislative Council this day. No one party has got any majority in the Madras Legislative Council; neither the Ministerialists nor the anti-Ministerialists nor the Swarajists. Similarly, in the British House of Commons, neither the Labour Party, nor the Liberal Party nor the Conservative Party has got a majority of its own. It is only the combination of any two of these parties that makes the strength and there the Labour Party has entered into a pact with the Liberal Party. Are we then entirely to rest content with appeals to the Labour Party for assurances of support on matters of this sort. . . .

Mr. President: It would be more appropriate for the Honourable Member to appeal to the Commander-in-Chief.

Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar: Now, Sir, this Resolution asks for nothing more than an amalgamation of the Indian Territorial Force and the Auxiliary Force for the combined purpose of supplementing the regular forces. In fact, the essential basic principle underlying the entire Resolution is to give a better military training for the Indians. It is not so much in the interests of the people of India that this improvement must be made in the training of the Indians as it is in the interest of the Government itself. If from the beginning of the British rule in India the Government had not been dealing with the people of India with distrust, if they had been carrying on the administration of this country with mutual trust, they should by this time have had an army in India which would in itself have been quite sufficient to quell the German War without the aid of any other allied forces. At least after the German War, when open declarations and open acknowledgments were made by most responsible officers of the Home Government, acknowledging with thanks, acknowledging with pleasure, the support which the Indian Army had given, at least after that, the lesson should have been learnt and followed.

[Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar.]

that the strength of the British Government lies not merely on the finances of India but on the Indian men also. It is, therefore, a Resolution which should be welcome even to the Official Benches, and I thought that no Indian would rise to oppose a Resolution like this.

Now, Sir, again, promises have been given to us, and I believe it will be stated by the Treasury Bench that certain fulfilment has also been made, and that full responsible Government will be given to India, if not now, at least at some future time. If that be really the case, is it not necessary, Sir, that the military training of the Indians should also go on *pari passu* with the development of self-Government? Is it not absolutely necessary that if at any time you are going to make India a common partner in the Indo-British Commonwealth, that the Indian Government, the responsible Indian Government, must also be in a position to command its own military department? Doubts have been of late expressed by persons placed in very high positions, by persons who have earned the highest titles under this Government, that at present, even if full responsible Government is given to us, we must deduct at least the military department from our responsible Government. I thought, Sir, that there was absolutely no foundation for such apprehensions, and if this Resolution is approved, and if it is faithfully carried out, and the sincerity of the Government in promising to us full responsible Government is translated into action by giving to us also the military side along with full responsible Government, there can be absolutely no doubt that in the nearest future complete Dominion status can be claimed by every Indian, I mean even by those who are entertaining some apprehensions at present. Therefore, Sir, it is absolutely necessary that this Resolution should receive the unanimous support of the House. The Honourable Member, who opposed this Resolution, I thought, was giving grounds for supporting the Resolution. He has been saying that it is very difficult to quell civil disturbances. But what is his remedy? He wants that the Indians should always be kept out of the army; in fact, he wants to give us a lesson that we should not get into water until we learn to swim. Is that the policy which he wants to be pursued? The ordinary police, it is said, are managing civil disturbances. If, in addition to that, the Citizen Army, the Territorial Force, is given an advanced military training, is it a difficult thing, Sir, to keep internal order with the help of such an army? I am unable to understand the logic of any of the arguments advanced by the Honourable Member who opposed this Resolution; in fact, the whole trend of his argument seemed to be that it is absolutely necessary that there should be better military training for the Indians. In this view of the matter, I give my entire support to this proposition.

Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): As I find, Sir, no Honourable Member is standing up to catch your eye, I have to do it, though I should have preferred to wait a little longer and see which way the opinion of the House tends before placing before it my humble views on the subject. The first thing that strikes me, Sir, in connection with this matter, is the underlying feeling of distrust which seems to have inspired this differential treatment between the Auxiliary and the Territorial Forces. That is the first objection; and I think, unless we can get rid of this sense of distrust, it will be impossible for us to work smoothly towards

1 P.M.

the end which we all have in view. The Indian people must be trusted to the fullest extent as the members of the Auxiliary Force are trusted. They must be trusted to the fullest extent to help the preservation of law and order in case of civil commotion, and they must be trusted to take their place side by side with the other races in India, who may be called upon to defend their hearth, their home, their country and their Government, in the defensive forces of the Indian Empire. And this is most hurtful to the sense of patriotism and self-respect of the people of India, that they are not trusted in this matter. We have been told, Sir, in the Joint Report of Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford, when we asked for the Indianisation of the Civil Services, we were told that it would not be acceptable to the common sense of the British people as it would not be consistent with the sense of self-respect of the Indian people that, while Britishers mount guard on the frontiers of India, the people of India shall control the internal administration. Now, Sir, we want to disclaim, with all the emphasis that we can command, the underlying assumption of this statement that we want to undertake civil responsibilities and leave military responsibilities to the shoulders of the European soldiers drafted from England or the European residents or the members of the domiciled community in India. We want to share, every patriotic Indian wants to share, to the fullest possible extent, the rights and responsibilities of defending his country as any European, official or non-official, may be willing or trusted to do. I know, Sir, that we shall never be able to attain responsible self-Government unless we are able to defend the Empire. It was, I think, Lord Birkenhead, Sir, who said some years ago, when the question of Women Suffrage came up in England, that the old principle was "No taxation no representation," but the new principle is—"No military service no representation." We accept this new principle. And, when we ask for full responsible government in this country, we also claim, at the same time, the fullest share of the duties and responsibilities of the defence of the Indian Empire. If we are physically unfit, it cannot be helped. But I do not think it is ever suggested that the people of India or that of any Indian province are physically unfit for military duty. Why then keep up this distinction? Why then have an Auxiliary Force to support and supplement the Regular Army and particularly the British Army, and why create a separate Territorial Force with a lower status to meet the demand of the educated class for participation in military service? Why do you make it? I know it, as a matter of fact, Sir, that this differential status and treatment stand in the way of the success of the Territorial Force. Just a few days before I came here I was approached by a number of young people eager to be enlisted in the Territorial Force particularly in the University Corps. My friend Dr. Mullick sent one of his assistants to me to organise one or two public meetings to induce people to join the Territorial Force in Calcutta. I was told that there was no enthusiasm for it among our young men. My answer was: "They will not join the Territorial Force unless they are treated on the same footing as members of the Auxiliary Force." That is the feeling, I think, in every Indian province; and, unless you treat us just as you treat the members of the Auxiliary Force, you cannot call upon us to join the Territorial army. But, as my friend, Mr. Duraiswami Aiyangar, said, it is not merely a question for the people, it is a question for the Government as well. Can we be sure, Sir, that the chances of another great war are removed for ever or are removed very far? During the last war, the Government was willing and anxious to take us into the Army. The Government was anxious to have our support both in men and money. Now, if there should come to be—I don't want it to come—we don't want it to come—but if the gods should decree that there must be another great

[Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal.]

war—(and the centre of gravity in that war, I take it, Sir, will not be Europe but most likely Asia)—if it should come, as Lord Curzon declared three years back, it was likely to come, within the next 10 years, then where will you stand and where shall we stand, if you do not take the fullest advantage of this offer of the people of India to serve loyally, to serve faithfully, to serve to the fullest measure of their strength in the defensive army of the Empire. This is our offer, Sir. We are prepared to serve as loyally, as fully and as laboriously, as any member of the non-Indian races in India. But, if you keep us out, if you don't trust us, if you are afraid that in times of commotion we shall throw our weight against the Auxiliary Force and on the side of disorder, you would be courting disorder and not avoiding it. I know, Sir, that reference has been made to recent disturbances in Bengal. I will not deny that there has been really a recrudescence of the old political revolutionary sentiment in my province. I was not willing to believe that it was so, but the latest outrage compelled me to recognise it. But during the war we had no such thing, and why? It was not the Defence of India Act, Sir, that kept down the revolutionary movement in Bengal, but it was the call upon the Bengali youth to join the Army which satisfied our young men and removed the force of the appeal to revolutionary patriotism in my province. Throw the Army open to the Indian intelligentsia, and you will find there will be no secret societies and I think you will find that there will be less disturbance also in other matters.

For these reasons, Sir, it seems to me that it is high time that this invidious, this hurtful, distinction between the Auxiliary and the Territorial Forces should be done away with. In the next place, Sir, we are told—my friend there (the Honourable Captain Ajab Khan) said that the Indian Army will not like it that the Territorials should be placed on a higher footing than the regular sepoy army. That is, they would not like the members of the Territorial Force to be treated as the members of the Auxiliary Force, because the Indian members in the Regular Army are not treated like the European members of that Army. I think, Sir, the answer to that question would be, make the Indian members in the Regular Army equal to the non-Indian members in that Army and do not keep down the Indian members in the Auxiliary Army—for both the Territorials and the Auxiliaries are really sections of the second line of defence—on a lower level than the non-Indian members of it. It is 35 or 36 years since we in India, the intelligentsia in this country, cried out for opening the doors of the Volunteer Companies to educated Indians. We cried, and we cried, and we cried; but no answer was given to us. We were not trusted in 1885, we were not trusted in 1905 and we were only commenced to be trusted in 1914, because the situation was so compelling that the Government could not help but trust us. I do not want that situation to be repeated. The events following the end of the war have hurt the people of India, have hurt their sense of self-respect and their dignity. But, if you do not remove this difference, I am afraid, Sir, that in the future you will have trouble both for the Government and for the people. I do not want any trouble either for the Government or for the people, because I believe that we must work in peace, evolve our destiny peacefully together, and for this reason I support this Resolution, and I hope it will have the assent of the whole House.

Mr. E. Burdon (Army Secretary): Sir, before I address myself to other aspects of the Resolution, I desire to follow the example of the Honourable Mover and to quote a passage from a speech made by His Excellency

General Sir Charles Monro, late Commander-in-Chief in India, when introducing the Indian Auxiliary Force Bill in the Imperial Legislative Council in August 1920. The words I wish to quote are these :

" I desire again to repeat that in introducing this Bill the racial feeling which we all deplore never entered my mind nor did it enter the minds of the Government of India. It may be that the case may have been imperfectly presented but anyhow the intention is very different from what has been suggested."

Sir, I do not think there are many Members of this Assembly—there are some but not many—who had the privilege of being associated as a colleague with Sir Charles Monro in the Indian Legislative Council or who knew him in other relations of life. But those who knew him will assuredly remember that he was not only a very distinguished and gallant soldier and a genuine friend of India but that he was also a man whose word was never doubted.

I have ventured to make these remarks at the outset because from speeches that have been made the idea evidently persists that the existence of two separate forces, the Auxiliary and the Territorial Force, rests upon racial distinctions arbitrarily and unnecessarily made by Government. and I think it is desirable to make it clear at once that what the late Commander-in-Chief said in 1920 is equally true to-day. In constituting two separate forces Government have been compelled to recognise differences of conditions which exist in fact, differences any attempt to ignore which would assuredly defeat itself. I shall return to this point and deal with it more fully at a later stage. For the present I wish once more to ask all Honourable Members to reject the suggestion that two forces have been separately created by Government for some sinister purpose based upon racial cleavages. I have also heard it said, Sir, that the present position indicates distrust. But it appears to me that the Honourable Members who made this suggestion must, if I may venture to say so, have an imperfect knowledge of the facts. The Indian Territorial Force standard of military training is more exacting than the standard of training permitted to the Auxiliary Force. In the Territorial Force full battalions are embodied once a year, the period being 28 days for the regular training. Each battalion is affiliated to one of the regular Indian Infantry Regiments and it assembles at the headquarters of the training battalion. On the occasion of the annual assemblage they are put through an intensive military training for that limited period. Another point which bears upon the same suggestion of distrust is this, that the Territorial Force have a much wider liability and a much wider scope than the Auxiliary Force. The duties of the Auxiliary Force are limited to home defence and to local service. The Territorial Force is liable for home defence, for service in support of regular troops in the maintenance of the public tranquillity and also has the further liability of joining the regular army after mobilisation. I have made these remarks, Sir, at the beginning because it seems to me to be desirable to combat at once two leading ideas which have appeared in the speeches of those Honourable Members who have immediately preceded me. But there are other points connected with the propositions that have been placed before the House by my Honourable friend Mr. Venkatapatiraju which I think it is desirable that I should endeavour to develop. My Honourable friend the Mover has dwelt very largely on political considerations. I think the House will probably expect me to explain, so far as I am able to do so, the military considerations which bear upon this matter. I am sure the House knows—indeed everybody knows—that the peace strength of all armies in countries where armies are organised on a scientific basis is lower than the war strength. Military expenditure.

[Mr. E. Burdon.]

it is true, is of a primary and obligatory character. Without adequate provision for defence other national activities cannot be peacefully pursued. At the same time, military expenditure is unproductive, and it is therefore the aim of every Government to keep it as low as possible, and in particular to reduce to the minimum, consistent with safety, the forces which are actively embodied in peace time. But, since it is known that in war time the strength of the armed forces must be considerably greater than in peace, it is essential to provide in peace time the capacity for immediate and efficient expansion on the outbreak of war. In pursuance of this ideal, it is the aim of every country to exploit to the utmost, and to use in the most economical manner, every type of military material which is at its disposal; to use each separate category in the degree in which it can be serviceable, and to economise those which are the most efficient and by consequence the most expensive. It will be found, therefore, that every great country has its active army supplemented by reserves, that is to say, fully trained soldiers who have served their time in the active army, have then returned to civil life and are available to be called upon to return to the active army immediately on mobilisation. The active army is in other cases further supplemented by non-regular forces of limited capacity. It is in accordance with this universally acknowledged military doctrine that we have, here in India, the active army, each part of which consists of fully trained soldiers and is interchangeable. We have in addition an Indian Army Reserve, the constitution of which has recently been reformed as a result of a recommendation of Lord Inchcape's Committee, the object being to ensure that a certain proportion of the reserve are capable of joining the active army at once as fully trained soldiers. Honourable Members, who have studied the Inchcape Committee's Report and the replies to questions which I have recently given in this House, will know that in consideration of obtaining a reserve of this character, we have been able to reduce to some extent the peace strength of Indian Infantry and pioneer battalions. Finally, after the reserve, we employ in India the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces. These are both non-regular forces and in training and in every other respect a lower degree of military efficiency is required of them than of the members of the active army and the reserves. The principal distinction between the Auxiliary and the Territorial Forces, from the purely military point of view, consists in the fact, which everybody knows, that the Auxiliary Force is only liable for local service, while the Territorial Force is liable both for local and general service. The other important distinction is that the Auxiliary Force is open to European British subjects, and the Territorial Force in India is open to British subjects who are Indians.

I have already alluded at the commencement of these preliminary observations to the system of training which has been prescribed for the territorial force battalions, and perhaps it will interest the House if I quote a short passage from a book regarding the Army in India, which is now in the press, and which I hope to be able shortly to make available to Honourable Members of this House:

"Men enrol in the provincial battalions for a period of six years, the period being reduced to four years in certain cases. On the completion of the first period, they can re-enrol voluntarily, for further specified periods. During his first year every man does twenty-eight days preliminary training, and during every year he receives twenty-eight days' periodical training. The battalions are embodied for this purpose for the required period, each battalion being assembled, as a rule, at the headquarters of the training battalion of the regular Indian infantry regiment to which the Territorial battalion is affiliated. Training is carried out by a special training staff consisting of regular Indian officers and other ranks, loaned by regular regiments, or of

pensioners, who may be engaged for the period of the training. Five regular British officers are attached to each battalion, one of whom is the permanent adjutant, while the other four are the company commanders. During the training period the senior officer of the five commands the battalion; during the rest of the year the adjutant acts as administrative commandant and the four company commanders are placed at the disposal of the commander of the training battalion of the regular regiment with which the Territorial battalion, as above explained, is associated. During embodiment for training the Indian ranks are treated as regards pay, discipline, etc., as are the ranks of the regular Indian Army. The force is modelled on the old militia in England. The essence of its scheme of organisation consists in training men by means of annual embodiment for a short period in successive years. By this means Indian Territorial Force units can be given sufficient preliminary training in peace to enable them, after a comparatively short period of intensive training, to take their place by the side of regular units in war."

The system of training in the Auxiliary Force is, I am sure, familiar to many Honourable Members of this House, and I do not wish to occupy the time of the House unnecessarily. I think it will suffice if I repeat what I have said before, that the standard of training is considerably less rigorous. Now, Sir, the distinctions of military organisation have, as I have said before, not been made arbitrarily, and to state the plain fact, they are not capable of being modified solely at the will and pleasure of Government. The distinctions are imposed by circumstances which it is necessary to recognise, if it is desired to use all the available military material and to organise all the available military resources in the most economical manner. The principle upon which the Auxiliary Force rests is that the European and domiciled communities, being employed for the most part in the public services and in commercial and industrial occupations of importance, cannot be regarded as available for any but purely local service. As it appears to Government consequences detrimental to the best interests of the country might follow if, in war time, this category of personnel were wholly withdrawn from their normal civil occupations. The Europeans are not restricted to local service merely because they like it. That is not the consideration which determines the matter. The ultimate consideration is that the majority of the persons who join the Auxiliary Force, are so placed in India that they cannot be expected to undertake the liability for general service. They are able to do their training in addition to their ordinary civil avocations, and in an emergency it is possible for them to render the necessary assistance to the regular troops in the place where they live without their ordinary functions being dislocated to an impracticable extent. But, if they were to be required to assume the liability for general service, then the consequence would be that the Auxiliary Force, or a great bulk of it, as at present constituted, would cease to exist. What would be the further consequence of that? Merely in the long run it would be necessary to add to the strength of the regular forces—an arrangement which would be thoroughly unsound in principle and would obviously be most uneconomical.

Well, Sir, these remarks have brought me directly to the first part of my Honourable friend's Resolution, the terms of which seem to make it clear that my Honourable friend does not suggest that the Territorial Force should be restricted to local service but that the Auxiliary Force should be made liable for general service. This, I am quite sure, is impracticable for the reasons which I have explained and from causes which are not within the control of Government, unless indeed a system of compulsory military service were to be introduced. But I take it that the Honourable Member moving this Resolution does not contemplate a system of compulsory military service. The plain practical fact therefore that would have to be faced, if my friend's proposition were to be accepted, is,

[Mr. E. Burdon.]

can India afford to do without the Auxiliary Force? It seems to me that there can be only one answer to that, and that is "No." There are a variety of reasons why the Auxiliary Force cannot be replaced by the Territorial Force. The members of the Territorial Force are widely dispersed in their homes; they cannot be collected and embodied at a moment's notice to meet an immediate emergency, and, as my Honourable friend, Captain Ajab Khan, has explained, actual circumstances do not create the same difficulty in the case of the majority of members of the Auxiliary Force. As I say, I have assumed that my Honourable friend does not wish to restrict the Territorial Force to local service only, and I am confident of this, anyhow, that the House will agree that to restrict the Territorial Force to local service would be entirely inconsistent with the national ideal which prompted its creation. The purpose of the force is to give to a wide range of the inhabitants of the country an opportunity of rendering effective military service and of becoming fully efficient in matters of military defence. This object would not be realised if the Territorial Force were limited to local service only and to the relatively low degree of training which is sufficient to equip soldiers for local service. Again, it would be entirely unsuitable and, indeed, a most uneconomical use of man power to employ young men of effective military age on the restricted duties of home defence.

So much for the question of assimilating the military duties of the two forces. I now come to the question of privileges. To put the present position in a nutshell, members of the Auxiliary Force are paid on the same scale as corresponding ranks of the British Regular Forces and members of the Territorial Force are paid on the same scale as corresponding ranks of the regular Indian Army. Now, Sir, my Honourable friend, as I understand him, suggests that the Territorial Force should be paid at British rates, and I think he has recognised that, if this were done, a new distinction would be imported, a distinction between the Indian members of the Territorial Force and the Indian soldiers and officers of the regular Indian army. My Honourable friend, Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal, makes light of the difficulty which might arise from this distinction, but I can assure him the difficulty would be very serious. The Honourable Mover has suggested that the two things are not comparable, that the Territorial Force soldier in peace time and under training for a short period would receive certain allowances which would not bear comparison with the rates of pay of the regular soldier. But I am afraid he must have overlooked the fact that, before you can ask a man to enlist, you have got to lay down in regulations, as we have done in the case of the Territorial Force, what rates of pay and allowances he will get in all circumstances, not merely when he is being trained but when he is mobilised and takes his place side by side with the regular battalions of the Indian Army. My Honourable friend, Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal, suggests a way out of the difficulty, which is to pay the regular army at British rates. I shudder to think what my friend, the Finance Member, would say to this suggestion.

Dr. H. S. Gour (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Pay the British army at Indian rates.

Mr. E. Burdon: That again is a question of practicability and I think a relevant reply would be that the suggestion applies to the whole of our army system and that so long as our system of military service is voluntary and not compulsory, you have got to pay the man you want to have at market rates.

I now turn to the second part of the Resolution. Here, if I may venture to say so, I doubt if my Honourable friend the Mover has fully appreciated what a second line to the regular army is, or what its capacity and functions are. The function of the second line is to be partially trained in peace and, after a further period of intensive training after the outbreak of war, to join the active army as a part of it. As my Honourable friend, Captain Ajab Khan, has explained to the House, it takes 8 or 9 months to train a recruit, to harden him, to teach him his duties up to the standard of the soldiers of the regular army. The Territorial soldier having done a certain amount of training in peace time would, it is estimated, only take 6 months further training before being fit to join the regular forces, but he would not take less. The Territorial Force could not therefore be part of the active army on the outbreak of war. Let us see what the practice is in the other countries, where military science is highly developed, and it will be found that in no country are the front line troops, that is to say, the active army, brought up to full establishment on mobilisation by other than the most highly trained personnel. For example, in the great conscript armies the active army consists of troops actually under military training, brought up to strength on mobilisation by reservists of the most recent class, all of whom have completed their full period of service with the colours. Therefore, assuming for the moment that our active army at its present strength is no greater than what is required on mobilisation, then an increase in the Territorial Force would not make it possible to reduce the strength of that active army. I think there must be many Members of this House who realise the extent to which the army in India has been reduced since 1914. I have not the actual figures before me but, so far as I recollect, the total reduction in the combatant services is 37,000 men, 18,000 British and 18,000 Indian; and military experts will say with absolute confidence that the combatant army in India at the present moment has, relatively to its size, the largest task of any army in the world. These, however, are matters of controversy and matters of a very wide and general scope. I have mentioned them because a study of the terms of the Resolution reveals that this issue is actually raised by a Resolution which purports to deal with certain specific and individual matters affecting the Territorial and the Auxiliary Forces. But I am quite sure that the House will realise the necessity of appreciating the implications which flow from this Resolution in the terms in which it has been worded and will excuse me if I appear to have imported a larger and an extraneous matter into the discussion. Sir, if what I have said in regard to the second part of my Honourable friend's Resolution, and the purely technical reasons which I have given for offering it, carry conviction to the House, then the third part of the Resolution does not arise, and, in any case, I should hesitate to embark upon a discussion of the military expenditure of this country in connection with a Resolution which deals with certain specific matters relating to the Auxiliary and Territorial forces. I gather from the results of ballots that we shall probably have another opportunity in the course of this session of discussing questions of military expenditure as a whole and, therefore, for the moment, I do not think I need say anything more than merely draw attention to the results which have followed from the Retrenchment Committee's recommendations. Honourable Members have been informed in the course of the last few days that practically the whole of the Incheape cuts in the army services have been secured; and Lord Incheape's committee, drastic and ruthless though it was, did not suggest that any further large reduction was possible in the immediate future. Moreover, even

[Mr. E. Burdon.]

when the Committee foreshadowed a further reduction of military expenditure, it was careful not to commit itself to any suggestion that such reduction could be achieved by a diminution of the regular forces. With these words—I am afraid I must ask the indulgence of the House for having occupied so much of their time—my excuse is that the Resolution raises a larger number of issues and more important issues than at first sight appears. I hope that I have made it evident that it would be impossible for Government to accept the Resolution in the terms in which it is set.

Mr. President: As there are a number of Members who wish to speak, I propose now to adjourn till Twenty Minutes to Three.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Twenty Minutes to Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty Minutes to Three of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to support the Resolution that has been moved by Mr. Venkatapatiraju. The points that have been taken up in objection to the motion are only a few. The suggestion made by Captain Ajab Khan that a Committee might be appointed to consider the matters referred to in the Resolution and report is included in the Resolution even as it stands, which recommends that necessary steps should be taken to achieve the objects mentioned in the subsequent part of the Resolution. In that view the Resolution, as it stands, should be acceptable to this House, and I hope it will be. But, in order that the matter may not be left in any doubt, we might, if necessary, put in words to recommend distinctly that a Committee should be constituted, including Members of the Legislature, to investigate and report on what steps should be taken to improve and expand the Indian Territorial Force so as to constitute it an efficient second line of reserve to the regular army, and also to remove all racial distinctions in the constitution of the non-regular military forces in India, including the Indian Auxiliary Force. The objections which have been taken will be fully met if the Resolution is amended in the form in which I have suggested. The Members of the House will remember that the great point made by the Mover of the Resolution for the amalgamation of the two forces, the Territorial and the Auxiliary Force, was the desire to remove any racial distinction in the constitution of the non-regular military forces. That is the point upon which my friend, Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal, also laid great stress. If a Committee is constituted to consider what steps should be taken to remove all racial distinctions in the constitution of the non-regular military forces, the objection will be fully met, and the objection which has been raised to the Resolution on the ground of the difficulty of amalgamating the two forces will also have been met. The real situation ought to be faced, and that is this; that the Territorial Force has not hitherto become as popular as it should be. The blame might be laid upon the people, but I venture to say that the blame rests also upon the Government in not having properly organised the force. Secondly, by the racial distinction which has been made in the

constitution of the Auxiliary Force a further amount of objection has been given to the people. I can very well understand the argument that members of the Auxiliary Force are men who are engaged in business and they cannot be called away from their scenes of local activity to serve His Majesty's forces at a distant place. But there are Indians, merchants and business men living in large cities, who are unable to leave their districts or their city or town to serve in His Majesty's army elsewhere. If you put both of them on the same footing, there will be no racial invidiousness left then. Again, so far as the Territorial Force is concerned, it is high time that the Government of India made up their mind as to the policy which they are going to pursue. I do not know of any other country in the world which is groaning under the burden of military expenditure to the extent to which India is. I consider that expenditure as utterly unjustifiable; I consider that it is a very severe condemnation of the Government of India that such a huge amount of money is being spent on keeping up the army. We must go to the cause of it and we must also see the altered situation. The British Government in India was for a long time ruling this country with no idea of handing over the affairs of the country to the people, but by the Statute of 1919, the British Parliament declared that responsible government was the goal of British policy in India. If responsible government is to be established in India, the first, the most essential, reform to be carried out is the building up of an Indian army, the preparing of the Indian people for the defence of their own hearths and homes, for the defence of their mother land. I entirely endorse what my friend Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal said that we do not desire to leave the burden of defending the country to our English fellow subjects and take charge of the administration of the land; we want to do both; we want to take charge of the domestic administration as well as take up the defence of our own country.

When our English fellow-subjects needed our help at the time of a great crisis, we offered them that help: If we need their help at any future time, when we have taken charge of the administration of all affairs here. I expect they will render us similar help. But the ordinary duty of defending our country, of fighting our own opponents, must rest upon Indian shoulders; and, in order that it should so rest, Indians must be given a fair chance of preparing themselves for the defence of their country. As matters stand at present, that chance is not given. I regret to say it, but I feel I must say it, that the Government of India have not treated Indians fairly in the matter of training them for military defence. The ranks of His Majesty's Army have been long, long, closed to Indians. They were not admitted as commissioned officers until a few years ago, and even now the number that is being admitted is very scant. If you want Indians to be fit to defend their own country, you must let them have the same opportunities of training which English officers have had and are having. For that purpose it is time that the Government made up their minds to make over this responsibility of preparing for our national defence into Indian hands. The essential thing to do is to declare that hereafter the Government recognise that the administration of the Army in India is to be in the hands of British officers only for a short period of time, that, after a few years, everybody expects Indians to take charge of the administration of their own Army. If that decision is arrived at, the first thing to do is to put in an Indian to be in charge of National Defence. It is not good to leave the whole burden and responsibility of preparing for national defence, of administering the Army . . .

Mr. Darcy Lindsay (Bengal: European): I rise to a point of order. Are we dealing with the Army of India or are we dealing with the Auxiliary Force as apart from the Army?

Mr. President: I allowed the Honourable Member to proceed because his argument was germane to the subject. It is admittedly subsidiary and not the main subject of the Resolution; but I cannot rule it out of order.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: Thank you, Sir. It may be some relief to the Honourable Member, who raised the point of order, if I remind him of the speech delivered by Mr. Burdon. I wonder whether the Honourable Member was here when that speech was made, otherwise he would not have taken objection to what I said.

Now, Sir, the essential points that have been raised in this debate, and I am glad they have been raised, are—first, the constitution of the Regular Army; secondly, the constitution of the reserve, and thirdly the constitution of a second line of reserve to the Regular Army. Those are the three points discussed. The Territorial Force and the Auxiliary Force came in as some of the items under those three heads; and what I am submitting is this—that it is time that it should be recognised that Indians have to be given a fair opportunity of preparing themselves, of training themselves, for national defence, by Indianising the whole Army from top to bottom. That requires that the Government should make up their minds as to whether they are going to give Indians that opportunity. If the Government do make up their minds, I suggest that the best course would be that, while His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, in consultation with His Excellency the Viceroy or under the instructions of His Excellency the Viceroy, has administrative control of the Army, with which the Council does not interfere, there should be an Indian Member of Defence, of Home Defence, of National Defence, appointed—say, for instance, to begin with, in the place of Mr. Burdon. I hope he will not disapprove of this suggestion. Or, if you like, a Secretary as the Member for Home Defence in the Viceroy's Council—which would be better. It would be his responsibility to have charge of that portion of the Territorial Army which is to constitute the second line of reserve—the first line and the second line of reserve. The Regular Army may well be and must be for some time to come under the control of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief; but there is no reason why the first and second line of reserve should not be constituted, organised and kept up in the charge of an Indian non-military man as a member of the Viceroy's Council. Mr. Burdon is not a military man, and a non-military Indian might very well take up that responsibility or the responsibility of a Member for National Defence.

Now, Sir, the objections which have been raised to the present position of the Indian Territorial Force must be clearly understood. The Force has not been so organised as to inspire in the minds of Indians the feeling that they have hereafter to defend their own country. I ask Englishmen to play the game in this matter. I ask them to put themselves in the position of Indians. I ask them to consider whether if they were unfortunately, unhappily, in the position in which we are at present, what would have been their feelings, what would have been their sentiments, if they were not allowed a voice in the preparation of the Army which is to defend the country. I suggest that, placing themselves in our position, they should readily agree to this division of the work of

rational defence—namely, actual defence by the present first line of the Regular Army, and preparation for future defence by means of the first line of reserve and the second line of reserve. Mr. Burdon referred to what other countries have done. I would also like to refer to what other countries have done, and I will cite the instance of Japan. Japan had not an Army worth the name when in 1868 the Revolution took place. In the course of a few years Japan trained herself so well that in 1894-95 she inflicted a defeat on China. In the course of another few years her Army organisation was so good that she defeated Russia. How was that Army trained? We in India have been paying enormous sums for keeping up a large number of British officers. We, in India, have had the benefit of a large number of very capable, very honest and very gallant English soldiers who have from time to time been in charge of the Indian Army. But I ask Englishmen to say whether any serious effort has at any time been made to prepare Indians, to take Indians as comrades in the Army, to give Indians the opportunity to show whether they deserve to be in charge of the Army of their country. I ask that that opportunity should now be given. If you now decide that, the Territorial Force should be developed on up-to-date lines. It will not appeal to Indians so long as you keep it as it is. With the best of intentions, without any intention to prevent the development of the Territorial Force, with every desire that the Commander-in-Chief may have or the Government may have, of encouraging Indians to join the Indian Territorial Force, you will fail to do so unless you hand over charge of this department to a capable Indian who will be responsible to the people, whose words will appeal to the people much more than the words you address to them at present under the constitution of the Indian Territorial Force. For that purpose and also for the purpose of obliterating the distinctions which obtain between the Auxiliary Force and the Territorial Force, it is necessary that there should be a Committee constituted. Englishmen must make up their minds to live here in India as fellow citizens with their Indian brethren. I hope that the bias of race will be cast off now and for ever by all honest English fellow-subjects who own allegiance to His Majesty the King Emperor, and that they will decide to live in this country as fellow citizens with their Indian brothers. If that conclusion, that attitude of mind, is arrived at, then there will be no reason for keeping up this distinction that in the Auxiliary Force only British subjects will be admitted. Why only British subjects? Why should an Indian Judge of the High Court, who sits on the same Bench as his English brother, why should he be deprived of the privilege, of the right, of serving in the Auxiliary Force? Why should any other Indian, however high in the service of His Majesty or however high his position in society, be told he cannot enter the Auxiliary Force because he is not a British subject? I submit that it is an insult and an affront to Indians, though I quite agree with the Commander-in-Chief that he does not intend it and that Sir Charles Monro did not intend it. You may not intend it but look at the result. When there is no other basis upon which you can explain the difference you must excuse Indians if they feel that there is a racial distinction in this. Though you do not intend it, we want that this should be removed. We do not charge you with that intention, but we say the fact remains there. And it is necessary that you should obliterate the distinction by making the Force open to Indians of all classes and all creeds. You may impose the same conditions, you may impose the same obligations upon Indians as upon British subjects, but do not please try to exclude Indians merely on the ground that they do not happen to be British-born subjects.

[Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.]

These objects are of very great importance; and I submit that, in order that the matter may be thoroughly investigated, this 3 P.M. Resolution should be accepted. In order that there should be no misunderstanding about the object, I have suggested a change in the language which I hope will commend itself to my friend, the Mover, and will be acceptable to the House. If you will permit me, Sir, I would substitute the following for the Resolution which has been moved by my friend, Mr. Venkatapatiraju, namely :

“That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that a Committee, including Members of the Legislature, be immediately appointed to investigate and report on what steps should be taken to improve and expand the Indian Territorial Force so as to constitute it an efficient second line of reserve to the regular army and also to remove all racial distinctions in the constitution of the non-regular military forces in India including the Indian Auxiliary Force.”

I hope, Sir, that this proposal in the form in which I have put it will commend itself to the Mover and to the House. The necessity for such a proposal is very pressing. At Dehra Dun a college has been opened for imparting training to Indians as officers of the Indian Army. We Indians consider that the provision is inadequate and unsatisfactory. We feel that even if in 20 years' time the Indian Army is to be thoroughly Indianised in the sense of being administered from the top to the bottom by Indians who have been trained as officers, we feel that the provision for training Indians as officers must be very much greater than it is at present. In England you have boys being trained for military work at schools. You pick up boys who are promising, whom you consider promising, for this kind of work, you send them to a central school, you send them to universities and then to a central place for training them. Then they receive training all over the country and it is only by that means that you are able to find a sufficient number of officers. Under your present system, you have very many regulations and restrictions in the selection of students who are to be sent up for military training. What we want to recommend is that, while you place the task of national defence in the hands of non-military Indians in the Viceroy's Council, you should also institute a system similar to that which obtains in England, similar to that which obtains in Japan, whereby lads all over the country, Indian youths, will be told that it is their duty to their country and a matter of pride to them that they should prepare themselves for national defence. Without this feeling of patriotism English young men would not have offered themselves as sacrifices during the late war. Without this feeling of patriotism inspiring them the Japanese would not have thrown themselves into the fight at Port Arthur and won a victory which shed lustre upon their martial prowess and strength. Without this feeling of patriotism the French people would not have been able to hold possession of their own land; and I submit that, if Indians are to be prepared for national defence, direct teaching of patriotism should be introduced into schools all over the land and efforts should be made to create a citizen association, a citizen army to which all classes of the people will lend their support. I would go further. The Indian Princes and Native States are also interested in it as well as British India is, and I would suggest that at the centre there should be a Committee constituted on which Indian Princes should be represented, as well as Members of the Legislature; and the whole matter of preparing India for national defence should be gone into. It is not for the present moment of course; but I throw out the suggestion, for it is

worth considering, that we should enlist the manhood of the whole of India and the interests and patriotism of Indians in the work of preparing for national defence. If we want to create a citizen army, we must create a citizen association and that association must work in every district to pick up young men of promise and give them the necessary military training, to inspire them with the necessary feeling of patriotism and to prepare them for the most honourable task which can befall a man, namely, to offer his life, if need be, in the service of his motherland. I hope, if the Committee is constituted with that object, that before long the results will be gratifying to every one interested in the welfare of India. I do not wish to touch here upon the question of expenditure, though I feel certain that the question of expenditure is involved in it and though I feel certain also that in course of time this is the only method by which you can reduce the huge military expenditure of the present day to proper limits. For these reasons, I commend this amendment to my friend, the Mover, and to the House, and I hope that the House will unanimously give effect to it.

Mr. Abdul Haya (East Punjab: Muhammadan): It is a matter of great satisfaction, Sir, that this Resolution of my Honourable friend, Mr. Venkatapatiraju, has met with very slight and meagre opposition, so far as the non-official Members are concerned. But, Sir, it is a matter of extreme regret for me that the solitary voice, so far as the non-official Members are concerned, that has been raised against this Resolution, is the voice of a Muhammadan, and the voice of a gentleman who hails from the Punjab, the province to which I have the honour to belong. I feel called upon to rise and assure this Honourable House that my Honourable and gallant friend, Captain Ajab Khan, does not represent the views of the Mussalmans of India, or, for the matter of that, of the Punjab. The position that he has taken up here in this House, it seems to me, is like his name, Captain Ajab Khan; the position is also 'ajab' . . .

Captain Ajab Khan: On a point of order, Sir. Are there any personal references to be made in speeches by Honourable Members of this House?

Mr. President: It depends how far the personal reference goes.

Mr. Abdul Haya: I may submit that I mean no disrespect or disparagement to my Honourable and gallant friend.

Before I sit down, Sir, I should make an appeal to the European Members of this Honourable House. Before we proceed to vote upon this important Resolution, I would ask you, Sir, to look behind and cast a glance over the history of those six long years during which the great war was raging in Europe. For God's sake, bear in your minds as to what the Punjab and India did in those days. It is high time that some mark of gratitude should be shown to the spirit which induced us in those days to rally round the banner of Great Britain to do our little bit in that great war, not only in the interests of India, but in the interests of the British Empire and in the interests of the whole of Europe.

Colonel Sir Henry Stanyon (United Provinces: European): Sir, a good deal of extraneous matter with a certain amount of excitement has been introduced into the debate on the proposal now before the House. The speeches that have been made touch on burning questions which have been spoken of all over India. Some of the utterances that have fallen from the capable speakers that have gone before have stirred my blood and

[Colonel Sir Henry Stanyon.]

excited my admiration. But they have left my judgment on the simple issue before the House untouched. I do not attempt to enter into any of the questions of national defence, of an improved status for the Territorial Army in India, of the training of Indians to govern all classes and stages of national defence in this country, or of the appointment of some civilian Indian to be a sort of Field-Marshal. I have nothing to say on these points whatever. I seek to confine myself to the simple question raised by the Resolution before the House. Let us strip the proposal of its garb of sentiment, however beautiful and admirable. I admire a great deal of that sentiment, but let us examine the Resolution as a practical proposition. This examination has to be made in the light of events as they are to-day. We are entitled to ponder on the brilliant possibilities of a gilded future—to hope for them, to pray for them; but we cannot legitimately use them in dealing with a present day problem. We may look forward to a day when India will be a nation, when it will have a single national regular army, and when that army will be supplemented by a single national auxiliary force; but that day is not yet. We have at the present time an India working towards unification, advancement and progress in every direction, and I say in all sincerity, God help that India; but it is doing so at present under the protection from outside aggression of a regular army composed of two distinct branches, the British forces and the Indian forces. The duty of acting as a second line to the British forces has always been entrusted to what is to-day called the Auxiliary Force, formerly the Indian Volunteer Force. After the apprehension and bitterness caused by the Mutiny of 1857 had passed away, and mutual trust grew stronger, it was natural that the Indians should seek an auxiliary line of their own. That aspiration has been met by the creation of a Territorial Force. I am not now concerned with whether the organization of that force is satisfactory or not satisfactory. I think there is no doubt that it is not as popular as one might hope that it should be. But what we have to look at is this, that in the regular army we have two distinct branches. The amalgamation of these two branches in the regular army will, I think, be admitted to be an absolute impossibility at the present time. It would be illogical and equally impracticable to attempt any fusion—and that is what is proposed in the Resolution before the House—any fusion of the two branches of the Auxiliary Force. Take it on the simple and necessary ground of efficiency. Would it improve the efficiency of these two auxiliary lines if attempts were made to fuse them? Would it improve the fighting power of two bull dogs to leave their heads apart and tie their tails together? There is no question about it, that the demand which was made in such enthusiastic words by my friend Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal for improved military training, would at once be nullified if any attempt was made to carry out this fusion. The claim that has been advanced that Indians should be allowed to take their share in the military defence of the country and that they should receive the same trust and treatment as their European and Anglo-Indian fellow subjects is one which every rightminded man will admit to be just. By all means let everything be done in order that members of the Territorial Force may feel that they have equal responsibilities with the members of the Auxiliary Force. In a calm and dispassionate exposition of the whole matter, the Honourable Mr. Burdon has pointed out that the Territorials have a greater responsibility than the Auxiliary Force. We, of the Auxiliary Force, past and present, do not complain of that, because the Auxiliary Force members have their limi-

tations. They cannot give more than a very limited time to military training. There is no such thing as a leisured class of Europeans in India. The men who get up early in the morning and shoulder their rifles to learn how to drill and to shoot straight so as to help in the defence of the country, are men who can't spare the time required for that purpose; and, therefore, their training has always been of anything from a second to a fourth class standard. I myself served for over 30 years in the Auxiliary Force, and for a period of 15 years I had the honour of commanding an administrative battalion; and I say without hesitation that any attempt to place in one battalion or one company an indiscriminate medley of Indians and Europeans and Anglo-Indians would mean a very severe blow to anything in the way of military efficiency.

My friend, Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal, said, "let Indians be trusted". To that sentiment I respond "Amen". But I have another sentiment to put forward to which I hope he will give the same answer. It is "Let Indians trust". Let not Indians think that everything that is done for the sake of efficiency is animated by class feeling. Because there is a difference in treatment due to differences in class and race and feelings and character, which are entirely beyond our control, let it not be said in season and out of season that such treatment is dictated by racial feelings or racial animosity. If trust is wanted, trust must be given. But all these things—I mean all these remarks about Indians being trusted and about the improvement of the Territorial Force—have nothing whatever to do with the question immediately before the House. That question is one of fusion of the two branches of the second line. Now, if the extent of responsibility is a measure of the trust reposed, then I think, from the light that has been thrown on the matter by the statement of the Honourable Mr. Burdon, that greater trust is reposed in the Indian Territorials. I have said already we do not complain of that because we are not capable of undertaking so much responsibility as has been given to the Indian Territorials. As a Commandant I often had applications from educated Indians and friends of mine who sought to be enrolled as volunteers in the battalion under my command, and I never had any difficulty in convincing them individually of the invidious position in which they would find themselves if I had been competent, which I was not, to accede to that request. Let the House treat this matter in sober judgment. Let the Auxiliaries and Territorials receive equal treatment and equal trust. Let them cultivate a brotherhood and comradeship which will stand them and the Empire in good stead on the day of trial. Let an honest friendly spirit of emulation towards the attainment of military training secure the increased efficiency of both branches. Away with all jealousies and distrust. Let us in future stand, as we stood in very recent years in the past, shoulder to shoulder, believing in each other's good intentions and recognising that, while there are differences which are beyond our control, separate organisations remain necessary. I suggest to the Honourable the Mover, whose moderation in moving this proposal I recognise, that he has rendered a public service in having this matter thoroughly debated, by giving opportunity to all who hold different views in this House to say everything which they desire to advance. But the subject having been ventilated, I submit that it would be a misfortune to drive this House to a division on the matter. The question of fusion is one for military experts, not for judgment by non-military legislators. It is a matter to be decided with reference to military efficiency and not

[Colonel Sir Henry Stanyon.]

with reference to political sentiment. I happen to be one of the two non-officials who only have ventured to raise their voices against this proposal, but we are also the only two who had any personal experience, the one of serving in the Territorial Force, the other in the Auxiliary Force.

Dr. H. S. Gour: Sir, I did not intend to interpose in this debate but my friend, Sir Henry Stanyon, has compelled me to do so. He characterises the proposal as impossible, illogical and impracticable. But I am perfectly certain that my learned friend will be the first to admit that, while the Auxiliary Force is manned by the middle classes of Europeans and Anglo-Indians or such as pass as Anglo-Indians, the Indian Territorial Force is closed to all middle-class Indians. And why is it? The reason has been given by Mr. Burdon, speaking on behalf of the Army Department. He has told us that, so far as Europeans and Anglo-Indians are concerned, they are treated as Auxiliary Forces to the British Army in India, but so far as the Territorial Forces are concerned, they are treated as a second line to the Indian Army. Now, in plain prose, what it means is this. Every European and Anglo-Indian, as soon as he joins the Auxiliary Force, becomes at once entitled to the pay and privileges of a British soldier, whereas an Indian seeking admission in the Indian Territorial Forces will be treated for all practical purposes as a sepoy. Now, does my friend, Colonel Sir Henry Stanyon, vindicate a position of this character? He tells us that many of his friends have asked him for a place in the battalion of which he was so distinguished a Commandant, but he said he was not in a position to accede to the request because there was the racial bar. (*Colonel Sir Henry Stanyon:* "I did not say anything of the kind.") Well, because under the rules under which he was then acting, he could not admit an Indian to his command. Well, let it be. What the people of this country want, and what this Resolution demands, is that the internal defence of the country must be in the hands of the people of this country. And, when we ask for the assimilation of the Territorial Force to the Auxiliary Force, we do not want a fusion of the two Forces. What we demand is that the rights and privileges should be given to the Territorial Force which would induce the middle class people and our young men in colleges to join these battalions and to multiply the number, which the military authorities and I am certain His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief should be glad to welcome. The terms and conditions upon which the Indian Territorial Force is at present recruited precludes the possibility of any but of the very lowest class joining the ranks. (*Mr. E. Burdon:* "Certainly not.") And it is against that and it is in order to induce the educated classes to join the Territorial Force that the Members of this House ask His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the military authorities to accept the Resolution. We have been told by the Honourable Mr. Burdon that of the two Forces—the Territorial and the Auxiliary—the Territorial Force enjoys privileges denied to the Auxiliary Force. And my learned friend, Sir Henry Stanyon, repeated that statement. And he said he does not grumble that the Indian Territorial Force enjoys privileges denied to the Auxiliary Force. Now, if you analyse the speech of the Honourable Mr. Burdon, you will find these are the privileges to which the Indian Territorial Forces are subjected and to which

Mr. E. Burdon: May I explain that the word I used was not 'privilege' but 'liability'.

Dr. H. S. Gour: He calls it liability. He would permit me to call them privileges. Now, look at the distinction. We know, and I rely upon the statement which has been made on the floor of this House by responsible Members of the Government, that the cost of keeping a British soldier in this country is something like $5\frac{1}{2}$ times the cost of the maintenance of an Indian soldier, and by parity of reasoning the cost of an Auxiliary soldier would be exactly the same in comparison with an Indian soldier. Roughly speaking, therefore, the cost of each member of the Auxiliary Force as compared with a member of the Territorial Force would be in the ratio of 1 : 5. That is liability No. 1. But it is a liability which you and I have to shoulder—which the tax-payer has to shoulder. But, so far as the Auxiliary Force is concerned it is a privilege confined to the members of the European and domiciled communities. Now, that is liability No. 1. We pass on to liability No. 2. We have been told in language at once naive and frank that so far as the European and Anglo-Indian members of the Auxiliary Forces are concerned, their services are confined to internal defence, but, so far as the members of the Territorial Forces are concerned, they are liable to serve inside and outside of India. My friend Sir Henry Stanyon says that he does not grumble at it. If he does not grumble at it, I do, because I think it is the duty of all volunteer forces that they should be used for the purpose of internal defence. How is the internal defence of this country at present managed? His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will tell you that the British soldiers are employed for the purpose of preserving peace and order. When the British were in this country as a ruling race, when the bureaucracy was paramount and committed to no degree of responsibility in this country, I can understand and I can justify the presence of the British garrison in this country. Now, with the advent of the reforms and with the declaration made on the floor of the House of Commons that there would be a progressive realisation of responsible government in this country, I should like to see a progressive diminution of the British garrison in this country. Has it come about? I asked His Excellency "What reduction have you made in the British garrison kept and maintained for the preservation of peace and order in this country? Where is the progressive realisation of responsibility in the military in the reduction of the British garrison in this country?" We have been complaining, and complaining times out of number, that the British garrison in India is inconsistent with the underlying principle of reforms, and I think, Sir, that the sooner this fact is realised by this House, the better would it be for all concerned.

Then, Sir, the Honourable Mr. Burdon placed before this House a third liability, a terrible liability. He said that, so far as the Auxiliary Forces are concerned, they have less work to do, but that, so far as the Territorial Forces are concerned, they have more work to do, and that is a liability of the Auxiliary Force. They work less, are paid more and their services are confined to this country. We get less, we work more and we are liable to longer service and when it comes to the question of enlistment, then we are told "You shall, when employed, be a sepoy". And there are other liabilities to which Mr. Burdon has not alluded. The auxiliaries are trained in the use of machine guns, artillery and wireless, to which the Territorial need not aspire. So far as the auxiliary members of the Auxiliary Forces are concerned, they are part and parcel of the British Army in India. And so is their equipment. Now, we have been told that this distinction between Europeans and Indians is maintained on the ground of efficiency. I think His Excellency Lord Rawlinson

[Dr. H. S. Gour.]

reminded this House of the gallantry and the bravery of the Indian forces on the battle-field of Flanders. I ask him, "Was there any lack of efficiency in the million and a quarter men that we produced and sent overseas to fight the battle of England on the great battle-field of France?" And, if we have discharged this great obligation, surely, Sir, efficiency could not be a bar to the creation of a national defence army on the lines suggested by the Honourable the Mover of this Resolution. I am surprised to see my learned and gallant friend Sir Henry Stanyon playing the rôle of a partisan. He began by asking this House not to run away with sentiments and he wound up by what I cannot but characterise as a case of special pleading that "You are Indians and we are Englishmen, but our character and our environments and a number of other things make the fusion of the Indian Territorial Force with the British Auxiliary Force impossible, and therefore do not ask for it." Well, Sir, I think we have shown that neither on the ground of efficiency nor on the ground of economy nor on the ground of national unity can this House negative the Resolution moved by my friend Mr. Raju. I certainly endorse every word that has fallen from the Honourable Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and I think this House would be well advised in accepting his amendment. I think, Sir, his amendment does not really contradict the Resolution moved by the Honourable Mr. Raju. Both convey the same sentiments and we should be well advised in passing Mr. Malaviya's amendment and give His Excellency a chance to improve the lot and condition of the Indian Territorial Force not only in the interests of the Army in India but in the interests of the solidarity of the British Empire, in the interests of peace and progress in this country, and I beseech His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to rise equal to the occasion and say that he is prepared to accept, on behalf of Government, the very reasonable amendment moved by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I wish to associate myself with the amendment which has been moved by the Honourable Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. Sir, when we make a demand for home rule, we are often told that we are not capable of managing our own affairs. We are told that we have no military training and that we cannot safeguard the frontiers of this country. But, Sir, when we express a desire to get military training, we are told that there are practical difficulties in the way. Sir, may I know if there is anything in the world in which there are no practical difficulties? But, then, Sir, practical difficulties are to be faced and overcome. If an Indian soldier can shed his blood on the holy soil of France and Flanders, I do not see any reason why he cannot stand shoulder to shoulder with his British comrade on his own soil in India. I think, Sir, it is high time that these racial distinctions should be done away with and that Indians should be allowed to have military training along with the European regiments. With these remarks, I beg to support the amendment.

Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao (Godavari cum Kistna: Non-Muhammadan Rural): My Honourable friend, Sir Henry Stanyon, seems to have entirely overlooked the terms of the amendment of my Honourable friend who sits by his side. That amendment distinctly contemplates the continuance of both the Indian Territorial Force and the Indian Auxiliary Force, at any rate for the present. (Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya:

“ Not necessarily. ”) In the first portion of this amendment it is suggested that a Committee should be appointed to report what steps should be taken to improve and expand the Indian Territorial Force so as to constitute it an efficient second line of reserve to the regular army. That is quite clear, and, after hearing Mr. Burdon who pointed out many military and administrative difficulties, I, at any rate, fully recognise that the first question for consideration is the question of expanding the Indian Territorial Force into a second line of reserve to the regular army and improving it. The proposed Committee would be charged with the duty of suggesting ways and means for improving the Indian Territorial Force into a second line of reserve to the regular army. The second portion of this amendment proceeds to suggest that all racial distinctions in the constitution of the non-regular military forces in India, including the Indian Auxiliary Force, should be removed. If I understand my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Stanyon, I take it that he objects to this clause. Sir, the question of removing these racial distinctions in the constitution of these non-regular military forces has been discussed so often, and to-day we have heard two of my esteemed friends, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya and Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal, who, with eloquence, sincerity and cogency of argument, have placed before us considerations which should go far towards the removal of these distinctions. Therefore, Sir, while I think that all the arguments urged by my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Stanyon, as regards fusion, would certainly be relevant, if the original proposition were taken by itself; but, in view of the amendment that is proposed, and in view of the continuance of the Indian Territorial Force and the suggestion that is now made to expand it into a second line of reserve to the regular army, and, in view also of the second clause which suggests the removal of racial distinctions in regard to the Indian Auxiliary Force, I hope my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Stanyon, will vote for this amendment. He has said that extraneous considerations have been imported into this discussion, and I for one think that my Honourable friend himself should plead guilty to that charge. I therefore request the House to consider this amendment in the exact terms in which it is proposed and I trust that my Honourable friend, Sir Henry Stanyon, will give his assent to this amendment.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief: Sir, after what has fallen from the lips of the last speaker, my Honourable friend, Mr. Ramachandra Rao, I rise to say a word or two in connection with the amendment that has been proposed. After the elucidation of the amendment itself by the last speaker, I am prepared to accept it as put forward. I may say I have listened to the debate in this House to-day with very considerable interest. As you probably know, I had something to do with the initiation, and, the progress of the Territorial Force during the last three years, and I have a soft place in my heart for that Territorial Force. It has progressed in the past beyond the expectations that I first formed regarding it, and in some units—I say in some, not in all—it has really attained quite a satisfactory degree of efficiency. But when I read the Resolution, as put forward by my Honourable friend, the Mover of the Resolution, and when I saw that it was proposed by him to amalgamate the Territorial Force with the Auxiliary Force, I confess my heart sank, for I knew that, from the point of view of the organisation, and future efficiency of the Territorial Force itself, it could have nothing but disastrous results. For that reason I determined that it was impossible for me as the Commander-in-Chief to accept the Resolution as proposed. During the course of the debate I have listened with considerable interest to a certain amount of

[His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.]

extraneous eloquence that has been introduced into the discussion of the Resolution itself. I observed in many of the speeches of my Honourable friends the indication of a certain racial feeling, and discrimination as between the Territorial and the Auxiliary Forces and I noted this with very considerable regret. From my experience—I dare say I have seen as much, if not more, both of the Territorial Force and the Auxiliary Force than many Honourable Members of this House—I confess it seems to me that the racial discrimination, which Honourable Members have so constantly referred to, is really in large measure confined to this House. I do not find it outside, I have not come across it in the Forces themselves, and I think to a large extent, it is confined, or at any rate it is far more prevalent in this House than it is outside. Well, I do not wish to detain the House at any length, but I do wish to say that anything I can do to assist in improving and increasing the efficiency of the Territorial Force within the limits which have been imposed upon us up to the present by the Secretary of State, I shall do and I welcome any opportunity that will further that object.* It is for that reason that I am prepared to accept the amendment that has been put forward by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: May I ask whether His Excellency will tell us what the limits proposed by the Secretary of State are, to which he has referred?

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief: I think that has been answered more than once in questions that have been replied to by my Honourable friend Mr. Burdon. The limit is 20,000 men and I am not allowed to increase beyond that number for the present.

Dr. H. S. Gour: Is there any limit in regard to the Auxiliary Force?

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief: The limit applies only to the Territorial Force.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: I want to explain that I was under the impression that there will be no limit imposed upon the number of members who might be enlisted in the Territorial Force. If the Government is prepared to accept the amendment in that sense, I shall welcome their attitude and be grateful for it but, if the strength is to be limited to the enlistment or recruitment of only 20,000 men in the Indian Territorial Force, then I submit I will withdraw my amendment and not ask for the appointment of a Committee for this purpose. I consider that it would be a grave wrong to the country and to the sentiments of my people, if I were to content myself with the proposition that the Indian Territorial Force which is to train Indians for the defence of their own country, should be limited in numbers to 20,000 men only.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief: I was under the impression that Honourable Members were aware of the limit which had been imposed by the Secretary of State, because it has more than once been published to the House. There is nothing new about it. At the same time I am not prepared to say that the limit is permanent and, from my point of view, I am quite prepared, if the units continue to be the success that they have been, to consider its expansion. At the present moment, of course, we are not up to establishment. I think that the total numbers in the Territorial Force at the present time are between 15,000 and 16,000 men. We,

therefore, have a balance of some 5,000 men still to make up. When those units get up to the total limit of 20,000, and when the experiment, (for it is an experiment) has proved a success, I have no objection to advocating its expansion.

Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya: I wish to clear the matter. If the Government is prepared to agree that this Committee should investigate and report what numbers may be enlisted in the Indian Territorial Force, then I shall press my amendment. I do not want His Excellency to commit himself to any particular number. I only want that the matter should be left open to the Committee to consider and report what numbers may be enlisted. If he sees his way to accept it, I shall be grateful.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief: I think the wording of the amendment already covers that point for it reads 'to investigate and report what steps should be taken to improve and expand the Territorial Force'. I am prepared to accept that.

Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Bombay City: Muhammadan Urban): After the speech of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief all I wish to emphasise is this. He said that racial feeling was merely in the imagination of some Members of the House. That, unfortunately, is not a fact. But I do not wish to say anything further on that point now. I want the House to understand this. When Sir Henry Stanyon spoke, he devoted all his arguments to the question of amalgamation of the Auxiliary Force and the Territorial Force as if that was the only question before the House. May I draw the attention of the Honourable Member and the House to the fact that this is not the only question before the House. That undoubtedly is the first part of the Resolution. The amendment before the House does not deal with the fusion or the amalgamation of the Auxiliary and the Territorial Force. The amendment, as it stands, simply deals with the question, first, that this Committee is to investigate what steps should be taken to improve and expand the Indian Territorial Force so as to constitute it an efficient second line of reserve to the regular army. That is question No. 1. The second is also to remove all racial distinctions in the constitution of non-regular military forces in India including the Indian Auxiliary Force. Therefore, the Resolution was not the only question before the House and the Honourable Member never said a word about this amendment. I take it that he is agreeable to that. If that is so, I am very glad that the Government is also agreeable to that. Regarding extraneous matters, I do not wish to say anything just now, because, if the House is going to refer this question to the Committee, the Committee will thresh out all the details, pros and cons, and even this evil, which I deprecate, the racial distinction, and the Committee will make its report, which will come to this House, and I am sure that this House will be able to deal with that report. With these remarks I support the amendment.

Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju: We are thankful to the Government for small mercies. I have not yet heard either from the Honourable Mr. Burdon or His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief that improvement means allowing them to join the gunnery corps or the artillery corps. I presume improvement includes that. As for increasing the number, he does not want to place any restriction on increasing the number. At the close of to-day's discussion, when we have got on so harmoniously, I have no objection, if all parties agree to this course, to accept the amendment.

Mr. President: The original question was :

“ That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that necessary steps be taken :

- (a) for the amalgamation of the Indian Territorial Force and the Auxiliary Force for the combined purpose of supplementing the Regular Forces in support of the civil power and for internal security and as a second line to the Regular Army and removal of all distinctions whatsoever as well as in the matter of duties and privileges;
- (b) to increase the strength by the annual addition of ten thousand till it reaches the figure which would enable the gradual reduction of Regular Forces by one-half of the present strength for peace establishment;
- (c) to provide adequate funds for the efficient organisation and training of the same serviceable for military purposes by corresponding reduction in other avoidable military expenditure.”

Since which an amendment has been moved to substitute the following for the original Resolution :

“ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that a Committee, including Members of the Legislature, be immediately appointed to investigate and report what steps should be taken to improve and expand the Indian Territorial Force so as to constitute it an efficient second line of reserve to the regular army and also to remove all racial distinctions in the constitution of the non-regular military forces in India including the Auxiliary Force.”

Mr. President: The question I have to put is that that amendment be made.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is that the Resolution, as amended, be adopted.

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION RE MUHAMMADAN REPRESENTATION.

Mr. K. Ahmed (Rajshahi Division: Muhammadan Rural): As an identical Resolution is coming on for discussion on another day, namely, the 14th of February next, I do not move my Resolution.*

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 6th February, 1924.

* “ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he may be pleased to take steps to give gradual effect to the following :

- (i) in a Province where Muhammadans are in a majority, they will get 52 per cent. and non-Muhammadans 48, and
- (ii) where the non-Muhammadans are in a majority, they will get 75 per cent. and the Muhammadans 25 per cent. of representation in both the Indian and Provincial Legislatures and Government services as far as possible.”