

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

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THURSDAY, 28th JANUARY, 1926

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## OFFICIAL REPORT



### CONTENTS

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Questions and Answers.

Unstarred Questions and Answers.

Statement of Business.

Resolution *re* Unemployment among the Middle  
Classes—Adopted as amended.

The Indian Naturalisation Bill—Presentation of the  
Report of the Select Committee.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 28th January, 1926.

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

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### RECOVERIES FROM THE BRITISH TREASURY ON ACCOUNT OF DRAWINGS BY THE IRAQ ADMINISTRATION ON INDIA, ETC.

342. \***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Indian Exchequer received from the British Exchequer the £1,700,000 mentioned in the explanatory memorandum by the Financial Secretary on the Budget of the Government of India 1925-26 regarding recoveries on account of drawing by the Iraq administration on India, and whether any additional amount is still due on that account?

(b) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the complaints in London by the Public Accounts Committee taking exception in their report to two payments to the Government of India, the first being one of £2,301 being half the cost of the passages by the Indian Marine steamer for the High Commissioner of Iraq in 1920 and the second £47,338 being the expenses of a mission to the Sultan of Nezd in 1917-18 and stating that those refer to expenditure incurred by the Government of India and the saddling of the British Government with a moiety of it?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state why India should pay even a moiety of the expenditure for the journey of the High Commissioner of Iraq and for negotiations with the Sultan of Nezd and whether it was not incurred wholly for Imperial purposes and in pursuance of Imperial policy?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** (a) Recoveries are made in England from month to month as disbursements are made in India. The amount in question does not relate to any old outstandings but merely represents one of the methods in which remittances are made to London for purposes of the Government of India's expenditure there.

(b) and (c). The Government have seen the Report of the Public Accounts Committee referred to. It does not bear out the suggestion in the question that the Government of India bore a moiety of either of the two items of £47,338 and £2,301 respectively. Payments on this account were initially made by the Government of India on behalf of His Majesty's Government, and the amounts disbursed have since been recovered in full.

### WAR CLAIMS UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AND INDIA.

348. \***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether there were any outstanding unadjusted balances between England and India on the 31st March 1925, and, if so, what was the amount due from England to India and whether any interest will be paid by England on final adjustments?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I assume that the Honourable Member refers in question No. 843 to the war claims under discussion between His Majesty's Government and India. Negotiations are still in progress and I hope that a conclusion satisfactory to India will shortly be reached; I am not yet in a position to make any further statement.

FUNERAL EXPENSES OF THE LATE EX-QUEEN SUPAYALAT OF BURMA.

344. \***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the amount of Rs. 20,000 sanctioned for the funeral expenses of late ex-Queen Supayalat of Burma was paid by the Central Government?

Why should Rs. 5,000 in excess of the amount sanctioned for the funeral of the late ex-King Thibaw be spent on this occasion?

Will the Government be pleased to state what was the monthly allowance paid to the late ex-Queen Supayalat?

**Sir Denys Bray:** 1. Yes, Sir.

2. Because the funeral of the ex-Queen took place at Rangoon, where a more elaborate ceremonial in accordance with Burmese traditions was expected by local public opinion and was actually practicable than at Ratnagiri, where very few Burmans could be present to take part in the funeral of the late ex-King Thibaw.

3. Rupees 2,500.

STANDARD MINIMUM WAGES FOR INDIAN LABOURERS IN CEYLON, THE MALAY STATES, FIJI AND BRITISH GUIANA.

345. \***Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether a legal minimum wage was fixed for Indian labourers in Ceylon, the Malay States, Fiji and British Guiana, and, if so, what are the respective amounts fixed in the several places?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the minimum wage fixed eliminates extra profit of industry which arises from oppression of the workman?

**Mr. J. W. Bore:** (a) A legal standard wage has as yet been fixed only in the districts of Klang, Kuala Selangor and Kuala Langat of the State of Selangor in the Federated Malay States, the rates fixed being 40 dollar cents. for male labourers and 30 dollar cents. for female labourers. The question of fixing a suitable standard wage for Indian labourers throughout Ceylon and Malaya, to which Colonies alone emigration of unskilled labour is at present lawful under the provisions of the Indian Emigration Act, is under consideration. As regards Fiji and British Guiana, the reply is in the negative.

(b) The standard wage for the Klang, Kuala Selangor and Kuala Langat districts referred to above has been fixed by the Government of the Federated Malay States and the Government of India are not in a position to say to what extent it affects the profits derived by the employers of Indian labour. The question of the adequacy of the rates fixed, however, is being considered along with the general question of fixing standard wages for Indian labourers in Malaya.

ORDER PASSED ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIJI DEPUTATION.

346. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:** Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the final orders of the Government on the recommendations unanimously made by the Indian Deputation to Fiji in 1922?

**Mr. J. W. Bhow:** As indicated in my reply to part (d) of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's question, regarding Indians in Fiji, the Colonies Committee of the Government of India made representations in regard to the more important recommendations of the Fiji Deputation to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and these are still the subject of discussion. Pending the conclusions of the negotiations, no final orders can be passed by Government on the recommendations contained in the Deputation's Report.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** How can the Government justify the expenditure of the ratepayers' money over a deputation whose report they want to suppress?

**Mr. J. W. Bhow:** My Honourable friend is quite wrong in suggesting that we wish to suppress anything. He does the deputation less than justice when he suggests that their report has not been of the utmost value to the Government of India in enabling them to carry on negotiations with the Colonial Office.

**Mr. A. Ranganaswami Iyengar:** May I know if it will be possible for the Government to pass final orders during the lifetime of either of the members of the deputation?

EMIGRATION OF INDIAN LABOURERS FROM FIJI TO THE TAHITI ISLANDS.

347. **\*Mr. B. Venkatapatiraju:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government of India have any objection to send 3,000 Indian labourers from Fiji to the Tahiti Islands as requested by the President of the Chamber of Agriculture in Tahiti?

(b) If so, are the Government of India prepared to enter into negotiations with the French Government so as to afford facilities to Indian labourers in Fiji to earn a decent livelihood elsewhere?

**Mr. J. W. Bhow:** (a) and (b). Proposals for the emigration of Indian labourers from Fiji to Tahiti have not been placed before the Government of India, and they are not prepared to commit themselves to initiating negotiations on the subject without more information than they at present possess.

TOTAL INCREASE OF INCOME IN THE ACTUALS OF 1924-25.

348. **\*Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what has been the total increase of income in the actuals of 1924-25 as against the revised budget estimates?

(b) Will they be pleased to state how much the actual expenditure for 1924-25 is less than the revised budget under (1) 'Capital' and (2) 'Revenue Expenditure' of each department of Administration as follows:

- |                          |                |                                     |
|--------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Military,             | 4. Customs,    | 7. Currency,                        |
| 2. Railway,              | 5. Income-tax, | 8. Reduction and avoidance of debt, |
| 3. Posts and Telegraphs, | 6. Salt,       | 9. General Administration,          |

and other Departments?

## MILITARY AND RAILWAY EXPENDITURE.

849. \*Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state in a tabular form the difference between the revised estimate of 1924-25 under each sub-head of the various items of military expenditure and the actuals of the same year as shown below?

Hends	1924-25.					
	REVISED ESTIMATE.			ACTUALS.		
	Gross expenditure.	Receipts.	Net expenditure.	Gross expenditure.	Receipts.	Net expenditure.
<i>Part A.—Standing Army—</i>						
1. Maintenance of the Standing Army.						
2. Cost of education, etc., establishments and working expenses of Hospitals and Depots, etc.						
3. Army Headquarters staff of commands, etc.						
4. Stock account						
5. Special services						
6. Miscellaneous charges and receipts.						
7. Non-effective charges						
Total Part A.—Standing Army						
<i>Part B.—Auxiliary and Territorial forces.</i>						
<i>Part C.—Royal Air Force</i>						
GRAND TOTAL						

(b) Will the Government be pleased to give similar comparative figures showing the revised estimate and the actuals of 1924-25 for the various sub-heads of expenditure of railway expenditure?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I will answer questions Nos. 848 and 849 together. The actuals for 1924-25, will be available in the Finance and Revenue Accounts for that year and will, as usual, be incorporated in the Budget statements which will be presented to the House in due course.

## RETRENCHMENTS IN THE POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

350. \*Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar: Will the Government be pleased to state if any action has been taken on the Report of the Ryan Committee on retrenchment in the Post and Telegraph Department? If so, what steps have been taken and what retrenchment has been effected?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** A statement showing the action taken to date on the report of the Ryan Committee is laid on the table. It will be seen that definite decisions have not yet been reached on the major recommendations of the Committee from which substantial

economies might be derived eventually. I would also make it clear that the desirability of ensuring that the interests of the existing staff shall be duly safeguarded is a complicating factor in arriving at a final decision and must in any case tend to retard the realisation of the economies anticipated.

Item No.	Paragraphs report.	Brief summary of recommendation.	Brief summary of action taken.
1	26	<p align="center"><i>Control of Telegraph Traffic Branch.</i></p> <p>The present administrative arrangements whereby the telegraph traffic branch is under the control of Postmasters-General should not be disturbed.</p>	<p>The Government of India have accepted the Committee's conclusions.</p>
3	41-47	<p align="center"><i>Control and Supervision of Post Offices.</i></p> <p>(1) The present system of control and supervision over post offices should continue. Under this system first class Postmasters control and supervise head offices and the town sub and branch offices subordinate thereto quite independently of the local postal superintendents whose supervision and control extends over all other post offices within their respective divisions. The system followed in the British Post Office of exercising such control and supervision through postmaster-surveyors was tried experimentally in the Poona Division and proved a failure.</p> <p>(2) The Postal superintendents should devote more time to inspection; the increase in the numbers of frauds and losses during the last few years has been attributed very largely to the curtailment of their activities in this respect. The slight saving in travelling allowances resulting from such curtailment cannot be regarded as a true economy as it leads to the growth of irregularities and general inefficiency. Each inspection of an office should be followed at a reasonable interval by a second visit to enable the superintendent to ascertain whether the defects pointed out in his original inspection have been removed or not.</p> <p>(3) The existing divisional boundaries should be reconsidered with a view to enlarging the areas of divisions and so reducing the number of superintendents.</p> <p align="center"><i>Local Audit.</i></p>	<p>(1) The Government of India have accepted the Committee's conclusions.</p> <p>(2) The Government of India agree with the Committee that postal superintendents should be encouraged to tour their divisions as much as possible and the budget grants for travelling allowances are being increased to this end. The Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, has issued orders in accordance with the Committee's recommendation on this subject.</p> <p>(3) The matter is under consideration by the Government of India.</p>
3	46	<p>The question of introducing a scheme of local audit of post offices which is under consideration by the Accountant-General, Posts and Telegraphs, should be pursued.</p> <p align="center"><i>Re-organisation of the Railway Mail Service.</i></p>	<p>A scheme of local inspection by accounts officers is at present undergoing trial in certain selected localities.</p>
4	56-68	<p>The present organisation of the Railway Mail Service in those circles having headquarters at Calcutta, Poona, and Ambala, respectively, each under a Deputy Postmaster-General should be abandoned as the consequent isolation of this service from the remainder of the postal department results in serious administrative difficulties as well as in unnecessary expenditure. The Railway Mail Service should be placed under the control of the Postmasters-General having their headquarters at the headquarters of the more important railway administrations. These Postmasters-General would exercise jurisdiction over all railway mail service work on the railway systems administered from their respective headquarters. This innovation would lead to substantial economies in staff and establishment charges while at the same time enhancing the efficiency and contentment of the service. The Committee suggest that the scheme should be introduced gradually and that a start might be made in the Madras Postal Circle as a tentative measure.</p>	<p>The matter is under consideration by the Government of India.</p>

Item No.	Paragraph report.	Brief summary of recommendation.	Brief summary of action taken.
5	64-70	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Alteration in the status of R. M. S. clerks.</i></p> <p>The bulk of the sorting work in the Railway Mail Service is not of such a nature as to justify the employment thereon of men of the clerical class as at present. Most of it could be done quite efficiently by men of the postman class on much lower rates of pay. The experiment of substituting sorting postmen for sorting clerks should be tried on a sufficiently large scale to enable the success or failure of the scheme to be properly tested.</p>	The matter is under consideration by the Government of India.
6	74-83	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Re-organisation of Director-General's Office.</i></p> <p>(1) Separate sections should be formed in the Director-General's office to deal exclusively with questions of establishment and budget and accounts. At present there is a serious lack of co-ordination in dealing with matters relating to recruitment, postings, promotions, leave, pay, pension, and appeals, and to ensure that such questions are examined by those possessing the requisite knowledge and experience and also to secure uniformity, it is essential that they should all be dealt with in one section. For similar reasons the formation of a separate budget section is advocated. The constitution of these new sections should involve merely a rearrangement of existing staff and establishments without extra expense.</p> <p>(2) The question of abolishing the appointment of Controller of Telegraph Traffic should be considered. At present the incumbent of this office in no sense 'controls traffic' but merely acts as a touring officer and general assistant to the Deputy Director-General, Traffic. The latter will be relieved of a considerable amount of work when the scheme for the formation of a separate establishment section matures. The question of whether it would be possible for the holder of the appointment of Controller of Telegraph Traffic to exercise the functions implied by the name should however first be investigated.</p>	<p>(1) The Government of India generally approve the Committee's recommendations and the details of a scheme necessary to give effect to them are being worked out.</p> <p>(2) The Government of India are not prepared at present to accept the Committee's recommendation on this point but the question is being further considered as part of the more general one relating to the reorganisation of the Director-General's Office as a whole (see item 6).</p>
7	59-97  94	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Combination of Post and Telegraph Offices.</i></p> <p>(1) Departmental telegraph offices should as far as possible be abolished and replaced by combined offices. The latter are much more economical owing to the fact that postal clerks trained in telegraph-signalling draw lower rates of pay than regular telegraphists. The combination of post and telegraph offices leads to other obvious economies also. Separate departmental telegraph offices should only be maintained in cases in which for technical or other reasons the work could not be efficiently performed by the postal staff.</p> <p>(2) When the maintenance of a departmental telegraph office is necessitated purely for military or political reasons, any extra expense thereby thrown on the Post and Telegraph Department should be recovered from the department on whose behalf the separate office is retained.</p>	<p>(1) The Government of India accept the Committee's recommendations and have instructed the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs to take action accordingly. Owing to the existence of a surplus in the number of telegraphists, the process of combination of offices in pursuance of this policy is likely to be held up to some extent for a year or two.</p> <p>(2) This question is under consideration.</p>
8	96-110	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Recruitment for General and Station Service.</i></p> <p>Recruitment of telegraphists should be so adjusted as to bring the strength of general service men down to an equality with the strength of station service men as soon as possible. The latter class are much less expensive than the former and equally efficient. At present the accepted proportion between the strength of the two classes is 4 general service to 1 station service telegraphist. The former class are liable to transfer but it is not necessary to have such a pre-dominance of transferable men. Moreover as the combination of post and telegraph offices proceeds the necessity for transfers will be largely diminished.</p>	The question is under consideration by the Government of India.

Item No.	of Paragraphs report.	Brief summary of recommendation.	Brief summary of action taken.
9	111-118	<p><i>Employment of telegraphists on non-operative duties.</i></p> <p>The employment of 24 non-operative telegraphists for every 100 operators which is allowed at present is not justifiable under existing conditions and the former number should be reduced to 18 by substituting ordinary clerks for such of these men as are employed on non-technical duties.</p>	<p>The Government of India generally accept the Committee's recommendations but until the surplus number of telegraphists has been absorbed no definite action can be taken in the matter.</p>
10	119-121	<p><i>Standard of output for telegraphists.</i></p> <p>In view of the introduction of the Daudot system of signalling the existing basis on which the permissible strength of signallers is calculated should be revised. At present 42,000 signalling operations annually for each operator is the standard; this number should be raised to 47,000 in the case of large offices.</p>	<p>The Government of India have accepted a standard of 45,000 signalling operations annually for each operator.</p>
11	127-131	<p><i>The Zone Systems.</i></p> <p>The location of depots or zone centres for the collection and distribution of traffic should be carefully studied and systematically developed so as to ensure the handling of traffic by the most economical and efficient methods.</p>	<p>The Government of India agree with the Committee and have instructed the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs to submit to them an annual report showing the progress made in developing the zone system on the lines indicated by the Committee.</p>
12	132-138	<p><i>Telephone System.</i></p> <p>(1) With a view to effecting economy in the telephone administration a lower scale of pay should be fixed for employees in the smaller and less expensive stations. Steps have already been taken in this direction and they should be persisted in as far as is consistent with efficient working.</p> <p>(2) In cases in which the public demand does not necessitate a 24-hours service the cost of any extra operative staff employed on maintaining such a service in order to meet the requirements of the civil administration should be recovered from that administration.</p> <p>(3) No extension of small Government exchanges existing in places where larger exchanges worked by private companies exist should be permitted.</p>	<p>(1) Action is being taken in accordance with the Committee's recommendation.</p> <p>(2) The matter is under consideration.</p> <p>(3) The Government of India generally accept the policy recommended by the Committee.</p>
13	139-148	<p><i>Absenteeism.</i></p> <p>The existing leave rules are far more generous than those granted by any commercial undertaking with the result that the working expenses of the P. and T. Department are burdened with the cost of an abnormally large leave reserve. The possibility of formulating a set of leave rules on a standard more nearly approximating to ordinary commercial practice, as has been done on the railways, should be considered.</p>	<p>The matter is under consideration by the Government of India.</p>
14	159-164	<p><i>Press Telegrams.</i></p> <p>The rates for press telegrams are much below those for private messages and the feasibility of raising the rates for press messages with the object of improving the revenue of the department should be considered.</p>	<p>The question of enhancing the rates for press telegrams has been considered by the Government of India and it has been decided to make no change for the present. It was ascertained that the British Post Office concessions in the matter of press telegrams are, when compared with the public tariff, practically equivalent to the Indian concessions.</p>



Item No.	Paragraphs of report.	Brief summary of recommendation.	Brief summary of action taken.
15	165-166	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Repairs and maintenance of buildings.</i></p> <p>(1) In order to avoid as far as possible the heavy overhead charges levied by provincial Public Works Departments on work carried out by them for the Post and Telegraph Department the telegraph engineering establishment should undertake or supervise ordinary annual repairs, whitewashing, etc., to posts and telegraphs buildings.</p> <p>(2) The headquarters administration of the buildings branch should be entrusted to the Chief Engineer instead of to the Deputy Director-General of the Post Office as at present.</p>	<p>(1) The Government of India have accepted the Committee's recommendation and the new arrangements will be introduced with effect from the 1st April 1926.</p> <p>(2) The matter is under consideration as forming a part of the larger question of the reorganisation of the Director-General's Office as a whole (see item 6).</p>
16	169	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Minor suggestions.</i></p> <p>(a) Demurrage charges should be levied on V. P. P. parcels retained at post offices for more than 48 hours.</p> <p>(b) The charge for insurance of letters and parcels should be raised.</p> <p>(c) The charge of Re. 1 per mensem for post box facilities should be enhanced. Fees should also be levied for special sorting of foreign mail for particular addressees and for window delivery.</p> <p>(d) The minimum limits at present imposed on (1) the amount of single deposits, (2) the total deposit during any one year, and (3) the total amount that any depositor may have at call at any time, in the Post Office Savings Bank, should be raised. In particular (1) should be raised from four annas to one rupee.</p> <p>(e) Sorting in travelling sections—particularly in the case of parcels—should be reduced as far as possible with the object of saving baggage and other railway charges.</p> <p>(f) While not recommending the substitution of horse-drawn transport for motor transport as a general policy in regard to the conveyance of mails there may be special cases in which the reduction of motor services would prove desirable and consistent with efficiency.</p> <p>(g) The expenditure on bags used for the transport of postal matters is very heavy. Constant and vigilant supervision is necessary over the accounting, disposal, and repair arrangements in respect of these bags.</p> <p>(h) The list of officials whose personal correspondence is specially sorted out on receipt of the foreign inward mail should be reviewed and curtailed.</p> <p>(i) The possibility of reducing expenditure on post office fittings by standardising such equipment should be considered.</p> <p>(j) The possibility of effecting a saving in stationery by dispensing with the envelope at present used for telegrams should be considered.</p>	<p>(a) The matter is under consideration by the Government of India.</p> <p>(b) The matter is under consideration by the Government of India.</p> <p>(c) The matter is under consideration by the Government of India.</p> <p>(d) The Government of India are opposed to the raising of the limits as suggested by the Committee except in the case of the maximum deposit that can be held at call in an account opened on behalf of a minor. The question of raising this limit above Rs. 1,000 is under consideration.</p> <p>(e) This is already being done as far as possible.</p> <p>(f) Departmental instructions have been issued to ensure that the cheapest form of transport consistent with reasonable efficiency is resorted to in each case.</p> <p>(g) The question is under investigation.</p> <p>(h) The Government of India do not consider that the curtailment of the list in question would secure any saving or appreciable reduction of work and as it would probably on the other hand mean a certain amount of inconvenience they do not propose to pursue the matter.</p> <p>(i) This question is under investigation.</p> <p>(j) The suggestion is under consideration.</p>

Item No.	Paragraphs of report.	Brief summary of recommendation.	Brief summary of action taken.
<i>Minor suggestions—contd.</i>			
		(k) The rentals recoverable for telegraph lines leased to railway and canal administrations should be reviewed in the light of the commercialised system of accounting and revised if necessary.	(k) Action is being taken as suggested by the Committee.
		(l) An officer should be specially deputed to examine the possibilities of economy in regard to contingent expenditure, and consumption of forms and stationery.	(l) The matter is under consideration.
		(m) The question of charging for special postal and telegraphic facilities granted to certain high officials should be considered.	(m) The matter is under consideration.
		(n) The cost of the special staff employed in Rangoon on the examination of parcels for contraband articles should be recovered from the excise authorities.	(n) The matter is under consideration.
		(o) The possibility of securing economies by combining postal and telegraph stock depots at places where both exist should be examined.	(o) The matter is under consideration.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** May I know, Sir, whether the recent dispute between the Anglo-Indian telegraph staff and the Government is the cause of the delay in passing final orders in this matter?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** No, Sir.

DISESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN INDIA.

351. **\*Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what arrangements have been made for the disestablishment of the Church of England in India?

(b) Is it true that pressure is being brought on them from the United Kingdom for a special service of chaplains for the army for British troops?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state clearly the financial effects of the proposal in (a) and in (b)?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** (a) The Government of India are now in correspondence with the Secretary of State for India, regarding a proposal for the severance of the legal union between the Church of England and the Church of England in India. No decision has yet been arrived at in the matter.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** May I know, Sir, whether the Government will be prepared to allow this matter to be discussed in this House?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** That is not our intention, Sir.

**Mr. Chaman Lal:** May I ask, Sir, what the severance will involve?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** That, Sir, is rather a difficult point and I would rather not try to answer it within the limits of an answer to this question.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Does not the Honourable Member think the question of disestablishment of immense importance to the interests of this country?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** I rather take the view that it is a matter of great importance to the Church of England in India.

†352.

#### INCOME-TAX RECEIPTS FROM THE VARIOUS PROVINCES.

358. **\*Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to give the monthly income-tax receipts from the various provinces up to the end of the calendar year?

(b) Will the Government place on the table any report that they have received on the subject of the effects of the protracted state of the textile industry in Bombay on income-tax receipts of Government from the Income-tax Department, Bombay?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) No such special report has been made.

*Statement showing the net monthly income-tax receipts from the various Provinces from April 1925 to November, 1925.*

	India and Bengal (including Baluchistan and States Department but excluding non-Civil Departments).	North-West Frontier Provinces.	Madras (including Coorg).	Bombay.	United Provinces.	Punjab.	Burma.	Bihar and Orissa.	Central Provinces and Berar.	Assam.
April . . . . .	11,45,000	30,000	3,08,000	8,08,000	1,23,000	2,49,000	2,42,000	1,000	28,000	83,000
May . . . . .	7,55,000	23,000	1,83,000	8,61,000	1,17,000	1,33,000	3,94,000	80,000	1,20,000	68,000
June . . . . .	25,62,000	14,000	4,70,000	17,58,000	1,38,000	1,59,000	3,01,000	1,32,000	58,000	63,000
July . . . . .	94,01,000	29,000	8,21,000	22,89,000	3,37,000	2,55,000	6,79,000	1,58,000	1,19,000	69,000
August . . . . .	69,06,000	57,000	8,55,000	32,06,000	4,48,000	3,33,000	18,72,000	3,26,000	2,68,000	1,11,000
September . . . . .	43,56,000	71,000	20,72,000	47,04,000	3,97,000	6,67,000	12,63,000	3,36,000	6,12,000	97,000
October . . . . .	99,42,000	73,000	12,63,000	32,06,000	5,06,000	6,75,000	48,05,000	3,61,000	3,88,000	2,30,000
November . . . . .	71,61,000	84,000	18,38,000	29,80,000	4,51,000	10,47,000	16,28,000	2,45,000	4,20,000	1,57,000

† Answered on the 27th January, 1926, along with questions 346, 357.

PROTECTION OF INDUSTRIES IN INDIA.

354. **\*Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether their views with regard to the protection of industries in India have undergone any change as the result of Cabinet changes in United Kingdom in connection with the Safeguarding of Industries Act for saving indigenous industries from foreign competition?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** If the Honourable Member will tell me exactly what this question is, I will endeavour to answer it.

PURCHASES OF PAPER BY THE STATIONERY OFFICE, CALCUTTA.

355. **\*Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the total amount of purchases of paper by the Stationery Office, Calcutta, indicating how much of it was imported and how much made in India?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state for how many Departments this Stationery Office caters and whether the purchases of Provincial Governments are covered by their operations?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) For the year 1925-26, contracts have been placed for paper to the value of Rs. 86,26,000 of which Rs. 7,91,000 is for imported paper and Rs. 28,35,000 for paper made in India.

(b) The Stationery Office caters for all Departments of the Government of India as well as State Railways. Its operations include purchases for all Provincial Governments except Bombay, Madras, Bihar and Orissa and Burma.

RUPEE TENDERS FOR INDIAN STORES.

356. **\*Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar:** Will the Government be pleased to state what progress has been made in formulating the policy of the purchase of Government requirements of this country by rupee tenders and whether Government intend to accept the Assembly's Resolution on this subject passed in the January session of 1924?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me to question No. 94 by Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan on the same subject, from which he will see that the question is still under consideration.

QUALIFICATIONS OF STORES PURCHASE OFFICERS OF THE STATE RAILWAYS.

357. **\*Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what are the qualifications of Stores Purchase Officers of the principal lines of State Railways?

(b) Will they be pleased to state the method of recruiting these officers and why most of these officers happen to be Europeans?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) No definite qualifications are laid down. Officers possessing sufficient experience and knowledge of railway stores are entrusted with the work in question.

(b) As regards the first part of the question, hitherto there have been no special rules for recruitment of officers of the Stores Department of State Railways but the Government propose to select officers in future for the Stores Department from amongst the officers of the Mechanical and Civil Engineering Departments.

The reply to the latter part of question (b) is that Government have appointed Indians with requisite qualifications.

#### DETAILED ESTIMATES OF THE SUKKUR BARRAGE SCHEME.

358. \*Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the detailed estimates of the Sukkur Barrage Scheme in Bombay were placed before them?

(b) Have they been examined by any competent official of the Government of India?

(c) Were they sanctioned before Government undertook to make available to the Government of Bombay the necessary capital?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The reply to all three parts of the question is in the affirmative.

#### SETTLEMENT OF INDIAN CLAIMS AGAINST HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT.

+359. \*Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the several claims, which India had against His Majesty's Government and for the adjustment of which Sir B. N. Mitra was deputed, have now been settled in India's favour and at what figure?

#### LOANS TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

360. \*Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar: (a) Will Government be pleased to state what is the total amount which they have lent out to various Provinces for purposes which are grouped under the heading "Development"?

(b) Is sinking fund provision being insisted upon and, if so, at what rates?

(c) How are the future requirements of various Provinces in this direction estimated and in what manner are they checked?

(d) Do the Government of India exercise any control over the objects and purposes for which these moneys are spent?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** (a) I take it that the Honourable Member does not refer in part (a) to advances for developmental purposes generally but only to those for expenditure in connection with schemes such as the Bombay Development Scheme. If so, the advances made (excluding amounts re-lent to local bodies) up to the 31st March, 1925, is about 9 crores net. This represents entirely amounts lent to the Bombay Government.

(b) to (d). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the Finance Department Resolution No. D.-1250-F., dated the 25th March, 1925, regarding the constitution of the Provincial Loans Fund which was published at that time in the *Gazette of India*.

†For the answer to this, see answer to question No. 343.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** May I know, Sir, what progress has been made in regard to the creation and operation of this Fund?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** The Fund is in full operation.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Will the Government be prepared to make a statement about its operations?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** If the Honourable Member will let me know what kind of statement he requires, I shall be very glad to do so.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** I have put down a question, Sir.

AMALGAMATION OF THE STAFFS OF THE OPIUM, SALT, CUSTOMS AND INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENTS.

361. **\*Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what work has been done to combine the staffs of the Opium, Salt, Customs and Income-tax Departments so as to reduce expenditure as far as possible?

(b) If so, what steps have been taken and by how much has the expenditure been decreased?

(c) What further proposals have been made to give effect to this reduction in expenditure?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** (a), (b) and (c). After careful examination of the whole question it has been found that for various reasons, such as geographical conditions, necessity for knowledge of the vernaculars and so on, the combination of the staffs in question is not a feasible proposition.

OPENING OF A POST OFFICE AT BARAKULIA.

362. **\*Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter published in the *Forward* of the 31st December, 1925, page 11, under the heading "Want of a Post Office"?

(b) If so, will Government please state if the complaints made therein are true?

(c) If true, do they propose to open a Post Office at Barakulia?

(d) If the answer to (c) be in the negative, do they propose to make such arrangements at the Kulia Post Office, Jessore, as may remove the inconveniences complained of?

**Mr. G. P. Roy:** (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (d). The complaints are being investigated.

CONTRACTS FOR COOLIES AT STATIONS ON THE OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY.

363. **\*Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article published in the *Wealth and Welfare* of the 25th December, 1925, page 6, under the head "Cooly Contract"?

(b) If so, will they please state if the following facts are correct:

- (i) that the contract is given to one individual for all stations on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway sections to control coolies?
- (ii) that the system that obtains in Delhi station is that a retired Station Superintendent is appointed to be in charge of coolies?

(c) Do Government propose to introduce the departmental system as suggested in the article?

(d) If not, why not?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) Government have seen the article referred to.

(b) (i) Government have no information.

(ii) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) It is considered unlikely that the adoption of the suggestion would be an improvement on the existing system.

#### PRISON REFORMS.

364. **\*Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article in the *Servant of India* of 24th December, 1925, pages 556 and 557 under the head "Borstal System"?

(b) Are the following statements in it correct?

(i) "In recent years Juvenile Jails have been established in India, and young offenders collected at Tanjore, Lahore, Meiktila, Alipur, Monghyr, Narsinghpur, Dharwar and Bareilly."

(ii) "The Indian Jails Committee of 1919-20 recommended 'the creation of a class of special adolescent institutions which will be essentially reformatory in character and will be for the adolescent what the Reformatory School is for the child-offender. Every adolescent who is hereafter sentenced to imprisonment and who is not sent to a juvenile jail for grave crimes should be committed to one of these institutions'."

(c) Has the subject of prison reforms been engaging the attention of the Government of India?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) As the Honourable Member is aware, Jails is a provincial subject, but I can assure him that the question of prison reform is one that is constantly before the Government of India.

#### PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR NAVAL TRAINING IN INDIA.

365. **\*Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** 1. Will Government please state:

(a) if it is a fact that India makes an annual payment of £100,000 towards the upkeep of the East Indies squadron?

(b) if it is a fact that there are no Indians in the superior ranks of the Royal Indian Marine?

2. If the answer to part 1 (b) be in the negative, will Government please state if any special facilities have been afforded for naval training in India?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** 1. (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

2. No.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** May I know, Sir, why no Indian has as yet been appointed to any office in the superior service of the Royal Indian Marine?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** I have previously stated in answer to numerous questions in this House that Indians are eligible for such appointments but that no one has yet come forward with the necessary qualifications.

**Mr. Chaman Lall:** Have Government provided any facilities for their training?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** That is also a question which I have answered on many other occasions before in this House. The Government have so far not provided special training or educational facilities.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** How then do Government expect people to come forward with the necessary qualifications under those circumstances?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** It happens in other places.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** How are Government justified in expending money out of Indian revenues when they have provided no special facilities for the training of Indian officers for the Royal Indian Marine?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** I am afraid I do not follow my Honourable friend's argument. It appears to me to be more an argument than a question.

**Mr. Chaman Lall:** Will the Honourable Member ask the Government to provide facilities for the training of Indians in this profession?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** The matter is actually under consideration at the present moment.

#### COST OF OPERATIONS UNDERTAKEN AGAINST THE NORTH-WESTERN BORDER TRIBES.

366. **\*Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan:** Will Government please state:

(a) the number of operations undertaken against the North Western border tribes since 1911?

(b) the total cost of these operations from out of the Indian Exchequer since 1911?

(c) the total amount paid to these tribes in the shape of allowances since 1911?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** (a) There were no operations conducted against the Frontier tribes between 1911 and 1914. Since 1915 and up to 1924-25, altogether 38 operations were undertaken. This figure includes several minor actions and movements, but not the operations connected with the 3rd Afghan War.

(b) The approximate net expenditure incurred on the February expeditions between 1911-12 and 1924-25 inclusive of the cost of the 3rd Afghan War, amounts to approximately Rs. 58 crores.

(c) Approximately Rs. 67 lakhs.



CONVEYANCE OF THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS IN GOODS WAGONS  
BY THE BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

367. \*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: (a) With reference to question No. 152 of the 19th March, 1924, asked in the Council of State, and the reply of Government that "early in 1922 instructions were issued to railway administrations that steps should be taken as far as practicable to put a stop to the practice of conveying passengers in goods vehicles", are Government aware that third class passengers continue to be conveyed in goods vehicles by the Bengal and North-Western Railway on many occasions?

(b) What steps do the Government propose to take to ensure compliance with their own instructions issued in 1922, by the Bengal and North-Western Railway Administration?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) and (b). Yes. The Government have ascertained that in the last 3 years 101 third class coaches (in terms of 4 wheelers) have been added to the stock on the line. It was anticipated that this number would suffice to cope with the increase of traffic but this expectation has not proved correct and the Railway Board are in correspondence with the Agent in order to remedy this state of affairs.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Have Government seen their way to pay compensation in the way of reparations to those unhappy Moplahs who were locked up in the luggage van and while in transit were almost all found dead, and some of whom were left behind in a dying condition and 67 died altogether in 1921 in the Podanur train tragedy in Southern India?

Mr. G. G. Sim: May I ask if the Honourable Member is referring to the Bengal and North-Western Railway?

Mr. K. Ahmed: Is it not the same Department as the one of which the Honourable Member is in charge, namely, Finance, and might he not as well pay compensation to the heirs and dependants of those unhappy Moplah people who were illegally put into the luggage van and died on the Southern India Railway line in Madras?

Mr. G. G. Sim: I submit, Sir, that that question does not arise in connection with the Bengal and North-Western Railway.

REDUCTION OF THIRD CLASS FARES ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN  
RAILWAY.

368. \*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: (a) Is it not a fact that fares of all classes on the Bengal and North-Western Railway were enhanced during the Great War, and that they are kept up even up to now?

(b) Do the Government propose to ask the Bengal and North-Western Railway authorities to reduce their fares, especially third class fares?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) Existing fares, especially third class fares, on the Bengal and North-Western Railway are already low as compared with those charged on other Railways and in the circumstances the Government do not propose to take any action.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Are the Government aware that the facilities and amenities provided by the Bengal and North-Western Railway are also especially low as compared with the facilities and amenities provided on other Railways?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** The Honourable Member, I think, does not suggest that they are specially low as compared with the lowness in the fares.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Yes.

#### CONCESSION TICKETS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

369. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway Administration has begun to issue 45 days' return journey tickets at concession rates to first, second, and intermediate class passengers from 1st January, 1926, between certain stations?

(b) If so, are not Howrah, Allahabad, Lucknow and Delhi on the list of such stations where concession tickets are available? If so, will the Government kindly state why Patna, which is the capital of a Province, has been excluded from the list?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) Yes.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part Government understand that the Railway Administration has decided to confine the experiment, for the present, to bookings between certain selected stations only.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will the Government kindly give a list of those stations to which this experiment has been confined for the present?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** The Honourable Member will find the list in the tariff of the Railway concerned.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** May I know why Patna has been excluded from that list? It is the capital of a major Province.

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** If the Honourable Member will refer to the time table he will find the information he wants.

**Mr. B. Das:** May I inquire if it is because the Government of Bihar and Orissa occupy a very secondary position among the Provincial Governments that Patna has been excluded?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** I may explain to the Honourable Member that the question of including Patna has been discussed by the Local Advisory Committee, and the last information I had was that the Agent had promised to look into the matter.

#### ENHANCEMENT OF THE DUTY ON FOREIGN LIQUORS.

370. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will the Government kindly state when the import duty on foreign liquors was fixed at its present rate? And do Government contemplate enhancing the rate of duty?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** The present rates of duties on liquors were fixed by the Indian Finance Acts of 1921, 1922 and 1923. It is contrary to the practice of Government to announce their intentions in regard to such matters in anticipation of the Budget.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Are the Government aware that there was a Resolution passed only the other day during the last Session that there should be prohibition of liquor in India and that we do not want any duties to be imposed? Under the circumstances do Government propose to respect the passing of the Resolution, and pay heed to it by not allowing foreign liquors to come into this country at all?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I do not think that question arises.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Do I understand, Sir, that the Government of India indulge in liquor so much that they are sympathetic towards foreign liquor in this country?

#### LICENSES FOR FIRE-ARMS.

371. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of applications for licenses for fire-arms during the years 1923 and 1924 received from (i) Europeans and (ii) Indians, Province by Province; and
- (b) the total number of applications that were refused in case of (i) Europeans, and (ii) Indians?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** The information is not readily available. It was collected for the year 1920 at great trouble and expense and laid by the Honourable Sir William Vincent on the table of this House on the 18th January, 1922. I am not prepared to have it collected for 1923 and 1924 owing to the expenditure of labour and money involved in its collection.

#### QUALIFICATIONS OF INDIA'S DELEGATES TO THE INTERNATIONAL OPIUM CONFERENCE.

372. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the qualifications of Messrs. Harold Clayton and J. C. Walton to represent India at the International Opium Conference?

(b) What is the total amount of allowances, if any, drawn out of Indian revenues by the delegates of India to the International Opium Conference, so far held?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** (a) The two gentlemen had acquired, in the course of their official duties, the one in Burma and the other in the India Office, a knowledge of the opium problem in India which qualified them to represent the Government of India at the International Opium Conference.

(b) The information is not available in India.

#### INDIAN REPRESENTATIVE AT THE NEXT INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

373. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** Will the Government kindly state if they propose to consult the Legislative Assembly before selecting India's representative at the next International Labour Conference?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The answer is in the negative.

THE PHILADELPHIA EXHIBITION.

374. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Have the Government received any intimation as to when the Philadelphia Exhibition is going to be held?

(b) Is India going to participate; and if so, what amount, if any, is going to be spent out of Indian revenues in this connection?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** (a) Yes, the Exhibition will be held from 1st June to 30th November, 1926.

(b) The Government of India do not intend to participate and there will accordingly be no charge on Indian revenues.

DELAY IN THE TRANSMISSION BY TELEGRAM OF THE SPEECH OF LALA LAJPAT RAI AT THE CAWNPORE CONGRESS.

375. **\*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Are Government aware whether Lala Lajpat Rai's speech in the Cawnpore Congress "was held up by the censor for a few hours and then released"?

(b) If so, are they aware why it was done?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The message in question appeared to contain objectionable matter and was consequently referred by the Telegraph Office to the Chief Civil Officer of the station under Rule 15 of the Statutory Rules relating to telegrams. This reference necessarily involved some delay in the despatch of the telegram.

**Mr. Chaman Lall:** May I ask the Honourable Member if he would indicate what the objectionable matter was or the nature of that objectionable matter?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I cannot possibly contravene the provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act.

**Mr. Chaman Lall:** May I ask if the Honourable Member is himself satisfied that the matter was objectionable?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I have nothing to add to the reply which I have just given.

**Mr. Chaman Lall:** Is it not a fact, Sir, that the message was subsequently released?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The reply to that question too will be found in the reply I have already given.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** May I know, Sir, whether in holding up these telegrams the Government of India serve either the interests of the public or of the Government themselves and whether they are merely delaying these things for nothing?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** That, Sir, is a matter of policy and it is a power which the Executive Government must have. As to the exercise of the power in this particular case, I know nothing.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** May I take it, Sir, that the exercise of this power is to be wholly arbitrary and despotic?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** Certainly not; but it is a necessary power, the exercise of which will be used with great discretion.

**Mr. Chaman Lal:** May I ask, Sir, if it was not arbitrary when the message was delayed for a little while and released after an hour or so?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** That, Sir, is a question really for my Honourable colleague to answer, but I imagine that the officer concerned carried out the rule, and I am not sure whether the telegram issued or not.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** May I know, Sir, if the part of the message which was first considered to be objectionable was subsequently allowed to pass or was it withheld?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I am sorry, as I have already said, I cannot divulge any information without contravening the provisions of the Telegraph Act.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** I am not asking for any information which would contravene the provisions of the Telegraph Act. What I want to know is whether the telegraphic message which was first withheld was subsequently allowed to go intact, or was any portion of it deleted or withheld?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** That would be equivalent to my divulging the substance of the message, and I cannot possibly do that.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** May I know, Sir, whether the Honourable Member has at least now satisfied himself that this delay and censorship was exercised not arbitrarily but on the merits and having had due cause and reason for doing so?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The discretion is allowed to a particular officer, and he used it.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** May I know, Sir, whether the Honourable Member has satisfied himself that the discretion in this case has been used for a reasonable cause?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The discretion is given to the officer by law. I cannot interfere in the matter.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** May I take it, Sir, that the censor in question is absolutely unrestrained by any rule or regulation of the Government in regard to the discharge of his duties?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I would refer the Honourable Member to the statutory rules on the subject.

**Mr. Chaman Lal:** May I ask, Sir, whether the Honourable Member has satisfied himself that the method adopted by the local officer on the spot in this case was correct, or whether he had any special ground to act in the manner he had acted?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** His action certainly did not contravene the provisions of the rules on the subject.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** May I ask if the Government suggest that they have no power to inquire into the propriety of the conduct of the officer in charge who withheld that message?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** That is the position under the rules.

**Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** Is it seriously contended, Sir, that the Government have no power to see whether the discretion has been properly or improperly used? Is that the suggestion which the Honourable Member is making?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The discretion is given to this particular officer by statutory rule, and the question is entirely one for his discretion. If an appeal is allowed under these statutory rules, then only can the Government of India come in.

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** Is it not a fact, Sir, that the discretion exercised by an executive officer is subject to the executive control of his superior officer?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** This is a discretion given to him under a provision of law.

**Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal:** I want to know, Sir, if an officer of Government who is empowered to do certain things in the exercise of a certain discretion given to him by the law, is not the superior officer responsible to see that the discretion is discreetly exercised?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** Yes, certainly, and I think that in this case the discretion has been properly exercised.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** May I ask the Honourable Member whether he has made any inquiries to find out whether the discretion was properly exercised by the officer on the spot?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** That is not a matter within my Department, nor have I heard any allegations that it has not been properly exercised.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** My question was not put to the Honourable the Home Member; it was put to the Government.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** Does the Honourable Member object to my replying to these questions?

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** On behalf of Government, no.

What I want again to ask the Government is this: whether they have inquired that the discretion has been properly used? If not, do the Government propose to make inquiries and give us the information?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The inquiry has been made and the answer is in the affirmative.

#### AMALGAMATION OF THE ORIYA-SPEAKING TRACTS.

376. **\*Mr. B. Das:** Will Government be pleased to state if their consideration of the Madras Government's letter and the Report of Philip-Duff Commission (*vide* reply to starred question No. 8 of 25th August, 1925), have reached a finality and will they be pleased to inform the House of their final decision on the amalgamation of the Oriya-speaking tracts?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I invite a reference by the Honourable Member to my reply to Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan's question No. 96, dated the 21st January, 1926, on the same subject. This answer covers the Honourable Member's question No. 377.

**Mr. B. Das:** May I just inform the Honourable Member that he told the House that the reply would be given on the debate on my Resolution when it would be taken up in the House, but owing to the long speeches that were delivered the other day, my Resolution could not be taken. Will the Honourable Member be pleased to reply to my question or give us an hour on some Government day for the discussion of that adjourned debate?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** The first part of the question regarding the long speeches of his Honourable colleagues cannot be addressed to me. On the second point, the Honourable Member has still hopes of the ballot, and I trust he will be successful.

**Mr. B. Das:** We were expecting that the South African Resolution would take a long time to-day, but, as it is not coming on, may I inquire, whether my Resolution can be taken to-day?

**Mr. President:** Order, order. That question does not arise.

#### AMALGAMATION OF THE ORIYA-SPEAKING TRACTS,

†377. **\*Mr. B. Das:** (a) Is it a fact that a deputation of representatives of the Oriya people waited on the Honourable the Home Member to press the urgency of their demand about the amalgamation of the Oriya-speaking tracts?

(b) Are Government aware that there is a great deal of disappointment amongst the public and press in Orissa over their delay in amalgamating the Oriya-speaking tracts?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if they contemplate in the near future to create a sub-province for the Oriyas and to place them under a Deputy Governor?

#### PREVENTION OF FLOODS.

378. **\*Mr. B. Das:** (a) With reference to starred question No. 11 of 25th August, 1925, will Government be pleased to state if they have received any further communications from the Local Governments regarding co-ordination of action to prevent floods in the country?

(b) Will the Honourable Member for Irrigation be pleased to state how far his Department has investigated:

- (i) the causes of floods due to irrigation embankments,
- (ii) the stoppage of flow of natural waterways due to canal embankments and railway embankments?

(c) Will Government be pleased to inform the House if the technical experts on waterways in the employ of the Government of India have given their attention to the causes and ravages of floods?

(d) If the answer to part (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay their views on the table?

†For answer, see answer to question No. 376.

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) Only one such communication has been received, in which the Local Government concerned stated that they were fully alive to the necessity of maintaining drainage lines intact and that safeguards to that end were already provided. They saw no necessity for any special investigation in the matter.

(b) and (c). In so far as canal embankments are concerned, the question is a provincial one, and the technical advisers of the Government of India assist in such investigations only when invited to do so by the Local Government concerned. They have not yet been so invited by any Local Government. The position in regard to Railway Works remains as stated in my reply to the Honourable Member's question No. 11 on the 25th August, 1925.

(d) Does not arise.

**Mr. B. Das:** May I inquire whether other Local Governments besides the one which has been in communication with the Government of India are carrying out their duties in the matter of the prevention of floods?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The Government of India have no reason to doubt the *bona fides* of the Local Governments in the matter.

**Mr. B. Das:** May I inquire if the Government of India are aware that there have been floods all over India during this year, and there has been distress in many parts of India, particularly in Orissa?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** They are aware of it, Sir.

**Mr. B. Das:** Still Government deny that there has been distress.

OFFICERS IN THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.

379. **\*Mr. B. Das:** (a) With reference to starred question No. 57 of 25th August, 1925, will Government be pleased to state the number of permanent Europeans since taken into the Indian Stores Department besides the six on that date drawing a salary above Rs. 500?

(b) Will Government be pleased to give an up-to-date statement showing a list of officers in the Indian Stores Department on the permanent and temporary cadre as per table given below and for:

(i) officers above Rs. 500,

(ii) officers and staff above Rs. 200?

	PERMANENT CADRE.		TEMPORARY CADRE.	
	Rs. 500 and above.	Rs. 200-500.	Rs. 500.	Rs. 200-500.
1. Indians—				
(a) Hindus . . . . .				
(b) Moslems . . . . .				
(c) Other Indians . . . . .				
2. Anglo-Indians and Eurasians . . . . .				
3. Europeans . . . . .				



**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) None. (b) A statement is laid on the table.

*Statement of officers in the Indian Stores Department on permanent and temporary cadres whose pay or maximum pay (i) exceeds Rs. 300 a month and (ii) exceeds Rs. 200 but does not exceed Rs. 500 a month.*

	PERMANENT CADRE.		TEMPORARY CADRE.		REMARKS.
	Pay or maximum pay above Rs. 500.	Pay or maximum pay above Rs. 200 but not above Rs. 500(a).	Pay or maximum pay above Rs. 500.	Pay or maximum pay above Rs. 200 but not above Rs. 500(a).	
1. Indians—					
(a) Hindus.	3(b)	47	17(c)	38	The officers and Subordinates are classed as permanent or temporary with reference to their personal status and not with reference to that of the appointment which they hold.
(b) Moslems		7	1(c)	2	
(c) Other Indians.	...	...	2(c)	5	
2. Anglo-Indians and Eurasians.	3(b)	2	1(d)		
3. Europeans	6(c)	3	21(c)	1	
Total	12	59	42	46	
GRAND TOTAL			159		

- (a) These are all non-gazetted appointments.  
 (b) One gazetted and two non-gazetted officers.  
 (c) All gazetted officers.  
 (d) Non-gazetted.

#### APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIAN TO OFFICIATE AS CHIEF CONTROLLER OF STORES.

880. **\*Mr. B. Das:** Will Government be pleased to state whether any attempt was made to find a suitable Indian to officiate for Mr. Pitkeathly as Chief Controller while he was on leave?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** Government did not consider that there was any Indian to whom the officiating post could suitably be offered.

**Mr. Gays Prasad Singh:** What inquiry was made to find out whether any suitable Indian was available or not?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** Personal inquiries and departmental inquiries.

**Mr. B. Das:** Does that mean that there was no Indian available in the Finance Department of the Government of India to be transferred to the Stores Department? There are many Indians there.

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The answer to that is in the affirmative, that is, no Indian possessing suitable qualifications was found available.

**Mr. B. Das:** Does that mean that Government are not carrying out at all the recommendations of the Indian Stores Purchase Committee but are always going beyond it?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The answer to that is in the negative.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** May I know, Sir, whether there has been any change in the policy of this Department since Mr. Pitkeathly's transfer?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The answer to that again is in the negative.

THE ANGLO-INDIAN DEPUTATION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

381. **\*Mr. B. Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they have received any communication from the Secretary of State for India on the Anglo-Indian deputation that waited on him?

(b) Is it a fact that the Anglo-Indians demand special privileges for past services and past considerations?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** The Government of India have received a despatch which is under their consideration. I am unable to give any further information on the subject at present.

POLICY AND CONTROL OF THE LONDON STORES DEPARTMENT.

382. **\*Mr. B. Das:** (a) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 61 of 25th August, 1925, stating that the Government of India have had complete control over the London Stores Department since October, 1920, will Government be pleased to state:

(i) if they contemplate bringing over the London Stores organisation to Delhi?

(ii) if they contemplate having one head for both the Indian Stores and London Stores Departments?

(iii) if they contemplate control and direction in entirety from India?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state their policy of present control over the London Stores Department and how is the same directed?

(c) Does it mean that the High Commissioner for India takes his instructions from the Government of India regarding the policy and control of the London Stores Department?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** (a) (i) No.

(ii) Not for the present.

(iii) Yes, through the High Commissioner for India in London.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the correspondence which was laid on the table of this House on the 18th March, 1922.

(c) Yes.

PERCENTAGE OF INDIANS IN THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR INDIA, ETC.

383. \***Mr. B. Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the percentage of Indians in the High Commissioner's office has increased beyond 8 per cent. as was stated in reply to starred question No. 59 of 25th August, 1925?

(b) In view of the transfer of control of the London Stores Department to the Government of India, will Government be pleased to state what their policy is:

- (i) *re* Indianisation of that department,
- (ii) *re* reduction of staff in London, and
- (iii) *re* transfer of the office to India?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** (a) The position is about the same as on last August, there having been very few vacancies since that date.

(b) (i). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to question No. 215, asked by Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan on the 26th January, 1926.

(ii) It is not intended to retain in London a staff larger than is necessary to meet requirements from time to time.

(iii) The Honourable Member presumably refers to the question of making the London Stores Department a branch of the Indian Stores Department. If so, his attention is invited to the reply just given to his previous question.

**Mr. B. Das:** May I inquire if the Government of India will at all advise the High Commissioner that in the future recruitment of staff he will employ Indians in London?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** I may say that the High Commissioner invariably keeps that point in mind.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONERS IN FOREIGN  
COUNTRIES.

384. \***Mr. B. Das:** With reference to the reply to starred question No. 108 of August 25th, 1925, will Government be pleased to state if they again contemplate the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners in foreign countries and dominions?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** No, Sir.

**Mr. B. Das:** Is it not a fact that last Session when the Honourable Member replied to a similar question, he said that for financial reasons Trade Commissioners could not be appointed in foreign countries? May I inquire if it is not time when the financial solvency of the country will allow of Indian Trade Commissioners being appointed in foreign countries and dominions?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** If the Honourable Member will indicate to me privately in what country he thinks an Indian Trade Commissioner will be useful, I promise to consider the question.

**Mr. B. Das:** I will do that, Sir.

†385.

SMUGGLING OF BIRDS' FEATHERS.

386. \***Mr. B. Das:** (a) Is it a fact that certain feathers and plumage are prohibited as contraband for export from India?

(b) Is it a fact that a large quantity of feathers is smuggled out of India every year?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the number of instances in which their Customs Department have detected such smuggling?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** (a) Yes: the prohibition applies to skins and feathers of all birds other than domestic birds, except (a) feathers of ostriches and (b) skins and feathers exported *bona fide* as specimens illustrative of natural history.

(b) This is believed to be the case.

(c) Particulars for all ports are not available, but the following extract from the Report on the Sea-borne Trade and Customs Administration of the Bombay Presidency, excluding Sind, for 1924-25 may be of interest to the Honourable Member: "The illicit export trade in wild birds' plumage has not been entirely checked, although we have brought to book, by skilful detective work, some of the leaders of the trade in different parts of India. There were seven cases of export or attempted export during the year as against 18 in the previous year. The offenders were penalised in all cases".

**Mr. B. Das:** May I inquire, Sir, why, when feathers and plumage are exported from South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, their export from India is prohibited?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I think the Honourable Member had better give notice of that question or else look it up in the books on the subject.

SELECTION OF INDIAN MEMBERS OF THE DEPUTATION TO SOUTH AFRICA.

387. \***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Will the Government be pleased to state why both the Indian members of the South African deputation were selected from the Council of State and none from the Legislative Assembly?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** Only one member of the Indian deputation to South Africa is a member of the Council of State. A member of the Legislative Assembly was asked to join the deputation but was unable to accept the invitation for private reasons.

**Mr. B. Das:** Was the Legislative Assembly consulted before the deputation was sent?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** No, Sir. The Legislative Assembly was not in Session to enable this to be done even if it had been decided to consult them.

**Mr. B. Das:** Would it not have been possible to consult the leaders?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** Who are they?

APPOINTMENT OF A ROYAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE.

388. \*Maulvi Mahammad Yakub: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if the appointment of a Royal Commission on Agriculture has been decided upon?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for and the object of the appointment of such a Commission?

(c) What will be the terms of reference of the Commission?

(d) What will be the personnel of the Commission?

(e) Will the Legislative Assembly be properly represented on the Commission?

(f) What is the estimate of the expenditure on the Commission?

(g) Is agriculture an Imperial or a Provincial subject?

Mr. J. W. Shore: (a), (b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me to Kumar Ganganand Sinha's question on this subject.

(d) and (e). Government are not yet in a position to announce the personnel of the Commission.

(f) It is not possible to frame an accurate estimate of the expenditure in connection with the Commission until its strength and the date on which it will begin work is determined. A provisional estimate of Rs. 3 lakhs during the coming financial year has been made.

(g) Agriculture is a Provincial (transferred) subject in Governors' Provinces.

Mr. N. M. Joshi: May I ask, Sir, whether in view of the fact that Agriculture has been declared a Provincial transferred subject, the initiative for the appointment of the Royal Commission was taken by the Ministers or by the Secretary of State for India?

Mr. J. W. Shore: As far as I am aware the initiative was not taken by the Ministers but, as the Honourable Member is already aware from the reply I have given to a question relating to this subject, the Provinces were consulted subsequently and their replies have been laid in the Library of the House.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: May I inquire, Sir, whether, in view of the fact that Agriculture is a Provincial transferred subject, the Provinces will contribute in proportion to the cost of the Royal Commission?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: The answer, I am afraid, is in the negative.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Will the Government be pleased to state any reasons why the Central Government should be made to bear the burden of the Royal Commission when the subject it deals with is a provincial transferred subject?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: I think the Honourable Member's premise is incorrect. The subject of the Royal Commission is not a transferred subject. It is the co-ordination of Agriculture in India. That is a central subject.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: Co-ordination, not Agriculture.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I ask whether it was not the intention of the Government of India Act that the initiative in matters of transferred subjects should rest mainly with the Ministers and not with the Government of India or the Secretary of State for India?

**Mr. President:** It is a question of opinion.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** It is a question of fact, Sir.

**Mr. President:** Order, order.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Secretary of State made a statement with regard to the establishment of the Royal Commission on Agriculture and thereafter the Government of India have been thinking of getting certain undesirable persons as the personnel of that Commission ignoring the wishes of the agriculturists, the masses, their Ministers and their representatives in the Legislative Assembly? There are 95 per cent. of Indians who are agriculturists, Sir, and against the wishes of those 95 per cent. of the people of India the Government are pulling the wire from behind and are trying to put this personnel on this Commission.

**Mr. President:** Order, order. It is not a question.

#### SEPARATION OF JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS.

889. **\*Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for the delay in giving effect to the scheme for the separation of judicial from executive functions?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I refer my Honourable friend to the answers I have already given on the subject in the present session.

**Lala Duni Chand:** Will the Government honestly and frankly state if they do not mean what they have expressed all this time?

**Mr. President:** Order, order.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MR. KENNEDY NORTH AS DECORATIVE ARTIST FOR NEW DELHI.

890. **\*Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether the services of Mr. Kennedy North, the decorator and designer from England, have been engaged for the purpose of the decoration of arts and crafts in conformity with Sir Edwin Lutyen's designs? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the precise nature and extent of his work? How long will Mr. North stay in India? After his departure from this country will he carry on the work entrusted to him?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I have nothing to add to the terms of my reply to question No. 294 by Lala Piyare Lal given on the 26th January last.

#### QUALIFICATIONS OF MR. KENNEDY NORTH FOR APPOINTMENT AS DECORATIVE ARTIST, NEW DELHI.

†891. **\*Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Will the Government be pleased to state Mr. Kennedy North's precise qualifications for the proposed work and his experience of the conditions in India in the matter of art and crafts?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 390.

SCHEME FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDIAN ART FRAMED BY THE  
PRIZE OF DELHI COMMITTEE.

392. \***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Have Government received the scheme for the encouragement of Indian art framed by the Prize of Delhi Committee? Do the Government propose to take any immediate action in conformity with the proposals embodied in the scheme?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part the Government of India propose to consult Local Governments on certain suggestions for the establishment of a Central Art Institute at Delhi.

SCHEME FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDIAN ART FRAMED BY THE  
PRIZE OF DELHI COMMITTEE.

393. \***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Are the Government aware of the resolution passed by a public meeting at Bombay in November last demanding that all decorations at New Delhi be stopped until the consideration of the scheme for the encouragement of Indian art, formulated by the Prize of Delhi Committee?

DIVERSION OF THE PROPOSED RAILWAY LINE FROM CHANDPUR SIAU TO  
NEHTORE.

394. \***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they contemplate the construction of a railway line from Chandpur Siau, a station on a branch line of the late Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, in the Bijnor District?

(b) If so, is it true that Nehtore, in the vicinity of Chandpur Siau, has been left out of the project?

(c) Do the Government propose to direct the Railway Board to re-examine the project and divert the proposed line in such a direction as to include Nehtore in the scheme?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) A proposal to extend the Gajraula-Chandpur Branch through Bijnor to Chandok is at present under investigation.

(b) and (c). It cannot yet be stated definitely whether the line will pass through Nehtore or not, but as this town is a long way off the direct alignment of the proposed branch, it is hardly likely that a diversion to Nehtore would be financially justifiable.

PROPOSED TRANSFER OF THE CLAIMS BRANCH OF THE EAST INDIAN  
RAILWAY FROM LUCKNOW TO CALCUTTA.

395. \***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Is it proposed to transfer the Claims Branch of the East Indian Railway from Lucknow to Calcutta?

(b) If so, are the Government aware that the proposed transfer is calculated to cause great hardship and inconvenience to the mercantile community of the United Provinces, and do the Government propose to cancel the proposed transfer?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) and (b). As a result of the amalgamation of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway and the East Indian Railway and in the interests of efficient administration it was found necessary to remove certain offices from Lucknow to Calcutta, the Claims Office being one of them. Government regret they cannot see their way to cancel the orders which were issued after careful consideration.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 390.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE ROSA-HAPUR BRANCH OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

396. \*Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Will the Government be pleased to state when the work of constructing the Rosa-Hapur Branch on the late Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway section of the East Indian Railway will be taken in hand?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Government are unable to state at present when the construction of the Rosa-Hapur line will be put through. The first portion Rosa-Budaon-Babrala is not under consideration as it is not likely to be remunerative but the other part is under examination now and a report is expected shortly on a proposal for a line from Rajghat to Bulandshahr which it is understood the Agent considers preferable to a line from Rajghat to Hapur.

CONSTRUCTION OF A SHED OVER THE NEW OVERBRIDGE AT MORADABAD RAILWAY STATION.

397. \*Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) Are the Government aware that there is no shed over the new overbridge at the Moradabad railway station and that the passengers and railway servants, on duty, are exposed to rain, heat and cold?

(b) Do the Government propose to issue orders for the construction of a shed over the aforesaid bridge and on the platform connecting the bridge with the main shed of the station?

Mr. G. G. Sim: Government are not aware of the inconvenience referred to and would suggest that the matter may be referred to the Agent through the Local Advisory Committee.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE OLD SYSTEM RETURN TICKETS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

398. \*Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) Are the Government aware of the inconvenience, trouble and disadvantage caused to the travelling public of the United Provinces by the discontinuance of the return journey concession tickets from and to all stations on the late Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, and the substitution of 45 days return tickets only from and to certain stations?

(b) Do the Government propose to order the reintroduction of the old return-fares ticket system from any station to any station on the East Indian Railway?

Mr. G. G. Sim: (a) No.

(b) No. It was found that the return tickets previously issued were only availed of by a small percentage of the travelling public.

REDUCTION IN INTERMEDIATE AND THIRD CLASS RAILWAY FARES.

399. \*Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) Are the Government aware that a reduction in the intermediate and third class fares only for passengers travelling over 300 miles is not calculated to give any substantial relief to the poor classes?



(b) Do the Government propose to introduce the reduction of fares for distances over 100 miles in order to give some substantial relief to the poor classes?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) and (b). The question of reducing passenger fares has been receiving careful consideration by railways and as a result certain railways have reduced or propose to reduce intermediate and third class fares over varying distances according to local circumstances. The effect of these reductions will be watched before making further reductions.

PROVISION OF QUARTERS FOR RAILWAY AND RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES AT MORADABAD.

400. \***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Are the Government aware that the Railway and the Railway Mail Service employees at Moradabad are undergoing great trouble and inconvenience for want of residential quarters?

(b) Do the Government propose to take immediate steps for providing the servants mentioned above with residential quarters at some place near the railway station?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** The Government have no information. A copy of the question and answer will, however, be sent to the Agent, East Indian Railway, for such action as he may consider necessary.

CONSTRUCTION OF A DEAD SIDING AT FYZABAD CITY RAILWAY STATION.

401. \***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Are the Government aware that the public of Fyzabad, Sahibgunj and Deekali are put to great trouble and inconvenience for want of a dead siding at the Fyzabad City railway station, and do the Government propose to issue orders for the construction of the dead siding mentioned above, as soon as possible?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** Government are not aware of the inconvenience referred to. The matter is one that should be referred to the Agent, East Indian Railway, through the Local Advisory Committee.

†402.

†403.

†404.

REPORT OF THE AUXILIARY AND TERRITORIAL FORCES COMMITTEE.

§405. \***Mr. B. Das:** Will Government be pleased to state if they intend to give effect to the Report of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee?

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN INDIA.

406. \***Mr. B. Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the nature of the correspondence they have addressed to different Provincial Governments regarding development of agriculture in India?

(b) Have they invited the opinion of non-officials in India on the subject?

† Answered on the 21st January, 1926, along with question No. 12.

‡ Answered on the 26th January, 1926, along with question No. 197.

§ For answer to this question see answer to question No. 29 on the 21st January, 1926.

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the replies given by me to Kumar Ganganand Sinha's questions Nos. 280 and 281 on this subject.

**Mr. B. Das:** Does that answer apply to (b) of the question, namely, "Have they invited the opinion of non-officials in India on the subject"?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** The reply is in the negative.

**Mr. B. Das:** Is it the opinion of the Government that non-officials do not know anything about the development of agriculture in India?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** Not in the least.

#### PREVENTION OF FLOODS.

407. **\*Mr. B. Das:** (a) Are Government aware that agriculturists in different parts of India suffer terribly from the havoc of floods?

(b) Have Government invited the opinions of the Provincial Governments as to how best calamities due to floods can be avoided?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** (a) Government are aware that considerable damage is caused by floods from time to time in different parts of India, and that great distress results therefrom.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply just given by the Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra.

**Mr. B. Das:** In connection with part (a) of the question, will it form part of the inquiry of the Royal Commission? Will the Commission go into the effect of floods on the economic condition of the agriculturists?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** My Honourable friend is aware of the terms of reference to the Commission and he must leave it to the Royal Commission to interpret those terms of reference.

**Mr. B. Das:** I am not at all satisfied with the terms of reference.

**Syed Majid Baksh:** Will Government be pleased to state whether it is within their knowledge that the floods in Bengal are always due to the high railway embankments raised for the purpose of railway lines?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** I am not prepared to accept that statement.

**Syed Majid Baksh:** Will the Honourable Member concerned be kind enough to read the various reports on the North Bengal floods that were issued under the auspices of the various committees that went there for flood relief, especially the one presided over by Dr. P. C. Ray?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** As the Honourable Member knows, the Railway Department had special reports on this subject some time ago and we put in such additional waterways as were thought necessary as a result of those reports.

**Syed Majid Baksh:** Will the Government of India say that those waterways are sufficient and will not again cause floods?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** We have done what we think necessary in the circumstances.

**U. Tok Kyi:** Have Government received the report of the Flood Inquiry Committee in Burma?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** I am unable to reply to that question without previous notice.

#### ROYAL COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURE.

408. **\*Mr. B. Das:** (a) Do Government intend to appoint any Committee or Commission on the development of agriculture?

(b) Do Government propose to raise discussions on the subject in the Central Legislature and provincial Councils to ascertain popular feelings on the matter before the appointment of such a Commission?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** (a) Yes.

(b) The appointment of the Commission has already been announced.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MR. KENNEDY NORTH AS DECORATIVE ARTIST FOR NEW DELHI.

†409. **\*Mr. Chaman Lall:** Will Government be pleased to state whether the services of Mr. Kennedy North, the decorator and designer from England, have been engaged for the purpose of the correlation of arts and crafts in conformity with Sir Edwin Lutyen's designs? If that is so, will Government please state the precise nature and extent of his work? How long will Mr. North stay in India? Will he after his departure from this country carry on the work that has been given to him?

#### QUALIFICATIONS OF MR. KENNEDY NORTH FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF DECORATIVE ARTIST FOR NEW DELHI.

†410. **\*Mr. Chaman Lall:** Will Government be pleased to state Mr. Kennedy North's precise qualifications for the proposed work and his experience of the conditions in India in the matter of arts and crafts?

#### SCHEME FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDIAN ART FRAMED BY THE PRIZE OF DELHI COMMITTEE.

†411. **\*Mr. Chaman Lall:** Are Government in receipt of the scheme for the encouragement of Indian Art framed by the Prize of Delhi Committee? Do Government propose to take any immediate and practical action in conformity with the demands embodied in that scheme?

#### ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDIAN ART.

†412. **\*Mr. Chaman Lall:** Are Government aware of the resolution passed by the public meeting in November in Bombay demanding that all decorations at New Delhi be stopped until due consideration and practical form is given to the scheme for the encouragement of Indian Art formulated by the Prize of Delhi Committee?

413—428.||

**Mr. Chaman Lall:** As regards questions Nos. 413 to 428, I request that they may be treated as unstarred questions in order to save the time of the House.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 390.

‡For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 392.

||These questions have been transferred to the Unstarred List for the 3rd February, 1926.

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** The answers to questions Nos. 418-428 in so far as they are really of any importance will be laid on the table.

**Mr. Chaman Lall:** Do I take it that the Honourable Member presumes that the replies are of no importance?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** I referred to the questions.

**Mr. Chaman Lall:** I referred to the replies.

†429.

RUPEE TENDER FOR INDIAN STORES.

480. **\*Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have come to any decision on the question of Rupee tenders for Indian Stores?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me to question No. 94 by Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan, on the same subject.

**Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** May I ask the Honourable Member when Government are likely to come to a decision on the matter which has been pending for the last two years?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I think if the Honourable Member had listened to the replies I have given in this House to the questions that were put a few days ago he would have realised my position.

**Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** I fully realise the difficulties of the Honourable Member, but what we want to know is when these difficulties will be solved and whether there is any likelihood of these difficulties disappearing in the near future?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I hope so.

**Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** May I know when they are likely to disappear?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I made a very full statement on the subject in this House a few days ago in answer to a question, I believe, by Mr. Das and I can only refer my Honourable friend to that reply.

**Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** I have heard the reply, but what I wish to know is whether the Government are likely to come to any decision, and, if so, when. This has been pending for two years . . .

**Mr. President:** Order, order. The Honourable Member need not argue.

**Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** I wish to know when a decision is likely to be come to in this matter?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** It is impossible for me to answer that question.

**Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** May I ask the Honourable Member whether Government are not in a position to say what time approximately they require to come to a decision on the subject, whether 2 years, or 5 years or 10 years . . .

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†Answered on 21st January, 1926, along with question No. 12.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Or never?

**Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** Or never?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** Sir, I am sorry I am not a prophet and I cannot meet my Honourable friend. As I said on a previous occasion, the Government of India are trying their best to expedite a decision on the matter.

†481.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEE COMMISSION RE THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICES.

482. **\*Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** With reference to the answer given to question No. 78, asked at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 25th August last, will the Government be pleased to state whether they have come to any decision regarding the recommendations of the Lee Commission about the Indian Medical Services and place the final orders of the Secretary of State in Council on the table?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to unstarred question No. 73 asked by Baboo Runglal Jajodia on the 21st January, 1926.

**Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** Have the Government noticed a statement in the *Hindustan Times* of the 24th January regarding this question?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** I have not seen it.

**Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** Have they received any telegram from medical unions in India regarding this question?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** I have not received such a telegram.

**Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** Has the Health Department of the Government of India received such telegrams?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** I have not received any such telegram. That is the only information I can give you.

**Dr. K. G. Lohokare:** Is it possible for this House to be given an opportunity to discuss this question?

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** For the benefit of health?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** That question was asked and answered a few days ago.

REPORT OF THE TERRITORIAL FORCES COMMITTEE.

483. **\*Diwan Bahadur M. Ramachandra Rao:** Will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken on the Report of the Territorial Forces Committee and whether it is proposed to give effect to the recommendation of the said Committee?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply which I gave on the 21st January last to Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan's starred question No. 29.

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† Answered along with question No. 96 on the 25th January, 1926.

APPOINTMENT OF A LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

434. \***Mr. B. Das:** (a) With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 988 of 16th September, 1925, will Government be pleased to state whether the Bengal Nagpur Railway has agreed to appoint a Local Advisory Committee for it?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if they have allotted a certain number of seats to the Oriyas on this Advisory Committee?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to starred question No. 178 asked by Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan in this Assembly on the 21st January, 1926.

(b) The question of allotment of a certain number of seats to Oriyas on the Advisory Committees was brought to the knowledge of the Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway.

**Mr. B. Das:** May I know why the Bengal Nagpur Railway, which is one of the very big railways of India, should enjoy this special liberty and not have an Advisory Board for the public scrutiny of its work?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** If the Honourable Member will refer to the reply I have given, he will find that they have already decided to appoint Local Advisory Committees.

**Mr. B. Das:** May I inquire why it took such a long time to appoint that Committee, while other railways have had their Committees for a long time?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** I presume they considered the matter was one requiring very careful consideration.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS AS DEPUTY AGENTS ON RAILWAYS.

435. \***Mr. B. Das:** Will Government be pleased to state if they have so far appointed any Indian as Deputy Agent to any Indian Railway?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** The reply is in the negative.

**Mr. B. Das:** Has not the time come to appoint an Indian as Deputy Agent?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** No.

RECRUITMENT TO THE SUPERIOR SERVICES OF RAILWAYS.

436. \***Mr. B. Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if in the recruitment of the superior services to the Indian State Railways the recommendations of the Lee Commission regarding the percentage of Indian recruits are being strictly adhered to?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if the Company-managed Railways have accepted this principle for the recruitment of their superior services?

GRANT OF CONCESSIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEE COMMISSION TO EMPLOYEES OF THE RAILWAYS.

437. \***Mr. B. Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if Company-managed Railway employees receive the concessions awarded by the Lee Commission?

(b) Will Government be pleased to specify the Company-managed Railways that have accepted the Lee Commission's recommendations?

(c) Will Government be pleased to specify the Company-managed Railways that have so far not agreed to the Lee Commission's recommendations?

CARRYING OUT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEE COMMISSION BY  
COMPANY-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

438. **\*Mr. B. Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the Company-managed Railways that have accepted the Lee Commission's recommendations have recruited Indians to the superior services in the right proportion?

(b) What check does the Railway Board apply to see that Company-managed Railways do carry out the recommendations of the Lee Commission?

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** I propose to reply to questions Nos. 436 to 438 together.

The recommendation of the Lee Commission regarding Indianisation is being given effect to on the State Railways. As regards Company-worked Railways a statement on the subject will be made in connection with the Resolution for a Supplementary Grant which it is proposed to bring before this House during the course of present Session.

†439.

GRANT OF THE LEE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO SERVICES OTHER  
THAN THOSE MENTIONED IN THE COMMISSION'S REPORT.

440. **\*Mr. B. Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what other services have received the Lee Commission awards besides those mentioned in the Report of the Lee Commission and sanctioned by the Government of India at the outset?

(b) Will Government be pleased to give a list of such services and the amount of extra expenditure incurred for such services during 1924-25, 1925-26 and 1926-27?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:**

(a) (1) The Bombay Political Department.

(2) The Burma Frontier Service, in so far as sterling overseas pay and passage benefits are concerned.

(b) The extra cost is not readily available, and inasmuch as the Bombay Political Department has been merged in the Indian Political Department since the 10th October, 1924, and the cost of the Burma Frontier Service falls exclusively on provincial revenues, I do not consider that the inquiry would serve any useful purpose.

EXTENSION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEE COMMISSION TO  
OTHER SERVICES.

441. **\*Mr. B. Das:** Will Government be pleased to state why the Indian Legislature was not consulted in respect of the extension of the Lee Commission award to other services?

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†Answered along with question No. 96 on the 25th January, 1926.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** This House has already discussed the Lee Commission Report at length, and Government do not consider that the time of the House would be usefully employed in further discussion of the detailed application of the Commission's proposals.

**DR. PILLAI'S MISSION TO INDIA ON BEHALF OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.**

442. **\*Mr. B. Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether Dr. Pillai is touring India on behalf of the League of Nations?

(b) Was this tour arranged at the suggestion of the Government of India?

(c) Do the Government of India bear any portion of his touring expenses?

**Mr. L. Graham:** (a) Dr. Pillai, who is a member of the General Secretariat of the League of Nations, has arrived in India on leave and has been granted an extension of leave by the General Secretariat with a view to his making the organization and activities of the League better known in India.

(b) and (c). No.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** And who is Mr. Marvin, who has been misrepresenting things at the cost of the Indian people in that connection?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett:** Mr. Marvin is a well-known and distinguished Englishman.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Is it not a fact, Sir, that his speech was very much discussed and very much opposed by Mr. Sen Gupta, the leader of the Swaraj Party, on the 15th of this month and that Mr. Marvin had no reply? Is it not a fact that the Government of India have brought Mr. Marvin to misrepresent the people of this country, demoralise the young people here, and mislead the students of History in Indian colleges?

**REFERENCE TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS OF THE DISPUTE BETWEEN INDIA AND SOUTH AFRICA.**

443. **\*Mr. B. Das:** (a) Is it a fact that South Africa and India are independent members of the League of Nations?

(b) If the answer be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if they intend to refer to the League of Nations the dispute between India and South Africa?

(c) If not, will Government be pleased to give the reasons?

**Mr. J. W. Bhoré:** (a) The Union of South Africa and India are original members of the League of Nations.

(b) and (c). The questions between the Government of India and the Government of South Africa are still under discussion between the two Governments. As no decision has yet been reached the matter of referring the dispute to other authorities has not yet arisen.

**Syed Majid Baksh:** Has the representative of India sitting in the League of Nations an independent right of voting or is he merely voting at the bidding of the British delegate there?

**Mr. L. Graham:** He votes for India.



**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Is it not a fact, Sir, that the delegates for India are nominated by the Government of India and the British people, and that the people of India have no voice in the League of Nations at all?

**Mr. L. Graham:** I have frequently stated that delegates to the League of Nations are appointed by the Secretary of State in consultation with the Government of India.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Are the Government of India aware that India has no voice in the League of Nations and that it is the centre of bandits and dacoits?

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member must make his question intelligible and must not cast any reflections.

### UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

#### THE LADY SUPERINTENDENT OF MESSRS. BRANDON AND CO., REFRESHMENT ROOM CONTRACTORS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

74. **Haji Wajihuddin:** Is it true that the Lady Superintendent of Brandon and Co., refreshment room contractors on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, is given the privilege of travelling in a first class saloon when going about the line? Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of directing Railways to give a similar privilege to the representative of the "Passengers Protecting Society of India", whose office is in Lucknow, when they go about to study conditions of Indian travel?

**Mr. G. G. Sim:** The reply is in the negative.

#### THE PUBLIC SERVICES COMMISSION.

75. **Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** With reference to the answers to starred question No. 79 on the 26th August, 1925, will the Government be pleased to state:

- (a) when the proposed Public Service Commission is going to be appointed:
- (b) what are proposed to be its powers and duties:
- (c) what is the gist of the Government of India's communications to the Secretary of State and his replies thereto: and
- (d) whether this Assembly will be consulted in the matter in connection with the functions of the Committee referred to in part (b)?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given by me to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh on the 21st January, 1926.

#### THE SINGAPORE NAVAL BASE.

76. **Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** With reference to starred question No. 80 on the 26th August, 1925, will the Government please state:

- (a) the extent of India's supposed commitment in the construction of Singapore Naval Base: and
- (b) to what extent India is interested in the said scheme?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** (a) I do not understand what my Honourable friend means by "supposed commitments", but so far as I am aware, India is not committed to any action or liability, financial or other, in connection with the construction of the Singapore Naval Base.

(b) I have already indicated the extent to which India is interested in the scheme in my reply to the question cited by the Honourable Member.

#### SEPARATION OF JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS.

77. **Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state to this House the main points in the replies of Local Governments in the matter of the separation of judicial and executive functions?

(b) Will they further state whether the Government of India have been able to come to any definite opinion in the matter, and if so, to what effect?

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman:** I invite a reference by the Honourable Member to the answer given to-day to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's starred question No. 295.

#### REPORT OF THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCES COMMITTEE.

78. **Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** Will the Government please state:

(a) the general trend of the replies received from Local Governments regarding the Report of the Territorial Committee: and

(b) whether they propose to consult the opinion of this House in the matter?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** (a) As the Report of the Committee is still under consideration, the Government of India are not prepared to make any statement at the present moment on the subject of the Honourable Member's inquiry. The question of publishing the correspondence which has taken place with Local Governments will be considered.

(b) The Government of India are not in a position to make a statement on the subject at the present moment.

#### DISCOURAGEMENT OF OPIUM SMOKING.

79. **Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** (a) Will the Government state what action they propose to take for the discouragement of opium smoking and propaganda in connection therewith?

(b) Will the Government lay before this House a copy of their communication to the Local Governments in the matter?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state the main points in the replies from the local Governments?

**The Honourable Sir Basil Blckett:** I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to his unstarred question No. 64, dated the 21st January, 1926.

#### PUBLICATION OF THE FIJI DEPUTATION REPORT.

80. **Baboo Runglal Jajodia:** Will the Government state the present stage of their communications with His Majesty's Government relating to the Report of the Fiji Deputation and when the same is proposed to be published?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me on the 21st January, 1926, to part (d) of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's question No. 78 on the same subject.

**ACTION TAKEN ON THE MAJORITY REPORT OF THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER INQUIRY COMMITTEE.**

**81. Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken with reference to the North West Frontier Inquiry Committee's Report, dated the 30th of November, 1922, and the recommendations contained therein?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the delay in giving effect to the Majority Report of the North West Frontier Inquiry Committee?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether they will give effect to the recommendations of the Majority of the Committee?

(d) If yes, how soon?

**Sir Denys Bray:** For the various matters of detail in the North West Frontier Inquiry Committee's Report on which action has already been taken, I would beg to refer the Honourable Member to the statement I made in the Council of State on the 16th March last. The appointment of an additional Judicial Commissioner and the creation of a Bench of two Judicial Commissioners, which is a cardinal feature of the Majority Report, will very shortly be announced. Owing to the intrinsic difficulties of this very important question, the Majority recommendation for a local Council is still under consideration.

**EUROPEAN AND INDIAN I. M. S. OFFICERS IN CIVIL EMPLOY.**

**82. Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** (a) What is the total number of the Indian Medical Service officers to be employed on the civil side?

(b) How many of them are at present Indians and how many Europeans?

(c) What would be the total number of Europeans who would be required, if the policy of securing attendance of European doctors on the European personnel of the All-India Services and their families was carried out?

**Mr. J. W. Bhore:** (a) The present cadre of Indian Medical Service officers on the civil side is fixed at 417 but this number is not at present employed.

(b) 319 European and 74 Indian Medical Service officers are employed on the civil side.

(c) An estimate is not yet possible. The question is being examined.

**GRIEVANCES OF POSTAL EMPLOYEES.**

**83. Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the decisions arrived at by them in the matter of the grievances discussed by the Honourable Member in charge, Industries and Labour, with the deputation of the representatives of postal employees in March 1925?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me on the 26th January to question No. 182 asked by Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan.

PERIOD OF ATTENDANCE OF SORTERS OF THE ROYAL MAIL SERVICE AT VICTORIA TERMINUS.

**84. Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Is it a fact that under the local orders of the Superintendent, Royal Mail Service, the sorters working in B-6, B-7, and B-13 Sections are required to be present on the platform at Victoria Terminus for one hour and thirty minutes or more before the departure of the train? And if so, is the time thus spent on the platform calculated in counting the working hours per week?

**Mr. G. P. Roy:** Yes. The question of reducing the period of such attendance has already been taken up.

The reply to the second part is in the negative.

AMOUNT OF GRATUITIES PAID TO THE FAMILIES OF DECEASED POSTAL OFFICIALS IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

**85. Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the rules governing the grant of gratuity to the members of the family of a deceased postal official of the clerical, postman or inferior class?

(b) Will Government state the number of postal employees, the total amount given as gratuity and the length of service of deceased officials in whose cases such gratuities were sanctioned in the Bombay Presidency during the last year?

**Mr. G. P. Roy:** (a) A copy of the rule is laid on the table.

(b) Gratuities amounting to Rs. 2,973 were paid to the families of 38 deceased officials who rendered services for periods varying between 28 days and 35 years.

*Rules regarding the Post Office Guarantee Fund.*

5. II. The fund shall be applied to the purpose :

\* \* \* \* \*

(e) of paying gratuities, in very special circumstances, to the families of deserving Post Office servants left in indigent circumstances by the premature death of the individuals upon whom they depend for support and to Post Office officials who are, owing to no fault of their own, physically or mentally incapacitated for further service before they have earned pension, subject to the condition that in no single case shall the gratuity exceed Rs. 500 and that the total amount of the gratuity sanctioned in any one year shall not exceed 25 per cent. of the surplus of the Fund of the preceding year.

REVISION OF THE CONTINGENT ALLOWANCES OF POST OFFICES.

**86. Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** (a) Will Government place on the table their decision, if already arrived at, in connection with the revision of contingent allowances to Postmasters, as stated in their reply of the 7th September, 1925, to unstarred question No. 128?

(b) If not, do Government propose to revise these allowances this year?

**Mr. G. P. Roy:** (a) A copy of my letter No. 257-A./24, dated the 16th November, 1925, to Heads of Postal Circles is placed on the table.

(b) Does not arise.

*Posts and Telegraphs.*

No. 257-A./24, Calcutta, the 16th November, 1925.

From

The Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs,

To

All Postmasters-General and Deputy Postmaster-General,

Sind and Baluchistan.

Srs,

With reference to the correspondence ending with your reply to this office letter No. 257-A., dated the 31st July, 1924, I am directed to say that the Director-General has been pleased to lay down the following revised formula for calculating the contingent allowance to be granted to post offices :—

(1) Cost of closing and sealing one bag daily . . . . .	20 pies	P.M.
(2) Cost of stationery for each member of the supervising and clerical staff (excluding reserve clerks) . . . . .	5 annas	"
(3) Cost of burning one lamp for one hour daily throughout the month . . . . .	8 annas	"
(4) Cost of burning one lantern for one hour daily throughout the month . . . . .	4 annas	"
(5) Cost of affixing 100 seals to insured envelopes closed . . . . .	1 anna	"

2. This formula for fixing the contingent allowance should be applied to all post offices, head, sub and branch, subject to a minimum of Re. 1.

3. For offices in special localities, however, the rates may be increased or decreased at your discretion, but for any increase above 25 p. c. the case should be submitted for the orders of the Director-General.

4. The amount of contingent allowance fixed according to these instructions may include a fraction of a rupee, but a fraction of an anna should be rounded off to the next higher anna in the case of a branch office and to the nearest four annas in the case of a sub or head office.

5. I am to ask you kindly to review the sanctioned contingent allowances for all head, sub and departmental branch offices on the principles enunciated above, and to revise the allowances to the extent necessary out of the funds at your disposal. If you are unable to carry out the entire revision this year from the allotment at your disposal you should submit as soon as possible an estimate of the extra cost involved, if any, in revising the present rates.

I have the honour to be,

Srs,

Your most obedient servant,

H. A. SAMS.

*Deputy Director-General.*

**LOCATION OF A LATRINE OVER A MUSLIM GRAVEYARD IN PESHAWAR CANTONMENT.**

87. **Haji Wajihuddin:** Is it a fact that the Cantonment Authority at Peshawar is responsible for putting a public latrine over a Muslim graveyard outside Babgari Gate in Peshawar Cantonment, and if so, what action do the Government propose to take in the matter?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** I am inquiring into the matter and will let the Honourable Member know the result as soon as possible.

I had previously received a representation on the subject from parties interested and I gather that the incident referred to took place in 1908.

**EXPULSION OF MUNIR KHAN, A CONSERVANCY JAMADAR FROM RISALPUR CANTONMENT.**

**88. Haji Wajihuddin:** Is it a fact that one Munir Khan, a Conservancy Jamadar of Risalpur Cantonment, has recently been expelled from the said Cantonment "within one minute" from receipt of order and, if so, will the Government be pleased to state reasons and refer to the provision of law under which the said order was served on him?

**Mr. E. Burdon:** I am inquiring into the matter and will let the Honourable Member know the result as soon as possible.

**STATEMENT OF BUSINESS.**

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member):** With your permission, I desire to make a statement on the probable course of official business during the next week.

On Monday, the 1st February, it is proposed to make motions to take into consideration and pass the following Bills:

1. The Madras Civil Courts (Amendment) Bill,
2. The Guardians and Wards (Amendment) Bill,
3. The Small Cause Courts (Attachment of Immoveable Property) Bill, and
4. The Indian Lunacy (Amendment) Bill.

On the conclusion of this matter, which, it is hoped, will be treated as non-controversial, the consideration stage of the Trade Unions Bill will be resumed and it is hoped to conclude it. The motion for passing the Bill will not in any case be made till Wednesday, the 3rd February. On conclusion of the consideration stage, the remainder of the business placed on yesterday's agenda, that is to say, the Bill to determine the liability of certain Governments to taxation in British India in respect of trading operations and the Contempt of Courts Bill, will be taken.

A motion will be made for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure. The elections to the Public <sup>12 Nov.</sup> Accounts and Standing Finance Committees will be held immediately after questions on the same day. On Wednesday, the 3rd February, it is proposed to move a Resolution, of which I have given notice, regarding the appointment and emoluments of persons having Indian experience to the Privy Council and to resume discussion of the Resolution on Standing Committees to deal with Bills relating to Hindu and Muhammadan Law, the discussion of which was adjourned on the 17th September last. The Railway Supplementary Demands will be presented on the same day. Thereafter, if time allows, leave will be asked to introduce a Bill to amend the Indian Tariff Act and a further Bill to amend the Indian Income-tax Act.

Honourable Members are already aware that Tuesday, the 2nd, and Thursday, the 4th, have been allotted for non-official Resolutions and Bills, respectively.

## RESOLUTION *RE* UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG THE MIDDLE CLASSES.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar** (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muham-  
madan Rural): Sir, with your permission I beg to move the Resolution, of  
which notice has been given by Kumar Ganganand Sinha. The Resolu-  
tion is in the following terms:

“ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he may be  
pleased to appoint a Committee having a non-official majority to investigate into the  
problem of unemployment among the middle classes and suggest remedies for the  
same.”

I have to apologize to the House, Sir, in that, having had such short notice  
giving me authority to move this Resolution, I am not in any way com-  
petent to deal with this vast and comprehensive subject, of which my friend  
Kumar Ganganand Sinha gave notice to the Assembly. Sir, this problem  
of unemployment of the middle classes is one which I know has been exer-  
cising the minds of all sections of this House, not merely the non-official  
but also the official sections. It has also been exercising the minds of a  
very large class of people outside the House. The question of unemploy-  
ment is one in which the public takes a good deal of interest, and, in so far  
as the question of general unemployment is concerned, we are all aware that  
the problem is very acute in western countries at the present moment and  
there have been acute controversies going on in England and on the  
Continent as to the best way of meeting the unemployment problem there.

The present Resolution, Sir, deals only with one particular phase of  
unemployment, that is, of the middle classes. So far as the unemployment of  
the poorer classes is concerned, we all know the old adage that the poor are  
always with us; the unemployment problem of the poor is the whole  
economic problem of this country. But, Sir, that problem has been left  
unsolved by the Government of this country, on whom we consider lies the  
primary responsibility for the solution thereof. We have always urged  
on this side of the House, Sir, that the low economic condition of this  
country, the rank poverty and semi-starvation in which millions of people  
in this country are kept, is due to the economic results of the foreign  
domination that exists in this country. Therefore, so far as that is con-  
cerned, it is a perpetual problem; it is a vital problem upon which this  
House is much exercised; for, as we conceive it, so long as we do not get  
Swaraj, so long as this country is going to be under the domination that  
now exists, and so long as the existing system of administration continues  
to be what it is, there will be no real or lasting solution of this problem.

But, Sir, so far as the immediate question before the House is concerned,  
we say that is a phenomenon which has been growing in recent times to  
alarming proportions. This middle class unemployment is one which has  
been seen by us in various forms at various stages. Some years ago we had  
the unemployment of those who used to be called failed B. As. or failed  
Matriculates. It was then supposed, Sir, that those who graduated from  
the Universities and those who had a decent sort of education were able to  
find employment, particularly in the services. Sir, that phase has passed.  
We have now a very large unemployed class of the intellectual proletariat.  
We have not only the failed B. As. who are unable to find employment;  
we have also the B. As. who are unable to find employment, and the problem  
of the graduate clerks, the unemployed B. As. who cannot get clerkships,  
has been growing apace for some years. The question of dealing with these

qualified educated people was always answered by those on the Government side by saying, "Oh, this system of intellectual education is wrong. Macaulay's policy was wholly wrong. This country should have had its youth educated in the technical lines. They should have been educated for industrial purposes", and so forth.

Sir, there was a period during which many of us thought fit to deflect our young men from the ordinary University courses into technical colleges, into engineering and medical colleges, etc. Then we started associations for the purpose of sending these people to foreign lands to learn special industries or technical pursuits. We spent a lot of money on them. And, Sir, when they all returned, we had the additional problem of not even being able to find employment for the technically qualified youth of this country who belong to the middle classes and who have been at great pains to spend money and labour and time to acquire technical knowledge. They are without employment. I know that when His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda took special steps to send youths from his State years ago to learn special industries abroad, when they came back he was unable to find employment for them. I was told at that time of one case in which a man went to Switzerland to learn the intricacies of watch making, but when he came back His Highness was not able to find employment for him and offered him a post as a Naib Subadar, or a sort of Tehsildar in a petty *talug*. And so, Sir, we now find in this country failed B. As., Matriculates, passed B. As. and passed specialists, all of them without employment. What is the reason for this state of things? It is easy to say that the system of education is wrong. It is easy to say that you should not crowd into the public services; it is easy to say that you should not crowd into the Bar; it is also easy to say that the best thing anybody can do who cannot find employment is to become a journalist. I have the misfortune to see every day half a dozen young men of parts and ability coming to me and asking for some employment in the field of journalism. And we know that the profits in the profession of journalism are very small indeed in this country. (*Mr. M. A. Jinnah*: "Question?") As a whilom Director of one of the best papers in the country you ought to know that. (*Mr. M. A. Jinnah*: "I know that my Honourable friend is flourishing.") And I am trying my best to employ as many as I can. I have at least a dozen people whom I have recently employed in this behalf. Therefore, I am only referring to that, Sir, to point out that the scope for the employment of this middle class is extremely limited, and, if we go into the whole of this matter and try to examine what the real cause of all this is, I think we must arrive at the conclusion that the real cause of all this is the poverty of this country—the very low economic condition of this country, and the inability of this country to increase its wealth according to the resources which it has at its command. We find, Sir, that in this country there has been, to use an economic phrase, an increasing pressure of population on the means of subsistence. We find, Sir, that while this is going on, such increase of production as is taking place in this country is subject to that continual process of economic drain of which we have repeatedly complained on this side of the House and in respect of which the Government of India have so far done nothing to alleviate our lot. Therefore, Sir, the whole position is that we being poor as we are, we being subject to this domination of an alien system of Government, we being subject to this continual process of drain, we find, Sir, that this question of unemployment has not been merely confined to the very poor of this land, it is going on extending to



[Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar.]

the middle classes, to the intellectual classes, to the highly trained people, and to many people who have, in the expectation of improving their prospects in life, spent their all in acquiring a skill and knowledge which they find they can not turn to account. The problem is really becoming very acute.

I find my Honourable friend, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer, has put down an amendment which seeks to specify more particularly the directions in which the Government can find something to mitigate the present position. As I said, Sir, I do not think these palliatives are really going to solve the problem. I think the problem can only be solved when the Government of this country feels a real responsibility for the existence of this poverty in this country, when the Government feels that every Indian who is starving is its own countryman, is a man for whose moral and material welfare it is responsible, and this will not be as long as there is no Swaraj in this country. But to the extent to which the present situation can be alleviated I think it is the duty of this House and it is the duty of the Government alike to find as many palliatives as they can. Sir, many palliatives have been suggested, and, as I said, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer has suggested some. I have no objection to the adoption of any of these courses, but, Sir, along with that I would like to suggest one which, Sir, our great and revered leader, the late Deshabandhu Das, propounded in many of his famous speeches, and that is that we should go about and reconstruct our villages, and in the work of that reconstruction our educated youth should be employed to effect and to advantage. That is a scheme, Sir, in which so many of these people could find useful and legitimate employment and assist in the production of more wealth. That scheme, Sir, was, however, by no means encouraged by the Bengal Government to whom he offered the same. I expect, Sir, that the Government of India at any rate will look at this problem of village reconstruction as one of the principal means by which this unemployment problem may be solved. I do not want, Sir, to weary the House by elaborating any platitudes. (Laughter.) The problem is very acute, and I would request the Government to consider this matter in a thoroughly sympathetic way, to see that here is a matter of constructive statesmanship to which they can usefully apply themselves instead of trying to parry questions or Resolutions in this House by various devices. I appeal therefore to the Government side to accept this Resolution and to do the needful.

**Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer** (Madras: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I beg to move the amendment which stands in my name:

"That for all the words after the words 'to investigate' the following be substituted:

"the problem of unemployment among the educated classes of India and devise suitable remedies whether by a system of industrial and technical education, or by a revision of the existing system of education, or by offering encouragement to the starting of new industries, or by opening new avenues of employment, or by the establishment of employment bureaux, or by all these or any other means."

Sir, the object of my amendment is to make the original proposition a little more definite and a little more suggestive. I gave notice of a Resolution in these terms more than a year ago, and as it has not been my good fortune to draw this Resolution at the ballot, I have been obliged to move my Resolution in the shape of this amendment. Now, Sir, as regards the

scope of this Resolution, let me point out first that, while I do not ignore the general problem of unemployment of labour, this Resolution is not meant to raise that question. It is meant to raise the somewhat more limited but nonetheless acute problem of unemployment among the educated classes. As regards the general problem, it may be dependent upon various temporary causes, such as seasonal fluctuations, trade cycles, and so on. But as regards the problem of unemployment of the educated classes, it is due, I believe, to much deeper causes, causes not of a temporary character. It is largely due to a lack of adjustment between the system of education now in force in the country and the needs of industrial progress.

As to the existence of this evil, I do not think that any proof is required. Everyone who is acquainted with the conditions of this country is aware how widespread and how acute this problem is among the educated classes. It has attracted the attention of some of the Provincial Governments and it has attracted the attention of the public in some at least of the Provinces. For instance, in Bengal a Committee was appointed in 1922 to inquire into the question of unemployment, and this Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Meek has presented an excellent and very valuable report on the subject, a report which contains many suggestions which it is desirable to have carried out. In Bengal the question has also engaged the attention of the University and of the late Vice-Chancellor, Sir Ashutosh Mukherji. There is an Indian Polytechnic Institute founded by the Maharaja of Cossimbazar, and the Principal of that institution, Captain Petavel, has been carrying on propaganda in this direction, for the purpose of making education self-supporting and for the purpose of reducing the problem of unemployment among the educated classes. I understand also that in the province of Madras a Committee has just been appointed to inquire into this question.

The problem now before us is this. Are these local and separate efforts on the part of one or two provinces sufficient to deal with this problem? The first question is, are you satisfied with regard to the existence of this evil? I have no doubt that there can be no difference of opinion on that point. The problem requires to be considered with every sympathy and has to be grappled with in earnestness and by continuous effort. It may perhaps be said that this is a problem which has to be dealt with by the provinces and not by the Central Government, as Education and Industries are provincial subjects and not Central subjects. It is of course true that Education and Industries are provincial subjects, but I believe that that does not prevent the Central Government from making investigations into a question like this, from trying to find out what the present situation is, what the causes are and what the true remedies are and by whom they ought to be tackled. It is a problem, I realise, of very great magnitude. Conditions vary in the different provinces. It may perhaps be said that the problem is not acute in all the provinces. I do not know. Speaking for Madras and I think, speaking from second-hand knowledge of Bengal, the problem is certainly extremely acute in these two provinces. That the problem exists in an acute shape in the other Provinces also is my belief. If it does not, I dare say the spokesmen of those Provinces will say whether the problem exists in those Provinces or not. Now, having regard to these facts, the widespread extent of the problem and the extremely complex character of it, impinging as it does upon a number of questions connected with our educational system, with our economic condition and our social conditions, the problem requires to be dealt with in a

[Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer.]

comprehensive way by a co-ordinated effort and by such machinery as the Central Government alone can command.

With regard to the technical objection that it is a provincial subject and not one to be dealt with by the Central Government, I would ask the Government to follow the excellent example which has been recently set of the appointment of a Royal Commission on Agriculture. Agriculture is a provincial subject and not merely provincial but a transferred subject; still a Royal Commission has been appointed. Perhaps it may be said that a Royal Commission is above all these laws which divide subjects into provincial and central. If the expenses of the Royal Commission were paid for by the British Government, that explanation would be intelligible, but the expenditure has, I believe, to be met out of the revenues of the Central Government, and therefore it must be justified under the scheme according to which subjects are divided into central and provincial and our expenditure is divided into central and provincial. If an extensive inquiry into the conditions of Agriculture is permissible by the Central Government and if the expenditure can be defrayed out of the revenues of the Central Government, I conceive that an inquiry like the one which I am asking for can be equally met from the revenues of the Central Government. Then, Sir, it may be said that it may perhaps wound the susceptibilities of Provincial Governments if the Central Government embarks upon an inquiry which is entirely within the province of the Provincial Governments. I, for one, do not believe that the Provincial Governments are likely to entertain any such sensitiveness or susceptibility on this matter, but, on the other hand, they would in all probability be glad if the burden of this inquiry could be taken off their hands and conducted by the Central Government themselves. Then, again, it may be said that there is an inquiry to be started in Madras, that there has been an inquiry completed in Bengal and that we should wait and see. Now, the answer to that is that this process of waiting and seeing the results will involve an enormous amount of delay. This Committee in Bengal was appointed in March 1922 and it submitted its report some time about the end of 1925, more than 2½ years after it was appointed. We do not know when the Madras Committee is going to send its report. The problem is no doubt one which has to be examined from various aspects and will require very considerable time; but the sooner the inquiry is started the better. If we are to go on waiting for the results of the Committees which may be appointed or may not be appointed by the Provincial Governments, we should have to wait for an indefinite length of time. I trust therefore that the Government will not meet this proposition merely with a show of sympathy and shelve it quietly. The problem is one which requires not to be shelved with sympathy but to be grappled with in all earnestness and I do hope that the Central Government will make up their mind to accept this proposition and do what they can to solve these problems.

We may be asked how do you expect this problem to be solved? Is it not one of an immensely difficult character dependent upon so many factors, upon the character of the people, upon the educational system and various other things. The fact that it is complicated renders it all the more urgent, that not a day should be lost in dealing with it. I do not believe that the Government is omnipotent, or even omniscient, but I do believe that the Government can as a collective organisation do a great deal more than a mere private individual can do and that it requires the application of several minds and co-ordinated effort to arrive at some solution of this

problem. In my own mind there seem to be two or three very radical defects in our present condition which require attention. The system of education which is now in force is conspicuous for its want of touch between the requirements of the employers and the courses of instruction and the standards of instruction and the facilities for training. We have several technical institutions such as Engineering Colleges, but their chief defect is that the products of the colleges when they are turned out are informed that their education has done them no good for want of practical training. What we want is a co-ordination between the theoretical and the practical sides of technical education and a co-ordination between the needs of employers and the needs of industrial progress and the educational facilities in the country.

There are other defects no doubt which can be easily pointed out. In these and various other directions the problem should be attacked. There is, for instance, one question which, to my mind, is very important and which I am sorry to say has not been pursued in any detail by Dr. Meek's Committee. That is the question of small industries. The existence of openings for employment depends upon the economic progress of the country. That, again, depends upon a number of factors, such as capital, initiative, enterprise, co-operation and so on. There is one direction in which it is absolutely necessary to consider the possibilities of development and that is the possibility of starting small industries which do not require much capital and which by the employment of a certain amount of labour-saving machinery in substitution of manual labour may enable people with limited means to carry on small industries with a fair measure of profit. No sufficient investigation has been made into the possibilities of this question by the Committee in Calcutta. In this and various other directions it is quite possible for a Committee to arrive at some tangible remedy for this crying evil. I hope, therefore, that the Government will accept this Resolution and make an effort to deal with this evil which is productive of very great discontent among the rising generation. The discontent may be economic in its origin in many cases but it is bound to lead to political discontent and it is the duty of the Government to remove the causes of this discontent and grapple with this evil, the gravity of which, I am sure, will be recognised by the Government as well as everybody here. The question therefore now is: Is it the desire of this House that a really comprehensive inquiry into this question should be undertaken by the Central Government or is it merely to be left to be dealt with by the various Provincial Governments as they choose? I hope that the House will agree with me as to the necessity for an inquiry by the Central Government and therefore I commend my amendment to the acceptance of the House.

Of course, we may be told that there are caste prejudices and that the young men of India belonging to the educated classes are themselves to blame to a large extent for want of employment. But I believe that these causes, though they did exist to a very great extent at one time, are disappearing. Caste prejudices do exist even now to a certain extent. For instance, if you tell our educated men to undertake menial labour or some kind of employment which involving manual labour alone is a mere blind alley without prospects, there may be an objection. But to manual labour by itself the objection has been fast disappearing and I know from my personal knowledge that even among the most conservative classes in Southern India, namely, the Brahmins, the objection to manual labour has largely disappeared. I have been in Engineering Schools in various parts of India—

[Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer.]

in Bangalore, in Jamshedpur and other places and I know that even the Brahmin lads who have been taken as apprentices or students have been working as hard as members of any other classes. So, I do not believe that it is caste prejudices that stand in our way. It is the want of variety of walks of life, the absence of industrial expansion and the defects in our present system of education that are responsible for this present deplorable situation. I hope, therefore, that we shall receive not merely the lip sympathy of the Government but their earnest attention to this question by the appointment of a Committee to investigate the whole subject.

**Mr. S. Sadiq Hasan** (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, if we were to accept the Resolution as it stands, it would mean the exclusion of poor classes of people from the benefit of this inquiry although we know that they are the greatest sufferers in this matter and deserve our full sympathy. It is a common fallacy to believe that unemployment exists only among the middle classes and that the poorer classes of people can find sufficient work. Sir, from my personal experience as an employer of labour I can say that it is not true. The question of employment affects all classes of people except the idle and unemployed rich, and no one would be more glad than myself if they could be made to work if not for themselves at least for the good of society.

I do not say, Sir, that general poverty has necessarily increased since the beginning of the British rule, but I do say that, when there was no big modern industrialism in India, people lived on agricultural lands and if they did not roll in luxuries, they at least got enough to live upon. When there was no wholesale exportation of grain, the people at least found sufficient to eat. Famines were exceptional cases of course. But now, although these acute famines are fewer, on the other hand there are everlasting scarcities. On one side grain is exported and thus the prices of foodstuffs are always at famine rates; on the other hand unemployment caused by foreign competition has deprived the people of the means wherewith to buy.

In England there is unemployment, but the Government provide for the unemployed. Various methods are adopted to give them work, and, if it is not possible the State at least provides them with the necessities of life. The question of employment is a gigantic problem for India and it will be the first duty of the Swaraj Government to tackle it. But we cannot postpone the question till the dawn of that millenium. We have to investigate the causes and suggest remedies. In my opinion, Sir, the introduction of new industries is absolutely essential. The revival of old industries is not quite sufficient. The *charkha* although very helpful cannot alone solve the problem of the unemployed. We do not want the Government to help big capitalistic industries; they can take care of themselves. We want small modern factories in all parts of India which will make it easier for men with small capital to start factories and thus give employment to a large number of people. But this is not sufficient. Even this would not solve the problem and it would be necessary to introduce small machineries in cottage industries which should enable them to compete with foreign goods.

Sir, I am an optimist and I firmly believe in the inherent goodness of human nature. I certainly think, Sir, that most of our fellow beings who go astray and choose the ignoble paths of life do not do so from any innate viciousness of their natures but are compelled by circumstances.

If we could give them a chance, may be, they would make very good citizens. Who can tell how many men and women, capable of good and great things, are driven to the ruin of their lives and souls? Only a superhuman record keeper can gauge the loss thus sustained by humanity every day.

Both in the cities and villages there are a large number of women who can find no work. If they could be given work, if co-operative associations to give them work could be started, centres for training them in small industries could be established, and their productions sold in the markets, I am sure, Sir, this would markedly affect the economic well being of the people. The Government ought to be aware that there is a large number of widows and other helpless women who are actually starving. The signs of prosperity visible in this House are not unfortunately universal in the country. There are millions of people starving and certainly it is the duty of the Government to do something for them. The well being of the industrial labourer is very important, but still more important is the employment of those people who have not even those imperfect means of livelihood.

We have before us the example of the Salvation Army, and we can certainly follow their methods of employing people. If co-operative societies are formed by the Government I am sure thousands of people will benefit by them. The utter disregard by the Government of this vital question has aroused bitter feelings in the country. It is not too late even now. I earnestly hope that the Government will lose no further time and will appoint a Committee to investigate the problem of unemployment and suggest remedies for the same. With these few words I move that the words "among the middle classes" be omitted.

**\*Maulvi Abul Kasem** (Bengal: Nominated Official): Sir, it was said when this Resolution was being discussed that we would not be satisfied with only an expression of sympathy from the Government, but would expect the Government to appoint this Committee. Nobody denies that the question of unemployment is a keen and an acute one, and it is a question not peculiar to India only, but to other countries as well; but at the present moment, for various reasons, it is more acute in India than elsewhere. I am sorry I cannot agree with the terms of this Resolution, because I am not one of those who believe that the panacea for all evils is the appointment of a committee. (Hear, hear.) This Resolution says that a committee consisting of officials and non-officials, with a non-official majority, shall be appointed. For the consideration of this question no political issues are involved, and therefore it is not a question of official or non-official; it is a question of experts that is to be considered, people who have knowledge and experience and can say what remedies should be adopted. If I may be permitted, Sir, to suggest what is the best course for my countrymen it would be to appoint a committee of experts themselves purely non-official, and presided over by a non-official gentleman, and to consider the question and submit a report for the consideration of the Government, and then we will be in a position to consider and report, and as Members in this Assembly we can press upon the Government to take such action as we deem necessary as the result of the report of that Committee. Whether the committee is appointed by non-officials

\*Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

[Maulvi Abul Kasem.]

themselves or by Government, it will have to submit a report to Government, and then the Government will be in a position to consider the report and they may reject the recommendations or accept them. If that is so, why not appoint a committee of our own instead of leaving it to the Government to appoint that committee.

My friend opposite, who moved the Resolution, said that the real cause of unemployment in this country is poverty, that the poverty is due to foreign domination, and that there is no remedy. So far as I could gather from him, there is no remedy other than the removal of the foreign domination. I think the appropriate course would be for us to work for the removal of the foreign domination and not to talk of solving the problem of unemployment; but that is beside the mark. We have to consider the Resolution as it stands.

Reference has been made to a Committee appointed in my province, which made certain recommendations which are now under the consideration of the Government of Bengal. I think the Government of Bengal has taken a pretty long time to consider that report, but it is for Members of the Legislature in Bengal to press these recommendations on the Government and force the Government to take action. At the same time I cannot ignore the fact that the question of unemployment is a great question which should be tackled by the Government with their departmental experience, and some steps ought to be taken.

Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer mentioned certain institutions for the technical education of our boys in Bengal. I may add that there is a Bengal Technical Institute, but the organisers of that institution find it a difficult problem to work it out because it is only generally the failures of Universities that seek admission there. What we want for our industrial and technical schools are the best brains of our young men and not those rejected by the Universities. In my part of the country I think a great deal is due to the fact that the profession of law is a very fascinating one for my countrymen, and naturally every one who comes to a school looks forward to the law courts as the fittest place for his activities and aspires to attain the position of Rash Behari Ghose. It is only when he fails that he looks for other avenues of employment. Therefore, Sir, I think the people of this country should exercise their influence with their young men, I mean to say their desirable young men, to join technical institutions.

There is another matter. It has been said, and said with a great deal of force and justice, that even our technically qualified candidates seek employment and cannot get it. For that I have to say that the people ought to start industries and demand from the Government such assistance and help as is necessary. The Government during the last two years have been rather lavish of their help and assistance to certain industries in this country and I think we can fairly claim that, when the Government, with the concurrence of this House, has supported those industries, both by giving them protection and also money help, we, their countrymen, can demand that those industries should employ our technically qualified men or train men for such employment.

I think my friend Mr. Sadiq Hasan said that we should help the industries so that they can compete with foreign manufacturers. I entirely agree with him. I want to remind him that he himself is the owner of a

great manufacturing concern, but his goods are sold mostly out of India. It is a flourishing business, and employs a very large number of men, both of the middle-class and of the labouring class, and they are doing very well. If our wealthy men and men of education and culture will follow the example of Mr. Sadiq Hasan's family, I think they can give employment to a large number of people and increase the national well-being by selling our goods in foreign countries. We have got many industries which are dying out because we have no market for our goods; but if we have no market for them in this country, we have a very good market for them outside India. Look at the beautiful embroidery work of Kashmir. They do manufacture there articles of a very valuable kind but, because of the poverty of the people or the change in the tastes and habits of this country, there is not much of a market for these Kashmir goods in this country; but those goods have great charm and fascination for people in Europe and America. Why not then export them and try to encourage them?

Sir, although I want the Government—not only the Central Government but the Local Governments as well—to take steps to remove this unemployment question by considering it in all its aspects, I am sorry I cannot agree to the appointment of a committee which will only be an additional expense to the Central Government and that expense will come out of the tax-payer's pocket and nothing good is likely to come of it. But if we appoint a committee of our own and press the recommendations of that committee for acceptance by the Government, then it will be time to judge whether the Government are neglecting their duty or not.

**Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar:** Is it practical?

**Maulvi Abul Kasem:** I do not understand why it is not practical.

**Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal:** Who will pay for the expenses of that committee?

**Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar:** What power will they have?

**Maulvi Abul Kasem:** The expenses of that Committee? The learned Mover of this Resolution said, Sir . . . .

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Not I, Sir.

**Maulvi Abul Kasem:** He mentioned that Deshbandhu Das had a cut and dried scheme for the consideration of the Government. I think that scheme was framed; I am sorry I have not studied that scheme very carefully but I believe that it is a scheme, as my Honourable friend opposite, said, which will give employment and legitimate employment to a large number of young men. I think this scheme should now be presented to the Government of Bengal through the Legislature and Government should be asked to help to carry that scheme out. That scheme was made without the public paying for the expenses and if any expense was necessary I think that as so many national funds are raised, these funds should be utilised; there can be no better purpose for the employment of those funds than this.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Not the Khilafat Deputation?

**Maulvi Abul Kasem:** I think instead of spending our energy and funds and frittering them away on useless purposes . . . .



**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** On deputations?

**Maulvi Abul Kasem:** We can best employ them in making an investigation into this question of unemployment, which will remove to some extent at least the poverty of this country. The only other remedy is the removal of the foreign domination. I think we must either do this or take measures for the removal of the foreign domination and take up the consideration of unemployment later on.

**Sir Willoughby Carey (Bengal: European):** Sir, I have no complaint to make about Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar's Resolution, and I should like to have supported Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer's amendment in extension of the detail of the original Resolution, except for the fact that I do not think that a committee such as is suggested by the original Resolution is really what is called for by this problem. We have already in the possession of the country a very great deal of most useful information. I think the Industrial Commission of 1916-18, the Bengal Government Unemployment Report, which has been referred to so much to-day, and the External Capital Committee's Report, all three deal with essential matters relating to and bearing directly upon this question of unemployment, or its reasons. The House has said that it does not ask for the sympathy of any one in this connection, but we do of course sympathise fully with the situation, and in the interests of a healthy body politic it is necessary that this subject should be dealt with as soon as possible.

The whole point raised by Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer as to whether it should be dealt with by an all-India Committee or whether it should be dealt with by provincial inquiry seems to me to resolve itself into the question as to whether such an All-India Committee, whether just a non-official, or a technical or expert committee such as is suggested by Mr. Abul Kasem, would really be able to get down to the full reasons in each province for the unemployment existing there. I do not lay down anything because of course I only know the situation as it exists in Bengal and as explained in that Government's Unemployment Committee's Report. But it seems to me as a practical matter that local committees should be able to do this better than one large committee. I think that an All-India Committee would really not add very much to the information already available, though it might have just the effect of crystallising what has already been laid down, and act perhaps as propaganda. But practically I think myself that the provincial committees and inquiries are the best way of working this very serious question. I think the whole position as it is to-day is the result, apart from the disabilities which we know are attributed to the people whom we seek in this discussion to help, of a wrong form of education and the lack of desire to do certain classes of work. Apart from that, the real reason is the slump in economic conditions to-day in India; and any inquiry that is made should, I think, take that into consideration and seek, firstly, to apply the knowledge already made available in these various reports, to which I have referred, and to see how far economic development can be pushed ahead. This can be assisted by the application either in Bengal or elsewhere of many of the proposals contained in that Government's Report, but fundamentally it must depend upon finance and upon the development of credit facilities in the country. This has already been said in other ways; but I think the External Capital Committee

give us in their Report a very good lead in this direction. I do not propose to burden the House with quoting at all from these Reports, but I do earnestly suggest that they should be very carefully considered in the light of this question.

I should like just to deal with two points made by Mr. Abul Kasem, although he has left the House. One was as to the delay in Bengal in dealing with their report and its recommendations. I would suggest that possibly there has been no facility of late in Bengal for doing anything  
1 P.M. in this way owing to the state of affairs in the Bengal Legislative Council.

In regard to the Bengal Industrial and Technical Schools, as a member of the governing body of that latter school, I would support very strongly his appeal that the right type of men should come forward as students. It is, as he has said, a very distinct difficulty.

Whatever suggestions are put forward, it is essential, to my mind, that first an attempt must be made to tackle the question of credit facilities and banking, for I do not believe that without these any intensive economic development will take place, which, to my mind, is one of the first essentials for dealing on a large scale with the difficult position that the country is in as regards unemployment.

**Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan** (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I have an amendment on the paper to this Resolution which seeks to make a slight verbal change. I wanted that the word "Indian" should be added, because I thought that the addition of that word would be very useful. But after hearing my friends, Messrs. Sadiq Hasan, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer and the Honourable the Mover himself, I think it is not necessary to add that word, and therefore I am not going to move the amendment which stands in my name. At the same time, if the amendment of my friend, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer, is pressed to a division, I shall be very pleased to support it.

**Mr. Narain Dass** (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the Resolution before the House involves a very serious problem. It makes a deliberate request to Government to make an investigation into the question of unemployment and to suggest suitable remedies. I do not minimise the fact that the problem of unemployment or the problem of poverty is a very wide one. I admit it is as wide and as long as our country. But what I want to point out is this: is any investigation at all necessary? Is the question of unemployment quite a new one? Has it suddenly descended on us as it has in some of the European countries? I submit, Sir, that it is as old as the British Government itself. I submit, Sir, that the problem of unemployment in this country, our sad lack of opportunities, or by whatever name you may choose to call it, is chronic, it is not a new factor. It is not what many European countries are struggling against, it is a thing that has gone into our very existence, it has formed part and parcel of our every day life. I would, therefore, submit, admitting that the question is really a very serious one, that it is a complex one, that it is a very intricate one, it is not one which requires investigation. Do we not know, do not the British Indian Government know, that there are many directions in which they can move,

[Mr. Narain Dass.]

directions which they are deliberately blocking? They know, and our country knows it as a bitter experience, what our prospects in the Colonies are. There a policy of ostracism, a policy of outcasting or expulsion, is deliberately adopted. We have no chances as British Indians to go out of our country and settle anywhere in the world even with a bare existence assured. We are looked at as aliens, as undesirables, as people who have no right even to earn a moderate livelihood anywhere but within the four corners of our country. Then we know, Sir, that the set policy of exploitation, the set policy of suppression, is being carried on as vigorously as any organised Government could do. These are the directions in which the Government can make a move if they like to do so. It is not so much a question for expert investigation. Ultimately, in our later researches we may require the assistance of experts, and learned people. But for the present the many Resolutions that the Assembly moves, the many requests and memorials put forward by the country, so many prayers made otherwise, what are these? They simply point out the avenues which will give employment to our countrymen.

Sir, much is said about village reconstruction. I am in close touch with the villages. I know that much can be done there. I think they stand in need of all the help we can give them. They are in need of organisation. Their sanitation is bad. Everything is bad there. They have no roads. There everything is in a crude and elementary condition. Sir, it is not merely the wish that will put them on their legs. Agriculture, I would submit, is a highly over-taxed industry in India. Even the Royal Commission on Agriculture is going to confine its activities to its scientific side. It will utterly ignore the question of taxation. It is presumed that our agriculture is in such a thriving and progressive condition that its taxation side might well be left alone, and they think that what is required is simply a scientific research as to how to produce more. What is the implication of this? If there is more production, more of taxation may be screwed up. It is a very queer dictum to put forward that taxation has got no reference to production. My point is that village reconstruction is not simply going to solve our question if we utterly ignore the fiscal side, the revenue side, the taxation side of the villagers altogether. As the Honourable Mover urged, it is only a question how far the Britishers in India, the Europeans in India, the foreign interests in India, are going to give up their domination and their special privileges. Are they going at all to slacken the grip which they have got on the country? The question is, are the Government going to leave wide open the door for the sons of the soil? Sir, they can do a lot by creating a mercantile marine. They can do a lot in their Army, in their Navy and in the Services. They are the sole masters of all these. That being so, a scientific inquiry to find out the causes which lie apparent on the surface seems to me to be diverting us on the wrong scent. It is indeed a wonder that a highly organised Government ruling in this country for 160 years should not have found out yet the real causes of poverty, the real causes of unemployment and of our abject backwardness. Is the question so complex, so intricate, so mysterious, so hidden, that it requires a fresh investigation, a fresh investigation only with a view to make a start? Investigations are, of course, necessary in every department of life, but this all-pervading question of India is so apparent, so clear that I think it

does not require a fresh investigation. It requires a will on the part of Government, it only requires a little sympathy on the part of Government and if they are lacking in that, I submit that no amount of investigation will do.

**Mr. H. Calvert** (Punjab: Nominated Official): I should like, with your permission and the permission of the House, to try and state very briefly the economic factors of what is, after all, almost entirely an economic problem. The Resolution, so far as I understand it, is confined to unemployment among candidates for superior posts. Now, Sir, taking all factories in India, for every 100 persons employed, there are about 3 employed in superior posts, 26 are skilled labour and 71 unskilled. What we actually have at present is a surplus confined to one only of the various grades of labour required. There is, as far as I know, practically no unemployment among skilled labour and in the Punjab at least we are unable to find within the boundaries of the province the unskilled labour we require for public works. Now, the proportion of capital required per worker and of capital required for a skilled worker and for a higher post varies, of course, with the kind of industry. It is low for cotton ginning, very high for wool and still higher for certain other industries. If you wish to find further employment for a particular class of workers, namely, those holding superior posts of direction and supervision, you have to assemble together various factors. You have to get together capital, enterprise, confidence and labour of these three types, the labour of direction and supervision, skilled labour and unskilled labour. Now, Sir, per superior post, taking all factories in India, there is required capital varying from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000. For an investment of Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000 you can find employment for one man in a superior post. In the high grade woollen mills it is as high as Rs. 80,000 of capital for each superior post. In other words, it comes to this, that for every crore of rupees which we can get invested in industries we can find employment for about 500 men who can hope to take part in direction and supervision. Now, Sir, the crore is there, there is ample potential capital in this country. I think the other day the Honourable Sir Basil Blackett told us that there was something like 23 crores of rupees in the Post Office Savings Bank which may be regarded as potential capital which might be directed to industrial enterprises if there was more confidence.

**Pandit Shamlal Nehru:** Have you an eye on that?

**Mr. H. Calvert:** In the last 40 years the amount of gold absorbed in this country was Rs. 484 crores.

If only a portion of that had come into this country in the form of machinery for industries, I think there would not have been this complaint of unemployment.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** They would have depreciated enormously.

**Mr. H. Calvert:** The difficulty is that if you are going to try to find employment for candidates for superior posts there must be skilled and unskilled labour in due proportion. You cannot have an industry consisting only of superior posts. If you invest one crore more in industries giving employment for 500 men, you will want five to fifteen thousand skilled and unskilled labourers.

[Mr. H. Calvert.]

Now, Sir, the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution had his usual little fling about this Government and said that it was the domination of a foreign Government that was at the root of all this unemployment. Now, Sir, it happens that Government is the largest employer of labour in India. Government employs between four to six times as much labour as all the Joint Stock Companies in the country put together.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** That is one instance of exploitation.

**Mr. H. Calvert:** The capital in Government investments in railways and canals is something approaching 600 crores and the total paid up capital of all joint stock industrial companies is little over 100 crores.

Now, Sir, I notice that the wording in this Resolution is not "work" but "unemployment". These gentlemen are seeking not apparently work but employment, that is to say, they want to be employed by somebody else. They do not want to find work for themselves by their own enterprise. The question arises as to which of these various ideas we are going to give preference to. In the Session before this we had a certain inclination to dislike the idea of foreign capital being invested in India. If local capital is shy and is not coming forward for industrial investment, why should not foreign capital be encouraged to come into this country and help as far as possible? If these young men want work and do not want employers to find work for them, the opportunities in this country are absolutely without limit. For example in the neighbouring district of Gurgaon, they are trying to introduce iron Persian wheels. They cannot find any one to come forward and start the industry. Then, Sir, I will give another instance. There is unlimited scope for small industries if young men are prepared to embark on them at their own risk and not at the risk of some outside employer.

**Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar:** Where can this information be had about this unlimited scope? Is there any Government publication dealing with it?

**Mr. H. Calvert:** Now, there is an extensive and unsatisfied demand for *ghi*. Why not start dairy farms to produce *ghi*? There is now a big demand in the Punjab for first class bulls. There is no independent enterprise coming forward to start a bull farm. Now, Sir, in the Punjab at least new industries are springing up very rapidly in the villages. They are mostly on a small scale, but, as far as I have been able to see, very few of these industries are being controlled or supervised by boys from colleges. When you see a small village foundry, or a flour mill or oil engine driving a chaff-cutter you find that the person in charge is not a college boy but either an ironsmith or a carpenter. (*An Honourable Member:* "It is a reflection on your education. Why don't you change the system?") As far as I know the Government has no monopoly of education at all. As my friend opposite knows, there is a great scope for private enterprise, a position which he has taken advantage of with great distinction. Well, Sir, one possible solution would be such an improvement of agriculture as will serve the two-fold purpose of providing raw material for industries and of so raising the economic position of the cultivators that they will absorb the products of new industries which we all hope to see spring up.

The final remedy for removing this unemployment is confidence amongst the investing public. Now, Sir, I have had a very large experience of joint stock companies and I might perhaps say a great deal as to the causes of that lack of confidence. That lack of confidence is one of the biggest obstacles to industrial expansion, but I think I had better not go into that but leave it to the House. I might say that, in so far as there is that lack of confidence, I do not think my Honourable friend can blame foreign domination. The problem then, Sir, is to get together the capital which exists in plenty, the enterprise which perhaps is not so plentiful, the labour of which, as far as skilled labour is concerned, there is a marked scarcity, and the confidence of the investing public. If we can bring these together I think the problem will be solved. But I do not think a committee of this House can do much to bring those together. I think, Sir, in so far as this Resolution deals with unemployment and not with work it should be left to the private employers.

**U. Tok Kyi** (Burma: Non-European): Sir, I rise to support the amendment so ably moved by my Honourable friend Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer. Sir, it is but right that we should be anxious for the welfare of the cultivating and labouring classes of India and Burma, but the Royal Commission recently appointed for investigation into agriculture will no doubt see to their well-being and we need not be very anxious about them at present. But the question of unemployment among the educated classes is getting acuter and acuter every day. The state of affairs in Burma is just as bad if not worse than that in India. In Burma all the internal and external trade is in the hands of non-Burmans. The sons of the soil cannot take an adequate part in the trade and industries of the country, and consequently discontent among the Burmans at the present day is very great. During the last year some feeling against all non-Burmans was exhibited in the local Council, for this reason; it was not because they do not like foreigners but because they fare worse than foreigners and non-Burmans in trade and industries in their own country. The Burmans not only can not have their proper share in the trade and industries, but also cannot serve in the Departments of Government which are directly under the control of the Government of India. They are practically shut out from the Railways, from the Accounts Department and from the Customs Department. From these facts the House is now in a better position to judge whether the discontent among the educated classes of Burma is justified or not.

\*Sir, it is hardly necessary for me to say that the more discontent there is among the educated classes, the more difficulty there will be for Government to carry on the administration of the country. The more discontented B. As. there are in the country, the more agitation there will be, and there will be more trouble. Therefore it is the duty of Government, nay, it is the interest of Government, to see that the discontent is removed as soon as possible. There are causes for the discontent: it is for the Government to try and ascertain those causes and suggest remedies. The way to do this is I think by means of an All-India Committee as suggested by my Honourable friend, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer. My Honourable friend Sir Willoughby Carey is of opinion that this All-India Committee will not do. He said that it would be more advisable to appoint Provincial Committees; but I do not agree with him. I think, Sir, that this question of unemployment is as extensive, as one of the previous speakers had said, as the dimensions of this big country. This

[U. Tok Kyi.]

question affects not only Bengal, Madras or Burma, but it affects every province in the Indian Empire. This question is, I think, as important as that of Agriculture, for which a Royal Commission has just been appointed. One or two provinces have already appointed committees to investigate into the question of unemployment. I think it is not sufficient. All the provinces should co-ordinate with each other, should co-operate with each other, to go into this all-important question. With these few words, Sir, I support the amendment of Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer.

**Mr. Chaman Lall** (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I rise to support the amendment moved by my friend Mr. Sadiq Hasan. There is no doubt whatsoever that the amendment moved by my friend Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer is much more comprehensive than the original Resolution moved by my friend Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar. But if my friend is prepared to accept the amendment moved by Mr. Sadiq Hasan, I venture to suggest that it would be a further improvement on the original Resolution in so far as it would bring into the purview of this Committee of inquiry that we are setting up not only the middle classes, but also the industrial workers of this country. The great problem of unemployment affects not merely one class. The class that it does really affect is not only the middle class but the working class, the poverty-stricken masses in the industrial centres of the whole country. Mr. Calvert has pointed out—very correctly I think—that if we are trying to find jobs, superior posts for the better class of educated people in this country, we must at the same time create the necessary conditions which would enable them to find employment. And one of the conditions is this, you must be able to find skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled work which would be placed under the charge of these educated people in order to enable us to find adequate employment for them. It is for that reason, Sir,—a very important reason—that I ask the House to accept the amendment moved by Mr. Sadiq Hasan and bring into the purview of this inquiry the working classes in the industrial towns.

**Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally** (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): May I know which amendment you are favouring?

**Mr. Chaman Lall**: I am in a very great difficulty. I have been asked which amendment I am favouring. I would much prefer the amendment moved by Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer with the further amendment, namely, that the inquiry should not be confined only to the educated classes. I understand that Mr. Sadiq Hasan's amendment means this and nothing else. If the inquiry is to be enlarged, enlarged for the purpose of finding out the causes of unemployment amongst all classes of workers, to my mind it appears rather a strange procedure to limit its reference to the middle classes. Here is a disease that is affecting the body politic and you are trying to find a remedy. If I were to discover to-day a serum, one injection of which perhaps would turn a foolish man into a wise man, would my friend Mr. Rangaswami advise me to confine my serum only to the educated classes or to the middle classes or to the rich classes or to the journalists whom he represents? Surely not. This disease of unemployment affects the whole country and, as has been very clearly pointed out, it affects more the working classes than it affects the educated classes. I have every sympathy—and I want to make it perfectly clear that I have every sympathy—with the educated classes. Only ten

days ago, Sir, a man came to me and he informed me that for two days he had not had a bite of food in his mouth. There is a well known case, which some people who live in Delhi are aware of, where the other day to a Professor of this University there came a chit from a man who asked for an interview. When he was brought into the room he asked for nothing more than a plateful of rice and *dal*. He said he was a graduate of the Calcutta University and that he had not had anything to eat for three days. He asked for no favours, he asked for no employment; he asked that he might be given just one meal in order that he could go his way and meet his fate, whatever it might be. The condition of the educated classes is undoubtedly deplorable. One of the causes no doubt is the system of education under which they are brought up. That system of education is meant, and deliberately meant, in my opinion, to turn the educated classes into mere Babus, mere clerks, and nothing more. This is a system of slavery under which slaves are being manufactured out of these machines, namely the Universities. But, Sir, the general problem of unemployment is very much wider than this. The general problem of unemployment is not to be dismissed as Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar dismissed it by merely saying that the poor will always be with us. He is a recent convert apparently to the Christian doctrine which is preached in the Bible. I do not believe in that doctrine. I believe that the system creates the poor. It is not that the poor are God-ordained to be always with us but it is the system which creates them and we want to discover the causes which operate under this system and create unemployment. I would much rather believe in the other Biblical saying, all that ye have, give to the poor.

Now, in discussing the causes you have to examine the actual state of the country. What do we find? Mr. Calvert was absolutely wrong when he said that there is not a large amount of unemployment in the Punjab. Is he not aware of the fact that during the recent strike 15,000—20,000 people were thrown out of employment? What happened to them? Did the Government find jobs for them?

**Mr. H. Calvert:** They went back to their work.

**Mr. Chaman Lall:** They did not go back to their work. You do not know the facts. What is the good of making a statement when you do not know what actually happened? They did not go back. They are still without employment. Ask your friends and they will tell you what has actually happened. What happened to the 20,000 railway men who were dismissed by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway? Has not the Railway Board issued instructions asking their Agents to give preference to these men? They realise that there are thousands of men who are out of employment. What happens to them year in, year out? At the sweet good-will of the Railway Board or of the Agent, it may be, thousands of men find themselves without jobs. What happens to them? We are asking you by this Resolution and the amendment that we are proposing to institute an inquiry into the causes of unemployment and to try to remedy the deplorable state of unemployment in this country. Time and again I myself have put questions in the Assembly asking Honourable Members in charge to give us a reply to the question whether there is any unemployment in this country or not and whether the Government are prepared to institute a system of labour bureau or of employment



[Mr. Chaman Lall.]

exchanges. Every time I have been given the reply that the Government have no intention of instituting any such system. They have gone beyond that, Sir. They have said that there is no unemployment in this country. I challenge that statement. I have challenged it on more occasions than one. It was repeated again, I am sorry to say, in the International Labour Conference at Geneva a couple of years ago by the Honourable Member who was in charge of this Department before the Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra took over the charge of his office. But, Sir, I shall not characterise it as a lie, I shall characterise it as the statement of an ignorant man, a man who does not know the conditions in this country and who does not care to find out what the conditions in this country are. I say there are thousands upon thousands of people in this country who cannot find even one meal a day. There are thousands of people who cannot find employment not because they have not "self-confidence" or because jobs are waiting for them and they are too lazy to walk into those jobs, but merely because they are debarred from finding employment either by their lack of education or by the lack of opportunity which comes their way. They have not got the opportunity, with the result that they go and commit dacoities, murders and thefts. Men must live. I say criminals are being manufactured out of these unemployed. We are simply asking you in this Resolution to try and do something for them. In every country in the world you will find unemployment. Even in the best periods of trade, unemployment is in existence. In England before the war unemployment was in existence up to about 2 per cent. of the working class population. After the war, in 1920, it was something like 17 per cent. of the working class population which was out of employment. That state of affairs is chronic. It goes with the system. And what is the system? The system is merely this that you produce goods not for the benefit of the people but that you produce them for the benefit of the profiteer. It is the manufacturer who is in charge of the industries in the country. It is he and the banker who are concerned in industrial development. Their business is not that you should produce as much as is necessary for the needs of the country but just as much as is necessary in order that they may line their own pockets. The result is that a man will go on producing shirts or collars or boots or shoes whereas the people may be in need of food, and no food is produced for them. The result is that this lack of balance is due entirely to the system under which we are living—a system which produces goods not for use but for profit. We do not ask you in this House with a stroke of the pen to abolish this system. All that we are asking is this, do try to remedy the state of unemployment in this country just as in other civilized countries this problem has been solved. If in Great Britain, finding there was a grave state of unrest among the people and a grave state of unemployment among the working classes, they brought in a system of labour exchanges, why cannot the Government of India do the same in this country? I believe in England a man gets 15 to 17 shillings a week if he is unemployed, not because he lacks "confidence," but because he lacks the opportunity. The opportunity is not there. It has been pointed out very clearly by economic experts because the land is not in the possession of the people. The people are barred from going on to the land . . .

**Mr. H. Calvert:** In India?

**Mr. Chaman Lal:** Yes, in India. What do you know about India who talk so glibly about India? Are you not aware of the fact that the system of land tenure in India is rotten to the core? On the one side you have tremendous big estates owned by the landlords, on the other the sub-division of the soil is going on among the peasantry. Our holdings are becoming uneconomic. Are you aware of that? Are you aware of the charges that are levied on the peasantry in this country? The system of land tenure, the system of land holding, the system of capitalism is at the root of this problem and it is not so simple as my friend over there, who did not want an inquiry into this question, suggested. It is a very deep economic question, but at the same time it is a question which can be solved. If not solved in its entirety, certainly the condition of the people of this country can be ameliorated if only the Government are so minded.

Now, Sir, there is no doubt about it that unemployment exists because of the system under which we live. There are from time to time great crises. There is the boom period when the unemployed are absorbed, and immediately after that comes the crisis when people are thrown out of employment. What are the real causes of these cycles in trade? What are the real causes that bring about booms on one side and trade depressions on the other? These have a relevancy to this question. You have to examine the question of the trade boom, of the trade cycle, of the trade depression. You have to examine the interdependence of industry and the banks and of the credit allowed by the banks in times of booms and the credit denied by the banks in times of trade depression. These causes again are interdependent and bring about unemployment in the country. This is a very complicated question; it is not a simple question. It requires careful investigation, an investigation, it may be, by experts who are conversant with the subject, well-versed in theories like those of Hobbs or of Marx or of Henry George or of Jevons. But there is no reason on God's earth why the Government should not give us an inquiry on this subject; no reason why the Government, who pretend so much that they are looking after the interests of the masses of this country, should not now tell us honestly and frankly that they do want to help the poor classes in this country. There is no reason why they should not accept this proposition which we are putting before them. Why do they not? Are they afraid that the facts brought out by this inquiry would be so bad and would so astonish the world, that they would be afraid to face the world?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** Not a bit.

**Mr. Chaman Lal:** Is it the question of expense? What expense is it? It is a flea bite compared with the benefit you will confer upon the country. I sincerely and honestly ask the Government to look upon this question with the eye of a humanitarian and not with the eye of the official hidebound with his regulations, with the eye of a man who wants to do good to this country—to do good not only to the educated classes but to the masses of the workers of this country. There is a great future for any man who takes up this question, and I ask the Government not to forget their duty to mankind.

**Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally:** Sir, if there was any doubt in my mind as to which way I should vote I think the arguments of my Honourable friend Mr. Chaman Lall have settled it. There is such a variety of opinion with regard to this question that I am afraid all these Resolutions and amendments that have been brought forward to-day must fail. On the one hand, my Honourable friend Mr. Sadiq Hasan wants a general inquiry into the economic condition of the country and the poverty of the people. On the other hand, my friend Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar wants an inquiry into the unemployment of the middle classes to which he himself belongs. On the third hand, our venerable friend Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer is more restricted and confines himself to the educated classes only. Therefore, we are left in a sort of uncertainty of mind as to what we want. We do not know what we really want. If a wholesale inquiry is wanted, as my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi also wants, I should certainly go wholeheartedly with him. But that is not what is wanted by the Resolution or the amendments. The Resolution wants an inquiry into the unemployment of the middle classes. The amendment of the Honourable Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer wants an inquiry into the unemployment of the educated classes. My Honourable friend Mr. Sadiq Hasan wants a much broader inquiry and with him I cordially agree. I also agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Chaman Lall on that point. If a general inquiry is to be undertaken I think it will be the duty of this House and of the Central Government to undertake it; but if it is to be a restricted one in any way, whether concerning the middle classes or the educated classes only, it is no part of our duty to ask the Central Government to take that inquiry upon themselves. On the contrary, in my opinion, if an inquiry of that kind were taken up by the Central Government, it would be a sort of vote of censure upon Provincial Governments, and we should be passing votes of censure upon the provincial Ministers of Education. That is a sort of inquiry that must certainly be left in the hands of the Provincial Governments and the provincial Ministers, more specially as Education is a transferred subject. Sir, there is no doubt that unemployment among the educated classes, more particularly in Bengal and Madras, is very acute and to a lesser extent in other provinces. But the unemployment and poverty of the rural classes is certainly far more acute, it is a question into which we ought to go as quickly as possible. Unemployment among the educated classes is due more or less to the faulty system of education that has been pursued hitherto by the Provincial Governments. People with their eyes open take to that kind of education in order to get into some kind of Government service, in which of late we find that they are not successful enough; and therefore the chief thing that is required is to add a sort of vocational education side by side to intellectual education, and that is entirely the province of the Provincial Governments. Supposing we undertake such an inquiry as is recommended now by Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar or even by Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer, what will be the result? The committee that is appointed can only make recommendations to the Provincial Governments to change the system of education in vogue in the Provinces. Beyond that neither a Committee can go nor can the Central Government go. Therefore it will be primarily the duty of the Provincial Governments to make an inquiry of that kind and, in so far as the Bengal Government have already held an inquiry in the matter, I think it will be duplicating that inquiry if a Committee were appointed by this House or by the Central Government to undertake the same task once more. For

these reasons Sir, I think my friend Mr. Iyengar would be better advised to withdraw his Resolution at the present moment and bring in a more general Resolution, as suggested by my friend Mr. Sadiq Hasan and supported by my friend Mr. Chaman Lall. A Resolution of that kind would meet with the more unanimous approval of the House than the Resolution or amendments that have been brought forward to-day. I am afraid we are very much divided upon these amendments and the Resolution, and the result will be that all of them will fail.

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

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

**Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Non-Muhamadan Rural): On a point of order, Sir? Is there a quorum.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member must know that there is a quorum.

**Lala Lajpat Rai** (Jullundur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, there seems to be a considerable amount of feeling in the House that the inquiry demanded by the original Resolution is too limited in scope. At the same time there is a feeling that the two inquiries, one into the unemployment problem in general and the other into unemployment among the educated classes of India, can be better made by two separate Committees. In order to achieve both these objects, I propose, with your permission, to move an amendment which will include both objects and which, I think, should satisfy both sections of the House.

**Mr. President:** The Chair will consider the question after hearing the amendment.

**Lala Lajpat Rai:** This is my amendment, Sir.

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he may be pleased to appoint a Committee with a non-official majority to investigate into the problem of unemployment in general, and among the educated classes in particular, and devise suitable remedies whether by a system of industrial and technical education, or by a revision of the existing system of education, or by offering encouragement to the starting of new industries, or by opening new avenues of employment, or by the establishment of employment bureaux, or by all these or any other means; and that the said Committee do make a report on the latter problem as early as possible."

**Mr. President:** Does the Honourable Member wish to speak?

**Lala Lajpat Rai:** Yes, if the amendment is allowed; otherwise I shall speak on the Resolution.

**Mr. President:** Do Government wish to say anything in the matter?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I have no objection to that amendment, Sir.

**Lala Lajpat Rai:** Thank you. Now, Sir, coming to the general question, I think this amendment is desirable from another point of view, and that is this, that the line of demarcation between the poor and the middle classes is very thin. In this country it is very difficult to distinguish between these two classes. Some people are of opinion that there are no middle classes in this

[Lala Lajpat Rai.]

country; there are either rich men or poor men, and, therefore, the restriction of this Resolution to middle classes practically deprives this Committee of the chance of making an inquiry into the question of unemployment among the poorer classes. I have, therefore, considered it fit, with your permission, to propose this amendment which includes both the questions. Of course, it will be open to this Committee to divide itself into sub-committees, one to make inquiries into the unemployment problem in general and the other to devote its attention to the question of unemployment among the educated classes. In this amendment we say that the latter problem should engage their attention immediately and they should make a report on the problem of the educated classes as early as possible, because, after all, even the general prosperity of the country will depend upon the kind of education that is imparted in our schools and colleges, and on that again will depend the quality and quantity of both skilled and unskilled labour as well as other things which are of equal importance to the country in general and to the educated classes in particular. That is all that I have to say on the general question.

Before dealing with the specific question of the unemployment of the educated classes I want to make a few remarks about the bearing of the political question on this problem. It was said on this side of the House that foreign domination had a great deal to do with the economic poverty of the country, and the remark was laughed at from the other Benches. I want to repeat that remark, Sir. I think that foreign domination makes our economic position in this country if not hopeless, at least extremely difficult. At every step we meet with difficulties in solving our problems. I am not raising the general question of political freedom here, but I want to make it very clear to all concerned, that the solution of the political question will greatly help not only the solution of this particular question of unemployment, but of various other questions affecting the economic prosperity of India and Indians. The two questions are really very much

interdependent upon each other. It is of the greatest possible importance that the political question should be solved as soon as possible, because, I believe, the economic problem can be effectively solved by nobody else but those people whom the shoe pinches, and who are directly interested in the economic salvation of the country. The officials, who belong to a foreign Government, have to give weight to too many considerations besides the interests of India when dealing with the economic problem. They have got to consider the interests of the Empire, they have to consider the vested interests of certain classes of their own countrymen, and they have also to consider the interests of British trade. All these considerations deeply affect the economic problems of this country. The problem of unemployment is one of them and to a great extent depends on the general economic position. All these questions have a direct bearing on the political problem, as well as on the economic problem. It is not therefore a matter for laughter at all. It is a serious question. On the solution of the political problem depends eventually the economic salvation of the country. After all, it is for bread and butter, for an easy or at least a comfortable and decent life, that people are fighting. There are, of course, questions of sentiment and honour also involved in the political problem, but the most vital question is the question of bread and butter and a comfortable life, and that question cannot be successfully tackled without the solution of the political problem. The two questions are, as I have already remarked, interdependent.

Now, Sir, the question of unemployment can be divided into several parts. Unemployment in India is pretty general. There is unemployment among the traders, and there is unemployment among the educated classes. Practically all classes of people in this country suffer from unemployment. We contend that unemployment has been increased by foreign domination and by the fiscal policy of the British Government. We are not going at this time into this fiscal policy at all. We simply say that the fiscal policy is, to a great extent, responsible for increase of unemployment in this country all round. Take, for example, the question of trade. The exchange and currency policy of the Government has got a great deal to do with the question of unemployment among the trading classes. Ten or twenty years ago particularly before the Reverse Council Bills policy, the trading classes of India were much happier and more prosperous than they have been since then, and that policy alone has created a great deal of unemployment in the country and considerable discontent among the trading classes.

Coming to the speech of the Honourable Mr. Calvert, I confess I expected a great speech from him, but I was sadly disappointed, and that to my mind is conclusive proof, if any proof were needed, that however well-disposed a foreign bureaucrat may be, and however great may be his anxiety to know the condition of the people of this country, he is not in a position to know those conditions so well as those who live in the midst of the people and who have been born and bred in the country. The statement made by him seemed to me to be devoid of reality. It bore no relation to one's experience of the actual state of things in the province from which he comes, and from which I have also the honour to come. I was really surprised at his speech. He said, first of all, that the educated classes had several openings which they did not take to, and as an illustration of one of the openings, he suggested that the educated classes should take to the manufacture of Persian wheels. I submit, Sir, that the trivial nature of the suggestion at once shows what little knowledge the Honourable Member has of the economic conditions of the province with which he was dealing. To suggest that manufacture of Persian wheels would give employment to a large class of educated people showed how little the bureaucracy understand our problems. If the educated classes take to the manufacture of iron Persian wheels, they will simply be replacing the earthen pots in those wheels, and they will be displacing another class of people which earns its bread by that industry. In any case only a few men can find employment in that industry. It is not a solution either for unemployment in general or for unemployment among the educated classes. The Honourable Mr. Calvert further remarked that the Government is the largest employer of labour and that it spends a great deal of money on the employment of labour in running several industries. I admit both these propositions, but that does not show that the Government could not do more if they were entirely free to do so, I mean, entirely unfettered by outside considerations and acting purely on considerations of internal economy and Indian prosperity. So far as the question of capital is concerned, I may remind the Honourable Member that a very large amount of capital consisting of the revenues of the Government and of other reserves at the disposal of the Government is handed over to a Bank which does not at all interest itself in the development of industries in this country. It is mostly employed in helping foreign traders. It gives its help to a certain extent to the Indian traders also, but not to the same extent to which it helps foreign trade. It gives no encouragement at all to the development of small

[Lala Lajpat Rai.]

industries, or cottage industries, or to any industries which may find employment for the educated classes or the people in general. As regards the point that India has a great deal of hoarded wealth and that a large amount of gold is imported into India which can be employed in the development of industries, I will not go into it as it is a very controversial point. I would simply point out that the rate of interest at which money is advanced by Indian banks in this country is a sure index of the fact that the amount of capital available is small and not at all sufficient. I submit it is the bounden duty of every Government to look into these problems. The Government may say that the main problems for them are the defence of the country from outside aggression and the maintenance of law and order inside. What is the use of defending the country unless the people of this country are prosperous and there is something to be protected? If the defence of the country means the defence of a few men belonging to the well-to-do classes, then, of course, it is a different matter, but the success of a Government is to be judged by the prosperity of the large mass of the people under them and not merely by the condition of a few. Judged by this test the present system of government is a decided failure. We want the Government to recognise their responsibility in this matter and to realise that their duty does not consist only in providing for the defence of the country or in maintaining law and order—I grant that these are very important functions which all Governments must attend to, but their duty does not end there. Their duty also consists in seeing that the people are prospering and that they are advancing in material prosperity. Judged by that standard we are afraid the present system of government does not fulfil that test. Of course, it may be said that the general prosperity of the people is to be judged by the amount of things they consume. The standard of comfort, the standard of life has risen, they say; I grant that, but at the same time, prices have also risen, and if you put these two things together you will find that the general masses of the country are not so prosperous as they are supposed to be. The educated classes in particular are suffering a great deal and very acutely from that lack of employment about which complaint has been so forcibly made by Honourable Members. The educated classes have been educated under a system of education which unfits them for any practical work in life. It has taken them away from the old walks of life, from their old occupations, and it does not fit them for any new occupations which will be economically profitable to them individually and to the country taken as a whole. The result is that they are suspended, as it were, in the middle.

It was said that there was no such problem in the Punjab. I am afraid the Honourable Member is not quite right. He does not move among the people so much as we do. There is a great deal of acute unemployment among the educated classes in the Punjab. (*Mr. H. Calvert*: "Question?") It is a fact which cannot be questioned. The Honourable Member lives in great bungalows, and in drawing rooms and travels in comfortable conditions, while we practically spend all the twenty-four hours of our life among the people, living with the people, sharing their discomforts, their inconveniences, and their poverty. He may go on questioning but I am not prepared to admit that he or any member of the service to which he has the honour to belong, can know the conditions of the country better than we know or can represent them better than we do. We are born here, bred here. We have intimate relations with all classes

of these people in life,—in business, in trade and in everything, and therefore we know their conditions much better than any of these Honourable gentlemen sitting on the Government Benches opposite. Unless we are to be declared mad or men entirely devoid of any commonsense or any patriotism or sense of duty to our countrymen, I submit that our statements should be accepted as true in this matter. These friends of ours judge things by figures compiled by themselves or by their subordinates under directions given by them, and they judge by the conditions of a few people. We judge by actual knowledge and experience gained from moment to moment, from day to day and from month to month, and naturally our views are much stronger and more reliable than the views of those sitting on the Government Benches. As Government servants, perhaps, they are bound by their figures, but we know how figures are compiled and what reliance can be placed on them. Therefore, I want to make it clear that the question of unemployment among the educated classes is not confined to Madras or Bengal, but it is practically general throughout India. Even in the Punjab the distress among the educated classes on account of unemployment is sufficient to warrant an inquiry into this matter. It is not a matter for the Local Governments. The question is a general one and it ought to be taken up by the Central Government and disposed of by the Central Government after a comprehensive inquiry as to what should be done to remedy this state of things. The Local Governments might suggest palliatives. Perhaps they may not have sufficient funds. It is an all-India question and it ought to be considered on an all-India basis. There might be sub-committees making recommendations in regard to particular provinces, but on the whole the problem is an all-India problem and it ought to be dealt with on an all-India basis.

The Government of this country, and of every country, must accept its responsibility to provide at least the necessities of life to every member of the body politic. I mean the Government of a country has to see that no member of the body politic is without the necessities of life, without the means to live. That responsibility is now recognised by all the civilised Governments in the world. Here in India temporary relief is all that is considered. But in England they are dealing with remedies in order to make a permanent improvement. Temporary relief is also given by way of weekly allowances in order to remove the distress immediately. The unemployment among the industrial classes of India is certainly large, but in my judgment it is even larger among the agricultural classes. The appointment of the Royal Commission announced by His Excellency the Viceroy will not remove it, unless those questions are gone into which have been kept out of the purview of the Royal Commission. They have a very important bearing on agriculture and a half-hearted inquiry into the methods of agriculture will not be sufficient. Improvement in agriculture might bring about an increase of production, but whether that will bring an increase in employment is very doubtful. The increase in employment would come by providing additional facilities to the agriculturists to employ their time by taking to industrial pursuits in their spare time in the villages. So it requires a greater diving into these questions than is likely to be done by the Royal Commission.

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member has already exceeded his time limit by five minutes.

**Lala Lajpat Rai:** I will finish in five minutes.



**Mr. President:** I am afraid I must ask the Honourable Member to resume his seat.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi** (Nominated: Labour Interests): I rise to support the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Sadiq Hasan. I am very sorry that the amendment moved by the Honourable Lalaji is somewhat unsatisfactory. The amendment shows that the problem of unemployment among the middle classes is more important and more urgent than the problem of unemployment among the working classes. Sir, I am not willing to accept that implication of his amendment. The problem of unemployment in this country to-day is a very important one. There is unemployment amongst all classes of people. There is unemployment amongst agriculturists in India for practically four or five months in the year. That is a different problem. But there is also periodical unemployment amongst agriculturists caused by scarcity of rain, and Government deal with it under the Famine Relief Code. But, Sir, apart from the unemployment among the agriculturists there is unemployment among the industrial classes. My Honourable friend Mr. Chaman Lall has dealt with that question to some extent. He has shown to the House that a large number of people have been thrown on the street without work by the closure of, or retrenchments in, workshops of the Railways, and by the closure of factories, etc. There is unemployment even amongst seamen. You thus find that there is a good deal of unemployment amongst all kinds of industrial workers. My Honourable friend Mr. Calvert said there is practically no unemployment amongst skilled workers, but most of the people thrown out of employment from workshops are skilled workers. You will find them in large numbers in Bombay and in places where there are workshops. Therefore, I think, Sir, that nobody can deny that there is a very large industrial unemployment in this country. Of course there is also some unemployment amongst the middle or educated classes, but Sir, I feel that the unemployment in that class is dependent on the unemployment of industrial workers. You cannot separate the two questions. I feel that the unemployment amongst the educated classes is due also to industrial depression, as is the unemployment of industrial workers. When we, therefore, deal with this question, it is desirable that the whole question of unemployment should be first studied and inquired into, and remedies found. We must in the first place go to the root cause of the unemployment. My Honourable friend Mr. Chaman Lall has already stated that the root cause of unemployment is your capitalistic system. As long as your industries are based upon the present capitalistic system there will be periodical unemployment. You cannot avoid that. At present industries are controlled by people who invest capital. But for industrial life other elements are also necessary. You require labour and you require some brains, but the entire control at present lies in the hands of the people who invest their money. (*An Honourable Member:* "You don't require capital?") Capital has some share. As you require capital, so you also require labour and some brains, and these other elements must also have a sufficient share in the control of industry.

Now, Sir, the effect of the capitalist system is that when an industry is prosperous all the profits are taken away by the capitalists, the investors of money, and when there is an industrial depression the burden of that depression is thrown on the poor working classes. Sir, this is a very unfair method of dealing with our industrial questions. If therefore you want to solve this question of unemployment, you must deal with the

root cause, the principle on which the industrial system should be based. As long as the control continues in the hands of the capitalists, you are sure to pass through periods of unemployment, because no country in the world under the present system has avoided periods of prosperity and periods of depression. During the periods of prosperity, there is employment; the capitalists begin to produce more and more, but all the profits that they get at such a time are taken away by them, so that when the period of depression comes on account of over-production, which is bound to occur, they have no money to meet the losses, and therefore the burden of bearing the losses generally falls on the working classes who have to suffer from unemployment. Then, Sir, unemployment also is caused not only on account of the wrong system of control of industry but the wrong system of the distribution of wealth. If a few people in the country get most of the wealth that is produced in the country, it is not consumed properly, it is not consumed efficiently. Naturally, people who ought to get that wealth and who would have consumed it better and also added to the production of the wealth, do not get a sufficient share of the wealth produced, and naturally they do not also produce as much as is necessary and they also suffer from a want of demand for your goods because poor people have not got the means to purchase the goods which you sometimes produce in large quantities. Sir, it is this root cause, namely, the wrong principle on which your industry is based, the wrong principle of the distribution of your wealth, that is causing the periodical unemployment through which we are at present passing. If you therefore want to deal with this question satisfactorily, deal with it in a proper manner, go to the root causes which produce the present unemployment. Sir, when you go to the root causes, you will find that the cause of the unemployment of the educated classes and the unemployment of the industrial workers is the same; and therefore you cannot deal with the unemployment of the educated classes and the unemployment of the industrial workers in a separate manner. And there is also another reason, and that is a practical and political reason; it is in this sense, that if the educated middle classes alone try to get any satisfactory solution of their troubles due to unemployment, they will never succeed. The experience not only in our own country but in all countries clearly shows that the middle classes have not got much power unless they are backed up by the industrial classes. No educated class of employees without the help of the industrial workers will ever succeed in compelling any Government to give them protection against unemployment and the other miseries from which they suffer. From the practical point of view I say that the educated classes and the middle classes who suffer from unemployment should make common cause with the industrial workers; it is only then that their difficulties will be solved.

I therefore think, Sir, that this question should be taken up by Government seriously. They should appoint a Committee, which Committee should go into the whole question of unemployment and go to the root causes of unemployment and also find out the remedies. Of course, according to my view, the remedy is that the system on which industry is based should be changed.

*An Honourable Member:* Down with the capitalists.

**Mr. H. Calvert:** Communism.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** It may be Communism, it may be Socialism, let the Committee decide that. I do not wish to prejudice the issue. I am just

[Mr. N. M. Joshi.]

telling you what the remedy is. I am quite willing to judge on their merits the findings of the Committee when the findings are out. But, Sir, my present feeling is that the problem of unemployment cannot be solved under the present capitalist system, and therefore the problem can only be solved by a change of the system. Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Chaman Lall says rightly that that might take time. We are quite prepared therefore to consider even palliatives. In England and other western countries they have unemployment insurance; let us see if in our country there should not now be some arrangement for giving unemployment insurance to people who suffer from unemployment.

If it is not possible for all classes of people, let us consider whether we can have now a scheme for unemployment insurance for workers engaged in organised industries, such as factories, mines and other big industries.

**Mr. W. S. J. Willson:** Why only organised?

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** For the matter of practical politics. If we can have unemployment insurance for all classes I shall be very glad indeed and you will always get my vote for it. It is only to satisfy friends like Mr. Willson that I am quite ready to make a small compromise and say let us have an unemployment insurance scheme for the organised workers working in organised industries. Then, Sir, you may have employment exchanges, public employment bureaus as there are in England. It is time that Government should consider this question whether some good will be done or not by starting public employment bureaus in at least the big cities. That is a question which a Committee should consider and inquire whether the starting of public employment bureaus will do some good or not. My own view is that if we start public employment bureaus in towns, they are sure to do some good and therefore a Committee like that could go into the question and see whether any good can be done or not, and the problem of unemployment could to some extent be solved or not by starting public employment exchanges.

Then there is the question of education, especially the technical education of our people. We have neglected that problem. I do not say that we have not neglected primary education. I do not say we have not neglected secondary education and I do not say that we have not neglected higher education. But we have done nothing at all for vocational education. Unemployment is not caused by the extension of primary education or secondary education or higher education at all. The cause of unemployment is quite different. But, Sir, it is quite necessary that if our people are to be efficient workers and if they are to produce more wealth (which will be consumed by all people and then there will be more demand for wealth), if unemployment is to be removed, the system of education also requires some change. There is no facility in our present state of affairs for technical education. You can see that even in industrial areas. In Bombay we have a very large textile industry, but there is not even one school in which an ordinary worker in the mill can get training and produce things better and work more efficiently. There is not even one school. Of course there is the Victoria Jubilee Technical College or School which is only intended for higher officers in the mills. But there is not one single school where an ordinary worker in a mill can get education and thereby do his work better. Under this system you cannot therefore succeed in solving these problems. I do not wish to take up the time of this House any longer,

but I again say that I support the amendment of my Honourable friend Mr. Sadiq Hasan.

**The Reverend Dr. E. M. Macphall** (Madras: European): After listening to my Honourable friends Mr. Joshi and Mr. Chaman Lal, I feel that the large question which they have raised, while I recognise its importance, is one which they have practically told us it will be impossible for this House to solve except in the way in which they wish it solved. That is to say they are proposing a Committee which, in their opinion, if it is to bring in valuable results, will recommend the adoption of Socialism, if not of Communism. We are not inclined at present, I think, to adopt Russian methods which have not been altogether successful in the increase of wealth in that country.

**Mr. N. M. Joshi:** May I, Sir, ask whether the appointment of a Committee is a British method or a Russian method?

**The Reverend Dr. E. M. Macphall:** I was referring to the attempt to do without the capitalist. That was what I was thinking of.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** It is a Church method, Sir. (Laughter.)

**The Reverend Dr. E. M. Macphall:** I have intervened in the debate because I have a great deal of sympathy with my Honourable friend Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer's amendment, and I should be inclined to vote for his amendment were it not that I feel that the work which he proposes to be done would be better done by the Provincial Committees which have been already appointed or are being appointed. I may be wrong, but my idea would be that these Committees should consider the matter under local conditions and, when the time comes, the Government of India should consider these reports and attempt to co-ordinate them.

As regards the question as to how far the unemployment of the educated classes is due to British rule, I confess that it is largely due to British rule. India is one of the few countries in which you have the career open to talent, where it is possible for a poor boy, a boy with no wealth, to rise to the highest positions in this Empire. And it is because of that fact, I believe, that there is such a desire to obtain higher education. I have often asked my Brahmin students what would they have been doing had the British never come to India, and as far as I can make out they would have been living upon their lands and upon the offerings of the people.

**Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** What do they do in Japan?

**Sir Hari Singh Gour:** They have no Brahmins in Japan.

**The Reverend Dr. E. M. Macphall:** I am not aware as to what happens to the Japanese Brahmins, but I know that the result of our introducing University education in Madras, at all events, has been to attract a very very large number of Brahmins into the service of Government and also to the law courts.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** What a shame!

**The Reverend Dr. E. M. Macphall:** I think it is natural, Sir. The remuneration of gentlemen in the law courts is sometimes very high. Sometimes it is not, I admit, but still there are prizes and the natural thing for young men is to fancy that they are likely to obtain one of these prizes and therefore they go to the Bar. Their other great object is to get into Government service. That service perhaps is not so attractive as it used to be—it certainly is not so attractive to the Brahmins in Madras—but it is still one

[Rev. Dr. E. M. Macphail.]

of the things that attracts people. What I personally should like to see in the interests of education is that, as far as possible, we should dissociate the Universities from the idea that instead of being places of learning they are avenues to Government employment. I once had the audacity to say something about a University being a place of learning and a man wrote to the papers saying that Mr. Macphail was mistaken in saying that a University was a place of learning, it was a place which conferred a title upon a man to enable him to earn his bread and butter . . . . .

**Pandit Shamlal Nehru:** As a clerk!

**The Reverend Dr. E. M. Macphail:** Not only as a clerk but as a journalist or it may be as a lawyer.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Or as a Swarajist! (Laughter.)

**The Reverend Dr. E. M. Macphail:** I do not wish to take up the time of the House but I really rose partly to protest against the remarks of Mr. Chaman Lall with regard to our University education in this country. He said it was designed in order to produce the Babu and that that was the intention of the Government. I suppose he means by that the same kind of thing that used to be given to me as a parrot-cry by some of my young friends.—the phrase "slave mentality". According to Mr. Chaman Lall our education is simply designed to prevent people from thinking. When I look round the Benches here I am convinced, Sir, that our education has not had that result. The education that we have given in our colleges has largely produced the large amount of talent that I see on the Benches opposite me.

**Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan (Assam: Muhammadan):** Sir, I rise to oppose the Resolution of my Honourable friend Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar and my reasons are these. I am convinced that a suitable agency for the purpose of investigating the causes and collecting material cannot be appointed by the Government of India, but that it should be a Committee appointed by the Provincial Governments in each of the various provinces. The fact remains that there is a great deal of unemployment but I do not think that it is general to the extent that has been made out by some of the speakers on the other side of the House. Much of the unhealthy unrest among the young men, particularly in Bengal, is due to this cause. Sir, were I to apportion the blame for this unquestionably deplorable state of things, I would not exempt some of the educationists, in my opinion misguided educationists, who have done their best to flood the market with graduates in Arts for whom the country has nor can have any demand. Indianisation of the Government in the various services and the opening up of new avenues of occupation, will, I have no doubt, to a certain extent relieve the situation, but it will be but a partial remedy. And in this connection I cannot free the Government from a certain amount of responsibility in the matter. Just to illustrate my point I will inform the House that a young man of my acquaintance wanted to study Botany. One would have thought that a subject like Botany would be universally taught in our colleges, at least in Calcutta. You will be surprised to hear that there are only two or perhaps three colleges which give instructions in Botany. My point is that the system of education is wholly unsuited to the needs of the present generation, and to support my opinion I will

cite one or two lines from a book written by an English author, J. S. Nicholson . . . . .

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Very old.

**Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan:** No, new, 1925.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** A reprint.

**Mr. Ahmed Ali Khan:** He says:

"That most of the educational effort of European Governments in the East had for its primary object the training of clerks for the Government services."

(*An Honourable Member:* "What are you reading from?") It is a recent book by Mr. Nicholson published in 1925.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** Reprinted in 1925.

**Mr. Ahmad Ali Khan:** Now as the primary object in this country is not to train clerks, but to train thinkers and administrators, I submit that we should have a thorough overhauling of the entire educational system—a revision of the basis on which it is founded. I may be permitted to quote again from the same book, at page 250—some Honourable Members may like to read it. He says:

"The schools are producing a middle class separated from the whole life of their community and without prospects outside it. India is an agricultural country but the present system was built upon urban models. It should be based upon the village. The object of education should be to fit the children for the normal healthy life of the community of which they form a part."

That is where the Government have utterly failed.

Well, Sir, it is my firm conviction that unless you go to the root cause in dealing with the trouble you will only be providing an ineffective or at best a partial remedy. The subject is a very wide one. The matter has been exhaustively dealt with by several of the previous speakers. I do not wish to repeat what they said, although at the same time I feel, as I have already stated, that I cannot accept the Resolution as it stands. That is to say I do not believe that a Committee appointed by the Government of India is the best agency for the purpose; it would be better left to Provincial Governments to take action and appoint a Committee in each of the provinces, because the causes which are responsible for the trouble are of varying character and vary in different provinces.

(Several Honourable Members moved that question be put.)

**\*Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal** (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I had no intention of intervening in this debate until an amendment was put forward, first, by my Honourable friend, Mr. Sadiq Hasan, and, secondly by my Honourable friend, Lala Lajpat Rai. It seems to me, Sir, that the original intention and scope of the Resolution proposed by Mr. Rangaswami Iyengar on behalf of Kumar Ganganand Sinha and amended within the scope of that object by Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer has been completely changed, lock, stock and barrel, by Lala Lajpat Rai's amendment. We know there is unemployment all round. There is unemployment among those who are employed in the various industries. There is unemployment among the agricultural labourers also to some extent; but the problem with which we are asked to deal by the original Resolution is unemployment among the middle class, that is, unemployment among the class who are turned out by our Colleges and our Universities, unemployed among the class . . . . .

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\*Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

**Mr. Chaman Lall:** What is the middle class?

**Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal:** My friend knows what the middle class is.

**Mr. Chaman Lall:** What?

**Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal:** The middle class is that to which he belongs.

**Mr. Chaman Lall:** I repudiate that charge, Sir. (Laughter).

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Bring him in.

**Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal:** No, I do not want to bring him in. He has got a higher place because the leadership of labour is higher than the middle class of ancient society. Now, I quite understand and you, gentlemen, all know what the middle class is?

**Mr. Chaman Lall:** What is it?

**Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal:** The middle class is that class which has engaged itself for generations past in literary or quasi-literary occupations. That is the middle class.

*An Honourable Member:* Why not industrial occupations?

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** It is a misleading definition.

**Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal:** It is so difficult not to mislead my Honourable friend, Mr. Kabeer-ud-Din Ahmed that I am not sorry I am misleading him. Just now that is not the question. It is to investigate into the problem of unemployment among the middle classes and to suggest remedies for the same. This unemployment among the middle class, we all understand what it is.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** No, no.

**Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal:** I can only give reasons, not understanding. Now middle class unemployment is unemployment among educated people, those who are turned out, I repeat, by our Colleges and our Universities, and this middle class unemployment is a very serious problem not only in economics but also politically. No Government can neglect this middle class unemployment because the fact of the matter is this, that if this middle class becomes disaffected, discontented, then the result is that they cause unrest in the lower classes and create tremendous revolutions.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** They have.

**Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal:** Revolutions all over the world have been led by this middle class supported by the masses.

*An Honourable Member:* As you did.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** And went to jail several times.

**Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal:** Yes, but jail was jail then and not a father-in-law's house as it is now. Therefore it is a political problem also. And how are we to solve this problem? It is not merely an economic problem either. It is a very complex problem, largely due to the mentality of these very middle classes themselves. The young man who is turned out of our Colleges and Universities in ninety-nine cases out of every hundred does not want to engage himself in hard manual labour; he

wants to be the head of other labourers; he wants to be a boss of labour and not a real labourer himself. Now, let us be honest for once, and let us ask ourselves this question about our sons, my son, or the son of my friend over there when he gets one. Is he going in for the learned professions or is he going in for such work as will place him in a chair and not put him on the lowest rung of the ladder? What would he prefer? I frankly say, Sir, one of my sons is training himself for mechanical and electrical engineering; but when I learn that he has to wield a hammer hour after hour, I frankly say I do not like the idea of it very much. I would have preferred if he could have done without it. That is the general feeling. It is ingrained in us and that feeling is to a very large extent responsible for this middle class unemployment, with which this Resolution deals. That feeling is very largely responsible for it, and of course I would not mind my son being the boss of labour; I would not mind my son being a leader of a Labour Union; I would not mind my son leading two thousand labourers (*Mr. T. C. Goswami*: "Leading an army.") leading an army of labourers. Now, that is the real situation. We must change our mentality; we must change not only our mentality but our social system also. It is all very well to preach democracy in the Council Chambers and in public meetings; but when practical proof of democracy is demanded of us, when a man in rags enters my sitting room—I have not much of a drawing room—well will my democracy stand it? When my brother, my fellow-countryman for whom my heart bleeds, comes in his rags and wants to sit by me on my sofa, why, my democracy flies out of the window. (*Cries of "Yours, yours".*) Yours, yours.

**Mr. Chaman Lal**: You are not telling the truth if you say that it is so.

**Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal**: You are not an individual; you represent the class.

**Mr. Chaman Lal**: You are addressing your remarks to me personally.

**Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal**: Now, that is the real fact. That is the honest truth. I know it, and other people also know it. (*An Honourable Member*: "We also know a great deal.") That is the situation. Unless you are able to change the mentality of our people, unless we change the entire social system which is not democratic or socialistic in the sense in which these things are understood in other parts of the world, unless you are able to do that, until we are able to recognise the God in man, be he poor or rich . . . .

**Mr. Chaman Lal**: The God in the *Englishman*.

**Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal**: Until you change the entire social system and the mentality of our people, it will not be possible to solve this question. I say it is this mentality which is very largely responsible for the middle class unemployment.

Now, Sir, it was said that there is no middle class. My Honourable friend, Lala Lajpat Rai, said that there is no middle class; there are only the rich and the poor. He forgets that we have in this country middle classes who are exceedingly poor in some places, poorer than those who are not regarded as the middle classes. In Bengal there are middle class



[Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal.]

people who are known as middle class people, Brahmins, Kayasthas and Vaidyas, who are in many instances immensely poorer than the agriculturists in certain parts of Bengal.

**Pandit Shamlal Nehru:** We have no classes. We have only one class of slaves.

**Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal:** Now, these agriculturists in Bengal make more money than the poorer middle class men. Therefore, it will not do to say that there are no middle classes. Of course, if you make your banking account the standard of judgment, you may say that there are no middle classes in India, but the social standard is there. Society recognises the middle class as it recognises the higher classes and a lower middle class. Therefore, we have got to face this problem of middle class unemployment. It affects us; it affects at least 90 per cent. of the people of this country. And my submission is that by expanding the scope of this Resolution we shall be defeating the very purpose for which the original Resolution was moved. Sir, the middle class unemployment is more bitter than unemployment among the working classes. I have been told that Exchange Bureaus or Labour Bureaus can be established. Now, labour unemployment can be removed by the organization of labour, and by opening up new works. The other day in London, when they had a fall of snow and the whole city was covered with snow, we read in the papers—you all read it—that the unemployed received employment in removing the snow from the streets of London. Now, I wonder if that is the kind of solution which will help the middle class unemployment among us.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Aiyengar:** Why not?

**Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal:** If there is famine, relief works are opened up by the Government for making roads, and so on. Now, I want to know if the graduates and undergraduates who apply in shoals whenever there is any vacancy carrying a salary of Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 would care to be employed in road making. Would they care to carry loads from one place to another?

*An Honourable Member:* Would your son do it?

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Aiyengar:** Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer said that they would, and they are actually doing it in factories.

**Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal:** I do not know how the situation stands in Madras. I can only speak of things that I know of in Bengal.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Aiyengar:** You have been speaking of Madras, and you need not do it hereafter.

**Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal:** I did not talk of Madras unemployment. I do not know if my Brahmin friends in Madras would carry loads and try to solve this unemployment problem. I do not know if graduates and undergraduates in the Madras Presidency would be satisfied with Rs. 2 a week or 8 annas a day even if they were given some work of the kind which is generally given to a man who is engaged in road making. That is not the case. The real truth is this. We want intellectual labour, we want intellectual employment to remove middle class unemployment, and that being very difficult of attainment, we must change our mentality

(Pandit Shamlal Nehru: "Like you".) We must change our social system, we must change our system of education, and we must induce our young men not to avoid, even if they do detest, manual labour. That is the real difficulty. There are honourable exceptions. I know there are men in my own community, as all the world over, with whom all labour is one, whether it be manual or mental. But they are very rare. With most of our people manual labour is regarded as not honourable and mental labour is the only kind of labour which is honourable.

With these remarks I support the original Resolution and oppose the amendment of my friend Lala Lajpat Rai.

**Mr. E. K. Shanmukham Chetty:** I move that the question be now put.

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra** (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, for the last three or four hours I have listened with considerable interest to the debate which has been conducted in this House on a question whose importance is undoubtedly recognised by everybody. I have heard the various opinions expressed on the subject by various Members and also the various ramifications which have been brought to light as the debate proceeded. It gave me great pleasure to find that a considerable body of my countrymen are now taking an increasing interest in problems relating to the economic welfare of the country. . . .

**Mr. T. C. Goswami** (Calcutta Suburbs: Non-Muhammadian Urban): We wish the Government would take some more interest.

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I am not concerned with the Government at present, if Mr. Goswami will pardon me. I am now referring to the public. For, I am one of those Indians who feel, and feel very strongly, that on the solution of these economic problems will depend largely the ultimate regeneration of India. I have also listened with pain and regret to the perverted utterances and perorations of certain morbid intellects. I shall simply leave it at that. I might have been inclined at that stage to repeat the words of the great Rabindra Nath Tagore uttered before a somewhat similar assemblage. I may be pardoned for repeating a few lines. Mr. Goswami will probably repeat the whole later on and translate it.

*"Eki sudhu hāshi khēla pramodera melā,  
michhe sudhu kathā chhaland.  
Esechha ki hethā yashera kangdli,  
kathā genthe genthe nite karatāli."*

I shall simply leave it at that. (Several Honourable Members: "Translate it.") I shall leave that to my friend Mr. Goswami.

(Several Honourable Members again pressed for a translation.)

**Mr. President:** Order, order.

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I am not going here to attempt a dissertation as to the causes, primary, root or subsidiary, of this

[Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra.]

problem of unemployment in general, or of the middle classes. We have heard a good deal on the subject from various speakers. The  
 4 P.M. Honourable Mover of the original Resolution ascribed it to the foreign domination essentially. If my Honourable friend by that referred to the fact that for several centuries a large mass of the people in this country has ceased to be governed by the representatives of themselves, possibly there is something in that. Anyhow, I rather prefer not to be dragged into political discussions on this question. I have said that there is little doubt that there is unemployment among the middle classes. At a certain stage in my career I had to organise a number of offices and I had the good fortune to give employment to a certain number of people belonging to the educated middle classes. The result has been that ever since then I have been flooded with letters from these educated young men in which they bring out at length their pitiable condition and implore me to save them from starvation. They do not believe that I have no more opportunities in that direction. They probably think that with my gradual rise in the rungs of the bureaucratic ladder I have become a hard-hearted man. I also receive letters from mothers and wives of young men of this class written in more vernaculars than I can decipher. That is, Sir, the position. But what is the remedy? That is the real point we are more concerned with. (*Mr. K. Ahmed*: "Send them all to jail.") It seems to me that most of my friends here take the view that Government can, by some magical process, through the appointment of a Commission or otherwise, get rid of this problem altogether. May I read out to my Honourable friends a passage from one of the books of the celebrated *Burke*:

"To provide for us in our necessities is not in the power of Government. It would be a vain presumption in statesmen to think they can do it. It is in the power of Government to prevent much evil: it can do very little positive good."

I think that this remark applies fully to the circumstances of this case. Still, I do not say that it is not possible for Government to take some action in that matter. But have Government failed to take that action? It may be that in the early stages of British rule in this country Government were more concerned with measures for the preservation of internal law and order and the repulsion of foreign aggression. Some of my Honourable friends on the other side may take exception to that action on the part of the British Government. Possibly they think that if the Government had not taken that action, the problem of unemployment would have been solved as it used to be solved in the pre-British days, that is, by successive spells of anarchy and consequent thinning of the population. But after they had safeguarded these important interests of the people Government began to interest themselves in the other problems. Under the scheme of constitutional reforms introduced in 1920, all these questions connected with nation building have been handed over to Provincial Governments acting with their Ministers. I was a little surprised to hear from Members in this House who a few months ago advocated complete provincial autonomy that the Government of India should now intervene in matters which primarily concern the Provincial Governments. Is the need for this intervention established? Have the Provincial Governments not taken sufficient action in the matter? (*Several Honourable Members*: "No.") I must dissent from that. Whatever may be the posi-

tion in one or two provinces, that is not the universal position. The proceedings of Local Governments and of their Legislative Councils show that they have not been unmindful of their responsibility in the matter. In Bengal where the problem is probably more acute than in any other part of India, the local Legislative Council passed a Resolution on the subject in March, 1922, and in pursuance of that Resolution the Local Government appointed a Committee whose report was published last year. I have got the report here. It was referred to by Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer. I wonder if any other Member, or whether any considerable number of Members in this House, have ever cared to read that report.

**Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar:** What has happened to the report?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** The Local Government is taking action on the report.

**Mr. M. A. Jinnah:** There is no transferred subject there.

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I cannot help that. It was also referred to by some previous speaker. I would rather prefer not to drag in purely political questions in dealing with this economic question. Resolutions on the subject were also passed by the Madras and the United Provinces Legislative Councils in August 1925. That passed by the Council of the United Provinces referred to middle class unemployment, whereas the Resolution passed in the Madras Council covered a wider field, both general unemployment and the unemployment among the educated middle classes. I know that the Madras Government have just appointed a Committee in pursuance of that Resolution. The United Provinces Government have a Development Board and they have referred the matter in the first instance to their Development Board. Meanwhile have the Government of India been wholly idle and apathetic? I distinctly say No. They have taken a considerable amount of action in various directions, such action in certain cases being based on the recommendations of their Legislature. In 1916, they appointed the Indian Industrial Commission, of which my friend Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya was one of the members. That Commission examined the whole question of the development of Indian industries and of industrial and technical education. The Commission reported in 1918. The introduction of reforms in the constitution of India were under discussion in 1918, and were introduced in 1920. Under the reformed constitution both education and the development of industries, including industrial research and technical education, have become provincial transferred subjects and this has prevented the Government of India from issuing definite instructions about the action to be taken by the Provincial Governments on most of the recommendations of that Commission. The Report of the Commission however forms a valuable document for the guidance of Provincial Governments and their Ministers. And there is evidence that these authorities in most of the provinces have been taking action on the recommendations of the Commission, with or without the assistance of subsidiary Provincial Committees appointed by them, to the extent that such action is possible within the funds at their disposal.

In their own sphere the Government of India have taken steps to develop their research institutions and a Mines School is about to be opened at Dhanbad. They have also formed and are gradually developing the Indian

[Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra.]

Stores Department. They have modified the rules for the purchase of stores required for the Central Government so as to give greater latitude for the purchase of articles manufactured or available in India so far as this is possible without undue sacrifice of efficiency or economy. Further modifications of the rules with the same object are under consideration; while Provincial Governments have recently been given practically a free hand in the matter of purchase of stores required by them.

The Industrial Commission was followed by the Indian Fiscal Commission of 1921-22; and with reference to the recommendations of that Commission the Government of India have appointed a Tariff Board and have granted protection to a certain number of Indian industries. (An Honourable Member: "Unemployment?") Well, I said Indian industries, and Government's action has undoubtedly helped to reduce unemployment. There have been other Committees like the Indian Mercantile Marine Committee, action on whose recommendations to the extent that it is possible to accept them, may provide further avenues of employment to the educated middle class; and the question of extending the grant of King's commissions in the Indian Army to Indian youths is now engaging the consideration of the Skeen Committee.

The Government of India in recent years have also adopted a more vigorous policy in regard to the development of their railways, and these measures of development will tend to reduce unemployment not only among the middle classes, but among the other classes as well if there is any severe unemployment among them.

The policy of Indianization of the services with reference to the accepted recommendations of the Lee Commission and the replacement by Indians of certain classes of British personnel in ancillary services of the Army will also provide extended avenues of employment for educated Indian youths. At the same time, and this has already been recognized by various speakers who have spoken before me, it is obviously impossible for the Government, Central or Provincial, to find employment for all the educated Indian youths seeking employment.

The Government of India have also in recent years taken steps to place the finances of the country on a satisfactory basis and to rehabilitate her credit. Stability and improvement in these directions were essential for the purpose of any development of the country, industrial or otherwise. In consequence of the measures adopted by them the Government of India found it possible last year to make reductions in some of the contributions levied by them from the Provincial Governments and this will enable the latter to make more funds available for purposes of development in various directions.

The External Capital Committee was appointed in 1924, and it has recommended *inter alia* a survey being undertaken at the earliest possible opportunity of the whole field of banking in India, which should be followed by detailed examination by an expert Committee or Committees of the lines along which progress should be effected, including provision for a comprehensive scheme of banking education directed to furnish an adequate supply of Indian bankers trained on sound and modern lines. These suggestions are now engaging the consideration of the Government of India.

The Indian Economic Inquiry Committee was also appointed at the beginning of 1925, to make recommendations as to the lines on which a general economic survey of the country should be carried out. The Committee has submitted its Report and its recommendations have been referred for the opinion of Local Governments, whose co-operation is essential for the purposes of such a survey.

Lastly, as was announced by His Excellency the Viceroy on the 20th January last, the Government of India have obtained the approval of His Majesty, the King Emperor, to the appointment of a Royal Commission on Agriculture, which still forms and will form for years to come the predominant industry of India. It has already been recognized by various speakers who preceded me that a remedy of the unemployment among the educated middle classes may be found in some scheme of agricultural development. My friend, Lala Lajpat Rai, doubted whether the Commission to be appointed is likely to deal with questions relating to the state of employment among the rural classes. Well, I find one of the items which they will investigate is the main factors affecting rural prosperity and the welfare of the agricultural population. That seems to me to be wide enough.

**Lala Lajpat Rai:** The three heads were specially excluded. I was talking of those three sub-clauses which had been specially excluded from the purview of the Royal Commission—land tenure, land assessment and irrigation.

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** I thought Mr. Chaman Lall referred to that, in connection with what he stated about the sub-division of land tenures.

**Lala Lajpat Rai:** That was exactly the reverse. He referred to the sub-division of the land tenures, and I referred to those three clauses. However, it does not matter.

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** Mr. Chaman Lall is now not here, but when he referred to the particular matter of the sub-division of land tenures—I do not know the position in the Punjab, but I know the position in Bengal, and the position in the Punjab is probably the same—I would have asked him, does he want the Government to interfere with the law of Manu? What was his idea?

*An Honourable Member:* Why not? It has been several times.

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra:** Sir, from what I have said, it will be abundantly clear that the Government of India and the Provincial Governments have already taken a great deal of action towards the investigation of the problem where it is possible for Government to take a certain amount of action in the matter. It is not possible for Government to solve it wholly, because it is obvious, and it has already been brought out by several of the speakers who have preceded me and who are in a position to speak on the subject with more knowledge and confidence than I can claim, that there are certain factors connected with

[Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra.]

the psychology of the people and their social and quasi-religious habits which enter into the solution of the problem. It is for the leaders of the people in the provinces to take steps to secure a solution of this part of the problem.

Now, Sir, I may say that I have up to now been dealing generally with the question of the unemployment of the educated middle classes, though my remarks apply also to the problem as a whole because I think it will be readily recognized that the only real solution of this problem of unemployment whether among the masses or among the educated middle classes is the development of the country in various directions. In regard to the unemployment among people other than the educated middle classes, I do not know what the position really is all over the country. I know this that in the part of the country I come from, Bengal, there is no such unemployment, and I think my friend, Mr. Bipin Chandra Pal, would be able to support me in this matter, namely, that the unemployment that exists there is the unemployment among the middle classes. In regard to industrial labour, Bengal really imports what it wants. Therefore, the conditions are different in different parts of the country. Possibly the position is the same in the United Provinces as it is in Bengal. That is probably the reason why their local Legislative Council have not included the people outside the educated middle classes within the purview of the Committee they recommended. I have read the debates in the Madras Legislative Council. Apparently in that province there is unemployment among agricultural labourers and therefore the terms of reference to the Committee in Madras have been recommended to be more general. All that I have said indicates the importance of leaving the Provincial Governments, at least at the earlier stages, a free hand to deal with the problem. I have already pointed out that the Provincial Governments are not unmindful of their obligations in the matter. When these Provincial Governments, particularly of the provinces where there is unemployment among people at large or among the educated middle classes, when they have investigated the matter with the help of local Committees on which they are appointing large numbers of non-officials, there may come a time when it may be necessary to appoint a Central Committee; and when that stage is reached, in fact when Provincial Governments come up to the Government of India and tell the Government of India that the time has been reached when a Central Committee is required for the purpose of co-ordination and co-relation, the Government of India will not hesitate to appoint that Committee. At the present moment the appointment of such a Committee would be perfectly futile as has been brought out by various speakers who have preceded me. It will not only be futile, but it may be taken exception to by the local Legislative Councils and the Ministers. In a province like Madras where they are about to appoint a Committee, if the Government of India now intervene at the desire of this House and appoint a Committee of their own, such action is bound to cause irritation to the Madras Legislative Council which passed a Resolution with reference to which a Committee was about to be appointed by the Provincial Government. The earnest of the Government of India's intentions in this matter has already been given by the fact that they did not hesitate to appoint a Royal Commission on Agriculture when they came

to the conclusion that co-ordination of the work done by Provincial Governments had become necessary.

**Sir Hari Singh Gour** (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muham-  
madan): Did you appoint a Royal Commission or the Secretary of State?

**The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra**: So far as I know the Government of India were responsible for it. It was appointed by His Majesty the King Emperor at the instance of the Government of India. I submit therefore, Sir, that this House should not press the Resolution to a definite issue. In fact I really do not know what the substantive proposition before the House is. There has been a considerable disagreement on the subject and apart from the original Resolution, I believe there are three amendments on which divergent views have been expressed. That being the position, I would implore the House to leave the matter where it is. All the Provincial Legislative Councils will certainly see this discussion and those of them who have not been particularly keen in taking action in the matter will probably feel the impulse of this discussion and will take such action as they ought to take in the matter. In fact, the only action which the Government of India can possibly take under present conditions, even if this Resolution in some form or other were passed by the Assembly, would be to draw the attention of the Provincial Governments to the Resolution.

**Mr. T. O. Goswami**: Before you put this very important Resolution to the vote, Sir, may I point out that the most intelligible part of the Government Member's speech was missed by the Legislative Assembly because he refused to translate the passage which he read out in Bengali.

**Mr. President**: Order, order. The original question was:

"That the following Resolution be adopted, namely:

'This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he may be pleased to appoint a Committee having a non-official majority to investigate into the problem of unemployment among the middle classes and suggest remedies for the same.'

Since which the following three amendments have been moved:

"1. That for all the words after the words 'to investigate' the following be substituted:

'the problem of unemployment among the educated classes of India and devise suitable remedies whether by a system of industrial and technical education, or by a revision of the existing system of education, or by offering encouragement to the starting of new industries, or by opening new avenues of employment, or by the establishment of employment bureaux or by all these or any other means.'

2. "That the words 'among the middle classes' be omitted."

3. "That for the original Resolution the following be substituted:

'This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he may be pleased to appoint a Committee with a non-official majority to investigate into the problem of unemployment in general and among the educated classes in particular and devise suitable remedies whether by a system of industrial and technical education, or by a revision of the existing system of education, or by offering encouragement to the starting of new industries, or by opening new avenues of employment, or by the establishment of employment bureaux or by all these or any other means; and that the said Committee do make a report on the latter problem as early possible.'

The question is:

"That the last amendment be made."



The Assemctly divided :

AYES—48.

Abdul Karim, Khwaja.  
Acharya, Mr. M. K.  
Aiyangar, Mr. K. Rama.  
Aiyer, Sir P. S. Sivaswamy.  
Badi-uz-Zaman, Maulvi.  
Chaman Lall, Mr.  
Chanda, Mr. Kamini Kumar.  
Chetty, Mr. R. K. Shanmukham.  
Das, Mr. B.  
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.  
Dutt, Mr. Amar Nath.  
Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Raja.  
Ghose, Mr. S. C.  
Ghulam Abbas, Sayyad.  
Goswami, Mr. T. C.  
Gour, Sir Hari Singh.  
Gulab Singh, Sardar.  
Hla, U.  
Ismail Khan, Mr.  
Iyengar, Mr. A. Rangaswami.  
Jinnah, Mr. M. A.  
Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Mr.  
Kidwai, Shaikh Mushir Hosain.  
Lajpat Rai, Lala.  
Makan, Khan Sahib M. E.

Malaviya, Pandit Krishna Kant.  
Malaviya, Pandit Madan Mohan.  
Misra, Pandit Shambhu Dayal.  
Mutalik, Sardar V. N.  
Narain Dass, Mr.  
Nehru, Dr. Kishenlal.  
Nehru, Pandit Motilal.  
Nehru, Pandit Shamla.  
Neogy, Mr. K. C.  
Pal, Mr. Bipin Chandra.  
Ramechandra Rao, Diwan Bahadur M.  
Bangachariar, Diwan Bahadur T.  
Ranga Iyer, Mr. C. S.  
Ray, Mr. Kumar Sankar.  
Sadiq Hasan, Mr. S.  
Samiullah Khan, Mr. M.  
Sarfaraz Hussain Khaz, Khan Bahadur.  
Singh, Mr. Gaya Prasad.  
Sinha, Mr. Ambika Prasad.  
Talatuley, Mr. S. D.  
Tok Kyi, U.  
Venkatapatiraju, Mr. B.  
Yusuf Imam, Mr. M.

NOES—46.

Abdul Qaiyum, Nawab Sir Sahibzada.  
Abul Kasem, Maulvi.  
Ahmad Ali Khan, Mr.  
Ahmed, Mr. K.  
Ajab Khan, Captain.  
Akram Hussain, Prince A. M. M.  
Alimuzzaman Chowdhry, Khan Bahadur.  
Bajpai, Mr. R. S.  
Bhore, Mr. J. W.  
Blackett, The Honourable Sir Basil.  
Burdon, Mr. E.  
Calvert, Mr. H.  
Chow, Mr. A. G.  
Cocke, Mr. H. G.  
Crawford, Colonel J. D.  
Donovan, Mr. J. T.  
Gordon, Mr. R. G.  
Graham, Mr. L.  
Hezlett, Mr. J.  
Hira Singh Brar, Sardar Bahadur Captain.  
Hudson, Mr. W. F.  
Hussanally, Khan Bahadur W. M.  
Innes, The Honourable Sir Charles.  
Jatar, Mr. K. S.

Lindsay, Sir Darcy.  
Lloyd, Mr. A. H.  
Lohokare, Dr. K. G.  
Macphail, Rev. Dr. E. M.  
Maguire, Mr. L. T.  
Mitra, The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath.  
Muddiman, The Honourable Sir Alexander.  
Muhammad Ismail, Khan Bahadur Saiyid.  
Naidu, Rao Bahadur M. C.  
Owens, Lieut.-Col. F. C.  
Rahman, Khan Bahadur A.  
Rajan Bakhsh Shah, Khan Bahadur Makhdam Syed.  
Raj Narain, Rai Bahadur.  
Reddi, Mr. K. Venkateswara.  
Roy, Mr. G. P.  
Singh, Rai Bahadur S. N.  
Stanyon, Colonel Sir Henry.  
Sykes, Mr. E. F.  
Tonkinson, Mr. H.  
Vernon, Mr. H. A. B.  
Vijayaraghavacharyar, Sir T.  
Wilson, Mr. W. S. J.

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir Muhammad Habibullah** (Member for Education, Health and Lands): Sir, with your permission I wish to ask the Honourable the Leader of the House to make a statement in respect of the Resolution standing on the paper in the name of Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh before it is actually moved.

## RESOLUTION RE TREATMENT OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** (Home Member): Sir, it is frequently my fate to have to make statements in this House which indicate wide differences of opinion between the Government and some parts of the House. To-day I am fortunate in being in the position that I am dealing with a subject on which every Member of this House is in the same camp. I refer to the treatment of Indians in South Africa. Now, next on the paper is a Resolution by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh which deals with that subject. There is also an amendment in the name of my Honourable friend Pandit Motilal Nehru which I know is powerfully backed by another party also. Now the discussion of the motion and the amendment at this particular juncture will, in the considered opinion of the Government of India, prejudice the position in South Africa where negotiations are at a very difficult and critical stage. I therefore ask the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution and the House to consider whether, in the best interests of those whom they are seeking to support in maintaining their rights, it would not be proper and wise to postpone this discussion till later in the current Session. The attitude of this House and the advice of the Standing Committee in regard to this matter have so far been a source of real strength and assistance to the Government, and I cannot believe that we cannot rely on that feeling being continued. The Government of India, on the other hand, have done all that lay in their power to bring about a fair settlement, and I need hardly give the assurance that they will continue to do so. I will, however, recall His Excellency the Governor General's statement: "I and my Government are at one with the general feeling in India". I would therefore ask Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, in whose name the Resolution stands, not to move it to-day on the definite understanding that the Government will give this House an opportunity of considering it and any amendments that may be made to it before the expiry of the current Session. The exact date would of course be to a great extent dictated by the march of events in South Africa; but I will arrange to keep in touch with the parties in this House and as far as possible fix a date suitable to all.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh** (Tirhut Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I am obliged to the Honourable the Home Member for the statement which he has just made. I need hardly say that I have no desire of doing anything which might embarrass the Government in their somewhat difficult and delicate negotiations with the authorities either in South Africa or in England. I also gather that there is a general desire on this side of the House that I should defer moving my Resolution to a later date. In deference to the wishes of the Government, I seek your permission not to move the Resolution to-day, on the clear understanding that another day in the current Session will be given to me without balloting for it again on an official day.

**Mr. President:** No permission of the Chair is necessary for not moving a Resolution. If the Honourable Member accepts the assurance given by the Honourable Home Member, he need not move his Resolution; it is entirely for the Honourable Member to decide whether he should or should not move his Resolution.

**Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** I do not move it, Sir.

**Pandit Motilal Nehru:** Does that exempt him from the chances of the ballot?

**Mr. President:** The Honourable Member will not have to ballot for the Resolution. I understand Haji Wajihuddin in whose name the third Resolution stands does not desire to move it. Mr. Acharya.

**Mr. M. K. Acharya:** Sir, after the very sympathetic and very illuminating speech of His Excellency the Viceroy on the opening day and after the still more sympathetic and still more illuminating replies of the Home Member to questions here on the national demand, I do not propose to move the Resolution.\*

**Mr. President:** Resolution No. 5 is disposed of by Resolution No. 1. I would like to know whether it is the desire of Mr. Neogy to move his Resolution at this late hour.

**Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Sir, I do not propose to move my Resolution† at this late hour: I had an opportunity of discussing the question . . . .

**Mr. President:** No speech is permissible.

## THE INDIAN NATURALISATION BILL.

### PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

**The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman** (Home Member): Sir, I beg to lay on the table the Report of the Select Committee on the Naturalisation Bill.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 1st February, 1926.

\*“ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he may be pleased to amend the Rules in force under the Government of India Act, so that—

- (a) Every Resolution duly passed by the Legislative Assembly, unless under the extraordinary powers vested in the Governor General by the Government of India Act, and for reasons to be duly notified by him, it be set aside by the Governor General, shall be binding on the Government;
- (b) and any Resolution passed three times by any Legislative Assembly within the life-time of that Assembly shall be binding on the Government and shall not be set aside by the Governor General under any of the powers vested in him.”

†“ This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that, having regard to the steadily aggravating depression in the Indian coal trade, the questions be referred to the Tariff Board for investigation, as to (a) whether a bounty should be granted to Indian coal exported to foreign ports, (b) whether an additional duty should be imposed on fuel oil imported into India, and (c) if so, what the rates of such bounty and duty should be.”