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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

VOLUME VIII

(17th August to 2nd September 1926)

FIFTH SESSION

OF THE

SECOND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1926



Legislative Assembly.

The President :

THE HONOURABLE MR. V. J. PATEL.

Deputy President :

DIWAN BAHADUR T. RANGACHARIAR, M.L.A.

Panel of Chairmen :

MR. K. C. NEOGY, M.L.A.

SIR DARCY LINDSAY, M.L.A.

LALA LAJPAT RAI, M.L.A., AND

MR. ABDUL HAYE, M.L.A.

Secretary :

MR. L. GRAHAM, C.I.E., M.L.A.

Assistants of the Secretary :

MR. W. T. M. WRIGHT, C.I.E., I.C.S.

MR. S. C. GUPTA, BAR-AT-LAW.

MR. K. G. HARPER, I.C.S.

Marshal :

CAPTAIN SURAJ SINGH, BAHADUR, I.O.M.

Committee on Public Petitions :

DIWAN BAHADUR T. RANGACHARIAR, M.L.A., *Chairman.*

DIWAN BAHADUR M. RAMACHANDRA RAO, M.L.A.

COLONEL J. D. CRAWFORD, M.L.A.

MR. JAMNADAS M. MEHTA, M.L.A.

MR. ABDUL HAYE, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 31st August, 1926.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CLOSING OF THE LADIES WAITING ROOM AT MORADABAD.

243. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub** : (a) With reference to the answer given by Mr. (now Sir) C. D. M. Hindley to my question No. 1255 (starred) asked at the special session of the Legislative Assembly held at Simla in May and June 1924, published on page 2628 of the proceedings of the aforesaid session, to the effect that there was no proposal to close the Indian ladies' waiting room which formed a part of the main station building at Moradabad, will the Government be pleased to enquire and state whether the said waiting room has been closed or not ?

(b) If the waiting room has been closed will the Government be pleased to state why it was closed ?

(c) Do Government propose to direct the officers concerned to reopen the Indian ladies' waiting room at the main station building or construct a new one for the aforesaid purpose ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Enquiry is being made and the result will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : May I know how long this enquiry will take ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I cannot say, Sir. I should think a fortnight.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : Are the Government aware that the Indian women at Moradabad station are now put to very great inconvenience in that they have to pass over a very troublesome bridge and sometimes they tumble down, and the waiting room which has now been provided for them is about a furlong from the main station where the train stops ? So, do the Government propose to take immediate steps to inquire into the matter and remedy this inconvenience as soon as possible, taking into consideration that this is a case in which the fair sex are concerned.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I am grateful to the Honourable Member for the information in his speech.

REPORT OF ACCIDENTS ON LIGHT RAILWAYS TO THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR OF RAILWAYS.

244. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose** : (a) Will the Government state if all accidents which happen on light railways are reported to the Government Inspector of Railways ?

(b) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the letter written by Mr. A. C. Mitra to Messrs. Martin & Co. and published in the *Bengalee* of the 1st August ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) On light railways to which the Indian Railways Act, 1890 (IX of 1890), has been applied, and the Howrah-Amta Light Railway is one of them, any accident such as is described in section 83 of the said Act which occurs in the course of working a railway is reported to the Government Inspector.

(b) Government have seen the letter.

REQUEST TO THE ROCKEFELLER TRUST OF AMERICA FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS THE CONSTRUCTION OF SCHOOLS OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE IN THE CAPITAL CITIES OF INDIA.

245. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose :** (a) Are Government aware that the Rockefeller Trust in America contributed the large sum of £400,000 towards the construction of the new School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine recently opened in London ?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of approaching the Rockefeller Trust for a decent contribution towards the construction of Schools of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the capital cities of India except Calcutta which already possesses such a school ?

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

(b) A representative of the International Health Board (Rockefeller Foundation) is expected shortly to visit India for the purpose of studying the present position of medical education in this country with a view to enable the Board to decide whether or not financial assistance from the funds of the Foundation should be given to any medical college or institution in India. As medical education is a provincial transferred subject, it will be for the Local Governments to consider whether the Rockefeller Foundation should be approached for a contribution towards provincial institutions such as Schools of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : May I know, Sir, if there is any intention of starting more Tropical Schools of Medicine in India under the auspices of or with the help of this Fund ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : Not that I know of.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : Will the Government of India take an interest in the matter and see that some of these schools are put up ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : My Honourable friend will have already realised from my reply that medical education is a transferred subject. The Government of India cannot themselves take the initiative in this matter.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : However, may I bring to the notice of the Honourable Member that medical research is a central subject and, in so far as medical research is concerned, will the Government of India undertake to approach the authorities of the Fund ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : No, Sir, I can give no undertaking on that point.

EMIGRATION OF INDIAN LABOURERS FROM MADRAS TO MALAYA.

246. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose** : (a) Is it a fact that many Indian labourers are being allowed to proceed to Malaya from Madras ? If so why ?

(b) Will the Government state if good wages are being offered to the labourers in the rubber estates in Malaya ?

Mr. J. W. Bhore : (a) Yes. This migration of Indian Labour to Malaya is due to the demand for labour in that country.

(b) The wages offered evidently constitute an attraction to South Indian labourers, but the Government of India are not altogether satisfied with the rates now being paid though in some districts these are appreciably higher than they were before. The question of fixing suitable standard rates is now the subject of correspondence with the Malay Government.

PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF THE MEMBERS OF, AND THE SECRETARY TO, THE COMMISSION APPOINTED TO ENQUIRE INTO THE BOMBAY BACK BAY RECLAMATION SCHEME.

247. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose** : (a) Will the Government state what are the pay and allowances of the members of, and the Secretary to, the Commission to inquire into the Bombay Back Bay Reclamation Scheme ?

(b) Will the Government state what is the necessity of sending the members on a free trip to England ?

(c) Will the Government state what would be the approximate expenditure incurred on account of this Commission, and which Government will bear the cost ?

(d) Why was not the Commission appointed earlier ? Is it a fact that in April last the London paper *Truth* had been exposing the scandals in connection with this scheme and urging the Government to let the whole wretched business drop ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) The pay and allowances granted to the members of, and the Secretary to, the Bombay Back Bay Enquiry Committee are shown below :

Chairman.—(1) Pay of Rs. 5,000 a month throughout the period of his employment on the Committee, (2) a subsistence allowance of Rs. 15 a day continuously in India, (3) five guineas a day in England as compensatory and subsistence allowances combined, (4) a first class compartment for all his journeys in India while on the Committee and, in addition, actual travelling expenses subject to a maximum of three-fifths first class fare, and (5) the actual cost of transporting his motor car from Allahabad to Bombay and back, including the cost of transporting a chauffeur.

European Member.—His actual out of pocket expenses as claimed by him.

Indian Members.—In India, Rs. 1,500 a month each plus a subsistence allowance of Rs. 15 a day continuously, and travelling allowance (except halting allowance) as for a first class officer. Out of India, £100 a month each with a subsistence allowance of 25 shillings a day while in England.

Secretary.—In India, a pay of Rs. 2,250 a month *plus* £30 a month overseas pay, a subsistence allowance of Rs. 15 a day continuously, and travelling allowance (except halting allowance) as for a first class officer. Out of India, two-thirds of his Indian pay, including overseas pay, with compensatory and travelling allowances admissible under the India Office Rules while in England.

In addition to the terms mentioned above, the Chairman, the Members and the Secretary have been granted first class return passages to England, and the Chairman has also been granted return passage by the lowest class available for an Indian servant.

(b) The Committee will proceed to England for the purpose of recording evidence on matters connected with the Back Bay Reclamation Scheme.

(c) The approximate expenditure to be incurred on account of the Committee will be Rs. 1,20,000, and will be borne by the Central Government.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Resolution No. Mis.-81, dated the 29th July 1926, by the Department of Industries and Labour, which was published at page 877 in Part I of the Gazette of India, dated 31st July 1926. The Committee was appointed as soon as possible after a request on the subject had been made by the Government of Bombay to the Government of India. As regards the last part of the question, Government have no information.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO LAWYERS TO THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL.

248. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose** : (a) Will the Government state whether it is the intention of the Government of Britain to appoint two lawyers to sit as Judges in the Privy Council in accordance with the Judicial Committee Bill recently passed by Parliament ?

(b) Will the Government state if the Government have submitted the names of certain persons to the Government of Britain for appointment as members of the Judicial Committee ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : (a) The Honourable Member is mistaken in supposing that the Judicial Committee Bill has been passed by Parliament. It is true that the Bill was passed by the House of Lords, but it has not yet been before the House of Commons, and the Government of India understand that it will not be possible to bring it before the House of Commons until 1927. My Honourable friend will understand therefore that I give him no information about the intentions of His Majesty's Government if and when the Bill is passed.

(b) No.

LETTER PUBLISHED IN THE *Forward* OF THE 8TH JULY, 1926, SIGNED "ONE WHO KNOWS."

249. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose** : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the letter signed "One Who Knows" which appeared in the *Forward* of the 8th July ?

(b) Do Government propose to direct the railway administration to take steps to remedy the grievances indicated in the letter ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) I have no doubt that the letter has already been brought to the notice of the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway. In any case questions of this kind can best be brought up by members of the Local Advisory Committee.

THE BOMBAY BACK BAY RECLAMATION SCHEME.

250. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose :** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the reply given by the General Member in the Bombay Legislative Council that the Government of Bombay were aware of the fact that the firm of Tatas had consulted Messrs. Jacobs and Davis of America regarding the prospects of the Bombay Back Bay Reclamation Scheme in 1911 and that this firm of experts had given the opinion that the scheme would prove financially disastrous ?

(b) Will the Government state if this information was sent by the Local Government to the Government of India when recommending the scheme ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) Yea.

(b) The report of the engineers referred to formed part of an appendix to the Report of the Bombay Development Committee, 1914, which was sent to the Government of India at the time.

EXPENDITURE ON THE INDIAN SANDHURST COMMITTEE.

251. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose :** (a) Will the Government state what is the necessity of the deputation of the Indian Sandhurst Committee making a tour of the Universities in India during the month of August ?

(b) Will the Government state what has been the expenditure incurred up to date on the Indian Sandhurst Committee ?

(c) Will the Government state what pay and allowances were given to the members of the Indian Sandhurst Committee, who proceeded to Europe and North America ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) In order to assist in answering the principal term of reference of the Committee, namely, to enquire and report by what means it may be possible to improve upon the present supply of Indian candidates for the King's commission both in regard to number and quality. The deputation investigated the possibilities of certain Indian Universities in this respect.

(b) The amount during the last financial year was Rs. 82,000. The figures for the current financial year are not yet available.

(c) The Members received while away from India a deputation allowance of £100 a month, and a daily subsistence allowance at the rates of £1-5-0 in the United Kingdom, £1-15-0 on the continent of Europe, and £2-10-0 in America. These allowances conform to the scale ordinarily applied to Royal Commissions, Committees, Deputations, etc., proceeding from India to Europe or *vice versa*.

EMPLOYMENT OF INDIAN SOLDIERS OUTSIDE INDIA.

252. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose** : (a) Will the Government state the names of the Indian regiments serving overseas and the number of the soldiers and followers so employed ?

(b) Will the Government state why Indian soldiers are serving in the Straits Settlements ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) The Honourable Member will find the names of the regiments and their stations on page 54 of the current number of the Indian Army List. The normal strength of a battalion is about 750 soldiers and about 45 followers. There is also one company of Sappers and Miners in Iraq, whose normal strength is 229 Indian ranks and 14 followers.

(b) I refer the Honourable Member to part (b) of the answer which I gave to question No. 245 on the 31st of August 1925, and to the Resolution adopted by this House on the 28th March 1921, which explained the reason for the employment of Indian troops on garrison duties in other parts of Asia, including Singapore.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : May I know who bears the cost ?

Mr. E. Burdon : His Majesty's Government.

Dr. K. G. Lohokare : And the Government of India have nothing to do with it ?

Mr. E. Burdon : No, the Government of India bear no part of the cost, Sir.

PROVISION OF ELECTRIC LIGHTS AND FANS FOR EUROPEAN, ANGLO-INDIAN, CHINESE, JAPANESE AND NEGRO PRISONERS IN INDIAN JAILS.

253. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose** : Will the Government state if electric lights and fans are provided for European, Anglo-Indian, Chinese, Japanese and Negro prisoners who may happen to be sent to prisons under the control of the Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : No electric lights and fans are provided in jails in Coorg, Ajmer-Merwara, Central India, Baluchistan and the States of Western India. In the Secunderabad Jail electric lights are provided for all prisoners, but no fans. Electric light is now in the process of being installed in the Delhi District Jail for the first time. No prisoners of European habits are kept in the Delhi District Jail ; when sentenced they are transferred to the Lahore Jail. An electric fan is being installed in one of the European detention wards and an electric light in each of the two wards. I have not yet received information from the North-West Frontier Province, but, if the Honourable Member wishes, I will let him know the facts later.

REMOVAL OF THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE ADMISSION OF GERMANS INTO INDIA.

254. ***Mr. S. C. Ghose** : (a) Will the Government state when the restrictions as regards the admission of Germans to India will be removed ?

(b) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of removing these restrictions as soon as possible ?

REMOVAL OF THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE ADMISSION INTO INDIA OF FORMER ENEMY NATIONALS.

255. *Mr. S. C. Ghose : (a) Will the Government state if there are restrictions as regards admission to India of the former enemies of the British Empire in the last Great War ?

(b) If the answer is in the affirmative, do Government propose to take steps to remove these restrictions at an early date ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 254 and 255 together.

The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Home Department press communiqué of the 8th September 1925, a copy of which is placed on the table.

Copy of the Home Department Press Communiqué of the 8th September 1925.

In Press Communiqué, dated the 22nd November 1919, and the 22nd January 1920, the Government of India with the approval of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, announced their intention of excluding *ex-enemy* aliens from India for a period of five years after the conclusion of the war, and except in special cases, this policy has since been followed. The conclusion of the Anglo-German Treaty, however, and the withdrawal of all restrictions against the entry of *ex-enemy* aliens as such into the United Kingdom have made a complete change in the position, and following the example of His Majesty's Government, the Government of India have now decided to withdraw the general restriction on the entry of *ex-enemy* aliens into India. In future no discrimination will be made against *ex-enemy* aliens as such in granting visas to enter India. The passport regulations will be maintained and under them it will be possible to exclude undesirables of *ex-enemy* nationality to the same extent as such persons of other nationalities may be excluded from India.

2. The modifications in the detailed arrangements for the admission into India of alien Christian Missionary Societies and organisations and their individual members and of individual alien Christian Missionaries which will follow from the above decision are being considered and will be communicated to the authorities and persons concerned in due course.

EMPLOYMENT OF INDIANS AS COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND TRADE OFFICERS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

256. *Mr. S. C. Ghose : (a) Will the Government state what steps are being taken to increase the sales of Indian goods in foreign countries ?

(b) Are Government aware that there is a Far Eastern Division of the United States of America Department of Commerce to popularize American goods in Eastern countries ?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of appointing Indians as Commercial Intelligence and Trade Officers in foreign countries ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : (a) As the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, there is in existence in Calcutta, a Department of

Commercial Intelligence and Statistics. It is one of the duties of this Department to encourage Indian overseas trade by means of trade introductions, that is, by introducing Indian firms of good standing and reputation to foreign merchants, and by the supply to Indian firms of information as to trade openings abroad. The Department also circulates full information regarding Indian produce and manufactures to foreign merchants likely to be interested. It works in close-touch with the Indian Trade Commissioner, who discharges similar functions in London and in addition organises Indian exhibits in British and Continental Fairs and does propaganda work by means of the public Press. Further, information regarding foreign exhibitions is brought to the notice of Chambers of Commerce and others likely to be interested.

(b) Yes.

(c) As mentioned above, there is one Indian Trade Commissioner stationed in London. The Government have no present intention of appointing any more.

Sir Walter Willson : If the Government have not favoured Mr. S. C. Ghose with a copy of the Indian Trade Commissioner's Annual Report from London, will they kindly send him one ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : It is usually published in the Gazette of India.

GRANT OF A BOUNTY TO INDIAN COAL.

257. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the opinion expressed by the majority of the Tariff Board, and the definite finding of the minority, in their report of April, 1926, that two of the principal causes for the loss of export business in the coal trade were (1) the embargo placed upon the export of coal in 1921 (2) the rise of the exchange from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. to the rupee in 1924 ? If so, what steps do the Government propose to take to compensate the coal industry for the loss sustained by reason of the action of the Government ? Do Government propose to consider the desirability of giving the industry assistance by way of a substantial bounty in order to enable it to recapture the export market ?

(b) Are Government aware that the recent increase of rebate by 12½ per cent. of railway freight on export of graded coal is not considered by the trade to be sufficient to help the recovery of the overseas market ?

(c) Is it the finding of the majority report of the Tariff Board that the coal industry satisfies more or less the conditions laid down by the Fiscal Commission to justify its claim to protection, and is it the decision of the Board that a duty on South African coal alone would not result in the development of the industry ?

(d) If so, do Government propose to consider the question of a bounty to Indian coal for its protection ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : The Government have indicated their course of action quite clearly in their pronouncements on the Reports of the Indian Coal Committee and the Indian Tariff Board. If the Honourable Member is dissatisfied it is always open to him to give notice of a Resolution on the subject. In the meantime the Government of India have nothing to add to what they have already said.

Mr. K. C. Neogy : Will the Honourable Member accept short notice of a Resolution so as to enable me to move it to-morrow ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : No, Sir.

INCREASE OF THE EXISTING DUTY ON COAL.

258. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy** : Is it the unanimous finding of the Board that a small increase of duty by Rs. 1-8 will lead to an increase in the sales of Indian coal by some 300,000 tons a year, and that such a course will not add appreciably to the cost of coal to consumers, but will put a stop to the present unjustifiable drain on the economic resources of the country ? If so, do Government propose to reconsider their attitude in regard to this question as revealed in the Resolution of the Commerce Department, dated the 17th July 1926 ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : The decision not to increase the existing duty on coal was taken after very careful consideration and is, as the Honourable Member is aware, in accordance with the finding of the majority of the Board. The Government do not therefore propose to reconsider it.

FURTHER EXAMINATION OF THE QUESTION OF EXPORT OF COAL.

259. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy** : Has the attention of Government been drawn to the observations in the minority report of Mr. Ginwala that "the examination of the question of the export of coal is still incomplete" and that it can no longer be undertaken as a piecemeal business, and do they contemplate taking any further action in the light of these observations ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : The Government are aware of the views expressed by Mr. Ginwala and have given them the fullest consideration. But they have no present intention of taking any further action to assist the export trade in coal beyond that which they have already taken on the Report of the India Coal Committee.

NOMINATION OF SIR C. P. RAMASWAMI AIYER TO REPRESENT INDIA AS A SUBSTITUTE DELEGATE AT THE FORTHCOMING SESSION OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

260. ***Mr. B. Das** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state what were the special reasons that prompted them to nominate a fourth gentleman in Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyer to the League of Nations' meeting ?

(b) If a second Indian was to be chosen why was the choice not made at the time of the original announcement ?

Mr. L. Graham : (a) The number of delegates to the Assembly of the League of Nations is by the covenant limited to 3. It is, however, permissible to add to the delegation substitute delegates whose special function is to sit in Committees of which there are six when it is not possible for the delegates themselves to attend. They may also sit in the Assembly in the place of absent delegates. As an experimental measure with a view to afford relief to the three delegates, it was decided this year to appoint three substitute delegates. One of those substitute delegates is Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyer. With him also as substitute delegates are Sir Edward Chamier and Sir Basanta Mullick.

(b) After the delegates had been selected, the number and personnel of the substitute delegates was considered and settled.

Mr. B. Das : May I inquire if this extra expenditure incurred on sending three substitute delegates in addition to the three delegates to the League of Nations is at all necessary ?

Mr. L. Graham : I think, Sir, that if the Honourable Member had heard or understood what I said in reply to part (a) of his question, he would not have asked that supplementary question.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : May I beg to inquire if in the case of delegates from the other nations which are members of the League of Nations any person is appointed as a delegate who is not a Member of Parliament for the time being ?

Mr. L. Graham : Many persons, Sir.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : Will the Honourable Member give me one instance ?

Mr. L. Graham : No, Sir ; I cannot trust my memory to that extent.

EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION OF AGREEMENTS TO SELL IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY.

261. ***Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally :** (a) Are the Government aware of a recent decision of the Privy Council by which all agreements to sell immoveable property require to be registered ?

(b) Is it a fact that since 1877 such documents were exempt from registration under the Indian Registration Act and that all the Indian High Courts were agreed upon the point ?

(c) Do Government propose to bring in an amending Bill exempting such documents from registration to prevent any hardship which might result from this decision ? If so, when ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : I have seen the Privy Council judgment in the case of Dayal Singh *versus* Indar Singh to which the Honourable Member presumably refers, but I could not, without more study than I have been able to give to the matter, endorse his description of its effect. I will have the effect of the judgment examined as soon as possible.

REVALUATION OF BUILDINGS AND LANDS IN THE BARODA CANTONMENT.

262. ***Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally :** 1. (a) Is it a fact that the Baroda Cantonment authorities have in March 1926 revalued the buildings and lands within the Baroda Cantonment for the purpose of house and other taxes ?

(b) Is it a fact that a large number of the owners of houses and lands had petitioned the Cantonment authorities in April 1926, protesting strongly against the basis on which they made their valuations ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what action has been taken by the Cantonment authorities in this respect ?

2. (a) Have the Cantonment authorities made the said revaluation of buildings and lands in terms of the definition of " annual value " as stated in clause (b), section 64, Chapter V of Act II of 1924 ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state under what rule the Cantonment authorities at Baroda are justified in their present practice according to which the annual rental value of all houses and buildings in the said Cantonment is assessed at 10 per cent. of their valuation as estimated by them ?

(c) Do Government propose to issue orders to the Baroda Cantonment authorities to discontinue this practice of fixing the annual rental value, taken as a basis for house tax ?

Mr. E. Burdon : I am making inquiries and will let the Honourable Member know the result as soon as possible.

REDUCTION OF EXPENDITURE ON THE OFFICE STAFF IN THE BARODA CANTONMENT.

263. ***Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally :** (a) Are Government aware that the Baroda Cantonment comes under class 3, among Cantonments in which the Cantonment authority is a Corporation Sole, and that its financial resources are very limited, its civil population not exceeding 2,455 ?

(b) Are Government also aware that, since the separation of executive and magisterial work, an office staff is maintained by the Cantonment Office involving an outlay of Rs. 5,000 per year ?

(c) If Government's answer to the above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to bring to the notice of the Cantonment authorities the desirability of reducing expenditure on office staff commensurate with the decrease of work ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) Yes, Sir.

•(b) The expenditure is approximately Rs. 5,000 per year which includes the cost of the Executive Officer.

(c) The Government do not propose to interfere in the matter as the expenditure on office staff does not seem to be disproportionate to the work done.

CONVERSION INTO A HOSPITAL OF THE NANAVATI DISPENSARY IN THE BARODA CANTONMENT.

264. ***Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally :** (a) Is it a fact that in connection with the Nanavati dispensary, located in the Baroda Cantonment, no charge allowance was ever paid to the Senior Medical Officer at Baroda till very recently ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether the said dispensary was converted into a hospital and the Senior Medical Officer was allowed to draw hospital charge allowance in respect of the same, and if so, why ? Do Government propose to inquire how many cases of indoor patients have been admitted since the dispensary was converted into a hospital ?

Mr. E. Burdon : I am making enquiries and will let the Honourable Member know the result as soon as possible.

PUBLICATION OF A STATEMENT OF THE ACCOUNTS OF THE CANTONMENT FUND,
BARODA CANTONMENT.

265. ***Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally** : Are Government prepared to instruct the Baroda Cantonment authorities to publish a statement of accounts of the Cantonment Fund every year for the information of the tax-payers ?

Mr. E. Burdon : I will consider the suggestion, Sir.

OPENING OF GUJERAT TO RECRUITING FOR THE INDIAN ARMY.

266. ***Mr. E. F. Sykes** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is proposed to open Gujrat to recruiting for the Indian Army ?

(b) If not, why was a Committee consisting entirely of Gujrati gentlemen sent at the public expense to investigate the military training establishments of Europe and America ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) I do not quite grasp the connexion of this part of the question with the first part, but I may mention that it was not a Committee that went to Europe and America, but a deputation selected by the Indian Sandhurst Committee from among its own members. It happened that the only three members who were so selected and were able to undertake the deputation, were gentlemen from the Bombay side. One of them is a retired military officer of distinction, and the other two, as the Honourable Member is aware, are prominent members of the Indian Legislature. The Committee were entirely satisfied as to the competence of these gentlemen to investigate and report to the Committee on the matters in question.

INDIANISATION OF THE RAILWAY SERVICES. •

267. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare** : Has the attention of Government been drawn to an editorial note regarding Indianisation of the Railway Services which appeared in the issue of the *Tribune* of Lahore of July 29, 1926 ; and if so, is it proposed to issue, as there suggested, a pamphlet setting out in full detail the rules and conditions governing recruitment to the higher services ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : Government have seen the editorial note mentioned by the Honourable Member, and will consider the suggestion contained in it.

PAY AND PROSPECTS OF THE CLERICAL STAFF OF THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS OFFICES.

268. ***Dr. K. G. Lohokare** : Has the attention of Government been drawn to an editorial note on " Army Clerks " which appeared in the issue of the *Servant of India* of August 12, 1926 ? Is it contemplated to appoint a Sub-Committee of the Innes Committee to inquire into the conditions of service and the pay and prospects of the clerical staff of the Army Headquarters offices ; and if so, is it proposed to appoint representatives of the clerks on the Sub-Committee ?

Mr. E. Burdon : Government have seen a copy of the article referred to by the Honourable Member. The answer to the remaining two parts of the question is in the negative, since the questions raised by the Honourable Member have already been considered by the Innes Committee itself.

INCLUSION OF URDU AS A SUBJECT FOR THE I. C. S. EXAMINATION TO BE HELD IN INDIA.

269. ***Khan Bahadur Saiyid Muhammad Ismail :** 1. With reference to the Régulation prescribed for the competitive examination of the Indian Civil Service to be held in India, will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state :

(a) why Urdu also has not been prescribed for Bihar and Orissa in the list of principal vernaculars, prescribed for the various Provinces, it being so recognised there ?

(b) why candidates whose mother language is Urdu have been debarred from offering this language as the principal vernacular language ?

2. Are Government aware that there is a general and persistent demand to prescribe Urdu in the list of principal vernaculars of Bihar and Orissa ?

3. Has their attention been drawn and, if so, with what result, to the various resolutions passed by the Provincial Urdu Conference demanding Government to include Urdu amongst the list of prescribed languages for the Indian Civil Service Examination ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : The principal vernaculars prescribed are those in most general use in each of the provinces. It would not be practicable to prescribe for each province every vernacular which is spoken as his mother tongue by any resident in the province. I must point out that the subjects of examination are prescribed by rules made by the Secretary of State in Council with the advice and assistance of the Civil Service Commissioners under section 97, sub-sections (1) and (2) of the Government of India Act. I am prepared, however, if the Honourable Member so desires, to enquire from the Government of Bihar and Orissa whether there is any extensive demand for the inclusion of Urdu.

RAISING OF THE CONTRACTORS' PERCENTAGE FOR CONSTRUCTING THE REMAINDER OF THE BUILDING FOR THE FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, DEHRA DUN.

270. ***Khan Bahadur Saiyid Muhammad Ismail :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to say whether it is a fact :

(i) that the contractor for constructing the first part of the new building of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, offered to construct the remainder of the building at a price 14 per cent. below the estimated cost ?

(ii) that in spite of this offer, the work was given to him at a price 2½ per cent. below the estimated cost ?

(iii) that the Chief Engineer recommended the acceptance of the first offer, but was overruled ?

(b) What is the estimated resultant loss as a consequence of raising the contractor's percentage ?

(c) If the answer to (a) (iii) is in the affirmative, who was the official by whose advice the Chief Engineer was overruled ?

(d) What disciplinary action has been taken, or is proposed to be taken against that official ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a). (i) The answer is in the affirmative.

(ii) As a result of a public call for tenders, the existing contractor's tender, which was the lowest, was accepted.

(iii) Yes. The P. W. D. Code, however, prescribes that tenders should invariably be invited. Consequently the Chief Engineer's proposal could not be accepted.

(b) The raising of the contractor's percentage was due *inter alia* to an increase in the rates at which certain Government stores were to be issued to the contractor as well as to certain alterations in the conditions and specifications attaching to the second contract. The financial effect of those modifications is not calculable at present.

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

NUMBER OF MUSLIM AND NON-MUSLIM POSTAL OFFICIALS IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.

271. ***Khan Sahib M. E. Makan :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) the number of (1) Superintendents, (2) Inspectors, (3) Postmasters, and (4) Clerks, both Muslim and non-Muslim, in the Postal Department in the Bombay Presidency proper ?

(b) the educational qualifications of each of the Superintendents and the Inspectors ?

(c) what are the minimum qualifications necessary for the posts of Superintendents and Inspectors ?

(d) whether there are any rules laying down the necessary standard of qualifications for these posts and what are they, if any ?

Sir Ganen Roy :

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| (a) Superintendents | { Muslim—1. non-Muslim 20. |
| Inspectors | { Muslim—Nil. non-Muslim—42. |
| Postmasters | { Muslim—36. non-Muslim—669. |
| Clerks | { Muslim—153. non-Muslim—3,065. |

(b) Superintendents 1 Muslim—M.A., LL.B.

| | | |
|---------------|---|--|
| 20 non-Muslim | } | 4—M.A. 1—B.A., LL.B. 8—B.A. 1—Intermediate. 1—Matric. 5—Passed no University examination. |
|---------------|---|--|

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Inspectors 42 non-Muslim | } | 1—M.A. 8—B.A. 3—Intermediate. 25—Matric. 3—School Final. 2—Passed no University examination.... |
|--------------------------|---|--|

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : Considering the very small number of Muslims in the Postal Department, do the Government propose to direct the higher authorities of the Postal Department in the Presidency that preference should be given in future to qualified Muslims in the service of that Department ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The Home Department orders are being followed in the case of future recruitment to the Postal Department.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : Do the Government of India see that the circular which they issued to this Department is being carried into effect ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : Orders have been issued by the Director General to the Postmasters generally that in making future recruitment the orders should be given effect to.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : My question was, do the Government of India see that effect is in practice given to this Resolution ? The mere issuing of the order will not remove the grievances of the Muslims.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The Government of India receive statistics showing the position of the service in the various Circles and therefore they are in a position to judge whether the orders are being given effect to or not. At the same time I am not sure whether the Honourable Member is in order in asking these supplementary questions. I understand that the question as a whole has not been fully answered.

Mr. B. Das : Is it not a fact that in Bombay the Mussalmans are engaged in more prosperous pursuits, and that, therefore, very few applications are received from Muhammadans for Government service ?

Sir Ganen Roy : I have not yet finished my answer. I have still to answer parts (c) and (d) :

(c) No minimum qualifications are laid down. Probationary Superintendents are required to be well educated, of good birth and physique. Superintendents recruited from the ranks are

selected for their efficiency and aptitude for exercising supervision and for taking responsibility. Officials who show promise of making good supervising and investigating officers are selected for Inspector's appointment. Candidates for both appointments have to pass a qualifying technical examination.

(d) No.

Pandit Shamlal Nehru : May I ask to whom the posts will go if Muhammadans of the requisite qualifications are not available, if the posts are meant for Muhammadans only ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : It will obviously go to a non-Muslim, if there is absolutely no Muhammadan with the requisite qualifications.

Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally : Are the Government aware that there are Muhammadans with the requisite qualifications available everywhere ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : Whether Muhammadans are available or not comes out in connection with the operation of the normal orders regulating the recruitment to the various branches of the service. Take for example, postal clerks. For postal clerks, there is an examination and if a Muhammadan passes the qualifying examination, his name is put down in the list of approved candidates. If there is no Muhammadan who can pass that qualifying examination, it follows that there is no Muhammadan qualified for appointment.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : Will the Government see that equal facilities are given to Mussalmans to appear for this examination as well as others ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : Government have no reason to apprehend that equal facilities are not given.

LACK OF WAITING ROOMS ON THE STATIONS ON THE BROACH-JAMBOOSAR RAILWAY.

272. ***Khan Sahib M. E. Makan** : 1. Are the Government aware :

(a) that there are no waiting rooms on the stations on the Broach-Jamboosar Railway ?

(b) that great hardship is thus experienced by upper class passengers ?

2. What steps have the railway authorities (Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway) taken in pursuance of a reference made to them ? (*Vide* my questions Nos. 699, dated the 7th September 1925, and 1042, dated the 1st March 1926) ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). No.

(c) Beyond the fact that copies of the questions and replies were sent to the Agent, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway for such action as he might consider necessary, Government have no information.

ABSENCE OF PLATFORMS AT GODHRA AND COSAMBA ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

273. *Khan Sahib M. E. Makan : With reference to the reply to starred question No. 1351 asked in the Legislative Assembly meeting of the 22nd March 1926, will Government please state whether any action has been taken by the railway authorities to remove the inconvenience and loss caused to the public owing to the absence of platforms at the stations of Godhra and Cosamba on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : Government understand that action is being taken on the matters referred to by the Honourable Member.

INCONVENIENCE SUFFERED BY PASSENGERS OWING TO THE ABSENCE OF A WATER-PIPE AT AMOD STATION ON THE BOMBAY, BARODA AND CENTRAL INDIA RAILWAY.

274. *Khan Sahib M. E. Makan : 1. Are Government aware that :

- (a) owing to the absence of a water-pipe the passengers have to undergo great hardship for water on the station of Amod, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, which is far away from the town ?
- (b) the railway authorities had some correspondence with the Thakore Sahib of Amod regarding the supply of a water-pipe from his well ?

2. Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken and will be taken hereafter for the removal of the said hardship ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : 1 and 2. Government have no information as regards this particular station. It must be left to the Agent to decide how the money provided in the budget for amenities to passengers can be spent to the best advantage, but I will communicate the Honourable Member's suggestion to him.

RULE REGARDING THE EMPLOYMENT OF MATRICULATES ONLY ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

275. *Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally : 1. (a) With reference to the answer to my starred question No. 62 on 18th August 1926, will Government please state in what year the rule in question was promulgated ?

(b) Is it a fact that it was in abeyance all this time until the new Divisional Scheme on the North Western Railway was brought into force ?

2. Is it a fact that in the Sind Division the rule is rigidly enforced even in regard to small appointments like those of signallers in training, luggage and booking clerks at stations and the like ? If so, why ?

RULE REGARDING THE EMPLOYMENT OF MATRICULATES ONLY ON THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

276. *Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally : 1. Is it a fact that recently a number of applications from Muslim non-Matriculates were sent by

the Secretary, Sind Mahomedan Association to the Divisional Superintendent of the North Western Railway at Karachi, but were rejected by that officer on the ground that he could appoint none but Matriculates to those places ?

2. (a) Will Government please lay on the table a statement showing the number of clerks in all divisional offices at Karachi, and the number of those who are Matriculates and those who are not ?

(b) How many new men were recruited as clerks during the last two years ? How many of them were Matriculates and how many non-Matriculates ?

(c) How many of them were Sindhi Muslims ?

RECRUITMENT OF SIGNALLERS AND LUGGAGE AND BOOKING CLERKS IN THE SIND DIVISION OF THE NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

277. ***Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally** : (a) How many fresh men were recruited during the last two years in the Sind Division of the North Western Railway as signallers, luggage and booking clerks at stations and how many of them were Sindhis and how many non-Sindhis ?

(b) Of the Sindhis how many were Muslims ?

EMPLOYMENT OF SINDHI MUSLIMS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

278. ***Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally** : (a) Are Government aware that there is very great discontent in Sind over Sindhi Muslims not receiving their fair share of appointments high or low on the North Western Railway ?

(b) Do Government propose to remove this discontent by drawing the attention of the railway administration to this matter ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : I propose to reply to questions Nos. 275 to 278 together. As I informed the Honourable Member on August 18th, I have been informed by the Agent that the rule prescribing the Matriculation Standard as a necessary qualification for employment in the clerical staff on the North Western Railway has been in force for a long time. I am not aware of the exact year in which the rule as applied to the clerical staff was brought into force but I will enquire and let the Honourable Member know separately. I will also enquire whether this rule also applies to signallers in training. As regards the rest of the Honourable Member's question, I am sorry that I cannot undertake to lay on the table the detailed information called for. I understand that his general complaint is that Sindhis do not get what the Honourable Member considers to be their fair share of appointments on the North Western Railway. The Government of India have laid down a policy that steps should be taken to prevent an undue preponderance of any one class or community in the public service and this policy has on more than one occasion been communicated to Railway Agents. But it has not, as far as I am aware, been thought necessary to prescribe that special steps should be taken to ensure a fair distribution of subordinate railway appointments among the different provinces through which a railway passes. Nor has the question been brought specially to my notice, as far as I can remember, except in respect of Sind. I understand that the matriculation qualification is the main difficulty in the way of Sindhis getting employment and if this is correct obviously the remedy lies in their own hands.

Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally : One of my questions has not been answered. I asked whether the Sind Muhammadan Association has sent a number of application from non-Matriculate Muslims for appointments of signallers, and so on, and that part has not been answered.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : I told the Honourable Member that I was not prepared to furnish the detailed information called for.

Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally : That is no answer.

COLONIZATION OF THE ANDAMANS BY MOPLAH PRISONERS.

279. ***Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Bakhsh Shah** : Will the Government please state whether the proposal to colonize the Andaman Islands by Moplah prisoners has been dropped or not ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : I explained the position in detail in the discussion on the Resolution the other day.

PUBLICATION BY THE *Indian Pictorial Monthly Journal, Delhi*, OF A CARTOON OFFENSIVE TO MUHAMMADANS.

280. ***Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Bakhsh Shah** : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the cartoon sketched in the *Indian Pictorial Monthly Journal*, Delhi, in its issue of June 1926, describing a supposed picture of the Great Prophet Mohamed (peace be on him) by which the Islamic religion has been grossly affronted and the feelings of millions of Muhammadans have been injured ?

(b) If so, will the Government please state if any legal action against the editor of the journal has been taken so far ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : (a) and (b). The journal in question is printed and published in Allahabad, and the matter is therefore primarily one for the Government of the United Provinces. I am not aware whether legal action was taken, but I understand that an apology has been offered.

DENIAL OF THE RIGHT TO MUHAMMADANS OF POSSESSING SWORDS WITHOUT LICENSES.

281. ***Khan Bahadur Makhdum Syed Rajan Bakhsh Shah** : (a) Are Government aware that each Sikh can possess a sword called a *kirpan* without any licence but that the same right is denied to Muhammadans ?

(b) Are Government aware that at various places in the Punjab and elsewhere the Sikhs have made use of these swords against the Muhammadans ?

(c) If so, will the Government please state whether they have made or intend to make any provision for the protection of unarmed Muhammadans ?

(d) In view of the above, do Government propose to consider the desirability of making the possession of such swords unrestricted for Muhammadans also ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : (a), (b) and (d). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given on the 18th instant to Mr. Abdul Haye's question No. 20.

(c) Government do not consider such provision necessary

ORDER OF DEPORTATION AGAINST THE EDITOR OF THE *Hablul-Matin* OF CALCUTTA.

282. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub** : (a) Will Government be pleased to inquire and state the facts which led to the order of deportation against the editor of the *Hablul-Mateen* of Calcutta ?

(b) For how many years was this paper in publication at Calcutta ? Was the editor of the *Hablul-Mateen* ever prosecuted and convicted of any political offence ?

(c) Was the editor given an opportunity to explain any charges that may have been framed against him or to offer an apology and give an undertaking about his future conduct before orders of deportation were passed against him ?

(d) Are Government prepared to review the order of deportation, with or without any conditions, if properly approached in this behalf ?

(e) Was ever any other editor of a newspaper in India charged with the offence of which the editor of the *Hablul-Mateen* was found to be guilty ? Were orders for deportation ever passed against any other editor in India ?

CANCELLATION OF ORDER OF DEPORTATION AGAINST THE EDITOR OF THE *Hablul-Matin*, CALCUTTA.

283. ***Maulvi Sayad Murtuza Sahib Bahadur** : (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the proceedings of a public meeting of the leading Mussalmans of Calcutta, held on the 15th August 1926, protesting against the order of deportation passed by the Government of India on Mr. Syed Jalaluddeen al Husaini, the editor of the *Hablul-Mateen*, Calcutta, setting forth the hardships which the venerable journalist would be subjected to in case the said order be given effect to and requesting the Government to be so kind as to cancel it ?

(b) Are the Government aware that the gentleman, though a Persian by birth, has made Calcutta his homeland and has been living there for the last 40 years peacefully ?

(c) Are the Government aware that the journalist is now advanced in years and has lost the sight ?

(d) Are Government prepared to bestow their favourable consideration on the matter and cancel the order of deportation, in view of the advanced age and blindness of the journalist who has spent the prime of his life in the cause of the country and the nation ?

Sir Denys Bray : With your leave, Sir, I will reply to questions Nos. 282 and 283 together.

No order of deportation has been passed against the editor of the *Hablul-Mateen*.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : May I know if any orders have been passed against the editor of the *Hablul-Mateen* by the Government of Bombay or the Government of India ?

Sir Denys Bray : No order.

Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally : Is the Honourable Member aware that in the daily papers it was given out that the editor has been ordered to be deported ?

Sir Denys Bray : I am afraid I am not responsible for what appears in the papers.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Do the Government propose to make a declaration that the editor of the *Hablul-Mateen* is not to be deported ?

Sir Denys Bray : I am prepared to give the assurance to the Honourable Member that the editor will not be deported for anything that has happened already.

STATEMENT MADE BY SIR LOUIS KERSHAW REGARDING THE BENGAL AND BOMBAY CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE BEING THE MOST REPRESENTATIVE ORGANISATIONS OF THE EMPLOYERS IN INDIA.

284. ***Mr. B. Das** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if their attention has been drawn to the statement made by Sir Louis Kershaw, the delegate of the Government of India, before the Credentials Committee of the ninth Session of the International Labour Conference, Geneva, that the Bengal and the Bombay Chambers of Commerce are the most representative organisations of the employers in India ?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state if Sir Louis Kershaw had their authority to make such a statement ?

(c) If the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state their reasons for authorising Sir Louis Kershaw to make such a statement ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I would refer the Honourable Member to the letter recently published from the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labours, No. L-1398 of 5th August 1926, to the Secretary, Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay ; a copy of this letter is being sent to the Honourable Member.

Mr. B. Das : I would like to know whether Sir Louis Kershaw was authorised to make that statement.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I would ask the Honourable Member to read the letter carefully and he will find the answer there.

Mr. B. Das : What objection is there to informing us on the floor of the House as to what Government's instruction was to Sir Louis Kershaw ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The information, Sir, has already been published and I have no intention of wasting the time of the House.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Will the Honourable Member enlighten the House in short ?

Pandit Shamlal Nehru : Was the statement made on behalf of the Government of India and with their consent ? I want an answer, " yes " or " no ".

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : The Honourable Member is simply repeating the question and I have replied to it.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE PILOT SERVICE.

285. ***Mr. B. Das :** Will Government be pleased to state if a certificate of competency as master is necessary for any one who wishes to enter the Pilot Service at Bombay, Karachi, Calcutta, Rangoon, Madras and at other Indian ports where pilots are appointed ?

QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSTS OF HARBOUR MASTERS, ASSISTANT HARBOUR MASTERS, DOCK MASTERS, ASSISTANT DOCK MASTERS AND BERTHING MASTERS APPOINTED BY THE VARIOUS PORT TRUSTS IN INDIA.

286. ***Mr. B. Das :** Will Government be pleased to state the qualifications necessary for the posts of Harbour Masters, Assistant Harbour Masters, Dock Masters, Assistant Dock Masters and Berthing Masters appointed by the various Port Trusts in India ?

NUMBER OF PORT OFFICERS, SHIPPING MASTERS, ETC., EMPLOYED AT THE PORTS IN INDIA.

287. ***Mr. B. Das :** Will Government be pleased to state the total number of each of the following officers at the ports in India giving separate figures for Indian and non-Indian officers ?

- (a) Port Officers.
- (b) Shipping Masters.
- (c) Pilots.
- (d) Dock Masters.
- (e) Harbour Masters.
- (f) Assistant Dock Masters.
- (g) Assistant Harbour Masters.
- (h) Berthing Masters.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : I will reply to questions Nos. 285 to 287 together.

A certificate of competency as Master is not necessary for entering the Pilot Service at Calcutta. Pilot Services at other major ports are under the control of Port Trusts. Government have no information as regards the qualifications required of candidates for these Services, nor are they in possession of the information asked for in questions Nos. 286 and 287. Information on these points is being obtained from the Local Governments and will be supplied to the Honourable Member on receipt.

QUALIFICATIONS OF PORT OFFICERS AT THE VARIOUS PORTS IN INDIA.

288. ***Mr. B. Das :** Will Government be pleased to state which authority appoints the Port Officers at Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi, Madras, Chittagong, Rangoon and at other Indian ports and what are the qualifications necessary for that post ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : The appointments of Port Officer, Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Rangoon, Karachi, Aden, Akyab, Moulmein, Bassein and Chittagong are filled by executive officers of the Royal Indian Marine, who are placed at the disposal of the Local Government by the Government of India. Port Officers at other ports are appointed by the Local Governments.

Mr. K. Ahmed : Do the Government of India, and especially the Department of my Honourable friend, Sir Charles Innes, know what sort of people are appointed, and, if proper people are not appointed, do they propose to take steps to do the needful ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : I would point out, Sir, that that is a hypothetical question.

CONTRACTS FOR THE SUPPLY OF ICE AND SODA WATER ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

289. ***Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally :** (a) Has any firm or individual ever had the ice and soda contract on the North Western Railway and sublet the same at a profit ?

(b) If so, what is the name of the firm or individual ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). Government have no information.

Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally : Will the Government please call for information ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : No, Sir.

Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally : Why not ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Because they do not think it worth while.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : May I know, Sir, if the Honourable Members of this House are entitled to reasonable answers to their questions from the Government Benches ?

Mr. President : The Honourable Members are entitled to get reasonable answers to reasonable questions.

RECENT DECISION OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL REGARDING REGISTRATION OF AGREEMENTS TO SELL IMMOVEABLE PROPERTY.

290. ***Mr. K. Venkataramana Reddi :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the leaderette of the *Times of India*, (page 12), dated the 16th of August 1926, regarding a decision of the Privy Council relating to the registration of agreements for the sale of immoveable property ?

(b) Do Government propose to bring forward legislation with retrospective effect to set at nought the conflict of decisions on the point ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the answer which I have just given to Khan Bahadur Hussanally's question on the same subject.

OMISSION FROM THE WARRANT OF PRECEDENCE OF MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES.

291. ***Sardar V. N. Mutalik :** Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that members of the Provincial and Imperial Councils had a place in the Warrant of Precedence till June 1921 and is it also

a fact that since July 1921 the members of the Legislature have been deprived of this privilege ?

(b) Did Government have any voice in this arrangement and if so what are the reasons for recommending this change ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the answer given by Sir Malcolm Hailey on the 5th March 1923 to Rai Bahadur T. P. Mukherjee's question No. 444 on this subject.

PRIVILEGE ALLOWED TO THE BOMBAY AND KARACHI CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO HAVE ACCESS TO CUSTOMS DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE COASTING AND FOREIGN TRADE OF BOMBAY AND KARACHI, RESPECTIVELY.

292. ***Mr. B. Das :** Will Government be pleased to state if the Customs Departments at the Ports of Bombay and Karachi have given special facilities to the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and the Karachi Chamber of Commerce, respectively, to take records of the statistics of the coasting and foreign trade of Bombay and Karachi, respectively ?

ACCESS OF THE PUBLIC TO STATISTICS COLLECTED BY THE KARACHI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FROM THE CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT AT KARACHI.

293. ***Mr. B. Das :** Are Government aware that the reports of the statistics collected by the Karachi Chamber of Commerce from the Customs Department at Karachi are not available to the public on payment as a matter of right ?

REFUSAL OF THE CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES AT RANGOON TO ALLOW THE BURMA INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO HAVE ACCESS TO THE STATISTICS OF THE COASTING AND FOREIGN TRADE OF RANGOON.

294. ***Mr. B. Das :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they are aware that the Burma Indian Chamber of Rangoon applied to the Customs authorities at Rangoon to allow them facilities to take records of the statistics of the coasting and foreign trade of Rangoon similar to the facilities granted by the Customs Departments at Bombay and Karachi to the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and the Karachi Chamber of Commerce, respectively, and that they were refused such facilities ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Burma Indian Chamber referred the matter to the Central Board of Revenue and that the Board also refused to give that Chamber such facilities ?

(c) If the answer to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for such differentiation by the Customs authorities between the European Chambers of Bombay and Karachi and the Indian Chamber of Rangoon ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : 292. Yes. 293. No. 294. (a), (b) and (c). The Government of India are, on principle, opposed to allow public bodies any access to unpublished Customs documents. The practice obtaining in the Bombay and Karachi Custom Houses, under which the Bombay and Karachi Chambers of Commerce are allowed access to unpublished Customs documents is of long standing. The Government of India are not at present prepared to withdraw the existing privilege from

these bodies ; but at the same time they are not prepared to admit any new bodies or firms to the privilege. The privilege claimed by the Burma Indian Chamber of Commerce is not allowed to the Burma Chamber of Commerce in the Rangoon Custom House. There is, therefore, no question of differentiation between the European and the Indian Chambers of Commerce of the same locality.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRAINING SHIP IN INDIAN WATERS, ETC.

295. ***Mr. B. Das** : 1. Will Government be pleased to state when they expect the establishment of a training ship in Indian waters and where they have decided to locate the same ?

2. Will Government be pleased to state the number of years which each cadet will have to pass for training on the training ship before he is entitled to receive the training ship leaving certificate ?

3. Will Government be pleased to state the age at which cadets will be admitted for training on the training ship ?

TRAINING OF ENGINEER OFFICERS FOR STEAMERS.

296. ***Mr. B. Das** : Will Government be pleased to state the steps that they propose to take for the training of engineer officers for steamers ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : I will reply to questions Nos. 295 and 296 together.

It is expected that the training ship will be ready next year. It is intended that the school year should begin about the 15th September. The ship will be stationed at Karachi. The matters mentioned in questions Nos. 295 (2) and (3) and 296 are still under consideration.

INDIA ARMY ORDER REGULATING THE APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION OF SOLDIER CLERKS IN THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS OFFICES.

297. ***Mr. B. Das** : 1. Are Government aware that in 1925 the Army-Headquarters issued an India Army Order to the effect that soldier clerks possessing a first class certificate of education will, in all branches of Army Headquarters, be appointed as clerks and promoted as assistants without qualifying themselves at the Staff Selection Board's examination ?

2. Is it a fact that in Army Headquarters especially in the Adjutant-General's Branch those soldier clerks who were twice or thrice declared as quite unfit either for retention in the second division or for promotion to the upper division have been retained or promoted under the India Army Order referred to in Part 1 above ?

3. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state, giving reasons, whether the enforcement of such India Army Order is or is not intended to debar the Indians of Army Headquarters from being promoted to the upper division ?

(b) If the reply be in the affirmative, do Government propose to consider the advisability of the cancellation of this order ?

Mr. E. Burdon : 1. Yes, with the concurrence of the Staff Selection Board and the approval of the Government of India.

2. The India Army Order is merely a description of authorised conditions in regard to candidature. No soldier clerks engaged since the introduction of the Staff Selection Board have been promoted to the first division unless fulfilling the conditions described. No one so engaged have been retained in the second division if declared unfit.

3. (a) The India Army Order is not intended to have the effect suggested. It was designed to provide a small fixed percentage of soldier and ex-soldier clerks combined, for the first division of Army Headquarters as a whole.

(b) Does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDIAN AS SUPERINTENDENT IN THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S BRANCH.

298. *Mr. B. Das : Will the Government be pleased to state why no Indian has been appointed as Superintendent in the Adjutant-General's Branch since its creation ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The employment of Indians in the upper clerical grades of the Adjutant General's Branch was not the practice until about 8 years ago. The average period in which an assistant can attain to the post of Superintendent is between 12 to 15 years in the first division. It follows that no opportunity has presented itself for the promotion of an Indian to Superintendent in the Branch named.

ALLEGED INSULTING TREATMENT OF INDIANS EMPLOYED IN ARMY HEADQUARTERS BY THE EUROPEAN ESTABLISHMENT.

299. *Mr. B. Das : (a) Are Government aware that several representations regarding insulting and highly objectionable treatment meted out to the Indian establishment of Army Headquarters especially in the Adjutant-General's Branch by the European establishment have voluntarily been kept unsubmitted by the subordinate officers to the Heads of these Departments ?

(b) If the reply be in the affirmative will the Government be pleased to state what action they propose to take in the matter ?

(c) If the reply be in the negative do the Government propose to hold a thorough inquiry into the matter and take steps to check this treatment ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Not unless specific instances are given.

EXERCISE OF CONTROL BY THE HEADS OF BRANCHES OF ARMY HEADQUARTERS OF ESTABLISHMENT MATTERS.

300. *Mr. B. Das : (a) Is it a fact that no attention is being given to the establishment matters by the heads of Branches of Army Headquarters and that everything relating thereto is left to the caprices of the Personal Assistants ?

(b) If the reply be in the negative will the Government be pleased to state why occasional office orders are issued over their signatures ?

(c) If it be in the affirmative do Government propose to issue instructions to the heads of Branches of Army Headquarters to exercise due control on their doings ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) No.

(b) Government are not aware that orders have been issued such as those described.

(c) Does not arise.

PROCEDURE RELATING TO APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS IN OTHER OFFICES SUBMITTED BY CLERKS EMPLOYED IN THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S BRANCH OF ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

301. *Mr. B. Das : (a) Are Government aware that in the Adjutant-General's Branch of Army Headquarters there is an office order that applications for appointments in other offices should be submitted through the proper channel ?

(b) Are the Government also aware that applications of temporary men of this Branch submitted in pursuance of this order are often withheld by the Personal Assistant without reference to the head of the Branch ?

(c) If the replies to (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative will the Government please give the reasons for this action of the Personal Assistant ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) There is a general order to that effect.

(b) The usual channel is through the Officer Supervisor who has discretionary power of disposal under direction from the head of the Branch. I am not aware of the existence of any general practice such as the question suggests.

(c) Does not arise.

PRACTICE OF BRINGING DOGS TO OFFICE IN THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

302. *Mr. B. Das : (a) Are Government aware that officers and subordinate European clerks of the Army Headquarters cause great annoyance by bringing their dogs to office and that these dogs frequently bite clerks sometimes causing rabies to the persons bitten ?

(b) Are Government also aware that a clerk was so bitten in the Adjutant-General's Branch in 1925 ? Is it a fact that a complaint was made to the Personal Assistant against the practice of bringing dogs to the office and that the latter refused to take any action in the matter ?

(c) If the reply be in the affirmative, do Government propose to stop this practice ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) Government are not aware of any general annoyance and no cases of rabies has occurred so far as they know.

(b) Government understand that a clerk was bitten in 1925. They have no record of a complaint being made as the question suggests.

(c) No.

STOPPAGE OF THE DELHI MOVING ALLOWANCE OF TEMPORARY MEN IN ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

303. ***Mr. B. Das** : (a) Are the Government aware that last year the Delhi moving allowance which had been granted to temporary men of Army Headquarters in previous years had been disallowed to them on the ground that it was admissible only to those temporary men shown as officiating, that temporary hands are moved down in the interests of the public service and that the understanding was that they would get the Delhi moving allowance ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to give reasons for the stoppage of this allowance ?

(c) Are Government aware that no house rent allowance is granted to the establishment of Army Headquarters and that the disallowance of the Delhi moving allowance to temporary men causes distinct hardship in their case ?

(d) Are Government aware that a portion of Army Headquarters is moving down to Delhi as usual this year and that some temporary men will also accompany the establishment moving ?

(e) If so, do the Government propose to leave such temporary men behind in Simla in order to make them eligible for the winter allowance ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) and (b). The allowance was placed under objection following certain principles governing the grant of temporary rates of pay. The matter is receiving further examination.

(c) Government are aware that no house rent allowance is granted.

(d) The precise composition of the clerical staff for Delhi has not been finally decided.

(e) The selection of clerks for Delhi cannot be determined by such considerations.

DELHI CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE.

304. ***Mr. B. Das** : Are Government aware that *full* Delhi conveyance allowance in the Secretariat offices is given to a man for the period the office stays at Delhi ? Are Government also aware that in Army Headquarters offices this conveyance allowance is always given for the actual stay of a man at Delhi after making deduction for the period less than 5 months ? If so, will the Government please give the reasons for this differentiation ?

Mr. E. Burdon : There is no differentiation.

PRIVATE NOTICE QUESTION.

INVITATION TO CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE REPORT OF THE TAXATION ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

Sir Walter Willson : Sir, I desire to ask a question of which I have given the Honourable Member private notice.

In view of the fact that the Assembly refused to discuss the Taxation Enquiry Resolution and shut out certain Members who were desirous of expressing views on the Taxation Committee's Report on behalf of their

constituents, will Government be pleased to invite recognised bodies, such as Chambers of Commerce, to address their views to Government.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : The Government will be glad to have the considered views of the Chambers of Commerce or other recognised Associations on any points arising out of the Report in which they are interested. They do not propose formally to invite their opinion on the Report as a whole.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALL-INDIA PRESS EMPLOYEES' CONFERENCE HELD ON THE 26TH AND 27TH JUNE LAST.

82. **Mr. K. C. Neogy :** I. Has the attention of Government been drawn to the proceedings of the All-India Press Employees' Conference held at the Calcutta Town Hall on the 26th and 27th June last, particularly :

- (a) Resolution No. III, urging the abolition of the piece system ;
- (b) Resolution No. IV, urging the Government of India to abandon the practice of giving work to outside presses ;
- (c) Resolution No. VI, recommending to the Government to sanction superannuation pension to the press employees on their attainment of 50 years of age and invalid pension after 45 years of age ;
- (d) Resolution No. VIII, requesting the Government of India to give full effect to the scheme drawn up by Mr. (now Sir) A. C. Chatterji, the late Member in charge of Industries and Labour, fixing the scales of salaries of the readers, revisers and copyholders in the Government of India Presses ?

II. If the answer to the above be in the affirmative, what steps do Government intend to take with regard to these resolutions ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : I. Yes.

II. None. The first and third resolutions cited by the Honourable Member relate to questions fully considered by Government : the second one demands what is, in existing conditions, an impossibility, and I am unable to understand the last one.

SALARIES OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF EMPLOYEES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

83. **Mr. K. C. Neogy :** 1. Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the different scales of salaries of type-suppliers, mono-casters, duftries, proof pressmen, forme-carriers and coolies ?
- (b) whether they get any annual increment or biennial increment ?

2. It is a fact that they received no increment since July 15th, 1920, when an increment of about 40 per cent. on their salary was given ?

3. What were their average respective earnings before the 15th July, 1920, including overtime and war allowance, and at the present time ?

4. Are Government aware that the men doing the same work as specified in 1 (a) in the Government of Bengal Press receive annual increments ?

5. If the answer to Part 1 (b) is in the negative, do Government intend to formulate a scheme fixing the scales of increment annually or biennially ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : 1. (a) The Honourable Member presumably desires information in regard to the Government of India Press, Calcutta, which is given below :

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Type Suppliers | Rs. 24 to 35. |
| Mono-Casters | Rs. 30. |
| Duftries | Rs. 20--1 4—27. |
| Proof Pressmen | Rs. 18. |
| Forme-Carriers | Rs. 18 and 19. |
| Coolies | Rs. 18 and 19. |

(b) All are on fixed rates of pay except duftries who get an increment of Re. 1 after every four years.

2. No. An increase of pay for some of the grades mentioned was sanctioned in 1925. Promotion is given to other men as vacancies occur in the higher grades.

3. The figures of actual average earnings prior to 15th July 1920 cannot easily be obtained. An estimate of those earnings (including overtime and war allowances) based on the assumption that the hours of work were 8 daily is as follows :

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Type Suppliers | Rs. 14 to 24 p. m. |
| Mono-Casters | Rs. 27. |
| Duftries | Rs. 14. |
| Proof Pressmen | Rs. 14 to 19. |
| Forme-Carriers | Rs. 14. |
| Coolies | Rs. 12 to 14. |

The salaries at present earned are given in answer to part 1 (a). It has not been possible to collect information regarding the average amount paid in addition to this on account of overtime.

4 and 5. The answer is in the negative.

EARNINGS OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF EMPLOYEES IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

84. **Mr. K. C. Neogy :** Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) the average respective earnings, including overtime and war allowances, of section-holders, assistant section-holders, lino and mono operators, storekeepers, standing forme-keepers, correcting checkers before July 15th, 1920, and at the present time ?

(b) the respective salaries of the head accountant, the cashier, the head clerk, estimator, receiver, despatcher, head computer, clerks and computers before July 15th, 1920, and at the present time ?

(c) whether it is fact that the rates of increment granted to the ministerial officers were very much higher than those granted to the industrial hands ? If so, why so ?

- (d) the number of normal working hours in the week of industrial officers before July 15th, 1920, and at the present time ?
- (e) the number of normal working hours of the industrial hands, section-holders, assistant section-holders, readers, copy-holders, etc., before July 15th, 1920, and at the present time ?
- (f) whether there is a difference between the number of working hours of the ministerial and industrial hands and a difference in the rate of increment granted respectively to both ? If so, why so ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) The figures of actual average earnings prior to 15th July 1920 cannot easily be obtained. An estimate of those earnings (including overtime allowances) based on the assumption that the hours of work were 8 daily is as follows :

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Section-holders | Rs. 70 to 94 |
| Assistant Section-holders | 43 to 56 |
| Lino-Operators | 58 |
| Mono-Operators | 79 |
| Storekeeper | 70 |
| Standing Forme-Keeper | 64 |
| Correction Checkers | 55 to 70 |

The salaries at present paid to these men are as follows :

| | Rs. |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Section-holders | 100—5—150 |
| Assistant Section-holders | 40—4—80 |
| Lino Operators | 100—5—125 |
| Mono Operators | 80—4—100 |
| Storekeeper | 60—3—75 |
| Standing Forme Keeper | 60—3—75 |
| Correction Checkers | 60—3—75 |

It has not been possible to collect information regarding the average amount paid in addition to this on account of overtime.

(b) The following table gives the information required :

| | Before 15th July. 1920. Rs. | At present. Rs. |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Head Accountant | 200—10—250 | 200—10—250 |
| Cashier | 175—10—225 | 200—10—250 |
| Head Clerk | 100—4—120 | Personal pay Rs. 50 No such post now exists. |
| Estimator | 75 to 80 | 80 to 200 |
| Receivers } | 20 to 60 | 40 to 140 |
| Despatchers } | | |
| Head Computer | 60—5—85 | 150—10—200 |
| Clerks and Computers | 20 to 80 | 40 to 140 |

(c) The answer is in the negative. The increases given to the ministerial staff were not uniform and some ministerial employees received no increase.

(d) If by "Industrial officers" the Honourable Member means officers in charge of presses, the answer is that they normally work somewhat longer hours than the industrial hands.

(e) Accurate figures are not available. Immediately before July 1920 the working hours were nominally fixed at 36 weekly, but overtime was so extensive that the average hours were sometimes in excess of 60 per week. The weekly working hours are now nominally 48 but overtime is necessary at times.

(f) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The reason is that the duties of the two classes of employees mentioned by the Honourable Member are of an entirely different character.

NORMAL NUMBER OF WORKING HOURS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESSES.

85. **Mr. K. C. Neogy** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the normal number of working hours in the Government of India Presses ?

(b) Are the Government aware of the difference in working hours as between those working in the Government of India Presses and the Government of Bengal and other provincial presses ?

(c) If so, what is the reason for this difference ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) 8½ hours on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and 5½ hours on Saturdays.

(b) and (c). I am not aware of the hours worked in provincial Government Presses : but if they differ from the hours in the Government of India Presses, the reason is doubtless to be found in the fact that they are fixed by different authorities.

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-STRIKERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

86. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : (a) Are Government aware that since the North Western Railway strike of 1925, in spite of the promise held out by the Agent of the North-Western Railway that the strikers will be provided for, no sooner vacancies occur, the strikers in spite of repeatedly applying for jobs have been refused the same on the plea that their services are not required ?

(b) Is it a fact that since the strike several vacancies have occurred and were filled up either by new men or have been filled by promotion ?

EMPLOYMENT OF EX-STRIKERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

87. **Mr. N. M. Joshi** : Are Government aware that a good number of senior drivers who went on strike are still out of work and that their posts have been filled in by promoting shunters as drivers ? If so, do Government propose to ask the Agent of the North Western Railway to fulfil his promise regarding appointment of strikers in preference to outsiders and by stopping unearned promotions to juniors and issue clear instructions to Divisional Officers to carry out this policy strictly ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : I propose to reply to questions Nos. 86 and 87 together. The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to questions Nos. 206 and 207 asked by Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally on the 24th August 1926.

RESTORATION OF FREE PASSES TO EX-STRIKERS RE-ENGAGED BY THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

88. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** (a) Are Government aware that they have promised that the Agent of the North Western Railway will sympathetically consider the question of restoration of free passes to those who had gone on strike ?

(b) Are Government also aware that the Agent has so far sanctioned one set of passes to strikers of over 10 years' service ?

(c) Do Government propose to request the Agent of the North Western Railway to be more sympathetic in restoring the entire privileges of free passes to all the strikers ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question No. 208 asked by Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally on the 24th August 1926.

REDUCTION OF THE WORKING HOURS OF THE CARRIAGE AND WAGON STAFF EMPLOYED AT LYALLPUR ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

89. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** Are Government aware that the Carriage and Wagon staff at Lyallpur and some other stations on the North Western Railway is still performing 12 hours' duty ? Is this against the conventions of the Geneva Conference accepted by the Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to question No. 209 asked by Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally on the 24th instant.

RE-TRANSFER TO LAHORE OF CERTAIN EX-STRIKERS RE-EMPLOYED BY THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY AND TRANSFERRED TO KARACHI.

90. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** Are Government aware that a certain number of strikers from Lahore were transferred to Karachi and have not yet been transferred back to Lahore ? If so, do Government propose to urge upon the Agent of the North Western Railway to arrange for their transfer to Lahore as early as possible ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question No. 210 asked by Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally on the 24th August 1926.

CONTRACTS FOR BUILDING WAGONS AND PAINTING CARRIAGES AND WAGONS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

91. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** (a) Are Government aware that in the Moghalpura shops on the North Western Railway contracts for building wagons and painting carriages and wagons have been given to contractors ?

(b) Do Government propose to take steps to examine the work so far done by the contractors ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given in the Legislative Assembly on the 27th August 1926 to question No. 218 by Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally.

MEMORIAL OF THE EUROPEAN GUARDS OF RAWALPINDI TO THE AGENT OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

92. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** (a) Are Government aware that the European guards at Rawalpindi station submitted a memorial to the Agent of the North Western Railway which has not been attended to as yet ?

(b) Do Government propose to ask the Agent of the North Western Railway to go into the grievances of the memorialists ?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. Barlow, guard, Rawalpindi, was transferred from Rawalpindi because he was considered to be the ringleader of the Rawalpindi guards in this case ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a), (b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to question No. 212 asked by Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally on the 24th instant.

CASE OF ONE JAI CHAND.

93. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** Is it a fact that one Jai Chand, I.O.W., has been served with one month's notice, his gratuity forfeited and a blank certificate without entry of ability and character granted to him ? If so, what are the charges against the man ? Was he served with any charge sheet and an explanation taken ? If not, do Government propose to instruct the authorities to serve him with the charge sheet, if there are any charges against him and record his statement before dispensing with his services as provided by the Government rules on this subject ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to question No. 213 asked by Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally on the 24th instant.

RE-EMPLOYMENT BY THE RAILWAY AUTHORITIES AT RAWALPINDI OF ONE SARDARA, AN EX-STRIKER.

94. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** (a) Are Government aware that the railway authorities at Rawalpindi have employed one Sardara in the Rawalpindi Loco. Shed ? Was Sardara convicted in a theft case ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether such a conviction is a bar to employment in the public service ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to question No. 214 asked by Khan Bahadur W. M. Hussanally on the 24th August 1926.

INADEQUATE REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN CLERICAL POSTS IN THE MILITARY OFFICES OF THE PESHAWAR DISTRICT.

95. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin :** Will the Government be pleased to state what action has so far been taken by the Officer Commanding, Peshawar in respect of the letter dated 2nd March 1925, sent by General Sir Claud W. Jacob, regarding inadequate Muslim representation in clerical posts in the military offices of the Peshawar District ?

Mr. E. Burdon : I am making enquiries into the matter and will let the Honourable Member know the result in due course.

RECRUITMENT OF LOCAL MEN IN THE IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT OF THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

96. Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin : Is it a fact that in the Irrigation Department of the North-West Frontier Province in the ranks of signaller to zilladar and intervening ranks there are only 36 officers belonging to that province and that 86 are Punjabis, and, if so, do Government propose to consider the advisability of appointing suitable provincial candidates of different communities according to the population of the province ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : There are 57 local men and 83 Punjabis in the ranks of signaller to zilladar in the Irrigation Department of the North-West Frontier Province. Efforts are made to recruit local men on the occurrence of vacancies.

INCREASE OF MUSLIMS IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE POSTAL SERVICE.

97. Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin : Is it a fact that in the North-West Frontier Province postal service, Muslims are in a minority ? Has the Postmaster General issued instructions to increase the percentage of Muslims in the said service ? If so, do the Government propose to take any steps to increase the percentage of Muslims in the said service ?

Sir Ganan Roy : The answers to the first and second parts are in the affirmative. Progress has been made in the desired direction, 66 per cent. of the vacancies which have occurred in the clerical cadre during the last three years have been filled by Muslims. Government are satisfied that as a result of the Postmaster-General's instructions the percentage of Muslims is increasing.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE GRANT OF LANDS IN THE PUNJAB TO MILITARY PENSIONERS RESIDING IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

98 Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin : Is it a fact that the grant of Government land situated in the Punjab to deserving retired military officers residing in the Frontier Province has now been discontinued ? What action has been taken by the Government on the memorial submitted in December 1925, or if no action has yet been taken, what steps do the Government propose to take in order to remove the discontent prevailing among these officers of that Province ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative.

With regard to the second part of the question, the question of including military pensioners of the North-West Frontier Province, in future schemes for the grant of land elsewhere, is under consideration.

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

99. Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin : Is it a fact that in December 1925 the Muslim deputation from Kohat and Peshawar was

assured by the Honourable the Chief Commissioner of the North-West Frontier Province that an adequate proportion would be fixed for Muslims in the North-West Frontier Province Government service, and if so what action has so far been taken in the matter ?

Sir Denys Bray : Enquiry is being made from the local Administration and a reply will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

USE OF A MOSQUE IN PESHAWAR CANTONMENT AS A DUMPING GROUND FOR MANURE.

100. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin** : Is it a fact that in Peshawar Cantonment the mosque known as " Old Kutchery Musjid " in the compound of the District Headquarters' Office is being used for the dumping of manure, and that a hut has been built in the compound for the residence of the chaukidar ? If so, do Government propose to inquire into the matter and arrange to hand over the mosque to the local Muslim Association or any other religious organisation ?

Mr. E. Burdon : I am making enquiries and will let the Honourable Member know the result as soon as possible.

EXTENSION OF THE REFORMS TO THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

101. **Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin** : Will the Government be pleased to state what action has been taken on the Resolution passed in the last Delhi Session of this House in favour of Reforms in the North-West Frontier Province ? If no action has been taken, why not ?

Sir Denys Bray : The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me on the 18th August 1926 to Mr. Abdul Haye's unstarred question No. 19.

DUTIES OF THE ASSISTANT PRIVATE SECRETARY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY.

102. **Dr. K. G. Lohokare** : Will Government be pleased to specify the duties attached to the post of Assistant Private Secretary to the Viceroy ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : The Assistant Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy assists the Private Secretary in general secretarial duties.

PAY OF POSTMEN IN BOMBAY.

103. **Sardar V. N. Mutalk** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the year 1900, the postmen in Bombay started on Rs. 10 and could rise in the usual course to Rs. 60 (as local sorters), and that the scales of salaries for postal clerks then were from Rs. 15 to Rs. 80 ?

(b) Have the starting salary and the maximum salary of a postal clerk been raised to Rs. 60 and Rs. 150, respectively ? If so, why have not the scales of postmen been revised in the same proportion ?

(c) What were the principal considerations taken into account by Government while fixing and revising the salaries of the employees concerned ?

(d) Have they undergone any material alterations now as compared with 1900 ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) In the year 1900 the postmen in Bombay started on Rs. 10 and could rise in the usual course to Rs. 20 ; the local sorters were on Rs. 30 and promotion to this grade was by selection. The pay of postal clerks at the time ranged from Rs. 20 to Rs. 90.

(b) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The rates of pay for postmen are not fixed with reference to those for clerks.

(c) Salaries of Government employees are regulated generally by the criterion that so much and so much only should be paid as is necessary to enable Government to obtain recruits suitable in respect of character, education, physical fitness and other necessary qualifications, and maintain them in such comfort and dignity as will protect them from temptation and keep them efficient throughout their service.

(d) No.

REVISION OF THE PAY OF POSTAL CLERKS IN BOMBAY.

104. **Sardar V. N. Mutalik :** (a) What were the reasons which led Government to revise the salaries of postal clerks twice ? Were these revisions beyond the recommendations of the Postal Committee of 1919 ?

(b) Do Government propose to apply the same reasons to postmen, and revise their salaries similarly ?

(c) If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) It is understood that the Honourable Member refers to postal clerks in Bombay City. The time-scale of pay of these clerks was originally fixed in accordance with the recommendations of the Postal Committee of 1920. This scale has since been revised twice by the Government of India once with effect from the 1st March, 1925, and again from the 1st March, 1926.

These revisions have been sanctioned because the pre-existing scales did not make sufficient allowance for the high cost of living in Bombay.

(b) and (c). A proposal to increase the house-rent allowance of postmen in Bombay City will be sanctioned shortly.

HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCES OF POSTMEN IN BOMBAY.

105. **Sardar V. N. Mutalik :** (a) Have orders been issued as yet in regard to house rent allowances to postmen for which an amount was sanctioned in March last ? If not, why not ?

(b) What portion of the amount has been allotted to the Bombay Circle and who are to be benefited thereby ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) The matter is still under the consideration of the Government of India.

(b) Schemes relating to the increase of house-rent allowance and provision of accommodation for postmen and postal menials in Bombay City and its neighbourhood have recently been approved : these will involve expenditure of approximately Rs. 20,000 during the current year.

TOTAL INDEBTEDNESS OF POSTMEN IN BOMBAY TO THE POSTAL CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

106. **Sardar V. N. Mutalik** : Will Government be pleased to state the number of postmen in Bombay who are members of the Postal Co-operative Society and the extent of their total indebtedness to the Society at the end of July last ?

Sir Ganen Roy : Number of postmen, 909. Extent of their total indebtedness, Rs. 46,331.

QUALITY OF CASTOR OIL USED FOR LUBRICATING PURPOSES ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

107. **Mr. K. C. Neogy** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what variety or varieties of castor oil are used for lubricating purposes on the North Western Railway ?

(b) Is No. 1, pale castor oil, as supplied to Liverpool as per *Indian Trade Journal*, medicated castor oil or not ? Is this oil used for lubricating purposes on the North Western Railway, or, is an inferior quality used ?

PURCHASE OF LUBRICATING OILS BY THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

108. **Mr. K. C. Neogy** : Will the Honourable Member in charge inform the House if lubricating oils required by the North Western Railway are as a rule purchased after inviting tenders therefor ? If so, is any discretion allowed to the Controller of Stores to depart from this rule ? If so, when and under what circumstances ?

PURCHASE FROM MESSRS. DEWAN CHAND AND SONS OF CASTOR OIL FOR THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

109. **Mr. K. C. Neogy** : (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge inform the House if Messrs. Dewan Chand & Sons is one of the principal firms of contractors by whom castor oil used for lubricating purposes is supplied to the North Western Railway ?

(b) Is Dewan Chand the owner of a castor oil mill ? If not, is he a contractor ?

PURCHASE FROM MESSRS. DEWAN CHAND AND SONS OF CASTOR OIL FOR THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

110. **Mr. K. C. Neogy** : 1. Did the Controller of Stores of the North Western Railway purchase in April 1926 about 4,000 cwts. of castor oil according to railway specification at Rs. 22-9-0 per cwt. when the *Trade Journal* rate was Rs. 21-2-0 per md. equalling Rs. 29-1-0 per cwt. for pale No. 1 castor oil ?

2. Did the Controller of Stores of the North Western Railway also purchase in July 1926 from Dewan Chand & Sons about 3,000 cwts. of castor oil according to the same specification at Rs. 21-7-0 per cwt. when the *Trade Journal* rate was Rs. 20-10-0 per md. equalling Rs. 28-5-0 per cwt. for Pale No. 1 ? Is it a fact that the quality required was far below it ?

LOSS CAUSED TO THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY BY PURCHASING CASTOR OIL FROM MESSRS. DEWAN CHAND AND SONS.

111. **Mr. K. C. Neogy :** (a) Is it a fact that the Indian market rate per cwt. of castor oil as per railway specification was, in the month of April 1925 about Rs. 32 per cwt. ? If so, is it a fact that in April 1925 the Controller of Stores, North Western Railway recommended to the Agent the purchase from Messrs. Dewan Chand & Sons of 52½ tons of castor oil as per railway specification, at the rate of Rs. 40-11-0 per cwt. including cartage charge at Re. 1 per cwt. ?

(b) Is it a fact that when recommending the sale, the Controller of Stores pointed out to the Agent, as per his letter No. 147/8, dated 24th April 1925, the reason why he did so was because the *Trade Journal* rate of that month for No. 1 pale castor oil was Rs. 39-12-6 per cwt. ? If so, why was this reference and comparison made ? And if this were done, did, or, did not this Railway lose in this transaction at the rate of Rs. 7-8-0 per cwt. involving a total loss of about Rs. 8,000 ?

(c) Is it a fact that when the contract was entered into with Dewan Chand at Rs. 40-11-0 per cwt. the Great Indian Peninsula Railway purchased the same quality castor oil at Rs. 32 per cwt. ? If so, can Government offer any explanation for the loss entailed ?

(d) Was this transaction brought to the notice of the Agent, North Western Railway ? If so, was any enquiry made or action taken by him in the matter ? If so, what ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : I propose to answer questions Nos. 107-111 together. I am not quite clear what the point of the Honourable Member's very detailed questions is. But if I understand them correctly, he wishes to know whether an order for 52½ tons of castor oil was not placed with Messrs. Dewan Chand and Sons in April 1925 at an unnecessarily high price. I note by the way that in these questions the Honourable Member makes a definite reference to a letter written by the Controller of Stores to the Agent, North Western Railway, on April 24th, 1925, and I should like to mention for the Honourable Member's own information that the office copy of that letter has been abstracted from the file in the Controller's office. The facts relating to this order are as follows :

In February 1925 the Controller of Stores called for tenders for supplies of castor oil according to the North Western Railway specification, a copy of which may be inspected, if the Honourable Member so desires in the Railway Board's office. The tender of Messrs. Dewan Chand and Sons was accepted, and I presume that in the ordinary course it was accepted after testing of the samples submitted by the Chemical Examiner to the Government of the Punjab and because it was the lowest suitable tender. In April 1925 the Controller required 52½ tons more of castor oil. The market quotations in the *Indian Trade Journal* indicated that

the market price had not fallen, and consequently, after obtaining the Agent's permission, the Controller of Stores instead of calling for fresh tenders, placed the order for the additional quantity required at the same price with the existing contractors. There is nothing unusual in this procedure.

CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO BY MESSRS. DEWAN CHAND AND SONS FOR THE SUPPLY OF COTTON WASTE TO THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

112. **Mr. K. C. Neogy** : 1. (a) Will the Government state if the North Western Railway in the middle of 1923 accepted tenders made by Mr. Dewan Chand for 13,000 cwt. of ordinary cotton waste and 2,300 cwt. of superior waste respectively in the name of "Dewan Chand & Sons" and "Ishardas Mulkhraj" (sons of Dewan Chand) ?

(b) Were agreements in pursuance of the acceptance of the tenders duly executed and the security deposited ? Were both the contracts duly performed ? If not, was the security forfeited ? If so, in which case ?

(c) If the contracts or either of them were not duly performed, did the defaulting firm immediately inform the railway authorities as to its inability to perform the contract ? If not, how long after receipt of the order did it inform the Railway of its inability ? What was the amount of the loss sustained by the Railway in purchasing the cotton waste elsewhere at a higher rate, on account of this breach of contract ?

2. (a) Subsequent to the date of the agreements mentioned in part 1, were the firms of Dewan Chand & Sons and Ishardas Mulkhraj again invited to tender for supplies of cotton waste ? If so, why ?

(b) Does the name of Mr. Dewan Chand or those of his firms (including Ishardas Mulkhraj) still appear in the list of approved contractors from whom tenders are invited ? If not, when was his name removed and why ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : 1. (a) No tenders from Messrs. Dewan Chand and Sons were accepted in the middle of 1923. The question apparently refers to the fact that in October 1923, the North Western Railway invited tenders for the supply of 13,000 cwt. cotton waste, ordinary and 2,300 cwt. cotton waste, superior, for delivery during the financial year 1924-25. The Selection Committee recommended acceptance of the lowest suitable tenders, namely, that of Messrs. Dewan Chand and Sons for waste ordinary, and that of Messrs. Ishardas Mulkraj for waste superior. As far as the Government are aware these are two separate firms.

(b) An agreement was duly executed and security deposited by Messrs. Dewan Chand and Sons only but not by Messrs. Ishardas Mulkraj.

Messrs. Dewan Chand and Sons duly performed their contract.

As Messrs. Ishardas Mulkraj did not sign their agreement there was no contract with them, and they made no security deposit.

(c) In January 1924, namely, two months after intimation that their quotation had been accepted and two months prior to the date on which deliveries were to commence, Messrs. Ishardas Mulkraj informed the North Western Railway of their inability to undertake the contract due to a

rise in cost of the material they were to supply. As a result the earnest money deposited by the firm when tendering was forfeited.

As Messrs. Ishardas Mulkraj entered into no contract there was no breach of contract and the question of loss by the Railway does not therefore arise.

2. (a) Messrs. Dewan Chand and Sons duly performed their contract as stated in the reply to 1(b) above. Their name has therefore not been removed from the list of approved contractors.

The name of Messrs. Ishardas Mulkraj was removed from the list of approved contractors for 12 months from 31st March 1925 as they failed to sign a contract after submitting their tender as explained in 1(c) above.

(b) The information given in (a) answers the question.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE PUNJAB CIVIL SERVICE TO SUPERIOR POSTS ON THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE CADRE.

113. **Mr. Abdul Haye :** (a) With reference to the statement laid on the table in answer to question No. 1371 asked by Mr. Neogy in March last, will the Government please state if the figures that 6 executive and 5 judicial superior listed appointments in the Punjab were held by members of the Punjab Civil Service on 1st January 1926, still hold good ?

(b) Is it a fact that at present in the Punjab there were only 5 executive and 4 judicial listed appointments held by the members of the Punjab Civil Service ?

(c) If the answer to (b) be in the affirmative what action do the Government propose to take so that the Punjab Civil Service men in the Punjab may have their due share ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : (a) The number of appointments " listed " in the Punjab to which members of the Punjab Civil Service may be appointed is at present 6 on the executive side and 5 on the judicial. In addition there are 2 listed posts on the judicial side filled by members of the Bar.

(b) If by " held " the Honourable Member means " held substantially " his figures are correct ; but several Punjab Civil Service officers are officiating in superior Indian Civil Service posts.

(c) The matter is primarily one for the Government of the Punjab ; but the Government of India are in correspondence with all Local Governments on the subject of throwing open to members of the Provincial Services a steadily increasing proportion of superior posts on the Indian Civil Service cadre.

SUPPLY OF INFERIOR LINSEED OIL TO THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY BY MESSRS. DEWAN CHAND AND SONS.

114. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney :** (a) Is it a fact that Messrs. Dewan Chand & Sons had a contract from the East Indian Railway to supply linseed oil in 1923 ?

(b) Was a sample taken out of their supply found to be inferior ?

(c) Were they compelled afterwards to replace the supply by better stuff ?

(d) If so, were they also detected in supplying short weights ?

(e) Is it a fact that their bill was cut down for this short supply ?

**SUPPLY OF INFERIOR IMITATION LEATHER CLOTH TO THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY
BY MESSRS. DEWAN CHAND AND SONS.**

115. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney** : Is it a fact that Dewan Chand & Sons in March 1924 supplied the East Indian Railway with about 3 yards of good leather cloth wrapped round 12 yards approximately of oil cloth so as to make up a roll of 15 yards ? If so, was their supply rejected when this was detected ? Was any tender subsequently called from them for the supply of the same material ? If not, why not ?

**SUPPLY OF INFERIOR PAULINS AND BEES WAX TO THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY
BY MESSRS. DEWAN CHAND AND SONS.**

116. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney** : 1. Did Dewan Chand & Sons in March 1924 enter into a contract with the East Indian Railway Company for the supply of 1,051 paulins ? Were they called upon to furnish the necessary security according to contract ? If so, with what result ? Were the 300 paulins supplied by them found to be far inferior to the sample and rejected ? Were they afterwards accepted as a special case owing to urgency at Rs. 2 per yard instead of Rs. 2-9-0 at their request and the contract for the balance cancelled ? Was their name removed from the list of contractors for this conduct ?

2. Did the same Dewan Chand & Sons move the Agent of the East Indian Railway for the restoration of their name to the list of approved contractors ?

3 (a). Did the Agent restore Dewan Chand's name on the list of approved contractors, *vide* his letter No. 44903 of 4th December 1925, addressed to the Controller of Stores, East Indian Railway, in which the following notes were made ?

“ With reference to the (Agent's) conversation with the Controller of Stores, I am directed to enclose copy of letter No. _____ of date to Dewan Chand & Sons. Although the Agent has agreed to this firm being replaced on the list of the contractors, he considered that special care is called for in scrutinising all supplies made by them to insure that such supplies are strictly in conformity with the samples and tenders.”

(b) What were the special circumstances connected with the firm of contractors entitling them to this special consideration ? Was it due to paucity of reliable contractors ?

(c) After their restoration did Dewan Chand & Sons receive an order for the supply of bees-wax in February 1926 ? Was the supply found inferior to sample and rejected ? Was it afterwards replaced by them according to sample ?

(d) Is Dewan Chand & Sons' name still on the list of approved contractors for the East Indian Railway ? If so, why ?

(e) Do Government propose to make a sifting inquiry into this matter ?

DISMISSAL OF MR. D'CRUZ, LATE OFFICIATING STORES SUPERINTENDENT AT HOWRAH, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

117. **Lient.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney :** (a) Who was the railway officer who was mainly responsible for these detections regarding Messrs. Dewan Chand and Sons' supplies, and who brought to the personal notice of the Controller of Stores these actions of Messrs. Dewan Chand & Sons? Was it Mr. M. D'Cruz, the late officiating Stores Superintendent, Howrah, who has since been dismissed from the service?

(b) Did Mr. D'Cruz remove from his office certain members of his staff whom he suspected of certain dishonest practices which they resented?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : I propose to reply to questions Nos. 114, 115, 116 and 117 together. I understand that what the Honourable Member wishes to know is why this firm of contractors was restored to the approved list after its name had been removed from that list, and whether since its restoration to the approved list the firm has not again been detected in unsatisfactory supplies. The reason why the firm's name was removed from the approved list was that in 1924 the late Controller of Stores, East Indian Railway considered that the firm had made an attempt to palm off against a stores order a quantity of inferior imitation leather cloth. The removal of the firm's name from the approved list was communicated to the Controller of the Indian Stores Department, and the firm appealed to that Department. The Controller of the Indian Stores Department sent the firm's representation down to the Agent of the East Indian Railway and suggested that an enquiry should be made whether the statements in the representation were correct or not. The Agent and the new Controller of the Stores Department made the enquiry. They decided that they could not definitely disprove the assertion of the firm that the imitation leather cloth in question had been sent by mistake to the Howrah General Stores, this assertion having been supported by certain documents. In the absence of the late Controller of Stores, it was not possible for the Agent definitely to decide whether the firm had made an attempt to defraud the Railway, and in the circumstances he decided to restore the firm's name to the approved list with a caution. Since then, the firm has received some minor orders for miscellaneous materials such as string, glass, and bees-wax. Certain of their supplies have been rejected as not up to sample, but in the end the order was satisfactorily complied with. I may mention for the Honourable Member's information that similar rejections are constantly occurring in the case of a large number of competitors of this firm. I understand from question No. 117 that the Honourable Member suggests that Messrs. Dewan Chand and Sons were responsible for the discharge of Mr. D'Cruz, since Mr. D'Cruz had brought an inferior quality of their supply to notice. I can assure the Honourable Member that there is no foundation whatsoever for this belief.

DISMISSAL OF MR. D'CRUZ, LATE OFFICIATING STORES SUPERINTENDENT AT HOWRAH, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

118. **Lient.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney :** (a) Will Government state what answers submitted by Mr. D'Cruz in his defence were recorded? What were the specific "pertinent documents" referred to in the Agent's letter of dismissal, dated 16th October 1924, and who were the officials

referred to in the above letter that were in a position to speak ? What inquiry was held into the case and was Mr. D'Cruz given an opportunity to be present at this inquiry to offer his defence and cross-examine the officials referred to above ? Was Mr. Danby, Carriage and Wagon Superintendent at that time at Lillooah, questioned about the matter of the alleged serious losses, and what was his written statement in this matter ? Was the Controller of Stores questioned only after Mr. D'Cruz's dismissal and not before and what was his statement in the matter ? On what charge or charges was Mr. D'Cruz dismissed from the service ?

(b) Did Mr. D'Cruz appeal to the Agent to be afforded a proper inquiry in accordance with Rule XIV ? Did the Agent refuse this ? If so, is it not a fact that Mr. D'Cruz was condemned unheard and without being given an inquiry or an opportunity to defend himself and deprived of his Provident Fund bonus and the whole of his gratuity amounting to Rs. 18,000, deprived of his character, refused a character certificate thus closing all the avenues of employment to him ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table the evidence of Mr. D'Cruz whose case has been represented to the Railway Board as also that of the Controller of Stores ?

(d) Is it a fact that Mr. D'Cruz appealed to the Railway Board in December in which all these facts were presented and did the Railway Board reply that it was not prepared to interfere with the action taken by the Agent of the East Indian Railway in this case ?

MEANING OF THE WORDS "DEPARTMENTAL INQUIRY".

119. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney** : (a) Will the Honourable Member in charge please state what constitutes a properly recorded departmental inquiry ?

(b) What does a departmental inquiry mean ?

(c) Is it the intention of the Government that such inquiries are to be conducted by officers who have already condemned an "accused" to the higher authorities ?

(d) Has the accused any right to demand a copy of the records of such an inquiry and the findings arrived at and is it in order to refuse him such a copy ?

(e) Is an inquiry which does not conform to the rules laid down in the above order considered to be in accordance with the wishes of the Government ?

DISMISSAL OF MR. D'CRUZ, LATE OFFICIATING STORES SUPERINTENDENT AT HOWRAH, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

120. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney** : If Mr. D'Cruz in his appeal to the Railway Board satisfactorily proved that (1) he was acting under orders of the Head of his Department and (2) that official records prove that there was an excess of 902 cwts. of cotton waste and no loss, under what charge was Mr. D'Cruz together with three other Anglo-Indian and two Indian subordinates dismissed from the service ?

DISMISSAL OF MR. D'CRUZ, LATE OFFICIATING STORES SUPERINTENDENT AT HOWRAH, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

121. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney** : If Government consider Mr. D'Cruz guilty of any defalcation or theft, are they prepared to take criminal proceedings against Mr. D'Cruz on these charges ?

DISMISSAL OF MR. D'CRUZ, LATE OFFICIATING STORES SUPERINTENDENT AT HOWRAH, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

122. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney** : (a) Are Government aware of the fact that Mr. D'Cruz's case was presented before the Secretary of State, also that a letter was submitted to His Excellency the Viceroy which contained a copy of a letter written by the Controller of Stores in which he makes a statement that the Agent of the East Indian Railway told him to keep his mouth closed over Mr. D'Cruz's case, or words to this effect ? If so, what action was taken in the matter ?

(b) In the circumstances are Government prepared to order an inquiry into Mr. D'Cruz's dismissal or to reinstate him in his appointment or to recommend him being given his bonus and gratuity ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : I propose to answer questions Nos. 118 to 122 together. These questions refer to the dismissal of Mr. D'Cruz. The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the letter No. 2828-E., dated the 20th October 1925, on the subject, from the Secretary, Railway Board, to his address. In the circumstances stated therein, Government do not propose to take any further action either by obtaining additional information, ordering any further inquiry, or revising in any way the orders already passed.

GRANT OF RELIEF TO POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH EMPLOYEES FOR THEIR SUFFERINGS DURING THE FIRST TWO CALCUTTA RIOTS.

123. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney** : Will the Government be pleased to state if they received a copy of the resolutions passed at the joint meeting of the Calcutta postal and telegraph employees held on the 3rd June 1926 praying for specific relief for sufferings during the first two Calcutta riots ?

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

GRANT OF COMPENSATION TO POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH OFFICIALS FOR PECUNIARY LOSSES DURING THE RECENT COMMUNAL RIOTS IN CALCUTTA.

124. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney** : (a) Is it a fact that during the communal riots in Calcutta in April and May last postal and telegraph officials attended office under most difficult conditions at great personal risk ?

(b) Is it a fact that during the riots the prices of necessaries rose very considerably ?

(c) Is it a fact that there was great dislocation of transport service during the riots, thereby considerably increasing the cost of conveyances ?

(d) Are Government aware that the Presidency Postmaster of Calcutta issued an appreciative letter to the Postal and Railway Mail Service officials for their heroic devotion to duty under most trying circumstances ?

(e) Do Government propose to consider the question of compensating the postal and telegraph employees for the pecuniary loss they suffered on account of rise of prices and cost of conveyance ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Government have no information.

(d) Yes.

(e) The Government of India do not think it necessary to do so.

GRANT OF COMPENSATION TO THE WIDOWS OF ROLLA SINGH, A MOTOR VAN DRIVER AND SHAIKH MAHMUDA, A TELEGRAPH PEON, KILLED DURING THE RECENT COMMUNAL RIOTS IN CALCUTTA.

125. **Lient.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney :** Will the Government be pleased to state if they are considering :

(a) the question of compensating the widow of Rolla Singh, the motor van driver who was killed by the rioters while in the execution of duty during the recent Calcutta riots ?

(b) the question of providing for the widow of Sheikh Mahmuda, telegraph peon who was killed during the same riots ?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : (a) Yes.

(b) The widow has been granted a gratuity of Rs. 42. This amount was the maximum admissible under the rules.

Full particulars of the crime are not yet available. The question of grant of a further sum of money from the newly formed Compassionate Fund for the Department will be considered, if necessary, when further details are known.

REDUCTIONS OF STAFF ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

126. **Lient.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state :

whether the economies amounting to about one crore of rupees effected on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway during the year 1923-24 referred to in the Report of the Public Accounts Committee presented to the Assembly on the 15th September 1925, and further economies and reductions effected since that period have resulted :

- (1) in understaffing the cadre of drivers, firemen, guards, brakemen, carriage and wagon staff, and other members of the subordinate services ;
- (2) in the men on duty being overworked and having to remain on duty for longer than eight hours ; and
- (3) in an increase of accidents, major and minor, with resulting punishments, fines and dismissals ?

- (b) Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of savings effected in consequence of the economies and reductions carried out since 1922-23 to 31st December 1925 ?
- (c) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of Loco, Traffic and Carriage men whose services have been dispensed with since 1923-24 to 31st December 1925, in consequence of the economies and reductions referred to in (a) ?
- (d) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of superior subordinates, gazetted and covenanted officers whose services have been dispensed with as a result of the economies and reductions referred to in (a) ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b), (c) and (d). The economies effected on railways, and the reductions made in the numbers of employees, since 1922-23 are given in certain detail in the Explanatory Memoranda on the Budget Estimates and in annual Reports by the Railway Board on Indian Railways ; and Government do not propose to call on railway administrations to supply any further information.

REVERSION OF SUBORDINATES APPOINTED TO OFFICIATING VACANCIES IN THE SUPERIOR CADRES ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA AND EAST INDIAN RAILWAYS.

127. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) separately for the Great Indian Peninsula and East Indian Railways, the total number of superior subordinates on the State Railways in India, who have been officiating in the superior or gazetted cadre during the last five years, who have been reverted to their original subordinate appointment to make place for new recruits from England ?
- (b) whether these officiating incumbents were considered incompetent to be placed on the permanent scale and whether they performed the duties attached to their respective superior appointments satisfactorily during the long periods they were shown as officiating ?
- (c) whether these officiating appointments were shown as permanent vacancies and whether the recruits from England were intended to fill these posts ?
- (d) whether the reversion of these senior and tried officials to their subordinate appointments is causing much discontent generally among the staff ; if so, what steps Government intend taking to put an end to such reversions ?
- (e) whether any and how many Indians have been appointed to these appointments by the Railway Board, and how many Anglo-Indians, who were officiating in such appointments, have been replaced by Indians ?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : (a), (b), (c) and (e). Pending recruitment of officers, vacancies in the gazetted ranks are temporarily

filled by promoting subordinates to officiate. There is thus no question of reverting officiating officers to make room for recruits.

(d) Government are not aware of such discontent.

NEW SCHEME FOR WORKING GOODS TRAINS ON THE GHATS ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

128. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received the following telegram despatched by the General Secretary, Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, India and Burma, Ltd., dated the 28th January 1926, addressed to the Honourable Sir Charles Innes and the Railway Board ?

“ It was recently represented to me that the new scheme for working the goods trains on the Ghats was unsafe and that the men could not hold themselves responsible. Test trials for long runs of goods train are being held. This entails a run from Bhusawal to Igatpuri, a distance of 191 miles. One driver and two crews are allowed. Duty 18 hours up trip. Next run Bhusawal to Nagpur 244 miles. One driver and one crew allowed. Drivers solely responsible and stand every risk of prosecution. Men respectfully point out that they cannot conscientiously discharge their duties under these trying circumstances. Respectfully pray investigation into the risky working which may endanger life and cause heavy loss in the long run.”

If so, what action has been taken on the above ?

(b) Do Government propose to issue instructions to the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, to arrange to give the drivers, firemen, and guards sufficient time to rest after they have been continually on duty for over eight hours ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to furnish a statement of major and minor accidents on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway during the last two years ending 31st December 1925, and state whether any of these are due to understaffing of the services ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Yes. It was ascertained from the Agent of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, to whose notice the matter was brought, that there were many inaccuracies in the statements made in the telegram, and his report made it clear that no action was needed.

(b) No. The Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, is already fully aware of the necessity of rest for the staff.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to Appendix D (ii) in Volume II of the Reports by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1923-24 and 1924-25, which gives all the information in the possession of Government. The answer to the latter portion of the question is in the negative.

NUMBER OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES INJURED OR KILLED IN THE EXECUTION OF THEIR DUTY IN EACH OF THE PAST FIVE YEARS.

129. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney** : (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many employees in the service of the Indian Railways have been injured or killed in the execution of their duty in each of the past five years ?

(b) What was the total amount paid each year as compensation to such employees ?

(c) Have any of the employees so injured been dismissed on account of such injuries ? If so, what is their number and the amount of compensation paid to them ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The information which the Honourable Member asks for will be found in Appendix D (i) of Volume II of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for the year 1924-25, copies of which will be found in the Library.

(b) and (c). Government have no information.

GRANT OF COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE TO SENIOR ASSISTANT SURGEONS OF THE I. M. D. HOLDING COMMISSIONED RANK.

130. Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Will the Government be pleased to state if the I. M. D. is an integral and inseparable part of the British Army in India, and whether the rules and regulations governing its administration are similar to those in force for departmental officers and warrant officers of the India Unattached List ?

(b) Will the Government of India state if the pay and allowances of the I. M. D. are debitable to Army estimates, and are non-votable ?

(c) If the reply is in the affirmative will the Government of India state why the I. M. D. is the only Department which has been denied and excluded from receiving compensatory allowance as outlined in Army Department letter No. A.-14671-6 (A.G.-10), dated 4th January 1926, and which was sanctioned with retrospective effect from 1st July 1925, a compensatory allowance to all military officers including officers of the Quartermaster Class and departmental officers of the India Unattached List ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) The I.M.D. is an integral part of the Army in India and the regulations governing it are similar to those in force for departmental officers and warrant officers of the India Unattached List, modified to meet certain inherent differences in the conditions of service of the two classes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Senior assistant surgeons of the I.M.D., holding commissioned rank, are not excluded from receiving the compensatory allowance sanctioned in the Army Department letter quoted by the Honourable Member. They are entitled to this allowance and orders making this clear were issued in February 1926 by the Director, Medical Services in India. If the Honourable Member will bring to my notice any case in which the allowance has been denied, I shall be pleased to investigate the matter.

DENIAL TO OFFICERS AND WARRANT OFFICERS OF THE I. M. D. OF DAILY ALLOWANCES FOR OUTSTATION DUTY.

131. Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : Is it a fact that a daily allowance, calculated on rank, etc., is given to all classes of officers and subordinates in the Army when detached for outstation or temporary duty whereby extra expenses are incurred, and that this allowance is usually payable up to a maximum of ten days, or even up to thirty days with the sanction of the G. O. C. of the Command concerned (vide Army Instruction 573 of 1924) ? If so, are Government aware that this allowance is denied to officers and warrant officers of the I. M. D. ? If so, why ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, except that daily allowance under Army Instruction (India) No. 573 of 1924 is not admissible on certain occasions, e.g., when

an individual is present or doing duty with his unit or with a portion thereof, either on detachment, at manoeuvres or on the line of march, or when he is eligible for and provided with free rations and accommodation at an outstation. As regards the second part, no distinction exists between officers and warrant officers of the I.M.D., and those of other services in this respect except that assistant surgeons with warrant rank are granted field (and not daily) allowance at the rate of Rs. 30 per mensem when accompanying a part of troops exceeding ten in number. The question of the grant of daily allowance to warrant officers of the I.M.D., in lieu of this field allowances is at present under consideration.

DUTY ROOMS FOR ASSISTANT SURGEONS IN BRITISH STATION HOSPITALS.

132. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney** : (a) Are Government aware of the fact, that, although representations have been made to the responsible authorities the condition of certain duty rooms allotted for the use of assistant surgeons in British station hospitals leave very much to be desired so far as comfort and furniture are concerned ? (b) Are Government aware of the fact that the duty room attached to the Jullundur British station hospital is devoid of even a carpet or matting, a barrack bed and has no furniture besides a chair or two, without even a washing room ? (c) Do Government propose to issue orders to have comfortable duty rooms attached to each British station hospital ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the second part, from enquiries made, I am informed that the assistant surgeons' duty room in the British station hospital, Jullundur, is adequately furnished.

The answer to the third part of the question is in the negative. British station hospitals are now furnished on a scale which should admit of the rooms being made comfortable.

SELECTION OF ASSISTANT SURGEONS FOR SUB-CHARGE OF BRITISH STATION HOSPITALS.

133. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney** : Are Government aware that in the holding of sub-charge of various hospitals by I. M. D. men other things being equal—junior men are, at times, given these appointments in preference to senior men fully qualified to hold them ? If so, why ?

Mr. E. Burdon : Assistant Surgeons are selected for sub-charge of British station hospitals by the Deputy Director of Medical Services of the Command from among the assistant surgeons available in the Command. Normally, the allotment of such appointments goes by seniority but other considerations must of necessity be taken into account, and it may happen, therefore, that an assistant surgeon in sub-charge of an important hospital is junior in grade to other assistant surgeons in the same Command.

Government are, however, not aware of any particular instance of this kind.

PAUCITY OF MILITARY ASSISTANT SURGEONS FOR CIVIL EMPLOYMENT.

134. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney** : (a) Is it a fact that the recent retrenchment as a result of the recommendations of the Incheape Committee of about 100 men of the I. M. D. has resulted in such a paucity that

the Director, Medical Services in India is to-day unable to supply any military I. M. D. men to the Director General, Indian Medical Service, for civil medical and other employment ?

(b) If this is so, do the Government of India propose favourably to reconsider the re-appointment of some of these retrenched I. M. D. members and so bring the cadre to such a strength as to enable some of its members to be released for civil employment ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) No, Sir. Though there is a small shortage in the establishment of the Assistant Surgeons' Branch of the Indian Medical Department, this is not entirely due to the 1924 retrenchment and it has not in any way interfered with the transfer of military assistant surgeons to civil employment. Since the completion of the retrenchment in April 1925, the Director General, Indian Medical Service, has requisitioned the services of 15 assistant surgeons and only one—required for a temporary leave vacancy—has been refused, on the ground that he was filling a very important military appointment.

(b) In view of the reply I have just given, this question does not arise. I may mention, however, that the question of re-employing a certain number of retrenched assistant surgeons in the Indian Medical Department is at present under consideration.

DEFICIENCY IN THE NUMBER OF MILITARY MEDICAL PUPILS ENTERING THE I. M. D.

135. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney :** Is it a fact that about only nine passed military medical pupils are available this year, from the various Medical Colleges for admission into the I. M. D. and that this very small number will still further reduce the cadre of this Department and seriously prejudice (a) the granting of furlough, privilege, and study leave to the men (b) deprive them, especially those with British qualifications, from being seconded to civil employment and (c) in time create a block in the senior grades as exists to-day ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The answer to the first part of the Honourable Member's question is that only five pupils are expected to qualify for admission into the I.M.D., this year. As regards the second part, any deficiency in the numbers of military medical pupils entering the service must naturally produce a shortage in the total establishment of assistant surgeons, but it is not anticipated that this will have any definitely prejudicial effect either on the grant of leave or transfers to civil employment. It is impossible to forecast the result in years to come of a shortage in any particular year, nor is there any practical advantage in attempting to do so. I am not aware that there is any "block" in the senior grades to-day.

DEARTH OF APPLICANTS FOR ADMISSION INTO THE MEDICAL COLLEGES AS MILITARY MEDICAL PUPILS.

136. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney :** (a) Is it a fact that there is a serious dearth of applicants for admission into the various Medical Colleges in India as military medical pupils ?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that this dearth is due to the current belief in the community and the various European schools that the ultimate intention of the Army Department is to abolish the I. M. D. as a service and replace it by R. A. M. C. (Ranks) ?

(c) If this is not correct, do Government propose to declare its future policy towards the I. M. D. and assure them as also intending candidates, of the stability of the service ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) Yes.

(b) No, Sir. The dearth of candidates is believed to be due mainly to the fact that the preliminary standard of education has been raised as a result of the introduction of the five-years course.

(c) The question of the future of the I.M.D. is at present under the consideration of Government. I am unable to make any further statement on the subject.

EMPLOYMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE I. M. D. IN POSSESSION OF BRITISH MEDICAL QUALIFICATIONS IN SUPERIOR APPOINTMENTS.

137. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney :** (a) Will Government please state how many members of the I. M. D. to-day are in possession of British medical qualifications ?

(b) Will Government please state what they intend doing with those members of the I. M. D. who possess British medical qualifications and who are to-day in military employment holding subordinate positions ? Do Government intend to utilize their services (i) by enlistment of suitable candidates in the I. M. S., taking into favourable consideration when the applicant is slightly over age, his previous war services (ii) employment as District Medical Officers in the various State Railways (iii) in civil medical employment as it obtains to-day, and on an equality with civil assistant surgeons (iv) employment in Provincial Civil Medical Services as recommended by the Lee Commission (v) to use these British medically qualified I. M. D. men as medical officers in British station hospitals ?

Mr. E. Burdon : (a) 43 members of the I.M.D. are in possession of British medical qualifications.

(b) The whole question of the future of the I.M.D. is at present under consideration as a result of the representations put forward by the Anglo-Indian Deputations of 1925. The decisions arrived at will be announced in due course. I cannot give any further information for the present.

HOLDING OF SIMULTANEOUS EXAMINATIONS FOR THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE IN ENGLAND AND INDIA.

138. **Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney :** Will Government state whether it is their intention to hold simultaneous examinations for the I. M. S. in England and India ?

Mr. E. Burdon : I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given on the 20th August to starred question No. 155, and to the discussion which took place on the Resolution which was moved on the subject in this House on the 2nd September 1925.

CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF THE DOMICILED COMMUNITY FOR THE PURPOSES OF RECRUITMENT TO THE I. M. S. AND THE I. M. D.

139. Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : In view of Earl Winterton's statement made in the House of Commons that, for the purpose of internal security Anglo-Indians are classified as European British subjects, will Government be pleased to state under what status members of the domiciled community are recruited into the I. M. S. and I. M. D. ? If as European British subjects are Government aware of the fact that for the I. M. S. they are to-day refused acceptance in England by the Selection Committee there and have been ordered to return to India for selection by the Government of India Committee and for the I. M. D. are denied certain allowances which are given to other departmental officers and warrant officers, e.g., marriage allowance, educational facilities for their children, etc. ?

Mr. E. Burdon : The answer to the first part of the Honourable Member's question is that for the purposes of recruitment to the services mentioned, the domiciled community are treated as British Indian subjects.

The second part does not arise.

NECESSITY OF A UNIVERSITY DEGREE FOR ENTRANCE INTO THE SUPERIOR SERVICES IN INDIA.

140. Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : (a) Are Government aware that the possession of a degree is not necessary to entitle a candidate to sit for the qualifying examinations to enter either the Home, Colonial or Indian Civil Services, and that a degree is not necessary for admission into most of the Public Services in Great Britain and its Dominions ? If so, will Government please state under what rule or authority a university degree is demanded before any candidate can appear for similar competitive examinations in India ?

(b) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of withdrawing such a qualification for entrance into the superior services in India, or for sitting for the competitive examinations ?

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : (a) Yes. The qualifications for entrance to the public services in India are prescribed in some cases by the Secretary of State and in others by the Government of India. A university Degree is not in all cases demanded.

(b) No.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

Secretary of the Assembly : The following Message has been received from the Secretary, Council of State :

“ I am directed to inform you that the Council of State have at their meeting held on the 28th August 1926 agreed without any amendment to the following Bills which were passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 23rd August 1926 :

A Bill to amend the Usurious Loans Act, 1918, for certain purposes.

A Bill further to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 ; and

A Bill further to amend the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, and the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, for certain purposes.”

DEATH OF MR. A. V. V. AIYAR.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar (Madras City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Sir, it is my painful duty to mention a sad event. I wish to make a reference to the news received since we last met of the death of Mr. A. V. V. Aiyar who was a Member of the Assembly for several years. Mr. Aiyar was a very modest and retiring person. He was a distinguished official of the Finance Department who rose from the ranks. He died at a very premature age, being only 48 when he died. He entered Government service as a junior clerk on a pay, I believe, in those days of Rs. 25 a month in the Accountant General's Office, Madras, and from that humble position he rose to a responsible position in the Finance Department by dint of his high merit which was recognized by all people under whom he served. His capabilities were of a very high order. I did not know him, Sir, till I joined the Assembly in 1921 when Sir Malcolm Hailey, the then Finance Member, introduced him to the Standing Finance Committee as the officer who prepared the Budget of the Government of India. His masterly survey of the situation struck me at once, and we were all impressed by the way he performed the task of preparing the Budget of the Government of India. From that date he made himself freely accessible to us whenever difficult questions of finance came up and whenever we sought for information, which with his masterly knowledge he was able to explain to us in great detail. Sir, the loss to the Government is great, the loss to India is great by the premature death of this distinguished Indian. Sir, the last Currency and Exchange Commission was suddenly deprived by illness of the services of this distinguished officer last year. Sir, it was with very great regret and sorrow that we heard of the death of this man. Sir, I move that we extend our sympathy to the widow of the deceased and the other members of his family. Sir, he was comparatively a poor man but he rendered distinguished services to the country and to the Government. Sir, I ask the House to associate itself with this expression of sorrow at his death.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett (Finance Member) : Sir, it is my melancholy privilege on behalf of the Government of India to associate myself and the Government with this last sad tribute of respect to the memory of departed merit. Mr. Venkataraman Aiyar was one of the first officers of the Finance Department with whom I came in contact on my arrival in India. He was the chief budget officer that year, and naturally I was thrown into very close touch with him in the preparation of my first Budget. With all that the Honourable Member who has moved this motion has said I desire to associate myself and the Government most fully. Sir, Mr. Venkataraman Aiyar was a young man. He died on the eve of his 48th birthday, but he had done 28 years' service for Government, at first in a subordinate capacity from which he had risen through sheer merit to one of the highest posts which are available to officers of the Finance Department. He was associated with the preparation of no less than 12 Budgets in various capacities, the last three or four of them as chief budget officer, and it was in that capacity that he was a Member of this House for four successive budget Sessions. After that, it was with great pleasure that I found myself able to appoint him to act as Deputy Controller of the Currency in Bombay and then to act, while the Controller of the Currency was away, as the Controller of the Currency in Calcutta. In that duty—it was a

very difficult duty to thrust upon a man of so modest a temperament as Mr. A. V. V. Aiyar—he won the respect and affection of all the business people in Calcutta (Hear, hear), and he proved that no job to which he might be appointed was too difficult for him. His modesty and retiring character made it difficult for those who were not brought into close touch with him to recognize what a really great man Mr. Aiyar was. His loss is one which we in the Finance Department feel most extremely just when we were looking forward to recovering his services after the sittings of the Royal Commission in order that we might benefit by his advice and wisdom in all the work that has to be done in carrying through the Report of the Royal Commission on Currency and Finance. I should like, Sir, if I may, to read a telegram which was sent from the Finance Department to Mr. Aiyar's brother on the day of his death when we heard the news of his sad death :

“ Finance Member and Finance Department generally have learnt with deepest regret of the death of Mr. A. V. V. Aiyar. They greatly deplore the loss sustained not only by the Department but also by India in the death of a brilliant officer who has rendered invaluable services to the country. Please convey to the bereaved family the very sincere sympathy of Sir Basil Blackett, Mr. Jukes and all officers and ranks of the Department ”.

Sir, I desire to associate myself in particular and the Government of India in general with this tribute of respect.

Sir Walter Willson (Associated Chambers of Commerce : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, the non-official European community in this House desire to associate themselves with the remarks which have fallen from Diwan Bahadur Rangachariar and Sir Basil Blackett. Sir, I well remember, after my own election to this House the first appearance—what I then thought was the first appearance—of Mr. Venkataraman Aiyar in this House, when he rose to defend certain attacks which had been made upon the Budget. The smile never left his face, the good humour was always there. In all committee work, to which Diwan Bahadur Rangachariar referred, he was of exceptional assistance to non-officials who were seeking for information—a quality they very highly valued in him. To those here looking forward to seeing Indians coming to the front in finance, he was one of the hopes of the side, and but for the regrettable illness which cut short his brilliant career, we should have seen him play a very fine and distinguished part on behalf of the country. Sir, I associate myself with all that has fallen from the Honourable Members.

Dr. L. K. Hyder (Agra Division : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I associate myself with the tribute of respect to the memory of this very capable officer of the Finance Department. Sir, those who came into contact with the late Mr. Aiyar know that he was a man of great ability and of great possibilities for the future. Sir, on behalf of this section of the House I associate myself heartily with this tribute of respect.

Mr. President : I desire to associate myself with all that has fallen from various Honourable Members regarding the heavy loss the country in general and this House in particular have suffered in the death of Mr. A. V. V. Aiyar who was such a brilliant officer, and it will be my duty to convey to the widow and the other members of the family of the deceased the deep sense of grief which this House feels.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

RECORDS MAINTAINED BY THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT OF MONEY ORDERS DURING TRANSIT.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table the information in supersession of the reply given on the 8th March, 1926, to question No. 1117 asked by Mr. Abdul Haye, regarding the records maintained by the Postal Department of Money Orders during transit.

(a) Money orders in transit are sent in closed envelopes, the total number of money orders contained in each envelope being noted on it. The closed envelopes are then despatched inside Registered bags. It is not easy for postal employees to intercept money order forms without risk of detection.

(b) Does not arise.

TENDERS FOR STORES.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table a statement furnished by the High Commissioner for India showing all cases in which the lowest tenders have not been accepted by him in purchasing stores for the Government of India during the half year ending 30th June 1926.

**High Commissioner for India,
India Store Department.**

Abstract of cases in which Tenders, other than the lowest complying with the technical description of the goods demanded, were accepted on the grounds of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the firm tendering, greater facility of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

HALF-YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1926.

[Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra.]

HIGH COMMISSIONER
INDIA STOREAbstract of cases in which Tenders, other than the lowest complying with
of superior quality, superior trustworthiness of the firm tendering, greater faci-

HALF-YEAR ENDING

PART A.—Cases in which lower foreign tenders, including British tenders for foreign

| Stores ordered. | Contract Number. | Name of Contractor. | Amount of Contract. |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| Wheels & Axles .. | E.5946/9880/3-2-26 | The Skoda Works (1,230 pairs). (Czecho-Slovak). | £ s. d. 20,910 0 0 |
| | | Taylor Bros. & Co. Ltd. (1,000 pairs). | 18,500 0 0 |
| | | 39,410 0 0 | |
| Chloroformum, B.P. | E.6111/8477/12-2-26 | United Alkali Co., Ltd. | 949 3 4 |
| Tubes, Brass & Copper. | E.6283/8065/23-2-26 | Elliott's Metal Co., Ltd. | 90 11 4 |
| Wheels & Axles .. | E.6426/10239/4-3-26 | Fried Krupp (587 pairs) | 11,593 5 0 (German). |
| | E.6427/10239/4-3-26 | J. Baker & Co. (Rother- ham) 1920, Ltd. (200 pairs). | 4,400 0 0 (British). |
| | | | 15,993 5 0 |

STATEMENTS Laid ON THE TABLE.

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FOR INDIA,
DEPARTMENT.

the technical description of the goods demanded, were accepted on the grounds of lity of inspection, quicker delivery, etc.

30TH JUNE, 1926.

made goods, have been set aside wholly or partially in favour of British tenders.

| Lowest Tender not accepted. | Reason for acceptance. |
|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">£ s. d.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">37,910 0 0 (Czecho-Slovak).</p> | <p>A demand was received on the 14th January 1926 for 2,230 pairs of wheels and axles for wagons which were being built in India. It was stated that deliveries of the wagons would commence in March, 1926.</p> <p>Tenders were received on the 29th January. The lowest offer was at £17 per pair from the Skoda Works, but the best delivery they could undertake (200 pairs in 8 weeks and 200 pairs per week thereafter) would not meet the wishes of the Indenting Officer. The next lowest tender was less satisfactory in regard to delivery.</p> <p>The third lowest, from Messrs. Taylor Bros. & Co., offered to supply 200 pairs in four weeks, 300 more in five weeks and a further quantity of 500 pairs in 7 weeks from receipt of order, at £18-10-0 per pair.</p> <p>1,000 pairs were ordered from Messrs. Taylor Bros. in order to ensure a steady supply of wheels approximately in time to meet the indent requirements and 1,230 were ordered from the Skoda Works.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">220 16 8 (German).</p> | <p>If the lower tender had been accepted, the cost of inspection in Germany would have exceeded the difference in price between the two quotations.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">79 0 3 (Continental).</p> | <p>Two lower tenders were received; one at £79-0-3 for tubes made at Liege and Cologne and the other at £79-18-0 for tubes made at Havre. The extra cost of inspection at any of these places would, however, have exceeded the difference between the foreign and English prices. The British firm's works are at Birmingham where there is a resident inspector.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">15,543 0 0 (German).</p> | <p>787 pairs of wheels and axles were required urgently for wagons being built and due for delivery in India between 1st April and 30th June 1926. The four lowest tenderers, quoting £19-15-0, £19-18-0, £20-3-0, and £20-5-0 per pair, respectively, could not commence shipment before the middle of May. The fifth tender, that of Messrs. Baker & Co., at £22 per pair, offered 100 pairs a week beginning in four weeks. 200 pairs were accordingly ordered from this firm for shipment by the middle of April and the remaining 587 pairs were ordered from the lowest tenderer Messrs. Krupp.</p> |

[Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra.]

PART A.—

| Stores ordered. | Contract Number. | Name of Contractor. | Amount of Contract. | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|---|---------------------|------------------------------|
| | | | £ | s. d. |
| Bearing Plates .. | E.6653/10705/24-3-26 | Bolckow Vaughan & Co., Ltd. | 2,380 | 9 7 (Delivery 4-6 weeks). |
| Copper Tubes .. | F.105/10665/12-4-26 | Yorkshire Copper Works Ltd. | 1,540 | 0 0 |
| | F.106/10665/12-4-26 | John Wilkes Sons & Mapplebeck, Ltd. | 1,540 | 0 0 |
| | | | 3,080 | 0 0 (British). |
| Bogie Carriage Underframes. | F.146/9213/15-4-26 | Cammell Laird & Co., Ltd. | 6,466 | 18 0 (British). |
| Ditto .. | F.176/9284/17-4-26 | Metropolitan Carriage Wagon & Finance Co., Ltd. | 54,826 | 7 3 (British). |
| Carriages .. | F.333/10128/28-4-26 | Midland Railway Carriage & Wagon Co., Ltd. | 9,490 | 10 0 |
| Insulators .. | F.822/307/9-6-26 .. | Bullers Limited .. | 375 | 0 0 |
| Zinc Sheets .. | F.1066/1054/22-6-26 | London Zinc Mills Ltd. . . | 24 | 18 9 |

contd.

| Lowest Tender not accepted. | Reason for acceptance. |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">£ s. d.</p> <p>1,940 12 4 (Delivery 10-12 weeks). (Belgian).</p> | <p>These bearing plates form part of an indent for rails and accessories to the value of £13,881 for relaying 16 miles of track. The delivery offered for the rails and other fittings was from five to eight weeks. The long delivery offered by the lowest tenderer for bearing plates was due to their having to procure new rolls and this tender was therefore passed over in order to avoid seriously delaying the whole work.</p> |
| <p>2,712 0 0 (German). 2,756 5 0 (German).</p> | <p>The tubes were indented for by telegram. The two lowest suitable tenders offered deliveries which, if adhered to, would have landed the tubes in India in about 12 to 14 weeks.</p> <p>The next lowest tenderers offered immediate delivery in England which, allowing for inspection and shipment, would mean arrival in India in 5 to 6 weeks.</p> <p>A telegram was sent to the indenting officer enquiring how long he could wait for the tubes and stating that higher prices were required for quick delivery. The indenting officer replied that his present stock was sufficient for six weeks only. It was thus clear that immediate delivery was essential and the orders were placed as shown.</p> |
| <p>5,749 0 0 (German).</p> | <p>The lowest tenderer had already two large orders under which deliveries were seriously overdue. The High Commissioner therefore decided not to give this firm a further order until it had made substantial progress with the work in hand. The order was placed with the next lowest tenderer.</p> |
| <p>53,827 14 4 (German).</p> | <p>Ditto ditto.</p> |
| <p>9,256 1 0 (German).</p> | <p>The accepted tender was considered to be the most advantageous taking into account the much higher cost of inspection had the lower tender been accepted, and the superior reliability of the firm with whom the order was placed.</p> |
| <p>310 0 0 (French).</p> | <p>The stores were stated in the indent to be required in India as early as possible.</p> <p>The lowest tenderer quoted a very long and indefinite delivery (approx. 20 to 30 weeks), whereas Messrs. Buller Ltd. offered 4 to 13 weeks.</p> <p>The order was accordingly placed with the latter firm on account of better delivery and having regard to the extra cost of inspection abroad.</p> |
| <p>20 14 9 (Belgium).</p> | <p>The accepted tender was the most advantageous taking into account the extra cost of inspection that would have been entailed if the order had been placed with the lowest tenderer.</p> |

[Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra.]

PART A.

| Stores ordered. | Contract Number. | Name of Contractor. | Amount of Contract. |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Lymph Tubes .. | F.1072/1542/28-6-26 | Anglo French Mfg. Co., Ltd. | £ s. d. |
| | | | 82 10 0 (German). |
| | F.1073/1542/28-6-26. | Foley's .. | 30 12 6 |
| | | | 113 2 6 |

contd.

| Lowest Tender not accepted. | Reason for acceptance. |
|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">£ s. d.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">110 0 0 (German).</p> | <p>The demand was for 200,000 lymph tubes and the indent asked that the tubes be shipped so as to arrive in Burma not later than the 31st August 1926, as, if delay occurred, the supply of vaccine lymph might be endangered. The lowest tenderer for suitable tubes offered delivery in this country in 4/6 weeks which would not meet requirements. It was decided, therefore, to order 150,000 tubes only from this firm and the remaining 50,000 tubes from the next lowest tenderer, who offered delivery of 20,000 from stock and the balance in 4 weeks. The extra cost was only £3-2-6.</p> |

[Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra.]

PART B.—Cases in which the discrimination

| Stores ordered. | Contract Number. | Name of Contractor. | Amount of Contract. | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|----|----|
| | | | £ | s. | d. |
| Waistcoats, Cardigan No. 33,330. | E. 5588/8680/14-1-26 | Bent & Watson, Ltd. .. | 11,181 | 8 | 4 |
| Cells, Inert .. | E. 5990/9140/5-2-26 | General Electric Co., Ltd. | 108 | 18 | 6 |
| Binoculars .. | E. 6206/9624/18-2-26 | Ross Ltd. .. | 511 | 0 | 0 |
| Springs, I. R. .. | E. 6261/10179/23-2-26 | G. Spencer Moulton & Co., Ltd. | 8,181 | 16 | 3 |
| Paint .. | E. 6280/8814/23-2-26 | Lewis Berger & Sons, Ltd. | 105 | 10 | 9 |
| Pins, Shackle .. | E. 6323/8860/26-2-26. | Rubery Owen & Company. | 27 | 17 | 2 |
| Steel Roller Rocker Bearings. | E. 6457/9663/8-3-26. | The Patent Shaft & Axletree Co., Ltd. | 978 | 0 | 0 |
| Carbon paper .. | E. 6501/9922/11-3-26 | Ellams Duplicator Co., Ltd. | 45 | 0 | 0 |

is between British firms only.

| Lowest Tender not accepted. | Reason for acceptance. |
|---|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">£ s. d.</p> <p>10,933 16 3</p> | <p>The waistcoats were stated in the indent to be required urgently after 1st April 1926, and the urgency was specially mentioned in the covering letter.</p> <p>The lowest tender for waistcoats of satisfactory quality offered only 2,000 by the 1st April 1926, and completion in 32 weeks thereafter, and could not therefore be accepted.</p> <p>The next lowest tender, which was accepted, promised, 12,000 to 15,000 on 1st April and completion in 10 weeks.</p> |
| <p>94 11 11</p> | <p>On the basis of output the General Electric Company's cells were the best value for money.</p> |
| <p>327 10 0</p> | <p>The Indenting Officer demanded Ross's binoculars. Competitive tenders were invited for Ross type and a tender was received for glasses of the same constructional type and quality as Ross's at £327-10-0. Messrs. Ross quoted £511.</p> <p>The quotations were telegraphed to the indenting officer who confirmed his preference for Messrs. Ross's make on the grounds that they are found better able to stand Indian climatic conditions.</p> |
| <p>7,994 14 0</p> | <p>The indenter, in telegraphing for the springs, stated that they were required immediately.</p> <p>The lowest tenderer required 15 weeks for delivery, whereas the next (Messrs. Spencer Moulton) promised to deliver in 10 weeks, commencing in 10 days.</p> <p>The indent, moreover, asked for springs similar to those supplied under a previous contract which was carried out by Messrs. Spencer Moulton; and that firm has had greater experience in the manufacture of these articles.</p> |
| <p>102 3 3</p> | <p>Messrs. Berger's works are in London, whereas the lowest tenderer's works are on the Tyne, where the extra cost of inspection would be more than the difference between the two tenders.</p> |
| <p>25 0 6</p> | <p>The firm who tendered lowest had given trouble with a previous order, which, although placed several months before, had not been completed. Their tender was therefore passed over on the ground of unreliability, and the order placed with the next lowest.</p> |
| <p>924 0 0</p> | <p>The bearings were required in India by the end of April 1926. The lowest tender offered delivery in 8 to 14 weeks and was therefore unsuitable. The order was placed with the next lowest firm who undertook to deliver in 5 to 6 weeks, the quickest delivery offered by any of the tenderers.</p> |
| <p>42 15 0</p> | <p>Messrs. Ellam's paper was, after examination of the samples submitted by the tenderers, considered to be the best value for the money.</p> |

[Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra.]

PART B.—

| Stores ordered. | Contract Number. | Name of Contractor. | Amount of Contract. |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| | | | £ s. d. |
| Canvas, Flax .. | F. 10/10340/1-4-26 .. | Baxter Bros. & Co., Ltd. | 13,636 0 2 |
| | F. 153/10340/15-4-26. | Richards Limited .. | 13,289 11 7 |
| | | | 26,925 11 9 |
| Cord, Cotton khaki | F. 309/11015/27-4-26. | A. Stockwell & Co. .. | 7,226 2 8 (for 72,450 yds.) |
| | F. 310/11015/27-4-26. | E. Spinner & Co. .. | 6,252 10 0 (for 61,000 yds.) |
| | | | 13,478 12 8 |
| Drawers, Cotton .. | F. 370/149/30-4-26 .. | Geo. Braund Limited (Dely. 5/17 weeks). | 3,792 10 0 |
| | F. 371/149/30-4-26 .. | Nottingham Manufacturing Co., Ltd. (Dely. (4/13 weeks) .. | 1,907 16 3 5,700 6 3 |
| | | | 5,700 6 3 |
| Mosquito Netting. | F. 395/11028/3-5-26.. | Miller Bros. Limited (Dely. May to July) for 300,300 yards. | 10,803 0 0 |
| | F. 315/11028/27-4-26 | Vogtlandische Tullfabrik A. G. (1-5 months) for 50,000 yards. | 2,070 6 3 |
| | F. 316/11028/27-4-26. | Black Bros. Limited (2-12 weeks) for 300,300 yards. | 12,825 6 3 |
| | F. 396/11028/3-5-26.. | Hy. Mallet & Sons (3-12 weeks) for 175,700 yards. | 7,503 17 1 |
| | | | 33,202 9 7 |

—contd.

| Lowest Tender not accepted. | Reason for acceptance. |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">£ s. d.</p> <p>25,877 8 9</p> | <p>The demand specified that the canvas was to be in accordance with a new specification which had been prepared in India. When the tenders were received a reference was made to the Indenting Officer on a technical matter relating to the specification. In reply he requested that half the quantities of certain items should be ordered from Baxter Bros. (the lowest tenderers) and half from Richards Ltd. The latter's was the next lowest quotation. The extra cost involved was £1,048-3-0.</p> |
| <p>13,310 5 0</p> | <p>The demand was for 133,450 yards of khaki cotton cord, and the indent stated that shipments were to commence in April and to be completed by July 1926.</p> <p>The lowest tenderer, Messrs. A. Stockwell & Co., offered delivery commencing about June 8th and finishing about 4th January 1927. This delivery was slow. In view of the small difference in price between Messrs. A. Stockwell & Co. and the next lowest tenderer, Messrs. E. Spinner & Co., who offered to commence delivery about May 18th, it was decided to divide the order between these two firms. The extra cost involved was about £168.</p> |
| <p>5,688 15 0</p> | <p>The cotton drawers were demanded by telegram in advance of the printed indent and were urgently required in India.</p> <p>The lowest tenderer—Messrs. Geo. Braund Ltd.—required 5 weeks to commence and 17 weeks to complete delivery. This delivery was long. Moreover the firm had recently changed hands.</p> <p>Therefore, in order not to be entirely dependent on them, and with a view to obtaining earlier completion of delivery, it was considered advisable to order only two-thirds of the total quantity from this firm and to obtain the remaining one-third from the next lowest tenderer, the extra cost being only £12.</p> |
| <p>..</p> | <p>The demand was for 826,300 yards of mosquito netting and the indent stated that shipments were to be completed by the end of May at the latest. As the indent was only received on the 20th March 1926, the time allowed by the indenting officer for delivery was much too short.</p> |
| <p>..</p> | <p>The lowest tenderer offered to deliver 300,000 yards in the period May to July.</p> |
| <p>..</p> | <p>It was clearly impossible to give them a larger quantity if completion in a reasonable time was expected. Moreover, the firm (Messrs. Miller Bros.) had not previously held an order direct from this Department. Therefore, the remainder was divided between three other firms who were the next lowest suitable tenderers. By this division delivery within a reasonable time was made possible.</p> |
| <p>29,725 6 9</p> | <p>The extra cost involved was about £3,477.</p> |

[Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra.]

PART B.—

| Stores ordered. | Contract Number. | Name of Contractor. | Amount of Contract. |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | | | £ s. d. |
| Axes Felling .. | F. 644/249/27-5-26 .. | W. Gilpin Senr. & Co. (Tools) Ltd. | 80 1 0 |
| Leather Cloth .. | F. 1004/5985/22-6-26. | Rexine Ltd. | 284 2 7 |

—*contd.*

| Lowest Tender not accepted. | Reason for acceptance. |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">£ s. d.</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">70 15 4</p> | <p>Accepted on account of the superior quality of the goods offered, which represented more than the difference in price.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">232 4 0</p> | <p>Samples submitted by the firms tendering, with prices, were forwarded to the indenting officer who selected the sample submitted by Rexine Ltd. This firm's tender was accordingly accepted.</p> |

[Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra.]

PART C.—Cases in which the discrimination is

| Stores ordered. | Contract Number. | Name of Contractor. | Amount of Contract. |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| | | | £ s. d. |
| Carbon Decolorising | E.5438/8665/2-1-26 | Haller & Phillips .. | 195 0 0 (Dutch) |
| Dogspikes .. | E.5713/S. 8805/ 21-1-26. | Ste. Ame. des Laminoirs et Boulonneries du Rnau, No. 625,000. | 2,083 -0 2 (Belgian) |
| | E. 5714/S. 8805/ 21-1-26. | A. de Barsy, No. 1,000,000 | 3,443 18 2 (Belgian) |
| | | | 5,526 18 4 |
| Wheels & Axles .. | E. 5716/9364/21-1-26 | Deutsche Luxemburgische Bergwerks-und Hutton, A. G. 400 pairs. | 7,400 0 0 (German) |
| | E. 5717/9364/21-1-26 | Bochumer Verein, 1,200 pairs. | 22,650 0 0 (German) |
| | | | 30,050 0 0 |
| Wheels & Axles .. | E. 6241/7833/20-2-26 | The Skoda Works, 192 pairs. | 3,696 0 0 (Czecho-Slovak) |
| | E. 6242/7833/20-2-26 | Fried Krupp, A. G. 220 pairs. | 4,345 0 0 (German) |
| | | | 8,041 0 0 |
| Cylinders for Loco- motives. | F. 910/458/16-6-26 .. | Hohenzollern A. G. fur Lokomotivbau. | 2,970 0 0 (German) |

between Foreign firms only.

| Lowest Tender not accepted. | Reason for acceptance. |
|---|--|
| <p>£ s. d. 129 0 0 (Dutch)</p> | <p>The carbon ordered represented the best value for money, being 75 per cent. to 80 per cent. superior in quality to that offered by the lowest tenderer.</p> |
| <p>5,415 16 5 (Belgian)</p> | <p>Tenders for 3,250,000 spikes were invited simultaneously in London and in Lahore and particulars were cabled to India. The indenter requested that 1,625,000 should be ordered by the London Store Department for delivery in India between April and June 1926, the order to be divided if desirable in order to secure that delivery. It was consequently necessary to divide as shown, 625,000 spikes being allotted to the lowest tenderer for shipment during April and May, and the balance of 1,000,000 to the next lowest for delivery by the end of April 1926.</p> |
| <p>29,600 0 0 (German)</p> | <p>The lowest tenderer had executed in an unsatisfactory manner two orders placed with them some time previously by Indian Railway Companies. There was, however, reason for giving them a further trial. Consequently their portion of the order was limited to 400 pairs, the remaining 1,200 being given to the next lowest tenderer.</p> |
| <p>7,931 0 0 (Czecho-Slovak)</p> | <p>The tenders were for 412 pairs of wheels and axles, 220 pairs of which were required to reach India early in April for wagons being built in India. The lowest tender was from the Skoda Works at £19-5-0 per pair for delivery by the end of May 1926. This tender therefore could not be considered for the urgent 220 pairs, but was accepted for the 192 pairs. The 220 pairs were ordered from the next lowest tenderer at £19-15-0 per pair for delivery at Essen in about six weeks.</p> |
| <p>2,790 0 0 (German) 2,909 14 0 (French)</p> | <p>The lowest tenderer, as sub-contractors under a recent contract, failed to make a satisfactory supply of cylinder castings. The time quoted for delivery by the second lowest tenderer was unduly long (i.e., 32 weeks) and was unreliable as the firm lacked experience. The Hohenzollern Co., the third lowest tenderer, already had work in progress under inspection by the Consulting Engineers and their extra price has thus been largely offset by the lower cost of inspection. The order was accordingly placed with the Hohenzollern Co., on the grounds of superior reliability and lower cost of inspection.</p> |

[Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra.]

PART D.—Cases in which lower British tenders have been

| Stores ordered. | Contract Number. | Name of Contractor. | Amount of Contract. |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Locomotive Boilers | F. 971/414/19-6-26 .. | Nasmyth Wilson & Co. | £ s. d. 28,542 0 0 |
| | F. 1108/414/30-6-26 | Hannoversche Maschinenbau A. G. | 8,265 0 0 (German) |
| | | | |

set aside wholly or partially in favour of Foreign tenders.

| Lowest Tender not accepted. | Reason for acceptance. |
|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;">£ s. d.</p> <p>36,742 0 0 (British)</p> | <p>The demand was for 31 boilers, delivery being required in India by November 1926.</p> <p>The lowest tenderer offered delivery at the rate of 2 boilers per week commencing in 16 weeks. This delivery would not meet the requirements.</p> <p>It was decided, therefore, to order 7 boilers from the next lowest suitable tenderer—The Hannoversche Maschinenbau A. G.—for delivery in 13 weeks, the balance being ordered from the lowest tenderer. The extra cost was only £55.</p> |

**REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON THE ACCOUNTS OF
1924-25.**

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett (Finance Member) : Sir, I lay on the table the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts for the year 1924-25.

Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the accounts of 1924-25.

I.—Excess Votes.

1. The following table compares the amount of grants voted by the Assembly with the total expenditure out of those grants.

| | Grants sanctioned by the Assembly. | | Final grant. | Actual expenditure. |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| | Original grant. | Supplementa- ry grant. | | |
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| Expenditure charged to Revenue. | 93,30,80,900 | 1,91,55,000 | 95,72,35,900 | 91,11,10,430 |
| Expenditure charged to Capital. | 33,14,53,000 | 15,000 | 33,14,68 000 | 15,98,32,951 |
| Total expenditure .. | 1,26,95,33,900 | 1,91,70,000 | 1,28,87,03,900 | 1,07,09,43,381 |
| Disbursements of Loans and Advances. | 20,06,15,000 | | 20,06,15,000 | 17,17,04,242 |
| Grand Total .. | 1,47,01,48,900 | 1,91,70,000 | 1,48,93,18,900 | 1,24,26,47,623 |

Excluding loans and advances, the actual total voted expenditure was thus Rs. 19,85,90,519 below the original grants and Rs. 21,77,60,519 below the final grants sanctioned by the Assembly.

2. If the total voted and non-voted expenditure is taken, the position is as follows :—

| | Original Grant. | Final Grant. | Actual expenditure. |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------|
| | Rs. | Rs. | Rs. |
| Revenue Expenditure .. | 2,09,26,94,900 | 2,13,88,74,984 | 2,05,00,79,316 |
| Capital Expenditure .. | 33,20,95,000 | 33,22,92,000 | 16,06,69,003 |
| Loans and Advances .. | 20,06,15,000 | 20,06,15,000 | 17,17,04,242 |
| Total | 2,62,54,04,900 | 2,67,17,81,984 | 2,38,24,52,561 |

It will be seen that against the grants aggregating 2,67,18 lakhs, the total expenditure was only 2,38,25 lakhs—a saving of 28,93 lakhs or approximately 10.8 per cent. This saving may be roughly distributed as follows:—

| | <i>In crores.</i> |
|--|-------------------|
| Railway expenditure charged to revenue | 4 |
| Railway expenditure charged to capital | 16½ |
| Military expenditure | 2½ |
| Loans and advances | 3 |
| Other items | 2½ |
| Total | 29 |

3. So far as the non-voted expenditure is concerned, the grants aggregated 1,18,25 lakhs and the expenditure 1,13,98 lakhs—a saving of 4,27 lakhs or of only 3.6 per cent. By far the largest portion of this saving occurred in the Military Department, the amount being 2,81 lakhs. This was due partly to decreased expenditure on the purchase of stores and partly to an adjustment in India's favour of some payments to the War Office arising out of claims in connection with war expenditure. The other larger savings were chiefly under Railways (89 lakhs) and Refunds of revenue from Customs and Taxes on Income (51 lakhs). There were also smaller savings under other heads, but these were almost wholly counterbalanced by an excess of 61 lakhs under 'interest on ordinary debt' due partly to larger payments towards the close of the year and to short recoveries from Railways and Provincial Governments.

4. The grants for voted expenditure amounted to 1,48,93 lakhs, while the actual expenditure amounted to 1,24,27 lakhs only. The saving of 24,66 lakhs, which is nearly 16.5 per cent. of the aggregate grants, is made up mainly of the following items:—

| | <i>Lakhs.</i> |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| <i>Revenue expenditure—</i> | |
| Railways | 3,08 |
| Civil Works | 21 |
| Miscellaneous | 31 |
| <i>Capital expenditure—</i> | |
| Railways | 16,56 |
| Telegraphs | 56 |
| Loans and Advances | 2,89 |

The savings in Railway revenue expenditure largely represent economies in working expenses, for example, in the consumption of coal, a decrease in payments of compensation claims, and adjustments in connection with the Privy Council's decision regarding customs duty on stores for companies' lines. To a certain extent they are the result of the decision to debit the loss on re-valuation of stores to Railway reserves instead of to working expenses. Elsewhere the understanding is due to various causes. The sum of 21 lakhs under 'Civil Works' is spread over a number of items but includes unallotted reserves with the Government of India and local authorities amounting to about 9 lakhs. The sum of 31 lakhs under 'Miscellaneous' is largely accounted for by the non-utilisation of the provision of 25 lakhs made in the budget for payments to persons who suffered from enemy action. The very large savings under Railway capital expenditure accrued to a small extent owing to the adjustments in connection with the Privy Council's decision referred to above but mainly in circumstances similar to those explained in para. 8 of our Report on the accounts of 1923-24. As stated therein, steps have been taken to cut down the capital grant rigorously from 1925-26 onwards. The underspending of 56 lakhs in Telegraph capital outlay is the result of over-estimating on the part of the departmental officers. The excess provision of 2,89 lakhs under 'Loans and Advances' is the result of Provincial Governments having borrowed 3,78 lakhs less than anticipated, counterbalanced by larger loans to Indian States amounting to 1,27 lakhs. It is understood that steps have been taken to impress upon Provincial Governments the desirability of supplying the Government of India with more reliable estimates of the advances required by them, and very large variations are not likely to recur in future except in very special circumstances.

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

5. Excess expenditure has been incurred over the voted grants for which an excess vote of the Assembly is required in the following cases :—

Excess over grants.

| Item No. | No. of Grant. | Grant. | Amount granted by Assembly. | Actual expenditure. | Excess. |
|----------|---------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| 1 | 11 | Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department. | 8,27,53,000 | 8,41,81,692 | 14,28,692 |
| 2 | 21 | Survey of India .. | 23,48,000 | 24,61,327 | 1,13,327 |
| 3 | 26 | Archæology .. | 12,29,000 | 12,86,702 | 57,702 |
| 4 | 29 | Education | 3,81,000 | 3,82,546 | 1,546 |
| 5 | 33 | Civil Veterinary Services | 6,45,000 | 6,58,395 | 13,395 |
| 6 | 37 | Census | 1,000 | 3,330 | 2,330 |
| 7 | 39 | Joint Stock Companies | 1,32,000 | 1,33,483 | 1,483 |
| 8 | 45 | Superannuation Allowances and Pensions. | 33,00,000 | 35,63,167 | 2,63,167 |
| 9 | 49 | Refunds | 94,83,000 | 96,64,548 | 1,81,548 |
| 10 | 51 | Baluchistan | 26,25,000 | 27,65,733 | 1,40,733 |
| 11 | 60-A | Irrigation not charged to Revenue. | 15,000 | 95,898 | 80,898 |

In spite of the opinion expressed repeatedly by the Public Accounts Committee, and in particular their statement in para. 14 of the report on the accounts of 1923-24, that with a well-regulated system of control over expenditure there ought not to be any excess at all—an opinion endorsed by the Government of

India in para. 7 of the Finance Department Resolution dated 1st June 1926 where it is stated that “an

excess vote is in essence a thing which ought not to occur for it represents a failure on the part of the executive Government to observe the limits set by the Legislature in voting grants for expenditure”—nevertheless the number of excess votes required in respect of the year 1924-25 exceeds the number in 1923-24, though the gross amount of excess expenditure is less.

Appendix I.

Item 1.—This head contains provision not only for the working expenses but also for all capital expenditure financed from revenue, and the Stores Suspense Account of the department is accommodated under the latter head. Consequently the value of stores issued to the grant “61—Capital Outlay on Telegraphs” constitutes a credit to Grant 11. The actual issue of stores to capital fell far below the estimate with the result that the credits to Grant 11 were not realised to the extent anticipated. The necessity for a supplementary grant was not foreseen in time to cover the excess which is due to a failure to act up to the capital programme on Telegraphs. There was a corresponding saving under the capital head.

Item 2.—The excess was due to (1) non-realisation of probable savings, (2) an erroneous adjustment of Rs. 42,502 which is being rectified in the accounts for 1925-26, (3) larger expenditure on Survey parties working for Provincial Governments, and (4) inadequate realisations from sales of maps. Information about the first two causes which mainly account for the excess was received too late to obtain a supplementary grant. We hope for better vigilance now that Pay and Accounts offices have been instituted.

Item 3.—The excess resulted from accounts adjustments for the upkeep of monuments and gardens which had to be made after the close of the year when it was not possible to obtain a supplementary grant, in contravention of a previous recommendation of this Committee.

Item 4.—The slight excess was due to non-realisation of anticipated recoveries from the Rajkumar and Aitchison Colleges. As this fact was not brought to notice in time, no supplementary allotment was asked for. A similar excess was incurred in 1922-23 and steps since taken will prevent a recurrence.

Item 5.—The excess which was to some extent covered by an allotment from the Finance Department reserve, was due partly to the adjustment on account of Customs duty on stores and partly to increased contingent charges. The bulk of the expenditure on Customs duty on stores was passed on by the Accountant General, Bengal to the Accountant General, Central Revenues for adjustment in the latter's March 1925 (Supplementary) accounts when there was no time for obtaining additional funds. The action of the responsible officer in replacing missing journals and largely overspending the provision for Contingencies in March 1925 showed a complete disregard for the rules of appropriation and was one of the main causes for the excess. The adjustment on account of stores should have been foreseen by the controlling authorities.

Item 6.—The excess was mainly due to extra expenditure in connection with the preparation of Life Tables of the Indian Census of 1921 which could not be foreseen at the time of framing the budget. This is an excess only in theory as it was covered by an allotment from the Finance Department reserve.

Item 7.—The excess has been explained as due to a large arrear payment for 4 years of leave and pensionary contribution to the Madras Government and to an arrear adjustment made after the close of the year. In this case also the amount was covered by an allotment from the Finance Department reserve.

Item 8.—The excess was due in general to the adjustment of pensionary charges from commercial departments and in particular to the recovery on this account from the Posts and Telegraphs Department not having been finally settled within the year. Less recovery from commercial departments was made and the fact was not brought to notice till it was too late to ask for additional funds.

Item 9.—The excess was due to an omission to ask for a grant to cover refunds of freight tax which is attributable to a defect in budgeting procedure. The item was adjusted in the Railway books and in framing the estimates on the civil side this matter was overlooked. This tax no longer exists. Steps have now been taken to see that in future similar refunds are provided for in the proper estimates.

Item 10.—The excess was mainly due to the writing-off of irrecoverable temporary loans. As the Government of India decided after the close of the year that such adjustment should be effected in the accounts of the year in which the sanction to remission of the recoveries is accorded, necessary adjustments were made in the accounts of 1924-25. The excess therefore remained uncovered, as it was too late to arrange for funds.

Item 11.—The excess was mainly accounted for by the fact that certain adjustments were made under "Miscellaneous Advances" for non-receipt of contributions on account of the construction of the Guide bund at Dera Ismail Khan. This could not be foreseen and the amount was not covered by a supplementary allotment.

6. It will be seen that the causes for the excesses may be summed up under the following general heads :—

- (1) Introduction of new accounting arrangements for the first time in 1924-25, e.g., the system of treating pensions, on account of commercial departments as deductions from the grant for superannuation.
- (2) Excess covered by allocations from the Finance Department reserve but not by supplementary grants obtained from the Assembly, e.g., Grant 39—Joint Stock Companies where Rs. 12,000 was allocated from that reserve for establishment charges payable to the Government of Madras. Similarly under Grant 37—Census the excess was covered by the allocation from the Finance Department reserve asked for before the end of the year. The reason why supplementary votes were not obtained at the time was due to the view that was then held that an allotment from the reserve avoided the necessity for a supplementary grant.
- (3) Difficulties encountered in watching the progress of expenditure owing to large amounts being brought to account after the close of the year, e.g., in the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Survey of India.
- (4) Failure to observe the rule that belated adjustments should be brought to account in the year in which they were discovered and not antedated, e.g., the claim of the United Provinces Government on account of the maintenance of the Archeological Department gardens was adjusted in the Accounts of 1924-25 instead of in those of the year 1925-26 as the question of the debit was raised only in July 1925.

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

- (5) Over-sanguine estimate by the authorities concerned in spending money on works of their capacity to spend during the year reacting on the revenue account in the case of capital grants, e.g., the excess of Rs. 14,28,692 under Grant 11—Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department (page 2, Posts and Telegraph Appropriation Report) 'is a repercussion of the failure to act up to the capital programme on Telegraphs'. Credits to Grant, 11 were not realised because actual issue of stores to capital fell far below the estimated amount.

7. The question of remedying these defects should be taken up by the Government of India with a view to preventing the recurrence of excess grants. Many of the general causes at work in causing excesses are dealt with by us further in later paragraphs of this report. With these remarks we recommend the Assembly to agree to the excess grants which will be asked for in respect of 1924-25.

II.—General.

8. The Committee gave careful consideration to the question whether working expenses of commercial departments and similar charges should be exhibited gross or net in the accounts and estimates. A memorandum on this subject was handed in by the Finance Department to the Public Accounts Committee of 1924 and appears as Appendix X to their report of the 6th September 1924. Owing to lack of time neither the Committee of that year nor the

Working expenses of commercial departments and similar charges to be exhibited gross or net.

(Evidence pages 1—3 and Question 13).

Committee of 1925 were able to take up the subject. We examined the Finance Secretary at length upon the memorandum referred to and upon the general question and had the advantage also of hearing the views of the Auditor General on the cognate question in relation to the Finance and Revenue accounts. The conclusions we have come to are generally in accordance with the views expressed by these authorities.

9. The primary concern of the Public Accounts Committee is with the form in which the Demands for Grants and the corresponding Appropriation Accounts are prepared. It is clear that the guiding principle in regard to the form of the Demands for Grants in this connection is that the Government should not be in possession of funds for expenditure on a voted service which have not been voted and appropriated by the representatives of the people for that service. To this principle one qualification is in our opinion admissible, namely, that where money has been voted by a Provincial legislature for expenditure through the agency of the Central Government on a voted provincial service, the sum in question need not be voted over again by the Central Legislature in cases in which at the moment when the money is expended by the Central Government the expenditure can be definitely identified and brought to account as provincial expenditure. This qualification does not cover cases such as expenditure incurred by the Central Government on central purchases of stationery some portion of which is afterwards recovered when the stationery is re-issued from the central store for the use of Provincial Governments and paid for by them only as and when they require stationery. All expenditure, therefore, which is to be incurred by the Central Government on a voted service, with the one exception of expenditure which has already been voted by a Provincial legislature in the circumstances explained above, should be subjected to the vote of the Assembly. There are, however, numerous cases, especially in connection with the departments whose accounts have been or are being commercialised, where it is necessary to show the same expenditure twice over in more than one Demand for Grant presented to the Assembly. In such cases it is as a rule desirable in order to avoid inflation of the figures that a sum voted under one grant should appear as a reduction from expenditure in the second grant. In these cases the expenditure should be shown in the Demands for Grants both gross and net, but only the net expenditure should be submitted to the vote of the Assembly. A similar course should be followed in the case of grants where the expenditure includes outlay of sums voted by the Provincial legislatures in the circumstances indicated above.

10. The Committee are not directly concerned with the form in which the Accounts which go to make up the Finance and Revenue Accounts are presented. It appears to them, however, that the view expressed by the Auditor General is the right one, namely, that with a view to clearness of presentation and

Form of Accounts.
(Question 15).

to giving a correct picture of the activities of all the spending departments of the Government of India, the accounts of expenditure should work up to a gross figure of outgoings and that working expenses, charges for interest, etc., should not simply be shown as deductions from receipts. If thought desirable, a separate statement bringing out the net results of the working of a commercial department can always be drawn up.

The question of the form in which the Budget should be presented also arises in the same connection. Here the important desideratum is that the form of presentation should be the one best calculated to give a clear and intelligible picture of the financial position of the Government. If the whole of the expenditure, including the working expenses of commercial departments and so on, is brought to account as expenditure, and the whole of the receipts including the working receipts of the commercial departments are brought to account as revenue, a true statement of all the activities of the Central Government is presented to the public, but both the revenue and expenditure sides of the account may appear inflated. On the other hand, if only the net receipts and net expenditure are shown, the public may be misled in regard to the proportion of the time and energies of the Central Government and of the revenues of the country which are spent on particular services, and important spheres of Government action may be obscured or forgotten. We do not offer a final opinion on this question, but we are inclined to think that the best solution will be for the figures in the Budget Speech itself and in the various statements issued at the time of the Budget to show both the gross and the net expenditure in appropriate forms. The figures of gross expenditure would include all the outgoings of the commercial departments, including the sums which they pay to the Central Government for the interest on the capital which they employ, and all the receipts of those departments would appear under the head of gross revenue.

11. The figure of approximately 130 crores at which recent budgets have been balanced represents neither the gross nor the net expenditure of the Central Government. The working expenses of the Posts and Telegraphs Department and of the Railways are excluded on both sides, but the interest on the debt incurred in order to provide these departments with capital is shown as expenditure of the Central Government and not as a deduction from the receipts of the commercial departments. In the statement of net expenditure and net revenue which we contemplate the only entry relating to Railways would be, on the revenue side, the contribution, and on the expenditure side the loss on strategic lines. In the case of the Posts and Telegraphs Department only the expenditure on buildings, etc., which is treated as capital expenditure for the purposes of the commercialised accounts, and the net loss if any on working, would appear on the expenditure side, and only the net gain if any on the revenue side. It would be desirable if a similar method of presentation could be adopted for the Opium Department. In the form of the Budget as now presented the interest paid by the Provincial Governments on capital advanced to the Provincial Loans Fund is treated as a deduction from the expenditure of the Central Government on interest on debt. We doubt if this is the most desirable form of presentation. This would be the natural form to adopt if the money advanced from the Provincial Loans Fund were raised in the open market on the security of the assets of the Fund, even if there were also a guarantee of the Central Government. But so long as the money is raised on the direct credit of the Central Government, the interest on the debt incurred is part of the expenditure of the Central Government even though it is set off by interest received from the Fund to which it is lent. We therefore suggest that it would be preferable that the whole of the interest payable by the Central Government on money borrowed for the purpose of lending to the Provincial Loans Fund should appear as expenditure of the Central Government, and the interest received from the Provincial Loans Fund should be treated as non-tax revenue.

12. We have been given to understand that legal difficulties have stood in the way of the suggestions made by the Public Accounts Committee of 1925 in paragraphs 30 to 33 of their report on the subject of the use of the reserve placed at the disposal of the Finance Department, and on the question of creating a Civil Contingencies Fund on the English model. Somewhat similar obstacles have also arisen in regard to the suggestion made by the same Committee in para. 20 of their Report for the adoption of the system of a token vote. We concur generally in the principles underlying

Finance Department Reserve.
Question 354).

Token Vote.

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

the recommendations of our predecessors. We understand that the main objection taken by the Legislative Department to their proposals is that it is *ultra vires* of the statutory rules under the Government of India Act, or at any rate contrary to the spirit of that Act, that the Assembly should be asked to vote the same sum twice. It seems to be held that if the Assembly has once voted money for a reserve in the hands of the Finance Department and the Finance Department has allocated a portion of that reserve to cover an excess over the amount available to meet voted expenditure under another grant, it is objectionable that a supplementary grant to cover the latter excess should be presented to the Assembly. Similarly, objection is taken to the device of a token vote on the ground that this involves the re-allocation by vote of the Assembly of money already voted under a particular grant. We are given to understand that a careful study of the existing demands for grants, particularly in connection with the commercialised departments, would reveal numerous cases in which money is already in effect voted twice over by the Assembly, and we are inclined to think that if the ordinary rules of appropriation and the needs of correct accounting are to be observed, a strict application of the theory that it is unconstitutional to vote money twice will be found to be impracticable. We do not see that it is open to any strong objection of principle. It is true that money voted for the purpose of the Reserve in the hands of the Finance Department will, if our view is adopted, never, or scarcely ever, be finally charged to the head under which it is voted. This anomaly would disappear if, instead of a sum being voted annually as a reserve, a Civil Contingencies Fund were created, as proposed by our predecessors, from which advances would be made as required and recouped in due course, out of moneys voted under the appropriate Demand Grant, so that the Fund would never bear any final charge. This is the course which we would recommend as the ideal one, but so long as the present system of voting a reserve annually is maintained, we think that the allocation of money from the reserve for expenditure under another voted head should not be allowed to infringe the doctrine that expenditure in excess of a voted grant can be regularised by vote of the Assembly and by that means alone. We would therefore suggest that if on re-examination the Legislative Department remain of the opinion that the voting of money twice over by the Assembly is *ultra vires* of the existing statutory rules, steps should be taken to alter those rules.

13. We have devoted careful consideration to the evidences of a tendency to

Over-estimating.

(Question 351).

over-estimate expenditure in the preparation of Demands for Grants which are afforded by numerous instances brought to notice in the Appropriation Accounts now under review. It appears to us that this tendency to over-estimate is particularly noticeable (a) in the provision made for establishments and (b) in the sums entered under heads relating to expenditure on works whether chargeable to capital or to revenue. It seems to have been the regular practice for the provision under such heads as pay of establishments to be calculated on the basis of existing cadres with little reference, if any, to the probability of savings due to casualties, leave, seconding to other duties, and so on. The result is that at the end of the year comparatively large underspendings are brought to light for which allowance might well have been made in the original estimates. The existence of such margins facilitates re-appropriations to purposes not contemplated at the time when the budget was framed, for which no specific authorisation has been obtained from the Assembly, and even if, as we are assured is the case and as the comparatively large realised surpluses on recent budgets tend to prove, the Finance Department has been increasingly strict in recent years in preventing such re-appropriations, we are nevertheless of opinion that steps should be taken to ensure that the provision under such heads as pay of establishment should be based not only on existing cadres, but also on the experience of previous years, and a suitable lump sum deduction made for probable underspendings under these particular heads. The Finance Department have already introduced with advantageous results in the past two years the system of making lump sum cuts in the demands for grants as a whole to allow for probable underspendings, and we expect that the effect will be to reduce the extent of underspending disclosed in the estimates of 1925-26 and 1926-27. We are inclined to the opinion, however, that this system should be applied more boldly than has yet been the case, and that further improvement could be obtained if careful statistics were kept of the proportion between actual expenditure and estimate based on the existing cadres under establishment heads.

14. The system of lump sum cuts has also proved of utility in relation to estimates of expenditure on public works, etc. There seems to be an incurable and on the whole laudable habit, among officers charged

(Question 927.)

with the duty of spending money on carrying out public works, of being over-sanguine as to their capacity to spend during a given period. One witness informed us that 13 years' experience in the case of the New Delhi building

(Question 1041.)

project showed that the average underspending year by year as compared with the estimates of the Engineers was 25 per cent. Once it has been decided to proceed with the erection of a building or the carrying out of a work, it is usually uneconomical to allow progress to be delayed by the allotment of insufficient funds, and it is undesirable that the amount which the department desires to spend on a given work during the year should be understated in the estimates presented to the Assembly. On the other hand, experience proves conclusively that though the whole amount provided for this or that work in the programme of the department may actually be required during the year, there is invariably failure to work up to the programme as a whole. In the grant for

(Question 1406.)

railway capital expenditure where of course budget figures are not affected but only the ways and means forecasts, the arrangement with the Assembly by which a sum of 30 crores together with any underspendings in previous years was to be provided year by year for 5 years led in the years 1923-24 and 1924-25 to the inclusion in the estimates of a figure vastly greater than was actually expended or was ever likely to be expended. The fact that this arrangement broke down in practice has been frankly recognised in the budgets for 1925-26 and 1926-27 and a new system adopted under which the engineers and Agents of the Railways concerned have been asked to make a careful estimate of the sums they expect to spend upon the sanctioned works, and after scrutiny by the Railway Board these sums or such lesser amounts as may eventually be decided upon are placed at the disposal of the spending authorities during the year, but the Financial Commissioner for Railways makes his own estimate for budget purposes of the total amount likely to be spent, and it is this figure which is entered in the Demands for Grants. The difference between this figure and the aggregate total of the amounts placed at the disposal of the spending authorities is shown as a deduction for probable underspending. We think that a similar system might with advantage be introduced in every case, whether the charge is to capital or to revenue, where expenditure on public works is in question.

15. A very interesting memorandum, which appears as Appendix XV to our report, was handed in on behalf of the Posts and Telegraphs department explaining in some detail the principles adopted and the methods followed in arriving at a commercialised account of the working of this department.

Commercialised Accounts of the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

(Question 17.)

We had further the opportunity of examining the authors of this memorandum at some length in elucidation of the subject. The system is an elaborate one and the fruit of several years of expert consideration, and we are satisfied that it results in the presentation of the accounts in a significant and useful form working up to a figure of net annual profit or loss which, when the new form of account is fully in operation and some minor improvements have been introduced, will in our opinion be as accurate as is reasonably possible, allowance being made for certain limitations, e.g., omission to assign any capital value to land assigned to the department free of cost, which are necessarily imposed on the application of commercial accounting principles to a Government department.

16. The main point still outstanding is the completion of the calculation on an actuarial basis of the annual charge for pensions. The figure at present adopted is an arbitrary one of 50 lakhs representing approximately one and a half times the actual charge for pensions now payable. This figure is based on

(Question 33.)

corresponding experience in Great Britain and it is representing approximately one and a half times the actual charge for pensions now payable. This figure is based on corresponding experience in Great Britain and it is intended to retain it unchanged, although the true cost is naturally increasing year by year, until the calculation is completed. The intricacy of the calculation and the necessity of compiling elaborate statistical data will, we understand, probably involve an interval of at least two years more before the present interim arrangement can be terminated. We are informed that the present figure of 50 lakhs is probably an under-charge rather than an over-charge.

17. An endeavour has been made to arrive at accurate estimates of the cost of services, not paid for at once in cash, rendered by the department to other Government departments, and we are assured that full credit has been given to the Posts and

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

Telegraphs Department on the revenue side of the account for all such services. We are not, however, entirely satisfied that the accounts as yet give sufficient credit to the department for the work done on behalf of the Government and the public by the radio system which the department operates at a loss of from 7 to 8 lakhs a year, only a portion of which can legitimately be regarded as loss

(Question 101.)

on the working of the telegraphs. We think this point should be examined by the Government, and unless the labour involved is likely to be serious, we consider that a separate profit and loss statement should be worked out for this part of the department's activities. Other minor points under investigation include the question of the credit due to the Department for railway telegraphs and the credit due to the telegraph and telephone portions of the account for services rendered to the postal department.

18. A considerable number of cases have been brought to light in the accounts for the year 1924-25 in which loss of the taxpayer's money

Drafting of Contracts.

(Question 608.)

has resulted from the faulty or insufficient considered drafting of contracts entered into on behalf of the Government. Examples will be found in paragraphs 60, 61, 158, 202(a), and 205(a) of the Accountant General, Central Revenues' report. Another case of rather a different character connected with a contract for the employment of a public servant will be found in paragraph 99 of the same report. The particular cases mentioned on pages 13 to 17 of the Audit report on the Army accounts and dealt with in paragraph 43 of the proceedings of the departmental committee on Army accounts (Appendix XVI) are interesting as showing the valuable results which may ensue from the examination of the accounts by the Audit Department and the Public Accounts Committee. The defects brought to light by these cases have been remedied by the Army Department which has issued an Indian Army Order, given in an appendix to the report of the Army Accounts Committee just mentioned, in which the mistakes due to faulty drafting of contracts for hired transport brought out in the Audit report have been specially brought to the notice of all concerned and directions have been given for the introduction of standard forms of contract and a standard procedure. The amount of Government money which may be risked owing to hasty or faulty procedure in giving out contracts and in making payments upon them is very large and we consider that it is a matter of great importance that adequate arrangements should be made for securing that legal and financial advice is available to and obtained by the officers responsible for giving out contracts before they are finally entered into. Standard forms of contract should be adopted wherever possible and the rates mentioned in the contracts subjected to adequate prior scrutiny. In this connection we desire to reaffirm the view expressed by the Committee of 1925 in paragraph 49 of their report and

Appendix I.

accepted by the Government of India in Finance Department Resolution of the 1st June 1926 paragraph 27, that the Finance Department should make rules to provide that any contracts containing any unusual conditions should not be entered into without previous consultation with that Department, and that material variations in contracts once entered into should not be made without its sanction. Several cases have been brought to light in which executive officers have incurred considerable expenditure by varying contracts without consultation with the financial authorities. We desire also to re-affirm the important principle that whenever practicable contracts should be placed only after tenders have been openly invited. It is no doubt necessary that discretion should be reserved to the executive authorities on grounds which should be recorded in writing to dispense with tenders in special cases where it is clearly in the tax-payer's interest to do so, but such cases should be comparatively infrequent, should be admitted only when there are very special reasons for making an exception to the general rule and should be subjected to close scrutiny both by the executive and by audit.

19. The Committee of 1925 in paragraph 20 of their report suggested that new

Reappropriation of Savings to voted new items to be brought to notice of Assembly by Token Vote.

and important items of voted expenditure not contemplated when the original estimates were framed, of which the cost can be met out of savings elsewhere within the grant, should be brought to the notice of the Assembly by means of a token vote. The question of the adoption of the device of a token vote is dealt with in another paragraph of our report. What we desire to do here is to draw attention once again to the importance of the rule that expenditure of a kind which is technically of the nature of a "new service" ought always to be brought to the notice of the Assembly and subjected to its vote, even though it may be possible

(Question 1124.)

to pay for it by reappropriation from savings under other heads of the voted grant to

which it is chargeable. Normally, indeed, provision for new expenditure on a new service ought, wherever possible, to be made in the original estimates of the year and not by means of a supplementary estimate at all, but if, as is doubtless inevitable, occasions arise where it is in the public interests to begin to incur expenditure during the course of a financial year on a new service for which provision was not made in the original estimates, in the case of voted expenditure statutory rules require that a vote of the Assembly should be obtained for that specific purpose and it is not enough that the matter will have been brought before the Standing Finance Committee in any case. We trust that the Auditor General and his staff will carefully scrutinise the cases in which reappropriations have been allowed during the course of the year with a view to ensuring that this rule in regard to new services is duly observed. An instance in point where we are doubtful whether this rule may not have been infringed occurs on page 281 of the Audit and Appropriation Accounts (Civil) for 1924-25 where footnote (d) brings out the fact that a sum of Rs. 14,516 was reappropriated from savings under other heads of Account No. IX-Commerce Department under the head of General Administration, and devoted towards meeting charges for the maintenance of the s. s. "Dufferin".

(Question 1122.)

We agree with the Auditor General that the charge was not properly brought to account by the Accountant General under the Head—Contingencies—Commerce Department. (See Appendix XI.)

20. The cognate question of the use of savings under non-voted heads for new expenditure not provided for in the original estimates arises out of the comment contained in paragraph 39 of the Auditor General's letter on the Appropriation Report on the Army services and paragraph 30 of the report of the Committee on Army Accounts for 1924-25. In the case of non-voted expenditure the sanction of the Government of India in the Finance Department takes the place of the vote of the Assembly. Rules have been laid down by the Secretary of State and are strictly observed in regard to the reappropriation of money saved under one head of the Army estimates to expenditure under another, and the Finance Department's approval is invariably obtained for all but the most minor cases of

Re-appropriation of savings to non-voted new items to be brought to notice of Assembly by statement laid by Finance Department before the House.

(Cf. para. 22.)

virement. Corresponding rules do not appear to have been framed in regard to reappropriation from one head to another in the case of non-voted expenditure for services other than the Army, though we understand that the Finance Department's approval is required for all important cases. We think that the Government of India might with advantage examine the desirability of framing rules embodying the principles followed in the case of Army expenditure for application to other cases of non-voted expenditure. It is important that the Finance Department should be strictly scrupulous in its exercise of such powers of reappropriation, and we agree with the view expressed by the Committee on Army Accounts that a distinction should be observed between reappropriations made to cover excesses in normal expenditure and cases in which savings were reappropriated to cover the cost of new measures which were not provided for in the estimates, and that it will be convenient for such reappropriations to be mentioned by the Auditor General in the annual Appropriation report, notwithstanding the fact that such reappropriations involve no irregularity provided the Finance Department's sanction has been duly obtained.

21. It will be convenient to refer at this point to the subject mentioned in paragraph 12 of the Finance Department's Resolution of the 1st June 1926 arising out of paragraph 21 of the report of the Public Accounts Committee of 1925, namely, the rule that all excesses over sub-heads should be formally reported to the department with whom the power of regularising such excesses rests, that is to say, in most cases the Finance Department, and should be formally sanctioned by that Department, if possible before the close of the year, and in any case before the Appropriation account is finally drawn up. The Finance Department Resolution to which we have referred was not issued until June 1926 and it is natural therefore that in the Accounts of 1924-25 which we have had under examination the absence of formal regularisation of excesses over sub-heads should have come repeatedly to our notice, since there appears to have been no rule in force hitherto requiring these to be formally regularised. We endorse the view expressed in the Resolution in question that such formal regularisation is desirable in all cases whether the expenditure is voted or non-voted.

22. In the case of voted expenditure when expenditure in excess of the sum voted by the Assembly has to be incurred or when it is desired to apply savings to a new service, a supplementary grant has to be obtained from the Assembly in

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

order to regularise the expenditure. The Assembly is thereby made acquainted with the facts in each case. On the other hand, when the expenditure is non-voted, the Finance Department's sanction is sufficient to regularise excess expenditure or expenditure on a new service, and there is at present no formal arrangement by which the facts are brought to the notice of the Assembly. We examined the Financial Secretary on this subject and he has handed in a memorandum (Appendix IX) in which he has suggested that the Finance Department should lay a statement on the table of the Assembly at the time of the presentation of the annual Budget detailing the cases in which its sanction has been given for supplementary grants for non-voted expenditure in a form analogous to that used for supplementary grants for voted expenditure, thereby enabling the Assembly to be made acquainted with facts in regard to non-voted expenditure which are of interest to it. We recommend that this procedure should be introduced. Its adoption will we think go far to secure that the Finance Department will obtain punctual information from other departments for its own use and that the rules requiring formal regularisation of excesses over sub-heads of a grant as well as over the total provision under a grant will be duly followed in regard to non-voted expenditure. The procedure we propose should also be of some value in establishing firmly the methods which are gradually coming into force for enabling officers and departments responsible for expenditure under particular grants to watch carefully the progress of expenditure during the year—a matter to which we, as the preceding Public Accounts Committees have done, attach the greatest importance.

23. Improved control over expenditure and improved methods for watching

Expenditure control—Pay and Account Offices.

the progress of expenditure are clearly beginning to emerge from the institution of the new system of Pay and Accounts Officers. This system is still experimental, being one of the main features of the plan for separating accounts from audit. An interesting memorandum on expenditure control for the use of controlling officers served by the Pay and Accounts Officers, dated 9th December 1925, was handed in by Mr. Jukes and appears as Appendix VII to our report. In the course of our examination we have been impressed by the improvement in financial control, the results of which are likely to be more and more evident in future appropriation reports, which has resulted from the necessity which now rests on departments of Government to conform to the requirements of parliamentary control and run the gauntlet of cross-examination year by year by the Public Accounts Committee. There is, however, some danger that enthusiasm for regularity in accounting will prove to have been pushed too far at the expense of efficient administration if care is not taken to see, particularly in relation to commercialised departments, that improved systems of accounting do not throw an undue strain on the executive of such departments to the detriment of their proper functions, and that the executive are provided with the right sort of financial assistance and advice. It has been stated in evidence that the attempt to introduce an over-elaborate system of cost accounting in the Army has actually had the result of diverting the Accounts staff from their proper duty, particularly in the case of local audit in the Army, and some of the cases which we have dealt with in regard to the Posts and Telegraphs Department suggest that the rules regarding control of expenditure may in some cases be beyond the present capacity of the staff which is called upon to apply those rules. The excess vote, with which we have already dealt,

(Question 501.)

required in the case of Civil Veterinary Services was explained to us by the representative of the Department of Education, Health and Lands, though the explanation could better be described as an apology, as due to the well-known inability of the scientific mind to adapt itself to the meticulous observance of technical accounting procedure.

24. The new Pay and Accounts Offices seem to us to offer a very hopeful prospect of providing a means of escape from the conflicting demands of efficiency in administration and regularity in observing the requirements of appropriation audit. In paragraph 5 of his memorandum Mr. Jukes writes: "Under the ordinary accounting system of India control of the desired kind is very difficult. In order to exercise it the controlling officer requires to be in close touch with the progress of his expenditure in the accounts. The accounts are, however, kept by an usually distant Accountant General whose returns reach the controlling officer many weeks after the incurring of the expenditure which they record. Another drawback of the ordinary system is that expert financial advice cannot as a rule be quickly obtained by the controlling officer. It is largely in order to remove these defects that the Pay and Accounts Offices have been instituted." In paragraph 6 Mr. Jukes says "In the case of a large Department which enjoys the full time services of a Pay and Accounts Officer the defects are

automatically removed. The accounts are kept in many instances under the same roof which covers the office of the head of the Department, and in any case in close proximity to it. The controlling officer is thus in a position to know practically from day to day the progress of expenditure from his grant under the various minor and detailed heads and to secure at the shortest notice any information which is derivable from the accounts. Further, he has the help, in the person of the Pay and Accounts Officer, of a Financial Adviser who is an expert in all rules and orders bearing upon expenditure and accounts and can be consulted before any financial commitment is incurred. Where these conditions exist, the controlling officer is fully equipped with the means of exercising complete control over his expenditure." In many cases of defects or irregularities which we have examined in the Accounts for 1924-25 we have been assured again and again that, now that a Pay and Accounts Office has been established, a recurrence of such cases is improbable. Indeed, a not inconsiderable proportion of the cases with which the Accounts before us deal would not have come to light so early, with the result that the application of remedies would have been delayed, had it not been for the combined effects of the co-ordinated labours of the Pay and Accounts Offices dealing with the accounts and an independent audit free from accounting duties and able to devote itself solely to audit proper. This is particularly noticeable in the case of the grant for Delhi New Capital outlay where the need for both financial advice on the spot and for a much more thorough-going audit than has hitherto been possible was specially felt. It is too soon yet to arrive at final conclusions in regard to the general experiment of separation of accounts from audit, but we feel it our duty to record the very favourable impression which the new system of Pay and Accounts has made upon us in this early stage of its application during which it has, unless we are greatly deceived, in the case of New Delhi repaid several times over the extra cost involved, thanks to the increased efficiency and economy which has resulted.

25. With reference to the discussions which have taken place from time to time in the Assembly in regard to the order in which the Order of the Demands for Grants, Demands for Grants are submitted to the vote of the Assembly, a suggestion thrown out in the course of those discussions that the matter might perhaps be conveniently considered by the Public Accounts Committee was referred to by a member of the Committee, but it was held that it would be beyond the function of the Public Accounts Committee to make any specific recommendations on the subject, and the Committee decided to confine themselves to the suggestion that the most likely means for arriving at a suitable solution would be that the matter should be referred to a special committee of the Assembly for consideration.

26. In paragraph 23 of his letter forwarding the Audit and Appropriation Accounts of the Central Government, referring to paragraphs 44 to 46 on pages 34 and 35 of that report, the Auditor General expresses himself as follows in regard to the Northern India Salt Department:—“The work of this Department is undertaken in such remote localities that the Department has hitherto escaped adequate local audit scrutiny. It is the application of this local scrutiny for the first time which has disclosed the revelations made in this Report. It is a common experience in audit that the first local enquiry reveals startling features. I am glad to say that it is an equally common experience that energetic action is taken to rectify defects thus disclosed and after a few years the local audit settles down into a humdrum routine which is rarely enlivened by the discovery of serious irregularities. I trust that in succeeding years it will be possible to say the same of the work of the Northern India Salt Department.” A considerable proportion of the paragraphs dealing with the Salt Department in the Audit and Appropriation Accounts relates to irregularities connected with the Sambhar Improvement Scheme. These irregularities had been brought to light as the result of the introduction of a system of local audit and inspection of the accounts of the Northern India Salt Department with effect from 1924-25 and are still undergoing examination in the Government of India. The facts have not yet been fully ascertained, many of the points made by audit authorities being challenged by the departmental officers. It has not been possible therefore for this Committee to deal finally with the question. It is clear on the one hand that from the point of view of regularity of accounts almost every conceivable offence has been committed. On the other hand, the representative of the Central Board of Revenue expressed the view that the officers concerned have been wholeheartedly devoted to the interests of the Government and have carried through an important scheme of improvement in difficult circumstances with real success at moderate expense. Until suitable arrangements for audit were made with effect from 1924-25 that is, after the scheme was practically complete, only the most rudimentary arrangements seem to have been in existence for

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

scrutinising the accounts and the officers on the spot appear to have been left very much to their own devices with insufficient arrangements for control from headquarters. Informally they seem to have been given a very wide discretion in regard to the working out of the scheme as originally outlined, but so far as formal delegation of powers is concerned, the arrangements made were obviously altogether insufficient. In such circumstances the officers on the spot are placed in an altogether unfair position. It is essential that, as has been done (so we are informed) in the case of the Vizagapatam

(Question 588.)

Harbour scheme, a set of rules should be framed giving adequate but carefully defined powers to the officer who is called upon to carry out a Major Work in a remote and difficult part where conditions of labour and transport are totally different from those in more suitably situated localities to which the ordinary rules apply.

27. We do not think it desirable for us at this stage to comment further on the questions arising in connection with the Sambhar Improvement Scheme. The matter from the stand point of audit is a most important one and it is essential that

Sambhar Improvement Scheme.

all the facts should be ascertained and if possible agreed upon before the Committee is called upon to pass any judgment. Some members of the Committee were inclined to think that in view of the differences of opinion which have been disclosed between the audit authorities and the Salt Department and of the fact that the Government of India are involved in the question of the insufficiency of the control exercised from headquarters, the most suitable method of dealing with the case would be to appoint a special committee of investigation. The majority of us, however, are of opinion that the matter, which is of outstanding importance, should be left over for thorough investigation by the Public Accounts Committee of 1927 when all outstanding points have been cleared up and the views arrived at by the Government of India after examination of those facts are on record.

(Question 558.)

28. A series of frauds came to light in the Appraising Department of the Calcutta Custom House in 1923. The officers responsible have been suitably dealt with, but scrutiny of these and other cases has raised the question whether adequate arrangements are in existence for supervising the work of the appraising staff. The Central Board of Revenue have had this matter in hand for some time and proposals for securing a further check on acts of appraisement are under discussion the cost of which is estimated at approximately Rs. 1 lakh a year. The problem of finding a right solution is not an easy one since improvement depends on securing a better check before the goods actually leave the Custom House, and the measures adopted must be so designed as to avoid imposing additional delay on the clearance of goods. The responsibilities of appraisers are considerable; the customs revenue at stake is by far the most important item making up the total revenue of the Government of India, and the temptations to which appraisers are exposed are very real. We recommend this subject to the Government of India for serious consideration and speedy rectification.

29. Another subject which is also engaging the anxious consideration of the Central Board of Revenue is the improvement of the system of internal check in the Custom Houses. We are of opinion, and we understand that the Central Board of Revenue entirely concur, that a considerable improvement in the system of internal check is desirable and possible. We understand that the Board contemplate the possibility of the appointment of an officer at headquarters to control the departmental check. Whether centralisation is desirable or not is a question on which we should not like to pronounce. We draw attention, however, to the importance of the general subject.

Customs.

Internal check in Custom Houses.

(Question 685.)

30. It was brought before us in evidence by the audit authorities that the Sea Customs Act of 1878 is obsolete and the need of drastic amendment in order to bring it up to date was prominently before us in evidence. We were indeed told that the Act would be unworkable in modern conditions if conventional methods had not grown up and obtained the sanction of long practice, though they were in many cases, if not *ultra vires*, at any rate not strictly in accordance with the letter of the law. It is obvious that this condition of affairs adds considerable difficulty to the work of the Audit Department a part of whose duties it is

Revision of the Sea Customs Act, 1878.

(Question 708.)

to see that revenue is being collected by the Customs Department in accordance with the statutory provisions of the Act. We understand that the question of amending the Sea Customs Act was one of the first subjects taken up by the Central Board of Revenue at the time of its appointment in November 1923 and we trust that it will be possible at an early date to lay proposals for revising the statute before the Legislature.

31. A number of cases were disclosed in which money was drawn from the treasury in advance of the date at which it was required to be expended. This is an irregularity which may frequently lead to loss, if not to fraud, and is open to the additional objection that, if it occurs at the end of the financial year, it necessarily falsifies the figures of expenditure for the year in question. We support the opinion of the Auditor General that this form of irregularity should be sternly discountenanced, and if other means for checking it prove insufficient, the offenders should be subjected to some form of punishment of a deterrent character.

32. In paragraph 4 of his letter dated the 9th July 1926 covering the Audit and Appropriation Accounts of the Central Government (Civil) for the year 1924-25 the Auditor General draws attention to a case in which there has been a divergence of view between the Government of India and himself regarding the desirability of a despatch being addressed by the Government of India to the Secretary of State requesting an interpretation of a Section in the Government of India Act. The Auditor General held that an authoritative interpretation of certain words in the Section was required by him in order to enable him to exercise his statutory duties of Audit. The Government of India held that it was useless to ask in general terms for an interpretation of the words in question as the reply could only be that the Section must be interpreted with reference to the particular facts of a particular case and it was not a question of law but a question of fact which would arise for decision in any such case. The Government of India, however, expressed their willingness to address the Secretary of State in regard to any particular case in which it appeared that the provisions of the Section were being infringed, or might on a strict interpretation be held to be infringed, and in asking for the ruling of the Secretary of State on such a particular case to request also a general explanation of the reasons which guided the Secretary of State in coming to his conclusion. The Auditor General has hitherto expressed himself unwilling to withdraw his request that the Government of India should address the Secretary of State with a view to obtaining a general interpretation of the Section, and among his reasons for declining to accept the Government of India's proposal has referred to the long delay which has occurred in dealing with the particular case mentioned in paragraph 5 of the letter of the 9th July 1926. We understand that the Auditor General has now agreed to accept the proposal of the Government of India that the general question should be taken up in connection with this particular case provided that it is taken up without further delay. This solution will, it is hoped, provide a satisfactory settlement of the question on which there has been a divergence of opinion, and we trust that no further delay will now be allowed to occur in addressing the Secretary of State.

33. This case, however, raises a general question of some importance which is also mentioned by the Auditor General in the letter referred to. The Auditor General has a statutory duty of auditing the accounts on behalf of the Secretary of State. He has, however, only two channels of approach to the Secretary of State, namely, (i) through his letters forwarding the annual Audit and Appropriation Reports, and (ii) through the Government of India. The Government of India must of course address the Secretary of State and obtain his decision on any particular question of expenditure on which they are not the final authority and the decision of the Secretary of State is required or stated to be required in order to satisfy Audit authorities. On the other hand, the Government of India must retain their discretion to decide in regard to any general point when and on what matters they will address a despatch to the Secretary of State. The question therefore which is raised by the Auditor General whether he should not be given the right of direct access to the Secretary of State clearly requires consideration. No doubt the nature of the subjects to be dealt with in such direct correspondence between the Auditor General and the Secretary of State will have to be carefully defined if an *imperium in imperio* is to be avoided. Nevertheless, there would appear to be some *prima facie* arguments in favour of the grant to the Auditor General of additional facilities for communication with the Secretary of State, and the matter is one which should, we think, be carefully and sympathetically examined by the Government of India.

Direct access of the Auditor General to the Secretary of State. (Question 1187.)

to the Secretary of State, namely, (i) through his letters forwarding the annual Audit and Appropriation Reports, and (ii) through the Government of India. The Government of India must of course address the Secretary of State and obtain his decision on any particular question of expenditure on which they are not the final authority and the decision of the Secretary of State is required or stated to be required in order to satisfy Audit authorities. On the other hand, the Government of India must retain their discretion to decide in regard to any general point when and on what matters they will address a despatch to the Secretary of State. The question therefore which is raised by the Auditor General whether he should not be given the right of direct access to the Secretary of State clearly requires consideration. No doubt the nature of the subjects to be dealt with in such direct correspondence between the Auditor General and the Secretary of State will have to be carefully defined if an *imperium in imperio* is to be avoided. Nevertheless, there would appear to be some *prima facie* arguments in favour of the grant to the Auditor General of additional facilities for communication with the Secretary of State, and the matter is one which should, we think, be carefully and sympathetically examined by the Government of India.

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

34. In dealing with the Army Accounts the Committee examined the representatives of the Army Department on the question of the Cost Accounting system. Accounting system in the Army and on the intentions of the Government in regard to the recommendations of the Committee on Cost Accounting in the Army which they were given to understand is shortly to be published. The final conclusions of the Government of India have, we learn, still to be confirmed by the Secretary of State, but it was made clear to us that in the opinion of the Government of India the cost accounting system in the Army has proved to be unduly laborious and not to give results commensurate with the expenditure and trouble involved. It is proposed to retain the system in the case of manufacturing establishments and ordnance factories, but to revert to a simpler form of accounts in regard to units. Experience had shown that the system of cost accounts did not give that improved control over expenditure in units which had been expected and that, without a degree of decentralisation which is impossible in the Army, that result could not be achieved by any mere elaboration of accounting system. The Committee noted the statement of the intentions of the Government so far as they have been defined at this date and decided that they would leave it to the Committee of 1927 to examine the details and practical working of the system to be introduced in its place and to arrive at and express an opinion on the new methods and forms adopted. They noted that the proposed changes have the cordial support of the Auditor General. They desire, however, to emphasise the importance of an improvement of local audit in the Army which it is expected will result from the simplification of the accounting duties which have to be performed and the consequential setting free of the local auditors for more useful duties. The abolition of cost accounting in the units will make the work of the local auditors more than ever important and every effort should be made to see that real improvement is secured.

35. In a considerable number of cases mentioned in the Accounts under consideration it appeared that expenditure had been recorded under a different head from that under which budget provision had been made for it. To some extent the frequency of these cases seems to have been due to the use for the first time of the new form of appropriation accounts, but in many cases it appeared that there had been absence of co-ordination between the officers responsible for preparing the budget estimates and the officers responsible for preparing the accounts. In order that comparison between actual expenditure and the original provision in the estimates may be facilitated, it is important that care should be taken to secure that the accounts and the demands for grants are drawn up on the same basis.

36. The Committee observed, particularly in the case of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, that expenditure on travelling showed a tendency to fall considerably below the amounts provided in the estimates. It was suggested by a witness on behalf of the department that the explanation was to be found in the fact that the rates of travelling allowance had been reduced and officers were in consequence unwilling to travel as much as before. We think that the allegation that the rates of travelling allowance are insufficient should be enquired into, though we desire to re-affirm the well-known rule that travelling allowances should not be a source of profit. But it seems to us to point to some failure of control in a department if inspecting officers are left in any way free to decide the extent to which they will travel and the places they will visit with reference to the possibility of making some profit or avoiding some loss on particular journeys. It is the duty of the superior-officers in a department to ensure that an adequate number of inspections is made and that the places visited on tour are those which ought to be visited in the best interests of the efficiency of the Department and not those which a particular officer has a fancy to visit.

37. The Committee had evidence to the effect that defects in Fundamental Rule 45 as it stands at present and the absence of a suitable and comprehensive re-draft are mainly responsible for the unsatisfactory position in regard to audit disclosed in some paragraphs in the Report on Grant No. 43-Civil Works with reference to house rents in Delhi and Simla. It is clearly desirable that the re-drafting of this Rule, however great the difficulties in producing a satisfactory re-draft might be, should not be further delayed, and that a new rule should be duly sanctioned and promulgated as soon as possible. In the same general connection the Committee desire to record their view that houses designed and built for officers of higher status should not be let to officers of a lower status in view of the loss of rent involved.

38. Rule 51 of the Indian Legislative Rules provides for the constitution of a Committee on Public Accounts for the purpose of dealing with the Audit and Appropriation accounts of the Governor-General in Council. So far as concerns that portion of the accounts for which the Accountant General, Central Revenues, was responsible, namely, the Civil Accounts for 1924-25, the Accounts referred to in the Legislative Rule quoted were presented to the Public Accounts Committee of 1926 for the first time in a single self-contained report. This Report is framed on the lines of the British report which experience has shown to be a useful model and constitutes the Audit and Appropriation report referred to in Rule 15 of the Rules framed by the Secretary of State under Section 86-D. (1) of the Government of India Act. The Committee desire to express their warm appreciation of the value of the Report in its new form and their recognition of the great pains devoted by the Accountant General to its preparation.

The Report is not yet in its final form as some of the subsidiary accounts were not ready for inclusion. It is already very large and the Committee suggest that its size might be reduced in the three following ways :

- (1) Only cases of real importance should be quoted. The attention of the Committee could be called to these cases more readily if in the general review where chief forms of irregularity are pointed out references were given to typical illustrative cases in the letterpress.
- (2) Only relevant and important details should be included as far as possible. It is desirable that the Accountant General should treat cases objectively giving the facts connected with them impartially and leaving it to the Auditor General to express general conclusions.
- (3) When cases are quoted in the letterpress, the details should not be given again in the notes to the accounts, as references to the relevant passages in the letterpress will suffice.

In saying this the Committee do not wish to fetter the discretion of the Accountant General as to the cases he should include in his Report.

The question was raised as to whether subsidiary accounts should be included (Questions 366 and 393). setting out transactions of institutions mainly supported by grants-in-aid from Government. The Committee consider that it is undesirable provided that there is a satisfactory audit of such accounts, and that Government receive a copy of the audited accounts.

The Committee again considered the question of the extent to which cases on which the Government of India has not finally passed orders should be included in the Report. The Committee approve of the statement of the position given by the Government of India in paragraph 16 of the Finance Department Resolution. It is not possible to lay down any general rule on the subject, for while it is unnecessary to include ordinary cases for the consideration of the Committee, it is felt that very important cases and cases in the disposal of which there has been long delay should be brought to the notice of the Committee.

39. The Committee desire further to express their gratitude to the witnesses who appeared before them on behalf of the Departments of the Government of India to explain and elucidate points arising from the Accounts. They were impressed with the readiness and anxiety of the witnesses generally to assist the Committee in their task and the trouble which in most cases they had taken to acquaint themselves with the details of the cases on which questions were likely to be asked. Now that the purposes and the methods of working of the Public Accounts Committee of the Central Legislature have begun to be understood and appreciated, many of the difficulties which were met with in the first years of the institution of the Public Accounts Committee in obtaining satisfactory explanations appear to be rapidly disappearing and the new system to be working smoothly.

40. We attach as Appendix VIII to this report a statement showing the recommendations or suggestions made by the Public Accounts Committees of 1923, 1924 and 1925, on which action is still outstanding.

41. At our request the Auditor General has submitted to us a memorandum setting out the relations between himself and the Auditor of Home Accounts (Appendix VI). We consider those relations anomalous in some respects and hope that the Government of India will take up the question of giving effect to the recommendations of the Auditor General when the occasion offers.

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

42. We accept the recommendations of the official committee, which sat to consider the Audit and Appropriation reports on Army expenditure, on those matters which are not specially mentioned in other paragraphs of this report.

III.—Particular Accounts.

43. Paragraphs 4 and 5 of Home Auditor's report on the Secretary of State's accounts.—We are informed that a settlement is expected very shortly of the war claims outstanding between India and the Imperial Government. We trust that there will be no delay in arriving at a satisfactory conclusion which is much to be desired in the interests of both parties.

44. Paragraph 14, *ibid.*—We note that the contract for the Eastern Mail service will come under revision by the Imperial Government in 1928 when the question of India's contribution will require careful consideration.

45. Paragraph 22, *ibid.*—The extent of the loss involved from the chartering of this vessel is somewhat startling. We note that the circumstances were special and we recognise that unusual steps were necessary to provide accommodation for officers returning to service in India.

46. Paragraph 29, *ibid.*—We are not satisfied that adequate precautions were taken before making an advance of £2,000 to the film lecturer without security.

47. Paragraph 30, *ibid.*—Steps should be taken without delay to recover the sum due from the War Office on account of the hire of the "Dufferin" for conveying a British regiment in relief of an Indian one. The failure of the authorities in India to present this claim seems to require investigation.

48. Paragraph 33, *ibid.*—We have received from the Finance Department a copy of the minutes of the proceedings of a sub-committee of the Provincial Finance Members' conference held in Delhi in November 1925, at which the procedure for submission of demands in respect of expenditure in England was discussed. An acceptance of uniform procedure would facilitate the work of the accounting and audit authorities in England. See Appendix X to this report.

49. Paragraph 3 of Home Auditor's report on the High Commissioner's accounts.—We trust that the question of the ultimate liability for stores lost in the "Clan Mackay" will soon be settled. We understand that the Indian case is now ready for submission to the Arbitrator.

50. Paragraph 5, *ibid.*—It appears that the levy of 2 per cent. for departmental expenses on the value of stores purchased has not in all cases been sufficient to cover the charges incurred by the Central Government. Where the Central Government is making purchases on behalf of the Provincial Governments or outside bodies, it is we think important that the charge levied should be fully adequate in order that no final expenditure may fall on the central taxpayer. We recommend that the department concerned should re-examine the adequacy of this levy. See Appendix XIII to this report.

51. Paragraph 6 (8), *ibid.*—It is particularly important when expenditure is incurred on purposes such as entertainment that there should be no failure to present vouchers in full justification of the expenditure.

52. Paragraph 6 (10), *ibid.*—We are not satisfied that the interests of the taxpayer were adequately considered in the various motor car deals referred to.

53. Paragraph 24 of the Report of the Accountant General, Central Revenues : Grants No. 43-Civil Works and No. 62-Delhi Capital outlay.—The misrepresentation of facts and the manipulation of accounts to avoid audit objection are serious misdemeanours and we agree with the Auditor General that any steps which may be necessary to check such practices should be promptly taken.

54. Paragraph 30 (vi) (a), *ibid.* : Grant 1-Customs.—The conditions disclosed in the character of the warehousing work of the Bombay Custom House were unsatisfactory. We are informed that action has now been taken to set matters right and trust that no recurrence of such conditions will be permitted.

55. Paragraphs 59 and 62, *ibid* : Grant No. 3-Salt.—These cases illustrate the importance of the question of the methods of dealing with contracts which is referred to at greater length in paragraph 18 of this report. The story of the co-operative society in question as given in evidence before us has considerable human interest. The criticisms of the Auditor General regarding the complete irregularity of the arrangements adopted are amply justified. If this arrangement proved entirely successful and economical, this is a result which may do credit to the particular officer who combined the functions of president of the society taking the contract and of Government servant measuring the work and authorising payment but does not justify the superior officers who permitted such an extraordinary arrangement to come into being.

Page 242, *ibid*.—The large amount written off for wastage of salt in the Bombay Salt Department suggest the need for an investigation of the causes. We understand that a special officer has been appointed to investigate the various questions relating to salt policy and administration arising out of the recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Committee. This officer has been asked *inter alia* to examine the present arrangements in Bombay in regard to weighing into store, the details of the Stock Accounts, and the guarding and fencing of factories.

56. Paragraph 111, *ibid* : Grant No. 30-Medical Services.—The large balance of stores at the X-ray Institute at Dehra Dun was explained to us as resulting from accumulations during and immediately subsequent to the war and the necessity of keeping a large reserve during that period. A large stock, if locked up for a long time, naturally deteriorates and its value is depreciated. We consider that active steps should be taken to dispose of the excess with as little loss as possible. It may even be desirable to give stores away to deserving institutions if they cannot be otherwise disposed of before becoming entirely obsolete and useless.

57. Paragraph 119, *ibid* : Grant No. 40-Indian Stores Department.—We were informed that the Indian Stores Department was in some respects in a position to undertake more work than it at present secures. We trust that every effort will be made to see that it obtains sufficient employment to make it self-supporting.

58. Paragraph 125, *ibid*.—The rush of purchases at the close of the year must necessarily lead to undesirable consequences. Every effort should be made to remedy the defects disclosed.

59. Paragraph 133, *ibid* : Grant 43-Civil Works.—The question of the return obtained on furniture rented by officers occupying furnished houses at Simla and Delhi is a difficult one. The necessity of obtaining a reasonable return on the capital invested in addition to making adequate charges for maintenance and depreciation should be carefully kept in mind by the department concerned and by the Finance Department.

60. Paragraph 143, *ibid* : Grant No. 43-Civil Works.—We agree with the Auditor General that special care should be taken by high officials not to ask for furniture which is inadmissible under the rules from supplying officers who may be placed in a difficult position if such demands are made.

61. Paragraph 166, *ibid* : Grant No. 51-Baluchistan.—Frequent reappropriation of petty amounts should be avoided.

62. Paragraph 184, *ibid* : Grant No. 54-Andamans and Nicobar Islands.—The action of the Deputy Commissioner in taking advantage of his official position to compel the treasury officer to make a payment to him without proper authority was highly irregular and reprehensible.

63. Paragraphs 194 to 200, *ibid* : Grant 62-Delhi Capital outlay.—We are informed that a departmental enquiry is being instituted to enquire into the general questions raised by these paragraphs in regard to the collection of materials in advance or in excess of requirements and the position of the store accounts. We trust that the enquiry will result in improved control.

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

64. *Paragraph 201, ibid : Grant 62-Delhi Capital outlay.*—We understand that a special investigation is in progress in regard to the accounts of the store yard, where supervision seems hitherto to have been lax. The results of the investigation should be important.
(Question 988.)
65. *Page 265, Item A-1, ibid.*—The excess of nearly rupees 17 lakhs requires investigation.
(Question 783.)
66. *Paragraph 3 of Audit Report on the Posts and Telegraphs Department.*—We understand that the question of increasing the security required from officers who handle large sums of money is under consideration by the Government. Their conclusions on the matter will, we think, be of interest to the Public Accounts Committee of next year.
(Question 119.)
67. *Paragraph 3 and 23, ibid.*—These cases left us with the impression that there was some laxity of supervision in the department requiring rectification, and the evidence given on behalf of the department did not suffice to remove this impression. We desire to add that the fact that a sum lost is completely recovered does not necessarily imply that no additional punishment is required.
(Question 184.)
68. *Paragraph 48, ibid.*—We note that recruitment of telegraphists has been stopped subject to certain commitments to schools where telegraphists are under training. All possible steps should be taken to reduce the present surplus of telegraphists.
(Question 268.)
69. *Page 43 of Appropriation Report on the Accounts of the Posts and Telegraphs Department. Grant No. 41.*—The double debit of over Rs. 7 lakhs and the erroneous adjustment under Grant 21-Survey of India referred to in paragraph 5 above (item 2), point to some fault of system which should repay investigation by the Auditor General. More care should have been taken in the office of the Controller, Stationery and Printing. We note that the Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs, has arranged for a scrutiny of the internal accounts of the Controller which deal with the supplies to the Posts and Telegraphs Department.
(Questions 334 and 416.)

BASIL P. BLACKETT.
S. K. DATTA.
J. D. CRAWFORD.
N. M. JOSHI.
K. G. LOHOKARE.
V. N. MUTALIK.
E. MONTEITH MACPHAIL.
GULAB SINGH.
S. MURTAZA.

The 25th August 1926.

THE INDIAN LIMITATION (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member) : Sir, I desire to ask your indulgence and the indulgence of the House to move my motions in the reverse order to the paper. I am very anxious to attend in another place in the course of this morning and therefore I ask your permission and the permission of the House to move now my motion in regard to the Indian Limitation Act, which stands as No. 11 on the paper. (Mr. President signified assent).

I beg to move that the Bill further to amend the Indian Limitation Act, 1908, for certain purposes, as passed by the Council of State, be taken into consideration.

Sir, this is, like many of the small Bills I have had to bring before the House in the course of the current Session, a by-product of the Civil

Justice Committee. One of their recommendations was that the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 20 of the Indian Limitation Act should be so amended as to make payment of interest subject to the condition that the fact of payment should appear in the handwriting of the person making the payment. Under the law as it stands repayment of principal has to be made in the handwriting of the person making the payment. Under the law as it stands repayment of payments of interest. That, Sir, is the first provision which my Bill makes. The Committee made certain other recommendations in regard to the Limitation Act which I have also brought into this Bill. They recommended that limited owners under the Hindu law and the *Karta* or manager of a joint Hindu family should be enabled to make acknowledgments and payments under sections 19 and 20 of the Limitation Act. They further proposed that article 166 should be so amended as to make it clear that it applies to a petition by a judgment debtor under section 47 of the Code of Civil Procedure. There was one further proposal of theirs, that is, that article 132 should be amended so as to make it clear that a suit to recover the value of paddy and such like produce charged on immoveable property comes within that article. These are four proposals, quite unconnected, and they have been brought in one Bill simply because they affect the same Act. Opinions have been obtained on them, and I think I can fairly say that the majority of the opinions received support the amendments I propose. They have been adopted in another place and were passed in that place without discussion. Sir, I move the motion.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer (Madras : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I beg to oppose this motion and for this reason I consider the Bill in the form in which it has been passed by the Council of State to be defective. I do not now propose to go into any criticism of clause 2 which purports to amend section 20 of the Limitation Act. That is a matter which may be more appropriately gone into in the discussion of the motion to be brought forward by my friend Diwan Bahadur Rangachariar, if the Bill is taken into consideration. My objection to the taking of the Bill into consideration is this. It is not that I am opposed to the substantive amendment of clause 20, but I consider that the effect of this amendment will be to deprive certain creditors of the benefit of the provisions of the existing law. The new amendment has the effect of curtailing the period of limitation, or rather the effect of depriving certain creditors of the benefit of the extension which they would be entitled to under the existing law. Under the present Limitation Act the fact of the payment of interest on a debt or legacy need not be noted in the handwriting of the person making it. The amendment proposes to insert a new requirement to this effect. There may be many cases where creditors have relied upon the provisions of the existing law and have not taken steps to obtain fresh acknowledgment of their debt or fresh evidence of their debt in the manner proposed to be required by the amending clause. In these cases creditors will suffer an injury by the enactment of the amending Bill unless there is some provision introduced to save the existing claims and rights of creditors. The ordinary way in which a provision of this kind is introduced is illustrated in sections 30 and 31 of the Limitation Act. Either the operation of the Bill may be postponed for a certain time or some other provision should be introduced in the Bill to save the claims of those creditors who have relied upon

{Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer.}

the payment of interest even though such payment may not have been attested in the handwriting of the person making it. I think it is essential, so far as my examination of the Bill this morning has convinced me, that there should be some clause like this to save existing rights, and I consider it a very serious defect in the Bill. The only way in which this defect can be remedied is by putting off consideration of the Bill and giving an opportunity to the Government to rectify what is obviously a serious mistake. I am open to conviction and if the Government can convince me that existing claims of creditors will be saved under the amending Bill, I am prepared to withdraw my opposition. But, so far as I have seen, there is no clause in the amending Bill either to postpone

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the operation of the Act or to save existing rights. Under these circumstances, I feel bound to oppose the motion that this Bill be taken into consideration.

Sir Hari Singh Gour (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I oppose the motion for a different reason. The English law and the American law recognises a payment made by the debtor without any writing being required to enlarge the original period of limitation. In this the English and American law adopts the language of a learned Lord Chancellor that, where a debtor makes a certain payment, he must be deemed to have acknowledged the corpus of the debt towards which he makes the payment. Neither under the English law nor under the American law is the fact of payment required to be in writing whether the payment is made towards a partial discharge of the principal or towards interests as such. Now, Honourable Members will see the amount of literacy in England and America as compared to the amount of literacy in this country and they will at once understand why we object to the rigorous provisions of the existing Limitation Act made far more rigorous by the amending Bill brought before this House. In literate England and America where every man writes, writing is not required. In comparatively illiterate India where very few write, writing was required as a prerequisite under the existing Indian Limitation Act. There was a safeguard as regards the payment of interest and the amending Bill seeks to sweep away even that safeguard. The position, therefore, in India would be this. If the creditor advances money to the debtor and the debtor makes the payment—whether it is towards the principal or interest is immaterial—but the fact is not in the handwriting of the debtor, then that would not suffice to enlarge the period of limitation. I submit, Sir, that this is a reactionary measure because, while curtailing the period of limitation, it will also force the creditor to bring his debtor into court sooner than he would otherwise have done. Otherwise he will lose his suit, because the period of limitation by the acknowledgment has been curtailed. I therefore submit that this amendment requires further consideration. The proviso to section 20, which the present Bill seeks to amend, is a proviso which has been the battleground of the courts ever since the date when it was enacted. Honourable Members will find that the phrase “ fact of the payment appears in the handwriting of the person making the same ” has been the subject of conflicting decisions between the various High Courts. It has been pointed out that in the case of a literate debtor who can write, it is possible to provide that the fact of the payment should appear in the handwriting of the debtor. But what about an illiterate debtor ? Why should

he have a shorter period of limitation than a literate debtor ? My friend Sir Walter Willson says "thumb mark". That is exactly my amendment. I have given notice of an amendment and, if it is carried, it will greatly mitigate the evil from which this proviso suffers.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : I have had no notice of that amendment.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : I sent it, Sir, the day before yesterday and I have got a copy of it with me here. I will explain to the Honourable Members the object of my amendment.

Mr. President : Order, order. The Honourable Member cannot deal with his amendment at this stage.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : I am only mentioning it by way of illustration.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member is opposing the motion that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : If the Honourable the Home Member opposes my amendment, it will make his Bill much worse.

Mr. President : Order, order. The amendment is not before the House. The Honourable the Leader of the House says that he has received no notice of any amendment.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : I have tried, Sir, in the short space of time at my disposal to improve this proviso. I submit that more time must be given and the further consideration of this Bill must be postponed. The Government must take counsel with themselves and redraft the whole of this proviso. It is one of the most ill-drafted provisos in the whole of the Indian law of limitation. While they are trying to circumvent one difficulty by cutting the Gordian knot by saying that all payments must be in writing, they are letting alone another phrase which occurs in the proviso and which, as I have said, has been the subject of most conflicting decisions.

The Honourable the Home Member and the Honourable the Law Member the other day attacked one of my Bills, which had preceded the Report of the Civil Justice Committee and which was fortunately afterwards supported very strongly by that Committee, on the ground that I was introducing into this House tinkering legislation. Immediately after my very important, though small, Bill was thrown out, the Honourable the Law Member illustrated what he meant by tinkering legislation by giving his support to another small Bill of mine which was equally supported by the Civil Justice Committee. As if that piece of tinkering legislation was not enough, they have ever since been introducing tiny Bills amending one section here and another section there, and their sole justification for bringing these multifarious Bills before this House is that they are supported by the recommendations of the Civil Justice Committee. I ask the Honourable the Home Member to make a comprehensive survey of the Report of the Civil Justice Committee and introduce once for all the Bills to which he wishes this House to give their support. We do not like this legislation. I submit that this piece of legislation is particularly wide because it seeks to amend one part of the proviso leaving the other part of the proviso severely alone, and that part of the proviso is one which calls for immediate and, I submit,

[Sir Hari Singh Gour.]

very necessary amendment. On these grounds, Sir, I also oppose the motion.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : Sir, as regards Dr. Gour, I disagree with his views in regard to the particular sections with which he has been dealing. I also disagree with him that legislation in the compass of a single Bill should be undertaken with regard to the various recommendations of the Committee. It would be beyond the wit of man to bring together all the multifarious proposals of the Civil Justice Committee in any such Bill, and I am sure if my Honourable friend will merely count them up he will agree with me in that view. Now, this is a very small Bill and I do not attach very much importance to it. If the House is disinclined to deal with it this Session as is apparent from the speeches delivered, I have no wish whatever to press it for the immediate acceptance of the House. The Bill contains separate proposals which are not connected with each other and are of varying importance. My Honourable friend, Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer, said that if you change the law of limitation without notice, you may affect existing rights. Sir, if you carry that to its logical conclusion, you will never be able to alter the law of limitation. The law of limitation will remain as it is now on the Statute-book. But I do not think he meant to go quite as far as that. What he meant to say was that further notice should be given (*Sir Hari Singh Gour* : "By a saving clause") to the effect that this proposal is under the consideration of Government and that men should become cautious. Of course, it can be done by a saving clause. This object, however, can be achieved if you allow a considerable time to elapse before actually bringing the Bill into operation. That is sufficient notice. As I have said, however, as the House is apparently not prepared to take up this Bill this Session, I ask leave, Sir, to withdraw my motion.

Mr. President : Does any Member object to leave being given to withdraw this motion ?

Honourable Members : " No ".

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

THE INDIAN EVIDENCE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member) : Sir, I beg to move that the Bill further to amend the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, for a certain purpose, as passed by the Council of State, be taken into consideration.

This, Sir, is also one of the Bills which my Honourable friend, Sir Hari Singh Gour objects to, one of those trifling little matters dug out from the rich gold mine of the Civil Justice Committee's Report, but still it is a matter of some importance, and I hope on this occasion the House will pass it. As the House knows, as the lawyers in the House know, section 68 of the Indian Evidence Act provides that, if a document is required by law to be attested, it shall not be used as evidence until one attesting witness at least has been called for the purpose of proving its execution, if there be an attesting witness alive and subject to the process of the

court and capable of giving evidence. The Bill, put in a nutshell, provides that, save as regards wills, in the case of registered documents, the court may dispense with the necessity of proof of a witness unless execution is specifically denied in the pleadings. That, Sir, is the short purpose of my Bill. The Civil Justice Committee in paragraph 5 at page 499 of their Report deal with this matter. They say that insistence on the provision as it exists has led to serious delay and injustice, and they recommend an alteration of the law in the sense I have indicated. The Local Governments and High Courts who were consulted are generally in favour of the proposal, and therefore we have brought it forward in this Bill. I move, Sir,

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman: Sir, I move that the Bill, as passed by the Council of State, be passed.

The motion was adopted.

THE ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL'S (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member): Sir, I move that the Bill further to amend the Administrator General's Act, 1913, as passed by the Council of State, be taken into consideration.

Under the Administrator General's Act, 1913, the Administrator General has power, when a person dies leaving assets of the value of one thousand rupees, to grant a certificate to a claimant. The effect of that certificate is that the claimant is not required to take out letters of administration or a succession certificate. It is a benefit enuring to a poor estate. So large a proportion of the assets would be wasted in requiring the ordinary legal procedure to be followed by which letters of administration have to be taken out or a succession certificate has to be obtained, that it is desirable in the interests of the poor beneficiary to allow this special procedure. I have no doubt that the House will realise that the procedure being of a summary nature is not attended with the same safeguards as there are in the normal procedure in larger estates, and therefore the House will be careful to see that any extension of the privilege is watched with a certain amount of care. The Civil Justice Committee considered this matter, and they made a recommendation that the limit should be raised to Rs. 3,000. I see from the debate in another place that that proposal met with some support. Well, in these matters you can argue that, if it is raised to Rs. 3,000, why should it not be raised to Rs. 4,000, why Rs. 2,000, and so on. We selected Rs. 2,000, because on the whole, there was unanimity on that proposal. We might have selected Rs. 3,000, we might have selected Rs. 4,000. But as I have pointed out, the higher the estate goes, the more important it is to see that those ordinary precautions which hedge round administration are taken. It is in the interest both of the State as well as that of the individual testator that these precautions should be taken. I do not think, Sir, I need say more with regard to my Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

[Sir Alexander Muddiman.]

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : Sir, I move that the Bill as passed by the Council of State, be passed.

The motion was adopted.

THE SIND COURTS (SUPPLEMENTARY) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman (Home Member) : Sir, I move that the Bill to supplement the Sind Courts Act, 1926, as passed by the Council of State, be taken into consideration.

I need not detain the House for more than one moment in connection with this small Bill. It is a formal Bill, and it has been necessitated by the passing of the Sind Courts Act, 1926. The result of that Act was to constitute a Chief Court for Sind. That court being a new court, it is necessary to make a number of amendments, which are set out in the Schedule to the Bill, referring to the Court.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Alexander Muddiman : Sir, I move that the Bill to supplement the Sind Courts Act, 1926, as passed by the Council of State, be passed.

The motion was adopted.

THE INDIAN COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes (Member for Commerce and Railways) : Sir, I beg to move that the Bill further to amend the Indian Companies Act, 1913, for a certain purpose, as passed by the Council of State, be taken into consideration.

This is a very small Bill and, I hope, an entirely uncontroversial Bill. The object is to amend section 26 of the Indian Companies Act. Section 26, as Honourable Members doubtless know, enables a Local Government to allow an association formed for promoting commerce, art, science, charity or any other useful object to be registered as a limited liability company without having the words " Limited Liability Company " after its name. What I want to do is to insert the word " religion " between " science " and " charity ". When the first Companies Act was passed in India in 1882 it was decided to omit the word " religion " which appears in the corresponding section of the English Act because it was thought that religious societies in India were sufficiently served by the Religious Societies Act I of 1880. That Act, however, is not a very effective Act and does not suit the purpose, and the consequence

is that we have some religious societies—principally Diocesan Trust Associations registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, and other societies registered under the Indian Companies Act. The question has been raised whether registration under the Indian Companies Act is valid or not, because “religion” does not appear in section 26. The object of this Bill is to remove that doubt. The matter is likely to become more important in view of the possibility of the Indian Church Measure being passed, in which case it may be necessary for diocesan corporations and the like to register under the Indian Companies Act. Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes : Sir, I move that the Bill, as passed by the Council of State, be passed.

The motion was adopted.

THE CANTONMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. E. Burdon (Army Secretary) : Sir, I move that the Bill further to amend the Cantonments Act, 1924, for certain purposes, as passed by the Council of State, be taken into consideration.

Sir, this is a very simple and, as I have reason to believe, an entirely non-contentious measure. The Cantonments Act, 1924, embodied a new system of administration and it is only natural that the system then adopted should require to be improved and corrected in certain details in the light of practical experience as we go along. The changes which it is proposed to make on this occasion are, I think, sufficiently dealt with in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I have received no notice of any amendment, and, consequently, I think it is unnecessary for me to detain the House any further. Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 11 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

Mr. E. Burdon : Sir, I move that the Bill, as passed by the Council of State, be passed.

The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

Expenditure charged to Revenue.

PORTS AND PILOTAGE.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett (Finance Member) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1927, in respect of ‘Ports and Pilotage.’”

The motion was adopted.

AVIATION.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,43,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1927, in respect of ‘ Aviation ’.”

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That the Demand under the head ‘ Aviation ’ be reduced by Rs. 100.”

Sir, in moving this amendment I do not want to prolong the proceedings of the House. My idea in bringing this amendment is to draw the attention of the Government to the urgency of opening the door of service in Aviation to Indians.....

Mr. President : Order, order. Does the Honourable Member wish to raise the question of policy on this motion ? As the Honourable Member is aware, questions of policy are open to discussion only once in a year, i.e., when Demands for Grants are considered by the House on the occasion of the general Budget.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : My point is to raise the question of the appointment of Indians in Aviation.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member could have done so at the time of the general Budget. The motion now before the House is for a supplementary Demand for grant.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : I bow to your decision, Sir.

Mr. President : The question is :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,43,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1927, in respect of ‘ Aviation ’.”

The motion was adopted.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,41,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1927, in respect of ‘ Miscellaneous ’.”

The motion was adopted.

REFUNDS.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 13,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1927, in respect of ‘ Refunds ’.”

The motion was adopted.

DISBURSEMENTS OF LOANS AND ADVANCES.

LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1927, in respect of ‘ Loans and Advances bearing interest ’.”

• *Loan to the Imperial Gymkhana Club, Delhi.*

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer : (Madras : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I wish to take exception to this proposal to make a grant in favour of the Indian Gymkhana Club.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan) : It is not Indian ; it is Imperial.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer : I beg your pardon ; the Imperial Gymkhana Club. I am not altogether out of sympathy with the objects for which this grant is proposed to be made. Officials of the Imperial Government are, I know, a very hardworked lot and have many troubles and vexations to undergo. After the hard work of the day and in some cases after the boredom of the day's debate in the Assembly, or perhaps even in the Council of State, many an official of Government would probably require some means of diversion and I do not grudge them the numerous facilities for recreation, for diversion, for jollity, for revels, which the Imperial Gymkhana Club will provide. I do not grudge them their balls, their evening and nocturnal dances. There are of course some among us, like my friend Sir Walter Willson, who probably appreciate the provision for balls, being an expert as he is upon the requirements of balls. But I have some objections to this grant which I shall state at once. I see, Sir, a very suspicious statement in the notes of the Standing Finance Committee with regard to this grant. It is stated that there will be a necessity for the officials to keep houses in Delhi for only 5 or 6 months. I thought at one time, when the new capital was about to be brought into existence, that all except a few officials—perhaps the topmost gods—would be stationed in Delhi itself permanently. But on page 200 I find it stated :

“ It is the intention of the Club to build club quarters consisting of 2-roomed semi-detached cottages and 3-roomed detached cottages in the grounds of the club which will provide officials with the desirable privacy which places like Alipore House do not give and at the same time save the occupants the necessity of setting up houses for 5 or 6 months in Delhi.”

That carries with it the implication that for the remaining 6 or 7 months the officials would be located in Simla and this statement has apparently received the imprimature of the Finance Department and of the Finance Committee. I should like to know whether the Government of India have made any change in the policy which they announced when the new capital scheme was launched. That is one of my objections to this grant.

Another objection is this. It is stated in the notes of the proceedings of the Finance Committee that Indians will also be eligible for membership in this Club, but I am afraid the vast majority of the members will be Europeans.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : No.

Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyer : I can readily understand the officials being able to make themselves quite comfortable in this Club, but so far as the Indians are concerned, my fear is that they will find the atmosphere of the Club either too full of frivolity or too much official-ridden and too full of a sickly and oppressive official atmosphere. I think the non-official Members of the Legislature are more likely to feel comfortable in a Club of their own like the Chelmsford Club than in this Imperial Gymkhana Club, notwithstanding its very high-sounding name. My suggestion, Sir, is that the Government should show the same generosity to any proposal to build a Club for the Indian Legislature at Raisina. We have the Chelmsford Club now in Delhi and Simla. We do not know what is going to become of this Chelmsford Club. Whether it is going to find a local habitation in Raisina or whether it is going to be extinguished, or whether it is going to be metamorphosed we have no idea. What I would suggest is that the Members of the Indian Legislature should also be provided with a Club where they may enjoy the more vigorous breeze of unofficial freedom instead of being stifled in the official atmosphere. I am sure that this proposal would commend itself to the Members of this House, except perhaps to a few who attach great importance to balls. We do not require a ball room of 70 ft. by 30 ft. or of any other dimensions that may be prescribed by my Honourable friend Sir Walter Willson, but we should probably like to have the other conveniences.

I notice another thing. Quarters are proposed to be built and it is suggested that 75 per cent. of the quarters should be earmarked for Government officials. It is stated that that is really meant as a contrivance to save money for the Finance Department. They say that if quarters were not built, Government would have to build houses and therefore it is really in the interests of economy and that it is with the object of protecting the financial interests of the Government that the proposal to build quarters is made. Very well, I do not mind with what object that proposal is made, but I am pretty certain that 75 per cent. of the quarters will be earmarked for Government officials. If those quarters would be equally available to Indians and other non-officials, my objections would probably be mitigated. But I think that we should ask the Government whether they would agree to a similar proposal on behalf of the Indian Legislature, and, unless they can quickly come to terms with us, I should oppose this proposal.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : I regret I have to oppose this motion on another ground and it is this. I do not think that the revenues of the Central Government should be diverted to giving loans to any Club at all. A club is essentially a social institution and it must find funds for providing social amenities to its members either from a bank or from a bania, but certainly not from the tax-payer's money. I do not see how the Gymkhana Club is a charge upon the tax-payers' money, or for the matter of that the Chelmsford Club unless it happens to be a club intended for Members of the Indian Legislature in which case it would be a purely official club in the nature of a reading room and a library for the purpose of enabling Members of the Indian Legislature to provide themselves with the intellectual pabulum that they require for the more efficient discharge of their duties. But be that as it may, whatever may be the propriety or

impropriety of instituting a club for the Members of the Indian Legislature, I fail to understand what distinction there is between the Imperial Gymkhana Club and any private institution, such as the Delhi Club or any other Club which may ask for a grant from the Central Legislature. I therefore submit that the principle is a wrong principle and, because it is a wrong principle, I oppose it.

Mr. S. C. Ghose (Bengal : Landholders) : May I ask the Finance Member under what rule or regulation this Demand has been brought up ?

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar (Madras City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : It strikes me that we are setting up an inconvenient precedent when proposing this grant. I know there are several institutions going about in Simla, run by the subordinate officers of the Government of India, which require financial help. We, visitors, have been often approached for financial help for putting up permanent buildings in Delhi or in Simla for the education of children of the officers employed here—both upper subordinates and lower subordinates—and also for the purposes of their own enlightenment and amusement such as clubs and theatres. Now, where shall we land ourselves if we set up a precedent like this ? Here is a Gymkhana Club which no doubt belongs and will belong to the upper strata of the officials here. Probably with a small admixture of highly placed Indians ; it will be entirely European, having regard to our experience of Gymkhana Clubs all over the country. I should like to know what the Indian membership is going to be, how many Indians there are on the Committee of this Club. In the notes circulated to the Standing Finance Committee, it was said that membership is open to Indians. We know what that means. We want to know how many applications for membership were received, how many were admitted and how many were refused. There are various difficulties for Indians to be freely admitted there. I do not put the matter on that narrow ground. I think this is a matter which the Finance Department should examine more carefully, for not only here but also in Local Governments there are clubs of various sorts, and once we embark upon this method of making loans we do not know where we shall land ourselves. Public money should not be utilised for this purpose unless it is of an exceptional nature. The difficulty will be, as Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer pleaded so ably, that you will be forced to be generous to all. I do not know who the President of this Club is. He may be His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. Simply because influential officials run this club, they should not get preferential treatment. It will become a universal request. With what face can you then say : I will allow loans only to the Gymkhana Club and not to any other clubs run by uninfluential people. In the case of uninfluential people, it is a necessity, whereas high officials can run their own clubs and there are various places of amusement. For instance, in Simla, I find that almost every night, I am visiting this place and that place of amusement. Therefore, there is no lack of opportunity for amusement in this place for influential folk. I therefore submit that this is a matter which requires our great consideration. We should not lightly embark upon this and I therefore ask Government to reconsider this matter. As at present advised I must oppose this motion.

Sir Walter Willson (Associated Chambers of Commerce : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I must confess that in the Standing Finance Committee

[Sir Walter Willson.]

I approached this matter in a sceptical spirit, rather like my friend. (Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer). It struck me as being a proposal a little out of the way. We then went into it very carefully and we found that there was a good deal to be said on both sides. In spite of the jibes of my friend as regards the ball room at Government House, Raisina, I still think the size of it will remain a monument to the discredit of the architect ; but I have very little interest in balls and dances from a personal point of view. Now, coming back to the question of this Club, another point which struck me, and I admit having approached it with hesitation, was this. Why should, as my friend said, Government officials have 75 per cent. of the accommodation reserved for them ? I said to myself—because it is Government money which is being put up, that is no argument why 75 per cent. of the accommodation should be reserved for Government officials. Government money is the tax-payers' money. I am a tax-payer and I have as much right to the accommodation as the Government officers. But when I looked further into it, I found that this was no argument at all. The real argument is that accommodation has to be provided for Government officials, whereas it does not have to be provided for me, and, therefore, reluctantly, I had to agree in the end to the reservation of the 75 per cent. for Government officials. The Club will be available to us all. Some of us who do not like dances might go somewhere else. There is a club in present Delhi known as the Chelmsford Club—a club in which Members of this Assembly are very much more interested than they are in this Gymkhana Club, or whatever you may like to call it. I asked the question whether if the Chelmsford Club, in which Members of the Assembly are much more interested, came up for similar treatment, it would be favourably considered ?

Sir Hari Singh Gour : No.

Sir Walter Willson : I do not know what the Finance Member will have to say. His answer was non-committal, but I gathered that it was not unsympathetic. This proposal then does not seem to be an unreasonable one. We considered whether it was permissible to grant funds under the Act. The answer to that I believe was that there are no rules at all. Each case must be dealt with on its own merits, and if the Assembly sanctions it, it is legal. If that is not done, that is another matter. After going into the question very carefully in the Committee we came to the conclusion that this was a proposal that we could legitimately put before the Legislative Assembly, and I therefore support it.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra (Member for Industries and Labour) : Sir, the Demand for this Supplementary Grant has been opposed by my friends Sir Hari Singh Gour and Diwan Bahadur Rangachariar on grounds of propriety. In regard to that I may say that it is not unusual for Government to grant loans to their employees for the starting and development of clubs.

I understand that it is done very often on the Railway side. Even at Raisina it has not been unusual for Government to provide special facilities, at the expense of the tax-payer, for clubs for their subordinate employees. I have been told, for example, that Government have provided separate quarters for the European and Indian employees for use as clubs at nominal rents. Therefore, it seems to me that there is nothing wrong in principle in this Assembly voting this Demand. My friend Sir Walter

Willson has also developed that aspect of the case. He has tried to establish the fact that there is nothing fundamentally wrong in the Assembly voting this particular Demand and that the proposal does not contravene the Government of India Act or any financial rules. Well, that is my reply to my friends Sir Hari Singh Gour and Diwan Bahadur Rangachariar.

My friend Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer has raised two points ; firstly, does the grant of this loan to this particular club in any way detract from the policy of the Government of India in regard to the period of retention of the Secretariat in Delhi. Well, I can assure my Honourable friend that there is nothing in the grant of this loan which can have that implication. Whether the Government of India later on decide to stay in Raisina for 5, 6 or 7 months is a matter which will have to be decided quite irrespective of this proposition. Sir Sivaswamy's next point is this ; here is a club which, though it nominally caters also for Indian officials and non-officials, probably has its membership restricted, at any rate for the present, to European officials and non-officials. Well, I honestly do not know what the present position is in this respect. I am not myself a member of the Imperial Gymkhana Club and I am not in a position to say whether it has on its rolls at present any Indian members. (*An Honourable Member* : " Are they allowed there ? ") They are certainly allowed to be members of the club. I remember myself that years ago when this club was started I was asked to become a member. But as I have no great liking for club life, I did not join this particular club, but I have personal knowledge of one or two Indians who did join the club at that stage. (*An Honourable Member* : " And are still members.") Therefore, it is wrong to say that the membership of this club is refused to Indians. Sir Sivaswamy has then quoted the case of the Chelmsford Club. As Sir Walter Willson has said, if there is a demand on the part of the Chelmsford Club for a similar accommodation from Government then that question will be very carefully considered. I may say this, that the Chelmsford Club has not yet placed before Government any similar proposals. They have been considering the matter quite recently, but until they are assured that there will be a demand on the part of a large section of the Members of this Legislature to become its members and to partake of the amenities provided by it, it cannot possibly embark on a venture of that sort. But still the club itself is considering the matter and I can assure the House that if the club submits to Government proposals that it should receive concessions similar to those given to the Imperial Gymkhana Club, then the matter will receive the careful consideration of Government. I should like to mention another matter. The reason why Government have taken a favourable view of a loan to this particular club, or a similar loan to, say, the Chelmsford Club, is this. If Government do not grant this loan they will be compelled to build more quarters for their officials to house them during the period of their stay in Delhi. I know that during the winter of 1926-27 the accommodation available will not suffice to meet the requirements of all our officials, and unless some other arrangement can be made Government will be compelled to build more accommodation. The Gymkhana Club is going to build 12 quarters and it is going to reserve 9 of them for the use of Government officials. The cost of those 9 quarters, including the furnishing charges, would amount roughly to a lakh and a half of rupees. Now, if Government definitely

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turned down this proposal, they would have to incur that expenditure of a lakh and a half outright, and they would never get an adequate return. The result therefore simply is that Government manage to secure additional accommodation for their officials without having to incur any expenditure from the resources placed at their disposal by the tax-payer. Well, the same thing will happen if a loan is given later on to the Chelmsford Club. It will be called upon, as the Gymkhana Club has been, to undertake to provide a certain number of quarters to accommodate Government officials, thereby reducing the demand on Government to build additional quarters. I trust that with this explanation the House will be pleased to accede to this Demand.

***Mr. K. Rama Aiyangar** (Madura and Ramnad *cum* Tinnevely : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I have not been able to follow the last argument of my Honourable friend Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra. I really want to know whether for the purpose of providing accommodation for officials Government would be prepared to give advances to private individuals. I really do not see what difference it makes whether a private individual asks for such an advance or a body like the Gymkhana Club. I submit that that argument for advancing money cannot hold water. The other point I wish to press is, what has been done to insure the repayment of this money ? Suppose the Gymkhana Club has not got Rs. 30,000 available to repay annually. What is the guarantee that in the course of time the money will be surely returned ? Suppose that at some time the people do not desire to take advantage of the quarters provided by the Club, or some other more convenient quarters spring up, and people do not patronise the club quarters in large numbers, then the club will be unable to pay the Rs. 30,000 annually that it has contracted to do. What is proposed to be done in that case ? Has any guarantee been taken in respect of this ? I really think that this will be starting on a course which will not be to the interests of Government. Also it is very difficult to be impartial if we once begin this kind of thing. The arguments that have been advanced by the Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra really do not improve the case for Government one bit.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : Sir, I am sorry that even after hearing
 1 P.M. the speeches of the Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra and the other gentlemen who have spoken in favour of this grant being sanctioned, I am still unable to agree with them. Sir, I have got a fundamental objection concerning this grant, and it is this, that we are called upon this morning to sanction only supplementary grants. Now, Sir, what is a supplementary grant ? So far as I can understand a supplementary grant is that which supplements a substantial grant. We sanctioned the expenditure of a certain sum during the last Budget on a certain head. After some months it is found by the Government that the grant which we then sanctioned is not sufficient for the head for which it was granted. The Government therefore, in order to complete the expenses for that head, want a supplementary sum to be sanctioned by this House in order to defray the expenses of that head. Now, Sir, about this grant I must say there is no question of its being called a supplementary grant, that

*Speech not corrected by the Honourable Member.

is, a grant supplementary to any Demand that we sanctioned during the last Budget. Under this heading we did not sanction any grant during the last Budget grants, and therefore I submit, Sir, that we are not justified in calling it a supplementary grant, and the Honourable the Finance Member is not justified in asking this House to sanction it as a supplementary grant. If it is intended that this expenditure is necessary, then I think, Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member should wait until the next Budget. Of course the question of providing certain rooms in a gymkhana is not such a very important and urgent question that the House should be asked to make a supplementary grant for that purpose, and the Government can very well wait for five or six months when this question can be taken up at the time of the ordinary Budget grants. So for this reason, Sir, I think that fundamentally this grant cannot be put to the vote of the House at the present stage. The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra has raised the question of providing accommodation for Government officials at Raisina. I would submit, Sir, that I do not find that there would be any difficulty, at least during the next five or six months or during the next year, to provide accommodation for Government officials at Raisina. I know, Sir, from my own personal experience that a certain number of rooms in the Western Hostel are kept vacant for want of occupants. I am certain that these rooms, because the Government could not find occupants, were given last year to some officers of the Royal Air Force. Of course they are not meant for them ; so if there were any immediate difficulty of providing accommodation for the Government officials at Raisina, I submit, Sir, that the Western Hostel and other buildings in Raisina would be quite sufficient for providing accommodation for them, and for this reason also I do not think that there is any urgency to ask this House to make this grant. For these two reasons, Sir, I submit that this grant should not be sanctioned at this stage, and I think it will not be justifiable for the Government at this last stage of this Assembly to ask us to sanction such a grant, because financial questions are really very serious questions. I made a request last year to the Honourable the Finance Member to increase the grants for the Muslim and Hindu Universities by proposing supplementary grants, but the Honourable the Finance Member said that we did not make such grants as supplementary grants and that these things could only be taken up at the Budget time. Well, Sir, if you cannot give money to educational institutes, if you cannot look into the pressing demands of the educational institutes of the country at the time of making supplementary grants, I do not see that there can be any justification to demand money for recreation and for clubs at the time of demanding supplementary grants.

Mr. N. M. Joshi (Nominated : Labour Interests) : For the depressed classes of the Civil Services.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : My Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, holds a brief for the depressed classes, and I am sure he will plead their cause, but as far as I am concerned, I oppose this grant for the reasons mentioned above.

Mr. K. O. Neogy (Dacca Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, if the House turns to page 201 of the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee, they will find that the Club itself while formulating its scheme to Government had two alternative proposals to put forward

[Mr. K. C. Neogy.]

so far as residential accommodation is concerned. In the first, the club stated :

“ The Committee understand that the sum of Rs. 1½ lakhs remains to be spent to complete the residential building scheme of the New Capital. Although the proposal at present is to build five bungalows with this sum, the Committee suggest that the money be utilised in constructing 12 quarters at roughly Rs. 12,000 each adjacent to the Club.”

Then the next alternative scheme was that this amount might be lent to the Club in order to enable it to build these quarters within the precincts of the Club. What I want to know is why it is that the Government, instead of building these 12 quarters themselves near the Club, acceded to the other alternative course suggested by the Club. I think the Honourable Member in charge of the Department of Labour stated that if the Government were to undertake the construction of these bungalows at their own cost, the return would be less than five per cent. I really do not know, however, what return the Government do get on their present investment in such quarters. The Honourable Member stated that from the business point of view, therefore, this was a more attractive proposal. Sir, I think Government have already spent about 13 crores of rupees on New Delhi, and it seems to me that the Honourable Member is rather straining at a gnat after having swallowed a camel, and that the difference of 1½ per cent. in the return on 1½ lakhs ought not to trouble him very much. Sir, the analogies given by my Honourable friend hardly carry conviction—the analogy for instance of the Railway Club. In the case of Railway institutes, I do not think it is given to members of a railway institute to dictate the size of a ball room or for instance the size of staying-out accommodation. Sir, here we find that these amenities are being provided on a very extravagant scale. And then the Honourable Member also said : “ Well, if we have already provided housing accommodation for assistants and officers at a low rate of interest, that also is a justification for us to hold out a helping hand to the Club.” Sir, if you have deliberately removed the headquarters of Government from civilized environment to a desert; surely you must find some sort of accommodation for the people whom you carry with you for the purpose of carrying on the administrative work of the Government, but that, Sir, is hardly an analogy

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra : Does not the same analogy apply to the case of a Club for these superior officers ?

Mr. K. C. Neogy : They can provide themselves with these amenities. My Honourable friend, Mr. Rama Aiyangar, has already touched on the question of security. On the point of security I find that the Club itself is very pessimistic about it. At page 200 they say :

“ Its assets in regard to the scheme which is visualised are practically negligible.”

Sir, that does not seem to be a very tempting proposition for a banker to consider, and I do not know what reasons led my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, to accede to this proposal. Sir, I do not think that we would be at all justified in passing this grant, and I do hope that the Government Members will not vote while this matter is being disposed of by the House.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub : I want a ruling from the Chair. I want to know, Sir, if this grant can be treated as a supplementary grant or not. I want your ruling, Sir, on this point.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : Perhaps I may deal with that point, Sir. There has been a good deal of prejudice, owing I think to some misconception of what the scheme is, imported into the discussion so far, and I want to bring the House back to the facts. Mr. Neogy asked what induced the Finance Member to agree to this, and my answer is this, financial considerations and the interests of the Indian tax-payer. The question has been considered so far as if we had come to an agreement with the club and as if some arrangement had been made finally which we were now putting before the House. That is not the position. We are still in negotiations with the club. The Standing Finance Committee have slightly modified the terms proposed to be arranged with the club—slightly modified them in favour of the tax-payer—and we still have to find out whether the club will accept these proposals. Now, the position is that we are short of quarters in Delhi. Maulvi Muhammad Yakub compared the conditions of last winter when the Government of India Secretariat was in old Delhi with the unknown conditions of the future when it will be in New Delhi, and the fact that some bungalows and quarters were empty last winter, if it was a fact, has not the slightest bearing on the question of what will be the position next winter. We know quite well that there will be a very severe shortage of quarters. If we cannot make this arrangement with the club we shall have to spend a larger sum than 1½ or 1¾ lakhs, something over 2 lakhs at the least, on building quarters on which we shall not get nearly so high a return as we shall be getting on what we lend to the club, because the condition of this arrangement is that the existence of the club will make it certain that the quarters will be filled not only during the winter but to a large extent during the summer also ; and instead of Government getting (for the time being until a final decision has been taken on the point raised by Sir Sivaswamy Aiyer), about 4 or 5 months' rent only on quarters which they have to keep up for the whole year, they will through the club get the full rental on those quarters which will be particularly attractive to people because, being in the neighbourhood of the club, the club will supply them with meals and other amenities. That is assuming the club exists. But the club will not come into existence, the club building will not come into existence in all probability, unless some arrangement of this sort can be made between the authorities of the club and the Government. The club, as Mr. Neogy points out, is not a wealthy one and it is no use its attempting at present to raise the money required to erect the building. Therefore, the Government are faced with the necessity of spending something over 2 lakhs on quarters, instead of lending 5 lakhs which is recoverable and will be getting a much worse return on those 2 lakhs than they will get on the 5 lakhs while they are lending it on interest. The financial arguments are clearly on the side of the Government's proposal.

I now come to the question on which a certain amount of prejudice has been raised, in regard to the nature of this club. I may say that the first time I went into the club was to play tennis with Sir Muhammad Shafi, and it is a club which is open not only to Europeans but to Indians, and not only open to them, but I am informed by the authorities of the

[Sir Basil Blackett.]

club that never on any occasion has it refused an application from an Indian to become a member ; and I go further and say that if this club is to exist in New Delhi, if it is to have an assured future— and the authorities of the club will obviously not make themselves responsible for this Rs. 30,000 a year interest ; unless they have some security for the future—if this club is to come into effective existence and supply a really felt want in New Delhi, it will not only not close its doors to Indians but it will open them very wide, because it is perfectly clear that with the gradual Indianisation of the Secretariat, unless Indians come to this club, this club has no future at all. This club must look forward to doing work such as the Willingdon Club is doing in Bombay and organise games and amusements for the population, mainly the official population, of New Delhi ; and so far therefore from there being any question of non-Indian character about this club, it must essentially be a club for Europeans and Indians alike if it is to have any future at all.

I now come to Maulvi Muhammad Yakub's point. I am very glad to see him stand squarely up for financial probity on this question of supplementary estimates and support the attitude of the Finance Department, which is always that it does not like supplementary estimates, and its first question when a suggestion comes in for new expenditure not provided for in the Budget is : " Why was this not provided in the Budget ?" And its next question is : " Why cannot it be postponed till next year ?" But Mr. Muhammad Yakub has overlooked the fact that there is no proposal here to spend money above what was originally intended. This grant comes before the Assembly not because there will be expenditure in excess of the expenditure provided in the Budget, but because, being of a rather special character, the Finance Department made it a condition of their agreement to the proposal, which I think was within their competence, that it should come before the Assembly and be discussed by the Assembly before effect was given to the proposal, that it is to be fully explained to the Assembly in order that they may have an opportunity of discussing it and it should not be done by the Executive without discussion in the Assembly. It is money that is provided out of Capital and it would not therefore affect the revenue of the year ; and, as I say, it comes before the Assembly not because it involves necessarily any additional expenditure not contemplated at the time of the Budget, but because the Assembly's sanction was thought—I hope the Assembly will agree with me in this—rightly to be desirable before a somewhat unusual arrangement of this sort was entered into by the Government. I hope after that explanation Maulvi Muhammad Yakub will realise that we are fully in agreement with his excellent financial principles in regard to supplementary estimates and will not withdraw his support to the scheme on the ground of financial propriety.

A question has also been asked as to what security we have for this money, in case something goes wrong with the club. Our answer is we have of course a complete mortgage over the club buildings and we are freeholders of the ground.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : Will the building be a Government building ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : The building will be built probably by Government agency, on account of the club. As I say, we have not entered into the final.....

Sir Hari Singh Gour : I understood the club building itself was a Government building.

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : The club building and the quarters will both probably be built by the Government on ground leased from the Government. They will be the property of the club, subject to a mortgage on the whole of the property, and when the club has paid off the loan after 30 years, they will then become the property of the club. But in the meanwhile Government have full security for the money, because they have the ownership of the land and a complete mortgage over the buildings.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : Will Imperial Delhi exist after 30 years ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : When Sir Hari Singh's grandson is making speeches in the Assembly 30 years hence, possibly some busy Assembly Member will read up the old debates and taunt Sir Hari Singh's grandson with the want of confidence of his grandfather.

Mr K. Rama Aiyangar : May I know if there are any other funds for the club besides what we are going to advance ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : The club has certain assets which are mentioned at the end of the Standing Finance Committee's Report, but of course it is dependent on its annual subscriptions and on such profits as it can make.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar : What is the membership now ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I do not know the details of the membership ; I am not sure. I think the subscription, which is another question, is Rs. 50 a season.

I am not quite sure of the exact figure. There is no entrance fee.

The Rev. Dr. E. M. Macphail (Madras : European) : Will the Honourable Member explain what the return upon the money will be to the Government ?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : The Government will get after an interval 5 years, during which they will get interest only on the part of the expenditure which is devoted to the buildings of quarters, a return of 5 per cent. interest *plus* 1 per cent. amortization. They will, therefore, be getting a return, assuming that the expenditure is incurred during the current year and the beginning of the next year, at a rather higher rate of interest than they pay for borrowing money in the market. There will be a slight profit for the Government there, but that is not one of the arguments which I would bring forward for voting this proposal. The proposal, as I said, is put before the Assembly as being a means of providing both for the accommodation of Government officials and others and for the amenities of New Delhi at no cost to the Government but, on the whole, at a slight profit. It is put forward as an attractive financial proposition which will meet the convenience of the occupants of New Delhi as well as being thoroughly in the interests of the tax-payer of the country.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar : May I ask the Honourable the Finance Member whether it would not be an inconvenient precedent? How does he propose to deal with similar requests?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : It is brought before the Assembly precisely because it is somewhat unusual. We shall be perfectly willing to consider sympathetically a similar proposal for a club building for the Chelmsford Club, provided equally attractive terms could be offered to the tax-payer. I do not know whether the Madras Government or the Bengal Government contemplate building a new capital. If they do, I think they would probably find that a study of our financial methods in these sort of cases—in some other cases they might not be satisfactory—would redound very much to their advantage.

Mr. S. C. Ghose : I have not yet got the answer to my question. May I know under what rule or regulation the Honourable the Finance Member is moving for this grant?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett : I do not understand the question. The Government of India are said to suffer from code in its head, but I do not know of any code or regulation which refers to this particular case. I hope that we are acting in the interests of the tax-payer. It is perfectly obvious that this expenditure is for the purposes of the Government of India and therefore is not *ultra vires* of the Government of India Act. Beyond that I cannot say. I hope there is no rule or regulation because if anybody has spent his time and energy in drawing up a rule or regulation to cover such an exceptional case, I think he has wasted time.

Mr. President : The question is :

“That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1927, in respect of ‘Loans and Advances bearing interest.’”

The Assembly divided :

AYES—42.

Abdul Qaiyum, Nawab Sir Sahibzada.
 Ajab Khan, Captain.
 Akram Hussain, Prince A. M. M.
 Allison, Mr. F. W.
 Bhore, Mr. J. W.
 Blackett, The Honourable Sir Basil.
 Bray, Sir Denys.
 Burdon, Mr. E.
 Clow, Mr. A. G.
 Coatman, Mr. J.
 Crawford, Colonel J. D.
 Dalal, Sardar B. A.
 Donovan, Mr. J. T.
 Dyer, Mr. J. F.
 Gidney, Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J.
 Graham, Mr. L.
 Haig, Mr. H. G.
 Hezlett, Mr. J.
 Hira Singh Brar, Sardar Bahadur
 Captain.
 Hudson, Mr. W. F.
 Innes, The Honourable Sir Charles.

Jeelani, Haji S. A. K.
 Macphail, The Rev. Dr. E. M.
 Mahmood Schamnad Sahib Bahadur, Mr.
 Makan, Khan Sahib M. E.
 Mitra, The Honourable Sir Bhupendra
 Nath.
 Naidu, Rao Bahadur M. C.
 Norton, Mr. E. L.
 Owens, Lieut.-Col. F. C.
 Paddison, Sir George.
 Parsons, Mr. A. A. L.
 Rahman, Khan Bahadur A.
 Raj Narain, Rai Bahadur.
 Rau, Mr. B. R.
 Roffey, Mr. E. S.
 Roy, Mr. K. C.
 Roy, Sir Ganen.
 Sastri, Diwan Bahadur C. V. V.
 Singh, Rai Bahadur S. N.
 Sykes, Mr. E. F.
 Townsend, Mr. C. A. H.
 Willson, Sir Walter.

NOES—16.

Aiyangar, Mr. K. Rama.

Das, Mr. B.

Deshmukh, Mr. R. M.

Ghose, Mr. S. C.

Gour, Sir Hari Singh.

Hussanally, Khan Bahadur W. M.

Ismail Khan, Mr.

Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Mr.

Lohokare, Dr. K. G.

Malaviya, Pandit Madan Mohan.

Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Sayad.

Nehru, Pandit Shamlal.

Neogy, Mr. K. C.

Rangachariar, Diwan Bahadur T.

Talatuley, Mr. S. D.

Yakub, Maulvi Muhammad.

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 1st September, 1926.
