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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

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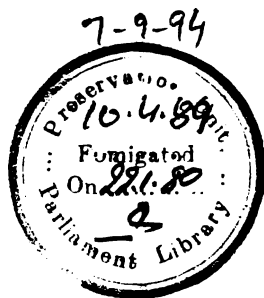
SECOND SESSION

OF THE

THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1928



DELHI
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1928



Legislative Assembly.

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THE HONOURABLE MR V. J. PATEL.

Deputy President :

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

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MAULVI MUHAMMAD YAKUB, M.L.A., Chairman.

SIR HARI SINGH GOUR, KT., M.L.A.

MR. N. M. JOSHI, M.L.A.

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

DR. A. SUHRAWARDY, M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, 15th February, 1928.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

NEW RAILWAY LINE FROM BILASPUR TO KAWARDA.

194. ***Mr. M. S. Aney:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether in the Railway Budget for 1927-28 a sum of Rs. 5,000 was granted by the Assembly for the survey of a new railway line from Bilaspur to Kawarda as a part of the new construction and survey programme of the Bengal Nagpur Railway?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the amount was spent during the year and if so, how much and for what purpose?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to place on the table of the House a copy of the report of traffic survey of the aforesaid line if any made by the managing agent to the Railway Board during the year?

(d) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they intend to instruct the Agent of the Bengal Nagpur Railway to proceed with the survey work of that line and make due provision for the same in the Railway Budget for the year 1928-29?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) The revised estimate of the expenditure is Rs. 3,000.

(c) and (d). The complete report and estimates have not been received from the Agent, Bengal Nagpur Railway, but he has reported that the traffic survey indicates that the line is not likely to prove remunerative as a broad gauge line.

NEW RAILWAY LINE FROM BILASPUR TO KAWARDA.

195. ***Mr. M. S. Aney:** Is it a fact that the Agent of the Bengal Nagpur Railway in his letter No. 19836, dated the 10th November, 1927, to M. K. Chitale, Pleader of Mungeli (C. P.), informed him that the construction of the Bilaspur Kawarda line was abandoned for want of funds?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government have not seen the correspondence.

NEW RAILWAY LINE FROM BILASPUR TO KAWARDA.

196. ***Mr. M. S. Aney:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a letter from the Mungeli Correspondent in the paper *Hitawad*

of 6th October, 1927, under the heading "Bilaspur Kawarda Project" and particularly to the following passages?

"The Railway Board gave a response by intimating in October 1926, that the question of Bilaspur Kawarda Railway was under further investigation. Thereafter the happy news of a renewed survey of broad gauge line of 65 miles from Bilaspur to Kawarda was published in the *C. P. Gazette* in the month of December."

"The Railway Budget was then passed and an impression was generally established that the actual survey work shall soon begin. The issue of notices from the Revenue courts under the Land Acquisition Act to the owners of the land, through which the line is projected to pass, lent colour to this impression. *Nothing further than this happened.*"

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that the project was taken up in 1900 as a narrow gauge line and that considerable progress was made for some time?

(c) Do Government intend to include this line in its programme of new construction for 1928-29 as a C. Class 2'—6" gauge line, if the traffic survey of the prospects of this line will not show justification for a 5'—6" gauge line?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) Some earthwork was carried out as a famine relief work in 1900.

(c) The question of the construction of the line on the 2'—6" gauge is under investigation.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

HARDSHIPS OF POSTAL EMPLOYEES OWING TO THE SPLIT DUTY SYSTEM.

61. **Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** Will the Government be pleased to say if anything has been done in pursuance of the recommendations of the Postal Enquiry Committee to relieve the employees in the Postal Department from the hardship which the *split duty* entails?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Steps have been taken to remove the hardship sometimes involved in split duty by either,

- (i) providing residential quarters in the vicinity of the post office or,
- (ii) granting a conveyance allowance or,
- (iii) sanctioning additional staff.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF T. V. NANDAGOPAL NAIDU, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE, T. DIVISION, TRICHINOPOLY.

62. **Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** With reference to unstarred question No. 81, dated 30th August, 1927, will the Government be pleased to state whether the promised collection of the information has been made and if it will be placed on the table?

Mr. H. A. Sams: The information was collected and furnished to Mr. Amar Nath Dutt in November last. The information given was as follows:

(a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) The salary for the period 22nd June 1927 to 30th June 1927 was disbursed to the official.

SPECIAL BAG DESPATCHED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE, T. DIVISION, TO MR. ASLAM, SUPERINTENDENT OF POST OFFICES, MADURA DIVISION.

63. **Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** With reference to unstarred question No. 83, dated 30th August, 1927, will the Government be pleased to state if the promised inquiry has been made and what is the result of the inquiry?

Mr. H. A. Sams: Yes. The result of the enquiry has already been communicated to Mr. Dutt.

USE OF STEEL SLEEPERS ON STATE AND COMPANY-MANAGED RAILWAYS.

64. **Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that steel sleepers are newly introduced and largely used both in the State and Company-managed Railways?

(b) And, if so, why?

(c) Are they used in the opening of new lines only or are they used also in the place of wooden sleepers in old lines?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Steel sleepers have been in use on Indian Railways for the last 40 years. An order of considerable size for these sleepers was placed in 1926 for use on both State and Company-managed Railways.

(b) The price compared favourably with that of wooden and cast iron sleepers.

(c) Steel sleepers are used both on new lines and in replacement of other sleepers on old lines, but more usually for the latter purpose.

SUPPLY OF STEEL SLEEPERS FOR RAILWAYS BY THE TATA IRON WORKS.

65. **Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state where the wooden sleepers were got from and where the steel sleepers are got from now?

(b) Was any demand made of the Tata Iron Works to make the necessary supplies of steel sleepers?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). Practically all the wooden sleepers now obtained for Indian Railways are of Indian timber, though occasionally Jarrah from Australia or Douglas Fir from North America has been used. The Tata Iron and Steel Company have supplied steel sleepers, but the large order for these sleepers, which, I think, the Honourable Member has in mind, was placed in Belgium and Germany, after the Tata Iron and Steel Company had been given an opportunity of quoting for it.

USE OF IRON AND CEMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF WAGONS AND COACHES FOR RAILWAYS.

66. **Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that there is a general tendency in all Indian Railways to substitute iron and cement for wood in the construction of wagons and coaches, doors and windows; and, if so, why?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The reply is in the negative.

**RELATIVE COSTS OF SLEEPERS, TELEGRAPH POSTS AND WAGON BODIES
MADE OF WOOD AND OF STEEL.**

67. **Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a detailed statement showing the relative costs of sleepers, telegraph posts and wagon bodies, made of wood and of steel?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: The cost of steel and of different varieties of timber varies so much at particular times that it is impossible to prepare a statement in the form for which the Honourable Member asks for it. So far as sleepers are concerned, I am sending him a statement showing the kinds of sleepers purchased by the State-managed Railways during 1926-27 and the first six months of the current year and the rates for those sleepers. It should be borne in mind that the life of a steel sleeper is considerably more than double the life of a wooden sleeper.

DELAY IN THE FINAL SETTLEMENT OF THE CONTRACTORS' BILLS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE VIRUDUNAGAR-TENKASI LINE OF THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

68. **Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** (a) Is it a fact that the final settlement of the contractors' bills in connection with of the Virudunagar-Tenkasi line of the South Indian Railway, opened on 30th June, 1927, is being delayed?

(b) If so, is it due to the complaint that the line has not been well laid?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) There was some delay in settling contractors' bills on the Virudunagar-Tenkasi Railway but it was expected that final settlement would be complete by the end of January 1928.

(b) No.

NUMBER OF CASES DEALT WITH BY THE RAILWAY RATES ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT CALCUTTA DURING THE CURRENT FINANCIAL YEAR.

69. **Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state how many cases in all were dealt with by the Railway Rates Advisory Committee at Calcutta during the current financial year?

(b) How many of them related to the rates affecting trade adversely with the details of the trade in question?

(c) How many of them related to rates giving room to undue preference to places, persons or goods?

(d) How many of them related to the disparity of the rates relating to the transport of raw and finished products to the port stations?

(e) Has any case been examined *suo moto* by this Rates Advisory Committee?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The Rates Advisory Committee have had 12 cases under their consideration during the current financial year.

(b), (c) and (d). Of the 12 cases the complaints allege

undue preference—in three cases,

unreasonably high rates—in six cases,

both undue preference and unreasonableness—in two cases,
undue preference to port rate—in one case.

(e) No.

REDUCTION OF RATES FOR THE TRANSPORT OF GOODS BY RAILWAYS.

70. **Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the rates for the transport of goods by railways has now increased by two hundred to three hundred per cent. on pre-war rates?

(b) Are Government prepared to recommend the reduction of the existing rates, now that stable conditions have been restored?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) No; the increases over pre-war rates vary but the general average increase is about 33 per cent.

(b) The Government are keeping constantly in view the possibility of reducing rates as financial conditions permit.

HEAVY RAILWAY RATES ON RICE, GRAINS AND OTHER CEREALS ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

71. **Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a memorial, submitted by the merchants of Mangalore, addressed to the South Indian Railway authorities, to be relieved of the existing heavy railway rates of freight on rice, grains and other cereals?

(b) Are Government prepared to issue instructions to give the desired relief?

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

(b) The Government of India lay down maximum and minimum rates within which it is in the competence of the Agent of the Railway to fix the rates to be charged, and a copy of the question and this reply are being forwarded to the Agent.

HIGH RAILWAY RATES ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA AND THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAYS.

72. **Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the complaint of the tile manufacturers at Mangalore that they are considerably handicapped by the high railway freights prevailing on the Madras and Southern Mahratta and South Indian Railways and that preferential rates are given by the South Indian Railway to the tile factories at Feroke?

(b) Is it proposed to issue instructions, acceding to the request of the tile manufacturers at Mangalore, that special rates for the import of coal to Mangalore *via* Bombay should be given by the East Indian Railway, the Bengal Nagpur Railway, the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and the South Indian Railway?

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

(b) It is not proposed to make any special differentiation of rates for coal to Mangalore *via* Bombay.

STARTING SALARIES OF JUNIOR CLERKS ON THE SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.

73. **Mr. M. S. Sesha Ayyangar:** With reference to the answer to starred question No. 266, dated 2nd February, 1927, will the Government be pleased to state if the revision of the rate of Rs. 20-8-0 per mensem, the starting salary of junior clerks by the South Indian Railway has been made, and, if so, with what results?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: Government understand that the question is still under discussion.

ACCOUNTS WORK IN FIRST CLASS HEAD POST OFFICES.

74. **Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** (a) Is it a fact that Government appoint only one accountant (without any assistant accountants) for each of the Post Offices at Poona and Ahmedabad, Karwar and Alibag irrespective of the consideration of the nature and extent of work?

(b) If so, what arrangement have the Government made to get the proportionately greater volume of accounts work of these first class head offices done by qualified accountants?

(c) Is it a fact that the proportionately greater volume of accounts work at Poona and Ahmedabad is distributed among a number of clerks?

(d) If the answers to (a) and (c) be in the affirmative, do Government pay any remuneration to such clerks as have passed the accountants' examination and also perform accounts work?

(e) Is it a fact that the accounts clerks in the first class head offices are required to turn out the same or similar kind of work as is turned out by an accountant in the second class head offices? If so, are Government prepared to sanction special pay to them, if, or when qualified? If not, why not?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) It is a fact that only one clerk, designated accountant, has been appointed to perform and supervise the Accounts work in each of the four offices mentioned.

(b) Only two of the offices mentioned, namely, Poona and Ahmedabad, are first class head offices. Where the volume of work requires it more clerks than one are employed in the Accounts Branch and work under the supervision of the accountant.

(c) Yes.

(d) Special pay is paid only to those clerks who have passed the accountants' examination and work as accountant or who, being required to assist the accountant in supervision work, are designated "assistant accountants".

(e) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The remainder of the question does not therefore arise.

ACCOUNTANTS AND ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANTS IN THE INDIAN POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

75. **Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) the number of appointments of accountants and assistant accountants in the Postal Department? and

(b) the number of officials who have passed the accountants' test?

(c) the number of accountants and assistant accountants who have not passed the accountants' test?

(d) the number of such clerks as have passed the accountants' examination and are working in the Accounts Branch and yet do not get any extra remuneration?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

APPOINTMENT OF A WATCHMAN FOR THE DECCAN COLLEGE POST OFFICE, POONA.

76. **Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** (a) Is it a fact that the Sub-Postmaster, Deccan College Post Office, Poona, has submitted a representation for the appointment of a watchman for the protection of his life and his claim in this respect is supported by the police officer of the locality and also by the Principal and a resident Professor of the College having intimate knowledge of the situation?

(b) Do Government intend to sanction a watchman?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) Government are not aware of the fact.

(b) The matter is within the competence of the Postmaster-General to decide. A copy of the question and of this answer is being sent to that officer.

APPOINTMENT OF POSTAL OFFICIALS HOLDING ACCOUNTANTS' CERTIFICATES TO HEAD POSTMASTERSHIPS.

77. **Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, has issued a circular in October, 1924, to the effect that Heads of Circles will ordinarily, in making appointments of Head Postmasterships, give preference to an official who holds a current certificate as accountant?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to state how many officials who have passed the accountants' examination and held the required certificate, have been given the appointments of Head Postmasterships since the publication of the circular and how many such officials have not been given appointments?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state whether in view of the assurance and pledge of giving preference to qualified accountants in making appointments for Head Postmasterships, officials who have passed the accountants' examination will be exempted from the new examination for the lowest selection grade as laid down by the Director General in his G. O. No. 5, dated 19th July, 1927?

(d) If the reply to question (c) is in the negative, when and how will the Government redeem their pledge given in the Director General's special circular No. 50 of 1924 in which the additional condition of the examination of the selection grade is not prescribed?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a), (b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me to starred question No. 186 asked by the Honourable Mr. Rang Behari Lal in the Legislative Assembly on 13th February, 1928.

(d) Does not arise.

THROWING OPEN OF THE LOWER SELECTION GRADE EXAMINATION TO ALL POSTAL AND RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE OFFICIALS AFTER SOME YEARS' SERVICE.

78. Mr. N. C. Kelkar: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Departmental Examination for Telegraph Masters in the Telegraph Department, the Subordinate Accounts Service Examination in Postal Audit Offices and the Accountants' examination in the Military Finance Department are open to all officials of the Department after some stated years of service irrespective of the number of vacancies likely to occur till another such examination?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, has published in his G. O. No. 5, dated 19th July, 1927, that the number of candidates allowed to appear for the lower selection grade examination is restricted to ten times the number of vacancies estimated to occur, till the holding of the next examination?

(c) Do the Government propose to throw open the lower selection grade examination to all Postal and R. M. S. officials after some stated years of service in the Department, irrespective of the number of probable vacancies or seniority in a circle gradation?

(d) If the replies to question (a) and (b) be in the affirmative and the reply to (c) be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for imposing disabilities on postal officials in the matter of appearing for the said examinations?

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

(c) and (d). The Director-General will consider the question after experience has been gained from the results of the first examination.

PROMOTION TO THE SELECTION GRADE OF POSTAL OFFICIALS WHO HAVE PASSED THE DEPARTMENTAL ACCOUNTANTS' EXAMINATION.

79. Mr. N. C. Kelkar: (a) Is it a fact that passed accountants of the Military Finance Department, Civil Accounts Offices and Postal Audit Offices, get enhanced rates of increment as soon as they pass the departmental examination, until they either reach the maximum of their time-scale or are provided in the special grade of accountants, or some similar higher grades?

(b) Is it a fact that postal officials who have passed the departmental accountants' examination are deemed any kind of preference in promotion to the selection grade and in being allowed to draw enhanced increments?

(c) If the reply to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, do Government intend to place the postal officials who have passed the accountants' examination on an equal footing with the officials of the other Government Departments in respect of enhanced increments and promotion to higher grades? If not, why not?

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

(b) Postal officials who have passed the accountants' examination are not allowed to draw any enhanced increments but they get preference in promotion to selection grade appointments of accountants only.

(c) No, because there is no comparison between the two cases.

PAY OF ACCOUNTANTS IN THE INDIAN POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

80. **Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** Are the Government aware that the posts of accountants in almost all Departments of the Government are at a higher scale of pay, while those in the Postal Department carry per month only a small allowance of Rs. 10 or 15? If so, do Government intend to bring the posts of accountants in the Post Office on a level with those in other Departments of Government?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: It is a fact that in some departments of Government, accountants draw a higher scale of pay than ordinary clerks. The statement that accountants in the Postal Department carry a small allowance of Rs. 10 or Rs. 15 only per month is not quite correct. In the more important post offices there are accountants drawing the pay of the selection grades, viz., Rs. 160—250 and Rs. 250—350. The reply to the second part is in the negative. The pay of accountants is raised to that of the selection grades whenever this is found to be justified.

DEPARTMENTAL AND EXTRA-DEPARTMENTAL STAMP VENDORS.

81. **Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the basis on which postal stamp vendors are classified as departmental and extra-departmental, and what is the distinction between them in respect of the work they have to do?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the minimum of the average stamp sales necessitating the appointment of a departmental or an extra-departmental stamp vendor?

(c) Are the Government aware that there are two extra-departmental postal stamp vendors one at Poona and one at Poona City and that they are required to work for eight hours a day and that they do not find time to work as authorised letter writers and supplement their insufficient pay?

(d) If the reply to (c) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to consider the question of appointing departmental stamp vendors at these places?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) Departmental stamp vendors are whole time servants of Government, extra-departmental stamp vendors are not. Both of them have to do the work of selling stamps to the public. But while the departmental stamp vendors are not permitted to do any work other than the selling of stamps, the extra-departmental stamp vendors are free to do other work in addition to the work of selling stamps.

(b) A daily sale of stamps averaging Rs. 200 is ordinarily considered sufficient to justify the entertainment of a departmental stamp vendor. But the daily average is not regarded as the only criterion and local conditions are fully taken into consideration. Where non-departmental stamp vendors are easily obtainable, they are employed in preference to departmental stamp vendors.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

DENIAL OF LEAVE TO EXTRA-DEPARTMENTAL POSTAL STAMP VENDORS.

82. **Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** Is it a fact that some extra-departmental postal stamp vendors (such as at Poona and Poona City) are required to put in eight hours' attendance a day like other postal servants and yet they are denied leave (and even casual leave) concessions? If so, do Government propose to take such steps as will remove the hardships? If not, why not?

Mr. H. A. Sams: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, but it does not follow that their whole time during this period of attendance is occupied in selling stamps. As the stamp vendors referred to are not whole-time Government servants, they are not entitled to leave.

PAY OF POSTAL CLERKS IN BOMBAY CITY.

83. **Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** Is it a fact that the pay of postal clerks in the mufassil of the Bombay Presidency is kept higher than the pay of clerks in the departments of the local Government? If so, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of following the same practice in the city of Bombay?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The reply to the first part of the question is that the pay of postal clerks in the mufassil of Bombay Presidency is somewhat higher than that of clerks with similar qualification in the offices of the Local Government. As regards the second part, the scale of pay for postal clerks in the Bombay city as recently revised by the Government of India after full consideration of all relevant factors is generally superior to that granted to clerks of the Local Government and there is no intention of revising the scale in the near future.

PAY OF THE CLERICAL STAFF IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES OF THE INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

84. **Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** Is it not a fact that Government have decided that the scales of pay for the clerical staff in the administrative offices should always be higher than that for the same staff in the subordinate offices; if so, will Government be pleased to state why the pay of the clerks of the Postmaster General's offices are not higher than that of the Post Office?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: As far as the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department is concerned, Government have not decided that the scales of pay for the clerical staff in the administrative offices should always be higher than that for the same staff in the subordinate offices. The second part of the question does not arise.

SELECTION GRADE CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, BOMBAY.

85. **Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** Were the considered recommendations of the Postmaster General, Bombay, for an increase of 14 selection grade clerks in his office and approved of by him turned down by the Director General in 1923 and is it a fact that only 6 were given? If so, will Government please state the circumstances under which this was done? Are Government aware that as a result of this there is serious dissatisfaction amongst

clerks who even after 22 years' service have been unable to get the selection grade?

Mr. H. A. Sams: The Director-General did not accept in full the recommendations which the Postmaster-General, Bombay, made in 1923, because he considered that in comparison with the staff of other circle offices, the demand of the Postmaster-General, Bombay, was not justified. The answer to the latter part of the question is in the negative.

INVESTIGATING INSPECTORS ATTACHED TO THE OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, BOMBAY.

86. Mr. N. C. Kelkar: Has the Postmaster General, Bombay, stopped appointing investigating inspectors attached to his office from amongst those of his clerks who may be capable of holding the appointments just as is done in the case of Town Inspectors attached to first class offices when men qualified for the posts are not available? If so, why?

Mr. H. A. Sams: The posts of investigating inspectors attached to Circle offices, form part of the cadre of inspectors and head clerks to Divisional Superintendents. They are therefore filled by clerks who have passed the qualifying examination for such posts. The practice referred to by the Honourable Member was stopped because it was irregular.

CURTAILMENT OF THE CASUAL LEAVE OF CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, BOMBAY.

87. Mr. N. J. Kelkar: Has the Director General proposed to curtail the amount of casual leave hitherto allowed to the clerks in the Postmaster General's Office, Bombay, from 20 to 12 days in the year? If so, why? Is it not a fact that this kind of leave allowed to administrative offices in the Bombay Government situated in the same City and working under the same conditions has not in any way been decreased from 20 days in a year?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The concession of 20 days' casual leave, instead of 12, is only intended for certain officials of the Department who do not enjoy the usual number of holidays in a year. The concession does not apply to the Postmaster-General's office staff which ordinarily enjoy all gazetted holidays and Sundays.

As regards the latter part of the question, the Government of India have no information.

SUBMISSION OF APPEALS TO THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, BOMBAY, BY NAME.

88. Mr. N. C. Kelkar: Are Government aware that recently when appeals were submitted to the Postmaster General, Bombay, by name, the officials were warned not to do so? Is there any rule in the Government Servants' Conduct Rules or in the Post Office Manuals or in any other rules or regulations framed by Government under which this was done?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Government are not aware of the fact as stated in the first part of the question. The answer to the second part is in the negative.

ISSUE OF NOTIFICATION UNDER THE INDIAN BAR COUNCILS ACT, 1926.

89. **Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** Will Government state approximately the time they will take in issuing the necessary notifications under the Bar Councils Act?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar: Local Governments and High Courts have been consulted in regard to the date on which those sections of the Act which are not already operative, should be brought into force, but replies in full have not yet been received. The Honourable Member is aware that rules must first be framed by the High Courts, and different High Courts have given different dates on which their rules will be ready. I propose to see that there is no unnecessary delay in the issue of the notifications under section 1 (3).

RETENTION OF THE SECOND APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY POSTMASTER GENERAL, KARACHI, ETC.

90. **Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** (a) Is it not a fact that the second appointment of Deputy Postmaster General was created only for Karachi, and if so, is there still any need for retaining this appointment? Is it a fact that Karachi has been made a separate circle?

(b) Are Government aware that the fourth appointment of Personal Assistant (now designated Assistant Postmaster General) to the Postmaster General, Bombay, was created during the time of the Great War owing to increase of work? If so, will Government explain the necessity of retaining it? Is it a fact that the clerical establishment has been correspondingly reduced?

(c) Are Government aware that there are two reserve Superintendents and two probationary Superintendents attached to the Postmaster General, Bombay, in addition to the five appointments of Personal Assistants?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) No, the latter part of the question does not arise.

(b) Yes. The appointment of the Fourth Personal Assistant was however made permanent in 1919 owing to the normal growth of work in the Bombay Circle and consequently in the Postmaster General's office.

(c) There is one Reserve Superintendent and one Probationary Superintendent attached to the Bombay Circle. The Reserve Superintendent is utilised in leave vacancies and the Probationary Superintendent is under training. There are 4 permanent Assistant Postmasters General and one temporary who is also Superintendent, F. M. Division.

PAY OF MEN IN THE OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL, BOMBAY.

91. **Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** Will Government be pleased to state whether the work in the office of the Postmaster General, Bombay, is not on the same lines as that of the office of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi? If so, why was not the scale of pay for men in the office of the Postmaster General, Bombay, revised on the lines of the Directorate, where the pay of Rs. 50—100 before 1920 has been raised to Rs. 80—250 upper cadre time-scale pay and is being further revised to Rs. 100 to 300 and Rs. 300 to Rs. 500?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part of the question does not arise.

REMOVAL OF THE LIMIT TO THE COMMUTATION OF PENSIONS.

92. **Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to say when the pension rules for the so-called Superior Services were sanctioned?

(b) What is the reason for the delay in promulgating similar rules for the Inferior Services?

(c) Have Government come to any final decision yet with regard to the institution of a Provident Fund in lieu of pension for the Inferior Services? What is the reason for holding up the scheme?

(d) What is the maximum amount of pension which a pensioner can commute for a lump sum cash payment in lieu of such pension?

(e) What are the reasons which have influenced Government in fixing a limit on the amount of pension which can be commuted?

(f) Is it a fact that a large body of Government employees on Railways and the like receive a lump sum in the way of Provident Fund in lieu of pension? Do Government intend to consider the advisability of permitting other employees to commute their entire pension for a cash payment and remove any limit in the case?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett: (a) The Honourable Member's question is not fully understood. There has been no recent revision of the pension rules of the Superior Services. •

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply which I gave on the 1st March 1927 to his question No. 152, and also to the reply which I gave on the 13th September 1927 to question No. 969 asked by Mr. Belvi. It is understood that Local Governments are now engaged in revising the pension rules of the various Services under their control. The Government of India have not yet received the necessary authority to enable them to undertake this task in respect of the Services controlled by them.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply which I gave on the 1st February 1928 to the question on the subject asked by Mr. Fazal Ibrahim Rahimtulla.

(d) One-half of the pension, subject to the condition that the residue of pension after commutation shall not be less than a prescribed limit, which is Rs. 20 per mensem in India.

(e) There are several considerations which enter into the matter, but speaking generally, I may say that it has hitherto been held not to be in the best interests of the pensioner and his dependents that it should be open to him to commute the whole of his pension.

(f) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The answer to the second part is that the question cannot be considered until a decision has been reached on the proposal, now under examination, to substitute a provident fund for the existing pension system in whole or in part.

PERMANENT LOCATION OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICES IN NEW DELHI.

93. **Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** (a) Is it a fact that Government have recently had under consideration the question of locating some of the offices in the new Secretariat buildings in New Delhi?

(b) If so, what decision has been arrived at in the matter and which of the several Departments of the Government of India and their attached offices are to remain in Delhi for the ensuing summer?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar: (a) Yes.

(b) I lay on the table a list of the offices which are or will be located in New Delhi throughout the year:

I—Offices which are at present located in New Delhi throughout the year:

- (1) Office of the Controller of Printing, Stationery and Stamps.
- (2) Central Printing Office (major portion).
- (3) Office of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs (major portion).
- (4) Office of the Auditor General.
- (5) Office of the Controller of Civil Accounts.
- (6) Office of the Director of Commercial Audit.
- (7) Offices of the Accountant General and Deputy Accountant General, Posts and Telegraphs.
- (8) Office of the Deputy Controller of Currency (Northern India).
- (9) Office of the Accountant General, Central Revenues.
- (10) Offices of the Pay and Accounts Officers, Secretariat, Delhi Civil Administration and Public Works Department.
- (11) Office of the Keeper of Records of the Government of India (part).
- (12) Office of the Curator, Indian War Memorial.

II—Offices which will in future be located in New Delhi throughout the year:

- (1) Office of the Accountant General, Railways.
- (2) Office of the Officer on Special Duty, Finance Department.
- (3) A part of the establishment of the Director General, Indian Medical Service.

RENTS FOR QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

94. **Mr. N. C. Kelkar:** (a) Is it a fact that revised percentages of rent for Government bungalows have recently been sanctioned under the Fundamental Rules, restricting the charge to 5 or 6 per cent. of salary? Is it a fact that the rents chargeable for Quarters in New Delhi and elsewhere are still being assessed at the old rate of 10 per cent. on capital cost of building alone excluding furniture?

(b) Is it a fact that the lower rate has been sanctioned with retrospective effect from 1925 or earlier? If so, when do Government propose to issue instructions to the New Delhi Public Works Department to conform to

the new rates of assessment of rent and refund overdrawals to the respective tenants?

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

(b) Such revisions of rents as is necessary on account of the revision of the rent rules is being worked out by the Public Works Department and refunds if any will be made as soon as possible.

FRAUDS IN THE GANJAM POSTAL DIVISION, ETC.

95. Mr. V. V. Jogiah: Will the Government be pleased to furnish the following information in respect of the Ganjam Division after it was opened in October, 1925?

- (i) How many frauds occurred?
- (ii) How many times Postal Inspectors went on leave on medical grounds and for what periods?
- (iii) How many post offices were opened during the official years 1926-27 and 1927-28 up till now?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (i) 32.

(ii) On three occasions, viz., 13 days, 1 month and 8 months respectively.

(iii) 19 in 1926-27 and 6 in 1927-28 up to 26th January 1928.

APPOINTMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATING INSPECTOR IN THE GANJAM POSTAL DIVISION.

96. Mr. V. V. Jogiah: (a) Is it a fact that the Postal Superintendent, Ganjam Division, submitted proposals to the Postmaster-General, Madras, for an additional Investigating Inspector early in 1925 and for an additional Sub-Divisional Inspector in November, 1926? If so, will the Government be pleased to explain why the matter has not yet been settled?

(b) What are the principles on which additional Inspectors are sanctioned? Are not other items of work and points besides pure inspection work taken into consideration?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) The Postal Superintendent, Ganjam Division, submitted his proposals to Postmaster-General, Madras, in February, 1926. The proposals were carefully considered and final orders were passed in the same year. No additional Inspector is at present justified for the Ganjam Division.

(b) Additional Inspectors are sanctioned for a Division when the total work to be done by the Inspector justifies such additional staff. Other items of work besides pure inspection work are taken into consideration.

PAY OF GRADUATES IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

97. Mr. V. V. Jogiah: Will the Government be pleased to state if they have arrived at a decision on my unstarred question No. 100, dated the 6th September, 1927, regarding the refixation of pay of graduates already in service in the Department on the date of introduction of the new scales of pay sanctioned from the 1st March, 1927?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The matter is still under consideration.

PROMOTION TO THE LOWER SELECTION GRADE OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF POSTAL OFFICIALS.

'98. **Mr. V. V. Jogiah:** Is it a fact that promotion to the lower selection grade of Rs. 160—250, viz., of Postal Inspectors, Superintendents' head clerks, Head and selection grade sub-postmasters, etc., has been ordered to be made subject to passing an examination, candidates to which are selected in the order of strict seniority in each Circle?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: The fact is not altogether as stated. Under rule 14 of the Detailed Rules relating to this examination it is prescribed that promotion to the selection grade will

- (1) be made only from the officials who have passed the examination. Heads of Circles in making promotions will take into consideration (2) the seniority of the candidate and (3) any other conditions that may appear to them to be relevant.

EXAMINATION FOR OFFICIALS OF THE CLERICAL GRADE OF THE POST OFFICE.

'99. **Mr. V. V. Jogiah:** Is it a fact that officials of the clerical cadre of the Post Office entertained after 1st July 1926, are required to pass an examination both oral and written, before drawing their first increment and before they are confirmed in the Department and that in the event of their failure to succeed in the examination, they are ousted from service?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Yes.

EXAMINATION FOR OFFICIALS OF THE CLERICAL GRADE OF THE POST OFFICE.

100. **Mr. V. V. Jogiah:** Is it a fact that in his Circular No. 9, dated the 16th August, 1927 the Postmaster-General, Madras, communicated the decision of the Director-General arrived at by him in June, 1927, that certain chapters only of the P. O. Manual, Vol. I would be set for the first increment examination? Is it a fact that in his G. O. No. 10, dated the 1st September 1927, the Director-General extended the course to the whole of the P. O. Manual, Vol. I? Is it a fact that the *latter decision* was not communicated to the post office officials in any subsequent circular by the Postmaster-General, but that the examination conducted was based on the *latter decision* in October, 1927, in the Madras Circle, giving only a few days' notice? As the orders were given retrospective effect, i.e., to all officials entertained after 1st July 1926, and as the notice given was too short, are Government prepared to order that the examination held in October, 1927, should not be reckoned in the case of failed candidates and that another chance should be given in its place?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: Yes. The examination was held in two Divisions only.

As all the failed candidates get a second chance of appearing in the examination, Government do not propose to issue any orders as suggested by the Honourable Member.

STRENGTH OF THE STAFF IN POSTAL SUPERINTENDENTS' OFFICES.

101. **Mr. V. V. Jogiah:** Have the Government arrived at any decision regarding the standard to be fixed for determining the strength of the staff required in Postal Superintendents' offices? If no decision has been arrived at, do Government intend to sanction the additional staff temporarily for offices where there is heavy work and for which proposals were already submitted by Superintendents?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: With reference to the first part of the question, the Director-General has not been able to find a satisfactory formula for determining the strength of the staff required in Postal Superintendents' offices.

As regards the latter part of the question Heads of Circles have been instructed to decide each case on its merits.

SIGNALLING APPOINTMENTS IN THE GANJAM DIVISION OF THE MADRAS CIRCLE.

102. **Mr. V. V. Jogiah:** (a) Will the Government be pleased to furnish the following information in respect of the Ganjam Division of the Madras Circle?

(i) The number of signalling appointments in the Division, i.e., that required for manning the telegraph work of the Division including leave reserve,

(ii) The number of actual active signallers working in the Division,

(iii) The number of combined hands short of the requirements.

(b) Are the Government aware of the fact that owing to the paucity of combined hands in the Ganjam Division

(i) Senior combined hands are subjected to frequent deputations and transfers,

(ii) Combined hands are generally not able to get leave or prompt relief,

(iii) Much expenditure is being incurred by the Government for travelling allowance for making relief arrangements from distant places,

(iv) Important offices are working without signallers, and

(v) That only very few officials are being sent up to the Telegraph training centre?

(c) Do Government propose to take any steps in the matter?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) (i) The number of signalling appointments in the Ganjam Division is 35 and the leave reserve justified for this number is 6.

(ii) The number of actual active signallers working in the Division is 35.

(iii) There is no shortage. There are 42 officials qualified in telegraphy available in the Division for signalling work.

(b) The Postmaster-General is enquiring into the allegations.

(c) In view of the reply to part (a) this part of the question does not arise.

INSPECTION OF SUB POST OFFICES.

103. **Mr. V. V. Jogiah:** Will the Government be pleased to state in how many days a postal supervising officer (Superintendent or Inspector) is expected to inspect a sub-office? Is any difference made varying with the status of the office, i.e., first, second and third class offices? Is separate time allotted for the inspection of the telegraph branch of a combined office? If so, how much?

Mr. H. A. Sams: Sub-offices are inspected twice a year. The time allotted for the first (or detailed) inspection is *on an average* 2 days and that for the second, which is of a general nature, 1 day.

Sub-offices are not divided into classes. The time required for the inspection of a sub-office depends on the size of the office.

The telegraph branch of a combined office is inspected at the same visit as the postal branch. No separate time is allotted for the inspection of the telegraph branch.

TIME ALLOWED TO POSTAL SUPERINTENDENTS FOR THE INSPECTION OF HEAD OFFICES.

104. **Mr. V. V. Jogiah:** Is it not a fact that Post and Telegraph Audit Offices send Assistant Accounts Officers, assisted by two or three clerks to inspect the accounts branch alone of a head office but that a Postal Superintendent has to inspect all the branches including the accounts branch of a Head office within four days, single-handed and without any assistance whatever?

Mr. H. A. Sams: The fact is generally as stated by the Honourable Member in the first part of his question except that a Superintendent is not limited to four days for the inspection of a head office. Usually he takes six days and he can take longer.

I would explain that the Audit inspections are intensive. The staff employed only allows each office to be so inspected once in several years. A Postal Superintendent on the other hand inspects an office twice a year.

TOURS OF POSTAL INSPECTORS, ETC.

105. **Mr. V. V. Jogiah:** How many days in each month are Postal Inspectors expected to be on tour? Are they permitted to halt for a reasonable number of days at headquarters in each month? If so, what is the least number of days?

Mr. H. A. Sams: There are no hard and fast rules. No minimum period per month is fixed for the halt of Inspectors of Post Offices at their headquarters. Their halts depend on the amount of work to be done at their headquarters and on the progress of their inspections.

DOUBLING OF UNSAFE RUNNERS' LINES IN THE GANJAM POSTAL DIVISION.

106. Mr. V. V. Jogiah: Are the Government aware of the fact that in the Ganjam Division of the Madras Circle, there are several runners' lines which pass through thick forests infested with wild beasts? How many of their staffs has been doubled in accordance with the Director-General's instructions? What are the principles on which the staff of such runners' lines is doubled? Is the doubling to be sanctioned only when there are man-eaters roaming on the line and many people are killed and when there are statistics of income, etc., to justify this? Is it not the intention that the staff of such runners' lines declared unsafe will be doubled in the interests of the safety of the runners' lives and Government property?

Mr. H. A. Sams: The Postmaster-General, Madras, reports that there are five such runners' lines. Of these the staff of three lines has been doubled over the unsafe portions and the case of the remaining two is under consideration. With reference to the last three sentences of the question, a copy of the instructions on the subject is laid on the table.

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, TO ALL POSTMASTERS-GENERAL,
THE DEPUTY POSTMASTER-GENERAL, SIND AND BALUCHISTAN, No. 265-B. I.
DELHI, THE 11TH JANUARY, 1926. Col. No. 2, DATED

SUBJECT:—*Means of providing safety to postal runners.*

With reference to the correspondence ending with your reply to this office letter No. 265-BI, dated the 11th September, 1926, I am directed to say that, in order to provide as far as possible for the safety of runners, the Director-General has decided upon the adoption of the following measures and to request that they may be given effect to forthwith:

- (i) Night running should be prohibited where there is any danger from man or beast. In some places night running may not be in the least dangerous. Superintendents of post offices should be instructed to decide and pass orders in each case.
- (ii) In specially dangerous places a single runner, even in the day time, should be replaced by a pair of runners.

EXTENSION OF THE CONCESSION OF WARM CLOTHING OR BLANKETS TO CERTAIN CLASSES OF POSTAL OFFICIALS IN THE GANJAM DIVISION, ETC.

107. Mr. V. V. Jogiah: (a) Is it a fact that the following classes of postal officials employed in the agency tracts of the Ganjam Division are not provided with the requisites noted against each?

Delivery agents and mail overseers.—Warm clothing for protection against the unbearable cold of winter and weapons of defence.

Runners.—Woollen blankets for protection against cold.

Postmasters.—Mosquito proof bed rooms for quarters for protection against Malaria and Black water fevers.

(b) Are Government prepared to take early action for providing the above to the officials concerned?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) *Delivery agents, mail overseers and runners.*—Some officials in the hilly parts of the Agency Tracts have already been supplied with warm clothing or blankets. The question of extension of the concession of warm clothing or blankets to other officials in the area is under the consideration of the Postmaster-General. Weapons of defence have been supplied to the officials requiring them.

Postmasters.—The question of providing mosquito-proof bedrooms for certain postmasters is under the consideration of the Postmaster-General.

(b) Action has already been taken.

MESSAGES FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY.

GENERAL BUDGET.

Mr. President: I have received the following two Messages from His Excellency the Viceroy:

(The Messages were received by the Assembly standing.)

(1) *"For the purposes of sub-section (1) of section 67A of the Government of India Act and in pursuance of Rules 43, 46 and 47 of the Indian Legislative Rules and of Standing Order 70 of the Council of State Standing Orders, I, Edward Frederick Lindley, Baron Irwin, hereby appoint the following days for the presentation to the Council of State and to the Legislative Assembly of the statement of the estimated annual expenditure and revenue of the Governor General in Council in respect of subjects other than Railways and for the subsequent stages in respect thereof in the Council of State and in the Legislative Assembly, namely:*

Wednesday, February 29th at 5 p.m. . .	Presentation in both Chambers.
Wednesday, March 7th . . .	} General discussion in the Legislative Assembly.
Thursday, March 8th . . .	
Friday, March 9th . . .	General discussion in the Council of State.
Saturday, March 10th . . .	} Voting of demands for grants in the Legislative Assembly.
Monday, March 12th . . .	
Tuesday, March 13th . . .	
Wednesday, March 14th . . .	
Thursday, March 15th . . .	

New Delhi;

The 10th February, 1928.

(Sd.) IRWIN,

Viceroy and Governor General."

(2) *"In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (3) of section 67A of the Government of India Act, I hereby direct that the heads of expenditure specified in that sub-section shall be open to discussion by the Legislative Assembly when the Budget is under consideration.*

(Sd.) IRWIN,
Governor General."

THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. G. M. Young (Army Secretary): Sir, I beg to move that the Bill further to amend the Indian Territorial Force Act, 1920, for certain purposes, as passed by the Council of State, be taken into consideration.....

Sir Hari Singh Gour (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhamadan): May I rise to a point of order? Yesterday the Hindu Family Transactions Bill was under discussion and for want of a quorum the debate was adjourned. I submit that in the ordinary course that debate must be resumed to-day, and if for any reason it is not resumed to-day, I should like to know when it is likely to come up.

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member state the Standing Order on which he relies?

Sir Hari Singh Gour: I find, Sir, the practice of the House has always been that when a debate on a Bill is adjourned, it is carried over to the next day fixed for Bills, and to-day is a day fixed for Bills.

Mr. President: There is no such practice that I know of.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Might I then inquire, Sir, when the Government propose to resume the discussion of that Bill?

The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett (Leader of the House): I am not in a position at the moment to say what the business for next week will be. We shall give ample notice in due course.

Colonel J. D. Crawford (Bengal: European): On a point of order, Sir, might I inquire from you as to what is the procedure regarding a count in the House? Previously, when your predecessor was in the Chair, the bell used to be rung for a certain number of minutes to give Members who may be in the lobby time to get into the House before the actual count is made.

Mr. President: There is no Standing Order which requires the Chair to have the bell rung. If those who are interested in promoting a particular legislation or any other measure do not take care to see that the quorum is present they must be prepared to take the consequences.

Mr. G. M. Young: This Bill, Sir, contains such amendments to the Indian Territorial Force Act as are necessitated or rendered desirable by the acceptance of the proposals of the Auxiliary and Territorial Force Committee. There is not much legislation involved by those proposals; and there is little in this Bill that requires elaborate explanation. The Bill takes power to constitute urban units, or groups of units, as recommended by the Committee. It aims at assimilating, as much as possible, the provisions of the Auxiliary Force Act to those of the Indian Territorial Force Act, especially as regards urban units, in conformity with the general recommendation, in paragraph 21 of the Auxiliary and Territorial Force Committee's Report for the removal of racial distinctions. It embodies also certain minor recommendations of the Committee; and in addition, the opportunity has been taken to clarify, and supplement where necessary, some of the existing provisions of the Act.

To take the clauses in turn—

Clause 2, which deals with definitions, makes certain verbal changes, but contains no alterations of substance.

Clause 3 provides specifically for the creation of urban units

[Mr. G. M. Young.]

Clause 4 gives effect to recommendation No. 7 on pages 38 and 39 of the Committee's Report in regard to the forms of commission for officers.

Clause 5 carries out a minor recommendation of the Committee in regard to enrolment in University Training Corps.

Clause 6 consists of consequential amendments dealing with urban corps.

Clause 7, as explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, applies to the Indian Territorial Force certain provisions already existing in the Auxiliary Force Act and relating to change of residence.

Clause 8 is a verbal alteration.

Clause 9 restricts the liability of urban units for military service. This restriction, as Honourable Members are aware, is not in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee, who proposed that both the Auxiliary Force and urban units of the Indian Territorial Force should be liable for general military service. The Government of India, after consultation with the Local Governments, reached the conclusion that there were grave objections to imposing this liability on either of the two Forces concerned. They therefore decided not to accept the Committee's recommendation in this respect, but to leave the liability of the Auxiliary Force as it stands, and to impose the same liability only upon the urban units of the Territorial Force. The chief aim of the Committee undoubtedly was to confer as far as possible identical privileges and liabilities upon the Auxiliary Force and upon urban units of the Territorial Force. The decision of the Government of India, therefore, though different from the Committee's proposal, is in accordance with its spirit: and I may add that it has not been criticised in any quarter.

Clause 10 revises the provisions of the existing Act relating to discipline, and is dealt with fully in the Notes on Clauses.

Clause 11 provides for summary procedure in petty cases of discipline, and also allows the imposition of fines up to a limit of Rs. 50. This clause also has its counterparts in the existing provisions of the Auxiliary Force Act, and in the Auxiliary Force (Amendment) Bill which the House is about to consider.

Clause 12 contains all that is necessary from the legislative standpoint to carry out the recommendations of the Committee for the expansion and improvement of the advisory committees. The main change is that instead of having one advisory committee of three members in each province, there is now to be a provincial advisory committee of five members in each province, and unit advisory committees of five members for each unit. The composition of the advisory committees will follow the recommendations of the Auxiliary and Territorial Force Committee, and will be laid down in the statutory rules.

Clause 13 embodies a formal amendment only.

That, Sir, is the whole scope of this Bill. Government have very carefully compared the provisions of the existing Act with the detailed recommendations of the Committee, and believe that they have incorporated in this Bill all the legislative changes that are involved. I observe that Honourable Members have put down a few minor amendments to the Bill, and two for reference of the Bill to a Select Committee. Judging from the nature of the amendments I am doubtful whether any very useful pur-

pose would be served by reference to a Select Committee. I may say at once that Government are prepared to accept one or two of these amendments in substance, and as regards the rest, I think they could be settled easily after a brief discussion here. If, however, the amendment for reference to a Select Committee is moved, and the general feeling in the House is in favour of it, Government will not oppose it.

Sir, I move.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That the bill be referred to a Select Committee."

I must thank the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill for the conciliatory speech which he has just made with reference to this particular motion, and I propose to emulate him with regard to the brevity of his speech. I remember to have been present in the Visitors' Gallery of the old Imperial Legislative Council when the Territorial Force Bill came to be passed in the autumn of 1920. I did not at that time think that I would have the privilege as a Member of the Legislature to consider a Bill to amend that particular measure. I recollect quite vividly the hopes and fears which our leaders who were then in the Imperial Legislative Council entertained with regard to this measure. They were aware of its many imperfections, but at the same time they welcomed it as a beginning of the foundation for a national militia in the country. After about 4½ years an ex-colleague of ours, whose absence here to-day I greatly deplore, Mr. Venkatapati Raju, moved a Resolution in the Legislative Assembly asking for an examination of the whole position in the light of experience which was not happy. That Resolution was passed in February 1924, and in pursuance of that Resolution Government appointed a Committee, known as the Shea Committee, who have made unanimous recommendations on certain important points. That report was published in January 1925. The Government of India took about a year and a half to make up their mind as to what to do on that report, and they sent their final despatch to the Secretary of State in June 1926. It took the Secretary of State a year and a half again to make up his mind as to whether to agree to the proposals made by the Government of India, and eventually this Bill was introduced in the Council of State only on the 1st of February last. Having regard to the length of time that Government themselves have taken in considering this matter, I do think that they would not consider the motion which I have the honour to move to be in any way unreasonable. So far as the other House is concerned, having regard to the calm atmosphere which generally prevails there and to which an appreciative reference was made by the Honourable the Home Member yesterday, it was not very difficult for them to dispose of the Bill within a few days of its introduction, and that also without much discussion. But, Sir, we generally take a little more time to understand these intricate questions of legislation than the House of Elders.

The Honourable Member in charge has made reference to the various provisions of the Bill. So far as the Bill goes, it seeks to give effect to certain recommendations of the Shea Committee, but it must be remembered that at least one very important recommendation, a unanimous recommendation at that, of that Committee has not been given effect to; and that is with regard to the liability the Auxiliary Forces have at present of service, and which liability is confined only to local areas. That was

[Mr. K. C. Neogy.]

one of the principal points which was debated in 1924 in this House in connection with that Resolution, and it is a point on which that representative Committee which the Government themselves had appointed have made a unanimous recommendation. I find that it is not the intention of Government to give effect to that recommendation. Of course, I have gone through the Government of India despatch and the opinions of the various Provincial Governments on this point; but upon such an important matter we cannot be expected to have a useful discussion here, without first of all examining the various intricate technical points that may arise in the consideration of that matter, in the less formal atmosphere of a Select Committee. It is not my intention to press an amendment on that point in the open House, because I am anxious to know the various difficulties which stand in the way of Government giving effect to that recommendation.

Sir, this is the main consideration that prompted me to give notice of this amendment. There are other proposals also which have to be very carefully considered. Then again, as the Honourable Member has pointed out, this Bill seeks to give effect to that part of the report of the Committee which requires legislative effect to be given. There are other matters which have got to be covered either by the rule-making power under the Act or by the framing of the necessary regulations. Those are matters which to my mind are quite as important as the legislative provisions themselves. But we cannot have a discussion in this House with regard to those matters that do not appertain strictly to the legislative part of the recommendations. If we were to have a Select Committee it would perhaps enable us to know a little more about the intention of Government with regard to those other details which could not be discussed on the floor of this House, and so far as I am concerned, I would not be prepared to consider this particular measure without understanding the exact position with regard to the entire report. Sir, for all these various reasons I submit that this House should agree to the motion which I have moved.

Dr. B. S. Moonje (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support the motion of my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy. There are several points which require elucidation, but I am looking at the whole thing from one particular point of view. The object with which the Shea Committee was appointed was mainly to consider the removal of racial distinctions between the Territorial Force and the Auxiliary Force. I find that the amending Bill has left that point untouched, and it is from that point of view I am supporting the motion that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. I want to know what could have been the motive, what could have been the object of Government in this amending Bill not to touch that particular point, when that particular point, that is, the removal of racial distinctions, had been accepted by this Assembly with the consent of Members on this side as well as the other side and given effect to in the terms of reference to the Committee. It is, therefore, that I want to know what could have been the object and motive of Government in not touching that very particular matter for which mainly the Shea Committee was appointed. It is a very important point because the whole object of constituting Auxiliary and Territorial Forces will be defeated if that point is not touched. The difference lies in this that persons enrolled under the Auxiliary Forces Act are not required to serve

beyond the limits of India, whereas those enrolled under the Territorial Forces Act are also required to serve beyond the frontiers of India.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney (Nominated: Anglo-Indians): Not the urban units.

Dr. B. S. Moonje: If you will see the Bill, it requires the provincial as well as the urban units. Whether it is urban or provincial, I want to know if it is or if it is not a fact that racial distinction is involved in making it compulsory on one portion of the Territorial Force to serve beyond the frontiers of India and not making it compulsory in the case of the Auxiliary Force. It is for this reason that I want to support the motion of my Honourable friend, Mr. Neogy.

Mr. K. C. Roy (Bengal: Nominated Non-official): While I am very anxious that the Bill should receive the earnest consideration of this House I feel that I cannot support the motion for reference to a Select Committee. No useful purpose will I think be served by reference to a Select Committee. The Bill has been before the House and the Committee's report has been before the country for a long time and very little notice has been taken of either of the documents. This is what His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief told the Council of State:

"The Committee's report was published in January 1925 and the final decisions of His Majesty's Government and of the Government of India were published in a resolution in August last at the beginning of the Simla Session. Government have not received any criticism of the Committee's recommendations or of the decisions taken upon them, from any quarter of the Legislature."

That is the position, Sir. I think there is also considerable risk in referring this Bill to a Select Committee. The Bill is mainly a technical measure and if we in the Select Committee go into the principle of the Territorial Force and put in new clauses, it will not only have to go back to the Council of State but will also have to go to the Secretary of State who is ultimately responsible for the defence of India. I therefore deprecate going into the question of policy and seeking more information which Mr. Neogy wishes to undertake. I have been lately a member of a Select Committee and I know what people want in the Select Committee. I deprecate any attempt to delay the passage of this measure. The measure is a welcome measure. Please do not take any risk and do not allow this Bill to share the same fate as the Reserve Bank of India Bill. While I oppose the motion, I feel that the sense of the House may be in favour of a Select Committee. I will therefore ask your indulgence to refer to certain underlying principles of the Bill. I cannot help feeling, Sir, that this Bill, though welcome in many ways, falls really short of our expectations.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Have you given any notice of amendments?

Mr. K. C. Roy: When the principle is involved, you cannot bring in amendments. Now, Sir, I find that the Bill will only increase our Territorial Force by about 204 men. This is a very small increase. There is no programme or policy behind this Bill. I shall read for the information of the House an extract from the despatch of the Government of India to His Majesty's Secretary of State. It runs as follows:

"Neither the Government of India nor His Majesty's Government are asked to commit themselves to a large, indefinite and unconditional expansion of the Territorial Force."

[Mr. K. C. Roy.]

Might I ask the Government of India to explain whether they have any scheme for this expansion at all and, if so, what is the underlying policy of that expansion? Then, Sir, there is a provision of only ten lakhs of rupees for the Territorial Force. In my humble judgment and in the judgment of this House, this amount is too small. The grant should not be treated as part of the military budget. There should be a separate budget for the Territorial Force which will be voted on by this Legislature and which will be fixed annually for that purpose. Then, Sir, an explanation may be given with regard to apprehended dangers that might attend any indiscriminate extension of the Territorial Force. May I ask what those dangers are? If it consists in the mistrust of the Indian people, I think, Sir, the sooner the Government of India dismiss from their minds any suspicion as to the fidelity of the Territorial Force, the better will it be for the country as well as for the Government. Lastly, Sir, there is the question of control. I feel very strongly on this question. So long as the Territorial Force is entirely under military control, it will never progress. Look at England. There the Territorial Force is under civil control and unless we have similar control in India, the Territorial Force will never progress as rapidly as we wish it to. The Territorial Force should be under the control of a civil authority with a number of military attached officers for purposes of organisation and inspection and it should be detached from the department of the Adjutant General. Then, and then alone, will the Territorial Force make any headway. With these words, Sir, I support the motion that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: I rise to support the motion that the Bill be taken into consideration and to oppose the amendment moved by my friend Mr. Neogy. As a member of Auxilliary and the Territorial Forces Committee I give my entire support to what Mr. Moonje has said regarding the eradication of racial distinctions between the two forces. It was the primary object of this Committee to remove them and it is rather discouraging to hear, after our labours and the unanimous report that was submitted, one of our Honourable Members remarking that racial distinction still exists. He bases this statement on the fact that the Auxiliary Force is not to be employed on military service outside the boundaries of India, while the Indian Territorial Force is to be so used. He also asks for the reason for this distinction. As far as I can gather, the reason is a very sound one and it is certainly not based on any racial considerations. It is a question of employment and the economic disturbance that would likely result because I believe the majority of the Auxiliary Force consist of railway battalions who are employed on public duties and who, if they were removed *en masse* overseas, would so dislocate the working of big Government departments as to render their employment impossible. I also believe that many commercial firms, who also supply many members of the Auxiliary Force, would find their businesses so upset that they could not possibly afford to allow their men to be sent on active service *ex India*. I believe, Sir, that is the one and only reason why this distinction has been made in the amending Bill.

My friend Mr. Neogy has pleaded that this Bill should be sent to a Select Committee. I think Mr. Neogy will agree with me that the fate of most of the Bills that are sent to Select Committees is not a happy one. Moreover in moving his amendment he laid great stress on the fact

that this Bill had already been delayed long enough. Surely he does not wish to add to this delay by sending the Bill to a Select Committee, in order, as he says, that the House may have an opportunity of obtaining an explanation of certain of the technical difficulties. I do not think any Select Committee of this House could really understand the technical military difficulties involved in this Bill and I personally think that no practical purpose will be served by sending the Bill to a Select Committee. As a member of that Committee, I feel that a great advance was made in India's Reserve Army when this Bill was passed, the credit for which is entirely due to the wonderful tact and ability displayed by the President of the Committee—I refer to General Sir John Shea. I do feel that this Bill would be best dealt with by taking it into consideration now and not by referring it to a Select Committee as has been proposed by my friend Mr. Neogy.

***Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru** (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, while the Army Secretary had no objection to the reference of the Bill to a Select Committee, my Honourable friends Mr. K. C. Roy and Colonel Gidney were, if I may say so, in the words of the old proverb *plus royaliste que le roi*, objecting to the reference. It is true that the recommendations of this Committee have been before the country for a long time but what we have to see is whether the Bill gives effect to the spirit of the recommendations made by the Shea Committee. One point was referred to by my Honourable friends Mr. Neogy and Dr. Moonje. They pointed out that the Indian Territorial Force and the Auxiliary Force had not been placed on the same basis. Replying to that, my friend Colonel Gidney said that the object of the Committee was to equalise the conditions of service as between the urban units of the Indian Territorial Force and the Auxiliary Force only. May I draw the attention of Colonel Gidney to the recommendation on page 37 that the Auxiliary Force should be given liabilities for service identical with those of the Indian Territorial Force.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: That is right.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: I am glad that Colonel Gidney accepts the accuracy of my statement.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: I did not deny that. I was only pointing out the reason for the difference.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: The reasons for differentiating between the Auxiliary Force and the Indian Territorial Force were not put forward by the Committee of which he was a member. Those reasons have been put forward by Local Governments and have been accepted by the Government of India. But so far as the Committee itself was concerned, they asked that the Indian Territorial Force and the Auxiliary Force should be placed on the same basis. Sir, the urban units of the Territorial Force have not been placed quite on the same footing as the Auxiliary Force with regard to the liability for military service. We know that the Auxiliary Force is liable for service only in a particular area; the urban unit, however, in accordance with the Bill before the House, will be liable for service throughout the province. The Army Secretary appears to demur to that statement.

Mr. G. M. Young: The area and the province may often be the same thing.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: It may be that in certain circumstances

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.]

the area and the province mean the same thing, but there may be other circumstances in which they do not mean the same thing, and I do not think that in this respect there ought to be any difference at all between the urban units of the Indian Territorial Force and the Auxiliary Force.

There is another condition to which I should like to refer which has not been referred to by any of the previous speakers. Under the Auxiliary Force Act men who are above the age of 16 can be enrolled. While they are under 18 they will not be liable to military service, but after the age of 18 they will be liable to it. Those between the ages of 18 and 31 belong to the active class and those beyond that age are placed in the reserve which again is divided into sections. Now, I could have understood, Sir, the need for having different provisions with regard to the Auxiliary and the Territorial Forces while there were no urban units in the Territorial Force. But there being urban units now, which would be of the same social standing as the units of the Auxiliary Force, and as their numbers in accordance with the scheme which Government have put forward are not likely to be large, I see no reason why a provision should not be made in the Bill for the periodical training of members of the urban units after the compulsory period of enrolment has been passed. This periodical training has been provided for in the case of the Auxiliary Force and it is only right that the members of the urban units who have received a military training should be provided every year with opportunities of keeping themselves up to the mark. This, Sir, is not merely a formal point. It is in my opinion a question of principle to which even my Honourable friends Mr. K. C. Roy and Colonel Gidney will, I hope, attach some importance.

The last question to which I shall refer is that relating to the disciplinary provisions of the Indian Territorial Force Act and the Auxiliary Force Act. I know that the provisions of the Indian Territorial Force Act are to be changed in this respect, but I confess, Sir, that I am not quite clear in my mind whether the members of the urban units of the Indian Territorial Force and members of the Auxiliary Force will be on the same basis hereafter in this respect. I have given notice, Sir, of a number of amendments because I was not sure of the attitude the Government would adopt. These amendments however are not very satisfactory from a drafting point of view and I can well understand my Honourable friend Mr. Graham making short work of them from the technical point of view. On all these grounds, Sir, I think it would be very desirable that the Bill should be referred to a Select Committee, and in view of the fact that Mr. Young is not opposed to it I take it that the motion will be accepted by the House.

As regards the practical effect of the measure now before the House I believe we shall have a sufficient opportunity of discussing it during the budget stage. Mr. Young will face us with the cheerful consciousness that whatever we may do here, his Department will go on irrespective of the vote of the Assembly. Nevertheless we shall have another opportunity of getting information from him with regard to the intention of the Government in regard to the practical steps to be taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee. The steps to be taken will be a matter of great importance. On them will depend the satisfaction of the House with the Report of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee. In spite of their importance I do not propose to deal with them at this stage because we shall soon have another and a better opportunity of discussing these and cognate matters.

Mr. G. M. Young: Sir, as I said just now, if the general sense of the House is in favour of reference to Select Committee I shall not oppose it. I have had some difficulty in gathering what the general sense is. As however certain Honourable Members do not altogether understand various clauses in this Bill, it seems to me that it would be simplest to refer it to a Select Committee and explain the clauses there. I therefore on behalf of Government accept the motion.

Mr. President: The original question was :

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Territorial Force Act, 1920, for certain purposes, as passed by the Council of State, be taken into consideration."

Since which the following amendment has been moved :

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee."

The question is that that amendment be made.

The motion was adopted.

THE AUXILIARY FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. G. M. Young (Army Secretary): Sir, I move that the Bill further to amend the Auxiliary Force Act, 1920, for certain purposes, as passed by the Council of State, be taken into consideration.

This Bill, like the Indian Territorial Force Bill, is designed to give whatever legal effect is necessary to the recommendations of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee. The decision of Government not to accept the recommendation of the Committee, that members of the Auxiliary Force should be liable for general service, has however reduced the need for amending the Auxiliary Force Act to a very few clauses. Clause 2 abolishes a now unnecessary provision about members of the defunct Indian Defence Force. Clause 3 brings the law relating to discharge in the Auxiliary Force into conformity with that in the Indian Territorial Force. Clause 4, as indicated in the notes on clauses, defines more clearly the position of officers and non-commissioned officers of the Auxiliary Force when acting with regulars. Clause 5 simplifies the procedure in cases of failure to attend when summoned, and corresponds to a clause in the Indian Territorial Force (Amendment) Bill which we have just been discussing. In view of the decision to refer the Indian Territorial Force Bill to a Select Committee, I may say that I should certainly accept a similar motion, which I see down on the paper, in respect of this Bill. It is very desirable that the provisions of the two Bills should be discussed together.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

I do not think, in view of the observations made by the Army Secretary, that a second speech is necessary from me in support of this motion.

***Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru** (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I will only add to what Mr. Neogy has said that, apart from the question of the liability of the Auxiliary Force for general service, another recommendation of the Auxiliary and Territorial Forces Committee has not

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.]

been given effect to. I refer to the recommendation of the Committee to exclude European non-British subjects from the Auxiliary Force. Surely, Sir, if law and order has to be maintained in India, it can be maintained sufficiently well by the people of this country and by the Britishers, and it is not necessary to call in the aid of members of other European races however friendly they might be.

Mr. President: Mr. K. C. Roy.

Mr. K. C. Roy (Bengal: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I have no observations to make.

Mr. President: The original question was :

"That the Bill further to amend the Auxiliary Force Act, 1920, for certain purposes, as passed by the Council of State, be taken into consideration."

Since which the following amendment has been moved :

"That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee."

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

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 16th February, 1928.
