

Tuesday, 1st April, 1930

THE  
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

VOLUME I, 1930

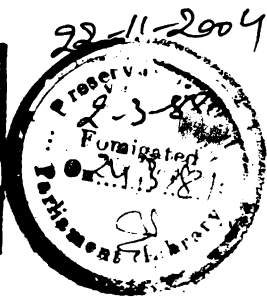
*(17th February to 3rd April, 1930.)*

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EIGHTH SESSION

OF THE

SECOND COUNCIL OF STATE, 1930



CALCUTTA: GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH  
1930

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# COUNCIL OF STATE.

*Tuesday, 1st April, 1930.*

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

## MEMBERS SWORN :

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain, K.C.I.E., Kt.  
(Member, Education, Health and Lands Department).

The Honourable Mr. James Macdonald Dunnett, C.I.E. (Home Department : Nominated Official).

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### INVESTIGATION OF FLOODS IN THE PROVINCES OF BIHAR AND ORISSA AND BENGAL.

116. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING : Will Government be pleased to refer to their reply to question No. 3 of the Honourable Mr. Kumar Sankar Ray Chaudhury on pages 2 and 3 of the Council of State Proceedings for September 16th, 1929, and to state :

- (a) what was the result of the deputation of the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India to the Provinces of Bihar and Orissa and Bengal for the investigation of floods ;
- (b) what measures, if any, have been taken on the suggestions made by the Consulting Engineer ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY : The deputation of the Consulting Engineer was for the purpose of serving on an expert Committee in Bihar and Orissa. The Committee submitted its report in August 1928, and it is for the Local Government to decide what action should be taken on the report. The Consulting Engineer has also been serving on a Committee which was set up by the Government of Bengal in January last to examine and report on the organisation of the Irrigation Department in Bengal. The Government of India have received no information as yet that the Committee has submitted its report.

### BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY TRAIN SERVICES BETWEEN BHAPTIAHI AND BHAGALPORE GHAT.

117. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING : (a) Are most of the Bengal and North-Western Railway train services between Bhaptiahi and Bhagalpore Ghat made to halt at Monsi and Thana Bihpore railway stations from one to two hours with the result that they arrive at Bhagalpore half an hour or thereabouts after the departure of the East Indian Railway trains (Up and Down) especially Nos. 42 Down and 44 Down for Howrah ?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, are Government prepared to issue necessary instructions to the Bengal and North-Western Railway

authorities either to discontinue the halt or to accelerate the train services of the Bengal and North-Western Railway on the section referred to above in order to maintain connection with the East Indian Railway trains at Bhagalpore, both Up and Down ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD : (a) and (b). I am afraid that Government cannot take part in the preparation of time-tables, but a copy of this question and answer will be sent to the Agent of the Bengal and North-Western Railway.

SUPPLY OF PURE DRINKING WATER ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY TRAIN SERVICE BETWEEN BHAPTIAHI AND MAHADEVAPUR GHAT.

118. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING : (a) Is there a satisfactory arrangement for the supply of pure drinking water on the Bengal and North-Western Railway train service between Bhaptiahi and Mahadevapur Ghat ?

(b) Does cholera break out in epidemic form year after year in villages served by the aforesaid train services or those near about them ?

(c) Are Government prepared in the interest of public health and safety to issue necessary instructions to the Bengal and North-Western Railway authorities to effect an improvement on the aforesaid section of their Railway in the matter of the supply of pure drinking water to the travelling public ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD : (a) The Agent of the Bengal and North-Western Railway has reported that drinking water is not carried on trains on that Railway as it has been found that the supply of drinking water to passengers can be arranged more satisfactorily by watermen posted at selected stations.

(b) I understand that the districts of Bhagalpur and Monghyr, which are served by the trains between Bhaptiahi and Mahadevapur Ghat, are liable to be severely affected by cholera.

(c) I will have enquiries made from the Agent, Bengal and North-Western Railway, as to the source and quality of the drinking water supplied to passengers at stations between Bhaptiahi and Mahadevapur Ghat and will communicate with the Honourable Member later.

QUANTITY OF SILVER PRODUCED IN INDIA.

119. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (i) the total output of silver produced in 1928-29 in each mine in India, including Burma ;
- (ii) whether the proposed duty of 4 annas per ounce on silver, if passed by the Indian Legislature, will be leviable on the output from the above mines which is consumed in India, including Burma ;
- (iii) how many of these mines are let to Indian firms and how many to European firms ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR MCWATTERS : (i) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to page 329 of the article on the Mineral Production of India, 1928, published in the Records of the Geological Survey

of India, 1929 (Vol. LXII, Part 3), which shows that the quantity of silver produced in India during the year 1928 was as follows :

	ozs.
(1) Bawdwin Mine, Northern Shan States, Burma . . . . .	7,404,728
(2) Kolar Gold Mines, Mysore . . . . .	21,082

In previous years there was a small production at Anantapur in Madras, though there was none in 1928.

(ii) The duty will be leviable on silver produced in British India, which includes the Northern Shan States but excludes Mysore, and not exported to foreign countries. No distinction therefore will be drawn between consumers in Burma and in other parts of British India.

(iii) The Bawdwin Mine is worked by the Burma Corporation, Ltd., which is a company registered in India with rupee capital. Government have no information regarding the companies winning silver in the Mysore State.

STATION CONTRACT AT KIRKEE.

120. THE HONOURABLE MAJOR NAWAB MAHOMED AKBAR KHAN (on behalf of the Honourable Sir Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether they received any communication in December last from the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, for their sanction to enter into a Station Contract at Kirkee ?
- (b) what reply, if any, was given by them ?
- (c) whether they will place on the table copies of the communication and the reply ?
- (d) who was the Army contractor with whom the contract was recommended ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : (a) Yes.

(b) The proposal was not sanctioned.

(c) No.

(d) The name of the contractor does not affect the question in any way and I am not prepared to disclose it.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE OFFICERS' MESS OF THE 7TH HARIANA LANCERS.

121. THE HONOURABLE MAJOR NAWAB MAHOMED AKBAR KHAN (on behalf of the Honourable Sir Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer) : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the late 6th King Edward's Own Cavalry and the 7th Haryana Lancers were amalgamated in 1921 and named as the 18th King Edward's Own Cavalry ?
- (b) whether they will place the order for such amalgamation on the table ?
- (c) whether the Secretary of State has ruled that a claim against an Officers' Mess is not a lawful charge upon the public revenues ?
- (d) what provisions have been made by Government to pay compensation to the creditors of this mess in view of the fact that, owing to the order of amalgamation by Government, the Officers' Mess of the 7th Haryana Lancers no longer exists ?
- (e) whether they have refused to pay a decree of the Civil Court in their letter No. A. 42381/i (A. G. 13), Government of India, Army Department, dated 16th April, 1927 ?
- (f) their reasons for the refusal ?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) and (c). Yes.

(b) No. The orders contain a great deal of matter that is confidential.

(d) Government are not responsible for claims arising out of private accounts against regimental messes.

(e) Yes.

(f) Because the claims were in respect of articles supplied on private accounts and not for the public service.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE 2ND BATTALION, 96TH INFANTRY, DISBANDED IN 1922.

122. THE HONOURABLE MAJOR NAWAB MAHOMED AKBAR KHAN (on behalf of the Honourable Sir Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer): Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 2nd Battalion, 96th Infantry, was disbanded in 1922?

(b) what provision was made to save the public from loss in respect of their claims against the mess and other institutes of this regiment?

(c) whether any notice was issued to the public to recover their claims before action was taken as mentioned in (a)?

(d) if not, whether they refused to pay claims in their letter No. A. 42381/1 (A. G. 13), dated 16th April, 1927?

(e) if the answer to (d) is in the affirmative, their reasons therefor?

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) Yes.

(b), (d) and (e). The Honourable Member is referred to the answers I have just given to parts (d) to (f) of his previous question.

(c) I have no information on this point, but the usual practice is for the Officer Commanding to issue such a notice to the public.

INSTITUTIONS FOR THE EDUCATION OF INDIAN PRINCES AND RAJKUMARS.

123. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING: Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) the conditions laid down for admission into the Institutions mentioned in the reply to my question No. 93 on the 18th March, 1930;

(ii) the standard up to which each of these Institutions teaches;

(iii) the number of pupils in each of these Institutions, specifically noting the number which reached the highest standard taught in each of these colleges;

(iv) the average expenditure per head of student;

(v) if any one other than the sons of Ruling Princes can secure admission in any of these Institutions; if so, on what condition or guarantee;

(vi) the teaching staff in each of these colleges—Indians and non-Indians—with their respective salaries?

THE HONOURABLE SIR LANCELOT GRAHAM: The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.



**INCOME-TAX REVENUE AND CHARGES FOR ITS COLLECTION BEFORE AND AFTER THE TRANSFER OF THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT FROM PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, ETC.**

**124. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (i) the comparative figures showing the income-tax revenue, Province by Province, before the transfer of its administration from Provincial Governments to the Central Government and thereafter year by year ;
- (ii) the expenditure incurred in the administration of the Income-tax Department, Province by Province, prior to and after its transfer from the Provincial Governments to the Central Government ; and
- (iii) the system of recruitment of officers that was in force in the Department before its transfer to the Central Government and that in force now ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR McWATTERS :** (i) and (ii). A statement is laid on the table.

(iii) Before the work was transferred to the Central Government the work was done with few exceptions by the Revenue Departments of the Local Governments. In order to describe the systems of recruitment to those Departments, it would be necessary to obtain information from the various Local Governments and the Government do not think that the value of the information, when obtained, relating as it does to a state of affairs that existed some years ago, would be sufficient to justify the trouble involved in obtaining it. The present arrangement is that promotions to the grade of Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax are made on the advice of the Public Service Commission ; and that Income-tax Officers are appointed by Commissioners of Income-tax with the approval of the Local Government. The principles governing the recruitment of Income-tax Officers at present are as follows :

In selecting Income-tax Officers the object kept in view is to secure persons whose moral, educational, linguistic and physical qualifications and whose manners and general intelligence will enable them to command the confidence of the public and to discharge their duties satisfactorily. Every effort is made to secure the due representation of different communities and it was considered advisable in the early stages of organising the Department that it should contain a substantial proportion of persons with previous official experience and training. If a candidate is highly qualified in accountancy, that is regarded as an important consideration but, generally speaking, the Government rely on the training given to the officers after they come into the Department, when they are trained for one or two years in accountancy, income-tax law, and so forth. As far as possible, men selected from outside Government service are graduates with Honours and weight is attached to the possession in addition of a Degree in Commerce or Law or a Diploma in Accountancy, etc. Recruitment from other Departments of Government is now exceptional. The present policy is generally to fill the higher ranks in the Department by promotion from the ranks of accountants, etc. Clerks are not promoted to the ranks of accountants unless they possess all the qualifications that are required in the case of an outsider.

Statement showing the income-tax revenue and charges for its collection in the various provinces during the years 1921-22 to 1928-29.

Provinces.	1921-22.			1922-23.			1923-24.			1924-25.		
	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Per- cent- age.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Per- cent- age.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Per- cent- age.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Per- cent- age.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	
1. Madras . . .	1,77,72,998	4,40,836	2.48	1,32,22,921	4,77,082	3.61	1,70,71,299	15,78,081*	9.24	1,31,56,365	10,04,810	7.63
2. Bombay . . .	8,36,30,086	6,63,927	.79	7,88,53,144	8,46,593	1.07	5,34,35,749	15,84,185*	2.96	4,03,77,094	13,90,996	3.44
3. Bengal . . .	6,58,22,278	3,81,301	.58	3,25,25,767	5,21,739	1.60	6,03,19,439	6,59,683	1.09	5,54,73,933	8,22,972	1.48
4. United Provin- ces.	1,22,04,515	4,84,059	3.96	98,32,271	5,61,572	5.71	89,17,763	5,76,155	6.46	78,87,089	5,58,353	7.08
5. Punjab . . .	57,11,874	3,34,807	5.86	75,54,302	4,77,579	6.32	76,33,552	4,91,733	6.44	60,67,102	5,07,689	8.37
6. Burma . . .	1,50,74,902	1,75,808	1.16	1,55,08,033	2,19,494	1.41	1,48,22,749	4,87,248	3.29	1,78,33,454	6,08,889	3.41
7. Bihar & Orissa	40,86,270	1,04,359	2.55	58,82,328	2,20,719	3.75	47,36,686	2,33,977	4.94	41,46,926	2,56,420	6.18
8. Central Pro- vinces.	56,52,984	2,04,678	3.62	59,92,853	3,00,938	5.02	57,32,887	3,28,133	5.67	50,85,167	3,67,677	7.23
9. Assam . . .	8,35,879	7,103	.85	9,16,178	13,510	1.47	14,37,366	99,810	6.94	23,79,560	2,92,321	12.28

\*These figures include payments for two years to Local Governments for the income-tax work done by their revenue staff.

NOTE.—In most provinces the administration was transferred from the Local Government by stages between 1922 and 1928. In Assam, the income-tax assessment work up to 1928-29 was done wholly by the Local Government staff. The amount paid to Local Governments was generally 10 per cent. of net collections excluding tax on salaries and interest on securities.

Statement showing the income-tax revenue and charges for its collection in the various provinces during the years 1921-22 to 1928-29—contd.

Province.	1925-26.			1926-27.			1927-28.			1928-29.		
	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Per- cent- age.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Per- cent- age.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Per- cent- age.	Revenue.	Expendi- ture.	Per- cent- age.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	
1. Madras .	1,41,38,701	7,83,557	5.54	1,32,77,192	7,45,964	5.62	1,39,49,173	7,90,347	5.06	1,36,41,296	8,32,048	6.09
2. Bombay .	3,50,49,017	12,94,419	3.69	3,21,11,310	14,57,429	4.54	3,24,35,551	15,35,067	4.73	3,17,54,353	15,97,793	5.03
3. Bengal .	5,93,60,314	9,52,218	1.60	5,69,90,628	9,53,379	1.67	4,88,34,307	9,94,269	2.03	6,14,75,717	10,48,382	1.70
4. United Pro- vinces.	80,53,797	6,10,906	7.58	73,91,976	6,33,514	8.57	82,54,112	6,60,817	8.01	89,62,956	6,92,533	7.73
5. Punjab .	65,23,275	5,18,179	7.94	68,87,325	5,64,682	8.19	75,12,874	6,19,905	8.25	65,42,998	6,63,700	10.14
6. Burma .	1,86,39,974	6,80,004	3.64	2,07,65,074	7,79,839	3.76	2,15,21,790	8,97,154	4.17	1,97,52,017	8,66,945	4.39
7. Bihar & Orissa.	37,05,441	2,78,151	7.51	56,91,913	2,91,357	5.12	44,60,154	3,17,416	7.12	95,86,141	3,36,627	3.51
8. Central Pro- vinces.	36,14,187	3,72,267	9.76	38,75,705	3,43,244	8.86	29,47,896	3,56,446	12.09	35,16,110	3,71,380	10.56
9. Assam .	19,04,040	1,44,705	7.59	21,32,190	1,57,854	7.40	19,61,455	1,47,534	7.52	22,02,824	1,61,104	7.31

**ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY THE BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY FOR THE OUTLET OF WATER IN THE BHAPTIAHI-MANSI SECTION DURING THE FLOOD SEASON.**

**125. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (i) the arrangements which the Bengal and North-Western Railway has made for the outlet of water in the Bhaptiahi-Mansi section during the flood season ;
- (ii) whether the regular train service often gets dislocated during the rainy season in that section ;
- (iii) the reasons to which such dislocation of their service is due ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD :** The information is being obtained from the Railway administration and will be communicated to the Honourable Member on receipt.

**SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES.**

**126. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (i) the number of Superintendents of Post Offices employed in each Province and the number of Superintendents of Post Offices who have been promoted to the rank of Deputy Postmaster General, Postmaster General, Deputy Director General of Post Offices and Presidency Postmasters ?
- (ii) their time-scale pay ?
- (iii) the minimum qualifications laid down for the post of Superintendents of Post Offices ?
- (iv) the percentage of holders of this post in the various major and minor communities ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY :** (i) and (ii). I am sending to the Honourable Member a statement showing the numbers of Superintendents of Post Offices and the Railway Mail Service distributed by postal circles (which correspond approximately with the provinces) and of officers promoted from the rank of Superintendents to the higher posts mentioned by the Honourable Member, together with a statement showing the scales of pay.

(iii) Recruitment to the grade of Superintendents of Post Offices is made by promotion partly of probationary Superintendents of Post Offices and partly of qualified departmental subordinates after they pass the departmental test for the appointment of Superintendents. Probationary Superintendents are recruited direct from among the candidates who secure qualifying marks in the Indian Audit and Accounts Service Examination ; a good record of service and outstanding ability are the tests for selecting departmental subordinates.

(iv) The percentages are : Hindus 50, Muhammadans 17, Europeans and Anglo-Indians 22, Sikhs 3, Indian Christians 2, and other communities 6.

**METHOD OF RECRUITMENT OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES.**

**127. THE HONOURABLE MR. SURPUT SING:** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (i) if vacancies in the posts of Superintendents of Post Offices are filled up by—
  - (a) selection by the Postmaster General of each Province concerned with the approval of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs ; or
  - (b) an open competitive test in each Province ; or
  - (c) a combined procedure of competitive test and selection for India by the Public Service Commission ;
- (ii) if the vacancies are filled up in the manner stated in (a), will Government be pleased to state :
  - (1) what reasons there are for this system of recruitment in this Imperial branch of gazetted service, when the recruitment to most of the appointments in every other branch of the Imperial Service, both gazetted and non-gazetted, is made by competitive test ;
  - (2) if they have considered the advisability of transferring recruitment to this branch of the Imperial Service to the charge of the Public Service Commission ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. SHILLIDY :** (i) (a), (b) and (c). No. As I have already explained in answer to question No. 126, vacancies in the grade of Superintendents of Post Offices are filled partly by probationary Superintendents and partly by selected departmental subordinates, after passing a qualifying departmental test for the appointment of Superintendents. The recruitment of probationary Superintendents in any official year is confined to candidates who have obtained qualifying marks at the examination for admission to the Indian Audit and Accounts Service held by the Public Service Commission in the preceding year.

(ii) (1) and (2). Do not arise.

**CONCESSIONS IN THE MATTER OF LEAVE GRANTED TO RETRENCHED TEMPORARY MEN IN DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA WHO HAD BREAKS IN THEIR TEMPORARY SERVICE BEFORE RE-EMPLOYMENT.**

**128. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:**  
I. Will Government be pleased to state whether :

- (a) as a result of the late Incheape Committee, reduction in the establishments of different departments of the Government of India and its attached offices was effected and certain temporary men having long temporary service at their credit at the time were thrown out of employment and again provided for in Government of India offices by the Staff Selection Board after a short break in service ?
- (b) Government granted leave up to some period to those retrenched temporary men who had four years' temporary service or over at the time of retrenchment ?

II. Were these retrenchment concessions treated more or less as confidential and not given wide publicity ?

III. How do Government propose to deal with cases of such temporary men who had more than four years' continuous temporary service and three months' leave at their credit at the time of retrenchment but whose cases for retrenchment concessions were not considered by Departments and attached offices of the Government of India.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. M. DUNNETT : I. (a) Yes.

(b) Retrenched temporary employees who had put in four years' continuous temporary service or more were allowed to count that service for purposes of leave as if it had been permanent service.

II. Yes. The orders were intended for departmental guidance only as the matter was not of general public interest.

III. The question of leave has already been disposed of on the merits of each individual case, and Government do not propose to re-open the matter.

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#### MESSAGES FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL : Sir, the following two messages have been received from the Secretary of the Legislative Assembly, namely :

"In accordance with Rule 36 (1) of the Indian Legislative Rules I am directed to inform you that the amendments made by the Council of State in the Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, for certain purposes (amendment of sections 2, 23, etc.) and the Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, for certain purposes (amendment of sections 14, 25A, etc.), were taken into consideration by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 31st March, 1930, and that the Legislative Assembly has agreed to the amendments."

2. The second message runs as follows :—

"I am directed to inform you that the Legislative Assembly has, at its meeting held on the 31st March, 1930, agreed without any amendments to the following Bills which were passed by the Council of State at its meeting held on the 12th March, 1930, namely :

A Bill to amend the Transfer of Property (Amendment) Supplementary Act, 1929, for a certain purpose.

A Bill to amend the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914, for a certain purpose."

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#### BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LAID ON THE TABLE.

SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL : Sir, in accordance with rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules I lay on the table copies of the following Bills which were passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 31st March, 1930, namely :

A Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1894.

A Bill to provide for the imposition and collection of an excise duty on silver.

A Bill further to amend the Indian Companies Act, 1913, for certain purposes.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD** (Commerce Secretary) : Sir, I am giving notice of my intention to move that the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1894 [the Cotton Textile Industry (Protection) Bill, 1930], and the Bill further to amend the Indian Companies Act, 1913, for certain purposes, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration and passed. I am aware, Sir, that in accordance with rule 27 of the Indian Legislative Rules the day on which these motions can be set down on the list of business should, unless you, Sir, otherwise permit, be not less than three days from the receipt of these notices. It may, however, Sir, be convenient to Honourable Members if a rather earlier day be fixed and I would suggest, Sir, if you permit, that the Bills should be taken into consideration on Thursday, the 3rd of April.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR MCWATTERS** (Finance Secretary) : I am also giving notice of my intention to move that the Bill to impose and collect an excise duty on silver be taken into consideration and passed.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT** : As no Honourable Member has risen to say anything about the suggestion that has fallen from the Honourable Mr. Woodhead, I take it that it is the desire of the House to proceed with the two Bills which he has mentioned on Thursday next, and though Sir Arthur McWatters made no request for the shortening of the notice, I presume also that the House would like to proceed with the Bill dealing with the imposition and collection of an excise duty on silver on the same day. At the same time, I would remind the Government that as the notice has been shortened, I may have to override any objection that may be made to the moving of any amendment with short notice. Honourable Members may desire to move amendments to these Bills and the ordinary rule is that two days' notice should be given. I direct that the three motions shall be put down on the list of business for Thursday, the 3rd of April, to which day at eleven o'clock in the morning I now adjourn the Council.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 3rd April, 1930.