

Wednesday, 11th February, 1931

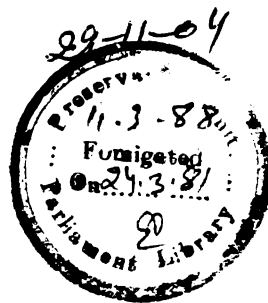
THE  
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

VOLUME I, 1931

*(10th February to 2nd April, 1931)*

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FIRST SESSION  
OF THE  
THIRD COUNCIL OF STATE, 1931



CALCUTTA : GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CENTRAL PUBLICATION BRANCH  
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# COUNCIL OF STATE.

Wednesday, 11th February, 1931.

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 Saiyed Mohamed Padshah Sahib Bahadur (Mairas : Muhammadan).

The Honourable Sardar Bahadur Shivdev Singh Uberoi (Punjab : Sikh).

The Honourable Sir John Perronet Thompson, K.C.I.E., C.S.I. (Delhi : Nominated Official).

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### THE DACCA-ARICHA RAILWAY.

1. THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :  
(a) Does considerable discontent exist in Eastern Bengal owing to the delay in the materialisation of the Dacca-Aricha Railway ?

(b) Was a committee known as the Station Site Committee formed in Dacca in this connection ?

(c) Was the work of the Station Site Committee suspended ?

(d) If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for such suspension ?

(e) Will Government state the time that is now taken by a journey from Dacca to Calcutta *via* Narayanganj ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to make a statement of the cost of a journey from Dacca to Calcutta *via* Narayanganj by different classes ?

(g) Are loss and delay caused to the public by the present travelling arrangements ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD : (a) Government are aware that a certain amount of disappointment exists in Eastern Bengal owing to active construction of the Dacca-Aricha Railway having not yet been begun.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). The Station Site Committee has not yet functioned and cannot do so until the Committee appointed by the Bengal Government to consider the question of waterways and headways has completed its investigation as the siting of stations depends upon the amount of headway necessary for certain rivers.

(e) 15 hours 20 minutes.

	Rs. a. p.
(f) 1st class . . . . .	35 15 9
2nd class . . . . .	21 11 9
Intermediate class . . . . .	8 10 3
3rd class . . . . .	5 6 3

(g) Government are aware that the Dacca-Aricha Railway would afford a quicker and cheaper route.

**FARES CHARGED BY INLAND STEAMER COMPANIES PLYING ON THE RIVERS GANGES AND BRAHMAPUTTRA.**

**2. THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :**

(a) Will Government be pleased to make a statement as to the rules on the basis of which fares are calculated by the inland steamer companies plying on the rivers Ganges and Brahmaputra ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement showing the present fares as well as the fares prevailing during the last five years ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD :** (a) An enquiry was made from the Joint Inland Steamer Companies with reference to the Honourable Member's question and they have replied as follows :

"The Inland Steamer Companies plying on the rivers Ganges and Brahmaputra follow, so far as suitable and practicable, the procedure observed by the railways in conjunction with whom they exchange traffic in through booking.

The Inland Steamer Companies charge in respect of third class passenger traffic on their steamer services up to a maximum of 4 pies per mile. The fares on the Ganges service are specially low to compensate passengers for the slow cargo-carrying service against the quicker direct rail routes available. The fares on both the Padma and Brahmaputra rivers are based on a scale of 4 pies per mile."

(b) A copy of a statement furnished by the Joint Inland Steamer Companies is laid on the table.

*Statement.*

Service.	Stations.		Miles.	Fares.		Remarks.
	Between	and		1931.	1926.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
Ganges service	Goalundo .	Rajshahi .	124	1 9 0	1 9 9	By slow cargo service steamers.
Ditto .	Do. .	Rajmahal	241	2 2 3	2 1 6	Ditto.
Ditto .	Do. .	Monghyr .	362	2 13 3	2 9 3	Ditto.
Ditto .	Do. .	Patna .	444	3 7 6	2 15 3	Ditto.



Service.	Stations.		Miles.	Fares.		Remarks.
	Between	and		1931.	1926.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Ganges service (Padma).	Goalundo	Tarpassa (Lohajung).	69	Rs. a. p. 1 7 0	Rs. a. p. 1 2 3	
Ditto .	Do. .	Naraingunge	104	2 2 9	1 15 3	
Ditto .	Do. .	Chandpur	95	1 15 9	1 13 3	
Ditto .	Naraingunge	Do. .	37	0 12 6	1 0 0	
Ditto .	Do. .	Sureswar .	35	0 11 9	0 14 0	
Ditto .	Do. .	Tarpassa (Lohajung).	35	0 11 9	0 14 6	
Ditto .	Do. .	Mowah .	41	0 13 9	0 15 3	
Ditto .	Do. .	Nandalalpur	50	1 0 9	1 1 0	
Ditto .	Do. .	Kadirpur .	53	1 1 9	1 0 3	
Ditto .	Do. .	Topakhola (Faridpur).	67	1 13 0	1 15 3	
Ditto .	Chandpur	Sureswar .	26	0 8 9	0 10 0	
Ditto .	Do. .	Tarpassa (Lohajung)	26	0 8 9	0 12 0	
Ditto .	Do. .	Mowah .	32	0 10 9	0 12 9	
Ditto .	Do. .	Nandalalpur	41	0 13 9	0 14 9	
Ditto .	Do. .	Kadirpur .	44	0 14 9	0 13 3	
Ditto .	Do. .	Topakhola (Faridpur).	78	1 10 0	1 13 3	
Brahmaputra	Goalundo .	Serajgunge	68	1 6 9	1 6 6	
Ditto .	Do. .	Dhubri .	214	4 7 6	4 1 6	
Ditto .	Do. .	Pandu .	348	7 4 0	6 11 3	
Ditto .	Do. .	Tezpur .	450	9 6 0	8 12 0	
Ditto .	Do. .	Dibrugarh	656	13 10 9	13 0 9	

TELEPHONE SERVICE IN DACCA.

3. THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :  
 (i) Will Government be pleased to make a statement of the number of subscribers to the Government telephone service in Dacca ?

(ii) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of subscription that each subscriber has to pay ?

(iii) Will Government be pleased to state whether the telephone service in Dacca is run on commercial lines ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE :** (i) The Government telephone system at Dacca consists of the exchanges at Dacca and Narayanganj with 161 and 75 connections, respectively ; there is a free junction service between the two exchanges.

(ii) The annual rate of rental for a connection within 3 miles from either of the two exchanges is Rs. 200, which is the standard rate for a system of this size.

(iii) Yes.

#### FUNCTIONS OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS OF INCOME-TAX AND OF INCOME TAX OFFICERS.

**4. THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :**  
(i) Will Government be pleased to state what are the functions of the Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax ?

(ii) Will Government be pleased to state what are the functions of the Income-tax Officers ?

(iii) Will Government be pleased to define the relationship between the Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax and the Income-tax Officers ?

(iv) Is the work of assessment of Income-tax by the Income-tax Officers supervised by the Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax ?

(v) Are appeals against the decisions of Income-tax Officers heard by the Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR McWATTERS :** (i) to (iii). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to paragraph 24 of the Instructions in the Income-tax Manual, where he will find the information he seeks. It is difficult to compress it within the limits of an answer to a question. If he does not possess a copy of the Income-tax Manual he will find one in the Library of this House.

(iv) Under the control of the Commissioner of Income-tax the Assistant Commissioners exercise general administrative supervision over the work of Income-tax Officers. They are not supposed, nor have they any power, to interfere in individual assessments, just as the Commissioner of Income-tax is not supposed, and has no power, to interfere in the Assistant Commissioner's appellate work.

(v) Yes.

#### RECEIPTS FROM THE JUTE TAX IN BENGAL, ETC.

**5. THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :**  
(i) Will Government be pleased to make a statement of the receipts from the jute tax in Bengal ?

(ii) Will Government be pleased to state how this money is generally disposed of ?

(iii) Do Government intend to advance money to the Government of Bengal for the distribution of loans on reasonable security among the Bengal cultivators ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FRANK NOYCE : (i) The amount realised from the export duty on jute during the last five years has been as follows :

	Rs.
1925-26 . . . . .	3,67,66,348
1926-27 . . . . .	3,94,55,232
1927-28 . . . . .	4,59,37,164
1928-29 . . . . .	4,21,43,294
1929-30 . . . . .	4,65,73,884

(ii) The proceeds of the duty are credited to the general revenues of the Central Government.

(iii) The distribution of *takavi* advances is a matter for the Local Government. No application for an additional advance from the Provincial Loans Fund for this purpose has yet been received by the Government of India.

CREATION OF A CENTRAL JUTE COMMITTEE, ETC.

6. THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE : (i) Will Government be pleased to make a statement as to what they have done to give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, especially in regard to the question of the formation of the Central Jute Committee ?

(ii) Was there a joint conference of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce in Calcutta on the subject of propaganda in regard to the restriction of jute cultivation ?

(iii) Will Government be pleased to make a statement of the recommendations of this conference in regard to this subject ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FRANK NOYCE : (i) A report on the progress made in giving effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India is available in the Library of the House. The recommendation of the Commission that a Central Jute Committee should be established has been accepted by the Government of India, who have decided to undertake legislation forthwith for the creation of this Committee. Their conclusions as to the functions of the Committee, its personnel and the manner in which it should be financed have recently been communicated to the Local Governments concerned, who have been asked to submit any criticisms or suggestions which, after consultation with the commercial and other interests concerned, they may have to offer at an early date, in order that Government may proceed with the proposed legislation with the least possible delay.

(ii) Yes.

(iii) A copy of the resolutions passed by the Conference is placed on the table.

*Resolutions passed by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and other commercial bodies.*

1. "Whereas the position of the varied interests connected with jute is admittedly very serious; whereas something should be done to relieve the position and whereas until the Government are consulted and they make known what measures are feasible

from their point of view, it is difficult to arrive at concrete schemes, therefore, this Conference is of opinion that the President be and is hereby requested to invite the Honourable the Finance Member of the Government of Bengal, the Director of Agriculture, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and the Honourable the Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture to fix an early date on which they can meet the members at this Conference at Calcutta for the purpose."

2. "This Conference recognises the need for propaganda for the restriction of next year's jute crop and is of opinion that the 'modus operandi' thereof should be decided upon after discussion in the Conference with the Government officials."

3. "In the opinion of this Conference the Government should expedite the formation of the Central Jute Committee recommended by the Royal Commission on Agriculture".

#### PROGRESS OF CIVIL AVIATION IN INDIA.

7. THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :  
(i) Will Government be pleased to make a statement as to the progress of Civil Aviation schemes in this country ?

(ii) Are Government considering the desirability of having an Air Mail service in the country ?

(iii) If so, will Government be pleased to make a statement regarding details ?

(iv) Are Government considering any schemes in regard to a passenger service by air ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE : (i) I would refer the Honourable Member to the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee, dated 17th January, 1930, Volume IX, No. 14.

(ii) Yes, provided that the necessary funds can be made available.

(iii) Details will be submitted to the Standing Finance Committee in due course and will subsequently be found in the published proceedings of this Committee.

(iv) Yes.

#### RECRUITMENT OF THE LOWER SUBORDINATE STAFF ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.

8. THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :  
(i) Will Government be pleased to make a statement regarding the recruitment of the lower subordinate staff on the Eastern Bengal Railway ?

(ii) Are there standing orders of the Railway Board directing railway administrations to give preference to candidates from the minority communities in the matter of appointments ?

(iii) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of subordinate appointments filled up during the past year and the names, qualifications and nationalities of the candidates who have been appointed to these vacancies ?

(iv) What steps do Government propose to take to safeguard the interests of the minority communities in Eastern Bengal in the matter of railway appointments ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD : (i) In the Medical and Traffic Departments of the Eastern Bengal Railway recruitment of lower subordinate staff is made through selection boards and this method is in course of extension to other Departments of the railway.

(ii) No. The general principles followed in the recruitment of subordinate establishment on Railways are —

- (a) Members of all classes or communities possessing the necessary qualifications are eligible for appointment to any branch of railway service.
- (b) When recruitment is conducted by means of competitive examinations one-third of the vacancies should be reserved for the redress of marked communal inequalities. When recruitment is carried on otherwise than by competitive examination steps should be taken to prevent an undue preponderance of any one class or community.
- (c) No candidate should be admitted who does not possess the qualifications laid down as the minimum necessary for the work to be done.

(iii) The information asked for is not available and Government do not consider that its value would be commensurate with the labour and expense of its collection.

(iv) Beyond the application by the Eastern Bengal Railway of the general principles stated in (ii) above, Government do not propose any special safeguards for minority communities in Eastern Bengal.

LOANS TO THE NAWAB OF DACCA.

9. THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :  
1. Will Government be pleased to state if the Nawab of Dacca has taken any loan from the Government of India ?

2. If so, will Government be pleased to state the amount of the loan as well as the terms on which the loan was granted ?

3. Will Government be pleased to state the year in which the loan was granted as well as the circumstances under which the loan was granted ?

4. Will Government be pleased to state the rate of interest of this loan ?

5. Do Government borrow money at a rate of interest higher than the rate of interest that this loan carries with it ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FRANK NOYCE : 1. Yes.

2, 3 and 4. The total amount of the loans advanced to the Nawab is Rs. 3,40,000, made up of a loan of Rs. 2,50,000 advanced in 1928 and one of Rs. 90,000 advanced in 1930, at a rate of interest at 3 per cent. per annum.

5. Yes.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR : Is it also a fact that the Government has advanced similar loans to several other persons, as for instance.....

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT :** The Honourable Member must not make a speech or use arguments.

**THE HONOURABLE SAIED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR :** I will give an instance.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT :** The Honourable Member is not asking for information, he is proceeding to give it.

**REPAYMENT OF THE LOANS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO THE NAWAB OF DACCA.**

**10. THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :**  
1. Was the estate of the Nawab of Dacca brought under the Court of Wards because the Government of India advanced a loan to the Nawab ?

2. Will Government be pleased to state :

(i) Who is the present Manager of the Court of Wards administering the Nawab's estate ?

(ii) Who was the last Manager ?

3. Will Government be pleased to state what amount is paid monthly by the estate towards the repayment of the Government of India loan ?

4. Will Government be pleased to state how long the repayment has been going on at this rate ?

5. Will Government be pleased to state the present income of the estate ?

6. Will Government be pleased to state what was the income of the estate when repayment of the debt at the above rate was begun ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR FRANK NOYCE :** The information is being obtained from the Government of Bengal, and will be communicated to the Honourable Member on receipt.

**GRANT OF A FRESH LOAN TO THE NAWAB OF DACCA.**

**11. THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :**  
1. Do the Government of India propose to grant a fresh loan to the Nawab of Dacca ?

2. If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the loan ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR FRANK NOYCE :** 1. No such proposal is under the consideration of Government.

2. Does not arise.

**PROVISION OF WAITING ROOMS AT CERTAIN STATIONS ON THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY.**

**12. THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :**  
(i) Are there no waiting rooms at terminus stations on the Eastern Bengal Railway at :

1. Goalundo.

2. Sirajganj.

3. Jagannathganj.
4. Fulchhari-ghat.
5. Bahadurabad ?

(ii) If not, do Government intend to provide accommodation for all classes of passengers at these places at an early date ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD:** (i) The Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, reports that at Goalundo there is a third class waiting shed and upper class waiting rooms on the landing stage flat. At Sirajganj and Jagannathganj a steamer is alongside when trains arrive and remains alongside till trains depart. At Fulchhari-ghat and Bahadurabad there are upper class waiting rooms on the landing stage flat. The steamer is usually alongside when trains arrive.

(ii) Government have not received complaints of a lack of accommodation at these places, but I will have a copy of the Honourable Member's question sent to the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway, for his consideration.

#### EFFECTS OF THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT.

13. **THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE:**  
1. Will Government be pleased to make a statement showing the effects of the Civil Disobedience movement on :

- (a) The general revenue administration.
- (b) The excise administration.
- (c) The educational institutions in general ?

2. Will Government be pleased to make a statement as to whether it has resulted in any loss of life ?

3. If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement with status and the names of places where such deaths took place ?

4. Will Government be pleased to specify how many among those dead are Hindus and how many Muhammadans ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON:** 1 and 2. As the Honourable Member will realise it is not possible to make a statement of the nature he contemplates within the limits of a reply to a question. His Excellency the Viceroy dealt with some of the more important results of the Civil Disobedience movement in his speech on the 17th January to which I would invite the Honourable Member's attention.

3 and 4. I lay on the table a statement giving the casualties among the public up to the 31st July, 1930, resulting from firing and also the casualties among the police and military up to the same date. I have called for similar information from Local Governments in respect of the period between 1st August and 30th November last and will communicate it to the Honourable Member in due course.

It should be understood that since this statement relates to casualties from firing only it necessarily understates the casualties resulting from the Civil Disobedience movement.

## Statement of casualties.

Provinces.	Casualties among the Public.		Casualties among Police.		Casualties among Military.	
	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.
		<i>April, 1930.</i>				
<b>Madras—</b>						
Madras City, April 27th.	2	6 (one died subsequently.)	..	..	..	..
<b>Bombay—</b>						
Victoria Terminus, 4th April (Railway strike).	..	7 (one died subsequently.)		24	..	
Bhusaval, 6th April (Railway strike).	*1	*2				
Kurla, 6th April (Railway strike).		1		2		
Karachi, 16th April .	1	6 (one of whom died subsequently.)		18		
<b>Bengal—</b>						
Calcutta, 1st April .	7	59		57		
Calcutta, 15th April .	..	3	..	62 (includes 20 members of fire brigade).		..
24 Parganas, 24th April.	1	3		12		
Chittagong, 18th, 19th and 22nd April.	10 terrorists.	2 terrorists. (Both died subsequently.)	1	4	3	1
Noakhali (Feni), 23rd April.		..		3	..	
Chittagong, 24th April	1 (terrorist).					
North-West Frontier Province (Peshawar), 23rd April.	30 (approximately).	33 (approximately).		3	1	9

\* These casualties were the result of an accident.



Provinces.	Casualties among the Public.		Casualties among Police.		Casualties among Military.	
	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.
		<i>May, 1930.</i>				
Madras, May, 1930 . . .	..	2	..	..	..	..
Bombay— Sholapur, 7th May . . .	..	..	..	31	..	..
Sholapur, 8th May . . .	12	28	2	30		
Wadla Salt Pans, 24th May.		1	..	9		
Bhendy Bazar, 26th and 27th May.	5	67		16		
Bengal— Howrah, 6th May . . .	..	5	..	1	..	..
Chittagong, 7th May.	3	1	..	1		
	insurgents and 1 other.	insurgent (who died subsequently) and 5 others (2 of whom died subsequently).				
Mymensingh, 14th May.	1	Between 30 to 40.	..	44 (includes 1 Additional Magistrate and 11 Excise staff).	..	..
Midnapur, Gopinathpur, 20th May.		..	..	12		..
Dacca, 25th and 27th May (Communal riot).	2	1	..			
Lillooah, E. I. Railway, 29th May.		5	..	..	..	
Midnapur (Pratapdighi), 31st May.	2	2	..			
United Provinces— Lucknow, 26th May . . .	1	About 42 (2 died subsequently).	..	34		

Provinces.	Casualties among the Public.		Casualties among Police.		Casualties among Military.	
	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.
Punjab—		<i>May, 1930—contd.</i>				
Kalu, Jhelum District, May 18th.	..	1	..		..	..
Burma—						
Rangoon, last week of May.	5	37		29	..	..
North-West Frontier Province.	17	37	1	13	..	1
Delhi, 6th May . . .	4	40	..	38	..	..
		<i>June, 1930</i>				
Madras . . . . .	3	18		3	..	..
Bagmari (Midnapur), 1st June, 1930.	2	3	..	6	..	..
Chechuahat (Midnapur), 6th June, 1930.	..	11	2	4	..	..
Narendia (Midnapur), 6th June, 1930.	..	19	..	8	..	..
Fakirhat (Midnapur), 10th June, 1930.	..	1 (died subsequently).	..	1	..	..
Kherai (Midnapur), 11th June, 1930.	..	21	..	10	..	..
Ramnagar (Bakarganj)	..	1	..	1	..	..
North-West Frontier Province.	3	..	..	..	4	..
		<i>July, 1930.</i>				
Madras . . . . .	2	9		..	..	..
Khersai (Midnapur), 2nd July, 1930.	..	1		11	..	..
Keahoreganj (Mymensingh).	..	11	..	5	..	..
Saran (Etah), 11th July, 1930.	5	19		34	..	..
Amunagar Sarai (Meerut)	1	..	..	..	..	..

Provinces.	Casualties among the Public.		Casualties among the Police.		Casualties among the Military.	
	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.
Jubbulpore, 19th July, 1930.		July, 1930— 6	contd. ..	83 (Mostly slightly injured by stone throwing.)	..	
Bombay, 5th July, 1930	..	..	..	..	..	2

**ALLEGED WITHDRAWAL OF THE SYSTEM OF TRIAL BY JURY FROM CERTAIN AREAS.**

14. THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :  
1. Will Government be pleased to make a statement of the areas in which the jury system of trial prevails ?

2. Will Government be pleased to state whether this system has been withdrawn from any particular area during the last four months ?

3. If so, will Government be pleased to make a statement of the places from which this system has been withdrawn ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON : Under sub-section (1) of section 269 of the Criminal Procedure Code Local Governments have full power to declare the areas in which the trial of all offences, or any particular class of offences shall be by jury, and to revoke or alter any such order. Government have no information as to whether any such order has been altered or revoked during the period mentioned by the Honourable Member.

**ATTEMPTS ON THE LIVES OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.**

15. THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :  
1. Will Government be pleased to make a statement as to the number of Government officials whose lives have been attacked during the current year ?

2. Will Government be pleased to make a statement as to the number of police officials whose lives have been so attacked ?

3. Will Government be pleased to specify the number of deaths—

(i) in the case of police officials ;

(ii) in the case of other officials ?

4. Will Government be pleased to state the number of cases in which the culprits involved in these criminal assaults have been detected and punished ?

5. Are Government in a position to make a statement regarding the reasons which inspired these culprits to make these assaults ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON : 1—4. A statement giving the information as far as available is laid on the table.

5. One may suppose that the outrages were committed in pursuance of a general policy to terrorise officials. It is not possible to say what motive inspired each individual assailant.

## Statement of murders or attempts on the lives of Government officials and others since 1st January, 1930.

1 Serial No.	2 Date.	3 Place of occurrence.	4 Number of Police officials.		5 Other officials.		6 Number of persons arrested.	7 Number put on trial.	8 Number convict- ed.	9 Remarks.
			Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.				
1	8th February, 1930.	Multan	..	..	..	..	3	3	1	This was an attempt to wreck a police station. The bombs exploded but the only person injured was one of the conspirators.
2	21st February, 1930.	Jalgaon	..	1 (Sub-Inspector).	..	..	1	1	1	In addition to the Sub-Inspector, Jai Gopal, an approver, was also wounded.
3	14th April, 1930.	Simla	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	A bomb was thrown at a police constable but did not explode.
4	18th April, 1930.	Chittagong	2 (Constables).	6 (1 Sub-Inspector 5 constables).	4 (Auxiliary Force personnel).	2 (Railway men).	162	35	Case is <i>sub judice</i> .	The Chittagong Armoury Raid. 17 of the accused are absconding; 1 is in custody awaiting trial.
5	16th May, 1930.	Sibpur, Howrah.	..	..	..	..	8	2	2	A bomb was thrown at the house of a Sub-Inspector, but the inmates were unharmed.

6	19th May, 1930	Multan	..	(1 Superintendent of Police and 5 constables).	..	10	10	8	Thrown at police party accompanying a magistrate engaged in the collection of arrears of water tax. 2 members of the public were also injured.
7	16th June, 1930	Jhang	..	2	..	4	4	3	Thrown into the police post to avenge dispersal of a meeting of students by the police.
8	19th June, 1930	Rawalpindi, Lahore, Amritsar, Lyalpur, Gujranwala, Sheikhpura.	2	4	26	26	26	The case is <i>sub Judic.</i>	These attacks to murder police officers were carried out by means of "booby" trap bombs. 13 of the accused in the resulting conspiracy case are absconding.
9	8th July, 1930	Howrah	..	..	1	..	..	..	A bomb exploded in the verandah of the house of a Sub-Inspector of the Detective Department. The man arrested was released for want of evidence. No damage was done.
10	25th July, 1930	Bhrwari, Hisar, Panjeb.	..	..	..	..	..	..	A bomb was thrown into the city police station. No damage done.

1 Serial No.	2 Date.	3 Place of occurrence.	4 Number of Police officials.		5. Other officials.		6 Number of person arrested.	7 Number put on trial.	8 Number con- victed.	9 Remarks.
			Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.				
11	5th August, 1930.	Dalhousie Square, Cal- cutta.	..	1 (Sir Char- les Tegart's driver).	..	..	1	1	1	Attempt on the life of Sir Charles Tegart. In addition to Sir Charles Tegart's dri- ver 5 members of the public were in- jured. See remarks against Serial Nos. 12 and 13 also.
12	26th August, 1930.	Jorabagan Thane, Calcutta.	..	..	..	14*	13	13	8	<i>Serial No. 12.</i> —3 per- sons were injured. <i>Serial No. 13.</i> —In addi- tion to the police con- stables 3 persons were injured.
13	27th August, 1930.	Eden Gardens, Calcutta.	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	<i>Serial Nos. 11—13</i> formed part of the Jorabagan Explosives case recently tried by a Special Tribunal in Calcutta.  *Manoranjan Gupte, an absconding ac- cused, was arrested after judgment was delivered in the case. He will be tried separately.



1 Serial No.	2 Date.	3 Place of occurrence.	4 Number of Police officials.		5 Other officials.		6 Number of persons arrested.	7 Number put on trial.	8 Number con- victed.	9 Remarks.
			Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.				
21	15th Septem- ber, 1930.	Karachi	..	..	..	..	8	8	The case is <i>sub</i> <i>judice</i> .	A bomb was thrown at the city police station but caused no damage.
22	23rd Septem- ber, 1930.	Khulna Thana, Bengal.	..	2 (1 Sub- Inspec- tor and 1 head con- stable.)	..	..	19	19	..	A bomb was thrown into the police thana and exploded. The accused were dis- charged owing to lack of incriminat- ing evidence.
23	27th Septem- ber, 1930.	Rawalpindi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	A bomb was thrown at a police party but no one was injured. Culprits untraced.
24	1st October, 1930.	Benares City	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	A bomb exploded out- side the quarters of the 2nd officer, Vellupura Thana. No damage done.
25	4th October, 1930.	Lahore	1 (Con- stable.)	..	..	..	..	..	..	Attempt on the life of K. B. Abdul Aziz. The actual culprits have not yet been traced.



26	9th October, 1930.	Bombay	1 (Sergeant Taylor).	..	10	10	The case is <i>sub judice</i> .	The Lamington Road (Bombay) outrage. Sergeant Taylor and his wife were wounded. Four of the accused are absconding.
27	12th October, 1930.	Lahore	..	..	..	..	..	Attempt on the life of Sergeant Smythe, who escaped injury. The culprits have not yet been detected.
28	13th October, 1930.	Jamalpur	..	..	2	2	The case has not yet been put into court.	While a Sub-Inspector and constable were watching two absconders, the latter fired at them and made good their escape. Two of their associates were later arrested on suspicion, but the absconders themselves are still at large.
29	31st October, 1930.	Zira police station, Ferozepore.	..	..	4	4	The case is <i>sub judice</i> . (under trial).	A bomb was thrown into the compound of the Zira police station, but nobody was injured.
B 30	1st November, 1930.	Delhi	1 (Constable).	..	1	1	The case has not yet come into court.	

1 Serial No.	2 Date.	3 Place of occurrence.	4 Number of Police officials.		5 Other officials.		6 Number of persons arrested.	7 Number put on trial.	8 Number convicted.	9 Remarks.
			Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.				
31	4th November, 1930.	Dharampur, Lahore District.	..	1 (Inspector)	..	..	3	2	Case is <i>sub judice</i> .	When the police surrounded 2 revolutionaries, the latter attacked them, one with a revolver and one with a knife. As a result of the scuffle which ensued one of the revolutionaries was wounded and died the next day. A bomb was thrown into the police station but caused no damage. The culprits made good their escape.
32	16th November, 1930.	Qila Didar Singh, Gujranwala District.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	A bomb exploded in the police barracks but did no damage. Enquiries are in progress.
33	16th November, 1930.	Gourmadi police station, Barisal.	..	..	..	..	4 (2 released later).	Police investigations have not yet been completed.	19	A bomb exploded in the verandah of the District Inspector's office and another in the police kotwali. Enquiries proceeding.
34	21st November, 1930.	Jessore	..	..	..	..	19	..	..	..



## LOCATION OF PUNITIVE POLICE IN CERTAIN AREAS.

16. THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :  
1. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of places all over India where punitive police have been stationed during the current year, stating the causes that led to their being so stationed ?

2. Will Government be pleased to state who pays the cost for the maintenance of such forces ?

3. Will Government be pleased to state the principle on which the tax for maintenance of such police is levied ?

4. Are Government aware if in the matter of levying the punitive police tax any persons or communities have been exempted from the payment of the tax ?

5. If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons justifying such incidence of taxation ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON : 1, 4 and 5. I regret that the Government of India are not in possession of the information the Honourable Member wants. The quartering of additional police and exemption of any class or community from payment of the cost are matters entirely within the discretion of Local Governments.

2 and 3. The Honourable Member is referred to sections 15 and 15A of Act V of 1861, section 25 of the Bombay District Police Act, 1890, section 20 of the Madras City Police Act, 1888, and section 24 of the Rangoon Police Act 1899.

LEVY OF A TERMINAL TAX ON PASSENGERS PASSING THROUGH  
NARAYANGANJ, GOALUNDO, ETC.

17. THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE  
1. Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that a terminal tax is levied on passengers passing through Narayanganj, Goalundo, Sirajganj and Fulchhari-ghat ?

2. Will Government be pleased to state the rate at which this tax is levied ?

3. Will Government be pleased to state the total amount of the terminal tax levied annually at the different places referred to above ?

4. Will Government be pleased to make a statement as to the use to which this money is put ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD : 1. A ghat charge (and not a terminal tax) is levied on passengers passing through the stations mentioned.

2. The charge is one anna for a single journey and two annas for return journey on passengers passing through Narayanganj, Sirajganj and Fulchhari ghat. For passengers passing through Goalundo the charge is twice this rate.

3. The total amount collected during the year 1929-30 was about Rs. 1,54,000.

4. The money collected is utilised towards the expenditure involved in shifting and maintaining the ghats and providing facilities and comforts for passengers.

**ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCES OF THE INSPECTORS-GENERAL OF PRISONS.**

18. **THE HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR G. NARAYANASWAMI CHETTI GARU :** Will Government be pleased to state what action has been taken in regard to the recommendations of the Conferences of the Inspectors-General of Prisons of all provinces held from the year 1925 ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON :** Prison Administration is under the Devolution Rules a provincial subject ; subject to legislation by the Indian Legislature. The Government of India have asked Local Governments to take such action as they deemed necessary or where financial considerations were involved practicable in the case of such recommendations as were of purely provincial concern. Those recommendations which involved central legislation, or raised general questions of policy have been examined by the Government of India. The former have been engaging the close attention of the Government of India, but it has not yet been found possible to reach final decisions. The latter have either been disposed of or are under discussion with Local Governments.

**RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CIVIL JUSTICE COMMITTEE.**

19. **THE HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR G. NARAYANASWAMI CHETTI GARU :** Will Government be pleased to state whether and how far the recommendations of the Civil Justice Committee were given effect to ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON :** In the case of the recommendations of the Civil Justice Committee in which action was directly within the competence of the Government of India 37 recommendations have been given effect to or are under consideration, and 72 have not been proceeded with. These figures do not include the many recommendations in which action was within the competence of the Local Governments or High Courts or the presiding officers of courts.

**LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY, THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY, THE BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY AND THE ASSAM BENGAL RAILWAY.**

20. **THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :**  
1. Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of gentlemen who constitute the Local Advisory Committee of :—

- (a) the Eastern Bengal Railway.
- (b) the East Indian Railway.
- (c) the Bengal Nagpur Railway.
- (d) the Assam Bengal Railway.

2. Will Government be pleased to state the principle on which the selection of these members is based ?

3. Will Government be pleased to state as to who makes these selections ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD :** 1. I am having a statement placed in the Library giving the names asked for as obtained from information printed in the current Time Tables of the four Railways in question.

2 and 3. The rules governing the appointment of members of Local Advisory Committees vary to some extent on different railways. On State-managed Railways the instructions are that the number of members should be decided by circumstances and should be subject to a maximum of 12, that the Agent should be *ex-officio* chairman and that the remaining members should be constituted on the following lines :—

- (a) Two Local Government members nominated by the Local Government in whose jurisdiction the headquarters of the railway is situated.
- (b) Three representatives of the Legislative Council of the Government in whose jurisdiction the headquarters of the railway in question is situated. These members should be selected to represent rural interests and the travelling public and need not necessarily be members of the Council.
- (c) One member from the local municipality or corporation at the railway headquarters.
- (d) Five members representing industries, commerce and trade. The method of selecting the non-official members is left largely to local discretion, the members representing industries, commerce and trade being ordinarily drawn from important local bodies representing predominant trade interests, and the actual selection of such bodies being made by the Railway Administration in consultation with the Local Government. Once their selection is made, it is left to the local bodies to nominate or elect their representatives. This arrangement has been adopted with certain modifications by the majority of Company-managed Railways.

#### MOPLAH PRISONERS.

21. THE HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR G. NARAYANASWAMI CHETTI GARU : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (1) the total number of prisoners convicted in connection with the Moplah rebellion in the Madras Presidency in the year 1921 ;
- (2) the number of prisoners who were given the benefit of premature and conditional release in the years succeeding ;
- (3) the number of prisoners still undergoing imprisonment in the various jails in the Madras Presidency and also the Andaman Islands.

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON : (1) The number of persons convicted in connection with the Moplah rebellion in 1921 was 10,167, of whom 2,347 were still serving their sentences at the end of 1930, the remainder having been released.

(2) I regret that I have not exact figures of premature releases but the information available shows that these exceed 6,000.

(3) 1,541 in jails in the Madras Presidency and 806 in the Andamans.

#### NUMBER OF POLITICAL DETENUS IN BRITISH INDIA.

22. THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :  
1. Will Government be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing the number of persons detained in British India for alleged political offences ?

2. Will Government be pleased to specify the different nationalities to which they belong, giving definitely the number of persons belonging to each nationality ?

3. Will Government be pleased to state the provisions of law under which these persons have been so detained ?

4. Will Government be pleased to state whether these detenus are treated as ordinary prisoners ?

5. Will Government be pleased to make a statement as to the arrangements that have been made for providing suitable food, comforts and proper sanitary conditions for these detenus ?

6. Will Government be pleased to make a statement if proper facilities are provided to enable these detenus to have interviews with their friends and relations ?

7. Will Government be pleased to state if any newspapers are provided for the use of these detenus ?

8. If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of such newspapers ?

9. Will Government be pleased to specify how many of these detenus are male and how many female ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON : 1, 2 and 3. I place on the table a statement showing the number of persons detained under Regulations and the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act No. VI of 1930 and the nationalities or communities to which they belong.

4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. These persons are subject to a different code of rules and enjoy special concession in the matter of food, clothing and comforts. Adequate facilities for interviews with friends and relations are granted and newspapers are also supplied to them, but I have no information as to what newspapers are actually supplied at the different places.

9. They are all males.

	Number.	In Jail.	At large. Under surveillance or restricted to certain areas.	Nationality.
(a) Bengal Regulation III of 1818.	46	4	42.	3 Muhammadans. 29 Afghans. 1 Sikh. 1 Rajput. 1 Manipuri. 11 Kachins.
(b) Madras Regulation II of 1819.	218	15	203	All Moplahs.
(c) Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act.	397	*395	2	All except 3 Muham- madans, 1 Jain and 1 Sikh are Hindus.
Total . . .	661	399	262	

\* Includes 135 detained under section 2 (1) (d) of the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act.

## SUPERSESSIONS IN THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

23. THE HONOURABLE BABU JAGADISH CHANDRA BANERJEE :

1. Will Government be pleased to state the rules in regard to promotion to higher appointments in the Department of Geological Survey, Government of India ?

2. Has the Public Service Commission recommended that 25 per cent. of promotions to higher appointments should be reserved for men already in the department ?

3. If so, will Government be pleased to state if this recommendation has been given effect to ?

4. Will Government be pleased to state if there have been any cases of supersession in the Department of Geological Survey in contravention of the recommendation of the Public Service Commission ?

5. If so, will Government be pleased to state the grounds on which such supersession has been allowed ?

6. Do Government propose to take steps to see that such supersessions do not happen in future ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE : 1. The Honourable Member is apparently referring to the promotion of Sub-Assistants to the grade of Assistant Superintendents in the Geological Survey of India. No specific rules have been framed on the subject but the policy of the Government of India is that, subject to the reservation that no Sub-Assistant will be promoted to the Superior Service unless he is fully qualified for such promotion, not less than 25 per cent. of the vacancies occurring in the grade of Assistant Superintendents in the Geological Survey of India should be filled by the promotion of Sub-Assistants.

2. No.

3. Does not arise.

4. No.

5. and 6. Do not arise.

## REPRESENTATION OF MUHAMMADANS, HINDUS, ANGLO-INDIANS, ETC., IN THE RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

24. THE HONOURABLE MR. SYED ABDUL HAFEEZ : Will Government kindly state :

(a) How many Muhammadans, Hindus, Anglo-Indians and persons from other communities are appointed to the clerical and other posts of responsibility in the Government Railway Department in British India ?

(b) Are these posts filled up on the basis of a fixed system of percentage of population or otherwise ?

(c) If on the basis of a percentage system, what are the numbers of posts given to the various communities ; and is this proportionate representation strictly maintained when making appointments ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD : (a) Government regret that they are not prepared to supplement with figures for particular classes



of posts the information in regard to communal representation in Railway services given in the Annual Administration Report on Indian Railways.

(b) The policy of Government as regards the recruitment of subordinate establishment on Railways is set forth in Railway Board's letter No. 2395-E., dated 23rd May, 1929, a copy of which is in the Library. This policy is directed towards the prevention of a preponderance of any one class or community in the railway services and not towards representation of communities on any fixed percentage basis.

(c) Does not arise.

GRIEVANCES OF THE STAFF OF CURRENCY OFFICE.

25. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : Will Government be pleased to state (a) whether the Honourable the Finance Member had a discussion with some Members of the Legislative Assembly in connection with the grievances of the Currency Office staff and, if so, what points were put forward by the Members ?

(b) Were all the points raised in the discussion included in the terms of reference of the Enquiry Committee appointed by the Government ?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state what points were not included in the terms of reference and the reasons for their non-inclusion ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR MCWATTERS : (a) to (c). In March last the Honourable the Finance Member received a deputation consisting of five Members of the Legislative Assembly on behalf of the Currency staff. The main points discussed were :

- (1) Whether the conditions of pay and service of the clerical staff in the Currency Offices ought to be on a par with those of similar staff in the Accounts Offices.
- (2) Whether the initial pay of the Currency staff was below the minimum living wage.
- (3) Were the shroffs in the Currency Offices fairly treated in the matter of pay having regard to the work which they do in comparison with shroffs employed in private banks.
- (4) Whether the staffs in the Cawnpore, Lahore and Karachi Currency Offices had been fairly treated as regards pay.
- (5) Whether it was possible to give additional relief to existing members of the Currency staff.

The first three points Government undertook to investigate and they were included in the terms of reference of the Enquiry Committee. The fourth point, regarding the rate of increment in the Cawnpore and Lahore Currency Offices and the levelling up of the pay of the Karachi Office to the Bombay standard, was left for examination in the Finance Department without the assistance of the Committee. The fifth point raised a question of principle affecting all Government offices and could not be accepted by Government. It was subsequently decided to make the enquiry a model one, restricted to the Bombay Currency Office and the terms of reference were altered accordingly.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE APPOINTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE STAFF OF CURRENCY OFFICES.

26. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE: Will Government be pleased to state (a) the personnel and terms of reference of the Enquiry Committee appointed in connection with the Currency Office staff and whether their report has been received by the Government?

(b) If the answer to the last portion of the above is in the affirmative, whether the recommendations made by the Committee will be given immediate effect to?

(c) If not, from what date it is proposed to give effect to the recommendations?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR McWATTERS: A copy of the terms of reference as finally adopted is laid on the table. Mr. J. C. Nixon, I.C.S. (formerly Accountant General, Bombay), presided over the Enquiry Committee, the members of which were Mr. A. G. Gray, Manager of the Bank of India, Limited, and Mr. S. N. Pochkhanawala, Managing Director, Central Bank of India, Limited. The report of the Committee has been received and their recommendation for an increase of pay of shroffs in the Bombay Currency Office, which has been accepted by Government and approved by the Standing Finance Committee, will be given effect from the 1st March 1931; similar readjustment in the scales of pay of shroffs in all the Currency Offices being made from the same date.

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*Terms of reference of the Currency Offices Enquiry Committee.*

(a) To examine the nature and quality of the work done by the clerical staff in the Bombay Currency office and in the office of the Accountant General, Bombay; and to report whether the disparity is great enough to justify the existing disparity in pay scales. A comparison should also be made with conditions prevailing for similar staff in the Bombay Customs, Posts and Telegraphs and Mint.

(b) To determine and report with reference to the minimum pay of servants of the local Government in parallel clerical grades, whether the minimum in the Bombay Currency office constitutes a living wage and whether, according to the standards of the Bombay Government the scales are reasonably adopted throughout their course to the style of life of the type of men recruited for the purpose. The Committee will be provided with statements of the clerical pay scales sanctioned by the Bombay Government for offices doing similar work in Bombay.

(c) To examine the conditions of service and amount and responsibility of work done by Bank shroffs in Bombay as compared with the pay scales, quota of work and degree of responsibility of the shroffs in the Currency offices and Mints, and to report whether there is any case for raising the pay of the Currency office shroffs.

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ALL-INDIA CURRENCY UNION BULLETIN.

27. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE: Will Government be pleased to state (a) whether they are aware of the publications of the All-India Currency Union Bulletin?

(b) If so, whether any action is taken by the officers concerned to remove the complaints described therein?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR McWATTERS: Government are aware of the publication of the Bulletin but in accordance with the ordinary procedure, no action is taken on any point raised therein until it is communicated officially through the prescribed channel.

ABOLITION OF THE TWO APPOINTMENTS OF DEPUTY CONTROLLERS OF THE CURRENCY IN INDIA.

28. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : Will Government be pleased to state (a) whether there were three offices of the Deputy Controller of the Currency in India ?

(b) Whether one of them has now been abolished and whether any saving was thereby effected ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what will be the annual saving if the remaining two offices are abolished ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR MCWATTERS : (a) Yes.

(b) The post of Deputy Controller of the Currency, Northern India, was abolished in July 1928. The annual saving is roughly Rs. 44,000.

(c) This part of the question apparently contemplates the abolition of the two offices and not merely the abolition of the posts of the Deputy Controllers. It would be quite impossible to do without the administrative work done by these offices and I am unable to see how any other suitable arrangements could be made. It is impossible to estimate savings in a hypothetical contingency which could never arise.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS DURING THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

29. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement showing the quantity and value of the exports and imports of various agricultural products during the last five years including the current financial year ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD : The Honourable Member is referred to the Annual Statements and Monthly Accounts of the Sea-borne Trade of British India, copies of which are in the Library.

PERIOD FOR THE RETENTION OF VALUE PAYABLE PARCELS IN POST OFFICES.

30. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH : Has Government considered the advisability of cancelling the reduction of the period of V. P. Ps. remaining in post offices from 10 to 3 days for delivery ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE : The Government have received several representations on the subject, and they are giving their careful consideration to them.

RUNNING OF AN EXPRESS TRAIN *via* THE LOOP LINE FROM HOWRAH TO NEW DELHI.

31. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH : Do Government propose to run an express, or faster train than hitherto, from Howrah to New Delhi *via* the Loop line, for the convenience of passengers ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD:** It is not possible for Government to take any part in the arrangement of time tables. Copies of the question and of this answer will be sent to the Agent, East Indian Railway.

**RESTORATION OF DRY COWS TO A MILK-BEARING CONDITION.**

**32. THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH:** With reference to the Honourable the Home Member's remarks made in course of the debate in the Legislative Assembly on 22nd January, 1930, will Government be pleased to state whether they have since considered the question of "cows which have ceased to be milk-bearing in cities and which might be restored to a milk-bearing condition"?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR FRANK NOYCE:** The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research are collecting data as to the rates at which it is a paying proposition to transport the milch cows which are at present slaughtered in the cities after one lactation back to stock raising districts.

**INCOME OF THE KANGRA VALLEY RAILWAY.**

**33. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** Will Government kindly state :

- (a) what was the income during the year ending 31st March, 1930, of the Kangra Valley Railway from (1) coaching, (2) carriage of goods of the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme, (3) carriage of goods other than of the Mandi Hydro-Electric Scheme ;
- (b) what, allowing for the guarantee of the Punjab Government, has been the nett income of this Railway during this period after deducting the cost of working and interest on capital ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD:** The Agent of the North Western Railway has been asked for this information and it will be sent to the Honourable Member as soon as it is received.

**EXPENDITURE ON THE INDIAN STATE RAILWAYS CENTRAL PUBLICITY BUREAU.**

**34. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** (i) Will Government kindly state what has been the total cost of maintaining the Publicity Department of the Indian State Railways firstly, in India and secondly, overseas ?

(ii) What has been the special increase in revenue from first and second class fares attributable to the work of this Department ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD:** (i) The figures for the Indian State Railways Central Publicity Bureau for the year 1929-30 which are, I think, what my Honourable friend requires, are as follows :

- (a) *In India*—a net amount of Rs. 5,62,987 ; namely, Rs. 7,98,582, less receipts of Rs. 2,35,595.
- (b) *Overseas*—Rs. 2,47,370.

(ii) I am afraid it is not possible to say exactly what increase in the first and second class passenger fares was obtained as a result of this expenditure, which was not, of course, entirely on encouraging first and second class passenger traffic. But owing to the general trade depression and the political situation in India, it is certain that the results were not as good as they might otherwise have been. It is known that many tourists cancelled their trips to India which they had arranged to make in January, February and March, 1930.

CONCESSIONS GRANTED TO THE ARMY DEPARTMENT BY THE INDIAN STATE RAILWAYS.

35. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :

(i) What was the total sum of the usual concessions given to the Army Department on each of the Indian State Railways, (a) in passenger fares and (b) in goods freight, for the year ending 31st March, 1930 ?

(ii) Will Government kindly state whether there is any contract for any definite period between the State Railways and the Army Department about concessions in fares and freights ; if so, for what period ?

(iii) Will Government kindly state whether it is intended to continue these concessions on State Railways during ensuing years ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD : (i) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given in another place to a question asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy on the 25th September, 1929, where the position was fully explained. Any attempt to ascertain the difference in revenue involved by the quotation of special rates and fares for military traffic would be a very lengthy and somewhat expensive undertaking, and I do not think it could result in any accurate figure of the financial value of the concessions being ascertained.

(ii) There are contracts for definite periods between the Secretary of State and the State-owned Railways worked by companies regarding the charge of special rates for military traffic. These periods vary in the case of different railways.

(iii) Government do not at present propose to discontinue charging special rates for military traffic.

TOTAL SAVINGS DUE TO THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DIVISIONAL SYSTEM ON EACH OF THE STATE RAILWAYS.

36. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS : Will Government kindly state what has been the total saving effected on each of the State Railways by introduction of the Divisional System ? What was the total number of officers and their salaries before this system was adopted and what is it now, on each of the State Railways ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD : An investigation is being made into the advantages which have resulted from the introduction of a divisional organisation on the North Western, East Indian and Great Indian Peninsula Railways, and a statement of the financial effect will be sent to the Honourable Member later.

I am sending the Honourable Member a statement giving the information he asks for in the latter part of his question.

**REDUCTION IN RAILWAY FREIGHTS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE IN EACH OF THE STATE RAILWAYS.**

**37. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** Will Government kindly lay on the table of this House a statement showing, in detail, the reduction in rates of railway freight on agricultural produce on each of the Indian State Railways as a result of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD:** The Royal Commission on Agriculture did not make any specific recommendation for a reduction in railway freight rates on agricultural produce. I am, however, laying on the table a statement showing the actual recommendations made regarding freight rates for agricultural produce and the action taken thereon.

Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture.		Action taken.
Paragraph.	Extract.	
219 (Chap. VIII).	As the quality of his cattle improves, we anticipate that the present disinclination of the cultivator to purchase fodder may disappear and that an active demand for it may arise. Railways should encourage this change of attitude on the part of the cultivator by offering the lowest rates for the transport of fodder compatible with their position as profit earning concerns.	<p>The views of the Royal Commission on Agriculture were communicated to the Indian Railway Conference Association who recorded thereon the following resolution :—</p> <p>“ Railways have given this matter their close attention, and the majority are already carrying fodder at low schedule rates. The recommendations of the Royal Commission should be borne in mind. ”</p> <p>The Railway Board have examined the rates now being charged for fodder over the principal railways and are satisfied that on most railways these rates are on so low a basis that there is no scope for a reduction. They are, however, continuing their examination of this question with a view to taking such action as may be considered desirable.</p>
313 (Chap. XI).	We are not inclined to accept the view that rates are generally too high, but we recommend a periodical revision of rates with a view to the adjustment of their incidence as between various sorts of produce according to their relative ability to bear and that arrangements should be made by the Railway Board for this purpose.	<p>The views of the Royal Commission on Agriculture were communicated to the Indian Railway Conference Association who recorded thereon the following resolution :—</p> <p>“ Recommendation to be noted. ”</p> <p>Railways constantly have under examination the incidence of their freight rates on all commodities carried by them and make adjustments therein as circumstances require, from time to time.</p>

**COMMUNAL REPRESENTATION IN THE RECRUITMENT OF LABOURERS, ETC., IN WORKSHOPS AND FACTORIES UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.**

38. **THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** Will Government kindly state whether communal representation is observed in the recruitment of labour for Government workshops and factories and of the menial services including State Railways? If not, why not?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOPE:** No orders having general application to all workshops and factories under the control of the Central Government have been issued on the subject of communal representation in the recruitment of labourers and inferior servants employed therein. No necessity has arisen for the issue of such general orders.

**TOTAL AMOUNT OF INCOME-TAX AND SUPER-TAX REALISED DURING THE YEARS ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1929, AND 31ST MARCH, 1930.**

39. **THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS:** Will Government kindly state the total amount of Income-tax and Super-tax realised in India during the years ending 31st March, 1929, and 31st March, 1930?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR MCWATTERS:**

			Lakhs.
Income-tax	1928-29	.	11,90
	1929-30	.	12,17
Super-tax	1928-29	.	4,80
	1929-30	.	4,53

**NUMBER OF BORSTAL SCHOOLS IN THE VARIOUS PROVINCES.**

40. **THE HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR G. NARAYANASWAMI CHETTI:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of Borstal Schools established in the various provinces with their places of location?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON:** There are Borstal Schools in Tanjore and Palamcottah in the Madras Presidency, Bankura in the Bengal Presidency, Lahore in the Punjab, Narsingpur in the Central Provinces and Insein in Burma. A modified form of Borstal system has been introduced at Dharwar Juvenile Jail in the Bombay Presidency.

**ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE PRESS ORDINANCES**

41. **THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE MOULIK:** (i) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a complete statement showing the names of papers, periodicals, monthlies, etc., from whom security under the Press Ordinance, promulgated on the 27th April, 1930, had been demanded and how many had suspended publication on account of the said demand?

(ii) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of papers, periodicals, magazines, etc., as also of printing presses from whom security has been demanded under the newly promulgated Press Ordinance?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON :** The information is being obtained and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

**PROPORTION OF INDIANS AND ANGLO-INDIANS EMPLOYED ON STATE RAILWAYS.**

**42. THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE MOULIK :** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the proportion of Indians and Anglo-Indians employed in the different departments of the State Railways in India ?

**THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD :** I would refer the Honourable Member to the statements at pages 58 and 59 and Appendix ' F ' in Volume I, and to Appendix ' C ' in Volume II, of the Railway Board's Report on Indian Railways for 1929-30, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

**EXPENDITURE OF THE CENTRAL BANKING ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.**

**43. THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE MOULIK :** Will Government be pleased to state the expenditure already incurred in connection with the Central Banking Enquiry Committee ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR McWATTERS :** The total expenditure of the Indian Central Banking Enquiry Committee till the end of December, 1930, is Rs. 2,69,261-1-3.

**EXPENDITURE INCURRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.**

**44. THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE MOULIK :** Will Government be pleased to state the amount of expenditure incurred in connection with the Round Table Conference ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR BROJENDRA MITTER :** The expenditure incurred in India in connection with the Round Table Conference is approximately Rs. 1,96,796·6 but no information is at present available as to the expenditure incurred in England as the charges will be finally adjusted in the Home Accounts.

**PROCEDURE FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF MATTERS EMERGING FROM THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.**

**45. THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSE MOULIK :** Will Government be pleased to state if they intend to hold conferences in India to settle questions referred to in the speech delivered by the British Premier in bringing the Round Table Conference to a close ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR BROJENDRA MITTER :** The whole question of future procedure for the consideration of matters emerging from the discussions of the Round Table Conference is at present under the consideration of His Majesty's Government and until a decision is reached, Government are unable to make any statement on the subject.



RELIEF OF AGRICULTURAL DISTRESS.

46. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGADISH PRASAD : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the agricultural depression prevailing in the country ?

(b) If so, what measures, if any, are under the contemplation of Government with a view to relieve the present agricultural distress ?

(c) Does Government contemplate adopting any of the following measures :

(i) the stoppage of the import of wheat to India,

(ii) the imposition of a duty on imported wheat,

(iii) a reduction in the railway rates on wheat,

(iv) a revision of the exchange ratio ?

(d) Is the shipping freight on wheat from Australia to Indian ports less than the railway freight from the Punjab to Calcutta and other Indian ports ?

(e) Is it the intention of Government to reduce the railway freight on wheat from the Punjab to Calcutta and other Indian ports ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FRANK NOYCE : (a) Yes.

(b), (c) and (e). I presume that the Honourable Member is referring to action by the Government of India. As regards reduction of railway freights, I would refer him to the Press Communiqué, dated November 17th, 1930, relating to the reduction in the rates on wheat from the Punjab and the United Provinces to Karachi and the Press Communiqué of January 29th, 1931, relating to the reduction in the rate from the Punjab to Calcutta. I place copies of these communiqués on the table of the House. As regards the stoppage of the import of wheat into India or the imposition of a duty on imported wheat, I would remind the Honourable Member that the total production of wheat in India in 1929-30 was estimated at 10,353,000 tons. The imports of foreign wheat into India, mainly from Australia, during the current fiscal year up to January 24th amounted to 110,884 tons, as compared with 268,935 tons for the same period in the previous fiscal year. The total imports have thus been very small indeed compared with the total Indian production and have been more than counterbalanced by exports of wheat amounting to 193,606 tons and export of flour up to December, 1930, amounting to 36,743 tons. In these circumstances, Government consider that the prohibition of the import of wheat or the imposition of a duty on imported wheat would have had no effect on the internal prices of wheat and would not, therefore, have assisted the cultivator. At the best, it could only have helped Indian wheat to replace the Australian wheat which, but for it, might continue to be imported. The situation in regard to imports is, however, being carefully watched. The reply to that part of the Honourable Member's question which relates to the exchange ratio is in the negative.

(d) Present sea freights for wheat from Australian ports to Bombay are lower than the combined railway and sea freights from the Punjab to Bombay and present sea freights for wheat from Australian ports to Calcutta are lower than the railway freights from the Punjab to Calcutta.

This comparison does not, of course, take into account railway freight in Australia which is necessarily one of the elements of cost in placing Australian wheat on the Indian market.

*Communiqué, dated 17th November, 1930.*

The existence in India of a large surplus of wheat, estimated at not less than a million tons, which even at the low prices at present prevailing is unable to find a market either within or outside India, has been engaging the anxious consideration of the Government of India, and neither they nor the Railway Board have failed to realise the serious effect on railway earnings of the loss of the traffic which in more normal conditions might reasonably be expected in this commodity. It seems possible that, if movement by rail to Karachi is substantially cheapened during the period before the large wheat crops anticipated in Australia and the Argentine come on the market early next year, some portion at any rate of the surplus Indian crop may be absorbed by export; and the North Western and East Indian Railway administrations have, therefore, decided, with the approval of the Government of India and the Railway Board, that the following reductions should be brought into force immediately, and remain in force until the 28th February, 1931:—

*On the North Western Railway.*—In place of the present C/K Schedule, the C/R Schedule will apply to traffic booked to Karachi in full wagon loads for distances over that railway of not less than 600 miles. The differential rule as regards distance will apply for distances less than 600 miles.

*On the East Indian Railway.*—In place of the existing C/B and C/M Schedules, the C/Q Schedule will apply to traffic booked to Karachi in full wagon loads, except traffic originating at stations on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, the Bengal and North Western Railway, and the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway.

As an illustration of the effect of this reduction, the freight per maund from Lyallpur to Karachi will be 6 annas 10 pies, instead of 11 annas 8 pies at present charged.

The results of this action, and the future position of the wheat market in India will be closely watched by the Government of India.

*Communiqué, dated 29th January, 1931.*

The Government of India have given very careful consideration to representations that have been made to them that some part of the existing surplus of Indian wheat would find a market in Calcutta if railway freights from the Punjab to Calcutta were reduced. Their investigations do not lead them to anticipate that any feasible reduction in freight rates would result in so substantial an increase in the movement of wheat from the Punjab to Calcutta that there would be no net loss to railway revenues; but they have arranged with the Punjab Government that the Railway Administrations concerned will grant from 1st February, 1931, until the 31st of March, 1931, a rebate of one-third of the freight on all consignments of wheat booked to Calcutta from all stations in the Punjab. The cost of this rebate will be borne by the Punjab Government but will be refunded to them, should the grant of the rebate be followed by a substantial increase in the tonnage of wheat imported by rail into Calcutta.

#### NUMBER OF PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE CHILD MARRIAGE RESTRAINT ACT.

47. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGADISH PRASAD : (a) How many prosecutions have been made under the Child Marriage Restraint Act (Sarda Act) since its enforcement ?

(b) Have a number of marriages taken place in contravention of the provisions of this Act without any action being taken ?

(c) If so, what steps, if any, does Government propose to take to make the enforcement of the Act more effective ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. W. EMERSON : (a) The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

(b) Government have no reason to suppose that action has not been taken on any complaint filed in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

(c) Does not arise.

GRANTS TO THE BENARES HINDU UNIVERSITY.

48. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: (a) What recurring grant does the Government of India annually give to the Benares Hindu University?

(b) Has the Government of India decided to give, besides the annual recurring grant, a non-recurring grant of rupees fifteen lakhs to the University in three annual instalments of rupees five lakhs each to relieve the University of its financial difficulties?

(c) Has the grant for the current year been withheld by Government?

(d) If so, which of the two grants, recurring or non-recurring, has been withheld? Or have both been withheld? And for what reasons?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FRANK NOYCE: (a) Rs. 3 lakhs.

(b) The Government of India sanctioned a non-recurring grant of Rs. 15 lakhs, payable in 3 three instalments, viz., Rs. 3 lakhs in 1929-30 and Rs. 6 lakhs in each of the years 1930-31 and 1931-32.

(c) and (d). Orders have issued for the payment of the first instalment of the annual recurring grant for the current financial year to the University. The second instalment will be paid in March next. The second instalment of the non-recurring grant which is due this financial year will be paid as soon as the University authorities have satisfied Government that the stipulation in regard to reduction of indebtedness which was laid down when the grant was sanctioned has been complied with.

VISIT OF SIR ARTHUR SALTER TO INDIA.

49. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: (a) Has the Government of India invited Sir Arthur Salter to consult him regarding certain plans of Government in respect of an economic reorganisation of the country?

(b) If so, what are those plans?

(c) Will Government please place before the House all the proposals on which Sir Arthur Salter has been consulted as well as a report of his advice thereon?

(d) Does Government propose setting up an organisation to study current economic developments and to suggest measures for the amelioration of the present economic distress?

(e) What amount of expenditure will be incurred by the Government of India on Sir Arthur Salter's visit?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD: (a), (b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Press Communiqués issued by the Government of India on the 30th December, 1930, and 14th January, 1931, copies of which have been placed in the Library.

(c) A copy of Sir Arthur Salter's report when published will be placed in the Library.

(d) Government are awaiting Sir Arthur Salter's advice before deciding what action to take.

## TRADE DEPRESSION.

50. THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SAIYID HUSSAIN IMAM: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the depression of trade? What step does Government propose to take to improve trade?

(b) Does Government propose to take any action to improve the export trade in food grains and jute in order to ameliorate the condition of cultivators?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. A. WOODHEAD: (a) Yes. The real causes of the present trade depression are unfortunately beyond the control of the Government of this country.

(b) The action which Government have found it possible to take is indicated in the Press Communiqués issued by the Government of India on the 17th November, 1930, and the 29th January, 1931, announcing reductions in the railway freights for wheat to Karachi and from the Punjab to Calcutta to which I invite the Honourable Member's attention.

## DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE OF RAGHUNATH JI IN PESHAWAR.

51. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to a resolution passed by the All-India Sanatan Dharam Maha Sabha Conference at its session recently held at Allahabad, as published in the *Leader* of January 23, 1931, protesting against the order of the District Judge of Peshawar regarding the destruction of the temple of Raghunath ji (Raghunath mandir) in Peshawar, and requesting the Governor General of India, and the Chief Commissioner of the North-West Frontier Province, to withdraw the order?

(b) What was the order of the District Judge of Peshawar referred to above, and what were the circumstances under which the said order was passed?

(c) Has the said order resulted in wounding the religious sentiments of Hindus all over the country?

(d) What action does Government propose to take in regard to the said order in deference to Hindu sentiment?

THE HONOURABLE SIR CHARLES WATSON: (a) Yes.

(b) A copy of the order of the District Judge, Peshawar, and of the order in appeal by the Bench of Judicial Commissioners upholding the order of the District Judge, have been forwarded to the Honourable Member.

(c) On this point Government on the information at its disposal is not in a position to express an opinion.

(d) The case is still *sub judice*, but I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the communiqué issued by the North-West Frontier Province Administration, of which a copy has been given to the Honourable Member.

## ALLOTMENT OF QUARTERS TO MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

52. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: (a) How many orthodox and unorthodox quarters are there for allotment to

the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State separately for their use during the Sessions of the Central Legislature at Delhi and Simla, respectively ?

(b) Is the number of such quarters at Delhi and Simla, respectively, sufficient to meet the requirements of all such Members who choose to reside in Government quarters ?

(c) Have all the Members, who have chosen to reside in Government quarters, been provided with such quarters during the last five years ?

(d) How many Members, if any, have been refused allotment of quarters during the years 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930 and 1931, respectively ?

(e) How many orthodox quarters have been allotted for the use of the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State respectively at Delhi during the current Session of the Central Legislature ?

(f) If the answer to (b) is in the negative, do Government intend making a sufficient number of quarters available for the use of the orthodox Members of the Central Legislature ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR BROJENDRA MITTER : (a) The number of orthodox and unorthodox quarters available for allotment to Members of the Legislative Assembly and Council of State is as follows :

	Simla.	Delhi.
Legislative Assembly—		
Orthodox . . . . .	37	49
Unorthodox . . . . .	16	32
Council of State—		
Orthodox . . . . .	12	13
Unorthodox . . . . .	6	13

(b) Practical experience in the past has shown that there are sufficient quarters in Simla to meet requirements but there is a shortage of orthodox quarters in Delhi.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

(d) No figures are available for the year 1926.

In 1927 four Members were unprovided for.

In 1928 there appear to have been 23 Members unprovided for.

In 1929 and 1930 all Members who applied were accommodated.

In 1931 there are still 18 Members to be provided for.

(e) 49 orthodox quarters have been allotted for the Legislative Assembly and 13 for the Council of State during the current Delhi Session.

(f) No additional accommodation is at present under consideration.

EMPLOYMENT OF BIHAREES IN THE INDIAN ARMY, ETC.

53. THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SAIYID HUSSAIN IMAM : (a) What is the number of Biharee soldiers in the Indian Cavalry and Infantry ?

(b) What is the number of Indians holding King's Commission, and how many of them are Biharees ?

(c) What is the number of Indians holding Viceroy's Commission and how many of them are Biharees ?

(d) What is the usual number of European and Indian soldiers stationed in the Province of Bihar and Orissa.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: (a) 3 in the Cavalry and 80 in the Infantry.

(b) 105. Only one of these is known to be a Biharee.

(c) The sanctioned establishment of Viceroy's commissioned officers in the Regular Army is 3,899. The information desired in the latter part of the question is not available and cannot, I am afraid, be readily obtained. But the number must be quite small.

(d) About 800 British soldiers. No Indian soldiers are stationed in this province.

#### APPOINTMENT OF THE BOUNDARIES COMMISSION.

54. THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SAIYID HUSSAIN IMAM: (a) Has Government taken any step to give effect to paragraph 21 of the Government of India despatch on Reforms about the Boundaries Commission ?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state when the Boundaries Commission will be appointed ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR BROJENDRA MITTER: (a) Government have not received the decisions of His Majesty's Government on the proposals contained in this paragraph and have therefore not yet taken any steps to give effect to the proposals.

(b) In view of the position stated in part (a) Government are unable to give a categorical answer to the question.

#### TOMB OF KING KUTUBUDDIN AIBUK AT LAHORE.

55. THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SAIYID HUSSAIN IMAM: (a) Is the tomb of King Kutubuddin Aibuk at Lahore under Government control under the Ancient Monuments Act ?

(b) Is it in a dilapidated and disreputable condition ?

(c) Does Government intend to improve its condition ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR FRANK NOYCE: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

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#### RESOLUTION RE FUTURE CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SAIYID HUSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa : Muhammadan): Sir, in rising to move this Resolution, I crave the indulgence of the Chair and of the House to overlook the shortcomings of a new Member. My advocacy may not be brilliant, my reasons may

not be bright and my delivery may not fit the standards of this august House. But, nevertheless, I appeal to you to look to the substance of the Resolution and if it meets with your approval to accord it your support.

I wish to say at the outset that my Resolution is not happily worded. As there will be no Council of State as such in the future, I suppose the discussion on my Resolution will be academic.....

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT:** The Honourable Member is probably unaware that the rules of the House require him to begin his speech by formally moving his Resolution in the terms on the paper. He has not yet moved his Resolution.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SAIYID HUSSAIN IMAM:** I move the Resolution:

“That this Council recommends the Governor General in Council to intimate to the Secretary of State for India and the Prime Minister the following:—

- (a) That this House does not favour indirect election for the Council of State.
- (b) That this House favours the retention of the present electorate.
- (c) That this House recommends that the total number of Members be increased to 120.
- (d) That this House recommends that the number of the elected Members be 80, and of the nominated 40.”

This House as at present constituted has always accorded its support to the Government in all their reasonable proposals. As we represent the stable element in the country and those who have a stake in it, naturally we have tried to help the Government whenever they have been in difficulties. Now it seems strange that our support should be requited in such a manner that our very basis of election is being changed. The Government have already tried the system of direct election to this House with satisfaction during the last ten years as is evident from the Government of India despatch. I cannot understand the reasons that prompted them to forego the benefits of a tried thing for the visionary good that may accrue from indirect election.

I should like to draw the attention of the House to the two models of Senate that exist in the British Empire. One is in Canada, which is wholly nominated, and the other is in Australia which is wholly elected. South Africa has also got a Senate, but as it is a Union and not a Federation, therefore I leave it out of consideration. I wish to deal with my Resolution item by item. The first item of my Resolution is that this House recommends direct election for the Council of State. I note with pleasure that all the Local Governments with the exception of Bombay and the Central Provinces have recommended direct election for the Council of State, as mentioned in the Government of India despatch, Volume I. As regards the franchise, all the Provincial Governments, with the exception of the Central Provinces, Bombay and the British element of the Government of Bihar and Orissa, support the present electorate. The Indian Central Committee which had the privilege of considering all the opinions adduced before the Indian Statutory Commission has supported direct election, in paragraph 131 of its report. As will be fresh in the memory of the Honourable Members, the Indian Central Committee consisted of four Members of this House and five Members of the other House, and I am glad to say that all the Members without any difference of opinion agreed to direct election from the present electorate. As far as I have been able to follow the report, none of these Members have opposed direct election to the Council of State. In face of this unanimity we have only the adverse

[Mr. Abu Abdullah Saiyid Hussain Imam.]

criticism of the Indian Statutory Commission on direct election. Along with the Assembly, they recommended indirect election to the Council of State. The Government of India in paragraphs 144-45 of their despatch have accepted indirect election in deference to the recommendations of the Indian Statutory Commission and in total disregard of the views of Provincial Governments. This acceptance of indirect election is hedged in by two safeguards by the Government of India, namely, that the rights of the minorities will not be prejudiced and that the proposal will commend itself to public opinion. Since the publication of the Government of India despatch, public opinion has not veered round in favour of indirect election, rather, direct election is being favoured by this country. In face of all this material evidence I hope the Government of India will revert to their original preference and will boldly discard indirect election and retain the present electorate. The present franchise of the Council of State includes past as well as present M. L. Cs. and M. L. As. ; by discarding the present system we will be disenfranchising all the M. L. As. and the *ex-M. L. Cs.* altogether. We want to enfranchise more and more people for the local Councils and the Federal Assembly, and in the same breath we want to restrict it for the Council of State. It does not seem consistent that we should want to enfranchise more people in the case of one Legislature and restrict the franchise further in the case of the other. At the Round Table Conference the recommendation for indirect election to the Assembly was turned down, but for this House it was accepted because this House was not as effectively represented as the Assembly was. Turning to item (c), I may at the outset state that the inclusion of representatives of Indian States in the Council of State was not a decided factor at the time when I sent in the notice of this Resolution. Therefore my recommendation is only for British India. The Round Table Conference has already accepted 150 as the strength of the House, and therefore this part of my Resolution will commend itself to the House without any comment on its merits. The real contentious point is item (d), in which I ask the House to recommend a reduction in the proportion of nominated Members. The Bombay and Punjab Local Governments have supported this view, that the number of elected Members should be increased. With the passage of time the demand for popular representation and the elimination of nominations has gathered strength. In view of the fact that the Government has eliminated the official block in the Assembly, it would be quite in line with that policy if they were to see their way to reducing the proportion of nominated Members from 45 to 33 per cent. for this Council.

With these few words, Sir, I move the Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE SIR BROJENDRA MITTER (Law Member): Sir, for all practical purposes the Resolution which has just now been moved is academic. It deals with the question of altering the existing Council of State. Clause (a) of the Resolution deals with the method of election ; clause (b) deals with the electorate ; clause (c) deals with the number of Members and clause (d) deals with the proportion between the elected and the nominated Members. Sir, it would be unprofitable, I submit, to discuss these interesting questions in view of the developments at the Round Table Conference. The present idea is not to continue the existing Council of State, which is the Upper Chamber in a unitary form of Government, but to have an Upper House in a Federal Legislature which would include representatives not only of British India but of the States as well. Sir, the Prime Minister in referring to the composition of the Legislature remarked that this was one of the unsettled



problems which still required work. This whole question of method of election to the Upper House, its size and composition will have to be settled in the further discussions which it is expected will take place before long. In this connection I would refer Honourable Members to paragraphs 25 and 26 of the report of the Sankey Sub-Committee, which I understand is in the hands of Honourable Members now. Sir, it is a matter of pleasure to us as also of profit to the House that Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, who was a member of that Sub-Committee, is present here to-day. Sir, I will not tire the patience of the House by reading those two paragraphs, 25 and 26, of the Sub-Committee's report. The net result of the report is this, that this question is unsettled at the moment; it requires discussion between representatives of British India and representatives of the States, and it will depend also upon the constitution of the Lower House. All these questions are intimately connected with one another and the expression of a definite opinion on the future constitution of the Council of State is, I submit, futile at the present moment. Sir, without going into the merits of the Resolution, the House

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will realise that the question of the method of representation of British India in the Upper Chamber assumes an entirely new aspect, when the Upper Chamber, in the new Constitution, will include representatives of the States. In view of these considerations I submit that this House should not proceed to express any definite opinion on the question before the necessary discussions take place and before we know what will be the constitution and the structure of the other House, what will be the constituent units in the Federation and other relative questions. Sir, in the circumstances, I hope the Honourable Mover of the Resolution will think fit not to press the Resolution to a vote.

THE HONOURABLE SIR C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR (Madras : Non-Muhammadan) : Mr. President, I had the honour to serve on the Federal Structure Sub-Committee of the Round Table Conference where this question of the constitution of the Upper Chamber was discussed very thoroughly. The learned Mover of the Resolution started by saying that this House was unrepresented on the Round Table Conference. It so happened that I was a Member of this House and was present at that Conference; and I may further add that in my first speech, which will no doubt be reproduced in the full text of the proceedings of the Conference which will shortly be published, I took the view that direct election to the Council of State or rather the Federal Upper House would be advantageous on the ground that the more the choosing of the second Chamber is out of popular control, the more it is detached from the realities of politics. But other considerations were pointed out, and I may summarise them, not because I hold that it will be a profitable mode of discussion at this moment to go through those matters threadbare, but because I desire to point out the difficulties in the way of a complete solution at the present moment and the considerations that have to be borne in mind before we arrive at any definite decision. In the first place, as the Law Member pointed out, it is impossible to decide the final composition of the Upper House before we know how the Lower House is going to be constituted. With regard to the Lower House, it was fairly conceded at the Round Table Conference—and opinion was well-nigh unanimous—that it should be constituted on a direct election basis. If that is so, there is a great deal to be said in favour of the Upper House being constituted on the basis of representation of the various entities or units of the Constitution such as the provinces and the States; that is, whilst the Lower House would represent what may be called “the general popular element” throughout the country, the Upper House may well be designed to represent

[Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar.]

the provinces and the States which form part of the aggregate. In every constitution almost that idea has been kept in mind. Let me illustrate. Excepting a few Balkan States and a few Baltic States, practically every modern constitution has got two Chambers, but most modern constitutions proceed on the footing that the Lower House should be representative of the people at large and the Upper House should be representative of the provinces or the units of the Federal structure. That is so in the case of Canada which contains a nominated Upper House, in the case of South Africa, which is partially nominated and partially elected, and in the case of wholly elected senates like those of the United States and Australia, and the same idea is carried out in France. The result of a survey of the constitution of Upper Houses discloses that one of the Houses at least is representative of the various units of the constitution, that is, the various provinces and States. To say that is not to deny them a popular character, because it must be remembered that the mode of election favoured by the Round Table Conference by a majority is by the provincial Legislatures which will be in the immediate future, it is hoped, entirely or almost entirely elected bodies. But the idea is that provincial Legislatures or other forms of electorates that may be devised will send up representatives who will preserve the state identity with the advantages of popular suffrage. The attitude of such an Upper House would be a corrective to or supplementary of the attitude which is sought to be represented in the Legislative Assembly. But it is too soon to dogmatise on what would be the final composition of the Council of State until we know what the Lower House is to be. If as a matter of fact the recommendations of the Round Table Conference are carried out and implemented and the Lower House is practically wholly elected on the British Indian side of it and will contain no nominated element excepting the bare minimum necessary to represent the official point of view, then we shall have to consider very carefully in the immediate future whether the Council of State should not be representative of those other interests, attitudes and outlooks which have representation in Upper Houses elsewhere. Thus, therefore, unless we know the composition of the Lower House and unless we know also whether the Indian States are coming into the Federation and what that type of Federation is going to be, it will be too early to come to any definite conclusion on the composition of the Upper House. I would therefore suggest to the Mover that it is too soon to force a decision upon the problem of direct election or indirect election to the Council of State. In certain contingencies and if the Lower House assumes a shape which is not at present contemplated, it may be necessary for us to express an opinion in favour of direct election. What is meant by indirect election does not necessarily mean an election not representative of the popular view point, but election by colleges or groups or sets of people who would represent an attitude and a point of view different from the point of view represented by the electorate for the Lower House. Therefore also the question of the retention of the present electorate is prematurely raised. If that be so, the number of members and other incidental matters may be left over. Finally, let me conclude by saying that what is to be done at the moment is to work for the Federal idea which is a new one. Those who went to England did not go there with the idea of this Federation. It was made possible by the patriotic and farsighted activities of the Princes who came round to a Federal idea and simultaneously pronounced in favour of a Federation with a self-governing British India. That having been postulated, the whole discussion took a new aspect and therefore we must not in this further investigation proceed

on the basis of the ideas that were current before the final decisions of the Round Table Conference were reached. I would therefore appeal to the Mover not to press the Resolution at this stage. The time may arise later.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SAIYID HUSSAIN IMAM :** Sir, in winding up the debate, I wish to make a personal explanation. Sir Ramaswami Ayyar took it that I started by saying that we were not represented on the Round Table Conference. What I said was that we were not as effectively represented as the Assembly was.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR RAMASWAMI AYYAR :** I accept the amendment and notice the implications.

**THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SAIYID HUSSAIN IMAM :** As regards the merits whether the present system is a good system or the one suggested by the Round Table Conference, I may say, Sir, that the M. L. Cs. will be elected by a popular body and they will naturally represent the provincial opinion and not the opinion of those who have a stake in the country. However, as this question is still open and seems rather premature, I beg leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

The Resolution was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

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#### ELECTION OF TWO MUSLIM MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEDJAZ.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT :** With reference to the motion adopted yesterday that the House should elect two Muslim Members to serve on the Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz, up to 11 o'clock this morning two nominations had been received. Those are of the Honourable Mr. Syed Abdul Hafeez and the Honourable Sardar Saheb Suleman Mitha. I declare those two Honourable Members duly elected.

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#### MOTION FOR THE ELECTION OF THREE MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ROADS.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE** (Industries and Labour Member) : Sir, I move :

“ That this Council do proceed to the election for the rest of the financial year 1930-31, in such method as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of three Members to serve on a Standing Committee on Roads which will be appointed by the Governor General in Council, and the constitution and functions of which shall be as defined in the Resolution on Road Development as adopted by the Council of State on the 4th March 1930. ”

The motion was adopted

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT :** Nominations for this Standing Committee will be received up to 11 o'clock to-morrow morning, the 12th February, 1931.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 12th February, 1931.