

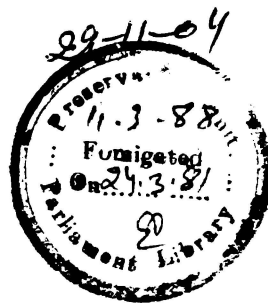
Monday, 16th March, 1931

THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

VOLUME I, 1931

(10th February to 2nd April, 1931)

FIRST SESSION
OF THE
THIRD COUNCIL OF STATE, 1931



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COUNCIL OF STATE.

Monday, 16th March, 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 Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha (West Bengal : Non-Muhammadan).

The Honourable Mian Ali Baksh Muhammad Hussain (Sind : Muhammadan).

QUESTION AND ANSWER.

SECTION-HOLDERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, DELHI.

112. THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE : (i) Will Government be pleased to state whether vacancies of section-holders in the Government Press, Delhi, are being filled in accordance with the Government orders that appointments of section-holders should be made alternately from assistant section-holders and duly qualified senior compositors ?

(ii) Have the assistant section-holders been officiating as section-holders for more than one year ?

(iii) Have they been working satisfactorily and successfully ?

(iv) Have any of them yet been confirmed in the existing vacancies ?

(v) If not, why ?

(vi) Have they sent memorials to Government regarding their hardships and low pay and poor prospects ?

(vii) Will Government be pleased to state the number of vacancies in the Delhi Press and the number it is proposed to give to assistant section-holders and piece compositors ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR JOSEPH BHOORE : (i) The orders of the Government of India are that vacancies in the grade of section-holders should be filled up alternately from assistant section-holders and senior compositors or operators. This rule may be relaxed only if no competent candidate can be obtained from the class from whom the selection could otherwise have been made under this rule. Government have no reason to suppose that these orders are not being followed in the Government of India Press, Delhi.

(ii), (iii), (iv), (v) and (vii). Government do not propose to call for the information asked for as it relates to matters of administrative details which are left ordinarily to the discretion of the Controller of Printing and Stationery, India.

(vi) Memorials were received in November, 1929, from three assistant section-holders in the Government of India Press, Delhi, regarding their pay.

ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE INDIAN RESEARCH FUND ASSOCIATION.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : In the matter of the election of one Member of the Council of State to serve on the Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association there is only one nomination, that of the Honourable Sir Phiroze Sethna. I therefore declare the Honourable Sir Phiroze Sethna duly elected.

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

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : For the election of three Members to the Standing Committee on Roads there are six nominations, the Honourable Sardar Bahadur Shivdev Singh Uberoi, the Honourable Mr. Satyendra Chandra Ghose Moulik, the Honourable Babu Jagadish Chandra Banerjee, the Honourable Khan Bahadur Chaudri Muhammad Din, the Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala Jagdish Prasad and the Honourable Nawab Khwaja Habibullah. The election in that case will take place on the next official day.

ELECTION OF TWO MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Two members have been nominated for election to the Standing Committee for the Department of Commerce. There are only two vacancies, and I therefore declare the Honourable Sir Phiroze Sethna and the Honourable Mr. P. H. Browne duly elected to that Committee.

RESOLUTION *RE* APPOINTMENT OF A RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE.

THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SAIYID HUSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa : Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to move the Resolution standing in my name :

“ That this House recommends the Governor General in Council to form a committee on the lines of the Geddes Committee in England to effect retrenchment in the Departments of the Government of India. ”

As is known to the Members of this House, this Resolution was brought before the Budget speech of the Honourable the Finance Minister was delivered. We did not know whether the Government were prepared to form a Retrenchment Committee or not, but now we have a definite proposal from the Government to form a Retrenchment Committee and it would seem that there is no necessity for pressing this Resolution. But my difficulty is that I do not agree either with the terms of reference of the Committee which have been outlined by the Honourable the Finance Minister in paragraph 46 of his speech or with the competency of the personnel. I do not mean to make any reflection on the ability of the other House, but I can quote from the proceedings of the Assembly for one day relevant to this matter. Most of the leaders did not very much appreciate the idea of this Committee. We have the Leader of the European Group coming forward and condemning it ; we have the

Deputy Leader of the Independent Party condemning it, and we have the Leader of the Nationalist Party not being very hopeful of its efforts. In these circumstances it seems that the bait which was thrown out was not taken and they were rather chary of it. But this proposal of the Honourable the Finance Minister has had a different reception in this House. It acted as a red rag to an enraged bull. Some of us were very enraged at not being included in the Retrenchment Committee and there was a regular condemnation of the Government for disregarding the services and work of this House by not including it in the personnel of the Committee. Now I wish to say a few words as to why I oppose the Committee as outlined by the Honourable the Finance Minister. In paragraph 46 of his report he says that

“The primary task of the Retrenchment Committee will be to investigate possibilities of retrenchment in the civil expenditure of the Government.”

Well, that takes out the whole of the Army Budget and other funds quite outside the scope of this Committee. I have tried to analyse the figures of our expenditure and how that affects the total available for examination. I find that out of 135 crores of the total expenditure they will only be able to look into 25·83 crores, that is, 19 per cent. only of the total expenditure. What could the Committee do? In this 19 per cent. you have got items which are irreducible and are non-votable. I do not think the Honourable the Finance Member will authorise the Committee of the Legislature to pass recommendations to reduce the non-voted items. If you take that out, it leaves a very small and poor margin, in which anything can be done. That is no good. The reason why this Committee was disregarded and was not approved by the Assembly was simply because it would be an eye-wash; it would do nothing useful; whereas the Committee that I am suggesting and which I am sure the Government will not approve is on the lines of the Geddes Committee. The Geddes Committee is of historic importance. It was formed in the year 1922. It recommended a reduction totalling about 86 million pounds and most of the recommendations were accepted. The terms of reference to that Committee were:

“To make recommendations to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for effecting forthwith all possible reductions in the National Expenditure on Supply Services, having regard specially to present and prospective position of the revenue. In so far as questions of policy are involved in the expenditure under discussion, these will remain for the exclusive consideration of the Cabinet: but it will be open to the Committee to review the expenditure and to indicate economies which might be effected if particular policies were either adopted, abandoned or modified.”

These are the terms of reference which I wish for this Committee. We should have a right to review the whole expenditure. If it will be an expensive affair, that expense can be recouped very well by the retrenchment, substantial retrenchment, which will result from the Committee. There are a number of lines in which expenses have risen enormously. I will show you only one instance of how our expenses have risen. They have been written in such a way that they have escaped the attention of most of the people. None in the Assembly or the Council of State has attacked this—the expenses on the management of debts. The rupee debts amount to more than the sterling debts. The Indian charges are 7·75 lakhs, whereas in England in the year that is just ending we are going to spend 77 lakhs, on a smaller debt than the rupee debts; and for the future year we are budgeting for 54 lakhs. The special feature of this expense was that in the Budget of the year 1930-31 the figure given by the Honourable the Finance Member was 12·32 lakhs, but the revised estimate showed 77 lakhs. These are the ways

[Mr. Abu Abdullah Saiyid Hussain Imam.]

in which our money is squandered. I will show you how Army expenses have risen. I have seen from the Inchcape Committee's Report that our expenses in 1913 amounted to 29·8 crores and I find that the expenditure in England that year was 42½ crores. England's expenses have now risen up to 53½—a rise of 27 per cent.; whereas in India the net expenditure has risen up to 52½ crores—something in the neighbourhood of 80 per cent. These are the ways in which our expenses are rising up. I do not suppose that anything can serve as a better example for us than what the Government of England is doing in its home country. That is the example that should serve for us as well as for the Government of India. They cannot say that the example of the Government of England is not serviceable, because they have got the same Army. The English Army is more expensive and the Indian Army is less expensive, and still our expenses have risen by about 80 per cent., while theirs has only risen by 27 per cent. You keep military expenses altogether out of the scope of the Retrenchment Committee. That will leave nothing for us; and there is special importance attached to this Army question, because in the future constitution among the safeguarded subjects is included the Army. The Indian Federal Parliament will have no say in the matter. That necessitates that the Army expenditure should be brought down to the irreducible minimum, and unless that is done I do not think that nationalist India will consent to give any *carte blanche* to the British Government to spend any amount they like on the Army. There must be a figure above which the Governor General will have to get the sanction of the House. For that purpose you have got to reduce your Army expenses to manageable limits.

The Report of the Inchcape Committee, which was not very well approved by the Government of India and which was not given effect to, has commented on the ability of the people of India to bear more taxes; and it quotes that from the year 1913 the amount of indirect taxation has increased by 49 crores:

“Since 1913-14 new taxation estimated to yield Rs. 49 crores annually has been imposed, and the extent to which it is possible to impose further burdens on the tax-payer is now very limited.”

That was the opinion of the Inchcape Committee in 1922-23; and still we are going to increase the burden further by 15 crores in one year only. There is practically no check on the Government. The Government can spend anything they like, and there is only the shadow and not the substance in this declaration that we have got the control. There are certain aspects of it in which you can overrule all our wishes. You have got the official Benches and then the non-official nominated Members and still further you have got place hunters who do as you like by a small bait. That is how you have got the right to do as you like, but I hope that in the new India this will not remain.

Now, Sir, the other item to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is that this Committee which I propose will have to be divided up into many Sub-Committees. There are so many items of expenses which one Committee cannot possibly look into. There ought to be a Sub-Committee in England to look into our expenses over there—how they are being managed, if there is any possibility of reduction in this—and other items of English expenditure. There should be a Committee which should look into the Railways. The Inchcape Committee has recommended some reductions in the working expenses of the Railways. That too has never been looked into. Our complaint is that the Report of the Retrenchment Committee, even if

formed, is not considered worth the paper on which it is written. It is considered a scrap of paper; the Government of India think like that. Bethmann-Hollweg was no fool when he referred to a scrap of paper. They think that all such reports are scraps of paper fit only for the waste-paper basket and for nothing more. If that is going to be the end, there is no need of having any Retrenchment Committee now. It may be of no service to us now, but in the future Government of India it could be utilised.

With these words, Sir, I move this Resolution.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR MCWATTERS (Finance Secretary): Sir, the subject-matter of this Resolution, which is the best method of pursuing inquiries into reduction of Government expenditure, was discussed very fully in this House during the General Budget debate and the House had the benefit of the presence of the Honourable the Finance Member on that occasion, who made the position of Government clear on the subject. In consequence it will not be necessary for me to say more than a few words to-day. I am not proposing to enter into a review, still less a defence, of Government expenditure because what we are concerned with at the moment is solely the best method of proceeding at the present time. I will permit myself only one short digression because the Honourable Member in his speech has mentioned the Inchcape Committee and has stated that Government treated the Committee's Report as a scrap of paper. Well, Sir, memories are short and some of our critics are new to this business. If the Honourable Member had been in this House in 1923, as I was, and in subsequent years, he would have known that that Report was not treated as a scrap of paper. In 1923 I happened to occupy the position of Finance Secretary as I do to-day, and therefore I can speak with some knowledge on the subject. It was one of my duties every month to take up to His Excellency Lord Reading personally a list of the recommendations of the Inchcape Committee in detail which had not been accepted or had not up till then been accepted in full, and I personally every month went through those items with him. And the same procedure was adopted on the Army side. So that I can assure the Honourable Member that a very careful consideration by the highest authority was given to every detail of the recommendations of the Inchcape Committee's Report. Moreover, a full account of every detail of that Report showing which items had been accepted, and where items had not been accepted, why they had not been accepted, was laid on the table of both Houses on more than one occasion, so that every Member of both Houses could acquaint himself fully with what was done on that Report. I may mention that in the first year, 1923-24, the actual retrenchment made on the civil side as a direct result of the Inchcape Committee Report was 7 crores 21 lakhs. On the Army side the Budget for 1922-23 had been 67½ crores and the Inchcape Committee's recommendations was that it should be reduced at once by 10 crores. The actual result in 1923-24 was that the Army expenditure was 1½ crores less than the Inchcape Committee's recommendation. I ask the House whether it can fairly be said that Government treated that Report as a scrap of paper?

It is not necessary for me, Sir, to mention the difficulties which confront Government in a matter of this kind. It is common knowledge that there have been large increases in some cases arising from the revision of terms of service which have been approved by the Standing Finance Committee and the Legislature. I might mention one instance. In the Posts and Telegraph Department the improved terms of service for the subordinate staff have cost 1½ crores a year and that cost is still rising. The improved changes

[Sir Arthur McWatters.]

in other terms of service which have been approved by the Legislature have cost us an increasing sum of about 23 lakhs each year. We have added something like 47 lakhs owing to the adoption of the policy in regard to civil aviation. We have made big grants for agricultural research ; we have made grants to Aligarh and Benares Universities ; we have increased our beneficial expenditure in the North-West Frontier and in other administrative areas. And in spite of all these increases most of which are obviously beneficial, we have this year by a most drastic economy been able to reduce our expenditure by 94 lakhs. I have told the House in my Budget speech that under Civil Works we have cut out all possible items that could be cut out ; we have admitted no new major works ; we have retarded works in progress so far as this could be done with economy ; we have cut down the grant for minor works to the barest minimum ; under Frontier Watch and Ward also we have admitted no new works at all, and we have adopted the same policy with regard to postal buildings ; we have cut down our contingencies and other allowances by 26 lakhs. I think that we have a record which we are in no way ashamed of, but the Honourable the Finance Member's point was this that while we have done all that we thought possible in the way of economy and while a Special Officer has prepared a report dealing in every detail with the growth of expenditure in every Department so as to enable the matter to be examined more easily by a committee or in any other way, we do realise that the time has come when ordinary methods are not sufficient, and it was for this reason that in his Budget speech the Honourable the Finance Member suggested the co-operation of Members of the Legislature. We want their co-operation, we want their moral support, because when you proceed beyond the ordinary methods of economy you will find that your action will probably have to be drastic. You will find people thrown out of employment, you will find services being abandoned to which many people attach great importance. Therefore we want, in the first place, their moral support in going beyond what I may call the ordinary procedure. In the second place, we do not claim to possess a monopoly of wisdom or experience, and we want their advice. And it was for these reasons, for their support and for their help, that we suggested bringing in Members of the Legislature.

Now, Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member speaking in this House the other day made it quite clear that if the committee was to be a committee of the Legislature he intended that this House should take part in it. He made that statement very definitely. If, on the other hand, the general opinion of the Legislature is that that type of committee is not suitable, we are quite prepared to give consideration to any views that may be expressed on the subject. We are not committed to any particular form of committee. All that we want to do is to get on with the business. Since the Honourable the Finance Member spoke in this House there have been informal discussions with a large number of people, and I think the general view—almost the general view—is that probably something in the nature of separate inquiries will be desirable dealing with different subjects. The Honourable Mover of the Resolution, I think, really holds the same view. For instance, we want a slightly different procedure to deal with railways ; we want a separate procedure for posts and telegraphs ; and a suggestion was made the other day by the Honourable Mr. Browne that something might be done in the way of expert enquiry into simplification of the form of our accounts. Again, turning to the military side, it is obvious that many of the most important considerations there are bound up with the constitutional discussions now proceeding. But speaking in the other House the other day the Honourable the Finance

Member said that so far as the business management of the Army is concerned he was quite prepared, and the Commander-in-Chief was quite prepared, to allow it to come under review. Therefore a suggestion has been made that it might be a good thing if a committee representing both Houses were formed to consider, in the first instance, what is the most appropriate method of approaching each of these enquiries, and the Honourable the Finance Member has asked me to-day to invite any Members of this House who would like to help him to meet him to-morrow at 6 o'clock after the Assembly finishes its business in his room in the Council House to discuss this whole question, and in particular the proposal which I have just mentioned. As I say, Sir, we are not in any way committed to any particular form of procedure, and we are only anxious to find out what procedure will be most suitable to the Members of the Legislature. In those circumstances, Sir, if the House wishes to press this Resolution I shall not oppose it. I shall not vote on it. But, in view of what I have said, if the Honourable Mover wishes to withdraw his motion and not press it he would be keeping the question open for further consideration of the best method of procedure. This is merely a suggestion which I wish to make for his consideration.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. A. NATESAN (Madras : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I should like to say that I am not in favour of my Honourable friend Mr. Hussain Imam's motion, but the reason is entirely different, as perhaps he anticipates. I consider, Sir, that on the eve of great constitutional changes which are bound inevitably to take place, and as I expect, and every one from all quarters of the House and elsewhere is expecting that these constitutional changes are bound to be of a great and radical character, I do not think we should appoint any committee to go into this question of retrenchment. We do not know exactly what the constitutional changes will be and how far they will affect the establishments and services not only of the Government of India but also of the various Provincial Governments. More than anything else, at a time when finances are crippled, the best way of retrenching expenditure, if I may say so, is to avoid the appointment of big committees. I am strongly of opinion that a Committee like the Geddes Committee or the Inchcape Committee should be appointed almost immediately after the new constitutional changes. I hope that my Honourable friend will not mistake me if I tell him that he should not even be satisfied with the Retrenchment Committee which the Honourable the Finance Member has promised, even with the luxury of the addition of one or two Members of this House. The Honourable the Finance Member has said more than once in the Assembly and here that in his opinion there is not much scope for retrenchment. Let me tell you in all sincerity that even if the Government of India is inclined to say that there is scope for reduction of expenditure, there is not likely to be any chance of such reduction in the present circumstances, with the Government of India and the Provincial Governments constituted as they are. But as they have told us more than once very clearly that there is no room for retrenchment, I see absolutely no use in this House agreeing to the suggestion made by the Honourable Sir Arthur McWatters and serving on the Retrenchment Committee, if they are going to have one. They will simply be beating about the bush, trying to gather materials as he said. I know from experience not only of committees here but also of committees of Corporations and Senates of which I have some little experience that when a committee is appointed to find out ways and means to effect retrenchment, they take about a year and by the time they make their proposals, fresh developments take place and no good comes out of the committee except that we have to pay a heavy bill towards their expenditure. Sometimes the committee tours different

[Mr. G. A. Natesan.]

parts of the country and that also adds to the expenditure. That is one part of the speech which I intended to deliver.

My Honourable friend Sir Arthur McWatters has said that public memories are very short. I would like to indulge in a little bit of repartee and say that official memories are very often shorter, and they are very convenient too. Sir, to my knowledge, in the history of the Government of India or of the Provincial Governments I do not remember a single occasion when a motion for retrenchment was brought forward or a proposal for the appointment of a committee to consider expenditure was brought forward, when any official either of the Government of India or of any Provincial Government has said that there was room for retrenchment. Let us take this very proposal for the appointment of the Inchcape Committee. There were proposals made to the Government of India for the appointment of a committee to consider the extraordinary rise in expenditure and yet every time we were told that there was no scope for retrenchment. My Honourable friend Sir Arthur McWatters himself has said that as a result of the recommendations of the Inchcape Committee there was a reduction of 10 crores in the Military Budget, and subsequently also there has been a show of a little bit of reduction, and yet before the appointment of the Inchcape Committee it was said very loudly in the Legislative Assembly that there was no scope for retrenchment at all. It was made clear by responsible officials in the Assembly that there was no scope for retrenchment and yet, as soon as the Inchcape Committee was appointed and a reduction was suggested, the Government of India said, "Very good, we have followed that very loyally", and now, the Honourable Sir Arthur McWatters says, "I was myself Finance Secretary then; I went up to Lord Reading and asked what we shall do with these things, and 10 crores of expenditure were reduced". We were told again the year before that there was no scope for retrenchment in the Military Department and yet that Department takes credit for having brought about a reduction of about 1½ crores. In all conscience I do feel convinced that if there is a will there is a way, and it is because, Sir, that Government as at present constituted is for some reason or other not willing to be a party to retrenchment that substantial retrenchments have not taken place.

I will conclude with only one observation, and I am prompted to make it by an extract which I read this morning in the *Statesman* about the steps which Sidky Pasha, the Prime Minister of Egypt, has been able to take with regard to reduction of expenditure. He was President of the Parliamentary Finance Committee for several years and in that capacity he made several suggestions for improvement and for reduction, but nothing could be done. But now that he is the Finance Minister and is in power, and has to stabilize the finances of the State, he has not hesitated to put into effect the proposals which he previously made so unsuccessfully. And what is the result? The first drastic step he has taken will effect an immediate economy of ₹250,000 in the annual increases. In addition, he has been able very successfully to reduce by at least 10 per cent. all allowances. I will conclude by only stating that this has been done because he is the Minister of a national Government, whereas the Government of India is not a national Government. That is why we are told that retrenchment cannot be effected satisfactorily.

THE HONOURABLE DIWAN BAHADUR G. NARAYANASWAMI CHETTI
(Madras : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I would also like to oppose this motion. As I have already said the other day, I do not think that anything will come

out of this Retrenchment Committee. I find that some Members are not for having the Retrenchment Committee proposed by the Honourable the Finance Member. I do not agree with my Honourable friend Mr. Natesan when he says that the appointment of the committee would merely cost a little more to Government. Even it costs a little, if the committee will be of some use, it is all right. I have got great faith in the steps the Finance Member has promised to take in the other House. He has promised to have a conference with provincial Finance Members to see whether they could themselves carry out retrenchments. I would only say that after this Conference has met, the Government should issue a communiqué showing to what extent they were able to retrench. I think that would be welcome to both the Houses. If the Government of India are really anxious to retrench, I am quite satisfied that they can make a great deal of retrenchment. My Honourable friend has said that the Military Department should also retrench and that they can do that without any difficulty. I only appeal to Sir Arthur McWatters to see that retrenchment is made in all the Departments of the Government of India and in the various Provincial Governments. I dare say that the Conference which has been promised will be of more avail than any non-official Committee. I only hope that an interim report will be soon published, so that we may know what is being done. I appeal to the Government of India to be more earnest in this matter and to see that something is done. As I said, I have not much faith in this Retrenchment Committee and I beg to oppose it.

THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SAIYID HUSSAIN IMAM : I should like to ask a question of the Honourable Sir Arthur McWatters. Are the Government prepared to submit its proposal to the House for approval, whatever proposals it makes ?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR McWATTERS : I have no authority to make any statement about it. What the Government are doing now is to ask the opinion of the Members of the House. We want them to come round. I want you to come round with other Members of the House and discuss the matter with us. What will happen after that I cannot say. But I think that if the result of the discussion is that it is desirable to appoint a committee from the Members of both Houses, of course the matter will come before the Legislature again.

THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SAIYID HUSSAIN IMAM : Sir, I was going to press my Resolution to the vote, but in view of the announcement made by the Honourable Sir Arthur McWatters for whom I have great respect—and especially for his feats of memory by which he can remember lots of old facts and figures quite easily that the Government is willing to take our advice, and what I suggested in my Resolution, and is not bound to any definite form, I will reconsider the question. My aim, as I said in my first speech, was that the enquiry should be split up into separate inquiries so that we may have a co-ordinated policy instead of one committee looking into everything which will be too much for them, because it will simply look into the major things and not into the minor details. If we have got committees working in different departments simultaneously we can have equally good results. The Honourable the Finance Secretary has already said that this proposal is not new to him and that it has been made by other people also and that the Finance Member is willing to consult us. . . .

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTTA (Assam : Non-Muhammadan) : Certainly not on the military expenditure.

THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SAIYID HUSSAIN IMAM : Let us have to look into that also.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ARTHUR McWATTERS : I said the business side of the Army administration. I explained that in other respects constitutional issues are involved.

THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SAIYID HUSSAIN IMAM : In view of the statement which meets with my requirements, I wish, with the leave of the House, to withdraw my Resolution.

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

**RESOLUTION *RE* REFERENCE TO THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS OF
THE QUESTION OF THE PROTECTION OF THE INTERESTS OF
MINORITIES IN INDIA.**

THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MOULIK (West Bengal : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I beg to withdraw my Resolution.*

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 18th March, 1931.

*“ This Council recommends the Governor General in Council to refer the question of protecting the interests of minorities in India to the League of Nations for their decision.”
