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(Official Report)

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FOURTH SESSION
OF THE
THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1929



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 18th March, 1929.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

GRIEVANCES OF THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS ON INDIAN RAILWAYS.

1081. ***Mr. Ghanshyam Das Birla:** (a) Is it a fact that the Railway Board invited the opinion of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Administration, on the subject of ameliorating the grievances of the 3rd class passengers?

(b) Is it true that the Chief Traffic Manager of the Railway, before dealing with the subject, invited Mr. Jivraj G. Nensey and Khan Bahadur P. E. Ghamat, Honorary Joint Secretaries of the Passengers' and Traffic Relief Association, Bombay, to offer suggestions in the matter?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether those recommendations have been received by them? If so, what action do the Railway Board desire to take and when?

(d) Have the Railway Board likewise called for suggestions from other railway administrations and the Local Advisory Committees thereof? If the answer be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to name them, and state how far their recommendations could be met with?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether the views of the Passengers' Association in Bombay, Belgaun, Calcutta, and Madras were called for by the Railway Board? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (d). The Railway Board invited the opinion of all important railway administrations on this subject in April 1928. The Agents of railways would no doubt have consulted their Local Advisory Committees and made other inquiries before making their reports and recommendations. Their replies were placed before the Central Advisory Council, who discussed the whole question in their meetings in September 1928 and February last. The railways were again addressed by the Railway Board in March 1929 with regard to the points that emerged in this discussion.

(b) and (c). Government have not heard from the Great Indian Peninsula Railway that their Chief Traffic Manager invited suggestions from these gentlemen, but any suggestions made to the Railway doubtless received the fullest consideration of the Agent before he sent in his report to the Railway Board.

(e) The Railway Board did not call for the views of any Associations direct, but they trust that Agents have, with the assistance of their Local Advisory Committees, explored all avenues in the direction of increased amenities to passengers.

CONDITIONS AND TERMS OF LAND SETTLEMENTS IN DIFFERENT PROVINCES.

1082. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan**: Will Government please state the conditions and terms of land settlements, in the different provinces of British India, province by province?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: I would refer the Honourable Member to the Settlement Reports and the Settlement Manuals of the various provinces.

UNSATISFACTORY TREATMENT OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE MIGRATORY STAFF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT AT THE MUNICIPAL BOARD SCHOOL, NEW DELHI.

1083. ***Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan**: (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of lady teachers employed in the Municipal Board Girls' School, New Delhi, with their nationality, educational qualifications, and the length of service of each?

(b) What is the average number of girls in each class studying in this school from April to October and November to March every year?

(c) Has the existing teaching staff employed in this school been found adequate for the standard of education for the girls reading there?

(d) Are Government aware that the treatment of the head lady teacher and other mistresses towards the girls is not satisfactory, as they always scold and abuse them for no fault of their own, and this treatment is particularly directed to the girls of the migratory staff of the Government of India Secretariat? If so, why so?

(e) Is it a fact that the girls of the migratory staff are generally refused admission, in the first instance, and that their admission to school is always delayed on some pretence for one to two months?

(f) What facilities are provided by the Central Government for the education of the girls and boys of the migratory staff?

(g) In view of the disabilities which the moving staff of the Government of India suffer in respect of education of their children, are Government considering to take steps to redress the grievances?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The information asked for is being collected, and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. JACKSON AS ASSISTANT STORE-KEEPER, BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1084. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha**: (a) Is it a fact that, in the Bengal and North Western Railway, one Mr. Jackson has been appointed as an Assistant Store-keeper? Is this a post reserved for Indians?

(b) Is it a fact that his father, Mr. Jackson, is employed in the Audit Department of the same Railway?

(c) Is it a fact that the latter has drawn oversea allowance?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state (i) the amount so drawn by him (ii) the reasons why the son has been treated as an Indian while the father is treated as a European?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information. The Railway Administration have full powers in respect to such appointments.

Diwan Chaman Lal: May I ask the Honourable Member whether the allegation made in this question is not serious enough for the Railway Board to take notice of?

Mr. P. R. Rau: It does not seem to be very serious. I do not understand what the allegation is.

Diwan Chaman Lal: May I ask the Honourable Member whether it is not apparent from the question that the allegation is that the post is one reserved for Indians?

Mr. P. R. Rau: There is no post reserved for Indians or Anglo-Indians or Europeans as such, I hope, in the Bengal and North Western Railway.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: May I know from the Honourable Member whether it is not permissible for the European father of an Anglo-Indian son to draw oversea allowance?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I know that the domicile of a son depends on that of his father, but I have never heard that the domicile of the father descended from the son. (Laughter).

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: That is no answer to my question, Sir. The reply of the Honourable Member is obvious. I am asking the Honourable Member whether it is not permissible, and in accordance with the Lee Commission recommendations, for an European employee of a railway to be entitled to draw oversea allowance, whilst his Anglo-Indian or domiciled European son is not entitled to draw it he having an Indian domicile?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I think I have answered that question, Sir.

Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha: Will the Honourable Member kindly get the information asked for?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Which information, may I know?

Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha: The information asked for in my question.

Mr. P. R. Rau: Is it the one referred to in clause (d) of the question?

Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha: I mean the information asked for in the whole question.

Mr. P. R. Rau: That has been answered, Sir.

RULE ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY BARRING INDIANS FROM APPRENTICESHIP IN THE LOCO. DEPARTMENT.

1085. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha:** Is it a fact that the Bengal and North Western Railway has a standing rule barring Indians from apprenticeship in its Loco. Department?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am not aware of such a rule. Inquiry is however being made from the Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway.

**APPOINTMENT OF MR. CARLE AS ASSISTANT LOCO. SUPERINTENDENT,
BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

1086. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha:** (a) Is it a fact that the Bengal and North Western Railway appointed Mr. Carle as an Assistant Loco. Superintendent, even though suitable Indians were available for the post?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the special qualifications, if any, of Mr. Carle for the post?

(c) What appointment was he holding before he joined the Bengal and North Western Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The Railway Administration have full powers to make appointments of this nature and Government presume that they selected the officer whom they considered most suitable for the post.

**APPOINTMENT OF MR. HUDSON AS TRAFFIC INSPECTOR ON THE BENGAL
AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

1087. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha:** (a) Do the Bengal and North Western Railway adhere to the policy laid down by the Railway Board?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the appointment of Mr. Hudson as a Traffic Inspector?

(c) Is it a fact that he superseded Mr. Hanifi, though the latter is more qualified?

(d) If Mr. Hanifi is not more qualified, will Government be pleased to state the qualifications of both the gentlemen?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) I have no reason to think otherwise.

(b), (c) and (d). The Agent has full powers to make appointments of this description, and Government presume that he considered the qualifications of all suitable candidates before making a particular selection.

Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha: There is no reply to part (b) of my question, Sir.

Mr. P. R. Rau: The last part of my answer refers to clauses (b), (c) and (d) of the question.

**SCALE OF PAY OF CERTAIN EUROPEAN AND INDIAN OFFICIALS ON THE
BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.**

1088. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha:** Will Government be pleased to state the scale of pay of the following staff in the Bengal and North Western Railway, separately for Indians and Europeans: (1) Station Masters, (2) Guards, (3) Drivers, (4) Shunters?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The Honourable Member will find such information as is in the possession of the Government in regard to the pay of these classes of servants of the Railway Company in the establishment rolls of the Bengal and North Western Railway, a copy of which is in the Library.

Diwan Chaman Lal: May I ask the Honourable Member whether there is any racial discrimination in regard to the pay given to Europeans and Anglo-Indians?

Mr. P. E. Rau: I am not aware that there is any difference in the rates of pay admissible to Indians and Europeans for the same sort of work but if, from personal experience, the Honourable Member can assure me that there is in any case, I can assure him I will inquire into it.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: I may assure the Honourable Member that it is so.

Mr. P. E. Rau: Then I shall make inquiries, Sir.

COST OF THE EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF INDIAN, ANGLO-INDIAN AND EUROPEAN EMPLOYEES ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1089. ***Mr. Siddheswar Prasad Sinha:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of employees, (1) Indians, (2) Anglo-Indians, (3) Europeans, in the Bengal and North Western Railway?

(b) What amount has been spent over the education of the children of each of these communities separately during the years 1926-27, 1927-28, and 1928-29 up to January 1929?

Mr. P. E. Rau: (a) I would refer the Honourable Member to Appendix "C", Volume II, of the Report by the Railway Board on Indian Railways for 1927-28, a copy of which is in the Library.

(b) I am endeavouring to obtain the information for the Honourable Member.

DISSATISFACTION CAUSED BY STATEMENTS BY MR. J. COATMAN IN "INDIA IN 1927-28".

1090. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** 1. (a) Are Government aware of the fact that in his book, "India in 1927-28", Mr. Coatman's statement that, "With the exception of Mr. Jinnah, no Muhammadan politician of any standing denounced the Simon Commission", has caused great resentment and dissatisfaction in this country, and also of the fact that the Honourable Mr. Crerar's reply to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's starred question No. 875, relating to the same statement, has only augmented the said resentment and dissatisfaction?

(b) Do Government propose to take all possible and reasonable steps to remove the resentment and dissatisfaction mentioned above?

(c) Do Government propose to appoint a day, during the present session of the Assembly, for a discussion of Mr. Coatman's book "India in 1927-28"?

2. (a) Are Government prepared to inquire from Mr. Coatman the significance of his remarks, 'a politician of any standing', and also to state in the House what he says in reply?

(b) Do Government accept Mr. Coatman's explanation of their purposes?

The Honourable Mr. J. Crerar: The answer is in the negative and Government do not propose to take the action suggested.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask the Honourable Member whether by his reply to part 1 (a) also, I may take it that Mr. Coatman did not make the statement?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The answer to part 1 (a) is in the negative.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: Am I to take it, Sir, that the Government are not aware of the fact that Mr. Coatman wrote these things in the book?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: I have answered the question, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask the Honourable Member to give us the correct expression used by Mr. Coatman?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The Honourable Member will find it on referring to the publication in question, which is in the Library.

REGISTER OF INDIAN POLITICIANS OF STANDING.

1091. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** (a) Do Government keep any permanent register containing the names of Indian politicians of standing?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to place it on the table, and also to state the authority by whom, and the method by which, this recognition of a man as a politician of standing is arrived at before entry in the register?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

EXAMINATION BEFORE PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK "INDIA IN 1927-28".

1092 ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state whether Mr. Coatman's book "India in 1927-28" was read and examined by any higher official before its publication, and if so, by whom?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The Report is examined generally by officers of the different Departments of the Government of India and also in the India Office before publication or presentation to Parliament. Neither the Government of India nor the Secretary of State accepts responsibility for any particular expression of opinion.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask the Honourable Member for whose benefit the Report is published every year?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: I think, Sir, that question will arise on a subsequent question which is on the paper.

OBJECT OF PUBLICATION OF YEAR BOOKS SUCH AS "INDIA IN 1927-28".

1093. ***Mr. Ram Narayan Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) What is the object in publishing India Year Books like the one, "India in 1927-28" of Mr. Coatman, from year to year?

(b) By what law or by whose orders it is published?

- (c) What are (i) the sources from which the information is obtained, which this book is supposed to contain, and also (ii) the agency or agencies by which the information is collected, verified and examined?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: (a) and (b). The submission of the report is prescribed by section 26 of the Government of India Act, and the object of the Report is to keep Parliament informed of the moral and material progress and condition of India.

(c) (i) For the sources I would refer the Honourable Member to the list I am placing in the Library. This used to appear as an appendix to the Report, but, in the interests of economy, its publication was discontinued from 1926-27.

(ii) By the authorities issuing the publications mentioned in the list and, when necessary, by the Bureau of Public Information.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I know whether the Government of India Act prescribes that the Government should publish books for which they take no responsibility as to the views contained therein? Is there any provision in any section of the Government of India Act to that effect?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: There is no precise prescription of that character.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: Is it not a fact, Sir, that the Government of India Act prescribes that they should submit to Parliament a correct and faithful record of what may be considered as the material and moral progress of India, and not merely publish opinions for which they take no responsibility whatever?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The Honourable Member is aware of the provision in the Government of India Act, and as an expert lawyer, he can interpret it.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: I want an answer to my question; there is no use of saying that I am clever. I want to know whether the Government of India can publish a book for which they take no responsibility?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: I do not think that the provisions in the Act in any way render inappropriate the proviso which I have referred to.

Diwan Chaman Lal: Will the Honourable Member kindly read out the provision in the Government of India Act?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: I am sorry I have not at this moment got a copy of the Government of India Act in my possession.

Mr. C. Duraiswamy Aiyangar: May I know whether the Secretary of State, in presenting this report, to both Houses of Parliament, under Section 26 of the Government of India Act, deals directly with Mr. Coatsman, or whether he relies upon the authority of the Government of India vouchsafing the correctness of the matters stated in that report?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The Report, as I say, is forwarded to the India Office and is there examined before being laid before Parliament.

Mr. C. Duraiswami Aiyangar: Is the Honourable Member aware that it is more open to the Government of India, in this country to test the correctness of it than to the India Office in England?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: That no doubt represents the Honourable Member's opinion.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that the Material and Moral Progress Reports which were presented to Parliament before 1919, did not contain this kind of anti-Indian propaganda year after year?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: I am not prepared to accept that it is anti-Indian propaganda.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: Does he know that these Reports did not contain anything of the nature of an expression of views or propaganda, that no such opinions or propaganda were indulged in previous Material and Moral Progress Reports?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: I think the criticisms previously expressed in the Report before 1919 were that it was a very dry compilation, which most people found great difficulty in reading.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar: And therefore the Government of India, in order to make it lively, decided to introduce matter of this poisonous character!

PROSCRIPTION BY GOVERNMENT OF A FORTHCOMING BOOK BY MISS MAYO,
CALLED "SLAVES OF GOD".

1094. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Are Government aware that Miss Mayo is shortly bringing out another book, called "Slaves of God", libelling and misrepresenting some of the social and religious customs of the Hindus?

(b) Are Government aware that such sentiments are likely to create class hatred in India; and do they propose to proscribe the book, and prevent its entry into this country?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: (a) Government have seen a newspaper report to this effect. The Honourable Member will hardly expect me to endorse his description of a book which neither of us have yet seen.

(b) The book has not yet been published, and it is clear that I can offer no opinion as to whether any action may be called for, until the book has been published.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: May I know if Government proscribed that book "Politics in Oil" before they had occasion to read the book in this country?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: I think I have already answered several questions with regard to that particular book. The fact is that the book was, in the first instance, excluded on the ground of the source from which it emanated. On further examination it was admitted.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: May I know what objection the Government of India have to getting hold of a copy of this book and finding out whether it is objectionable or not?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: The book has first to become available. It has not yet been published.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that the articles in this book have already been published in various periodicals?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: Not to my knowledge.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Has the Honourable Member ever read Nash's Magazine?

STATEMENT IN THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE STANDING FINANCE COMMITTEE
REGARDING THE ORGANISATION OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

1095. ***Mr. S. O. Mitra:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state who is responsible for the statement "The Directorate is at present organised more like a secretariat, or attached office, than like an accounts office", which appeared in the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee dated the 28th January, 1927?

(b) Why was the expression "than like an accounts office" used? Was it with the object of abandoning the old idea of treating the Office of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs as an accounts office?

(c) What is the meaning of the words "at present"? Do they refer to the month of January, 1927, or the year 1926, or a much earlier period?

(d) Why were the alternatives "secretariat or attached office" used?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The statement was made by the Government of India.

(b) and (d). If the Honourable Member will re-peruse the whole of section E of appendix I of the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee, referred to by him, he will, I think, have no difficulty in understanding why the particular phrases to which he alludes were made use of in the second paragraph. So far as I am aware, the members of the then Standing Finance Committee did not find it difficult to understand the passages referred to. In any case, it is not possible for me to elucidate further the meaning of what I consider to be plain English words.

(c) The phrase is used in its dictionary sense.

PETITION FOR INCREASE OF PAY BY THE CLERICAL STAFF OF THE OFFICE
OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

1096. ***Mr. S. O. Mitra:** (a) Is it a fact that the clerical staff of the Office of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs submitted identical printed petitions to the address of His Excellency the Viceroy in August, 1924, on the subject of their pay?

(b) Were these petitions ever placed before His Excellency? If so, with what result?

(c) What are the reasons for the delay in the issue of the orders?

(d) Do Government propose to make ample amends for the delay, by meeting in full, the prayers made by the staff in their petitions to H. E. the Viceroy, and reiterated by them in their memorials to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India?

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

(b) The petitions were dealt with by the Government of India in the usual course and final orders were issued in Government of India letter 11-P. T. E., dated 6th March, 1928.

(c) The reasons are given in my answer to the Honourable Member's question next following.

(d) Does not arise.

REVISION OF PAY OF THE CLERICAL STAFF OF THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

1097. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will Government be pleased to say whether it was stated in the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee, dated the 28th January, 1927, that a revision of pay of the clerical staff of the Office of the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs was long pressed for, but was deferred for some reason or other?

(b) If so, what are the reasons?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes. The exact words used were "A revision of the pay of the Directorate office has long been pressed for, but was postponed for various reasons particularly the approaching move to Delhi."

(b) As the House is aware, it was in 1925, that I took up my examination of the grievances of postal subordinates of various classes. As soon as I was in a position to come to conclusions in a particular matter to work out a scheme, to get it sanctioned by the financial authorities, and to make money available for it, that scheme was given effect to. These are broadly the reasons why no action could be taken in regard to the revision of pay of the clerical staff of the Office of Director General of Posts and Telegraphs before January, 1927. An additional and important reason has already been mentioned.

INDEBTEDNESS OF THE POSTAL STAFF IN CALCUTTA, ALIPORE AND HOWRAH.

1098. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the annual report of the Postal Co-operative Credit Society of Calcutta Ltd., for the year ending 31st March, 1928?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government submit a monthly statement of loans that were given to the members from April 1927 to March 1928?

(c) Do Government propose to order an inquiry as to the cause of such indebtedness amongst the postal staff working in Calcutta, Alipore and Howrah?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) The answer is in the negative.

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

RESOLUTION AT THE RANGOON SESSION OF THE ALL-INDIA POSTAL CONFERENCE REGARDING OUT-STATION ALLOWANCE FOR POST OFFICE EMPLOYEES.

1099. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to Resolution No. 26, passed by the Rangoon Session of the All-India (including Burma) Postal and Railway Mail Service Conference, printed at page 496 of *Labour*, dated January, 1929?

(b) If the reply be in the affirmative, will Government please state if the facts, as stated in the Resolution, are substantially correct?

(c) If the reply be in the affirmative, do Government contemplate to revise the rates of out-station allowance, on the lines suggested in the Resolution? If not, why not?

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

(b) Government have no precise information regarding the principles adopted by the British Post Office in respect of their travelling post offices.

(c) Government sanctioned the out-station allowances after the most careful consideration as recently as the 16th December 1927 and are not prepared to reconsider them. I would point out that, before that date, no out-station allowance at all was granted. Government see no reason for blindly following an English arrangement in the case of any branch of the Postal Service, and they have not done so in the case of any other Service.

RENTS OF BUNGALOWS IN FEROSHAH ROAD, NEW DELHI.

1100. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) With reference to my starred question No. 680, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether the rents of the bungalows on Ferozshah Road were Rs. 385 in 1926, Rs. 364 in 1927 and 1928, and have now been increased to Rs. 411? If so, why?

(b) Is it a fact that, when the rent of these bungalows was Rs. 385, it included the charges for farashes, electrical energy and water, and only the costs for supply of electric bulbs were charged extra, if requisitioned? (*Vide* Circular No. LXXVII, dated the 1st December 1927, page 5.)

(c) Is it a fact that, in addition to the rent of Rs. 411 during the current session, an extra charge of Rs. 10 is being made, although no extra amenities or furniture have been asked for? If so, why?

(d) Why is the Public Works Department charging more money than what the Government intimated to the Members in their Circular No. LVIII, dated the 14th December, 1928, without the knowledge and consent of the Members, though they do not ask for anything extra than what was mentioned in the Circular?

(e) In view of the above circumstances does the Honourable Member intend to see that the entire case, regarding the rents and amenities afforded, be thoroughly examined and proper remedies made?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) Yes. The rents for the previous years were not inclusive of all charges, while the rents for this year are.

(b) No. The rent included a minimum of water supply and electric energy, excess consumption being calculated separately.

(c) An extra charge of Rs. 4 for special furniture outside the normal scale is being charged where supplied.

(d) I am making further inquiries about this and will inform the Honourable Member of the result.

(e) The question of the rate of rent to be charged is being re-examined.

NAMES, DATES OF ARREST, ETC., OF DETENUEES UNDER REGULATION III OF 1818.

1101. *Mr. S. C. Mitra: Will Government please lay on the table a statement giving the names, dates of arrest, period and places of detention in each case, of persons now detained under Regulation. III of 1818?

The Honourable Mr. J. Orerar: I lay on the table a statement giving the names and dates of arrest of the persons referred to in the Honourable Member's question. I regret that I can not undertake to give information about the places of detention.

List of persons detained under Regulation III of 1818.

Name.	Date from which detained.
1. Santa Singh	5th November, 1927.
2. Gajjan Singh	24th March, 1928.
3. Dasaundha Singh	24th March, 1928.

INDIAN STATES.

1. Ex-Maharaja Ram Singh of Bharatpur ..	24th November, 1903.
2. Chinga Khamba Sans Chamba Singh of Manipur	9th August, 1918.
3. Rappudaman Singh <i>alias</i> Gurucharan Singh ex-Maharaja of Nabha	22nd February, 1928.

KACHINS.

1. Dulung Sinwa	22nd November, 1927.
2. Dulung Nawng	Ditto.
3. 'NBaoBum Sao Lum	Ditto.
4. Agyi La (<i>alias</i> Unkalang la)	Ditto.
5. 'NBao Gam	Ditto.
6. 'NDawng Tu	Ditto.
7. 'NHkang la	Ditto.
8. Nawkum Sao-Gawng (<i>alias</i> Sao Gam)	Ditto.
9. Mawa Sinwa	Ditto.
10. Uhkalang Nawng (<i>alias</i> Mauac Nawug)	Ditto.
11. Mairawn Sao Tang	Ditto.
12. 'NBao Tang	Ditto.

Afghan Refugees.

Name.	Date from which detained.
1. Sultan Ahmad Khan	20th March, 1917.
2. Sher Ahmad Khan	Ditto.
3. Nur Ahmad Khan	Ditto.
4. Abdul Rashid Khan	Ditto.
5. Muhammad Azam Khan	16th July 1915.
6. Muhammad Akram Khan	Ditto.
7. Abdul Qadir Khan	14th January, 1929.
8. Abdul Aziz Khan	30th March, 1917.
9. Muhammad Hassan Khan	14th January, 1929.
10. Muhammad Yunus Khan	Ditto.
11. Abdul Ali Khan	Ditto.
12. Abdul Rahim Khan	Ditto.
13. Muhammad Mossin Khan	Ditto.
14. Muhammad Afzal Khan	Ditto.
15. Abdus Samad Khan	Ditto.
16. Muhammad Umar Khan	Ditto.
17. Gul Muhammad Khan	Ditto.
18. Abdul Rauf Khan	Ditto.
19. Muhammad Azim Khan	Ditto.
20. Sultan Ahmad Khan	Ditto.
21. Abdul Rahman Khan	Ditto.
22. Muhammad Sarwar Khan	11th January, 1929.
23. Muhammad Ali Khan	18th January 1929.
24. Ghulam Rasul Khan	16th January 1929.
25. Ali Reza Khan	Ditto.
26. Ahmad Qasim Khan	Ditto.
27. Muhammad Azim Khan	Ditto.
28. Abdul Hamid Khan	3rd June 1926.
29. Abdulla Khan	Ditto.
30. Abdur Rahman Khan	Ditto.

NOTE.—Only Nos. 22—27 are actually in confinement.

GRIEVANCES OF THIRD CLASS PASSENGERS ON INDIAN RAILWAYS.

1102. *Haji Abdoola Haroon: (a) Is it a fact that the Railway Board invited the opinion of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Administration, on the subject of ameliorating the grievances of the 3rd class passengers?

(b) Is it true that the Chief Traffic Manager of the Railway, before dealing with the subject, had invited Mr. Jivraj G. Nensey and Khan Bahadur P. E. Ghamat, Honorary Joint Secretaries of the Passengers' and Traffic Relief Association, Bombay, to offer suggestions in the matter?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether those recommendations have been received by them? If so, what action do the Railway Board propose to take and when?

(d) Have the Railway Board likewise called for suggestions from other railway administrations and Local Advisory Committees thereof?

(e) If the answer to part (d) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to name them, and state how far their recommendations could be met?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether the views of the Passengers' Associations in Bombay, Belgaum, Calcutta, and Madras were called for by the Railway Board? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I have just given to the very similar question put by my Honourable friend Mr. Birla.

NECESSITY FOR EXPANSION OF PESHAWAR CITY.

1103. ***Diwan Chaman Lall:** (1) Is it a fact that:

(a) a house to house search was recently conducted in the town of Peshawar under the orders of Chief Medical Officer, North West Frontier Province, and it had been discovered that 3,000 tuberculosis cases had actually been present in that City; and,

(b) the Chief Medical Officer has given congestion of the City as one of the main reasons for the spread of tuberculosis, and has asked for a special hospital at Peshawar, and a sanitarium at Haripur?

(2) Will Government be pleased to state when the wall round Peshawar City was built, and by how much the population has increased within its enclosures since the wall was built?

(3) Is it a fact that:

(a) since the wall had been built, no efforts have ever been made to remove the congestion by expansion of the City?

(b) owing to insecurity of life and property, no one can reside outside the wall, and start an extension of the town, unless and until the area is first made secure by a barbed wire perimeter, and police patrol, and postal arrangements?

(c) the Cantonment of Peshawar is being similarly guarded as mentioned at (b) above?

(d) the local Municipality has only now decided to add about twenty acres of land to the City?

(e) about 2,000 applications have since been received for the purchase of this small plot to build houses thereon?

(f) the proposed accommodation is not at all adequate?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The information asked for is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member.

EXPANSION OF PESHAWAR CITY.

1104. ***Diwan Chaman Lall:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that there is a tendency of the rich residents of the town to live in the Cantonment of Peshawar, with a view to avoiding the congested life in the City, and thus escape from imminent danger by paying even fabulous prices for bungalows for their residence?

(b) Is it a fact that this has resulted in the creation of a situation between the military authorities, and Indians in Peshawar Cantonment, the former being apprehensive of room in the Cantonment being cramped by this tendency?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table, a copy of the correspondence which took place on the subject between the House Owners' Association, Peshawar Cantonment, and the military authorities?

(d) Is it a fact that the Deputy Secretary, and subsequently the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, himself, had proceeded to Peshawar to discuss the matter with the House Owners' Association?

(e) Is it a fact that it was proposed by the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, at the interview, that the military authorities would arrange with the Local Government for the formation of a civil station, and for such guarding and other arrangements of the same as the Cantonment itself, if the house owners so wished?

(f) What steps do Government propose to take in the matter?

Mr. G. M. Young: (a) and (b). The facts are more or less as stated by the Honourable Member. There is a tendency on the part of certain persons owning houses in the Peshawar Cantonment to occupy the houses themselves or lease them to civilians, instead of military officers, for whom they were constructed.

(c) The answer is in the negative. A large part of the negotiations has been conducted orally.

(d) Yes.

(e) No definite proposal to this effect has been made; but at the first interview referred to in part (d) of the question an undertaking was given that, if a satisfactory solution of the housing problem could be reached by which an adequate and assured supply of accommodation in the cantonment could be reserved for the military authorities, Government would do what they could to provide a site for a city extension scheme elsewhere.

(f) As my Honourable friend the Education Secretary has just stated the local administration is being addressed. I may, however, observe that negotiations with the house owners in Peshawar Cantonment have not yet reached a satisfactory conclusion.

COST OF CREW SYSTEM ON RAILWAYS UNDER VARIOUS HEADS.

1105. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) What is the average total expenditure on the Crew System, per year, per division, under the following headings:

1. Pay and allowances of complete establishment, including office, running staff, peons, etc.,
2. Hotels,
3. Uniforms, stationery, provident fund, leave allowances, etc.?

(b) How many passengers travelled more in the non-crew area during the year 1927-1928, as compared with 1926 and 1927?

(c) How many passengers travelled in the crew area during the same year?

(d) If there was a remarkable increase of traffic in the non-crew area, what was it due to?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: With your permission, Sir, I will reply to questions 1105 to 1111 together. I have called for a full report from the Agent of the East Indian Railway regarding the working of the crew system, and asked him to supply, as far as possible, the information necessary to reply to the Honourable Member's question. I considered whether the Agent should be asked to supply by wire the information asked for in parts (f) and (g) of question 1110 regarding the alleged commission of offences by Travelling Ticket Inspectors, but I came to the conclusion that this was not desirable. It seemed to me that much fuller information was necessary than could be supplied in a telegram. When the Agent's report is received I shall be prepared to lay a copy on the table of the House.

SUCCESS OR OTHERWISE OF THE CREW SYSTEM ON RAILWAYS.

†1106. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) What was the object of the crew system? Has the crew system been faithful to its object?

(b) How many passengers were prosecuted for travelling without tickets in the Howrah and Lucknow Divisions, during the operation of the crew system, and how many were excused by the staff?

(c) How much was the increase in excess fares in Howrah Division in nine months, from January to September 1927, as compared with the corresponding period of 1926, when there was no crew system?

(d) How much was the increase in excess fares in Lucknow Division during the four months of June to September 1927, as compared with the corresponding period of 1926, when there was no crew system?

PARTICULARS OF WORK OF CREWS IN THE HOWRAH DIVISION.

†1107. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Will Government please state how many Inspectors of Accounts (crews) there were in Howrah Division during the year 1927-28?

(b) How many passengers were detected without tickets by them on the crew area?

(c) What was the total number of irregularities detected by them in the crew area, and what amount was recovered?

(d) What was the percentage of check of trains on the crew area, on which the above irregularities were detected?

NUMBER OF DISMISSED RAILWAY EMPLOYEES APPOINTED TO THE CREW DEPARTMENT.

†1108. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** How many dismissed Government and railway employees were appointed in the Crew Department in various capacities, and how many of them are still working?

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1105.

SUCCESS OR OTHERWISE OF THE CREW SYSTEM OF CHECKING TICKETS.

†1109. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) Has the crew system been successful in achieving satisfactory collection of tickets?

(b) What has been the percentage of missing tickets in the Howrah, Lucknow, Dinapore, and Asansol Divisions during five months and in November, 1928?

(c) Is it a fact that collection in trains has been a failure, and that collection is being done by the running staff at gates or on platforms?

APPOINTMENT OF TRAVELLING TICKET INSPECTORS TO HIGHER POSTS IN THE CREW DEPARTMENT.

†1110. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: (a) Will Government please state on what basis the opinion was framed, that the old Travelling Ticket Inspectors were not qualified for higher posts in the Crew Department?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. G. J. Harris, Deputy C.O.P.S., Crews, recommended a curtailment of Travelling Ticket Inspectors' mileage?

(c) Is it a fact, that, when the crew system was started in Howrah Division, the following from the Travelling Ticket Inspectors' establishment were taken on loan to start with:

- Mr. Bhagat Ram, D. I. of T. T. I.s, A. D. S. (crew),
- Mr. Judgly, D. I. of T. T. I.s., Chief Inspector (crew),
- Mr. Sakir Ali, T. T. I., as Station Inspector (crew),
- Mr. H. S. Gardner, T. T. I., as Station Inspector (crew),
- Mr. Walla Razvi, T. T. I., as Station Inspector (crew),
- Mr. Benjaman, T. T. I., as Senior Inspector (crew),
- Mr. Balbir Singh, T. T. I., Station Inspector (crew);

and that Travelling Ticket Inspectors from non-crew areas were also brought to Howrah Division to train the crew staff, and to perform various other special duties?

(d) Is it a fact that most of the Travelling Ticket Inspectors had rendered meritorious services in different capacities, on different occasions, on the railways, and, before being confirmed as Travelling Ticket Inspectors, had undergone selection by the following officers:

1. Selection by Station Master.
2. Selection by D. S.
3. Selection by Deputy C. A. O?

(e) Is it a fact that Travelling Ticket Inspectors' earnings used to cover the entire expenditure of their establishment, including stationery, uniform, contingency, provident fund, bonus, retiring gratuity, and leave allowances, and yield thousands of rupees more than the expenditure under the above headings?

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1105.

(f) Will Government please state how many Travelling Ticket Inspectors were dealt with departmentally for:—

- (1) Illegal gratification,
- (2) Misappropriation of money,
- (3) Travelling without ticket,
- (4) Selling or re-using used tickets,
- (5) Absconding with Government property,
- (6) Assaulting passengers,
- (7) Robbing passengers of their money and property, and
- (8) Attempting to commit rape?

(g) Will Government state how many of the crew staff have been dealt with judicially, or departmentally, for the offences under the above headings, and under the following sections of the Indian Railways Act and Indian Penal Code—370, 352, 428, 342, 354, 427, 323, 504, 120 and 101?

NUMBER OF MEN CONVICTED OF SERIOUS OFFENCES RETAINED IN THE CREW DEPARTMENT.

†1111. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Will Government state how many of the convicted men are still allowed to retain their services in the crew system?

CONFLICTING STATEMENTS REGARDING RAILWAY EARNINGS ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

1112. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Is it a fact that, in the Public Accounts Committee meeting held in August 1928, Mr. Parsons stated that there had been increases in railway earnings, whereas the Agent, East Indian Railway, in the meeting of the Calcutta Advisory Committee, held on November 30th, stated that 8,000,000 less passengers had actually travelled? Which of these statements is correct?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Both statements are correct. Mr. Parsons referred to the total increase in passenger earnings on all railways in 1927-28, while the Agent, East Indian Railway, was referring to the passenger traffic on his own railway for the first 8 months of the following year.

RESULT OF WORKING OF THE CREW SYSTEM ON CERTAIN RAILWAYS.

1113. *Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Will Government be pleased to state what has been the result of the working of the crew system on the North Western Railway, the Eastern Bengal Railway, and the Great Indian Peninsula Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The crew system has not been introduced on the North Western Railway. It has been introduced on parts of the other two railways mentioned, but is still in an experimental stage.

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1105.

ALLEGED UNFAIR TREATMENT BY OFFICIALS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY OF STAFF PREVIOUSLY EMPLOYED BY THE OUDH AND ROHILKHAND RAILWAY.

1114. ***Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** (a) Are Government aware of the following telegram received by Maulvi Muhammad Yakub, from the Secretary, East Indian Railway Union, Moradabad?

"Step-motherly treatment East Indian Railway officials towards Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway employees increasing. Affected seriously one after another by unjustifiable cruel punishments, dismissals, reductions grades and pay, introductions new system, medical tests, revised scale pay, depriving legitimate rights causing dissatisfaction amongst staff. Pray immediate change, East Indian Railway officials by State officials otherwise critical position."

(b) What steps, if any, do Government propose to take in the matter? If none, why not?

(c) Are Government prepared to appoint a Committee consisting of Mr. Hayman, and the President of the East Indian Railway Union, Moradabad, namely, Maulvi Muhammad Yakub, to make an immediate inquiry into the matter and make a report to the Railway Board? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by Mr. Parsons to his question No. 723 of the 25th February last.

(c) Government do not consider there is any necessity at present to take the action suggested.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Do Government propose to take any action at all about the grievances of railway employees about which there is so much agitation?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I am quite prepared, as regards this particular matter in which the Honourable Member is interested, to ask Mr. Hayman when he takes charge of his office to look into the matter himself.

EXTENSION OF THE GOODS SHED AT SILRA SHAHDADKOT STATION ON THE LARKANA-JACOBABAD RAILWAY.

1115. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Is it a fact that the Larkana-Jacobabad Railway has built a shed for storage of goods for protection from rain on the Silra Shabdadkot Station?

(b) Is it a fact that about 6,000 bags of grain are daily stored on that Station and that the shed is too small for the purpose?

(c) Are Government aware that merchants have drawn the attention of the railway authorities to this inconvenience, and that nothing has been done as yet?

(d) Do Government propose to take adequate measures in this matter?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government are not aware what the particular storage facilities are at Silra Shabdadkot station but a copy of the Honourable Member's question is being sent to the Agent of the North Western Railway so that he may consider whether any extension is necessary.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member let me know, when the reply is received?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Does the Honourable Member know that this Railway is working very inefficiently?

Mr. P. R. Rau: No, Sir.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: Will the Honourable Member make inquiry as to the inefficiency of this Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Not on a mere statement of opinion, Sir.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I might assure the Honourable Member that this Railway is working very inefficiently.

Mr. Gays Prasad Singh: Not worse than the Bengal and North Western Railway! (Laughter.)

SHORTAGE OF WAGONS FOR EXPORTING GRAIN FROM SILRA SHAHDADKOT RAILWAY STATION.

1116. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Are Government aware that grain merchants on the Larkana-Jacobabad Railway have complained to the railway authorities that they do not get a sufficient number of wagons for exporting grain from Silra Shahdadt Kot Station?

(b) Is it a fact that the railway authorities, on such complaints, have been supplying some open trucks for the purpose?

(c) Is it a fact that even then the demand for wagons has not been met, and that the merchants are dissatisfied with the carriage by open trucks instead of wagons?

(d) Is it a fact that the Railway is not responsible for damage caused to the goods carried by trucks?

(e) Do Government propose to take steps to meet the requirements of the merchants concerned?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have had no previous intimation of these complaints. I am making inquiries from the Agent of the North Western Railway and will communicate further with the Honourable Member on receipt of a reply.

REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS AGAINST THE ALIENATION OF LAND IN TAHSIL NASIRABAD, BRITISH BALUCHISTAN.

1117. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Are Government aware that there are restrictions against the alienation of land in Tahsil Nasirabad, District Sibi, in British Baluchistan?

(b) When were the restrictions imposed and by which enactment or orders?

(c) Is it a fact that the prime mover for asking for the restrictions on the sale and lease of lands was Vadero Lashkerkhan Jamali?

(d) Is it a fact that several people have applied for such restrictions to be removed?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the number of applications for removing the restrictions from the time of the imposition of the restrictions till now, and how many such applications were made by Muhammadans and how many by Hindus?

(f) How many deputations of Muhammadans and Hindus respectively have waited on the Agent to the Governor General and the Political Agent for the removal of the restrictions?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state the percentage of the acreage of land which was uncultivated and cultivated, respectively, in this Tahsil in each year since the imposition of these restrictions and the year 1918-19?

(h) Is it a fact that the Political Agent, Sibi District, modified the restrictions by allowing some particular Muhammadans to lease their lands to Hindus for a period of ten years?

(i) Is it a fact that the aforesaid Vadero Lashkerkhan Jamali himself and his cousin Khan Mahomed Khan Jamali, leased their lands to the Hindus after the above mentioned modification by the Political Agent?

(j) Is it a fact that, after this modification, those lands only were cultivated in the Tahsil which were leased out to the Hindus by Muhammadans and that the rest remained uncultivated?

(k) If the reply to part (j) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the quantity of land cultivated by Hindus under such leases and that cultivated by the Muhammadan owners and the land which remained uncultivated in each year since the orders of modification referred to above till now?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: The information asked for is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai: I hope it will be supplied very soon.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai: That depends upon the time which the collection of the information takes.

PAYMENT OF A LOCAL ALLOWANCE TO MILITARY CLERKS AT KARACHI.

1118. **Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Is it a fact that the payment of the Karachi local allowance, sanctioned by the Government of Bombay, has been stopped to the military clerks at Karachi, though the clerks employed in the civil offices get it?

(b) Is it a fact that the allowance continues to be paid to the staff of the Military Accounts Department at Karachi and also to the outdoor staff of the Military Engineering Services?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for this differentiation in treatment, and do Government propose to remedy this by restoring this allowance to the military clerks?

Mr. G. M. Young: With your permission, Sir, I will answer questions Nos. 1118 to 1122 inclusive together. The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

INCREASE OF PAY OF CLERKS IN CERTAIN MILITARY DEPARTMENTS.

†1119. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Are Government aware that the starting pay of clerks in the Military Accounts Department is Rs. 55, with an annual increment of Rs. 6, while the starting pay of clerks in the Military Departments (Indian Army Service Corps and Military Engineering Service) is Rs. 50 per mensem with an increment of Rs. 4 annually?

(b) Are Government prepared to take steps to bring the pay of military clerks on the same level as the scale of pay obtaining in the Military Accounts Department?

REMUNERATION OF CLERKS IN THE INDIAN ARMY SERVICE CORPS.

†1120. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Is it a fact that some extra remuneration, in addition to their pay, is paid to the clerical staff of the Military Engineering Service, such as to head clerks, etc., and that this concession is not allowed to the clerical staff of the Indian Army Service Corps?

(b) If so, do Government propose to remove this grievance of the Indian Army Service Corps?

GRANT OF HOUSE-RENT ALLOWANCE TO CLERKS IN THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT AT KARACHI.

†1121. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Is it a fact that house-rent allowance, in addition to Karachi local allowance, is paid to the railway staff at Karachi, to the Commissioner in Sind's clerical staff and also to the Karachi Port Trust clerks?

(b) If so, do Government propose to extend this concession to clerks of the Military Department?

(c) Is it a fact that the Rent Control Act has been abolished from the 1st January, 1929, and that rents have increased in Karachi?

GRANT OF PRESIDENCY ALLOWANCE TO CLERKS IN THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT AT KARACHI.

†1122. ***Mr. Lalchand Navalrai:** (a) Is it a fact that presidency allowance is paid to the clerks of military and civil departments at Calcutta and Bombay owing to dearness of living?

(b) Are Government prepared to extend this concession to military clerks serving at Karachi?

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

NON-ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS FOR THE SUPPLY OF WATERPROOF ARTICLES MADE BY THE NATIONAL DYE AND WATERPROOF WORKS, LTD., CALCUTTA.

329. **Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Is the Honourable Member in charge of the Department of Industries and Labour aware that there is a purely Indian industrial firm in the name of the National Dye and Waterproof Works, Ltd., in Calcutta, for the manufacture of waterproof articles?

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1118.

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that the said firm is enlisted as approved contractors to the Indian Stores Department for the supply of waterproof materials and fabrics of all descriptions?

(c) Is he aware that the said firm submitted the following tenders to the Indian Stores Department:

- (i) Tender No. X/4868 of 1927 for the supply of waterproof wagon covers and station sheets for the Great Indian Peninsula Railway,
- (ii) Tender No. X/4911 of 1927 for the supply of waterproof coats, capes, etc., for the East Indian Railway,
- (iii) Tender No. X/5105-E of 1927 for the supply of waterproof coats, capes, etc., for the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department,
- (iv) Tender No. X/5125 of 1927 for the supply of waterproof canvas flax, "C" Grade,
- (v) Tender No. X/1375-V of 1927 for the supply of waterproof khaki canvas,
- (vi) Tender No. X/5580-E. of 1928, through their Sole Agents, Messrs. B. C. Nawn and Bros., for the supply of waterproof coats, capes, and hoods, etc., to the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department?

(d) Is he aware that Lieut.-Colonel H. M. Alexander, Director of Purchase and Intelligence, Indian Stores Department, inspected the manufacturing works of the said firm in Calcutta, in January, 1927, while the aforesaid tenders Nos. X/4911 and X/4868 of 1927 were pending disposal and made the following observations:

"I have been much interested in seeing the waterproofing factory of the National Dye and Waterproof Works. The firm has recently been registered in the list of approved contractors to the Indian Stores Department after full investigation as to its capacity and careful tests. Some tenders, for which this firm has submitted quotations, are awaiting settlement. Now I hope to be able to give the firm at least a portion of the orders and thus to show them practical encouragement."

(e) Is the Honourable Member aware that Mr. R. W. Targett, Deputy Director of Purchase (Textiles), Indian Stores Department, visited the said firm at about the same time and was highly satisfied with the process and the result of their manufacture?

(f) Is the Honourable Member aware that the Government test result of the sample submitted by the said firm and their quotations in respect of the above two tenders were more favourable than those of the other tenderers?

(g) Is the Honourable Member aware that the other tenderers submitted samples of foreign waterproofing articles in respect of the two tenders mentioned in part (d) above?

(h) Is the Honourable Member aware that, in spite of the above facts, no order was placed with the "National Dye and Waterproof Works" in respect of the articles of the aforesaid two tenders?

(i) Is the Honourable Member aware that, in spite of similar test results and favourable quotations, the said firm was not given any order in respect of other tenders of 1927?

(j) If so, do Government propose to inquire into the matter and will they be pleased to state why the lower tenders for better stuff are rejected?

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

(d) There is no official record that Colonel Alexander made the observations referred to in the question. It is a fact, however, that Colonel Alexander inspected the firm's works, and it is probable that he expressed his approval of the firm's endeavours towards establishing their water-proofing factory.

(e) The firm's works were also inspected by Mr. Targett, who also expressed his general approval.

(f) Contract No. X-4911 was awarded to a competing firm whose materials were considered to be superior in quality, and whose prices were approximately 25 per cent. below those offered by the National Dye and Waterproof Works, Limited. Tender No. X-4868 submitted by the National Dye and Waterproof Works could not be considered because the delivery terms offered by them were not acceptable.

(g) All samples submitted against the tenders referred to were of foreign manufacture, but in the case of two tenders, namely, those submitted by the National Dye and Waterproof Works and the Bengal Waterproof Works, the water-proofing process had been carried out in India.

(h) Yes.

(i) Yes. In every case there were adequate reasons why the firm's tenders were not acceptable.

(j) Government do not consider that any further inquiry is necessary.

NON-ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS FOR WATERPROOF ARTICLES MADE BY THE NATIONAL DYE AND WATERPROOF WORKS, LTD., CALCUTTA.

330. Mr. S. C. Mitra: (a) Is the Honourable Member aware that a special test was made in respect of the samples of the tender No. X/5580-E. of 1928 at the Government Test House?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that the sample submitted by the National Dye and Waterproof Works, Ltd., through their Sole Agents Messrs. B. C. Nawn and Bros. secured the best result in the said testing?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that, in spite of the best test result and lower quotation of the said firm, the order was not given to them?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that the European firms generally use paulins proofed by the Dundee manufacturers?

(e) Is the Honourable Member aware that a special comparative test was made by the Government Test House, Alipore, in respect of paulin canvas proofed by the "National Dye and Waterproof Works, Ltd.," and by the Dundee manufacturers in February, 1928—test bearing No. 489-492 and that the results of both the visual and filtered test of the former were found to be highly better than those of the latter?

(f) Is the Honourable Member aware that the Controller of Purchases, Indian Stores Department, Calcutta Circle, obtained satisfactory reports about the quality of waterproofs of the said firm from the Inspectors General of Police, Bihar and Orissa, and Assam, respectively?

(g) Is the Honourable Member aware that, in spite of the good reputation of the articles of the said firm in respect of quality and rate, they have not yet been given any order by the Indian Stores Department, and

if so, does the Honourable Member propose to inquire why their tenders are not accepted by the Indian Stores Department?

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

(b) and (c). The sample submitted by the National Dye and Waterproof Works did not secure the best results in testing. The major portion of the contract was placed at prices below those quoted by the firm.

(d) Yes.

(e) Comparative tests showed that the proofing process, carried out by the National Dye and Waterproof Works, offered certain advantages over the samples which were stated to have been produced by Dundee manufacturers, and which were furnished by the firm.

(f) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by me on the 19th February, 1929, to part (d) of his starred question No. 619.

(g) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies I have given to parts (i) and (j) of his question No. 329.

NON-ACCEPTANCE OF TENDERS FOR WATERPROOF ARTICLES MADE BY THE NATIONAL DYE AND WATERPROOF WORKS LTD., CALCUTTA.

331. Mr. S. C. Mitra: (a) Is the Honourable Member aware that Messrs. B. C. Nawn and Bros., the sole selling agents of the National Dye and Waterproof Works Ltd. submitted their quotations and samples in respect of the tender number X/6462 for 1929-30 for the supply of paulins to the Eastern Bengal and East Indian Railways?

(b) If so, have Messrs. B. C. Nawn and Bros. been given any order in respect of the tender mentioned in part (a)?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that Messrs. National Dye and Waterproof Works Ltd. submitted recently samples and quotations in respect of tenders numbers X/6363/A, X/6363/B, X/6363/C, and X/6363/D to the Indian Stores Department for the supply of postal bags and paulins, etc.?

(d) If so, have the said firm been given any order in respect of the aforesaid tenders?

(e) If not, does the Honourable Member propose to inquire into the matter and state why their tenders have not been accepted so far?

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

(b) No.

(c), (d) and (e). The tenders referred to are still under consideration by the Indian Stores Department. When a decision has been arrived at as to the award of contracts, the tenderers will be notified as usual, and the names of the successful tenderers, together with other details, will be published in the Indian Trade Journal in accordance with the practice of the Department.

RETENTION OF THE SERVICES OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY, AFTER ITS TRANSFER TO STATE MANAGEMENT.

332. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: Will Government be pleased to state whether, after expiry of the contract with the Bengal and North Western

Railway Company, and transference of its administration, in 1932, to the State, Government intend to retain the services of the officers employed on the Railway up to then by the said Railway Company?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The question of what should be done when the contract of the Bengal and North Western Railway falls due for termination in 1932 has not yet been considered by Government.

GRANT OF MORE LEAVE TO THE STAFF OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

333. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many days casual, sick and privilege leave with full and half pay is annually granted to subordinate and upper subordinate employees of various classes on the Bengal and North Western Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that it was reduced by ten days a year in 1928, when the scales of salaries of traffic staff were slightly enhanced?

(c) If reply to (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for such reduction?

(d) Is there a general demand all over the Indian Railways and especially on the Bengal and North Western Railway regarding insufficient leave granted to staff?

(e) Is leave admissible to the employees of the Bengal and North Western Railway the same as in other Railways in India?

(f) If the reply to part (e) is in the negative, will Government be pleased to state if they propose to take steps to make it the same as in other Railways?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a), (b) and (c). The information will be obtained and supplied to the Honourable Member.

(d) No.

(e) and (f). The leave rules of the different company-managed railway administrations vary, as, within certain limits prescribed by Government, companies have full powers to frame their own rules.

NUMBER OF HOLIDAYS ALLOWED TO THE CLERICAL AND MENIAL STAFF OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

334. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of holidays, allowed in a year to the clerical and menial staff employed in the offices at Headquarters and Divisional and District officers on the Bengal and North Western Railway?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Bengal and North Western Railway authorities have made a list of their own for holidays for their office staff, and whether this list includes all the gazetted holidays?

(c) If the reply to part (b) be in the negative, will Government please state the reasons for non-inclusion of all the gazetted holidays and whether they propose to take steps so that all the gazetted holidays may be included in the list of the Bengal and North Western Railway holidays? If not, why not?

(d) Is it a fact that office staff on the Bengal and North Western Railway have to work in batches when there are continuous holidays for more than one day?

(c) If so, are they paid any allowance for working on holidays? If not, why not?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether, on the Bengal and North Western Railway, a weekly off day is allowed to the staff on the line and at stations?

(g) If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The information will be obtained and supplied to the Honourable Member.

ALLEGED INTIMIDATION OF EMPLOYEES OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY FOR JOINING THE B. AND N. W. RAILWAYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

335. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Is it a fact that there have been cases of intimidation on some of the Bengal and North Western Railway employees for joining and approaching the Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association with their grievances against the officers?

(b) Is it a fact that their grievances were not considered because they approached the Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association?

(c) If so, will Government be pleased to state what action, if any, they propose to take in the matter?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The information will be obtained and supplied to the Honourable Member.

HOURS OF WORK OF THE STAFF OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

336. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) With reference to the final reply given to my unstarred question No. 519 (*vide* Railway Board's letter No. 7212-E., dated 4th December, 1928) will Government be pleased to state:

(i) how long before the departure of a train the guard and the engine crew must report themselves for duty, and how long they are required to wait at their destinations after arrival of their trains on the Bengal and North Western Railway;

(ii) whether the Train Staff of No. 29 up and 26 down mixed trains between Samastipur and Narkatiaganj are changed *en route*;

(iii) what is the duration of journey of these trains;

(iv) whether it exceeds 12 hours;

(v) whether Government propose to investigate if the employees of the Bengal and North Western Railway are overworked?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether eight hours duty for the Traffic and Locomotive men on the Railway is in force? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) (i) 45 minutes before the departure of a train and 15 minutes after arrival.

(ii) Government have no information.

(iii) and (iv) The time-table shows that the duration of the journey is about nine hours.

(v) The Railway Board have already asked the Bengal and North Western Railway to examine thoroughly the hours of duty for the running staff.

(b) Not so far as Government is aware.

RUNNING OF TWO TRAINS ON LINE CLEAR AUTHORITY FOR ONE ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

337. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: Will Government be pleased to state the procedure followed on the Bengal and North Western Railway to run two trains attached together if line clear authority is obtained for only one train?

Mr. P. R. Rau: In the event of its being necessary to attach two trains together, there is no objection to their proceeding under one line clear authority. I am not aware that any special procedure in this respect is followed on the Bengal and North Western Railway.

EMPLOYMENT OF INDIANS AS DEPARTMENTAL HEADS, ETC., ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

338. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) With reference to the reply given to my unstarred question No 528, part (b) (*vide* Railway Board's letter No. 7220-E., dated 28th November, 1928), will Government be pleased to state the reason for not employing Indians as Departmental Heads or as Divisional or District officers on the Bengal and North Western Railway?

(b) Do Government propose to take steps for the employment of Indians as Departmental Heads and Divisional and District officers on this Railway? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Promotions to the posts referred to are made on considerations of efficiency and seniority, and Government have no doubt that the claims of Indian officers on the Railway receive due consideration, along with the claims of others when vacancies in these appointments occur.

CAUSE OF ACCIDENT BETWEEN HAYAGHAT AND KISHANPUR STATIONS ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

339. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) With reference to the reply given to my unstarred question No. 520 on the 24th September, 1928, will Government be pleased to state:

(i) Whether their attention was drawn to the first information report of the Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway that appeared in the newspapers?

(ii) Whether it is true that the train parted and then derailed, and collided obliquely as stated by the Agent?

(b) What led the Inquiry Committee to believe that the accident was due to accidental derailment of some vehicles in supersession of the Agent's first information report?

(c) Are Government now in a position to reply to part 2 (a) of my question under reference?

Mr. P. E. Rau: (a) and (b). Government receive information of accidents direct from the Agent immediately. The first information report sent by the Bengal and North Western Railway Administration stated that the train parted, leading goods vehicles derailed and collided obliquely with leading bogies. This is not inconsistent with the finding of the Inquiry Committee that the leading vehicle behind the engine derailed and the train parted.

(c) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to Mr. Parsons' reply of 28th January 1929 to question No. 143 by Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan regarding this accident.

CAUSE OF COLLISION AT BHATNI STATION ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

340. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) (i) Will Government be pleased to state the cause of the collision that occurred some months ago between a passenger train and goods wagons at Bhatni Station on the Bengal and North Western Railway?

(ii) For how long were the staff, who were held responsible for the accident, on duty when the accident took place and how long more had they to work?

(iii) Is it a fact that Bhatni is a station on the busiest section of the line in respect of passage of trains on this Railway?

(iv) Is it a fact that the staff there have to work for 12 hours a day?

(b) (i) Will the Government please state who has been held responsible for the accident?

(ii) What punishment has been awarded to him?

Mr. P. E. Rau: (a) (i) The collision was caused by the points at Bhatni Station being set for the wrong line.

(ii) Government understand that the Assistant Station Master and the pointsman came on duty at 6 p.m. on the 24th November, and the accident happened at 0.5 a.m. on the 25th November. Their hours of duty were from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Government do not know at what time the Jamadar came on duty or what his further hours of duty were.

(iii) Yes.

(iv) Some of the staff at Bhatni Station have 12 hours of duty, but it is understood that this does not entail continuous work.

(b) (i) The Assistant Station Master, the Station Jamadar and one of the pointsmen are being prosecuted.

(ii) The result of the prosecution is not yet known.

SUPPLY OF UNIFORMS TO CERTAIN SUBORDINATE STAFF ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

341. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether an allowance is given to the crew of country boats and gangmen for their being sent to stations and places out of their headquarters to work in place of other men or when they are required due to pressure of work? If not, why not?

- (b) What is their monthly remuneration?
- (c) Are these crew and gangmen supplied with uniforms? If not, why not?
- (d) Will Government be pleased to state:
- (i) whether it is a fact that the signallers, booking clerks, goods clerks and trains clerks were of late supplied with warm pants every third year;
 - (ii) whether the supply of pants to these clerks has been stopped;
 - (iii) whether it is a fact that the ferry clerks were of late supplied with two coats for their summer use;
 - (iv) whether the supply has been reduced to only one coat?
- (e) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the reduction and stoppage of supply of uniforms to the staff?

Mr. P. E. Rau: Government have no information.

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE STAFF AND EARNINGS OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

342. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the two letters of the Secretary, Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association, that appeared in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 11th and 24th November, 1928, under the headings "Bengal and North Western Railway and Its Employees" and "Bengal and North Western Railway Employees", respectively?

- (b) Will Government be pleased to state:
- (i) Whether it is a fact that the Provinces and the areas served by the Bengal and North Western Railway are almost the same as those served by the East Indian Railway?
 - (ii) Whether it is a fact that the Bengal and North Western Railway and the East Indian Railway have two parallel railway lines, one on the left side and the other on the right side of the Ganges for about 400 miles from Allahabad eastward?
 - (iii) Whether it is a fact that the staff of the Bengal and North Western Railway and some other Railway work together somewhere at the same place and somewhere in the same buildings at a number of stations?

(c) Have Government inquired, or do they propose to inquire into the allegations of the Secretary, Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association, who has referred to the following passage from letter No. 40, dated 27th February, 1921, from the Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway to the President, Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association:

"It is true that we are unable to maintain a staff of the same qualifications as the East Indian Railway and the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, which earn about 900 and 500 rupees per mile, per week, respectively, whereas the Bengal and North Western Railway only earns some 220 rupees"?

(d) Have Government made any inquiries as to whether the Secretary's statements are true and whether the staff on the Bengal and North Western Railway do not work as efficiently and are not as qualified as they are on other Railways?

(e) What action do Government propose to take with the Railway Administration for not maintaining efficient and qualified staff on the Bengal and North Western Railway?

Mr. P. E. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) (i) The two railways go through the same provinces but serve different areas.

(ii) The statement is substantially correct.

(iii) I believe there are a few stations of this description.

(c) to (e). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by Mr. Parsons to a similar question, No. 529 put by him on the 24th September last.

LEAVE AND REMUNERATION OF THE STAFF OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS AT GORAKHPUR.

848. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) How many days' leave the workers of the Bengal and North Western Railway Workshops at Gorakhpur are allowed with full pay per year?
- (ii) Whether their applications for leave are granted and these workmen spared to avail themselves of the leave granted in time?
- (iii) Whether they get pay for the period of their sickness if they produce medical certificates? If so, how many days a year?
- (iv) The lowest rates of remuneration the skilled and unskilled workers in this shop receive?
- (v) How many workers are employed there and how many of them are skilled and how many unskilled?
- (vi) How many out of them got an annual increment to their remuneration last year?
- (vii) The total sum of increment to their remuneration last year?
- (viii) Whether the annual increment to their remuneration is subject to stoppage at the end of various grades? If so, what are those grades? What are the remunerations of each grade? And for how long the increment to their remunerations is subject to stoppage at each grade?
- (ix) The total number of workers in 1918?
- (x) Whether they are subject to overwork? If so, what rates of allowances are paid to them for overwork?
- (xi) Whether clerks employed in the said shops are entitled to foreign passes?
- (xii) Whether workers are also granted foreign passes? If not, why not?

(xiii) How many out of these workers receive Rs. 15 and over for their month's work and how many out of them enjoy the benefit of provident fund?

(b) (i) Are Government aware that the condition of these workmen is generally very wretched and deplorable?

(ii) Do Government propose to take steps to improve their condition? If not, why not?

Mr. P. E. Rau: Such of the information as is readily available will be obtained and supplied to the Honourable Member.

**GRANT OF CERTAIN DEMANDS MADE IN RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE
BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.**

344. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) Whether they have received a copy of the Annual Report of the Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association for the years 1926 and 1927?

(ii) Whether their attention was drawn to the Resolutions passed at the annual conference of the Bengal and North Western Railway employees held at Gorakhpur on the 22nd of January, 1928, and contained in the said Annual Report?

(b) If the reply be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state:

(i) Whether they propose to meet the demands of the Bengal and North Western Railway employees contained in those Resolutions?

(ii) If not, why not?

Mr. P. E. Rau: (a) Yes.

(b) (i) and (ii). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by Mr. Parsons on the 6th of February last to the unstarred question No. 217 put by Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan.

**DISMISSAL OF RAM CHANDER, A SHUNTER ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH
WESTERN RAILWAY.**

345. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) Whether a locomotive shunter (Ram Chander) of the Bengal and North Western Railway was dismissed in connection with a side collision between his engine and the weight box of a crane at Samera Ghat Station?

(ii) Whether it is a fact that the Station Master held the carriage examiner (an Anglo-Indian) who was the officer responsible for the working of the crane, to be responsible for the accident?

(iii) Why Ram Chander was dismissed?

(b) (i) Will Government be pleased to state whether this shunter protested against his dismissal direct and through the Bengal and North

Western Railwaymen's Association, drawing the attention of the responsible authorities, to the fact that the carriage examiner was responsible for the accident and prayed for an inquiry?

(ii) Did the authorities take any action on the representation of this man? If not, why not?

(iii) Did he serve notices on the Agent of the Bengal and North Western Railway, through his counsel? If so, what action was taken?

(iv) Did Ram Chander sue the Bengal and North Western Railway for recovery of his dues and for his wrongful dismissal in the Court of the Munsif at Gorakhpur?

(v) Was this case compromised between the parties on the condition that the Railway would grant him a certificate of good conduct and character?

(vi) Has he been reinstated after a certificate of good conduct and character? If not, why not?

Mr. P. R. Rau: I am making inquiries from the Agent and will communicate the result to the Honourable Member on receipt of his reply.

GRANT OF ACTING ALLOWANCES TO SUBORDINATE STAFF WORKING IN UPPER GRADES ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

346. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the subordinate staff are allowed any allowance for acting in the upper grades on the Bengal and North Western Railway?

(b) Are officers similarly granted an allowance?

(c) If the reply to part (a) be in the negative and to part (b) in the affirmative, will Government state the reasons for such differentiation?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The information will be obtained and supplied to the Honourable Member.

NUMBER AND PAY OF SIGNALLERS EMPLOYED AT JUNCTION STATIONS ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

347. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: Will Government be pleased to state the number of signallers employed at junction stations and the number of those who receive Rs. 80 and over on the Bengal and North Western Railway?

Mr. P. R. Rau: Government have no information.

DIFFERENTIATION IN PAY OF CERTAIN EUROPEAN AND INDIAN STAFF ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

348. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that, on the Bengal and North Western Railway, the following minimum consolidated salaries and allowances are fixed for the staff who are put or to be put to work on the engineering trains under construction?

	Rs.		Rs.
Drivers	35	European guards	80
Firemen	15 }	Indian guards	35
Kalasis (second firemen)	10 }		

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why salaries are fixed on a racial basis?

Mr. P. E. Rau: The information will be obtained and supplied to the Honourable Member.

EMPLOYMENT OF ASSISTANT GUARDS AS GUARDS ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

349. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the letter of the Secretary, Bengal and North Western Railway-men's Association, published in the *Forward* of the 17th October 1928, regarding assistant guards working as guards of trains other than goods trains on the Bengal and North Western Railway?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what action, if any, has been taken in the matter? If not, why not?

Mr. P. E. Rau: (a) Not till the receipt of the Honourable Member's question.

(b) If I am able to obtain the cutting referred to, I shall consider whether any action is necessary.

DUTIES AND PAY OF SIGNALLERS ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

350. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) (i) Is it a fact that, on the Bengal and North Western Railway, at some stations signallers are permanently made to work as assistant station masters and to pass trains independently during 12 hours at night? If so, will Government say what remuneration they receive?

(ii) Are they made to help the Station Master in his duties during the day time?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to say if they propose to take steps to pay them for overtime work? If not, why not?

Mr. P. E. Rau: The information will be obtained and supplied to the Honourable Member.

GRANT OF CONCESSION FARES ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY TO DELEGATES ATTENDING MEETINGS OF TRADE UNIONS.

351. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether an order was issued by the Railway Board to the Agents of the Railways to issue tickets to delegates of railway employees, on reduced fare, to attend the meetings of trade unions?

(b) If so, was this order ever given effect to or is it in force on the Bengal and North Western Railway?

Mr. P. E. Rau: (a) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to a communication from the Railway Board in 1922 to all Agents, which suggested that railways might allow railway employees attending meetings of trade unions as delegates privilege ticket orders.

(b) This communication did not convey any orders, but was in the nature of a suggestion for action. Government are not aware what the present practice of the Bengal and North Western Railway is in the matter, but will make inquiries.

PAY AND PROSPECTS OF INDIAN APPRENTICES IN THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.

352. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) Will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) Whether of late a number of Anglo-Indians and Indians were appointed as mechanical apprentices in the workshops of the Bengal and North Western Railway? If so, what were their grades and scales of salaries?
- (ii) What qualifications—educational and mechanical—did they possess?
- (iii) How many out of the Indian Apprentices were promoted as chargemen and foremen?
- (iv) How many out of the Anglo-Indians were promoted as chargemen and foremen?
- (v) Whether the Indian apprentices underwent a course of five years' mechanical training in the Government Technical Schools and passed the prescribed examination?
- (vi) Whether they underwent two years' practical training in the Bengal and North Western Railway Workshops before confirmation in their appointments?
- (vii) Whether it is a fact that, on confirmation, they were appointed as fitters on daily rate of wages?
- (viii) What are the prospects of services of the Indian Apprentices referred to in (i) in the Bengal and North Western Railway Workshops?
- (ix) What remuneration they are now receiving?

(b) Are Government prepared to direct the Railway Administration to improve the condition of service of those men? If not, why not?

Mr. P. E. Rau: The information will be obtained and supplied to the Honourable Member.

RECOGNITION OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

353. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: (a) With reference to the reply given to my unstarred question No. 532 (*vide* Railway Board's letter No. 7221-E., dated the 5th November 1928) will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) Whether the investigation of the Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway into the claim of the Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association reached its completion?
 - (ii) If so, what are his decisions?
- (b) Will Government be pleased to state:
- (i) If he has recognised the Association, and if so, what are the conditions of the recognition?

- (ii) Whether the decision of the recognition has been communicated to the Association?
- (iii) Whether it is a fact that it was circulated amongst the staff by the Agent that no notice will be taken of any representation of the Association and that any communication received will be torn and thrown into the waste paper basket? If so, whether these circulars have been withdrawn?
- (iv) If the Agent's investigation has not yet reached completion, how long the Agent will take to do it?
- (v) why an investigation was at all necessary in the case of a registered trade union?
- (vi) Whether the Government recognise the Bengal and North Western Railwaymen's Association?

Mr. P. R. Rau: (a) and (b) (i) to (v). Information is being obtained and will be communicated to the Honourable Member.

(b) (vi). The question does not arise, as the Bengal and North Western Railway is managed by a company, and its servants are not Government servants.

UNSUITABILITY OF QUARTERS FOR CLERKS AT ROADSIDE JUNCTION STATIONS ON THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

354. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt: Is it a fact that on the Bengal and North Western Railway at some of the road-side and junction stations, clerks are accommodated in quarters built and meant for menials?

Mr. P. R. Rau: The information will be obtained and supplied to the Honourable Member.

EXTENSION OF TIME ALLOTTED FOR THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

355. Mr. S. O. Mitra: (a) Is it a fact that the time allotted for discharging the duties of the Public Accounts Committee is not adequate to do full justice to the various subjects that are dealt with by the Committee?

(b) Is it a fact that not more than 12 days were allotted for the said Committee, in any year since its inception in 1922-23?

(c) Are Government aware that members of the Committee have expressed a desire, from time to time for an extension of the period allotted to the Public Accounts Committee, in the year? If so, what do Government propose to do in the matter?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) There is no question of any outside authority *allotting* a particular number of days for the work of the Public Accounts Committee. As a matter of convenience, the programme is usually prepared under the orders of the Chairman, in the first instance, but it is really for the Committee to decide whether, and if so, to what extent, further time should be taken.

(b) I find that, apart from the time devoted by the *ad hoc* Committee to the consideration of the military appropriation accounts, the Public Accounts Committee has sat for 10 to 18 days per annum.

(c) I believe the question has been raised before, but not in a very definite way. If the Honourable Member and other members of the Public Accounts Committee, who feel strongly on the subject, will let me know, at some convenient time, what they would propose in regard to the next session of the Public Accounts Committee, I will see whether it is practicable to come to an arrangement which will be in accord with the wishes of the majority. But I hope the Honourable Member will take into consideration two very relevant factors :

- (1) that the meetings of the Public Accounts Committee cannot very conveniently be held during the session of the Legislature;
- (2) that it is difficult, not only for the Finance Department, but also for non-official Members of the Legislature, to spare a very great deal of time, either immediately before, or immediately after the Autumn session of the Legislature in connection with which the Public Accounts Committee usually meets.

WORK DONE AND EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY DEPARTMENTAL AND EXTRA-DEPARTMENTAL POST OFFICES IN THE TIPPERA DIVISION OF THE BENGAL AND ASSAM CIRCLE.

356. Mr. S. C. Mitra: (a) Will Government be pleased to state separately the numbers of post offices, departmental and extra-departmental in the Tippera Division of the Bengal and Assam Circle?

(b) Will they please also state the amount of work done in each department of the departmental and extra-departmental post offices in the said Division and the expenses incurred in average pay, leave, house-rent, etc., of the departmental and extra-departmental side?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) and (b). I have ascertained informally from the Honourable Member that what he desires is a comparison between the work done and expenses incurred by departmental branch offices and extra-departmental branch offices.

I will furnish him with the particulars of work done in 14 days by six branch offices and six extra-departmental branch offices selected at random in the Tippera Division.

NUMBERS OF EXTRA-DEPARTMENTAL AGENTS OF POST OFFICES WHO HAVE RESIGNED OR BEEN DISMISSED IN CERTAIN PERIODS.

357. Mr. S. C. Mitra: (a) Will Government please state the number of extra-departmental agents of the post offices who have resigned their services during the last 8 years, and how many have been dismissed and how many proceeded against in criminal courts during the last 8 years?

(b) Are Government aware that the average estimate of income as shown by the extra-departmental agents of the post offices is mostly inaccurate? Do they propose to inquire into the matter?

(c) Are Government ready to consider the question of grant of a contingency allowance of Re. 1 for the extra-departmental agents attached to the branch offices as it is done for those attached to the sub-offices?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) Government do not possess the information, nor do they propose to call for it as its collection would involve the expenditure of time and money incommensurate with the advantage to be gained. The Honourable Member's attention is, however, invited to part (b) of the reply given on the 7th March, 1928, by the Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra to his unstarred question No. 312, which is a similar question in respect of Bengal.

(b) Government have no reason to doubt the correctness of the estimate referred to by the Honourable Member, and they do not therefore propose to inquire into the matter.

(c) No, for the reasons stated in part (a) of the reply given on the 15th instant to the Honourable Member's question No. 1065.

IRREGULAR PROMOTION OF TOWN INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES IN THE PUNJAB AND NORTH WEST FRONTIER CIRCLE.

358. Mr. M. K. Acharya: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that any Town Inspectors (who were in one and the same scale and gradation list as other clerks) attached to the first class head post offices in the Punjab and North West Frontier Circle, having three years' service, have been exempted from the first selection grade examination and confirmed in the selection grade out of turn and without passing any examination, and whether those of two years' service have been allowed to appear for the examination out of turn, and whether they are going to be confirmed, subject to their passing the said test?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the names, the date of appointment as Town Inspectors, and the number of officials in the Circle gradation list superseded by each of such Town Inspectors and on what ground their supersession has been allowed?

(c) Will Government be also pleased to state whether Government at first ordered that the confirmation of these Town Inspectors will be subject to their passing the tests, and for what reasons Government afterwards, not only exempted them from the selection grade examination, but confirmed them over the heads of their seniors?

(d) Do Government propose to order the cancellation of the order of exemption of Town Inspectors and give a chance to all seniors to compete with the existing Town Inspectors?

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra: (a) The facts are substantially as stated. With respect to the question of exemption and promotion "out of turn" the Honourable Member is referred to the letter of the Government of India No. 14-PTE. dated the 2nd October, 1928, a copy of which has already been placed on the table of the House in reply to Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Hussain Khan's unstarred questions Nos. 98 and 133 on the 28th January, 1929.

(b) A statement showing the names and date of appointment of Town Inspectors on selection grade pay in the Punjab and North West Frontier Province is being furnished to the Honourable Member. Government are not aware of the exact number of officials in the Circle gradation list superseded by such Town Inspectors and they do not consider that any useful purpose would be served by collecting the information. The reasons are given in the letter of October, 1928, already referred to.

(c) In the first order, dated 5th August, 1927, existing incumbents of Town Inspectorships were, among others, exempted from passing the selection grade examination. In their letter of October 1928, Government restricted this exemption to those Town Inspectors "who have already rendered three years' satisfactory service in that capacity" and added that their confirmation should be at the discretion of the Director-General.

As regards the question of supersession alluded to in the last sentence, I again refer the Honourable Member to the letter of October 1928.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to part (c) of my reply on 5th March, 1929, to Mr. Jamnadas Mehta's starred question No. 890.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

RULES REGARDING THE GRANT OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO INDIANS FOR TRAINING IN CIVIL AVIATION.

The Honourable Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra (Member for Industries and Labour): Sir, I beg to lay on the table a copy of the rules promised in reply to unstarred question No. 55, asked by Khan Bahadur Sarfaraz Husein Khan on the 28th January 1929, regarding the grant of scholarships to Indians for training in civil aviation in England.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIES AND LABOUR.

(CIVIL AVIATION.)

Rules and conditions for the grant of a Scholarship of the Value of £240 a year tenable in England for a period of two years and three months for training in Civil Aviation.

- I.—Statutory natives* of India only are eligible for the scholarship.
- II.—Candidates must be not less than 20 and not more than 26 years of age on the 1st July, 1929.
- III.—The minimum educational qualification required is a B. Sc. degree in Engineering or Physics.
- IV.—Candidates are required to undergo at their own expense a preliminary medical examination by a Civil Surgeon with a view to determining whether they are suffering from any disability which might prevent their acceptance on medical grounds. This preliminary examination will be carried out on the attached form. No application will be considered unless accompanied by the completed form for preliminary medical examination. Selected candidates will later be required to undergo a further medical examination of a more searching nature under arrangements to be made by the Government of India.

V.—The selected candidate will be furnished with a second class passage to England; his tuition fees will be paid by Government, and he will be provided with

* The term "Native of India" is not to be interpreted as excluding a person who though born in a State or temporarily residing in a State is domiciled in British India.

a return second class passage to India provided that he observes the rules laid down by the Government of India or the High Commissioner (*vide* below) and completes the full period of residence or is compelled by sickness to return within that period.

VI.—The total duration of the course will be two years and three months, made up as follows :—

One College Session of nine months' duration at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London; six months' flying training, nine months' practical workshop training and three months' attachment to the Traffic Control Department, Croydon, commencing with flying training of three months (1st July to 30th September, 1929) at the De Havilland Flying School.

Flying training will be continued at week ends and during vacations.

VII.—(a) Government accept no liability in the event of an accident resulting in death or injury to a scholar in the course of his flying training.

(b) The scholar and his surety will be required to repay to Government, the amount of insurance premia that may be paid by Government to the Firm to whom the scholar may be attached for his practical workshop training, in order to enable the Firm concerned to insure against claims arising under the British Workmen Compensation Act, and the Employers' Liability Act.

Rules required to be observed by the scholar.

1. All Government scholars are required to avail themselves of the information and advice which the Joint Secretaries to the High Commissioner for Indian Students' work and the Local Advisers at University centres are in a position to give them, and to apply to their Local Adviser for instructions as regards their studies and in any circumstances of difficulty. Scholars studying elsewhere than at Manchester, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Oxford, or Cambridge will be under the charge of a Joint Secretary to the High Commissioner. The Adviser is the proper person to bring before the Joint Secretary to the High Commissioner any matter requiring the sanction of the High Commissioner or the Government of India.

2. Every scholar should, on reaching England, at once report himself to one of the Joint Secretaries at the Office of the High Commissioner in London, 41, Grosvenor Gardens, S. W. 1.

3. Every scholar must obey all instructions which he may receive either through the Joint Secretary to the High Commissioner or through his Local Adviser, and must consult his Local Adviser regularly in regard to his work.

4. Every scholar must from time to time, whenever the Joint Secretary or the Local Adviser requires it, submit a certificate from the proper college or university authority, or from any other authority under whom he is working, showing that his conduct and progress have been satisfactory.

5. Every scholar must give a written undertaking in the form attached that he will at once and without discussion of possible alternatives devote himself exclusively to the course of training laid down for him, that he will comply with all instructions and do whatever work may be involved. Any scholar who neglects his studies, or tries to work for any other profession concurrently, will render himself liable to forfeiture of his scholarship.

6. If a scholar fails (i) to observe and perform the conditions applicable to his training, or (ii) to complete his training in England (for reasons other than sickness duly certified by a Medical Board and not due to his own neglect) or (iii) to qualify as a pilot, or (iv) to return to India after completion of his training as and when directed by the Government of India or the High Commissioner for India, he and his surety will have to refund to Government (up to a maximum of Rs. 19,300) all moneys paid to the scholar or on his behalf in respect of the scholarship, college fees and travelling expenses. If also he fails to serve the Government of India, as required by Rule 15 below for a full period of 4 years on his return to India, after completing his training in England, he and his surety will have to refund

to Government (up to a maximum of Rs. 19,300) the moneys paid to the scholar or on his behalf as aforesaid less a sum of Rs. 4,825 for every complete year of his service under Government. To ensure the observance of these conditions, the selected scholar and his father or guardian must jointly execute a bond in the form annexed to these rules.

7. Every scholar will be required to keep a concise diary of his work to be submitted to the Joint Secretary or Local Adviser at the dates laid down in the rules for the keeping of such diaries.

8. Subject to a due compliance with the above conditions, the scholar's allowance will be paid quarterly in advance by the office of the High Commissioner to the Joint Secretary or the Local Adviser under whose charge he is. It will begin from the date of the scholar's reporting his arrival in England, and the Joint Secretary or the Local Adviser will disburse it to the scholar in such instalments as convenience may dictate. Three months after the date of reporting arrival, the amount to the ensuing official Quarter Day* will be paid to the Joint Secretary or the Local Adviser, and subsequent payments will be made in advance on or after each official Quarter Day. The allowance will be at the rate of £240 a year. The necessary deductions will be made by the High Commissioner from the allowance to cover insurance premia which will be paid by Government to the Firm to whom the scholar may be attached for his practical workshop training, *vide* Condition VII (b). The allowance may be withdrawn by the High Commissioner at the end of any year and it may be reduced while the scholar is being trained at works, if the employer recommends this course.

9. Every scholar is required to lodge with the Joint Secretary at the Office of the High Commissioner in London, before his arrival in England, the sum of £40 for initial expenses. He will have no claim to payment of any instalment of his scholarship until this deposit has been made.

10. Charges for college fees, premiums for practical training, and the necessary travelling expenses of scholars by second class, or by third class if no second be available, will be defrayed by the High Commissioner. Applications for payment of all these charges should be made through the Joint Secretary or the Local Adviser. But charges for private tuition, unless specially sanctioned, for books, instruments, hotel bills and medical attendance must be paid by the scholar himself.

11. No claim can be admitted for the payment of any expenditure unless the scholar has obtained previous sanction from the High Commissioner.

12. Every scholar will forfeit his scholarship, who not being disabled by illness or prevented by any other cause which the High Commissioner may consider sufficient, fails to comply with the rules here set forth. It may be terminated at any time if a scholar fails in health or conduct, or does not make adequate progress in his studies.

13. A scholarship will be terminated if a scholar is reported by his flying instructor to be unlikely to make an efficient pilot.

14. On the expiration of the scholarship the scholar will be provided by the office of the High Commissioner with a free second-class passage to India, and he should apply for it without delay through his Joint Secretary or Local Adviser. He is not entitled to make his own passage arrangements and to claim an allowance in lieu from the office of the High Commissioner. If a scholarship be forfeited, or if it be resigned before completion of its term, the scholar will lose his claim to a free passage back to India.

15. The scholar should clearly understand that the grant of the scholarship does not entitle him on completion of his course to an appointment in Government service, but he should, immediately on his return to India, report his arrival to the Government of India, and, if required, serve the Government in the Civil Aviation Department for a term of four years, on an initial salary of not less than Rs. 400 per mensem.

* Note.—The official Quarter Days are the 1st of January, the 1st of April, the 1st of July and the 1st of October.

Form to be filled up by candidates for a scholarship for training in Civil Aviation.

[To be submitted to the Secretary, Public Service Commission (India), Delhi, not later than the 20th March, 1929.]

1. Name in full (in block capitals).
2. Present address in full.
3. Exact date of birth, and age last birthday. (A birth certificate will be required in the event of the candidate's selection; or if this is not obtainable, other satisfactory evidence.)
4. Place of birth.
5. Nationality.
6. Name of father.
7. Profession or occupation of father.
8. Whether married.
9. If married, number and ages of children.
10. Educational qualifications. (State name of School and College or University giving dates of entering and leaving. Any position of authority held, any distinction attained in school work, any University scholarship won, should be stated.)
11. Particulars of practical experience, if any.
12. Present occupation.
13. Name, full postal address, and professions of three persons (of whom one at least should be connected with the institution at which the candidate has last studied) who will testify, if applied to, as to conduct and character. References will not be accepted from persons who are related to or have no personal knowledge of the candidate.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

Signature of candidate.

Date

1929.

NOTE.—This application should be accompanied by true copies of certificates (which will not be returned) of applicant's general character, work and qualifications. In the event of the candidate's selection he will be required to furnish at once the original certificates and the diplomas of University Examination passed by him for transmission to the High Commissioner.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Preliminary Medical Examination of Candidates for Civil Aviation Scholarships.

Name of Person Examined

Address of Person Examined

Date and Place of Birth -

I. Questions to be put by the Medical Examiner to the Applicant, whose answers are to be entered in the space provided.

(a) Have you ever suffered from :-

Nervous breakdown

Shell Shock

Brain fever or Meningitis

Severe or persistent headaches

Neurasthenia

Fits or convulsions of any kind

Sun or heat stroke

Deafness or discharge from the ear

"Gassing"

Fainting attacks or Giddiness

Eye trouble

Fracture of the skull

Other serious injuries

Any other illness, physical imperfection or disability during the last ten years

Loss of Consciousness or Concussion?

(b) Have you ever been operated upon?

(c) Has any of your family suffered from mental trouble or any Nervous Disease, Apoplexy or Fits of any kind (if so give details)?

I hereby declare that the answers to the above questions put to me by the Medical Examiner are true and complete.

Signature of the person examined

*Witness

* NOTE.—The Medical Examiner may witness this signature.

II. Medical Examination.

Age	years.	Height	feet	inches.	Weight	stones	lbs.
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*Chest measurement—on inspiration	inches	on expiration	inches.
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Abdominal measurement	inches.
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Urine appearance	Deposit
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Specific Gravity	Albumen	Sugar
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1. Is the applicant well nourished, well developed and free from abnormality, hernia or disabling scars?

Form of undertaking referred to in Rule 5.

To

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA IN COUNCIL.

In consideration of your granting me a scholarship for training in Civil Aviation in England, I hereby undertake and agree that I will at once and without discussion of possible alternatives devote myself exclusively to the course of training you lay down for me and comply with whatever instructions and do whatever work it may involve.

Form of Bond referred to in Rule 6.

KNOW ALL MEN by these presents, that We,*
 and†
 do hereby bind ourselves, and each of us, and each of our heirs, executors and administrators, to pay to the Secretary of State for India in Council (hereinafter called the Secretary of State) the sum of Rs. 19,300.

As witness our hands this day of
 one thousand nine hundred and
 Whereas the said has been nominated to a Government Civil Aviation scholarship. And in consideration of such nomination undertakes to observe and perform the conditions under which such Scholarship is granted.

Now, the condition of the above written obligation is that:—

if, in the event of the said failing (1) to observe and perform the said conditions applicable to his training or (2) to complete his training in England (for reasons other than sickness duly certified by a Medical Board and not due to his own neglect) or (3) to qualify as a pilot, or (4) to return to India after completion of his training as and when directed by the Government of India or the High Commissioner for India, the above bounden
 and shall forthwith refund to the Secretary of State (up to a maximum of Rs. 19,300) all moneys paid to the said
 or on his behalf in respect of the said scholarship, college fees, premia, and travelling expenses, or if in the event of the said failing if called upon to do so to serve the said Government for a full period of 4 years on his return to India after completing his training in England in accordance with the rules applicable to his case, the above bounden and
 shall forthwith refund to the Secretary of State the moneys paid to him or on his behalf as aforesaid up to the said maximum less a sum of Rs. 4,825 for every complete year of his service under the said Government.

Then the above written obligation shall be void and of no effect, otherwise it shall be and remain in full force and virtue.

Signed by the above bounden
 in the presence of

Signed by the above bounden
 in the presence of

* The scholar.

† The surety.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to fix the duty on salt manufactured in, or imported by land into, certain parts of British India, to fix maximum rates of postage under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, further to amend the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923, to fix rates of income-tax, and to raise the import and excise duties on motor spirit, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I do not think it is necessary, or that it will be in the interests of the House, that I should enter into any long explanation of the provisions of this Act at the present stage. But I have to inform the House of the action which the Governor General in Council has decided to take in regard to the grants that have recently been reduced or rejected by this House. In exercise of his powers under section 67A (7) of the Government of India Act, the Governor General in Council has decided to restore the two big cuts that is to say, Rs. 65,999 under Executive Council, and Rs. 5,35,800 under Army Department, that is, an addition of Rs. 65,999 to the provision of one rupee which was voted by the Assembly which will restore the grant of the Executive Council to the original figure of Rs. 66,000. As regards the Army Department, two cuts of Rs. 100 each are allowed, so that the figure is reduced by Rs. 200 from that originally moved by me. Sir, I move.

Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar (Madras City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Mr. President, the custom of this Government has been, during these past years, to restore grants of a very important character when they have been substantially refused after a considered decision by this Assembly; and the custom of the Congress Party, on whose behalf I speak, and whose action, I hope, will be supported by such other Members of this Assembly as may be persuaded to do so, is to move the rejection of this Finance Bill and to oppose it. I do consider, Sir, that this is a very wholesome custom, both on the part of the Government and on the part of the Congress Party; for nothing else brings home clearer to my masters who are outside, the people of India, and to the masters of the opposite side, the people of Great Britain, the absolute incompatibility between the two points of view, the one for which the opposite side stands, and the point of view for which we in the Congress, and those other popular Parties that generally associate themselves with us, stand.

It requires no great effort of imagination to picture to ourselves where this state of things must lead us to. We have said in this Assembly time and again—more competent and more eloquent persons have mentioned the fact—that the atmosphere of this Assembly is on all critical occasions wholly unreal. I hope today it will be a real atmosphere. By flying away from the position, by pursuing an ostrich policy, this Government is not going to retard the irresistible march of events or the rising tide of Swaraj. And by merely walking away from the Assembly now they do not add either to their numerical or moral strength here or outside. (Laughter.) I do admit, Sir, that my speech on this occasion, a pleasant-mannered man as I claim to be, must be very unpleasant indeed to ears which I characterised last year as an increasingly deaf, not congenitally deaf, but voluntarily deaf. (Hear. hear.) I therefore think that gestures of this character—I think my friends on the other side do not believe in gestures and I do not myself—waking-out gestures are of no importance, and they do not, in the least, make us

slacken our efforts in the direction on which we have set our hearts. The constitutional reason why, on behalf of the Party, I say we are bound to oppose this Finance Bill is obvious. It is because, in the first place, the power of the purse is not with us, except in a microscopic degree; and even then in an unreal fashion. What is the power of the purse that we possess? We find that only 28 crores out of the total expenditure is voted. As I said last year, about one-fourth of the total expenditure is voted. Three fourths are non-voted. This at once reduces the power of this Assembly to scan, with any appreciable effect, the proposals for expenditure which are made on the other side. Then, Sir, as regards these 28 crores, or one-fourth of the total expenditure, what is it that we find? When the majority of Members of this Assembly, and a vast majority of the elected Members of the Assembly—in fact every elected Member of the Assembly—votes down certain grants or makes substantial reductions in the grants in the way in which the Parliamentary Statute allows, then forthwith, defiantly and summarily, the Governor General in Council restores these grants. Is it an automatic process that we are treated to? What does this mean? Does the Government realise the responsibility of these restorations? It cannot be said that the people of India and their representatives in this House do not realise their responsibility. His Excellency told us last year or the year before that the people's representatives can assume to themselves powers which are not in the Statute. That is undoubtedly the way in which, in all British Dominions, the representatives of the people have arrogated to themselves powers which are not expressly and specifically given in the constitution Acts of the various Dominions—powers which have been grasped and extended by the efforts of the people themselves. What is it that is happening here? Just the opposite is happening here; the powers which are given to us are really abrogated by the way in which these substantial cuts are at once restored. The Finance Member does not realise what his duty is. His duty was certainly to have advised the Government that these Demands should not be restored. Otherwise it must be taken that Government is determined to trifle with the Assembly time and again. The Government, in their heart of hearts, do think that the peoples and representatives are justified in the various cuts they have proposed. Of course it is not possible, in the diplomatic parlour of this Assembly, to admit it, but I have not the slightest doubt that they do admit to themselves that the people of India are really for Swaraj and they are quite competent to govern themselves—they are competent to govern themselves even more than Western people are competent to govern themselves, and they are more competent to administer the affairs of the country because they have more knowledge and more sympathy and more imagination, and the identity of interest between the people and their representatives is complete, whereas the knowledge and imagination are wholly lacking on the other side, and the divergence of interests between the British representatives here and the Indian representatives and the people behind us is complete, and bound to remain complete for all time. Therefore, Sir, I do believe that my friends on the opposite side, being very able people, expert people, and people who claim a sense of justice, must, in their heart of hearts, believe this; but the political exigencies which their interests require them to enforce upon us, compel them to speak in a different voice; and I do admit they are in a very difficult position, and I extend my sympathy to them always when they try to persuade us that they are in the right and we are in the wrong. But as I said the other day, we are no longer dupes and we cannot listen to the voice, either of

[Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar.]

diplomacy, or the voice of statistics or any minatory voice—we cannot listen to any such voices: we must persist in our own course of action and we must pursue the path which we have chosen for ourselves.

Sir, on this occasion it appears to me that the constitutional position is very very strong for us, and it is certainly the case that the respect which the British Government gives to their own kith and kin in other Dominions is not given to us, because if grants of this character are withheld by a popular vote, undoubtedly the Governments in the Dominions would not seek to restore them. They would certainly not do anything of the kind. But here we have an illustration of the efficacy of the British connection upon which my gallant friend, Colonel Crawford, so valiantly insisted. I do believe, further, Sir, that not only are the recommendations contained in the many Resolutions of this Assembly, time and again, flouted, but even the small censure cuts of Rs. 100 which are made by us and are accepted by the Government, and which are not sought to be restored, are not given effect to, except so far as the amounts are concerned. The policies which are contained in those cuts—and those cuts are accepted by the Government—the policies for which those cuts are made are not given effect to, and those cuts stand on an altogether different position from the Resolutions which are technically recommendatory in character, for those cuts, when they are carried in this House and accepted by Government and not restored, are binding upon the Government. How many cuts of this character—take for instance, the Frontier cut—have been given effect to by Government up till now? I submit, therefore, that the constitutional position, notwithstanding what Sir Basil Blackett told us last year, is really a naked deadlock. We are exercising such powers as are given to us by the Act. The Government are exercising these residuary or unusual powers of restoration or certification as if they are common powers, as if they are powers which they must every day exercise,—not as if they are exceptional powers, only to be exercised on extraordinary occasions. Whenever we exercise our powers, they forthwith exercise their power of restoration. Therefore, Sir, it has come to this; it is a regular combat, a constitutional combat, on the floor of the Assembly, between the Government Benches and the popular parties in this House. Why am I wrong in claiming, and why was Sir Basil Blackett right in denying it was a deadlock? Of course, the deadlock is said to be avoided by the power of restoration. That is a very cynical way of putting it. The deadlock is certainly there. But the fact that you can somehow carry on the Government does not show that there is not a constitutional deadlock here. You might as well dissolve this Assembly; you might as well carry on the Government of the country by force or by executive orders, and say that you have avoided a constitutional deadlock. It was the intention of the framers of the Government of India Act not to exercise this power of restoration as a matter of course. It was their intention to keep this power of restoration in reserve to be exercised only on extraordinary occasions and on the clearest demonstration of its necessity. There is no such necessity, for if the Government had yielded to some of our demands, they could have had the House entirely with them. These cuts were made, because the Government, again and again, refused to yield to the demands of the Assembly. No Government, any more than a person, can take advantage of its own wrong. First of all, you do not yield to the demands of this Assembly, and then, when the constitutional power, which is vested

in the peoples' representatives, is exercised by them in throwing out the demands, then you want to exercise a power which is reserved to you and which you should exercise only when the peoples' representatives are wholly wrong-headed or perverse. When the Government acts justly and with reason and yields to the natural and just demands of the people, and if, in spite of that, the peoples' representatives, owing to popular excitement, or owing to tumult and disorders do a very wrong thing, then only the Government could resort to this power of restoration. But that is not the case here. This has become a normal feature of the Government of India, and, therefore, Sir, that is the most important reason why I say there is a deadlock, however much we may, either by our speeches or by our smiles, or by shaking hands with one another, strive to disguise the deadlock.

In the second place, Sir, let us see whether this Government has recognised the right of the Indian people to make their own constitution. The Honourable the Home Member said, the other day, that he stood by the Parliament's pronouncement of 1917. What does that pronouncement mean? Does it mean that you are to go back upon what was said? Certainly not. And nevertheless what is being done is really to go back upon that pronouncement. That pronouncement meant, as I understand it, that self-government will be given to the people of India increasingly, and I say, without any fear of honest contradiction on the other side, that the self-government which is supposed to be given to the people of India increasingly, is taken back increasingly, and all the powers which are vested in the Government of India are used for the purpose of making even such improvements as are contemplated in the Government of India Act nugatory. Sir, our attitude has been a very reasonable attitude. We have tried every kind of method; we have tried all means possible. We have tried to be politicians; we have tried to be reasonable men; we have tried to be extremists; we have tried all the means that are open to us, and yet we find the Government on the other side is immovable. We have found, for instance, that moderate statesmanship, reasoned speeches, sober visions, wealth of statistical detail and elaborate conversations have been of no use whatever to change the heart of the Government, or to make this Government do anything in the direction of Swaraj. We have seen a sturdier, manlier nationalist school trying, without obvious diplomacy, to go on in its own self-reliant way, and that has also failed. We have further seen that extremer speeches and extremer politics of the Congress in this Assembly have equally failed, however much extremism in action might succeed outside. We have equally seen that co-operation with the Government has been of no use, and such non-co-operation as has been possible with the Government in the Assembly has been equally of very little avail. I think, therefore, Sir, that we are bound, time and again, as long as our demands are spurned aside, as long as the respect due to our countrymen is not recognised, to take up this challenge, and we must try and throw out the Finance Bill which is the one occasion when we can state in no uncertain terms our determination to win Swaraj, and not to accept the present constitution

Mr. K. Ahmed (Rajshahi Division: Muhammadan Rural): That will be of no use, as you admit yourself. Try to recognise the demands of Muslims and to establish friendship. I say, with Muhammadans; try to establish genuine friendship with Muhammadans, and then wait and see.

Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar: I am glad my friend who always contributes to the enjoyment of an Assembly on an arid day in March has come out with his usual joke. (Laughter.)

Mr. K. Ahmed: Have I not told you the truth? Do you realise it now?

Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar: I must at once say, Sir, that we have repeatedly tried communal unity, and political unity, but neither communal unity nor political unity has been of any avail; these things have not been of any use whatsoever. Again, communal discords have been tried for the purpose of Swaraj and material advance by different communities, with or without the assistance of the *deus ex machina*, and political discords have also been striven for by able persons, unconsciously or otherwise, with the same object. But neither communal discords nor political discords, neither communal unity nor political unity has been of any avail in accelerating the pace of self-government, or in changing the inflexible will of the alien bureaucracy. It appears to me, therefore, that everything that it is possible for us to do here, short of things which can only be done outside, has been done. And yet we are told that, by working in this Assembly, we shall be able to get this and we shall be able to get that! Have the Honourable Members of the Treasury Benches assisted us to realise that ambition of theirs and of ours? I say clearly no.

Then, Sir, let us review the administration for the last 12 months. Have we made any progress? We have admittedly no self-government. Have we a good Government at least, a good Government such as is for the time acceptable to the people of this country? I do not agree that a good Government is ever a substitute in any part of the world, for self-government, least of all in this part of the world, least of all in India. But assume it can be made acceptable for a shorter or for a longer time. Have we had a good Government in this country? I say no. Have we got a national army? And that is the first question which every Indian has got to put to himself. We have not got a national army, and the way in which the lack of that national army is concealed in the military policy and budget testifies to the astonishing ability of the other side, to the amazing juggleries in which they can indulge. But it does not in the least convince any disinterested critic of Indian conditions that there is any such thing as a national army upon which the people of India, fighting for their own freedom, can depend. It is an Army which is there for the purpose of preventing the people of India from obtaining their freedom.

Putting aside the character of the Army, can you say that the administration has been such that the expenditure on the Army is a suitable or a justifiable expenditure? Apart from the fundamental vice of its alien character, the expenditure on the Army is open to serious exception for the simple reason that, in a poor country like India, it is out of all proportion to its revenue. Theories have been put forward that the Central revenues and the Provincial revenues should be clubbed together for the purpose of ascertaining the percentage. Sir Basil Blackett was the author of that sapient theory, and Lord Peel is the latest publisher of that theory. But it appears to me that we are not concerned with the Provincial revenues, and even if you add the Provincial revenues, I say it is still a very, very appreciable proportion. Rs. 55 crores out of

the Central revenues is certainly a very vast expenditure. To what beneficent purposes can that money which is allotted to this wasteful and suicidal head can be applied? The nation-building departments cry for help and they do not get any. Local self-government is very much where it was. Education is very much where it was. Out of the 318 millions, the barely literate people are 22 millions, and the English literate people are something like 3 millions, and I do not know that you can claim that you have done as much for education as any other country in the world is doing. On the contrary, what you have done is negligible. Then, Sir, there are other departments of life in which this revenue, set free if is not allotted to the military budget, can do immense good. Development of indigenous industries is a vital item, but they do not get the money that they want. Of course, the Honourable the Finance Member very naturally told us that, without additional taxation, he cannot get the funds. That is all the more reason why I am justified, why we should again and again point out that this military budget is a wholly unjustified and unproductive item of expenditure.

Then, have we got a national Cabinet? Have we got a removable Cabinet? Have we a national and removable Cabinet? We have an irremovable Cabinet, and then those friends of ours there who, by birth, are Indians, must be regarded by association as forming part of a Cabinet which is not national. This Cabinet in law is not severable and in politics is not severable, and therefore the Cabinet, as a whole, must be judged, and so judging it, it is not a national Cabinet in any sense, either in its personnel or in its spirit and purpose.

Then have we got a national policy of this Government? There is no national policy in any department. The policy of this Government is at best a virilely alien policy. Wherever it is necessary for them, wherever it is desirable for them to yield, wherever it appears to be too much of a strain to put upon the Indian people, then a hybrid sterile policy is pursued, wholly unprofitable to India. Sir, I say that there is no national policy in any matter whatever, either in the matter of commerce and industries, in the matter of education, or in any other matter. What is it, after all, by which we can judge the prosperity of a country or the credentials of a Government which claims that it has administered its trusteeship in a very austere, self-denying fashion and has heaped prosperity upon the untold millions of India? What is the simple way, what is the direct way in which we can estimate the blessings of British rule and British administration? I think the only simple way is to find out the annual income of the Indian, what then is the average annual income of the Indian in this country? I think, Sir, controversy has raged about this for some years, and I think most economists are now agreed that it is not very much more than Rs. 74 a year, or £5 a year. I am referring, for instance, to Shah and Khambatta's book, "Wealth and Taxable Capacity of India" as well as to "Sixty Years of Indian Finance" by K. T. Shah. I have seen other economists' investigations, and it has been put down as Rs. 45 or Rs. 60 a year, and some one or two writers like Mr. Findlay Shirras, put it at about Rs. 100 or so. The most exhaustive and accurate investigations into this whole question, and I have also bestowed some attention upon this subject, incline me to the belief that it is somewhere between Rs. 60 and Rs. 72 a year, but for the present I would accept Mr. Shah's

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estimate, based upon considerable investigation, that the gross annual income of a free man in India is Rs. 74 per head. Rs. 74 per head means what? It means Rs. 6 a month. You can understand at once the racial deterioration, and lowered vitality of an average Indian and from the point of view of eugenics how it is impossible to build up a strong upstanding race in India on the basis of Rs. 74 per annum? That, I say, is the vital fact of Indian politics. Mr. Shah says:

"The cost of nourishing a human being, on the same scale of comfort consistent with keeping body and soul together, approximates Rs. 90 per annum."

That is the food value alone. I have made some calculations myself and I do think that, in a village, a man, in order to have some decent living according to modern standards, and increased standards of comfort, should have at least Rs. 30 a month available to him, and a man in a town should have about Rs. 60 a month available to him. That must be the minimum monthly income of a villager and of a townsman. Upon less it is impossible to have decent human beings; you can only have starving animals. If they are to have some little education, if they are to have some decent and clean clothing, minimum housing, some little medical aid, some *pan* and tobacco, if they are to accommodate a stray guest occasionally, if they are to marry and have families, it is impossible for me to see how less than Rs. 30 a month in the village and less than Rs. 60 a month in the town can ever be a satisfactory average for any Indian.

And what is it that I find in England, Sir? I find that £1-10-0 is the unemployment wage. £2, £2-10-0, £3 a week are very ordinary wages. I am asked to make allowance for the difference in prices. But we are told that world prices tend to make prices uniform all over the world and the differences in prices are not serious and cannot be pressed very much into the Government service. Having regard to rigours of winter in England, people there require coal and warm clothing. Making all allowances, on the basis of the minimum wages in England of £1-10-0 a week, £2 a week, £2-10-0 a week and £3 a week, it is impossible to expect an Indian to live in an Indian village on less than Rs. 30 a month, and in an Indian town on less than Rs. 60. What do we get now? Rs. 6 a month is the average annual income or Rs. 74 a year. There can be no doubt about the verdict, not only of history and of posterity but also of contemporary observation. The Treasury Benches may be immovable, but the moving finger moves and writes the doom of the British connection, which was not written for all time. Therefore I say we are perfectly justified in claiming that this administration, which claims to be civilised and which claims to work for the prosperity of the millions of India, must be judged, not by the comfort and standard of existence which some of us may possess in the Assembly, not by the standard of the capitalists of Bombay or Calcutta or the European Group, or the salaries obtained by the Treasury Benches and the heads of departments or the incomes obtained by barristers and advocates, or by the standards of Mr. Birla and Sir Purshotamdas. It must be judged by the average annual income of India. So judged, there can be only one conclusion, and that is, there never was an administration in the history of the world so grossly callous and cruel, so intolerably oppressive and exploiting as this administration.

Then, Sir, what has the Government done for the purpose of encouraging the textile industries in India? They are a very important industry. We know that, before the British rule, India was self-contained in the matter of its clothing. India was even able to make handsome exports to other countries. What is it that is happening today. I am told the figures are 40 crores for foreign imports, 40 crores for hand loom industry and 40 crores for Indian mill industry. If I understand matters aright, the Indian who was able to buy 16 yards of cloth four or five years ago is not able to buy more than ten yards of cloth now. That shows that his purchasing power has been reduced. My friend Mr. Jamnadas Mehta gives me the following figures: 42 per cent. Indian mill, 27 per cent. hand loom and 31 per cent. foreign cloth. I accept those figures. Remember what India was in pre-British days, and what it is now, and, judged by this standard, there is no more eloquent commentary on the unsoundness of the present administration, so far as encouraging indigenous industries in this country is concerned. If it is said, "Oh, well, we do not want to encourage Indian capitalists; we no doubt encourage capitalists in our own country, but we are in favour of a restricted and controlled form of capitalism so far as India is concerned". I am not the person to disagree with that at all. My views are not perhaps as stable and advanced on that matter as they should be, but I ascertain that sound socialistic experiments should be made and the nationalising of certain Indian key industries should be forthwith attempted.

Then let us see again what the Government have done in the matter of prohibition. It is well known that the two great religions, Islam and Hinduism, are dead against drink and its evils. What is it that we find in a country where prohibition would be the easiest thing to accomplish? Public opinion is strongly in favour of it, but the Government is all in favour of liberty on this point. Now, it seems to me that this is the only kind of Swaraj—the drink Swaraj—that we get under the British Government.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Example is better than precept.

Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar: This is one of the main points urged by that great man, Mahatma Gandhi. What has the British Government done on this head? I say absolutely nothing.

Then, Sir, take the question of untouchables. What have the Government done to raise the position of untouchables? We know ourselves that there are certain social difficulties and certain religious difficulties, and that there are orthodox, reformist and conservative sections of opinion. So far as the Government is concerned, they have done nothing at all. The real amelioration of the depressed classes is an economic problem rather than a social or a religious problem. Let me say so plainly. I claim to be a religious man myself, but I do not believe in any connection between religion and politics. I want the clearest divorce between religion and politics and utter secularisation of public and civic life, and I do claim that, so far as the untouchables are concerned, their position is what it is today, on account of their desperate poverty—want of housing and clothing, uncleanness, want of education and training, and the wild habits to which they are obliged to accustom themselves, for want of means.

An Honourable Member: What about temple entry?

Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar: What have the Government done for these untouchable classes? I do understand that they are not sufficiently educated and sufficiently advanced, because they forsooth still co-operate with the Simon Commission, though I know appreciable sections of the depressed classes have boycotted the Simon Commission. In my own province, several men of the depressed classes, and in other provinces also, will have nothing to do with the Simon Commission.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Why don't you allow them to co-operate with you in the temple?

Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar: Mr. Kabeer-ud-Din will have his say in his own time. I am now having my say. Then what have the Government done with respect to railways. I often take a first class ticket when I travel. I feel ashamed and selfish when I travel first class in a train and look at the condition of the third class passengers. Never do I blame myself more than when I am obliged to travel first or second class.

Then, Sir, what about shipping? There is a beautiful book, with beautiful diagrams, circulated to Members of the Assembly by
12 Noon. Mr. Haji, which shows in what a parlous state Indian shipping is. What is the encouragement which Government has given to shipping? Indian shipping is a most vital matter. We know perfectly well that foreign domination in this country is due to Britain's maritime power. How can India with her vast seaboard, with her great commercial interests, with her volume of exports and imports, how can India be economically sound unless she has a shipping of her own? With regard to these two things, namely, the Army and shipping, we can expect no concessions except in the most minute degree.

What is the position of the labouring classes and of unemployment in this country? With regard to these two things, I am inclined to attach far more importance to them than to the Indianisation of the services or other reforms. I am inclined to attach more importance to the labouring classes than to this or that demand which my friends may ask for. Wages of the labouring classes have not largely increased. You alternately blame the Government and the millowners of Bombay. The millowners say that the Government are manipulating the resources and finances of the country in such a way as not to enable them to get decent profits. In addition to the Hindu and Mussalman divisions, you have capitalist and labour divisions. When I know that both capitalist and labour are being starved, I, as one who is bound to take a comprehensive view of the whole situation, do not in the least see why capital or labour should sometimes put Government on the back, and why garlands of eulogies should be handed round indiscriminately without any profit. But of course we shall always be learning

Mr. K. Ahmed: There you may be right somewhat. (Laughter).

Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar: Then, Sir, what about taxation? My Honourable friend, Mr. Duraiswamy Aiyangar, has always, in season and out of season, declared against the salt tax, as well as many others of his way of thinking. What has happened to this salt tax? The tax is a most pernicious thing and should not go on the Statute-book. I have therefore no hesitation whatever in reviewing the administration in this brief manner and in asking my friends not to think that what I say is a string of clichés

uttered for the purpose of amusement. If they give me credit for sincerity of purpose in the fight for Swaraj, I think they should take a fresh view of the situation.

Mr. K. Ahmed: You have not got much credit with the Swaraj Party.

Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar: Coming to political liberty, what is it you have in this country? Absolutely nothing. We find an absence of Government encouragement of the indigenous textile industries, and we find that in order to encourage Swadeshi in a proper fashion, we have to intensify the boycott of foreign cloth. How far people will be frightened, and how far they will stand is the question. The most amazing thing is the attitude of Government in countering the boycott of the foreign cloth movement, when, in the absence of Government encouragement, we try to stimulate the growth of the Swadeshi movement, and it shows what liberty there is in this country.

Mr. K. Ahmed: But you are burning the foreign cloths all the same. Is it economy? That is the point.

Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar: Then I find from what my friend, Mr. Duraiswamy Aiyangar says in the general discussion, that the incidence per head of taxation is increasing in India. In the prosperous United Kingdom it has come down from £18-1-10 to £15-14-0, whereas in impoverished India it has risen from Rs. 5-1-1 to Rs. 5-10-9 per head. Mr. Duraiswamy Aiyangar is an accurate student of statistics and I accept his figures.

I do not propose to deal with the other details such as the annual income in other countries, because they are well known, but just look at the Public Debt position in this country. It is steadily on the increase. I quite admit that on the point of clearness, undoubtedly the present Finance Member's speech is a great improvement on that of his predecessor, with all respect to Sir Basil Blackett. But at the same time this mere clearness is the only thing that I can congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member on. The policy is the same, though, as one Finance Member succeeds another, there is always a subtle attempt, a hint of a change of policy. It would be an easy bait if we could swallow it, but at the next budget session we find ourselves very much where we were. We must take that view until things are visibly better, but so far as our outstanding experience goes, there is nothing but pessimism on our side. I am optimistic so far as the future of our country is concerned, and I have faith in my countrymen as far as the British connection is concerned and I am pessimistic as I have no faith in the Government.

Now, Sir, I have exhausted my own general review of the position, and will only say this that the Government are bound to persevere in their course of action, while we are bound to persevere in our own course. I have neither appeals nor requests to make, nor proposals or suggestions to offer. I have nothing to do but to utilise, to the fullest extent, the powers which are given us by this Assembly, but I do so in a self-reliant manner which a man who fights for Swaraj is bound to adopt. We know what we want and know how to get it. And we mean to get it. In the meantime I am glad that the Independence for India Movement is rapidly growing outside and has more representatives even here than you

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think. And even those people who claim to be for Dominion status are, in their heart of hearts, for Independence.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhamadan Rural): Sir, before I say a few words on the general constitutional grounds upon which we are bound on this side of the House to reject the Finance Bill, I desire to say a few words on the purely financial aspects of the budget out of which this Finance Bill has emerged.

The Finance Bill, Sir, is in all constitutionally governed countries the net result of the Budget provisions made by means of grants and appropriations. Just as, if I may say so, the so-called appropriations and grants in this country are a wholly formal affair, in that the amount of votable items is so ridiculously small, and the amount actually voted or withheld can always be readjusted entirely at the discretion of the Governor General in Council, similarly I say that the Indian Finance Bill is a wholly formal affair. What is this Finance Bill? This is a Bill to fix the duty on salt manufactured in, or imported by land into, certain parts of British India, to fix minimum rates of postage under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, further to amend the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923, to fix rates of income-tax, and to raise the import and excise duties on motor spirit. What is it that this Bill does? There is the Indian Salt Act, and under the provisions of the Indian Salt Act, the Government fixes the duty on salt. There is also the Indian Post Office Act under which the Government fixes the postal rates. Now, Sir, supposing this measure had not been introduced into this Assembly, the position is that there is still legislation by means of which this Government can fix the rates of duty on salt, by means of which this Government can fix the rate of duty on articles carried by post, and they have also the power to fix the duty on various other things referred to in the Bill. All that I say is that, by a kind of small mercy, when the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms were introduced into this country, these annual acts were made to do duty for what, in other countries, is a very real financial operation on the part of Legislatures. Sir, in all constitutionally-governed countries, the actual appropriations made are the subject of legislation. It is not as if we make certain grants by means of motions. All these motions are made in the course of a session, at the end of which the entire provision that has been made for the expenditure side is put in what is called the Appropriation Bill, and passed through the House, and as against the appropriations so made, ways and means are found by means of the annual Finance Act which supplements the ordinary financial provisions of any country. Now, in this country, there is no such hiatus which is left, in which, unless we pass this measure, the Government cannot carry on. That is the means by which the control of this House over the financial and general policy of the Government is maintained in other parliamentarily-governed countries. Here, Sir, this Act is a farce, as the other farce is by means of which grants are made or are rejected and restored, and Bills are brought in, and if we reject them, they are certified and made law. Therefore my first point is that this Finance Bill is, as the Deputy Leader of our Party very properly put it, as unreal a proceeding as the other unreal proceedings of this Assembly. In the next place, as I pointed out, the actual budget in my opinion—and I am second to none in congratulating the Honourable the Finance Member on the clarity of his budget speech—the actual budget discloses a state of financial position for the country

which is by no means satisfactory and the actual budget arrangements which have been adopted by the Honourable the Finance Member in introducing the Finance Bill before this House are in my opinion wholly unsatisfactory and unsound.

Sir, I consider the Finance Member's budget as a hand-to-mouth budget. He has refrained from making any proposals for extra taxation in this country, not because he thinks that the financial position does not justify it, but because he wants to take time to find out whether it is at all possible to make any reductions in expenditure, and also he wants time to find out whether, by making actual investigations, he can settle what are the sources of additional taxation which he can tap, and by which he can supplement the financial resources of the Government of India. Sir, so far as we on this side of the House are concerned, we hold that the limit of taxation has been exceeded long long ago, and we therefore think that any investigation which the Honourable the Finance Member may pursue, with a view to find out extra sources of taxation during the year during which he is marking time,—I say, Sir, that all that will be stoutly resisted on this side of the House; because we feel, Sir, that the Government has been maintaining a rate of taxation far beyond our capacity to bear, a rate of expenditure which is equally beyond our capacity to bear. Sir, during the past few years, this actual rate of taxation and of expenditure has been going on increasing, and in the budget itself, it has grown from 127 crores in 1927-28, to 184 crores in the budget year. We have also found that, under capital account, we have got only normally more or less small capital commitments to provide for about 60 crores by way of borrowing. So far as our debt position is concerned, I have already stated that it is the definite opinion on this side of the House that, having regard to the fact that the total capital obligations of the Government not covered by assets are only about 170 crores for this country with its resources, I say, Sir, that the provisions by means of which the Government appropriates so large a portion of the taxation of this country for debt redemption and avoidance of debt are certainly of a character which make any search for additional sources of taxation absolutely unnecessary.

Then, Sir, we have also in this country, by means of additional taxation which the Government will not reduce, in good times and by means of increase in expenditure which the Government is determined to pursue, we have also in the Government coffers and among Government assets, property and assets of a character which should compel the Honourable the Finance Member to pause before he ever thinks of adding to the burdens of the country. On the other hand if he really pursues this inquiry in the spirit of a nationalist and of one who is interested in the national welfare of the country, I am sure he will soon find or rather he will come to the conclusion, not merely that there is absolutely no need for extra taxation, but that the expenditure of this country and that the burden on the people of this country can be very perceptibly reduced.

I feel that the Government, in their railway policy for instance, have maintained their reserves at such a high figure that it is time that the Honourable the Finance Member, on behalf of the Indian taxpayer, sees that the railway convention is appropriately revised, that the taxpayer gets his just dues from out of the huge railway capital which has been sunk for so many years, and whose present nominal value is not the proper value at which his part in the undertaking should be appraised.

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Then, Sir, Government have been maintaining this high taxation by the process of rigging up the exchange. That is a matter which we have fought repeatedly in this House and I do not propose to raise a technical discussion on this occasion. I have only to point out that, notwithstanding the fact that the Government have, by force of official pressure and by various other means, put on the Statute-book 1s. 6d. ratio, the rigour of it and the injustice of it is still bearing heavily upon the people of the country and upon the industry and trade of the country.

Therefore it behoves the Honourable the Finance Member, in the first place, to find out where the sources of retrenchment are and I am glad to find that he very naturally has gone into the question of the amount of expenditure under Army Services for investigation. I am, however, sorry that he has been led away to the easy conclusion that the convention to which we have absolutely not been parties, that the convention by means of which the Government in the Finance Department have told the Army that they could always have, for some years to come, a sum of 55 crores from which they can make savings and indulge in additional expenditure, is a convention which I think is wholly unsound. I am sorry that, in this matter, the Honourable the Finance Member has not been properly posted. He has said, in paragraph 46 of his financial statement, that this convention of giving the Army Department Rs. 55 crores to play with, was one which was recognised by the Public Accounts Committee, and by the manner in which he has referred to it, I presume, he thinks it has endorsed it. On the other hand, Sir, the fact is that, as Members of the Public Accounts Committee that dealt with this matter when it arose, it was our duty to point out that this system was wholly wrong and unjust in principle. It takes away from the Public Accounts Committee as well as from this House, that control over expenditure which is of the essence of all well-regulated systems of public expenditure. Sir, when this matter came up before the Public Accounts Committee—I would refer him to the views of the Public Accounts Committee in paragraph 26 of their Report for 1925-26,—and I was a member of the Public Accounts Committee—the position was definitely stated thus: “While we are ready to recognise the advantages of the system as thus set forth,” we were told, Sir, that in the particular year in question the Finance Department stood to gain by turning down demands for supplemental provisions in the Army budget by saying that they would allow to use savings under other heads. Therefore, when they told us that that advantage was secured in that year, we said that we recognised it, and then we said—and this is most important:

“We cannot ignore the fact that, as a permanent arrangement, it must tend to weaken effective control of expenditure. In the case of civil grants, the previous Committees on Public Accounts have consistently set their face both against the appropriation of the provision under one grant for meeting unforeseen expenditure under another grant and against the unfettered utilisation of savings in any grant to cover the cost of new measures which were not provided for in the estimates under that grant. Though there may be temporary advantages in any such arrangement at the present moment, we are of opinion that from the point of view of strict accounting it is most desirable that there should be as little departure as possible from the sound practice that services should be provided for in the budget and at the time of the budget, and savings should accrue to general revenues and not to particular departments.”

And, Sir, today the Finance Member says that it is the understanding with the Army Department that savings that accrue in the Army Department should accrue to the benefit of that Department, for whatever purpose they may consider necessary, for equipment, mechanisation, etc. So far as this point is concerned, Sir, it is most unfortunate that the Army Estimates are not to be voted on by this House, but certainly in the place of this House, the Finance Department of the Government of India technically has the control. And if the Finance Department of the Government of India hands away its powers of control in this manner to the Military Department, I say the taxpayer stands very much to lose. Therefore, Sir, it would not do for the Finance Member to accept this convention and thus remove the control vested in him on behalf of the taxpayers of this country and to say that the Army Department may take 55 crores and do what they please with it for some time, because otherwise they would come and bother them with a number of additional demands under various heads. That may be no doubt a very easy means of disposing of that question, but it is not a sound means; and certainly it is not an effective means of controlling the expenditure. In that sense, Sir, I claim that the Rs. 55 crores limit* of the Army expenditure is a very exaggerated limit, and it is up to the Finance Member to see whether the limit which the Incheape Committee most-legitimately fixed for it, namely, Rs. 50 crores, is not sufficient. Sir, everybody is aware that, on account of the new modern methods of warfare and the mechanisation of the forces, whatever non-recurring expenditure in the way of army equipment, etc., may be necessary, so far as the permanent standing charges of the Army are concerned, they have gone down even in England. In this country, therefore, the limit of army expenditure of Rs. 55 crores ought to be definitely brought down to Rs. 50 crores,—the limit fixed by the Incheape Committee.

The present position is that the Finance Member's apprehensions as to the need for extra taxation in the face of these various extravagant limits of expenditure that exist, are, in my opinion, a wholly imaginary fear, and I should be surprised indeed if, before long, he does not come to the conclusion, not only that there is no need for thinking of anything like additional taxation—because there are so many reserves hidden under various pretences, reserves say, for instance, under exchange suspense account, in the Revenue Reserve Fund, etc., and other various items, which I do not want to go into now—and the actual expenditure is at such a high level that it is difficult for this House to agree that this costly system of administration should continue. Sir, I would only give one more instance to show that the level of expenditure in this country, under the several heads, is maintained in a reckless manner, and by means and methods which it is up to the Finance Member to scrutinise. This House, at the instance of the Public Accounts Committee, has been supplied for the past three years with a statement showing additions and reductions sanctioned by the Governor General in Council in the non-voted grants for previous years. So far as the non-voted grants are concerned, one of the main questions which has baffled us on this side of the House is the manner in which concessions and privileges to the privileged classes in this country, namely, the bureaucracy, have been multiplied year after year, and have not only been multiplied, but have also been removed from the purview of this House. Now, Sir, among the items which have been so rendered non-votable, there is one to which I referred two years ago, and that is, the so-called Lee concessions in regard to passages. These passage concessions were granted as a

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part of the extensive "Lee loot" which was imposed upon us, and Parliament was advised to do the most extraordinary thing so that a sum of money, which was paid into what is called the Passage Fund Account, could be treated—although it is only passage money—as pay, for the purpose of being made non-votable. Accordingly, these passage concessions were made non-votable by a special amendment of the Government of India Act. When it is a question of our asking for anything being done, however small, they say that the Act is there and the Statutory Commission will come and examine it and that the decennial inquiry will take place; but when it is a question of even the smallest concession being given to the Civil Services, it is taken up at once, and in less than a minute, it goes through Parliament. Sir, these passage concessions have been made non-votable, and so far as I know, the amount which the Central Government alone has had to disburse on this account has gone on increasing from year to year. Therefore, the fact that the Government has had to add to the number of non-votable items from year to year under the head "passages" to the superior civil services shows that the original estimate of the cost of the passages, as compared to the revenues of this country, has been growing. In other words, Sir, I think the passage concession has been extended or widened in such a manner as to be a continually growing burden on the people of this country, and the reality of the concessions under the "Lee loot" was masked all along under a variety of items—it was passage money once, overseas allowance on a second occasion, and other things at various other times for various purposes. Sir, how long is this burden of an alien Service, this overseas allowance and the various other allowances to be borne by us, by the people of this country? I say, if a strict scrutiny were made of the existing position of Indian finances, it would be found that the scale of expenditure at which this Government is carried on is beyond all proportion to our requirements. The scale of taxation is correspondingly at such a high figure that it is impossible for this country to accede to any proposal for taxation; there is urgent need for retrenchment and there is urgent need for relief being given to the people in the way of a reduction of taxation, which should be devoted purely to the development of the happiness, contentment and prosperity of the people of this country. Sir, in the face of this situation, I feel that the real position of this House is not only unreal, to the detriment of our pocket, but the position is that the whole of this machinery of government, set up by the Act of 1919, has broken down.

Sir, so far as the provinces are concerned, we have official testimony by more than one Provincial Government to show that dyarchy has broken down. It has become unworkable and cannot work hereafter. So far as the Central Government is concerned, the Government may or may not make the admission, but facts stare us in the face, showing that this system has broken down. The Government merely carries on today by the aid of its extraordinary powers. They dare not bring into this House any important legislation which pertains to the people of this country because they know that were they to insert provisions therein which were against the interests of the people of this country, this House would reject it and they would be perpetually opposed on every issue in which the interests of this country were in conflict with their own interests. Therefore the Government come into this House and carry on by the extraordinary powers they possess and also by manoeuvring and sowing differences between community and community, party and party, by the exercise of patronage, by

so many means, licit or illicit, into which I do not want to go in detail. What I want to ask the Government is, how long are you going to continue like this? Is this a stable state of things for you to continue in? Is it not the duty of Government to change all this? You cannot go on for ever. I ask the European Group also to say whether this state of things, which is going on, is safe. My Honourable friend, Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar, referred to one point, the effect of token cuts on which the Government propose to sit tight. The Government do not accept the cut. Does that mean, they accept the policy indicated by means of such token cuts? If they say they will not restore a cut, it is their duty to say what they propose to do in respect of that cut. Take that important matter in which my Honourable and gallant friend Colonel Gidney got a cut, namely, the position of the temporary I. M. S. officers. The House is entitled to know the moment Government came to the conclusion that the cut would not be restored, what they propose to do. They have not said anything. That is the state of unreality in which this House works. The whole position is such that the entire machinery of the system you have set up has broken down. It is no use for you to say "We are fed up" or that "there is an inquiry going on and until that comes to a conclusion we are not going to do anything." If you really wish to see in this country a stable government, in which the interests of the people will get a chance, then the immediate thing for you to do is to grant the demand which was voiced by means of the cut moved by the Leader of this side of the House. Sir, I oppose this motion.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas (Indian Merchants' Chamber: Indian Commerce): Mr. President, I think I am correct in saying that the grounds on which my Honourable friends of the Congress Party, who spoke before me, oppose the Bill are approximately the same grounds on which this House refused the touring expenses of the Executive Council. While I am in general agreement with the grounds that they advanced, I differ from them when they press that it is necessary for this House to discuss the constitutional aspect more than once on the budget debate. I therefore rise to support the Bill which is before the House.

Sir, the Finance Bill is to renew power to the Government of India to recover 30 crores of rupees in the following year as taxation. This is not taxation from areas directly administered by the Central Government, nor is it taxation from British India alone. It is taxation from the whole Continent of India, including the Indian States, and I feel that on the motion before the House it is pertinent, I may almost say, necessary, to take a general review of the economic condition of the country as a whole.

Generally speaking, attention has lately been concentrated on political reforms. It is, I fear, hardly appreciated how much the success of even political reforms depends upon the economic well-being of the country. One of the greatest handicaps of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms, to my mind, was the continued deficits in the budgets of almost all the provinces and of the Central Government up to about the year 1924. Things looked like settling down thereafter, but it happened to be only temporary, and barring two or three years, again this year it would appear as if the financial position of the Provincial and Central Government is far from satisfactory. A survey of the various provincial budgets for the following year brings this out rather strikingly. I propose, Sir, to give to the House in very brief outline the provincial budget figures for the coming year, and

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although I have tried my best to get the figures from newspaper reports, I speak subject to correction as I am not in possession of official copies of the provincial budgets.

In Bengal, but for a windfall of Rs. 52 lakhs, the current year would have ended in a deficit of Rs. 18 lakhs. For 1929-30, there is a large deficit of Rs. 88.75 lakhs, which is to be met by drawing upon the balance of about Rs. 2½ crores, which includes over Rs. 12 lakhs from the Famine Insurance Fund and over Rs. 26 lakhs ear-marked for other purposes.

In Bihar, the current year closes with a balance of Rs. 160 lakhs, which includes Rs. 76 lakhs from the Famine Insurance Fund. The budget for the coming year shows a deficit of over Rs. 28 lakhs, which is covered by surplus funds of previous years, including the large sum of money which has been released by the new rules, which, I understand, the Government of India has sanctioned.

In Bombay, it is a hand-to-mouth budget which may, in actual realisation, prove to be even worse. The contribution to the Famine Insurance Fund is omitted in this budget, while the temporary taxation imposed by the Court-fee and Stamp Acts are to be continued.

The United Provinces Budget shows that the closing balance has been reduced from Rs. 50 to Rs. 18 lakhs.

In Madras, there is an excess expenditure over revenue of Rs. 36.14 lakhs which is to be met from the opening balance.

In Burma, the budget is a deficit one, the shortage being about Rs. 40 lakhs, and this is to be made up from the balance.

In the Punjab, the budget shows great uncertainty, owing to the unfavourable season there, the revenue of the current year having been reduced to the tune of Rs. 57 lakhs.

In the Central Provinces, the budget shows a surplus of rupees 48,000, but the Finance Member says that this surplus cannot be relied upon.

Now, Sir, there is hardly any growing head of revenue in the various provinces which can be expected to keep pace with the growing demand for expenditure from year to year in the ordinary course. In fact, some provinces have been agitating, as the House knows, that they must have substantial amounts from the Central Government, which the Central Government recovers in the form of income-tax and super-tax in those various provinces. Bengal and Bombay have, before now, put in very strong claims, which, to me, appear quite justified, that the Meston Settlement, as it is in vogue, is unfair and that these two provinces cannot possibly carry on unless the Meston Settlement is substantially altered. The question, then, that strikes one is, how is the Central Government going to make up for further diversion of revenue to the provinces with its comparatively nominal surplus as disclosed this year. The Honourable the Finance Member has told us, in unmistakeable terms that it is only with very good luck that we may escape fresh taxation within the next year or two, even for the budget of the Central Government.

But the further question is, have the provinces been in a position to say that, during the eight years they have been under Ministers in the transferred departments, they have followed a policy which can be said

to be national, a policy which Ministers in the provinces have been able to justify before their Councils and policies, which can be said to have satisfied either the Ministers themselves or the elected Members in the Provincial Councils? Let us examine some of the prominent aspects of the question. The liquor excise, as a source of revenue, stands out very prominently as a serious blot on financial administration, Provincial and Central, during the last many years. In 1923-24, the percentage of liquor excise revenue to the total revenue of each province was approximately as follows:—39.9 per cent. for Madras; 34.7 per cent. for Bihar and Orissa; 28.7 per cent. for Assam; 28.7 per cent. for Bombay including Sind; 25.3 per cent. for the Central Provinces; 20.6 per cent. for Bengal; 13.9 per cent. for Burma; 12.7 per cent. for the United Provinces and 11.4 per cent. for the Punjab. In all these provinces, such substantial percentages, as these, represent the revenue drawn from, not something which adds to the advancement of the people, but something which contributes to the deterioration and demoralisation of the people for whose benefit these transferred departments are supposed to work. In fact, Sir, the liquor excise revenue has increased in recent years very alarmingly the total revenue from liquor excise in all the provinces has gone up from rupees 7½ crores in 1903-04 to nearly rupees 21 crores in 1923-24.

Lord Meston, giving evidence before the Joint Select Committee, had predicted that Ministers in charge of transferred departments would want a reduction in this tainted revenue, and might even insist upon a policy of prohibition. He has been a correct prophet. But the tragedy of it is that, in provinces where, since the reforms started, a policy either of total prohibition in a stated number of years or of rationing, was approved of by the local Councils and was sanctioned by the Governor, financial stringency has lately compelled the Ministers to go back upon that policy. You find today in Bombay and at least in one other Province that the Ministers have, most helplessly, I am sure, but certainly in a manner which should make us think seriously, had to sanction a complete reversal of that beneficent policy. They have this year sanctioned the opening of additional liquor shops for revenue purposes. I will quote one paragraph from Mr. Rutherford's *Modern India, its Problems and their Solution* which puts the baneful effects of the liquor policy in words which I cannot improve upon:

"In considering the health aspect, we cannot, however, neglect the economic, for the two are wrapped together in the same winding sheet on the same funeral pyre. Low wages and poverty lead directly and indirectly to disease from under-feeding, insanitary housing, etc., to diseases, especially of mal-nutrition, like rickets, and to susceptibility to invading germs from reduced vitality. Expenditure on drink, especially in India, where wages are so scandalously low and poverty is so stupendously great and widespread, by reducing the earning capacity of the wage-earners and by intensifying the poverty of the poor, dooms the people to innumerable and avoidable diseases as well as to under-consumption, under-production, with agricultural and industrial depression and national poverty."

Such, Sir, has been the effect on the transferred departments which were devised for the purpose of letting the people of India see what their Ministers could do for them. The only conclusion I can come to is that this has proved that finance is the main bed-rock on which the success of even political reforms depends.

We have been told with regard to liquor excise revenue that it is all a question of rupees, annas and pies. The liquor revenue has been allowed to go up, for all the provinces, from about rupees 7½ crores in

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1908-04 to about 21 crores in 1928-24—and if we get up-to-date figures, perhaps higher still. This source of revenue has been looked upon as a legitimate one. It is difficult to find sufficiently strong words to express one's condemnation of this mentality and policy. But I wish to ask one question. In order to save the Chinese from intoxication by opium, the Government of India sacrificed a steady revenue of very nearly 10 crores of rupees per year. In order to prevent our people from the evils of drink, what is the Government of India prepared to do? Are they going to say "We really can do nothing; we must continue to let the people get more and more drunk as we must have revenue from this source?" Are they going to persist in their policy, in spite of the unambiguous opinions which they have had from this House and from every Provincial Council that I know of? I suggest to the Government of India that the time has come when they must realise that this policy is one which should not be persisted in any further, and, unless they call halt and say to the Provincial Governments, "So far and no further"; unless they put a check on the demoralisation of the people at the stage at which it has now reached, the policy of the Government—and, if I may say so, the personnel of the Government—will deserve the strongest condemnation which anybody can give.

I wish in this connection to make one suggestion to the Honourable the Finance Member. Last year I asked for information as to the amount of liquor—beer and other fermented liquor and wines—imported into India from 1923-24 to 1927-28. The statement put on the table in reply to my question on the 4th September, 1928, shows that the increase in the import of beer and other fermented liquors from 1923-24 to 1927-28 is, to say the least of it, most disconcerting. In 1923-24, the amount of beer and other fermented liquors imported was 2,846,316 gallons; in 1927-28 it was 4,499,814 gallons in regard to wines, it was 225,386 gallons in 1923-24 and it has gone up to 304,141 gallons in 1927-28. Similarly all spirits, except denatured spirits, were 1,900,249 gallons in 1923-24 and rose to 1,408,388 gallons in 1927-28. Sir, if the provinces take to a policy of either prohibition or local option, do the Government of India think it fair that they should continue to allow the import of foreign liquor freely, which will only mean the substitution of imported wine and liquor for the indigenous manufacture? Sir, I said last year, speaking on the Finance Bill, that I hoped that the Finance Member would be able to convene a conference of all the provincial Ministers and devise some common policy by means of which they could follow the much desired goal, namely, the saving of India from the drink evil. This becomes more necessary when you bear in mind that the scriptures and religious mandates of the two major religions in this country are entirely in favour of prohibition. Sir, America has, during the last few years, taken to a policy of prohibition. We have heard a good deal about how smuggled liquor is still being indulged in in America, but the last Presidential election was a success for the prohibitionists, and whether a few who were accustomed to wine and liquor there during the last five or ten years will still persist in smuggled liquor or not, there is not the least doubt that, with the policy which America has laid down, and is following with a brave heart, the next generation and the generation after that, as far as the drink question is concerned, will be free from this evil. I appeal, most earnestly, to the Government

of India, and especially to the Finance Member, not to increase the financial embarrassment for the future in this matter, and to try and prevent the people from getting further demoralised

Mr. M. Keane (United Provinces: Nominated Official): Has the Honourable Member got the figures of total consumption, and do they show an increase of consumption?

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: No, I have not got the figures of total consumption, but if the Honourable gentleman will give them when he gets up to make his speech, I will be very glad indeed. Unfortunately, I really do not know whether the total figures are available at all, but if the Honourable Member can give them to the House or tell us where they are available, I shall be glad.

Sir, the next thing is the comparatively insignificant amounts which are available for expenditure in the provinces on medical relief, sanitation, public health and education

Mr. K. Ahmed: How do you remove malaria?

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: That is my complaint. I am advocating your cause, Mr. Kabeer-ud-Din Ahmed.

Sir, I was reading a book called *The Souvenir of the Indian Empire* printed in connection with the 7th Congress of the Far Eastern Association of Tropical Medicine. Colonel Graham, the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India, submitted some memoranda to this Congress, which give interesting information regarding certain matters, and whilst I do not agree with many of the grounds urged by Colonel Graham, nor see eye to eye with many of the inferences which he draws, I feel I cannot but fall back upon it for a statement of facts as they emanate from official sources. On page 70 he says:

"In Benzal, with nearly 3,927 registered doctors to a population of 46 million, the proportion was one to 11,450 persons."

But what he says on page 78 regarding registration of vital statistics in connection with public health appears to me to require very serious thought:

"There is no organised health staff for more than 90 per cent. of the population; only an insignificant percentage of the people who die annually are seen at any stage of their final illness by persons possessing any sort of medical qualification, the actual recording of vital statistics nearly everywhere in rural India is in the hands of a staff who may have some claim to literacy, but certainly no other qualification. Unless the fallacies are carefully kept in mind, one is tempted to draw more deductions than the figures warrant."

This was written in 1910, and Colonel Graham adds, "It is still largely true", and, "it is a problem, the future solution of which is one beset with the greatest difficulty; as it must always be, in any country with a huge indigenous and illiterate population."

And, what, Sir, is the condition of the people under the head "Disease Problems"? Colonel Graham says:

"The last census returns showed that in India there were at least 80,000 insane, 200,000 deaf-mutes, 500,000 totally blind, and 130,000 lepers, a hopeless under-estimate (Dr. Muir places the number as nearer one million). In India the expectation of life at 5 is approximately 35 years and at 20 is about 27 as against 54 and 41 respectively in Great Britain. Generally it may be accepted that an Indian's expectation of life at

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birth is less than half the average figure for a European. The national economic waste due to all these can hardly be estimated. We can, however, agree that this tribute to disease must influence economic, political, financial and commercial considerations."

Finally, Sir, dealing with the International Health question, the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India makes this somewhat startling statement.

"Since the termination of the Great War overseas commerce has gradually recovered, and, with its recovery, has focussed international attention on those ports throughout the world which might aptly be called reservoirs of infectious disease. Unfortunately India is the chief offender as her major ports are seldom free from either plague, cholera or small-pox."

This, Sir, is our equipment in matters regarding either public health or sanitation, or regarding mere medical facilities in the rural parts of India.

Now, Sir, agriculture, according to the latest review of it by the Linlithgow Commission, is very nearly in a primitive state of efficiency. Efforts have been indicated in that Report, but the problem is admitted to be a gigantic problem requiring the whole-hearted efforts for a period of decades of every one interested in the development of Agriculture. There are so many directions indicated for improvements that one hesitates where to begin. I am personally one of those who think that the agriculturist in India can be usefully taught very little. There is little which he does not know by experience coming down from father to son for generations. What is wanting in the agriculturist is the cash and the credit which will command the various articles by which he can increase his produce. It is true that the Central Government propose to start a Research Institute, but the question is at what point would these efforts bear best fruit bearing in mind the serious deterioration which is acknowledged in the economic condition of the agriculturist.

Mr. K. Ahmed: If the capitalists do not make a profit out of them.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Industries on the whole can be said to be a subject of solicitude by the Central Government, and, as indicated by me in my speech on the general debate on the budget, I pointed out to the Honourable the Finance Member how I felt that there were no reliable statistics available in connection with the measure of prosperity or otherwise of the industries of India. I heard very carefully the Honourable the Finance Member's reference to my remarks in the course of his reply on the general budget. It is not my purpose today to follow up the line of argument which the Honourable the Finance Member used for the purpose of criticising the cotton textile industry of Bombay. I propose today to take up a larger and a broader view, and I wish to point out to him that there are 5,156 joint-stock enterprises in India, with a registered capital of Rs. 287 crores,—these are figures for the year 1926-27, —and ask him what it is that will enable the Finance Department to watch the progress or the retrogression of this capital and of the concerns interested in the various industries, unless he devises something on the lines that I indicated. It is perfectly true that what I indicated last time, namely, quotations of the average of a few selected companies chosen after very careful consideration and on a scientific basis, may not get to the Finance Department all the accurate information which the Honourable Member

wants. But the question and the trouble today is that there is nothing which the Honourable the Finance Member can quote to convince us that our internal prosperity is either normal or at a boom, or to be able to refute us when we say that it is highly depressed and is in a very perilous state. I wish to inquire of the Honourable the Finance Member if he can reconcile himself to such a state of affairs for India for long?

That, Sir, brings me to a reference to the very excellent report of what is known as Sir M. Visvesvaraya Committee, the Indian Economic Inquiry Committee (1925). Sir M. Visvesvaraya, the Chairman, I think, succeeded in representing a most useful report as the Chairman of this Committee. He was asked to report to the Government of India as to the material which the Government of India should make available in order that they should be able to follow, with fair accuracy, the various economic factors and aspects which are concerned in the welfare of the country. The Committee reported and submitted a scheme involving an expenditure of about Rs. 57.54 lakhs per annum. That, I think, is the recurring expenditure and the initial outlay is estimated at Rs. 31.86 lakhs. I wish to ask, what has happened to this report since it was submitted in August, 1925? Has it been laid on one side, or have the Government of India found that the expenditure suggested by this Committee is too high? I wish to ask Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches as to what is the basis on which they authorise their representatives at International Economic Conferences and Labour Conferences, to which they send representatives from here, to express their opinions? Supposing economic questions came up, what do the representatives from India put forward when they have no figures of the nature indicated by Sir M. Visvesvaraya Committee, figures for the collection of which the Government have to have fairly well equipped statistical departments? I am one of those who would like to economise every pie that I can in matters of expenditure. But I also realise that there can be items of expenditure which, although they may not bear direct fruit in the shape of a return or dividend, may save you groping in the dark entailing savings several hundred times over the expenditure involved. I submit that any further delay in the collection of figures on about the lines indicated by the Visvesvaraya Committee would be considered a delay which may go very seriously against representatives from India working on any International Conference on economic or labour questions. Do the Government of India authorise their representatives there to put forward their views without the backing of any figures, or any official data, or if there are any data or figures, will Government oblige by informing us as to where we can get them. I wish to ask as to what has been the condition of our internal commerce and internal industries during the last two or three years. The Honourable the Finance Member may perhaps say there has been nothing very abnormal. But I venture to submit, and I submit it with all the emphasis that I can command, that unless you can give me any proof to the contrary, the condition has been one of steady deterioration and is one which has brought our indigenous industries to a state where they must really be seriously safeguarded. It is no use each side putting forward its own assertions and inferences and impressions. We want something more than that, and for that purpose I feel that we want progress at once in the direction indicated by the Visvesvaraya Committee. If the annual recurring expenditure of Rs. 68 lakhs, indicated by that Committee is on the high side,—although he suggests that that expenditure can be transferred from

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the Central Government to the Provincial Governments and then on to Local Boards and Municipalities,—and if the capacity of these to bear a proportion of this expenditure is not very easily discoverable at present, I suggest that Sir M. Visvesvaraya may be asked to put up a less costly scheme to begin with. But I do not think that we can afford to wait at this point any further, simply saying that, on the score of mere financial consideration, this Committee's report has been shelved.

I do not wish to touch upon the question of the financial and currency policy of the Government of India. I have, however, to mention it in connection with another subject which I wish to refer to. With the appreciation of India's currency since 1924, there is no doubt now that the indigenous industries of India, as a whole, barring of course the jute industry, have suffered. The extent to which these industries have suffered owing to world causes or owing to the bonus of 12½ per cent. which was made a present of to the foreign importer into India—I do not wish to go into at this stage. All that I wish to ask is whether it is not a fact that, even in England, when the £ sterling was brought back to its pre-war ratio, the British Government had, in spite of the great efficiency, the expert knowledge and the extraordinary skill of the indigenous manufacturers there—to devise protection for some of the industries of Great Britain. If that is so, I venture to ask why it is that the Government of India here have not thought fit to go into this question; have it examined and indeed convince those who have been clamouring that they have been seriously hit by this artificial appreciation of India's currency, which has given a sure bounty to the foreign importer into India. I have, Sir, in mind another very important industry in India, although its dimensions may not be so big as the dimensions of the cotton textile industry. I have in mind the gold and silver thread industry of India. Nobody can dare say that this is an industry which has been copied from abroad. The gold and silver thread industry of India has been one of its most well known industries. If I mistake not, that industry today employs not less than 200,000 workers of great efficiency and expert knowledge in Gujerat, in the United Provinces and down below in the South. Ever since the appreciation of the ratio over 1s. 4d. gold this industry has suffered unduly from competition by imports both of real gold thread and artificial gold thread from France and from other parts of Europe. It is not an industry which is very well organised. It is not an industry which clamours for relief year in and year out, but coming as I do from Surat, one of the centres of this gold thread industry, all I can tell the Honourable the Commerce Member is that it is only because of the tenacity of these people to stand by what they look up to as their ancestral business that this industry has been prevented from being substantially closed down. I have ceased for the moment to quarrel with the injustice to India by Government insistence on the higher rate of 1/6 gold, but there should be this anxiety at least on the part of the Government to see that those industries which have been well grafted on to India, which the Indians have followed for the last few centuries, should not suffer owing to this appreciation of the currency? It is the duty of Government to give our industries such relief as was given, shall I say, in England and in Europe, when their currencies were brought back to the pre-war ratio. The appreciation here and there has nothing in common between the two, except that it is appreciation

up to a certain point. The injustice, in the case of India, to the industries is more serious, because it is beyond the pre-war ratio and was avoidable and, therefore requires more sympathetic attention.

If I may mention one more case, it is the case of the Ogale Glass Works in the Deccan. Nobody can dare say that the people in charge of these Works do not know how to run their business, or have not the maximum efficiency which can be commanded in the circumstances in which Government expect those industries to be worked. Have these Glass Works and others in India approached the Government of India to seek their assistance? Or if they do so hereafter, will Government, if a *prima facie* case is made out, make an inquiry, and are the Government prepared to take steps to see, until a complete adjustment between the new ratio and the existing conditions takes place, that this industry will not be put to any privation?

I wish to put before the Government of India the substantial steps that have been taken by Great Britain in order to stand by and protect the British textile industry. As everybody knows, during the boom period, the conditions in Lancashire were extraordinary. This is what the *London Times* (Trade Supplement) of 2nd February, 1929, says:

"Under the influence of the belief that the inflation would last for ever, in the years 1919-20 mills were refloated at many times their original cost."

It is by this sort of inflation and inflated prices for their shares that the Lancashire mills were refloated in 1919-20. The conditions in Bombay are not that any mills were refloated. What happened is that, as far as I can recollect, three mills changed hands and that was at extraordinarily high prices. Two or three were thus sold and a few were newly constructed. The greatest charge against the mills in Bombay is that they paid out "extravagant dividends". That is, I think, the phrase which has been generally used. Now, what have they done in England to help the mills which were refloated at several times their original value in 1919-20:

"The preliminary tedious negotiations in the spinning and manufacturing departments extended over nine months. One of the delicate tasks of the cotton experts, and one which they successfully accomplished, was to convince the bankers, who were exceptionally heavy creditors, of the right course to be taken for the salvation of the industry. The terms which have been agreed upon are creditable to both sides. The banks have agreed to write down debts, to accept ordinary shares and deferred shares as part payment of their claims, to surrender their powers of foreclosure and their right to the payment of a fixed rate of interest, and to hold debentures on which interest will not be paid until profits are made. The policy which the banks have set themselves out to carry through has been to make considerable sacrifices in order to help forward any scheme in which their customers, who are in difficulties, have confidence. The Bank of England, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in Manchester last week 'has co-operated in the most unusual manner, almost unprecedented, and in a spirit of the utmost resolution'."

All this is being done for an industry which is more than a century old in England and is equipped in the following manner. Again, I will allow the *London Times* (Trade Supplement) to say what the equipment is:

"Though the industry has before it a hard fight for the recovery of lost ground, it possesses many valuable advantages. In most of the mills there is equipment second to none to be found anywhere. We have the most experienced and competent work people in the world. Our business is grounded within a small compass. We have the largest collection of machinery for the production of the greatest varieties of yarns and cloths. We have unequalled knowledge of the requirements of our customers in all the markets, at home and overseas."

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An industry which is so well equipped has required extraordinary assistance from all the bankers and from such a conservative banking institution as the Bank of England. I understand that there has been no precedent for the Bank of England which has always been looked upon as the doyen of conservative banking institutions either in the West or in the East to come out with such determination to see this industry through. I congratulate the cotton mills of Lancashire on the assistance which they have got from their bankers. I would be the last to envy any industry in the world getting assistance at the right and critical moment but my question is, is it not justifiable for the public in India and especially for those who have either their investments or their employment in these mills to feel it a grievance against the Government of India for their hesitation, so far, to do anything for the textile industry of India. I want none to make the mistake that I am pleading only for the cotton mills of Bombay. It is true that, at the moment, the cotton mills of Bombay happen to be worse off, but the cotton mills of Bombay cannot go down without affecting cotton mills in other parts of India. And if the cotton mills of Bombay have to sell their wares at a loss, they are bound to compete in the other areas. What I am asking for is not a favour. I am asking the Government of India to do exactly what a national Government would do. I am asking the Honourable Sir George Rainy's Department to do what a national Commerce Department would do for India at this juncture.

This brings me to the question of labour in factories. When the Royal Commission on Labour was announced by His Excellency the Viceroy I felt that this Commission could not teach us much which we did not know. I am all for any relief which can be given to labour in India, but I feel that, whilst we may do all we can, for the factory labour in India, we must not overlook the larger labouring section in India, those who labour in the fields and agricultural areas. They do not come in here. It is difficult to bring them in, and it is more difficult when you bear in mind the low economic income of the agriculturist, referred to by one of the previous speakers. I am only mentioning this, not in order to pour any cold water on the enthusiasm of the Government of India to do their best for the factory labourer. The factory labourer works perhaps under exceptionally—shall I say, insanitary,—circumstances, and I am all for whatever is feasible. My anxiety, however, Sir, is this. We, Sir, want the factory labourer to have the best of wages, the best of housing accommodation, and a standard of life which must be considered at least to be a civilised standard of life. Now, if factory labour can only subsist on the factories' capacity to employ them, I venture to ask the Honourable Member in charge of the Labour Department, how are you going to get your labour all these benefits, unless you have a national outlook in regard to our industries. There is a vernacular proverb, which you, Mr. President, will be able to appreciate :

“ *Kuvā mā hoi to havādāmā āv.* ”

“Water will come into the trough only if there be any in the well.”

If you run the well dry, what can you give the cattle when you take the cattle to the trough? I am not saying a word against, in fact I am very glad that you are doing what you want to do for, factory labour, but have you simultaneously borne in mind that you owe a duty to the same labour to see that their employment is constant, that their employment is continued, and that their employment is one which is not a thing of fits and

starts? With a policy of denying India protection, where other countries have protection under similar circumstances, with a policy of discriminatory protection which is being administered, shall I say, in the most conservative or step-motherly manner, do you expect factory owners to do wonders for their labour? If you are, you are expecting the most uneconomical thing. Do you expect the industrialists of India to pay labour out of their pockets? The right sources from which labour should be paid are from the profits one makes out of an industry, and I am all for a substantial share of the profits of an industry being earmarked for the welfare, the benefit and the better wage and higher standard of comfort of the labourer. But, according to my lights, I warn the Government of India that this policy of starving industries even of what may be due to them in other countries where there are national Governments, and then to bring about—not that it need necessarily be their intention, but the result is—an unnatural clash between capital and labour, you are doing a disservice to India which will tell very hardly against the prosperity and normal life of India even under a national Government. I therefore feel that, simultaneously with your solicitude for labour, you must also realise that you owe a greater duty to labour in seeing that the industries are not starved of what is due to them, that the industries also have your due attention; otherwise all that can happen is that the factories have to work by fits and starts and may eventually close down. And when the industries cease to exist, you will have done a greater disservice to labour than you imagine today. In fact, Sir, I am one of those who is prepared to go to this extent. I would agree to a minimum wage for the factory labour of India. I would agree to a minimum standard of comfort for the factory labour of India, both by statute, provided I am sure that there is a sympathetic department which will watch the fate of the industries, which will look after the minimum requirements of the industries and will give them a sympathetic hearing and help them to a solution of their difficulties without asking them to wait for years and years.

In this connection I would like to tell the House about a rather interesting incident yesterday. A representative of a fairly important indigenous industry called on me yesterday morning. He said that, during the last two years, the agents of that industry had succeeded in manufacturing some agricultural implements as good as imported ones. He said, they wanted certain protection in order that they might be able to compete with the imported article. I recommended him to write to the Commerce Department and ask that Department to refer the question to the Tariff Board. This gentleman told me—and I have no reason to disbelieve him—that the Commerce Department insist upon industries in India working at losses for three to five years before they accept *prima facie* proofs, justifying applications for protection. Incidentally it may be mentioned that the only exception to this is the powerful oil industry and its reference to the Tariff Board on the very first application to the Commerce Department. I hope there has been some mistake between what this gentleman told me and what the Commerce Department gave him to understand. I cannot believe that the Commerce Department would ask a person who can adduce *prima facie* proof of the soundness of his request, that he must drop money for three or five years before a reference can be made to the Tariff Board. I only mention this with a view to clear up a misunderstanding if there be any. As far as I am aware, none can yet congratulate or condemn the Commerce Department on its having been in too much of a hurry to bring relief to any indigenous industry by offering it protection.

[Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.]

I do not wish there to be any misunderstanding on this score, and although I made it sufficiently clear, I again repeat, that I have nothing to say against the solicitude of His Excellency the Viceroy for Labour by appointment of the Labour Commission. I am prepared to give to labour all that a minimum standard of comfort will demand. I would, however, very much like an inquiry into the labour conditions and the wages of labour in the fields of India. That is what is wanted in order that agricultural labourers and factory labourers may be treated alike. All that I urge is that, whilst Government show solicitude for the labourer in the factory, they must not overlook the prosperity of the factory on which, in fact, the employment of the labourer depends.

Sir, of the various drains on India that we talk of, including the drain of home charges, the one which I most seriously stress as the drain of India's resources is the drain in the form of military expenditure. A military career is denied to Indians, and restrictions exist in regard to the military activity of Indians in defence of their motherland. I do not wish to dwell upon this policy of the Government, as undermining the manhood of India, to say nothing of the economic loss involved to the sons of the soil by that amount of money going out of India. I fully understand those Members of the House who are against compulsory removal of the British troops from India *forthwith*. But I wonder if there is a single Indian, on either side of the House, who will stand up to defend the policy which the Government of India have followed for the last 100 years, of handicaps to the sons of the soil in the defence of their homes and their hearths. No words sufficiently strong can be found to express the condemnation of this policy. It is for this reason that the House found every elected Member and even a few nominated Members united in throwing out the votable section of the military grant, which amounts to less than six lakhs of rupees out of a total military expenditure of 56 crores of rupees, the balance of 55 crores and 94 lakhs being outside the vote of this House. Is it any wonder that the feeling of exasperation on the part of Indians should increase from day to day, whilst the Government persist in their policy, despite such united votes of this House?

But a still more serious form of drain on India is the illiteracy in which 92 per cent. of the people still live. Education is a transferred subject, and there could hardly have been a single Minister in any of the transferred Departments, however pro-Government or however anti-Swarajist who did not wish to make rapid strides in removing this drain on India during his term of office. But finance has been the main difficulty. In fact in one of the provinces—and it is my regret to have to confess, it is Bombay—the Honourable Minister found the financial stringency telling so heavily against him, that in order to continue the policy of Government regarding primary education, he had to agree to actual increase of fees in secondary Government schools and colleges. This has evoked a justifiable storm of protest, both inside and outside the local Council. Financial stringency is thus at the bottom of hindrance to progress in the removal of the drain which is acknowledged by all to be one of the most serious ones on the people of India today.

Sir, I said earlier that the provinces expected larger contributions from the Central revenues. The Honourable the Finance Member has already warned the House that additional taxation in the next year or two may be

escaped only with good luck. And the proverbially bad years may appear on the scene now to test the tenacity of the Government and the capacity of the people to suffer at this critical juncture. I fail to see which item of additional taxation the Honourable the Finance Member looks forward to as appealing to the House without serious protest.

My Honourable friend Mr. Birla has indicated an examination of the possibilities of retrenchment in expenditure. I am glad the Honourable the Finance Member agreed with him. But retrenchment in the existing expenditure can only mean a few lakhs at the best. What is wanted here is not a few lakhs, but quite a few tens of lakhs, almost going up to a crore, and where is it to come from? For the moment, military expenditure is non-votable. I do not expect the Honourable the Finance Member can produce even a crore by a stroke of the pen. The country will not stand additional taxation, and I have my apprehensions regarding this House voting additional taxation, despite any persuasion. I suggest to the Government of India that there is only one solution of the difficulty, and that is a change in the existing constitution, in a manner that will inspire confidence of the people and that will give representatives of the people scope to exercise their own best efforts in the best interests of their country. No half-way house, no partial transfer of power, will avail. No pious hopes, and no mild threats will, I hope, be relied upon. The minorities, and especially the European vested interests, require adequate protection. It cannot be the intention of any sane well-wisher of the land to deprive anybody of his dues. The country requires a complete cessation of the hostile spirit prevailing between the Government and a section of the people, a thoroughly patriotic section at that. Unfortunately the efforts and activities of the last ten years have created in the country a section which, though inspired by the best of intentions, and the most patriotic of ideas, feels it is forced to resort to destructive methods and destructive agitation. If this is allowed to continue for another ten years, it will mean another serious handicap to India for constructive work for the next generation and even for two. Statesmanship, therefore, demands that the country should not be exposed to any further risk in this direction either. It is possible that those who think that power is being transferred to Indians prematurely may honestly believe that efficiency will be at a discount for some time, but who does not make mistakes when he starts on his work *de novo*. Why should we, who have the largest vested interests in the country, not be allowed to learn the work which is ours and which should have been ours all through, simply because a few want the luxury of more efficiency at any cost? I am convinced that, if the British Government do not cling to their present bureaucratic power in India, with, comparatively speaking, the greed with which they are doing so today, India will not only welcome, but will ask for, **British help and co-operation at every stage hereafter.**

The problem of finance, the necessary finance for nation-building, is intimately connected with the goodwill of the people. This goodwill and confidence of the people in the Government of today must be secured now without further delay. Unless a dangerous experiment is to be made by taking India to the pre-reform days, I see no other solution of the present difficulty than the establishment of a national government in India. All the time, I would emphasize that, the fullest safeguards for the just interests of minorities should be provided. In fact, I am convinced that it should be unnecessary to repeat the latter. It is impossible to conceive

[Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.]

of the majority community wanting to injure the interests of the minorities. What is wanted is a sure indication of the determination of Government to take a substantial step in the correct direction.

The reasons why, in India, we have come to this present ominous-looking state of things politically, financially and economically do not require to be examined today. It would serve no useful purpose to go into the whys and wherefores of our present position.

Mr. President: Order, order. Perhaps the Honourable Member might like to continue his speech after Lunch.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Yes, Sir.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till a Quarter to Three of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at a Quarter to Three of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas: Before I resume my speech, may I make my acknowledgment to you, Mr. President, and to the House for the extremely patient manner in which you have listened to me till now. I am told that I have spoken for the best part of an hour. I am sorry to have made such a demand on your patience; but I can assure all that I will not engage their attention for very long.

I was saying, Sir, that the reasons why we, in India, have come to this ominous-looking state of affairs, politically, financially and economically do not require to be examined today; it would serve no useful purpose to go into the why and the wherefore of the present position. I am today prepared to leave the past behind. I wish to appeal to Government, and, through them, to the British Cabinet, to look the present position straight in the face and to see it in its fullest significance. India will still be grateful for what Great Britain has done for her till now, if Great Britain will help India, without trying her patience any further, to an era where Indians may do their best by their country under the aegis of *Pax Britannica*. Those who are less patient than me or more impulsive, or, shall I say, more experienced than me, candidly say from the housetops that they expect nothing from Great Britain, even at this stage, in the correct direction. I ask for such a careful, cordial and sympathetic consideration of the whole situation, at this stage, as will attach India to England for ever. We have an enormous leeway to make up, even in the most favourable circumstances. It cannot be done unless we are masters in our own house. The Government must, therefore, give us the best scope and start for this purpose. If they choose to disregard what I venture to say today, I am afraid they may, before long, have to substitute in India a form of Government which will require continued certification and even martial law oftener than resort to legislation. And, even with that, the people will be distrusting whatever the Government do. Is it possible to carry on under such circumstances? I hope that, with all the sagacity of Great Britain, the statesmen there will see where the best interests of both India and England lie.

I have spoken of the various drains on India owing to the inability of the Government to have done more for our progress during the last hundred years. Let me make it clear that I do not overlook the handicaps of the people due to their own various customs, habits and what are wrongly called, at times, religious beliefs. Unity and, the want of it amongst us all, is perhaps one of the greatest of these handicaps. None can be more painfully aware of these than myself. But this is not the place in which to dwell on the self-imposed handicaps of the people of India. The main reason for the present state of restlessness in the masses is the wide awakening that has come on from the educated classes, together with the pinch of poverty and low economic condition from which the masses continue to suffer. I have said before that I am no admirer of Bolshevism or of Communistic ideas. I dread these, but I dread no form of Bolshevism or Communistic tendency so much as those which are created within the land out of the dire poverty and abject misery of the teeming masses of India. (Hear, hear.) The imported ideas can be kept out up to a certain point; in any case they have to take root in the soil before they become dangerous, and that is bound to take a good few years, if not decades. But the indigenous growth which has its root in these local conditions is so dangerous, and liable to such fast growth, that I feel bound to sound my note of caution to the Government against it at this stage. And this can only be stopped by letting the people themselves mould their destinies hereafter with full responsibility to their own fellow-countrymen.

Let me make one more thing clear. I do not expect rivers of gold and silver to flow immediately after responsible government is established. As a matter of fact, I feel that the real struggle between the illiterate masses and those who are pleading for them today will begin after responsible Government is established. The best brains of the country will have to work long and hard at nation-building for several years to come after we become masters in our own house to bring about the correct mentality. The most wholehearted assistance of the Britisher in India will be required then, and it is because I do not want any further estrangement between Great Britain and India that I feel that I should, at this juncture, appeal to the best instincts of Great Britain for the realisation that the time of trusteeship is over, that the time to play the friend to India has arrived.

My conclusion, Sir, is that a satisfactory financial condition is the master-key to progress in any direction, especially in good Government. Confidence by the people in Government is the *sine qua non* of satisfactory financial conditions. I am encouraged, Sir, by the words of His Excellency, Lord Irwin, when he addressed this House in this connection. His words towards the end of his address are thought-provoking. I will only quote a few of those, because I am sure the rest must be fresh in the minds of this House. His Excellency said:

"The Viceroy and Governor General stands as intermediary between India and Great Britain, and as such, will constantly endeavour to interpret as faithfully as he may, the hopes, the feelings, the desires of the Indian people to those who may from time to time compose His Majesty's Government in Great Britain. . . . That duty."

His Excellency proceeded:

"I have striven, and shall strive to fulfil to the best of my ability."

[Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.]

I am sure every part of this House will wish all strength to His Excellency in fulfilling his duty adequately and to the satisfaction of the people of India.

I have finished, Sir. I only wish to remind the House, and specially the Treasury Benches of the words of one of the greatest statesmen that Great Britain has ever had. Lord Macaulay, speaking in the House of Lords in 1833 on the Bill which threw open offices under the Crown to Indians, said as follows :

"It may be that the public mind of India may expand under our system till it has outgrown that system; that by good government we may educate our subjects into a capacity for better government; that, having become instructed in European knowledge, they may, in some future age, demand European institutions. Whether such a day will ever come I know not, but never will I attempt to avert or to retard it. Whenever it comes, it will be the proudest day in English history."

Indians, having become instructed in European knowledge, now demand European institutions, and I ask the Government not to thwart or retard the day, which has come, when we ask for European institutions for governing India ourselves. Lord Macaulay said in 1833 that that day would be the proudest day in English history, and I submit that that day has come, and any Britisher, who now seeks to retard that day, is doing something very serious both by England and by India. I ask that the proud day when England may hand over to India the Government of this land, with adequate safeguards, having arrived, no statesman in England is justified in postponing that day. It will be a grateful India which will receive, at this stage, her sons' birthright of self-government for India from the Mother of Parliaments. May those who have a say in this matter at this juncture have the imagination to perceive that has been entrusted to their intelligence, imagination and statesmanship. (Applause.)

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, it must be a happy task for the Honourable the Finance Member to balance the budget, and if he could, by another happy accident, have been the producer of a surplus budget, he would, I am sure, feel still more happy. But the ominous warning that the Finance Member sounded when he said that there was likely to be fresh taxation in the future, has alarmed most of us. Whether it is meant to be a warning to the Provincial Governments, who have come forward before a certain roving Commission for a fresh share in the taxation which the Government of India at present solely enjoy, whether it is intended to deter the Provincial Governments from claiming an equitable share of the taxation which the Government of India have hitherto enjoyed, I do not know; but, as far as I can judge from the reports of budgets of the Provincial Governments published in the Press, I find that every Provincial Government has produced a deficit budget, and the Government of India, by coming forward with a budget foreshadowing future taxation, show that the Government of India and the Provincial Governments are going to have a stiff fight over equitable distribution of revenue and taxation.

Before I proceed however, I may just remind the Honourable the Finance Member that owing to the frenzied financial policy of a predecessor of his whereby India's reserves abroad were completely wiped off, India now finds herself in this plight of a high tariff today. His predecessor took steps to raise the customs tariff to the maximum limit of 15 per cent. whereby

the Government must have derived at least 30 to 40 crores of rupees surplus taxation, and the cry of the capitalist group in this House to protect the industries of the country has given the Government a surplus income of about 20 crores of rupees during the last few years. I believe I am correct in this. I had an opportunity to look into certain financial statements which the Finance Member's Department prepared for presentation to that roving Commission which is now touring India, and I found the Government admitting there that this demand for a protective policy on the part of the Assembly had given the Government a windfall of 20 crores of rupees during the last four or five years. In spite of all this surplus income, the Finance Member foreshadows that there will be fresh taxation in the future. I may remind the Finance Member of the memorandum which has been prepared by the Finance Department where it is indicated that the customs tariff of the Government is put on the high side being the maximum that commerce can stand. They have no reserve in taxation in case of a future war. For that they ought to reduce the scale of certain taxation. If that was their policy a few months ago, how is it that the Finance Member now suddenly springs a surprise on the House and says that there may be extra taxation in the future unless it be to deprive Provincial Governments of their just share in the taxation that the Central Government have imposed and have monopolised to the detriment of the provinces.

Sir, my Honourable friend Sir Victor Sassoon is not present here, but he initiated an interesting debate on the borrowing policy of the Government of India in which I had the privilege to take part. Conscientious opinion on this side of the House holds that all Government borrowing should be done in this country rather than outside. In that discussion I pointed out that the reserves at present lying in England, for the benefit of Great Britain and the Dominions for the benefit of British and Dominion industries and banking should be transferred to India, and that they should be turned into liquid money for banking facilities in the country, both of the industrial magnates and the agriculturists. Sir, during the discussion on the budget for the last few days everybody was thinking of the poor agriculturist, every body was thinking how the agricultural class could be made more prosperous. There was the Royal Commission on Agriculture. Except for the announcement that a certain sum of money would be reserved for creating an Agricultural Research Department, nothing has been done. Not even a day was allowed on the floor of the House in order that we might discuss that Agricultural Commission's Report.

Mr. K. Ahmed: You have passed the budget.

Mr. B. Das: It does not matter. I can discuss it all the same. Sir, this side of the House contains a few experts. We have many experts in this House—financial experts, engineering experts, etc., and we know what experts are. (Laughter.) By the time these experts come to an agreement, these 25 lakhs will be spent somehow. Most probably these experts will be imported by my Honourable friend, Mr. Bajpai, from somewhere—from England or somewhere; and by the time those experts come to know a little of the agricultural conditions of India, they will become super-experts and will have to be superannuated and a fresh lot will be imported. So, Sir, what is the use of talking of agricultural prosperity if Government.

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in their supreme wisdom, do not see their way to allocate a day or two to discuss the valuable recommendations of the Linkithgow Commission? How can the agricultural class prosper unless they have banking facilities and rural banking is developed in the country? Until then they cannot be prosperous. Now, my Honourable friend, the Finance Member has given us an assurance that the banking inquiry will shortly be launched in this country; and the other day the *Hindustan Times* brought out a certain announcement that the personnel has already been fixed and the scope of the inquiry also has been fixed. Although I happen, Sir, to be a member of the Federated Chambers of Commerce and I am happy that members of the Federation are to be represented alongside with those of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, I, who belong to the country, and to the rural area of the country, am most anxious that there should be sufficient rural representation in that central banking inquiry committee, so that rural banking may be looked after properly. It may be that the Honourable the Finance Member would be thinking that he will take one member from the co-operative banks in the provinces in that Central Committee and that ought to satisfy the countryside. I admit, there is a system of co-operative banking in the country; but if he will make inquiries he will find that, everywhere, the Registrar of the Co-operative Credit Banks in the provinces is a member of the provincial executive service of the province. That means that he is not the sort of man who will allow full development and full control to the people. He has neither the experience nor the gut to do it. His being in Government service is a handicap. Consequently a member of the Government services cannot be a proper controller and director of rural banking, and therefore rural and co-operative banking is not properly developed or organised so far. If my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, thinks that he will take one of these Registrars of co-operative banks, a member of the Provincial Civil Service—though not of the Indian Civil Service—then I think the real objective will never be attained, because the member of the Provincial Service will be directed by a member of the Indian Civil Service, whether directly or indirectly, and such a man is least adapted by training to represent popular problems, nor can he honestly interpret their needs. If therefore my Honourable friend wishes to help the rural agricultural classes to develop rural and co-operative banking in India, he will have to choose members from among those public workers who have taken an active interest in co-operative banking and are not tied down in any way to the system of government at present prevailing in the country.

Only two years ago, my Honourable friend, Mr. Sarabhai Haji, moved a Resolution on the floor of this House to have a banking inquiry committee. That Resolution was a red rag to the Government. At that time Sir Basil Blackett saw no utility in an inquiry committee. I shall just quote a passage from his speech to indicate his views. Probably it was the view of the Government of India at the time. He said:

"I should like to suggest to them and to the House generally that the thing that is going to make banking grow in India is the desire of the Indian people for banking facilities, and the Government of India is not going to create banking by building banks in every village in India. It really is a thing in which Government can do something, but the essential and driving force must be the demand of the Indian people for banking in India and no Commission, no Reserve Bank and nothing else except a

desire of the Indian people to have facilities for banking will create facilities for banking in India. * * * * *. I hope still, at the last moment, that the Honourable Member will be satisfied with the promise and that he will recognise that it is all that he can usefully get, and that even if it is my successor and not I myself who will have the pleasure of bringing to birth this banking committee, he will not get it a day earlier by pressing for a promise from the Government for more than I have been able to give."

Sir, this passage from the speech of Sir Basil Blackett is interesting. He never thought it would serve any good purpose to have a banking inquiry committee. He said then that he wanted to tie the hands of his successor even if his successor should see his way—his successor has seen that already—to have a banking inquiry committee. Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Haji, in his demand for this banking inquiry, specifically insisted in his Resolution that provision should be made for recommendations for improvement and expansion of banking, with particular reference to provision in adequate quantity and proper form of capital necessary for the development of the industry and agriculture in India. Naturally, therefore, Sir, we are very anxious that the agricultural side of rural banking should be properly looked after. If the capitalist section of the country will be represented by 50 per cent., the other 50 per cent. of the Central Committee should be at least representatives of the people, whether they are for co-operative banking or rural banking or rural economics. Government must see to this, that there is proper representation of rural banking and co-operative banking in that inquiry. Again, I would like to know from the Honourable the Finance Member as to who will be the Chairman of this banking inquiry committee. Unless an Indian banker or an Indian, interested in the banking problems of the country, becomes the Chairman of the Central Committee, no good purpose will be served. The Honourable the Finance Member may import an excellent banker from Europe or England; but he will take a long time to know the real conditions of the people—the teeming millions of our country and not the capitalists and industrial magnates of our big towns—and for that reason the Chairman must be a man with good knowledge

Mr. President: Was not the Honourable Member called to the Conference?

Mr. B. Das: No, Sir. I have never had any desire to be present at this Conference. I know many are there who are in high finance; I represent the rural people here and have the privilege to speak here on behalf of them. I put the needs and view point of the people so that high finance may not neglect the condition of the masses nor have them exploited. Sir, we find that in all recently appointed commissions the Central Legislature finds representation, and I do hope that certain members of the Central Legislature will be represented on this Committee; and I may make it clear to you, Sir, before you say anything, that I have no ambitions in that direction and I do not myself desire to sit on that Central Banking Inquiry Committee. But I do wish that the Members of this House should be represented, so that they may represent the national aspect of banking on that Committee of Inquiry; and I may remind the Honourable the Finance Member that one of the main reasons why the Reserve Bank scheme of his predecessor foundered was because the Members of the Central Legislature were not allowed to be represented on the Board as Directors; they were not allowed even to form themselves trustees to elect Directors on the Board of the Reserve Bank. Sir, we are here to

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represent the millions of people who are outside, and if we have studied the interests of the masses and of the millions of the people of India, we have every right to be on such committees to put forward their viewpoint in the national interest. After all, this is not a new thing. This has been the practice followed in most of the committees. On the Age of Consent Inquiry Committee, Government had to take a few Members of this House lying down, when this House insisted on proper representation on that Committee.

Sir, alluding to the subject of co-operative banking, very often it happens that Government take the line of least resistance, and instead of working up certain subjects themselves they shift responsibilities by saying it is a problem for the Provincial Governments to inquire into. My Honourable friend, Sir Basil Blackett, while speaking on the Resolution urging the appointment of a Banking Inquiry Committee, moved by my friend Mr. Haji, gave his opinion on co-operation as follows and shifted his responsibilities:

"The subject of co-operation is a Provincial Government and not a Central Government subject, and it is very doubtful whether a Committee covering the whole of India and Burma and dealing with co-operative banking would be a desirable body."

Sir, if one wants really to kill the goose, one can kill it in any way he likes, and my friend, Sir Basil Blackett, who had an interest only in the big financiers of Calcutta and Bombay, in his heart, never thought of the masses, and naturally he thought that the problem could be shifted to the shoulders of the Provincial Governments. But, Sir, Provincial Governments, as they are constituted at present, take very little interest, and they allow these co-operative banking movements to be controlled by their officers, whereby they become glorified departments of the Provincial Governments, and very little creditable has yet been done so far. Here I may just remind the House that I also took part in the debate on that Banking Inquiry Committee Resolution, and I did point out then that the co-operative credit societies in India, put together, only handle a total sum of Rs. 40 to 50 crores. For 30 crores of people in India 40 or 50 crores of rupees is nothing, because it comes to about Rs. 1.2 or Rs. 1.5 per head. There is not sufficient money to give assistance to the rural population of India, and yet the Reserve Bank was going to be formed, which was to handle all resources of the Government, without paying any interest for such money. A part of this money was going to be given to the Imperial Bank without interest charges. Even the Imperial Bank at present handles all the money of Government and all the credit of the Government without paying any interest to the Government. Sir, as I have said, I have some knowledge of the working of co-operative banking in Bihar and Orissa, where they take money from the Imperial Bank at the rate of 6 per cent., while the villagers borrow money from the co-operative banks at 15½ or 16 per cent. That is not banking; that is *usury*. These co-operative banks which are organized by Government officials, ask the villagers to pay 15½ or 15¾ per cent. interest, and yet the Imperial Bank of India take all the reserve money of the Government and pay no interest for the surplus money that they bank. Why should not, I ask, a part of the money that lies idle in the Government Treasury be given to co-operative banks at 8 per cent.? And there should be a rule that these co-operative banks

should not charge for agricultural and rural aid more than 6 per cent.; that more than 6 per cent. should not be charged to any member of a co-operative union in a distant village union. That practice alone will save the peasants from perpetual indebtedness. Government-managed co-operative banks, as they stand now, charge high interest. Let us permanently lower that interest in our rural banks by giving advances to such banks from Government Treasuries. The money belongs to the people and must flow to them. Let not a few capitalists in our large towns exploit these resources.

Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member is new to the country. He has repeated an old shibboleth of former Finance Members. In the old days, whenever a civilian Finance Member made his budget speech, he used to say there was a good monsoon or a bad monsoon, and there would be no balanced budget. That was certainly a good thing to say in those days of civilian budgeting. But, Sir, if you think of the monsoons, you will have to think in terms of the masses. The agricultural classes, who happen to be 25 crores of the people of India, cannot prosper unless you look into their agricultural conditions and improve them. One of the disadvantages under which the agriculturists suffer is the damage that is done to their lands by floods in India. Sir, owing to the floods every year in India—by lucky chance we had no serious floods last year—the agricultural classes lose 50 to 100 crores of rupees. The Government of India, or rather the Meston Committee, manage to draw the line in such a way as to make land revenue a provincial subject, and so the Government of India do not care to bother about safeguarding the interests of the poor agriculturists. Yet, the Government of India, or rather the Railway Department, by raising embankments and other barriers and not providing proper waterways in those barriers, have added to the causes of floods in every part of India. Sir, in 1924 I had the privilege to draw the attention of the House, for the first time, to the necessity of appointing a committee of experts to inquire into the causes of ever-recurring floods in India. At that time the Honourable Member for Industries, and the Chief Commissioner for Railways took part in the debate, and the Commissioner for Railways poohpooched the idea that the railways were not in any way responsible for the enhancement of causes of floods. At that time, the idea of a Central Flood Inquiry Committee, although it was taken up by the Indian Press in the right spirit, was poohpooched by the Anglo-Indian Press in India. Since then things have changed. Owing to heavy floods in Burma in 1926, the Government of Burma appointed a Flood Inquiry Committee, and the recommendations of that Committee were accepted *in toto* by the Burma Government. Owing to serious floods in my own Province, Orissa, in 1927, the Government of Bihar and Orissa also appointed a Flood Inquiry Committee, and those recommendations are under the consideration of the Local Government. But I find that, though the mind of the Government of India has not undergone any change, the Anglo-Indian Press have changed their views. Sir, I have here a very interesting cutting from the *Statesman* of Calcutta. In commenting on the Report of the Orissa Flood Committee it wrote as follows:

"We have often pointed out that, not only in Orissa but in Bihar also and Bengal, and, indeed, all over India, there is no one definite authority responsible for embankments. In some parts the duty of maintaining them falls on the Public Works Department; in others on the District Board; in others on the Municipality; in others on

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the landlords; in others on the tenants. There is no common system of building embankments, and as far as we are aware no detailed supervision over them. A flood which has safely come over a hundred miles breaks through or washes over an embankment which a zemindar or a collection of rayats has neglected to maintain. That is the real trouble in Orissa."

That is the real trouble of India. I do not want to discuss the recommendations of the Orissa Flood Committee, but I just wish to refer to those points, which are of an all-India nature, and which affect the condition of the masses all over India. I can summarise the Report of the Orissa Flood Committee in a few lines. I quote their own words for the benefit of the House: (They occur in Chapter XIII of the Orissa Flood Committee's Report):

"The whole of the general question of floods and their remedies seems, indeed, except in so far as a few gauges have been read daily as a matter of routine, to have received but little real and systematic attention at the hands of the engineering establishment for over fifty years from the time of Mr. Rhind's report of 1872 to that of the inauguration of the contour survey in 1923, we can, at least, discover no trace of any general inquiry into or discussion of the problem as a whole during this period."

If this is the condition in Orissa, it is also the same in Bengal, in Bihar, in the Punjab, in Bombay and in Madras. Everywhere the engineering departments of the Government have gone on building roads, canals and railways, but they have not got any establishment to look into the drainage problems of the rivers. Therefore, whenever there is a little abnormal rainfall or a sudden rainfall, we have very heavy floods. I may just remind you, Sir, of the Gujrat floods in connection with which you yourself took so much trouble to collect money in order to save the people in flood-stricken Gujrat. You felt for the masses in that area, and that is the way you and I and every one of us should feel for the whole country, and it is no use the Central Government saying that it is a provincial subject and the provinces alone should look after remedial measures. Ten years ago, 15 years ago, land revenue was controlled by the Central Government. They have neglected their duty since the day they took charge of this country, and Government went on collecting land revenue for nearly 150 years or more, but they never looked into the drainage problems of the country. Rivers, mighty rivers which extend over more than one province, cannot be controlled by any Provincial Government. For that reason the Central Government must have a department under them—they ought to have created a new service of waterway engineers. The Burma Government have gone a small way and have appointed their provincial waterway engineers. In Orissa the Bihar and Orissa Government have just appointed an embankment division. But that does not solve the main problem. Let us take, for instance, the Ganges river which flows over three major provinces. An abnormal rainfall in the United Provinces may affect the people of Bihar very seriously, may affect the people of Bengal very seriously. An abnormal rainfall in Assam in Brahmaputra might affect Assam and Eastern Bengal very seriously. So it is time that the Government of India appointed a flood inquiry committee and created a service of waterway engineers. With that object in view various Members of this House, including my Honourable friends Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, Mr. Neogy, Mr. Aney—representing almost every province—and others, have given notice of a Resolution which I have had the honour to table first. "his

session. I shall just read out that Resolution in order to show what we want and what the country wants to save the country from ravages of floods:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he may be pleased:

(1) to establish immediately an All-India Service of Waterway Engineers with a view,

- (a) to control the drainage of rivers of India;
- (b) to regulate openings of all waterways, provided in embankments of railways, canals, roadways and other barriers for flood discharge; and
- (c) to give effect to remedial measures as would be recommended by an expert committee appointed immediately from India and outside, the terms of reference being to inquire into the causes of the recurring floods all over India and devise remedial measures therefor;

(2) and that he may be further pleased to accept the recommendations of the Orissa Flood Committee as a valuable contribution towards this important national problem of India, affecting drainage of waterways of India generally, and Orissa particularly, and direct such Departments of the Central Government as are directly concerned to co-operate with the Government of Bihar and Orissa to expedite action on that report with a view to minimise the distress of the agriculturist populace of Orissa caused through floods."

Sir, unless there is an adequate solution of the drainage problems in India, the agriculturist classes will always have to look to Providence for their prosperity. The Finance Members of the Provincial Governments or the Central Government always talk in terms of monsoon, but I venture to submit that the distress of the masses from floods is due to the neglect of the different Governments. (*An Honourable Member*: "Hear, hear.") I may be pardoned if I quote just a line from the speech that I delivered in this House on the subject of the appointment of a Central Flood Inquiry Committee in 1924:

"My own considered opinion on the subject is that the hand of man in erecting these embankments of railways and of canals and highways without taking into consideration the general waterways of the country is solely responsible for these ever-recurring floods, recurring disasters to millions of the teeming population of India. . . .

Who is responsible for this great calamity, a permanently inflicted calamity on the people of India? Not the railway alone—I absolve my Honourable friend Mr. Hindley from the complete charge, but all classes of engineers—the road engineer, the canal engineer, and the Railway engineer. Sir, I myself am an engineer. It is no pleasure to me to accuse my own profession. Yet I maintain, the short-sightedness and lack of foresight of my profession have brought the country to a land of famine, floods, and epidemics."

Four years ago I said that, and I maintain that view equally strongly today. As I have said already, it is no use the Central Government saying that the Provincial Governments would look after these problems. If, as a result of the wishes expressed by a certain Resolution tabled by a majority of members of this House, that a committee should be appointed for road development in India, the Governor General in Council thought it fit to appoint a road development committee, he can at any time appoint a committee of experts to go into the most vital problem of the masses. I am sorry to find that the Royal Commission on Agriculture went very little into this question. I will feel thankful if my Honourable friend, Dr. Hyder, will enlighten the House whether they did go comprehensively into the matter; but my own view is, after glancing through the evidence and the Report, that they did not go into that aspect of the matter in

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any detail. I do not know why this vital problem concerning the agriculturists had been left out by that Commission.

I will now refer to the tug of war that is going on between the Provincial Governments and the Central Government over an equitable share of revenue. There is discontent in the provinces over the decision that excise should have been a provincial subject, the Provincial Governments and the Provincial Councillors are always at loggerheads over the excise policy. The income from excise was at one period more than 40 per cent. of the revenue in my own province. I come from a province which was, at one time, the tail end of Bengal, and although the Central Government was in Calcutta, the Provincial Government of Bengal spent all its money in developing Calcutta and Bengal. It did very little for the development of my Province which was a distant adjunct. The Province was separated to satisfy the desire of the people of East Bengal to be united with West Bengal and the promises that were held out by Lord Hardinge in 1912 were never fulfilled. Promises of money were given out for the development of the Universities and for developing pilgrim towns like Puri and Gaya and nothing was ever done. Subsequent Finance Members forgot the pledges given by Lord Hardinge's Government. Then came the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms. Nobody bothered about the Government of Bihar and Orissa, and that Government was left with an income the lowest in all the provinces. The Finance Member of the Government of Bihar and Orissa, the Raja of Kanika in his recent budget speech, said that the income per head was Rs. 1.3 or Rs. 1.4. It is high time that the Government of India give effect to the recommendations of the Taxation Inquiry Committee. They would not allow the provinces a share of the income-tax. They should now allow the provinces an equitable share of this source of revenue and such other stable sources of revenue. I remember in the Press to have seen a statement that the Finance Member of the Government of Bengal was bewailing his lot in his evidence before the roving commission and he said that the inability of the Bengal Government to develop that Province was entirely due to the spoon fed policy of the Government of India. I do hope that the Government of India will themselves come to some decision on the recommendations of the Taxation Inquiry Committee and let the Provincial Governments have a share of their huge income for the internal development of provinces. I do think that, in the new order of things, excise should be a Central subject, because the Central Government never feels for the masses and have no point of contact. It is the Provincial Governments that will be always in close touch with the masses and if the Provincial Governments derive a large portion of their income out of the drink habits of the people, it will never bring the Provincial Governments into happy relations with the people of the Province. I would therefore suggest that excise should be transferred to the Central Government. In fact salt is an excise duty, and although nobody wants the salt tax, it still remains. Let the Government of India also enjoy the revenue from excise, and it does not matter if they are unpopular. A way should be found to provide a better system of taxation, by which, say, income-tax, export duties, and a part of the customs duty could be handed over safely to the Provincial Governments. The Provincial Governments will then get a stable income, and they will not be blamed by the people for such a hateful system of taxation as the excise is. Whatever may happen, I would not countenance this tug of

war between the Provincial Governments and the Central Government, that is at present going on, and my own view is that the Central Government could safely part with ten to twenty per cent. of their revenue to the different Provincial Governments.

U. Tok Kyi (Burma: Non-European): It is a matter for regret that Sir Purshotandas Thakurdas—I am sorry to note that he is not in his seat now—does not see eye to eye with us in regard to the Finance Bill now before the House. As a rule, in all matters of national importance, he has been, as we are all aware, with us, but this time he has given his reasons why he cannot be with us. Sir, as for us who sit on these Benches, so long as the most important cuts are restored as soon as they are carried, so long as the recommendations of the influential Skeen Committee, of which the Leader of the Independent Party was a prominent member, are not given effect to, so long as the wishes of the people of this country, as expressed by their representatives in this House, are not respected, so long we feel it our duty to oppose the annual Finance Bill. Sir, in discussing the Bill now before the House, I should like to make a few observations on the two subjects which have been agitating the minds of the people of the country from which I come. They are firstly the export duty on rice, the abolition of the duty, and secondly the separation of Burma from India.

The question of the abolition of the export duty has been brought before this House by me for these three years, and during last year, about this time, the then Finance Member made me a promise that he would appoint a departmental committee to go into the question, with a view to abolishing the duty or reducing its rate. The Honourable the Finance Member, in his answer to my question the other day, said that the matter had been referred back to the Local Government. Sir, I think we can anticipate the decision of the Local Government in this matter, for only two weeks ago the Governor of Burma said something about it in his speech at the annual meeting of the Burma Chamber of Commerce. It seems that he is not in favour of the total abolition of the duty, but he has no objection to reducing the rate. Sir, this is what he said at that meeting:

"I am informed, however, that for purposes of comparison, it may be taken that the export duty on Siamese rice works out roughly to 3½d. per cwt., that on Saigon rice to 6½d. per cwt., and that on Burma rice to 4½d. per cwt. If this is so, can we say that we are at a disadvantage, compared with our chief competitors, except in so far as our export duty is a little higher than that on Siamese rice? And is it that our complaint is not so much that the incidence of the duty falls upon the cultivator as that the proceeds of the duty do not come back to Burma, but go into the coffers of the Government of India? This is an obvious point on which we shall probably require your views. There is clearly a case for asking that the pitch of our duty should, at any rate, be no higher than the pitch of the Siamese duty."

Sir, from this it is clear that Sir Charles Innes is in favour of the reduction of the duty. But public opinion in Burma has been gaining ground on this question. Practically all the Leaders of public opinion, all the newspapers and all the Chambers of Commerce are in favour of total abolition. And I should like to point out that the Burma rice trade is now undergoing a depression, not only this year but for the past few years, and I think the depression is largely due to the increasing competition of countries in various parts of the world. The Honourable the Finance Member himself has admitted in his budget speech that the export of rice has

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decreased by no less than 7 crores of rupees, and that this was due to "Japan's temporary prohibition of the imports of that commodity into that country, and the increasing competition of the rice-producing countries on the Mediterranean seaboard".

Sir, Great Britain was at one time a very good customer of Burma rice, but of late the export to that country has been much reduced. Just before the War, in 1913-14, the export to Great Britain was 161,409 tons, but what was the export last year, 1927-28? It was only 49,658 tons. There was another country which was a very good customer of Burma rice in former days and that is Java. Java, as you know, is situated about equidistant from Burma and Siam or Saigon. She used to import rice from Burma in pre-war days of not less than a quarter million tons. What is the quantity she imports now? The figure for the year 1927-28, i.e., the latest figure available, was 6,680 tons only. From this we can at once see that Burma is no longer occupying the place she once occupied in the matter of the rice trade, and she is fast losing ground in the keen competition that is being set up. In this question of export duty, the only justification for its imposition was the practical monopoly of the rice trade that was enjoyed by India. But, as I have pointed out, this practical monopoly is no longer of India's. Such being the case, I think there is no longer any justification for it and the duty should be abolished as early as possible. The abolition of the duty is only a matter of about one crore of rupees or so. The Honourable the Finance Member is a very resourceful man; he is a very able financier. We can see it from the fact that, when he wants 10 crores of rupees for modernisation or mechanisation of the Army he tries to get it. I hope and trust that, when this duty is abolished, he will surely find the money to make up for the loss of revenue consequent on the abolition of the duty.

Mr. President: Although you propose to reject the Finance Bill.

U. Tok Kyi: Sir, I am here to represent the views of the people, I come here to represent them. We, Swarajists, as you are well aware, ^{4 P.M.} Sir, have long given up the policy of begging (Hear, hear). We do not beg as a matter of favour. We express our views and we bring to the notice of the Government such of the injustices as have been done to the people and it is their bounden duty to remove those injustices. So much for the abolition of the export duty on rice.

Now, I come to the other question which is now becoming a burning question in Burma. The separation of Burma, according to a former Governor of Burma, Sir Harcourt Butler, was not practical politics. He said this only about two years ago, but under the present Governor, Sir Charles Innes, the question has suddenly come within the bounds of practical politics. There are reasons of course, but I will not go into them. I will only say this: those who are in favour of separation are what are known in Burma as the moderates. The majority of Members of the Legislative Council, constituted as it is at present, are moderates and are in favour of separation. But we must remember that the Legislative Council has been boycotted by the masses (Hear, hear). The G. C. B. A., that is, the General Council of Burmese Associations, is not in favour of separation at present. I put a question to the Government on this same

subject. The Honourable the Home Member the other day replied that all depended on the recommendations of the Simon Commission. I hope and believe that the Honourable the Home Member knows that the Simon Commission has been boycotted by the people of Burma (Hear, hear). There may be separation in time to come. Personally speaking, I want Burma to cast in her lot at this juncture with the rest of India. Whether there be separation or no separation, I should like to emphasize one point, and that is the recommendation Sir Harcourt Butler's Government have made to the Government of India on the subject of reforms. This is what they say :

"While, however, the Governor in Council is unable to support the proposal for a wholesale conversion of Central into Provincial subjects, His Excellency in Council concurring with his Ministers, recommends that any subject which is made a provincial subject in the provinces in India should also be made a provincial subject in Burma. It would be a most unfortunate thing if ground was given for the belief that Burma is less fitted for self-government than any province in India merely because the working of the Reforms in Burma has been harmonious and there has been a complete absence of those extremist manifestations which have marked the proceedings of some Legislative Councils in India."

Sir, I hope the authorities concerned will make a careful note of this recommendation of the Government presided over by one of the greatest members of the greatest civil service in the world. On this question, I should like to say one more word. We, Burmans, separationists, as well as anti-separationists, demanded Dominion status, and, to borrow the expressive phrase of the Honourable Mr. Jinnah, we want "Dominion status and nothing more, nothing less."

With these words, I beg to oppose the motion.

Mr. W. S. Lamb (Burma : European): Sir, I should like for once to support the motion of my Honourable friend U. Tok Kyi when he talks about the export duty on rice. I am quite sure that the Honourable the Finance Member will, before long, say within the next year, satisfy himself that the whole of this import duty does not fall upon the agriculturist; and that within the next year he will be able to compose his mind to the contemplation of the removal of the duty. Rs. 92 lakhs or about a crore of rupees, as it has been alleged, is no very small sum. But in this case we are dealing with an unjust tax, and I hope and believe that if the Government are satisfied that it is an unjust and improper tax, the Finance Member will have no difficulty in seeing to it that the duty is removed or at least say to this Assembly next year that it should be removed.

Next, Sir, with regard to the remarks made concerning the separation of Burma, I do not know why that point has been raised in this particular debate; but I would just like to say that U. Tok Kyi while in this House has exhibited himself as a very good Indian, a much better Indian than as a Burman. So that, his views on the question of separation must be discounted.

An Honourable Member: But you are a European!

Mr. W. S. Lamb: The Burma Chamber of Commerce has not declared in favour of separation, and I have always had a feeling that the demand for separation should always be left to the Burmans themselves. The Burmans have themselves declared

An Honourable Member: I think I can clear the point, Sir, if the Honourable Member will kindly declare whom he represents in this House, what interests he represents.

Mr. W. S. Lamb: I represent, as one can see by looking at the official list, the European residents in Burma.

An Honourable Member: Number please.

Another Honourable Member: Not more than 2,000.

Mr. W. S. Lamb: We do not always agree, but I can quote many eloquent Members on the opposite side. That there is one thing on which we all agree; that is, that there is no use of merely counting heads. But that is a different matter. I now speak as the representative of the Europeans in Burma and also as one who has been in the country for more than 25 years. I have knowledge of not only what the Europeans feel on this matter—as a matter of fact I am not now going to say what their feeling is—but also what others feel, apart from my own opinion. Notwithstanding the dictum of the late Governor of Burma, Sir Harcourt Butler, I would like to point out that this demand for separation is no new thing. As long ago as 1920 or 1921, before the reforms were introduced into Burma, there was a very great

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member knows that only the other day this House has declared itself in favour of non-separation; and the Honourable Member is not entitled to reflect on the vote of this House.

Mr. W. S. Lamb: I am afraid, Sir, I was under the impression that the question of separation or non-separation could be taken up; and I am merely putting it to the House that there is something to be said against the views of U. Tok Kyi, who claims that he and his friends represent something like 90 per cent. of the population of Burma. I think it is but proper that I should point out that the Burmese people have been insistent on the question of separation from very nearly ten years ago, *i.e.*, from 1920. Sir, as early as 1920, the people declared themselves in favour of separation. In 1925, the Nationalist party, who formed a majority of the elected Members in the Legislative Council of Burma, declared for separation, and they passed a Resolution to that effect

Mr. President: Order, order. I am afraid I cannot allow the Honourable Member to reflect on the vote of the House.

Mr. W. S. Lamb: I regret, Sir, I was not present in the House at the time of the vote; I was ill and I regret I raised that point now. I have nothing more to say, Sir.

(At this stage, several Honourable Members stood up, to take part in the debate.)

Mr. President: It is not likely that we can finish this debate today. In view of the fact that there are so many speakers yet, I propose to adjourn the House.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 19th March, 1929.