

19th September 1935

THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume VI, 1935

(17th September to 26th September, 1935)

SECOND SESSION

OF THE

FIFTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1935



NEW DELHI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1936

Legislative Assembly.

President :

THE HONOURABLE SIR ABDUR RAHIM, K.C.S.I., KT.

Deputy President :

MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA, M.L.A.

Panel of Chairmen :

PANDIT GOVIND BALLABH PANT, M.L.A.

ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY, M.L.A.

MR. G. MORGAN, C.I.E., M.L.A.

MR. M. S. ANEY, M.L.A.

Secretary :

MIAN MUHAMMAD RAFI, BAR.-AT-LAW.

Assistant of the Secretary :

RAI BAHADUR D. DUTT.

Marshal :

CAPTAIN HAJI SARDAR NUR AHMAD KHAN, M.C., I.O.M., I.A.

Committee on Petitions :

MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DUTTA, M.L.A., *Chairman.*

PANDIT GOVIND BALLABH PANT, M.L.A.

SYED GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG, M.L.A.

DR. F. X. DESOUZA, M.L.A.

MR. LALCHAND NAVALRAI, M.L.A.

CONTENTS.

VOLUME VI.—17th September to 26th September 1935.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
TUESDAY, 17TH SEPTEMBER, 1935—		FRIDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER, 1935—	
Questions and Answer	1077—1112	Members Sworn	1379
Election of Members to the Select Committee on the Amendment of Standing Orders	1112	Questions and Answers	1379—1412
The Indian Criminal Law Amendment (Repeal) Bill—Discussion on the motion to consider not concluded	1113—56	Statement of Business	1412
WEDNESDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER, 1935—		Short Notice Questions and Answers	1412—14
Questions and Answers	1157—92	Cancellation of certain gallery passes	1414
Short Notice Question and Answer	1192—93	Presentation of the Report of the Public Accounts Committee	1415—1547
Motion for Adjournment re Allocation of certain resources between the Central and Provincial Governments—Not moved	1194—97, 1221	Report of the Tribunal on Financial Settlement between India and Burma after the separation	1548—86
The Code of Civil Procedure (Second Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	1197	MONDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER, 1935—	
The Indian Coffee Cess Bill—Introduced.	1197	Questions and Answers	1587—1633
The Indian Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	1198—1208	Statements laid on the table	1633—38
The Repealing and Amending Bill—Passed	1208—10	Message from the Council of State	1638
The Factories (Amendment) Bill—Passed	1210—11	The Indian Coffee Cess Bill—Passed	1638—78
Resolution re Position of Indian Nationals settled in Zanzibar—Adopted	1211—40	The Jubbulpore and Chhat-tisgarh Divisions (Divorce Proceedings Validation) Bill—Motion to consider adopted	1678—83
THURSDAY, 19TH SEPTEMBER, 1935—		Statement of Business	1684
Members Sworn	1241	TUESDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER, 1935—	
Questions and Answers	1241—1308	Questions and Answers	1685—1714
Statements laid on the table	1308—10	Short Notice Questions and Answers	1714—20
Motions for Adjournment re Allocation of certain resources between the Central and Provincial Governments—Disallowed by the Honourable the President	1310—13	The Cantonments (Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	1720
Resolution re Quetta Earthquake—Negatived	1313—78	The Indian Criminal Law amendment (Repeal) Bill—Discussion on the consideration of clauses not concluded	1720—66
		WEDNESDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER, 1935—	
		Questions and Answers	1767—1803
		Short Notice Questions and Answers	1803—06
		Message from the Council of State	1806

	PAGES.		P.
WEDNESDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER, 1935—contd.		WEDNESDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER, 1935—contd.	
Report on the working of the scheme of preferences resulting from the Ottawa Trade Agreement—Laid on the table	1807	Report of the Tribunal on Financial Settlement between India and Burma after separation	1942—61
The Jubbulpore and Chhatisgarh Divisions (Divorce Proceedings Validation) Bill—Passed, as amended	1807—08	The Removal of Civic Disabilities Bill—I introduced	1967
The Cantonments (Amendment) Bill—Circulated	1809—11	The Hindu Women's Rights to Property Bill—Introduced	1967
Demands for Supplementary Grants	1811—57	The Arya Marriage Validation Bill—Introduced	1967—6
THURSDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER, 1935—	1859—	The Hindu Marriage Validity Bill—Introduced	19
Questions and Answers	1859—1905	The Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	19
Short Notice Question and Answer	1905—06	The Moslem Personal Law (Shariat) Application Bill—Introduced	1968—
Statements laid on the table	1907—24	Report of the Public Accounts Committee	1969—
Demands for Supplementary Grants	1924—38	Message from the Council of State	19
Demands for Excess Grants for 1933-34	1939—42		

CORRIGENDUM.

In the Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol. V,
No. 7, dated the 10th September, 1935, page 724,
last line, *for* "weakers" *read* "weakness".

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 19th September, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN.

Mr. Gurunath Venkatesh Bewoor, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Director General of Posts and Telegraphs).

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

LIGHTING ARRANGEMENTS AT STATIONS OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

488. *Mr. B. B. Varma : Are Government aware that passengers are put to great inconveniences for having no lighting arrangements at most of the stations of the Bengal and North Western Railway, till just before the arrival of the train when a few dim lights are put up ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : On most railways, the practice on all except the more important stations is to light the platform lamps a little while before a passenger train is due in, but the lamps in waiting halls and sheds are kept burning so long as there are passengers waiting for a night train. Government are not aware that the practice on the Bengal and North Western Railway is different in this respect, but I am bringing the Honourable Member's question and my answer to the notice of the administration.

SUPPLY OF WATER AT STATIONS OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

489. *Mr. B. B. Varma : Are Government aware that arrangements for supply of water are not made on most of the railway stations on the Bengal and North Western Railway and the passengers are put to great inconvenience especially during the summer season ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : The Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway, states that there are 94 stations on the system at which the total number of watermen permanently employed is 128. In addition, during the hot weather months, 106 temporary additional watermen are engaged.

At the larger stations, there are also hydrants at suitable places on the station platforms and water is supplied to passengers in trains by watermen provided with wheeled water tanks and buckets.

At the smaller stations, an adequate supply of fresh water is kept in buckets in the station verandahs and watermen or other staff specially deputed for the purpose carry water in buckets to passengers in trains. At stations at which engines take water, hydrants are also provided for the supply of fresh water to passengers.

The Agent reports that these arrangements have been found to be adequate.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is the Honourable Member aware that sufficient water is not kept at those stations ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Is my Honourable friend talking from personal experience of the Bengal and North Western Railway ?

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Yes, Sir.

Mr. P. R. Rau : I have no personal experience of that Railway.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will the Honourable Member try to ascertain the facts ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The facts have been ascertained and have been stated in reply to the question.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is it not a fact that because Government are going to acquire this particular line in two years' time, they are not prepared to spend money on the administration of the Railway ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The assumption of my Honourable friend is not quite correct. Government have not yet made up their mind as to whether this line should be acquired. It is correct to say that the option to acquire it arises two years hence.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : When we discussed this question in 1931, Government clearly stated that they extended the privilege only for five years, and no more.

Mr. P. R. Rau : Two options were given by the Company—one in 1937, and one in 1942.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : In view of the fact that money is very cheap now and it may not be so cheap in 1941, will Government seriously consider to acquire this line as early as possible ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : This is a point which will have to be considered next year.

OPENING OF BOOKING OFFICE AT MUZAFFARPORE.

490. ***Mr. B. B. Varma :** (a) Are Government aware that booking office at Muzaffarpore, Bengal and North Western Railway, is not open for 24 hours to the third class passengers and hence the public are put to inconveniences ?

(b) Are Government aware that in the morning, afternoon, and evening, several trains leave Muzaffarpore and there is one booking clerk to attend to all the windows ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state how many booking clerks are provided to attend to first, second and intermediate class passengers ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway, states :

“ (a) that the third class booking office is open for 24 hours, and he has had no complaint either from the public or from members of his Local Advisory Committee on this point ;

(b) that during the busy periods of the day there are two booking clerks on duty ;

(c) that there are eight booking and parcel clerks, but only one is detailed to work in the upper class booking office and this is considered to be sufficient.”

EMPLOYEES OF THE INDIAN TEA CESS COMMITTEE.

491. *Mr. B. B. Varma : Will Government be pleased to state the number of Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indian employees of the Indian Tea Cess Committee, with their salaries and length of service ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I lay on the table a statement furnishing the information asked for.

Statement showing the number of Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indian employees of the Indian Tea Cess Committee with their salaries and length of service.

Names.	Designation.	Date of appointment.	Present salary.	Remarks.
EUROPEANS.				
Mr. W. H. Miles	Commissioner	1-11-33	2,000	
„ B. G. McHatton	Insp. Superintendent	21-7-24	1,250	
„ J. S. Solly	Stores Superintendent	9-4-25	575	
„ E. Turnock	Superintendent	16-9-19	800	
„ W. M. Orton	Do.	1-4-28	750	
„ G. W. Holland	Do.	25-7-32	650	
„ C. E. Kearney	Do.	5-10-28	700	
„ R. Bentley	Do.	8-6-34	600	
„ R. Macdonald	Do.	15-7-34	500	
„ A. L. V. Underwood	Do.	4-4-25	500	
„ R. A. Farrell	Do.	1-4-26	500	
„ W. H. Barrett	Inspector	22-10-28	265	
„ D. V. Rose	Do.	17-1-31	240	
„ M. G. Mansfield	Do.	1-8-32	200	
„ J. Hyland	Do.	15-6-35	300	
„ D. McDermott	Assistant Superintendent	24-4-23	450	
„ E. C. Oates	Do.	4-9-29	350	
			10,630	
„ C. G. Kirkhan	Do.	15-7-35	350	
			10,980	

Names.	Designation.	Date of appointment.	Present salary.	Remarks.
ANGLO-INDIANS.				
Mr. B. E. Kelman ..	Assistant	28-4-29	300	
„ M. J. Connolly ..	Assistant Superintendent.	24-4-23	350	
„ S. E. Hottinger ..	Do. ..	13-12-34	400	
„ A. B. Rosser ..	Inspector ..	29-4-32	300	
„ S. M. Ellis ..	Do. ..	1-8-32	200	
Mrs. V. Owers ..	Do. ..	16-7-34	135	
Miss L. Morris ..	Do. ..	15-7-34	135	
Mr. V. Joseph ..	Sub-Inspector ..	15-6-22	90	
„ T. P. Hearn ..	Do. ..	1-6-35	150	
„ T. Roderick ..	Do. ..	24-6-35	75	
„ E. V. Holmes ..	Do. ..	24-6-35	75	
„ I. A. Millar ..	Do. ..	24-6-35	75	
„ E. Teasdale ..	Do. ..	24-6-35	75	
„ C. H. La Vale ..	Do. ..	15-7-35	75	
„ D. C. Cotter ..	Do. ..	17-7-35	75	
Miss E. Robinson ..	Do. ..	1-9-33	75	
Mr. J. George ..	Driver ..	1-5-34	35	
„ G. W. Arnold ..	Do. ..	13-6-34	35	
„ M. Ellis ..	Do. ..	1-3-35	35	
„ S. Fleming ..	Do. ..	29-6-35	50	
Miss P. Wilkinson ..	Steno-Typist ..	20-6-35	250	
„ V. Baxter ..	Do. ..	11-1-35	100	
Mr. E. S. D'Costa ..	Divisional Office Clerk	1-7-35	50	
			3,140	

Names.	Designation.	Date of appointment.	Present salary.	Remarks.
INDIANS.				
Mr. P. Guha Thakurta ..	Publicity Officer ..	1-8-34	550	
„ B. C. Mondal ..	Cashier ..	20-6-29	235	
„ N. C. Pakrasy ..	Head Clerk ..	1-11-16	240	
„ F. C. Nath ..	Book Keeper ..	1-8-18	150	
„ L. N. Juggish ..	Clerk ..	22-12-21	85	
„ J. B. Dey ..	Do. ..	12-11-23	70	
„ N. L. Pershad ..	Despatch Clerk ..	23-4-30	75	
„ R. N. Dass ..	Filing Clerk ..	1-11-32	40	
„ Mahadev Nundy ..	Store Clerk ..	27-5-24	60	
„ P. N. Mullick ..	Do. ..	24-9-31	50	
„ B. N. Banerjee ..	Do. ..	1-1-33	45	
„ S. K. Sanyal ..	General Assistant ..	10-1-33	85	
„ N. N. Dass ..	Filing Clerk ..	10-12-34	45	
„ N. N. Dey ..	Accounts Clerk ..	17-5-35	40	
„ S. N. Kar ..	Clerk, Publicity Department.	15-7-35	100	
„ H. D. Mullick ..	Clerk ..	1-7-35	40	
„ A. B. Chowdhory ..	Divisional Office Clerk	30-4-20	100	
„ G. B. Deo ..	Do. ..	13-11-32	55	
„ K. N. Misra ..	Do. ..	18-9-28	60	
„ B. L. Sukla ..	Do. ..	17-6-33	45	
„ I. Shanker Rao ..	Do. ..	19-7-32	60	
„ K. Sen Roy ..	Do. ..	1-8-34	40	
„ C. P. Singh ..	Do. ..	1-10-34	50	
„ B. C. Chatterjee ..	Do. ..	1-1-35	30	
„ S. P. Gour ..	Do. ..	1-3-35	35	

Names.	Designation.	Date of appointment.	Present salary.	Remarks.
Mr. B. K. Ghose ..	Divisional Office Clerk	1-5-35	45	
„ B. Ramchandram Sharma.	Do.	4-6-35	35	
„ P. S. Varma ..	Do.	24-6-35	35	
„ Sapuran Singh ..	Assistant Superinten- dent.	1-7-20	350	
„ N. C. Gupta ..	Do.	2-12-20	350	
„ K. Venkatachary ..	Inspector ..	1-6-29	125	
„ M. R. Gupta ..	Do.	19-5-33	125	
„ B. K. Baruah ..	Do.	1-1-35	125	
„ D. Prosad	Do.	15-6-35	150	
„ B. N. Sarkara ..	Do.	1-8-35	150	
„ Amir Bux	Sub-Inspector ..	27-7-25	85	
„ Baldeo Narain ..	Do.	3-12-25	85	
„ M. R. Nayar ..	Do.	7-8-30	85	
„ Nooruddin	Do.	1-8-32	85	
„ Sobaran Singh ..	Do.	30-8-22	80	
„ D. D. Kosle	Do.	15-10-23	75	
„ V. P. Singh	Do.	5-2-29	75	
„ Chander Dip	Do.	11-7-31	75	
„ N. N. Murthy	Do.	15-9-31	75	
„ P. R. Sen Gupta ..	Do.	17-5-32	40	
„ R. K. Dutta	Do.	1-5-34	35	
„ A. R. Dutta Gupta ..	Do.	17-5-34	40	
„ B. N. Mathur	Do.	15-7-34	75	
„ M. L. Bhatia	Do.	15-7-34	75	

Names.	Designation.	Date of appointment.	Present salary.	Remarks.
Mr. N. C. Sharma	Sub-Inspector	1-7-34	40	..
,, P. C. Roy	Do.	1-7-34	35	..
,, A. H. Bhuiya	Do.	1-7-34	35	..
,, Kundon Lall	Do.	24-2-28	75	..
,, Radhey Shiam	Do.	27-12-28	75	..
,, Sunder Singh	Do.	1-2-31	75	..
,, S. M. Habib	Do.	19-8-32	75	..
,, Ranbir Singh	Do.	26-8-32	75	..
,, Rama Shanker	Do.	6-1-33	60	..
,, A. V. Nanjandiah	Do.	26-7-31	75	..
,, S. S. Bhatia	Do.	1-8-34	75	..
,, N. C. Baruah	Do.	20-11-32	85	..
,, B. N. Sen Gupta	Do.	21-4-32	50	..
,, S. R. Sen Gupta	Do.	23-7-28	55	..
,, A. K. Sen Gupta	Do.	19-2-29	50	..
,, P. B. Banerjee	Do.	7-6-32	45	..
,, K. C. Sen	Do.	21-10-32	40	..
,, E. Seymour	Do.	1-10-32	45	..
,, U. Raye	Do.	8-5-33	45	..
,, A. G. Dutta	Do.	6-7-33	45	..
,, H. L. Dass Gupta	Do.	1-10-33	40	..
,, J. Chakrabetty	Do.	1-10-33	45	..
,, Suranjan Ghose	Do.	1-9-34	35	..
,, Mohon Krishna	Do.	15-9-34	80	..
,, Saligram	Do.	20-11-34	75	..

Names.	Designation.	Date of appointment.	Present salary.	Remarks.
Mr. Sukhdham Sarup ..	Sub-Inspector ..	20-11-34	75	
.. V. D. Kapila ..	Do. ..	20-11-34	75	
.. V. S. Bhatnagar ..	Do. ..	20-11-34	75	
.. P. C. Rajpal ..	Do. ..	1-12-34	75	
.. P. C. Jaitley ..	Do. ..	1-12-34	75	
.. T. N. Gupta ..	Do. ..	20-11-34	75	
.. Jivanand ..	Do. ..	1-12-34	75	
.. R. K. Rai ..	Do. ..	1-12-34	75	
.. J. P. Saxena ..	Do. ..	1-12-34	75	
.. R. N. Mukerjee ..	Do. ..	1-12-34	75	
.. Nardeo Varma ..	Do. ..	1-12-34	75	
.. Bhagat Saran ..	Do. ..	30-10-34	75	
.. Dwarka Dass ..	Do. ..	4-1-35	75	
.. I. D. Sharma ..	Do. ..	9-1-35	75	
.. S. B. L. Srivastava ..	Do. ..	10-1-35	75	
.. D. C. Srivastava ..	Do. ..	10-1-35	75	
.. C. D. Bajpai ..	Dq. ..	17-1-35	75	
.. J. S. Mathur ..	Do. ..	15-1-35	75	
.. G. P. Srivastava ..	Dq. ..	19-2-35	75	
.. K. S. Dassania ..	Do. ..	20-2-35	75	
.. S. A. M. Kozimi ..	Do. ..	26-3-35	75	
.. P. K. Sen Gupta ..	Do. ..	9-7-30	55	
.. Mohd. Wasi Khan ..	Do. ..	20-5-35	75	
.. B. C. Banerjee ..	Do. ..	16-5-35	40	
.. Mohd. Nazir Hussain ..	Do. ..	30-8-32	75	

Names.	Designation.	Date of appointment.	Present salary.	Remarks.
Mr. B. S. Karmaker ..	Sub-Inspector ..	4-5-35	75	
.. S. B. Dutta.. ..	Do. ..	1-6-35	125	
.. B. Chakradhar Prosad	Do. ..	1-6-35	75	
.. R. B. L. Mathur ..	Do. ..	24-6-35	75	
.. M. A. J. Faridi ..	Do. ..	24-6-35	75	
.. S. M. Gupta ..	Do. ..	24-6-35	75	
.. R. A. Quraishie ..	Do. ..	24-6-35	75	
.. U. S. Randhawa ..	Do. ..	24-6-35	75	
.. S. B. Lall	Do. ..	24-6-35	75	
.. Wahajuddin ..	Do. ..	24-6-35	75	
.. Har Narain Srivastava	Do. ..	24-6-35	75	
.. S. S. Roy	Do. ..	15-7-35	125	
.. J. N. Ganguli ..	Do. ..	15-7-35	75	
.. N. V. R. Iyre ..	Do. ..	1-7-35	75	
.. S. P. Sarathi ..	Do. ..	1-7-35	75	
.. S. N. Chatterjee ..	Do. ..	15-7-35	75	
.. Gian Ch. Murgai ..	Do. ..	10-7-35	75	
.. Benjamin Lyall ..	Do. ..	17-7-35	75	
.. H. N. Srivastava ..	Do. ..	16-7-35	75	
.. M. G. Gouar ..	Do. ..	16-7-35	75	
.. Krishna Kumar ..	Do. ..	16-7-35	75	
.. Purshotam Singh ..	Do. ..	16-7-35	75	
.. R. S. Gupta ..	Do. ..	16-7-35	75	
.. K. L. Chatterjee ..	Do. ..	28-7-35	75	
.. Syed Ali Aktar Naqui ..	Do. ..	15-7-35	75	

Names.	Designation.	Date of appointment.	Present salary.	Remarks.
Mr. N. N. Mukerjee ..	Sub-Inspector ..	15-7-35	75	
„ U. P. Varma ..	Do. ..	15-7-35	75	
„ J. R. Chatterjee ..	Do. ..	15-7-35	75	
„ R. B. P. Jaiswal ..	Do. ..	19-7-35	75	
„ H. N. Singh ..	Do. ..	1-8-35	75	
„ H. P. Moitra ..	Do. ..	15-7-35	75	
„ A. K. Majumdar ..	Do. ..	22-7-35	75	
„ S. C. Chakravartty ..	Do. ..	24-7-35	75	
„ M. Yakub Khan ..	Do. ..	1-8-35	75	
„ P. K. Romeo ..	Do. ..	29-7-35	75	
„ S. Ramaswamy ..	Do. ..	1-8-35	75	
„ S. H. Row ..	Do. ..	1-8-35	75	
„ Abani Mukerjee ..	Do. ..	26-8-35	75	
„ Mohd. Issa ..	Do. ..	23-6-33	60	
„ P. V. Raman ..	Do. ..	10-8-35	75	
„ S. N. Dass ..	Cinema Staff ..	18-7-32	75	
„ Sk. Mohd. Abbas ..	Do. ..	30-6-32	80	
„ D. K. Lillamwala ..	Do. ..	16-1-35	75	
„ Aziz Nawaz Khan ..	Do. ..	28-12-31	65	
„ Nobi Mohammed ..	Do. ..	19-3-35	60	
„ P. K. Dass ..	Do. ..	26-3-35	55	
„ B. P. Dutta ..	Do. ..	1-4-35	55	
„ J. N. Dass ..	Do. ..	1-5-35	60	
„ Hari Chand ..	Driver ..	1-7-31	50	
„ Narsingh Pershad ..	Do. ..	13-7-31	50	

Names.	Designation.	Date of appointment.	Present salary.	Remarks.
Mr. Ahmed Bux ..	Driver ..	18-7-31	50	
,, Babu Lall ..	Do. ..	28-7-31	50	
,, Bodiruddin ..	Do. ..	8-1-31	50	
,, Sardar Mansingh ..	Do. ..	8-1-31	50	
,, T. Naidu ..	Do. ..	26-8-31	50	
,, Faiz Ali Khan ..	Do. ..	11-10-31	50	
,, Mohd. Siddiq ..	Do. ..	9-12-31	50	
,, Duleep Singh ..	Do. ..	13-2-32	50	
,, Syed Gulab ..	Do. ..	21-8-31	50	
,, H. R. Qandhari ..	Do. ..	5-3-32	45	
,, G. P. Singh ..	Do. ..	16-7-34	50	
,, Shaik Abban ..	Do. ..	24-7-34	50	
,, P. V. Ramanathan ..	Do. ..	13-6-34	35	
,, Abdul Razak ..	Do. ..	15-8-34	35	
,, Radha Krishnan ..	Do. ..	1-8-34	35	
,, Abdul Latiff ..	Do. ..	2-1-35	45	
,, Azim Buksh ..	Do. ..	22-2-35	50	
,, Sk. Iqbal Hussain ..	Do. ..	15-2-35	50	
,, Abdul Rasid ..	Do. ..	19-3-35	50	
,, Gajjan Singh ..	Do. ..	19-3-35	50	
,, Mohd. Golam ..	Do. ..	19-3-35	50	
,, Sita Ram ..	Do. ..	19-3-35	50	
,, Ramaswamy Raju ..	Do. ..	1-3-35	35	
,, Bhopal Singh ..	Do. ..	26-3-35	50	
,, S. Hasmat Ali ..	Do. ..	28-5-35	50	

Names.	Designation.	Date of appointment.	Present salary.	Remarks.
Mr. Ram Narain Singh ..	Driver ..	25-5-35	50	
„ Kalu Dubay ..	Do. ..	7-6-35	50	
„ Summer Singh ..	Do. ..	16-5-35	50	
„ Brisspathi ..	Do. ..	17-6-35	50	
„ Suraj Narain Tewari	Do. ..	17-6-35	50	
„ Suvan Khan ..	Do. ..	18-6-35	50	
„ Mohamed Shah ..	Do. ..	18-6-35	50	
„ Abdul Razak ..	Do. ..	1-7-35	35	
„ Farman Khan ..	Do. ..	13-8-35	50	

Names.	Date of appointment.	Designation.	Present salary.
	INDIANS.		
Hifzul Hussain ..	2-7-33	Demonstrator ..	Rs. a. p. 55 0 0
P. N. Chatterjee ..	4-6-32	Do. ..	45 0 0
S. P. Banerjee ..	20-4-32	Do. ..	45 0 0
H. C. Mukerjee ..	13-3-33	Do. ..	45 0 0
R. N. Dass ..	6-6-33	Do. ..	45 0 0
Naraian Shanker ..	7-12-28	Do. ..	35 0 0
Nur Muhammad ..	8-1-29	Do. ..	38 0 0
Nageswar Pershad ..	26-3-32	Do. ..	30 0 0
Ayodhya Pershad ..	26-8-32	Do. ..	30 0 0
Reyait Hussain ..	26-8-32	Do. ..	30 0 0
Baidya Nath Singh ..	26-8-32	Do. ..	30 0 0

Names.	Date of appointment.	Designation.	Present salary.		
			Rs.	a.	p.
J. P. Upodhaya	29-9-32	Demonstrator ..	30	0	0
Narsingh Bahadur ..	29-9-32	Do. ..	33	0	0
Hari Kristo	1-3-34	Do. ..	33	0	0
Chaudrika Panday ..	1-3-34	Do. ..	33	0	0
C. P. Singh	9-10-32	Do. ..	33	0	0
Zaki Nawab	23-11-32	Do. ..	30	0	0
B. L. Vashiht ..	1-12-32	Do. ..	33	0	0
Jan Muhamed ..	1-11-32	Do. ..	33	0	0
Hari N. Pershad ..	1-12-32	Do. ..	30	0	0
Birbal Singh ..	15-2-33	Do. ..	33	0	0
Tikam Singh ..	16-4-33	Do. ..	33	0	0
Budh Sen Sarma ..	27-12-28	Do. ..	35	0	0
Badhu Ram ..	1-8-28	Do. ..	35	0	0
Abdul Gani Khan ..	24-3-31	Do. ..	30	0	0
J. N. Pershad ..	13-3-31	Do. ..	33	0	0
Shaida Hussain ..	26-4-32	Do. ..	30	0	0
P. D. Puraug ..	30-8-32	Do. ..	33	0	0
A. L. Panday ..	12-10-32	Do. ..	35	0	0
Sakhir Hussain ..	4-1-33	Do. ..	30	0	0
Monohar Singh ..	1-2-33	Do. ..	33	0	0
Puran Chand ..	5-1-33	Do. ..	33	0	0
Istiaq Hussain ..	21-2-33	Do. ..	30	0	0
Inder Doyal ..	21-2-33	Do. ..	30	0	0
Ram Sarup ..	1-3-33	Do. ..	33	0	0
Pearey Lall ..	1-4-33	Do. ..	33	0	0

Names.	Date of appointment.	Designation.	Present salary.
			Rs. a. p.
S. L. Sharma	4-5-33	Demonstrator ..	30 0 0
R. A. Sharma	10-5-33	Do. ..	30 0 0
Raiz Hussain	1-6-33	Do. ..	30 0 0
K. C. Sukhla	14-8-33	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mohd. Issa	23-6-33	Do. ..	30 0 0
Nageshwar P. Sharma	4-8-33	Do. ..	30 0 0
L. N. Misser	4-9-33	Do. ..	33 0 0
Lingayya M.	1-9-33	Do. ..	33 0 0
Gopal Pershad	17-9-33	Do. ..	33 0 0
I. H. Qureshi	21-1-29	Do. ..	36 0 0
Mohd. Ahmed	9-12-33	Do. ..	30 0 0
Ram Chander	26-1-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
L. N. Trividi	29-1-34	Do. ..	35 0 0
Hukam Singh	1-2-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Kishori Lall	1-2-34	Do. ..	33 0 0
K. P. S. Menon	5-2-34	Do. ..	33 0 0
S. M. Nataranjan	5-3-34	Do. ..	35 0 0
Afzal Hussain	20-3-34	Do. ..	33 0 0
Mrs. Rani Devi	6-7-33	Do. ..	33 0 0
Miss Freer	1-9-33	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mrs. Anpurna Devi	14-3-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mrs. Patia Kurmin	1-10-33	Do. ..	33 0 0
A. R. Sanjeevi	3-4-34	Do. ..	33 0 0
K. K. Nambiyar	1-7-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
T. Veeraraghavan	16-7-34	Do. ..	30 0 0

Name.	Date of appointment.	Designation.	Present salary.
			Rs. a. p.
Panna Lall	1-8-34	Demonstrator ..	30 0 0
Syed Rafiq Hussain	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Ram Bhorose Lall	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Gulal Chand	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Ram Gopal	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Bishan Lall	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
I. Hussain Zaidi	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Govind Pershad	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Baldeo Pershad	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Bhawani Pershad	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mrs. Chameli Devi	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
T. T. Narayanan	15-7-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Sreenivasa K. I.	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
T. Subramanian	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
R. P. Gupta	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
B. D. Gupta	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Lakhan Singh	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Damodar Singh	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Roghbir Singh	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
J. P. Garja	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Sheodan Singh	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
C. M. Gupta	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Imdad Ali	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
G. C. Sarma	2-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Virishwar Gupta	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0

Names.	Date of appointment.	Designation.	Present salary.
			Rs. a. p.
G. C. Gupta	1-8-34	Demonstrator ..	30 0 0
Janak Lal	1-9-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Naresh Chandra	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Muni Lal	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
S. D. Sarma	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Jogesh Chandar	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Bishambhar Doyal	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Her Pershad	1-9-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Pitam Singh	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Bhagwan Singh	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Govind Singh	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Tej Singh	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Chokey Lal	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
R. R. Gupta	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mizazi Lal	1-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Ju Phal	26-8-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
S. C. Awasti	6-9-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Puran Singh	21-9-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Gulab Singh	2-10-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Balwant Singh	1-10-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Abdul Waheed	13-10-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
N. Ramaswamy Iyre	16-9-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
V. Sreenivasan	16-9-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
T. S. Kandaswamy	16-10-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
P. Kuppuswamy	15-10-34	Do. ..	30 0 0

Names.	Date of appointment.	Designation.	Present salary.
			Rs. a. p.
Luxmi Shanker	11-9-34	Demonstrator ..	30 0 0
Girja Doyal	12-9-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Raghubir Sahai	6-9-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Sikandar Bibi	16-10-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Raj Singh	1-10-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
K. D. Jhori	1-11-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
L. C. Sharma	1-11-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Radhey Shyam Mehrotra ..	19-9-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Bhola Nath Mehrotra	2-10-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
M. M. Gour	1-10-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
K. Govindswamy	1-12-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
O. M. Prakash	7-12-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Babu Ram	10-11-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Tajuddin Qureshi	12-12-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Khurshid Abbas	5-11-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Chander Singh	5-11-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
J. P. Varma	9-1-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Shiv Shanker Lal	2-12-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
R. B. Gupta	10-1-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
V. P. Tewari	10-1-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Krishna Kumar	10-1-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
S. C. L. Sanadhya	10-1-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
M. N. Neta	10-1-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mathura Pd.	2-1-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
K. B. Varma	10-1-35	Do. ..	30 0 0

Names.	Date of appointment.	Designation.	Present salary.
			Rs. a. p.
Hari Lall	10-1-35	Demonstrator	30 0 0
Anand Swarup	10-1-35	Do.	30 0 0
S. L. Misra	10-1-35	Do.	30 0 0
Kanno Singh	16-1-35	Do.	30 0 0
Manich Lall	1-1-35	Do.	30 0 0
Balawant Singh ^{II}	3-1-35	Do.	30 0 0
Gorakh Pd.	3-1-35	Do.	30 0 0
Amba Pd.	10-1-35	Do.	30 0 0
Raju Blochan	10-1-35	Do.	30 0 0
M. S. Sharma	16-12-34	Do.	30 0 0
Chaman Lall	28-12-34	Do.	30 0 0
S. K. Sen Gupta	31-12-34	Do.	30 0 0
Shiam Deo	27-12-34	Do.	30 0 0
Dwarka Pd.	27-12-34	Do.	30 0 0
A. S. Varma	27-12-34	Do.	30 0 0
D. P. Malvia	17-12-34	Do.	30 0 0
Basudeva Pd.	17-12-34	Do.	30 0 0
R. D. Sharma	18-1-35	Do.	30 0 0
M. C. Pershad	18-1-35	Do.	30 0 0
J. P. Pande	18-1-35	Do.	30 0 0
A. K. Majumder	18-1-35	Do.	30 0 0
L. P. Srivastava	18-1-35	Do.	30 0 0
S. K. Mullick	18-1-35	Do.	30 0 0
Amar Nath	18-1-35	Do.	30 0 0
Rajn Pershad	10-1-35	Do.	30 0 0

Names.	Date of appointment.	Designation.	Present salary.
			Rs. a. p.
M. L. Srivastava	10-1-35	Demonstrator ..	30 0 0
Ab. Naini Khan	10-2-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Kripa Shanker	1-1-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Lalchand Rikhi	1-2-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
S. Narsinghlal	1-9-33	Do. ..	35 0 0
Janardan Pershad	22-2-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Liladhar Singh	1-3-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Suvaran Singh	25-2-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Puran Singh	16-3-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
A. K. Sukhla	23-2-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Guru Deo Saran	1-3-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
D. N. Chatterji	7-3-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Ramadhon Misser	8-3-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Tulsi Ram	11-3-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Sadhu Ram Awasti	11-3-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Ram Dayal	15-4-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Sidhnath Sukhla	1-4-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Banarsi Dass	6-4-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Vidyavati Devi	1-4-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mohd. Yasin Khan	20-2-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Athar Hussain	9-4-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Chail Behari Misser	1-4-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Nazir Ahmed Khan	7-4-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Abdul Muqueet	1-5-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Prabhu Dail	1-5-35	Do. ..	30 0 0

Names.	Date of appointment.	Designation.	Present salary.
			Rs. a. p.
Altaf Hussain	18-5-35	Demonstrator ..	30 0 0
B. Mahmood	18-5-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Azam Ali Shah	18-5-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mohd. Akhtar	Do.
G. N. Swaminathan	1-5-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Sadi Ram	1-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Banarsi Dass	23-5-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Prem Nath Sinha	1-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Amir Hussain	1-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mohd. Ali	15-5-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Hukum Chand	1-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Banarsi Das Gupta	26-5-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Hardeo Singh	18-5-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
K. D. Lall	1-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
R. K. Pd.	1-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
M. A. Khan	1-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Ram Ekbal Pd.	1-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Basirur Rohman Khan	10-5-35	Do. ..	40 0 0
T. S. Nataranjan	1-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mulchand	20-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Murlidhar	20-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Deep Narain Tripathi	19-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Babu Ram Misser	5-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Syed Yawar Hussain	5-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Nanak Pd. Singha	5-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0

Names.	Date of appointment.	Designation.	Present salary.
			Rs. a. p.
Hamid Said	5-7-35	Demonstrator	30 0 0
Sita Ram Misra	5-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Mohd. Ishtiq Hussain	5-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Mohd. Ali Jafar	5-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
G. G. Tewari	5-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
B. D. Mishara	5-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
N. P. Satsangi	5-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Ram Nihal Lall	11-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
S. M. Feroze Quelly	8-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Sita Ram	5-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
S. N. Tandon	6-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Kalzang Naingyal	15-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
S. T. Ahmed	21-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Ram Pathan	25-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Rajindra Singh	25-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Shiv Dutt Sharma	25-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Bhagwat Dyal Misra	25-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Brij Nandan Sahai	25-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
S. M. Ahmed Hussain	25-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Guri Shankar	25-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Shiam Behari	25-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Raj Bahadur	25-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Chand Behari	25-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Gur Dutt Singh	25-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Uma Dutt	26-7-35	Do.	30 0 0

Names.	Date of appointment.	Designation.	Present salary.
			Rs. a. p.
Dina Nath	26-7-35	Demonstrator	30 0 0
Ram Deo Singh	26-8-35	Do.	30 0 0
Syed Yeakub Ali	22-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Mohd. Abdulla	1-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Goudi Pd. Misra	1-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Saroj K. Banerjee	1-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Mathuri Pd. Varma	6-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Panchanon Banerjee	19-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Zakir Hussain	16-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Bagyanarain Pd.	10-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
B. N. Banerjee	19-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Abbas Ali	1-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
S. Wazir Hussain	16-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Zaniul Abdeen	1-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Dhiren Ghatok	5-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Mohd. Yusuf	2-8-35	Do.	30 0 0
Abdul Rashid Khan	2-8-35	Do.	30 0 0
Mohammed Ahmed	22-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Mashuq Ahmed Siddiq	22-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Md. Yaqub Khan	22-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
S. Mozhor Ibad	22-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Mohammed Ahmed	22-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Roghu Nath Singh	16-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Kapildeo Prasad	16-7-35	Do.	30 0 0
Badri Nath	16-7-35	Do.	30 0 0

Names.	Date of appointment.	Designation.	Present salary.
			Rs. a. p.
Shatruhan Singh	16-7-35	Demonstrator ..	30 0 0
C. B. Srivastava	16-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Sajjad Ali	23-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Ali Hasan Siddiq	31-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Banwari Lal	30-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mohd. Naimuddin	30-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
M. A. H. Chesti	30-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Nawrathan Lall	30-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Hari Lall Sharma	30-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
R. B. Lall	30-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mustafa Hussain	30-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Narain Lall	30-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
V. N. Pershad	30-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mohd. Khalil	30-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mohabir Pd. Gupta	30-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
M. Ab. Sabu Khan	11-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Ayanbul Hasan Ansari	27-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mrs. Jumna Devi	1-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mrs. Radha Rani Devi	22-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Gopal Narain Singh	11-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Jagat Nand Varma	11-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Wasi Ahmed	11-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Md. Nasiruddin	11-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Maheswari Pd. Varma	11-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Kali Ch. Dikshit	11-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0

Names,	Date of appointment.	Designation.	Present salary.
			Rs. a. p.
Mohd. Latiff	11-8-35	Demonstrator ..	30 0 0
Joydev Lal Burma	11-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Lalta Pd. Sinha	11-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Sheik Ab. Gafoor	18-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Syed Mubarak Ali	20-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
S. Mohd. Yussuf	21-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Girwar Lal	4-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
S. Muthiah	1-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
R. P. Krishnamurthy Naidu ..	1-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
T. V. N. Naidu	1-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Ram Bahadur Pd.	1-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Phani Bhusan Sen Gupta	1-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mangal Ram	1-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
H. D. Banerjee	1-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Syed Raza Khan	16-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
G. K. Sinha	1-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Abdul Rauf	1-8-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Amal Chandra Sen	14-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
B. K. Pal	22-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
M. M. Chatterjee	20-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mahmud Hussain	21-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Nanna Meah	25-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Lakhiatulla Mea	25-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Alfazuddin Ahmed	25-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Ashrafuddin Kazi	25-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0

Names.	Date of appointment.	Designation.	Present salary.
			Rs. a. p.
J. C. Gupta	26-7-35	Demonstrator ..	30 0 0
Mafazal Rahaman ..	26-7-35	Do. ...	30 0 0
Salamat Ali	26-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Sailesh Ranjan Ghose ..	27-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Sailesh Ch. Ghose ..	28-7-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
A. K. Dutta	1-9-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
B. C. Mukerjee	1-9-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mohd. Khalilur Rohman ..	1-9-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Ab. Moksud Md. Khan ..	1-9-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
J. Ahmed	1-9-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Nazibar Rohaman	5-9-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Nirmalendu Sen	22-9-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
Sadhoo Meah	8-11-34	Do. ..	30 0 0
D. N. Dey	18-1-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mohd. Feroz Ali Chowdhory ..	1-4-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mohd. Hussain	1-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Muzaffar Ali Ahmed	1-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
A. R. Ghose	1-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
N. C. Dey	1-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mosbhuddin Ahmed	2-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
K. C. Datta	2-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
A. K. Chakravartty	2-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
R. K. Mukerjee	2-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
Mohd. Siddiq	3-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0
P. C. Bose	6-6-35	Do. ..	30 0 0

Names.	Date of appointment.	Designation.	Present salary.		
			Rs.	a.	p.
Md. Amir Hussain ..	9-6-35	Demonstrator ..	30	0	0
M. A. K. Bhuiya	6-6-35	Do. ..	30	0	0
Abdus Samad ..	1-7-34	Do. ..	30	0	0
N. C. Dey Sarkar ..	1-7-34	Do. ..	30	0	0
Md. Suleman Bhuiya ..	1-7-34	Do. ..	30	0	0
Ab. K. M. Siddiq ..	1-9-34	Do. ..	30	0	0
Ab. Mamin Chowdhory ..	17-6-35	Do. ..	30	0	0
R. K. Das	1-9-34	Do. ..	30	0	0
R. C. Majumdar	1-9-34	Do. ..	30	0	0
P. K. Sen	1-7-35	Do. ..	30	0	0
Sirajuddin Bhuiya ..	1-7-35	Do. ..	30	0	0
M. M. Mitra	1-7-35	Do. ..	30	0	0
Afroz Ali Chowdhory ..	1-7-35	Do. ..	30	0	0

INDIAN MEDICAL STAFF.

	Number.	Total Salary.		
		Rs.	a.	p.
Head Office	15	333	0	0
Menial Staff attached to Demonstration Parties and in Divisional offices	262	3,934	0	0
	277	4,267	0	0

GRANTS MADE TO PROVINCES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONDITIONS OF THE CULTIVATION AND MARKETING OF SUGAR-CANE.

492. *Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether a grant of about four lakhs of rupees has been made to the United Provinces Government by the Government of India this year,

from Excise duty, for the improvement in the conditions of the cultivation and marketing of cane ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether similar grants have been sanctioned for other provinces in India for the same purposes ?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, will Government please lay on the table a statement showing names of such provinces and the amounts paid to each of the provinces ?

(d) If the reply to parts (b) and (c) above be in the negative, will Government please state whether they intend to give such grants to such other provinces, where sugarcane is being produced and sugar is being manufactured in large quantities ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). A statement showing the provisional allocation to various provinces of the subsidy out of the proceeds of the sugar excise duty is placed on the table.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement showing the allocation to provinces of the amount tentatively provided in 1934-35 and 1935-36 as subsidy out of the proceeds of the Sugar Excise duty.

<i>Province.</i>	<i>Amount.</i>
	Rs.
United Provinces	5,40,000
Bihar and Orissa	2,90,000
Madras	60,000
Punjab	30,000
Bombay	30,000
Burma	30,000
Bengal	20,000
Kept in reserve for centrally administered areas and for assisting any special measures in any particular province	1,91,000
	<u>11,91,000</u>

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Have the Government of India asked for a report from the United Provinces Government about the manner in which they spent the money and whether they are convinced that the money was usefully spent ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : The Government of India, before making the allocation, considered the schemes which the Government of the United Provinces had put forward. I do not exactly remember whether they have been asked to submit a report at the end of the year.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Will the Honourable Member kindly say what amount has been allotted to the Bihar and Orissa Government ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : The figures are in the statement. The amount allotted to the Bihar and Orissa Government is Rs. 2,90,000.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Have Government already sent that money or have they only informed the Bihar and Orissa Government that the amount will be remitted ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : We have informed the Government of Bihar and Orissa that this money is available.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Have they prepared any scheme up till now ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : As in the case of the United Provinces Government, the Government of India had schemes from the Government of Bihar and Orissa also.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : May I suggest.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member cannot make suggestions now, he can put questions.

MUSLIMS IN CERTAIN CATEGORIES ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

493. ***Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the total number of Station Masters employed at principal stations in grades V and VI and what is the proportion of Muslims amongst them ;
- (b) total number of Station Superintendents on the North Western Railway ; how many Muslims are employed as Station Superintendents, if not, why not ;
- (c) total number of Traffic Inspectors employed on the North Western Railway ; how many are Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims ;
- (d) total number of Controllers, Deputy and Chief Controllers over the North Western Railway ; how many are Europeans, Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims ;
- (e) what steps do Government propose to take to increase the ratio of Muslims in the above categories ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) to (d). Information regarding communal representation in railway services is given in the Annual Administration Report of Indian Railways. Government regret they are not prepared to supplement, with figures for individual categories of staff, the information given in that Report.

(e) As stated in paragraph 5 of the Memorandum of Supplementary Instructions, a copy of which will be found in the Library of the House, the orders of Government prescribing percentages for minority communities are to be applied to vacancies (as distinct from posts) in each grade or division of a service to be filled by direct recruitment and not to vacancies to be filled by promotion, which will continue as at present to be made solely on merit and seniority.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Will the Honourable Member tell me the page of the Annual Administration report at which figures for the North Western Railway are given separately ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : If my Honourable friend will meet me in the lobby, I will try and lead him through the pages of the report.

BALUCHI REGIMENTS AND SOLDIERS EMPLOYED DURING THE GREAT WAR.

494. ***Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of Baluchi Regiments engaged during the Great War ;
- (b) the number of Baluchi soldiers from Sind and Baluchistan employed during the Great War ;
- (c) the number of Baluchi Officers and Indian Commissioned Officers employed during the Great War ;
- (d) the number of Baluchi Units and Regiments disbanded after the Great War ;
- (e) the number of Baluchis employed as officers and other ranks in the Indian Army at present ;
- (f) the number of Baluchi Officers employed in Army Reserve during the Great War and at present ;
- (g) the policy of Government regarding recruitment of officers, Indian Commissioned Officers and other ranks, in the Makran and Chagai Levy Corps in Baluchistan ;
- (h) the names of various battle fronts where Baluchis were sent during the Great War ; and
- (i) the number of Baluchis who died while on duty during the Great War ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) Ten, viz., five pre-war battalions and five new battalions.

(b) On 1st January, 1916 ..	496
On 1st January, 1917 ..	526
On 1st January, 1918 ..	681
On 1st January, 1919	1,575

(c) Separate figures are not available to show the number of Baluchis who served as Viceroy's Commissioned Officers during the Great War. There were no Indian Commissioned Officers during the Great War.

(d) Four. These battalions were raised during the Great War.

(e) No serving Indian Commissioned Officer is a Baluchi. Our records do not show whether any Baluchis are serving at present as Viceroy's Commissioned Officers. The number of Baluchi other ranks serving on the 1st January, 1935, was 58.

(f) As far as I can trace, the answer is ' Nil '.

(g) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to part (d) of question No. 519, asked by him on the 25th February, last.

(h) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to Appendix "H" of the publication "India's contribution to the Great War", a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(i) It is not possible to give the number of Baluchis who died during the Great War, since casualties were not recorded by classes.

EMPLOYEES OF THE POLICE FORCE AND BALUCHISTAN CIVIL SERVICE KILLED IN THE EARTHQUAKE.

495. *Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of employees (exclusive of police) in the Baluchistan Civil Service who died in the recent earthquake ;
- (b) the number of employees in Baluchistan police force who died in the recent earthquake ;
- (c) the number of police officers who died in the recent earthquake disaster ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that Government have called for services of all the retired Baluchistan employees from the Punjab and reinstated them all in the posts which have fallen vacant on account of the recent earthquake disaster ;
- (e) whether the services of employees reinstated will be considered as temporary or permanent ;
- (f) whether it is a fact that Government have recruited the police force for Baluchistan from the Punjab ; if so, why did they not recruit them from Sind which is the home and asylum of Baluchis ; and
- (g) with reference to the Honourable Member Mr. Ahmed Ibrahim Haroon Jaffer's supplementary question, dated 27th February, 1935, regarding Home Department resolution, giving 25 per cent. services to the Muslims, whether the said resolution is applicable to the inhabitants of Baluchistan ?

Mr. J. G. Acheson : (a) 114.

(b) and (c). 126. This includes 15 Head Constables and six other officers of higher rank.

(d) and (e). No, Sir. Only five retired Extra Assistant Commissioners, one retired Tahsildar and one retired ministerial Government servant, have been re-employed on a purely temporary basis.

(f) Yes. It was necessary to recruit immediately a large number of men trained in the use of arms, and this could only be done through the Inspector-General of Police, Punjab, and Recruiting Officers in that Province. There are no Recruiting Officers in Sind, and any attempt to raise men there would have involved very great delay.

(g) The supplementary question referred to is not traceable, but the Home Department Resolution in question is applicable with certain exceptions to all services under the administrative control of the Government of India including those in Baluchistan.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I did not hear the answer of the Honourable Member to the question : Why did they not recruit them from Sind also ?

Mr. J. G. Acheson : I had better read out the reply to that part. I said :

“ There are no Recruiting Officers in Sind, and any attempt to raise men there would have involved very great delay.”

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : May I know whether the Government of Baluchistan approached the Sind Government to supply trained policemen for working in the earthquake areas, just as they approached the Punjab Government ?

Mr. J. G. Acheson : I want notice.

FINANCIAL ADJUSTMENT BETWEEN SIND AND BOMBAY.

496. ***Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. J. Nixon has been appointed by the Government of India to go through the question of financial adjustment between Sind and Bombay on the separation of the former ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list showing the duties entrusted to Mr. J. Nixon ?

(c) Do Government realise that the question of separating finance of Sind from the Bombay Government regarding pension, liabilities, debts, etc., etc., is a very complicated one ?

(d) To which authority will Mr. J. Nixon submit his final report on the separation of finance of Sind ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether Mr. J. Nixon's Report will be considered as final and acted upon, or it will be scrutinised again by some experts ?

(f) Do Government intend to appoint a Board consisting of experts of impartial nature to verify the report of Mr. J. Nixon ?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state whether in case a Board is formed for the scrutinisation of the aforesaid report, representatives of Sind will be allowed to sit with the Board Members in order to give their criticism on the report ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a), (b), (d) and (e). One of the duties of Mr. Nixon as Additional Secretary in the Finance Department is to examine the financial adjustments consequent on the creation of the new province of Sind and to submit the case to the Government of India. The Secretary of State will in due course pass final orders.

(c) Yes.

(f) and (g). Government consider it unnecessary to appoint another Board or Committee to deal with the financial affairs of Sind.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : May I know whether Mr. Nixon's report will be placed before Sir Otto Neimeyer who has been appointed to conduct the financial enquiry ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Not formally, because Mr. Nixon's duty is to separate the finances of Sind and Bombay. That is purely an accounting arrangement, and it has nothing whatever to do with the enquiry which Sir Otto Neimeyer is expected to undertake.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : When Mr. Nixon's report is ready, will it be published for eliciting public opinion of Sind and Bombay, or will it be sent direct to the Secretary of State ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : It will be time enough to consider that when the Secretary of State has passed final orders.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is it not a fact that this officer will consider the financial adjustments between the Central and the Provincial Governments ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : He will have to do a great deal of work in connection with that, providing material and so on, but he will have no judicial or arbitral function in relation to it.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Does it not follow that he will have to consider also the mutual relations between the Sind and Bombay Governments in order to settle the relations between the Central Government and each of these two Provinces ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The initial subvention of Sind is quite a different story from the separation of accounts of Sind and Bombay.

BARRAGE CANALS IN SIND.

497. ***Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon** : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to paragraph 79, page 43, of the report of the Sind Administrative Committee which runs as follows :

“ We are surprised however to find that in 1932-33, the very first year of the working of the Barrage Canals, although there was, contrary to anticipations, a net surplus of Rs. 19.86 lakhs over working expenses, the surplus was allowed to merge in the general revenues of the Government of Bombay instead of being utilised towards part payment of the unpaid interest, on capital.”

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether the contents of the above paragraph are true ?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, what action do Government propose to take in the matter, so as to do justice and fair-play to Sind ?

(d) Has the attention of Government been drawn to paragraph 77-A of the Sind Administrative Committee Report, page 42, which runs as follows :

“ Prior to 1932-33, receipts from the sales, leases, etc., of lands in the Barrage area were not utilized even towards payment of interest on capital. It appears that they merged in the general revenues of the Government of Bombay, but we have not been able to ascertain the reasons for this appropriation. The amount involved was about Rs. 12½ lakhs. In our opinion, it should have been credited to the Loan Account in the same way as the receipts of 1932-33.”

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether the contents of the above paragraph are true ?

(f) If the answer to part (e) above be in the affirmative, what action do Government propose to take so as to do justice and fairplay to Sind ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a), (b) and (c). The quoted statement is *not* correct. The Administrative Committee failed to take into account the net revenue of the superseded, absorbed or abandoned canals. The correct figures are being worked out and will be adjusted properly.

(d), (e) and (f). The implication of the quotation is incorrect. It was apparently due to a misconception on the part of the Administrative Committee of the necessary accounting processes.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Can the Honourable Member inform me what correction is made up till now ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Not without notice.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE ADMINISTRATION OF SIND.

498. ***Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon :** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. H. M. Patel, I.C.S., has been appointed by the Government of India to enquire about the arrangements of the future administration of Sind ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, to which authority will Mr. Patel submit his Report ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether Mr. Patel's Report will be published and open to criticism or considered as final ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of duties entrusted to Mr. H. M. Patel ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether they propose to form a Board for scrutinisation of the aforesaid report, and if so, will representatives from Sind be consulted before the Report is finally passed ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : (a), (b) and (d). Mr. H. M. Patel has been placed on special duty by the Government of Bombay to draw up a detailed scheme of the administrative arrangements necessitated by the separation of Sind. The Government of India have received, through the Local Government, his report dealing with the accommodation immediately required by the new Government, and it is at present under their consideration.

(c) The answer to both parts of this question is in the negative.

(e) There is no such proposal under the consideration of Government.

COLLECTION OF CUSTOMS REVENUE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN KATHIAWAR AND OTHER STATES.

499. ***Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have recently made any agreement with Kathiawar and other Native States of India to the effect that in future Customs Revenue would be collected by Indian Government, and the Government would reciprocate the same by payment of certain sums of money to the Indian States ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government lay on the table a copy of the said new agreements ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to Mr. Satyamurti's question No. 336.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : That answer was, I think, "zero". May I know if there is any answer to part (a) of this question ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I said I am not yet in a position to make any statement on either part.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Is it not a fact that, in future, the customs revenue will be collected by the Indian Government and it would allow certain sums of money, by way of reciprocity, to the Indian States ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I said before in reply to similar question that the Honourable Member was fishing. He is now doing the same thing. He will have to go on fishing quite a long time before he is able to catch anything.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is this question under the consideration of the Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Obviously, Sir.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Have Government seen the newspaper reports about Sir Prabhashankar Pattani going to England and approaching the Secretary of State to represent the opposition of the Kathiawar States to the agreement ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I think it is very rash to assume that anything that appears in the newspapers is a fact.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Do Government feel strong enough and confident enough to deal with these Indian States, now that Federation is hanging in the balance ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I think so.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : This question of agreement has been under discussion for the past two or three years. When can we expect this agreement to reach the final stage ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : The Honourable Member has now started a second fishing.

SMUGGLING OF SUGAR INTO BRITISH INDIA FROM KATHIAWAR STATES.

500. ***Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon :** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing figures of sugar (foreign) imports at different ports of Kathiawar and other Native States separately during the years 1934-35, 1933-34 and 1932-33 ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing figures of sugar (foreign) import at Marmagoa and other Foreign Government ports separately during the years 1934-35, 1933-34 and 1932-33 ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement of the following figures for the past three years :

- (i) total import of foreign sugar at Kathiawar ports ;
- (ii) total despatches of foreign sugar from Kathiawar to British India via Viramgam Chord on which Government have recovered Customs Revenue ;

- (iii) total quantity of foreign sugar consumed in Kathiawar States ;
- (iv) the total population of Kathiawar States and the actual figures of consumption of sugar per head in those States ;
- (v) the average consumption of White Foreign and Indian made sugar per head in the whole of India ;
- (vi) if the figures show that the consumption per head in Kathiawar States was larger than that in British India, the reasons therefor ?

(d) Is it a fact that foreign sugars imported at ports of Kathiawar States entered into British India by country carts and on camels' back, etc., etc. ?

(e) What steps have Government taken or propose to take to prevent smuggling of the kind referred to in part (d) above ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : (a) and (c) (i), (ii) and (iii). I would refer the Honourable Member to the Kathiawar Trade Statistics for March, 1935, copies of which have been placed in the Library. The quantities of sugar imported into other Indian States are not recorded separately.

(b) and (c) (iv), (v) and (vi). The total population of the Kathiawar States, including Baroda, according to the census of 1931, was slightly over four millions. The remainder of the information for which the Honourable Member has asked in these parts of the question is not available.

(d) and (e). Government have not received reports of any such case of smuggling ; but if attempts did occur, they would be dealt with in the ordinary way by the preventive staff stationed on the frontier line.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Is it a fact that the population of the Kathiawar States is four millions as against 350 millions of British India, and that while the rest of India is consuming about 300 thousand tons of sugar, the Kathiawar States are consuming only 15,000 tons ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : There is no doubt that the large stocks of sugar now in Kathiawar would suffice for Kathiawar alone for at least two years.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Can Government give any approximate figures of stocks ? According to the reports of the mercantile community, there is not much stock in the ports. Is there any large stock in the interior ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : My information is that there are very large stocks in Kathiawar taking the interior and the ports together.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : According to mercantile information, there is no stock in the ports. As to the interior of Kathiawar, of course we cannot say. Will Government consider this question very seriously, because, in my opinion, about two to three crores of Indian revenue is lost on account of this overstock in Kathiawar.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I am quite prepared to tell the Honourable Member that I am considering it very seriously and that I have been closely following the situation in Kathiawar.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : With reference to part (d), may I know if the Honourable Member made any enquiries after the receipt of this question from my Honourable friend, and are Government satisfied that this kind of smuggling does not take place, apart from complaints ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : In so far as any Government can be satisfied that smuggling does not take place, yes.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Have the Government of India approached the Kathiawar States and put it to them, that this smuggling may take place, and have they received any assurance from them that they have taken or will take every possible step to prevent any such smuggling ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : My own view is that the smuggling, if any, is a very unimportant part of a very important problem.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE MATTER OF PROMOTIONS IN THE MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

501. ***Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya :** (a) Are Government aware that racial discrimination is still maintained in the matter of promotions and that Europeans and Anglo-Indians are promoted to higher grade under the Works Managers in the Mechanical Department, East Indian Railway in preference to Indians ?

(b) Are Government aware that European and Anglo-Indian Journeymen are promoted to the higher Chargemen's grade in preference to Indian Chargemen T. T., irrespective of their training ? If so, why ?

(c) Are Government aware that Europeans and Anglo-Indians are promoted to the grade of Assistant Foremen in preference to better qualified Indians ? If so, why ?

(d) If the answers to parts (a), (b) and (c) above be in the negative, will Government please supply the names of those who were promoted to the grade of Chargemen and Assistant Foremen since 1934, with the following particulars :

- (i) Names of the Workshop employed ;
- (ii) Training ;
- (iii) Technical education ;
- (iv) General education (University Examination passed) ;
- (v) Present pay ; and
- (vi) Pay of the grade ?

If not, why not ? Are Government prepared to stop such practice ? If not, why not ?

(e) Will Government please supply separately the percentage of Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indians promoted to the grade of Charge-

man and Assistant Foreman under each Works Manager, in the Mechanical Department, East Indian Railway, since 1933, with the following :

- (i) names ;
- (ii) dates of appointments ;
- (iii) present pay ; and
- (iv) dates of promotions ?

If not, why not ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) The Agent, East Indian Railway, reports that these allegations are incorrect.

(b) and (c). The Agent reports that promotions in each workshop were made according to seniority with the following exceptions :

Lucknow Carriage and Wagon Shops.—One European who was third on the list of chargemen was promoted as Assistant Foreman in preference to two senior Anglo-Indians as they had no qualification or experience as a blacksmith.

Lillooah Workshops.—One Anglo-Indian and one European were selected for promotion to the grade of chargemen in supersession of two Indian Mechanics because the former were considered to be more thorough in their work and to have a better control over their men than the latter.

(d) and (e). I lay on the table statement giving the information asked for.

JAMALPUR WORKSHOP.

Names of staff promoted to the grades of Assistant Foremen and Charyemen since 1934.

Name.	Workshop.	Training.	Technical Education.	General education. (University Examination passed).	Present pay.	Pay of grade.	Promotion.
E. R. Black	..				Rs. 500	Rs. 500 fixed	Assistant Foremen.
N. C. Chakrabatty	..	Served Apprenticeship in Outside Form.	<i>Promoted to Assistant Foremen.</i>	Middle School	110	100/120—10—180	Outturn Supervisor.
M. G. Nair	..	5 years Apprenticeship in Jamalpur Shops.	<i>Promoted to Charyemen.</i>	Matriculate, Junior Cambridge.	110	Do. Do.	Do.
S. Banerjee	..	Do.	Do.	Do.	130	110/150—20—250	Do.
Mritunjoy Roy	..	Do.	Do.	Do.	110	110/120—10—180	Do.
R. J. Carr	..	Do.	Do.	Do.	110	Do.	Do.
H. K. Mukherjee	..	Do.	Do.	Do.	110	110/150—20—250	Do.

JAMALPUR WORKSHOPS.

Percentage of Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indians promoted to the grades of Assistant Foremen and Chargemen since 1933.

Name.	Date of appointment.	Present pay.	Date of promotion.	Percentage.
		Rs.		
<i>Promoted to Assistant Foreman</i>				
E. R. Black	17-6-08	500	1-1-35	Europeans Nil. Anglo-Indians .. 100% Indians Nil.
<i>Promoted to Chargemen.</i>				
S. M. Yusufaly ..	3-11-33	110	3-11-33	
S. C. Ghosh	14-3-33	110	14-3-33	
P. Biswas	14-3-33	120	14-3-33	
H. N. Banerjee ..	1-2-28	150	1-5-33	Europeans .. 3.23% Anglo-Indians .. 29.03% Indians .. 67.74%
T. G. Watson	1-2-28	170	18-5-33	
Md. A. Karim	4-7-28	150	26-9-33	
N. C. Sircar	18-7-33	120	18-7-33	
N. C. Chakravarty ..	29-1-34	120	29-1-34	
M. G. Nair	6-2-34	130	6-2-34	
S. Banerjee	1-2-29	130	15-5-34	
M. Roy	12-5-34	120	12-5-34	
R. J. Carr	23-1-35	110	23-1-35	
H. K. Mukerjee ..	1-2-30	110	12-4-35	
Md. Yusuf	1-2-30	110	22-5-35	
S. A. Nilsen	1-2-30	110	9-6-35	
Ram Ch. Dutta ..	1-2-30	110	8-7-35	
C. S. Hosie	21-9-27	150	5-4-34	
H. E. Ennis	1-2-29	130	9-7-34	
S. N. Verma	1-2-29	150	9-4-34	
B. N. Misra	1-2-29	110	1-9-34	
N. L. Sackett	1-2-29	130	19-8-34	
B. A. Peacock	1-2-29	130	23-8-34	

Name.	Date of appointment.	Present pay.	Date of promotion.	Remarks.
<i>Promoted to chargemen— contd.</i>		Rs.		
H. P. Okhandier ..	1-2-29	130	4-9-34	
Md. H. Ansari ..	1-2-29	110	11-2-34	
S. B. Mukherjee ..	1-2-30	110	2-3-35	
T. V. A. Mason ..	1-2-30	130	24-4-35	
A. D. Thomas ..	1-2-30	130	14-7-35	
O. G. P. Callaghan ..	1-2-29	170	21-8-34	
K. L. Mehrotra ..	1-2-30	170	9-6-35	
S. K. Sanyal ..	1-2-30	80	10-5-35	
P. Kakerjee ..	1-2-29	130	6-9-34	

LILLOOAH WORKSHOPS.

List of men who were promoted to the Grade of Chargemen and Assistant Foremen since 1934 in Lillooah Workshops.

Name.	Workshop.	Training.	Technical Education.	General Education.	Present pay.	Pay of the grade.	Promotion.
A. Maroon	Lillooah ..	<i>Promoted to Assistant Foreman.</i>	Lillooah Technical School.	Up to Junior Cambridge.	Rs. 450	Rs. 425—25—475	Assistant Foreman.
Sherwin, W. H.	Do. ..	Port Commissioners, Calcutta.	Not traceable	Do. ..	425	425—25—475	Do.
Hardakar, C.	Do. ..	<i>Promoted to Chargeman.</i>	Lillooah Technical School.	Senior Cambridge.	290	290—20—390	Chargeman.
Morgan, T.	Do. ..	Served 5 years Apprenticeship in the Lillooah Workshops.	Do.	Up to Junior Cambridge.	250	230—20—270	Do.
Monmathe Nath Pal	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. ..	Passed Matriculation Examination.	175	160—15—220	Do.

Nirmal Chandra Nandy	Do.	Do.	Jamalpur Technical School (2nd Division).	Do.	100	100—10—140	Do.
Lowe, H. R.	Lillooah	5 yrs. Apprenticeship in Tasmania.	International Corrs. Course 3 (three) years.	Up to Junior Cambridge.	280	280—20—390	Do.
Tocher, H.	Do.	Calcutta Tramway Co.	Jamalpur Technical School (1st Division).	Do.	230	230—20—270	Do.
Sim, R.	Do.	Served 5 years Apprenticeship in Lillooah & Jamalpur Workshops.	Lillooah Technical School.	Passed Junior Cambridge.	210	230—20—270	Do.
Minos, D. G.	Do.	Served 5 years Apprenticeship in the Lillooah Workshops.	Jamalpur Technical School (2nd Division).	Do.	220	110 20—250 150	Do.
Whaley, D.	Do.	Do.	Lillooah Technical School.	Do.	220	110 20—250 150	Do.
K. L. Mallick	Do.	Do.	Jamalpur Technical School (2nd Division).	Passed Matriculation Examination.	100	160—15—220	Do.
N. L. Sett	Do.	Do.	Jamalpur Technical School (2nd Division).	Do.	160	160—15—220	Do.
R. R. Bose	Do.	Do.	Do. (1st Division).	Do.	100	100—10—140	Do.

List of Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indians promoted to the grade of Chargeman and Assistant Foreman, in the Mechanical Department, E. I. Railway, Lillooch, since 1933.

Name.	Date of appointment.	Present pay.	Date of promotion.
<i>Promoted to Assistant Foreman.</i>			
Gay, W. T. (E)	22-4-21	Rs. 450	1-11-33
Marcon, A. (E)	4-8-19	450	4-4-34
Sherwin, H. W. (E).	10-12-20	425	1-1-35
<i>Promoted to Chargeman.</i>			
Wilson, K. (A. I.)	18-6-22	310	1-1-33
Smith, W. A. (E.)	1-3-31	190	1-2-33
Jones, V. S. (A. I.)	6-7-25	270	1-4-33
Morgan, T. (A. I.)	21-10-23	250	21-7-34
Hardakar, C. (E.)	1-2-20	290	23-11-34
Lowe, H. R. (E).	15-8-27	290	1-1-35
Tocher, H. (E.)	11-10-28	230	1-1-35
Sim, R. (E.)	3-3-21	210	1-7-35
Minos, D. G. (A. I.)	7-2-27	220	1-7-35
Whaley, D. (D. E.)	5-2-29	220	1-7-35
Dutt, T. P.	15-5-32	170	11-10-33
Paul, M. N.	1-2-27	175	21-7-34
Nandy, N. C.	16-2-31	100	1-9-34
Sett, N. L.	29-2-28	160	1-1-35
Mullick, K. L.	3-1-28	100	1-7-35
Bose, R. R.	15-2-29	100	1-7-35

Promoted to Assistant Foreman.

Percentage.

European	100 %
Anglo-Indian	Nil.
Indian	Nil.

Promotion to Chargeman.

Percentage.

European	37.5 %
Anglo-Indian	25 %
Indian	37.5 %

LUCKNOW LOCO. WORKSHOPS.
Names of staff promoted to the grades of Assistant Foremen and Chargemen since 1934.

Name.	Workshops.	Training.	Technical educa- tion.	General education (University Exami- nation passed.)	Present pay.	Pay of grade.	Promotion.
H. E. Raymond	Lucknow (Loco.)	5 years Apprenticeship in C. & W. Shops, Lucknow.	<i>Promoted to Chargemen.</i> Passed Final Exa- mination in Ja- malpur Technical School.	Passed Senior Cam- bridge standard.	Rs. 190	Rs. 110/150—20—250	Charge- man.
S. K. Rana	Do.	5 years Apprenticeship in Jamal- pur Shops.	Do.	Matriculation Cal- cutta University.	150	Do.	Do.
S. K. Bose	Do.	5 years Apprenticeship in Loco. Shops, Lucknow.	Do.	Int. of Science Cal- cutta University.	190	Do.	Do.
E. F. Ducasse	Do.	5 years Apprenticeship in Jamal- pur Works.	Do.	..	130	Do.	Do.
		There has been no promotions to the post of Assistant Foremen.					

Percentage of Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indians promoted to the grades of Assistant Foreman and Chargeman since 1933.

Name.	Date of appointment.	Present pay.	Date of promotion.	Percentage.
<i>Promoted to Chargemen.</i>				
H. E. Raymond	..	Rs. 190	19-1-34	Europeans .. Nil.
S. K. Rana	..	150	23-2-34	Anglo-Indians .. 50%
S. K. Bose	..	190	7-6-34	Indians .. 50%
E. F. Ducasse	..	130	10-2-35	
There has been no promotions to the post of Assistant Foremen.				

CARRIAGE AND WAGON SHOPS, ALAMBAGH, LUCKNOW.

Names of men who were promoted to the grade of Assistant Foreman and Chargemen since January 1934.

Name.	Workshops.	Training.	Technical education.	General education. (University Examination passed.)	Present pay.	Pay of grade.	Promotion.
Mr. R. W. Upshon	Carriage and Wagon Shops Alambagh, Lucknow.	Got training in the S. I. Railway Workshops, Negapatam.		4th Form Doretin College, Madras.	Rs. 475	Rs. 425—25—475	Assistant Foreman.
" S. Hill	"	Served Apprenticeship in the Works of Sir John J. Thornycroft Engineers of Southampton England.	M. E. certificate Chatham, England	1st, 2nd and 3rd Military School certificates.	475	425—25—475	Do.
" L. C. Hammond	"	I class O. and R. Railway Apprentices.	Attended Railway Technical School classes, Lucknow.	Passed Junior Cambridge.	200	185—15—350	Chargeman.
" E. T. Lowe	"			200	185—15—350	Do.

CARRIAGE AND WAGON SHOPS, ALAMBAGH, LUCKNOW.

Percentage of Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indians promoted to the grade of Chargemen and Assistant Foremen since 1933.

Name.	Designation.	Date of appointment.	Present pay.	Date of promotion.	Community.	Percentage.
Mr. R. W. Upshon ..	Assistant Foreman	1-8-1922	475	1-2-1934	Anglo-Indian.	European .. 50% Anglo-Indian .. 50% Indian .. Nil.
" S. Hill ..	"	4-1-1926	475	25-8-1934	European.	
Mr. B. P. Saxena ..	Chargeman ..	14-8-1912	275	1-1-1933	Indian.	
" B. L. Raymond ..	"	1-11-1924	280	1-6-1933	Anglo-Indian.	European .. Nil. Anglo-Indian .. 42.86% Indian .. 57.14%
" Gurdit Singh ..	"	10-7-1916	250	18-5-1933	Indian.	
" Arjun Singh ..	"	1-2-1910	250	13-6-1933	"	
" E. T. Lowe ..	"	2-5-1927	200	18-7-1935	Anglo-Indian.	
L. C. Hammond..	"	12-6-1923	200	28-11-1934	"	
S. N. Mookerjee	"	January/1928	150	8-4-1933	Indian.	

REPORT OF THE TARIFF BOARD ON PROTECTION TO THE GLASS INDUSTRY.

502. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether they have received a letter from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Cawnpore, regarding the Tariff Board's Report on protection to the glass industry ;
- (b) whether that letter expresses dissatisfaction at the manner in which the question of protection was handled by Government ; and
- (c) whether Government propose to revise their opinion in the matter ; and if not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The decisions of Government as stated in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the Government of India, Department of Commerce, Resolution No. 458-T. (14), dated the 22nd June, 1935, were taken after full and careful consideration of the case in all its aspects and there has been no change in the position since.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : In view of the fact that, since the publication of the Government decision, there has been expressed general dissatisfaction both in this House and outside about the attitude taken up by Government, will Government be good enough to re-examine this question and see if there is any case which deserves to be considered by them, so as to enable them to revise their opinion, and give protection to this national industry ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Government have carefully considered all that has been said and which has been brought to their notice concerning their decision in this matter since the publication of the decision. Government have not seen anything in what has been said and what has been brought to their notice which should induce them to change their decision.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Are Government satisfied that the present decision which they have published is adequate to give the necessary protection to this glass industry ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : The present decision does not give any protection to the glass industry. It affords a certain amount of relief to the glass industry till the question can be re-examined in the terms of the decision announced.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : When do Government propose to re-examine this question ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : The relief given is for three years, but I am at liberty to state that if conditions change radically with regard to the supply of soda ash in the country itself, I shall, on being convinced of that radical change, be prepared to examine this question again when the change takes place.

Mr. B. Das : Have Government examined the statement of the Federation that there is dumping of Japanese sheet glass, and what the Indian industry wants is protection against Japanese sheet glass ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : That is a different question altogether and does not arise on this.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Next question.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : Sir, may I put one question ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Next question.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : Sir, I want to make a submission. I have been standing three times, but have not got a chance, and that is my difficulty. This is an important matter and has not been exhausted yet. So I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Order, order. In the opinion of the Chair, the matter has been fully discussed.

POSITION OF INDIANS IN KENYA AND ZANZIBAR.

503. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the statement of the Rev. C. F. Andrews in an interview to the United Press about the position of Indians in Kenya and Zanzibar ;
- (b) whether they have taken or propose to take any steps to prevent injury to the business of Indians in Kenya and Zanzibar ;
- (c) whether they propose to publish the report of the Commission which was appointed last year with the Chief Justice of Zanzibar as Chairman and Mr. Tyab Ali as its Indian member ;
- (d) whether it is a fact that already more than six thousand Indians out of forty thousand have left Kenya ; and
- (e) when Government propose to appoint a Trade Commissioner in Kenya ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) Yes.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the statement that I made yesterday.

(c) It is understood that the Government of Zanzibar, with whom rests the responsibility for publishing the report, has the matter under consideration.

(d) Government have no reason to believe that there has been any abnormal movement of Indians from East African territories during the past year.

(e) The question of appointing an Indian Trade Commissioner at Mombasa, who will also have within his jurisdiction Zanzibar and certain other areas, is at present under the consideration of the Government of India.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : With regard to clause (b), may I ask my Honourable friend what the latest position is with regard to Indians in Kenya ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : Sir, I have answered questions with regard to Indians in Kenya during the Session. There are two out-

standing points : one is the question of the highlands, and, as I informed Honourable Members some days ago, our representations have been made to the Secretary of State for the Colonies who has been considering them. There has been no change in the position. As regards marketing, I would refer the Honourable Member to what His Excellency the Viceroy said the other day in the course of his address.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : As regards the highlands, may I take it that Government are satisfied that no Order in Council will be passed, till this Government have had their fullest say in the matter ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : We have communicated to the Secretary of State for the Colonies the text of the discussion that took place in this House and also a memorandum on the subject. Our information is that the Secretary of State for the Colonies is considering those representations and that no Order in Council has been passed so far. And I think my Honourable friend may rest assured that the Secretary of State for India, who has been fully apprised of the position and is conscious of the strength of feeling on the subject in this country, is watching the situation within the Cabinet.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will the Government of India press very earnestly on the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that no Order in Council with regard to the reservation of the highlands should be passed, till this Government has had its fullest say in the matter ? Will they try and get an assurance of that kind ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : Sir, the Secretary of State for the Colonies stated, in answer to a question in the House of Commons, that no decision will be taken until the Government of India's representations had been fully considered.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : With regard to clause (e), may I know approximately when Government propose to come to a conclusion on this matter, and whether Government realise the seriousness of feeling in this matter, and for once will they expedite their decision ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : The question of the appointment of a Trade Commissioner at Mombasa for East Africa is one for the Honourable the Commerce Member who, I think, has already answered a number of questions on this subject in this Session.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know from my Honourable friend whether from those "enough" answers, my friend has formed any estimate,—I have formed none,—of the approximate time, by which or about which, this appointment will be made ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : I do not really think that guesses and approximations are at all of any practical value.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know if, before the end of this year, calendar or financial, this appointment will be made ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : I cannot at this stage anticipate what the budget position of the Government of India at the time will be.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur-Rahim) : Next question.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Sir, my last question has not been answered.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Chair thinks sufficient has been asked and answered.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Sir, I submit that our only hope of expediting these matters is by repeating the thing to them and thus spur them on to more activity. And, unless we do this, they will never do anything.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Then, the only thing the Honourable Member can do is to pass a Resolution.

PROTECTION OF THE INTERESTS OF INDIAN TRADERS IN ABYSSINIA.

504. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** : Will Government state whether Government have taken any steps to protect the interests of 2,500 Indian traders in Abyssinia ?

Mr. J. G. Acheson : The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given on the 3rd September, 1935, to his short notice question on the same subject.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Is there any change in the position ?

Mr. J. G. Acheson : I propose to answer a short notice question on the subject tomorrow when, I hope, the Honourable Member will get all the information which is at my disposal.

AMALGAMATION OF THE EAST INDIAN AND EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAYS.

505. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether discussions are going on between the authorities of the East Indian Railway and the Eastern Bengal Railway with regard to the project of amalgamation of the two railways under a single administration ; and

(b) whether Government have been apprised of the same ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : In view of the fact that the Railways are running at very great loss, will Government consider the amalgamation of the two in the interests of economy ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The question has been considered, and it has been found that the amalgamation of the East Indian and the Eastern Bengal Railways into one system will make it unwieldy.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I take the Honourable Member's answer to mean that no such negotiations can take place, without the knowledge of Government ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : My Honourable friend can take that as correct.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : The Honourable Member says it will be unwieldy. May I remind him that in Germany the mileage of railways is equivalent to the mileage of the entire railway system in India and that still it is under one administration ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : The area of Germany is quite different from the area of India.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Since they have a number of Divisional Superintendents, the question of area would not arise. It is only the mileage which is important.

REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE OTTAWA TRADE AGREEMENT.

506. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that Dr. Matthai, Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, has completed his review of the second year's working of the Ottawa Pact ;
- (b) whether the Report has been submitted to the Commerce Department of the Government of India ; and
- (c) whether the Report will be published, and if so, when ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given by me to part (b) of his question No. 290.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : If my memory is wrong, the Honourable Member will correct me, but may I know whether this report will be published in good time before the matter comes up for discussion before this House ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I am making my best efforts to place the report before the Honourable Members before the end of this Session : I am not quite sure whether I shall be able to do so, but, as soon as it is possible, it will be circulated to Honourable Members—long before the matter comes up for discussion in the next budget Session.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed : May I ask whether the Honourable Member will give an opportunity to this House to discuss that report, because the last report was not discussed by the Assembly ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Yes : as I have stated several times in the course of this Session, an opportunity to discuss the whole question will be afforded in the budget Session. I believe an undertaking to that effect was given and it will be honoured.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will a Committee of this House be given an opportunity of studying this question in detail as was done during the last occasion ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : If any desire to that effect had been conveyed to me early in this Session, it might have been possible to set up a Committee also : if Honourable Members are anxious to have a Committee set up in the meantime, and they will get into touch with me, I shall see what can be done in that connection.

REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE OTTAWA TRADE AGREEMENT.

507. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** : Will Government be pleased to state when they propose to place the Report on the Ottawa Pact and its working before the Legislative Assembly for its consideration ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan ; **The Honourable Member** is referred to the reply given by me to part (c) of his question No. 234.

REFORM OF THE INDIAN INSURANCE LAW.

508. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether they have received any representation from the Committee of the Indian Life Assurance Offices Association of Bombay on the need for the reform of Insurance Law in the country ;
- (b) what steps they propose to take on the representation ; and
- (c) when the said legislation will be introduced in the Legislative Assembly ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : (a) Yes.

(b) The representation is under the consideration of the Officer on Special Duty appointed to examine the desirability of amending the insurance law in India, who is expected to make his report in October next.

(c) On receipt of the report of the Officer mentioned above, a decision will be taken as to the mode of further procedure. Government will expedite as much as possible introduction of this Bill.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know if any insurance companies or associations are being consulted in the preparation of this Bill ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : Sir, I know that a very large number of representations have been received from various bodies ; but, having no notice of this question, I cannot say who those bodies are.

ARTICLE IN THE *Sind Observer* ENTITLED " POWER-ALCOHOL ".

509. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the leading article in the *Sind Observer* of the 18th July entitled ' Power-Alcohol ' ;
- (b) whether Government have examined or will examine the matter ; and
- (c) what steps they propose to take to utilise molasses ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) to (c). Government's attention has been drawn to the article referred to by the Honourable Member. The article suggests that millions of tons of molasses are leaving India after manufacturing sugar. The Government of India's information is that the production of factory molasses in India may be 360 thousand tons in 1935-36. Allowing for an internal consumption of 160 thousand tons,

the surplus awaiting utilisation will be only 200 thousand tons. Government have not given any monopoly to any firm for the export of this surplus. The company referred to in the article is a purely private concern and is undertaking the export of molasses from India as an ordinary trade venture, because it expects that, owing to the fall in exports of molasses from Java from 400,000 tons to 120,000 tons per annum, there are markets outside India which can absorb Indian molasses. The suggestion that an experimental factory should be started to find out the commercial possibilities of power-alcohol has not been acted upon, as it has been calculated that power-alcohol produced from modern plant, even under favourable circumstances, could not compete with petrol. Experiments for ascertaining whether molasses could suitably and successfully be used in India as fertilisers and cattle food and for road surfacing are in progress.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : With regard to the answer to the last part of my question, may I know what is the basis of the information on which my Honourable friend says that power-alcohol manufactured from molasses cannot compete with petrol? Is it on the basis of information supplied by anybody in this country or from other countries?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : *Ad hoc* arithmetical calculation undertaken in this country.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : By whom?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : By the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Did it carry out any experiments itself, or did it merely go upon any other data available?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : Such data as was available to it: it was not necessary to carry out any experiments.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will Government carry out some experiments to find out if it is at all possible to manufacture this power-alcohol to compete with petrol?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : It seems to me that it is not necessary to prove that two and two make four.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Is it as obvious as all that?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Even if the experiment about producing petrol has failed, has it been tried to find out whether they cannot produce any form of crude oil which may be used for burning purposes?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : I have not yet heard that you could distil oil from molasses.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I mean any burning substance which may serve the purpose of crude oil.

Sardar Sant Singh : Does the Honourable Member know that this experiment has been carried on in the Mysore State and has proved successful?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : It is not a question of being successful or not: I have dabbled in chemistry myself, and I find that experimentally it has been possible to produce even diamonds in a laboratory, but it is not a commercial proposition.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : How old is my Honourable friend's chemistry ? It must be at least 35 years old !

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : No, Sir : only 20 years. (Laughter.)

CONVERSION OF INDIA STERLING PAPER AND RUPEE PAPER.

510. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to the editorial comment of the *Indian Finance* of the 20th July on the need for plans for the conversion of 3½ per cent. India Sterling Paper and 3½ Rupee Paper ; and

(b) whether there are any proposals in that direction, and if so, when they will materialise ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I regret that I am unable to satisfy the Honourable Member's desire for information on this subject.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know the reasons why he is compelled to be so uncommunicative ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : Whatever I say, somebody will try and make money out of it ; and some of those who try to make money will certainly lose it. Then the enterprising journal to which the Honourable Member refers will complain either about the action or the inaction of the Government. I do not propose to give it a two-way option.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : I am not asking for any details : I am simply asking whether any such conversion proposals are being considered.

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I repeat that I am unable to tell the Honourable Member.

Mr. B. Das : Does the Honourable Member refer to the peculiar conditions of the Bombay Stock Exchange ?

The Honourable Sir James Grigg : I have not used any prejudicial words.

REPORT ON THE INDIAN COMPANY LAW.

511. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** : Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether the report on the investigation conducted by Mr. Sushil Sen, the special officer appointed to conduct investigations into questions connected with the Indian Company Law, has been submitted to Government ;

(b) whether the report will be published for the information of the Legislative Assembly, and of the public ; and

(c) if not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). No. The report is a purely departmental report.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know if Mr. Sen is engaged in considering the insurance law alone or also mutual provident funds ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : I thought I answered a supplementary from the same Honourable gentleman either yesterday or the day before : Mr. Sen is considering company law and insurance law.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Does the Honourable Member know that, with regard to provident funds also, there is a complaint, and I would like to know if the same officer or any separate officer has been deputed to go into that question ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Is that under company law or what ?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : That is exactly what I am asking, whether any change is going to be made in the company law with regard to these mutual funds which are disturbing the country ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : Mr. Sen has been appointed to consider company law and insurance law : on company law he has made his report : on insurance law he expects to make his report within the next month. If provident funds is part of company law or insurance law, he must have considered it. If he has not, it will be considered departmentally.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : When was this report on company law submitted to the Government ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : I am afraid I cannot give my friend the exact date : but it is now about a month.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Does this report recommend any amendment in the company law ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : Yes.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : If so, when do Government hope to be able to place proposals before this House to amend that law ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : I think I have answered the question that we may have to take other steps before placing the Bill before the House : but, so far as the Bill is concerned, I think I said on the last occasion that we hope to introduce it in this House next year.

PROTEST BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN AND NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS AGAINST CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE NATAL RURAL DEALERS' LICENSING LAW AMENDMENT ORDINANCE.

512. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti** : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the fact that a Deputation from the South African and Natal Indian Congress interviewed the Minister of the Interior in South Africa ;
- (b) whether the Deputation protested against sections 1, 2 and 4 of the Natal Rural Dealers' Licensing Law Amendment Ordinance ; and
- (c) whether Government have made any representations in this matter, and if so, with what result ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The Agent of the Government of India in South Africa made representations to the Administrator of Natal and his Executive Council as also to the Minister of the Interior. The Executive Committee has promised to give instructions to magistrates that the measure is not directed against Indians and should be impartially administered.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Have Government since received any information that, in the actual administration of this measure, no harm has resulted to Indians ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : As a result of the representations made by the Agent of the Government of India, this measure did not receive assent until, I think, a fortnight ago. So there has been no time to gain experience, but the Agent has himself informed us that he and his Secretary propose to keep a close watch on the working of this measure to see that it is not administered against Indians.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will Government call for reports from time to time on this matter from the Agent ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : The Agent submits six monthly reports besides the fortnightly reports which are submitted to the Member in charge.

RAILWAY EARNINGS.

513. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) the latest figures of Railway earnings compared with those of the last two years ;
- (b) what steps, if any, are being taken to improve Railway earnings ; and
- (c) whether there is any idea of co-ordinating road and railway transport so as to get the maximum advantage to the country from both ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I would refer the Honourable Member as regards (a) and (b) to the reply given by the Honourable the Railway Member to his question No. 405 on the 9th September, 1935, and as regards (c) to the reply given to Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's question No. 23 on the 5th February, 1935.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Is there any improvement ?

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

Mr. S. Satyamurti : With regard to the answer to clause (c) of the question, have Government considered or are they considering the conflict of interests which exists between Local Governments which are in charge of roads and the Government of India who are in charge of Railways, and do they propose to take any steps to bring about some understanding between these two competing authorities in the interests of the general revenues of this country ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : If my Honourable friend will read the statement of policy which was issued by the Government after the meeting of the Transport Advisory Council in January last, he will find what efforts have been made by Government to arrive at a compromise which would satisfy all interests.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : I have read that paper and the Report of the Rail Road Conference, but may I know whether Government are satisfied with the inconclusive conclusions of that Conference which led nowhere, and whether any attempt is being made anywhere to make the best of both road and rail transport and stop the ruinous competition which helps nobody ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I am afraid I cannot accept my Honourable friend's opinion that these conclusions lead nowhere. As a matter of fact, Local Governments have agreed to a certain amount of control of traffic.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : May I know, Sir, if, as a result of these conclusions, with which my friend is satisfied, though I am not, there has been any visible improvement in railway earnings anywhere ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I do not know whether they are due to that, but passenger earnings, during the current year, are, I think, better than last year.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is the Honourable Member aware that, in order to avoid road and railway competition, the construction of certain bridges across certain rivers in the Tinnevely District and Malabar is being stopped ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : The question is being considered.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Is it a fact, Sir, that, on account of raising the fares for third class passengers since 1934, the earnings of the railways have gone down ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : If my friend is referring to the North Western Railway, the facts are otherwise, but the fares have been reduced.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is it the policy of the Government to prevent the construction of bridges which are badly needed, to avoid the road competition with the railways ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : That is not the policy of the Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Why is it then that the construction of bridges has been stopped ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : I did not say it is being stopped.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Have Government got a policy on this matter, and what is that policy ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : It is exactly due to the policy that my friend has been urging upon Government that the question is being considered whether the construction of certain bridges would or would not be conducive generally to the increase of railway traffic and the convenience of people using those roads.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : What is the present policy of the Government ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : The present policy is that, if a road is likely to compete with Railways, that road should not have preference over other projects not competing with Railways.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know, Sir, if keen competition between Railways and motor service is still going on ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : Oh, yes ; in many places.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : In the consideration which Government are bestowing to the construction of bridges across the rivers in cities, will Government give sufficient weight and importance to the needs and desires of the rural public and their demands for rural road transport ?

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan : To their needs, most certainly.

INDIAN VICTIMS OF SOUTH AFRICAN FLOODS.

514. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the accompanying extract from the *Madras Mail* about Indian victims of South African floods ;
- (b) whether Government have received any further information on the matter ; and
- (c) whether relief has been given to the Indians adversely affected ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) Yes.

(b) Government have received information that as a result of the floods that took place on the 13th June, some 2,000 Indians in Durban and its suburbs were affected. The damage caused is estimated at £10,000.

(c) The Agent of the Government of India in South Africa reports that adequate relief is being afforded to the sufferers by a Central Indian Flood Committee, representing various Indian organizations. The Corporation of Durban and the Natal Administration will be approached shortly, if necessary, to supplement private effort.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will Government keep in touch, and satisfy themselves that sufficient relief is given to the sufferers ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : I can assure my friend that the Agent is keenly alive to the importance of this matter and keeps us informed every fortnight.

PARAGRAPH IN THE *Indian Finance* ENTITLED " CLIVE STREET GOSSIP ".

515. ***Mr. S. Satyamurti :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether their attention has been drawn to the marked paragraphs in " Clive Street Gossip " of the *Indian Finance*, dated the 13th July ;
- (b) the reasons for the difference in fares between the East Indian Railway on the one hand, and the Bengal Nagpur Railway and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway on the other ; and
- (c) why wash-basins of the type referred to have been installed on the South Indian Railway ?

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

(b) I would refer my Honourable friend to the reply given by the Honourable Sir Guthrie Russell to the Honourable Pandit Prakash Narain Sapru's question No. 67 in the Council of State on the 13th August, 1934.

(c) The reason was fully explained by the Agent, South Indian Railway, in a letter which was published in *Indian Finance* four weeks later which I have no doubt my friend has read and from which, if you, Sir, will permit me, I shall read the following extract :

“ * * * This question of water supply to carriages has received constant attention of our Mechanical Department and it has been found that coaches ride much more smoothly—especially on the metre gauge with the tanks located underneath the carriage bodies and, therefore, this method has been evolved for pumping water into the basin. I would say that complaints against this method are rare and received only when pumps are abnormally tight as evidently occurred on this particular occasion. We are now experimenting with an electrically operated pump by which the pressing of a button only is necessary to draw water.”

Mr. S. Satyamurti : On a point of order, Sir. If Honourable Members can refer to answers given in the other House, then it is very difficult for us....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Chair thinks it gave its ruling on that point. If the answers have been already published and made available to Honourable Members, there is no reason why they should be repeated here again.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : It is rather inconvenient to us ; anyway, I shall make a representation to you later on. But with reference to the answer to clause (c), may I ask my friend whether he realises the enormous inconvenience that is felt by the public, because one has got to be a gymnast or an athlete to get water out of the pump ? May I know why they cannot devise a simpler system ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : Everybody realises the inconvenience involved, and the Agent has stated that they are experimenting with an electrically operated pump by which the pressing of a button only is necessary to draw water.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : When will they instal it ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : I am afraid I cannot say when.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Will my friend press the Railways concerned to expedite this matter ?

Mr. P. E. Rau : I am sure the Agent does not require any pressure. He is considering it of his own motion, but I shall certainly communicate to him the supplementary questions and answers.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : The pumps require always pressure, but the Agent may not.

DRIVERS IN THE JHANSI DIVISION OF THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

516. ***Mr. B. B. Varma :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the scales of pay for A, B, and C Grade drivers working on the main line or branch line, mail or passenger train or goods train in Jhansi Division of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that all drivers employed in the highest grade in Jhansi Division belong to Anglo-Indian community ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that there is not one Hindu, Muslim or Indian Christian driver working on the main line, either passenger or goods trains ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state that all Hindu, Muslim and Indian Christian drivers in Jhansi Division on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway are confined to the last two lowest grades out of six grades allotted for drivers in this Division ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that nearly 50 per cent. of the total number of drivers in Jhansi Division do not belong to Hindu, Muslim, Indian Christian or Parsi community and are in A grade, main line passenger drivers' grade ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Railway Board in their memorandum on racial discrimination submitted to Members of the Legislative Assembly in 1931, admitted absence of representation of Indian employees in the highest grade either as drivers or guards and in spite of the orders of the Railway Board, there is not one Indian driver or guard working passenger trains in the main line in Jhansi Division of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway ?

(g) Will Government be pleased to furnish the following information regarding the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, Division by Division, the number of drivers and guards respectively employed from each community as mentioned in the Railway Board Annual Statistics, in each grade working main line—passenger and goods trains—and branch line—passenger and goods train—respectively, to show the extent of racial discrimination prevailing at present ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) The scales of pay are given in the statement, "Great Indian Peninsula Railway—Revision of Scales of Pay for New Entrants", a copy of which is in the Library of the House. The scales apply to the whole line and not merely to the Jhansi Division.

(b) to (f). I have called for particulars and will place the information on the table of the House in due course.

(g) Government regret they are unable to furnish the information as its collection would involve an expenditure of time and labour that would be entirely incommensurate with the value of the results to be obtained.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Are any racial considerations made in these appointments at all ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : No, Sir ; the policy of the Railway Board has been communicated to all Agents that it is the desire that there should not be any racial discrimination in these matters.

Mr. S. Satyamurti : Is the present state of affairs due to the past, and is any attempt being made to redress inequalities ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : It is very difficult at a moment's notice to redress all the grievances of the past.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I know, Sir, in view of the fact that there are apprehensions in the minds of many railway employees that there is

racial discrimination in this matter, whether the Government of India will be pleased to make an inquiry and publish a report on this ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I don't think, Sir, any special inquiry is necessary. The Agent has been informed of the desire of the Government of India that there should not be any racial discrimination in this matter.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : In view of the fact that the Government of India themselves admit in their report made in 1931 that in certain matters preference is shown to certain communities, may I ask whether the Government of India will reconsider the matter and ask for information and publish a report on this question ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : If my Honourable friend will give me any particular instance in which he feels discrimination has been practised, I shall be quite prepared to take it up ; otherwise, I do not think an enquiry is necessary.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : How can the Government of India get convinced unless they collect the information ?

(No answer.)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERINTENDENTS IN CHARGE OF MONUMENTS.

517. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar :** Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of placing in charge Muslim Officers as Archæological Superintendents to circles where Muslim Monuments predominate and Hindu Officers to Circles where Hindu or Buddhist Monuments predominate ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : Government are unable to apply communal principles to postings of Archæological officers. Their endeavour is, and always will be, to post officers to posts for which they are best suited.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar : In view of the fact that some of these Hindu monuments are still places of worship admittedly, do not Government consider that Hindu officers will have better access to such monuments ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : My Honourable friend's question assumes that those places which are used by Hindus for purposes of worship are or need be visited by Muslim officers. That is not the case.

DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS TO THE VARIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL CIRCLES.

518. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar :** (a) Will Government place on the table a statement of distribution of funds to the various Archæological circles, for purposes of preservation, conservation and excavation work ? What is the basis of the distribution ? Are Government aware of the fact that funds allocated for the Southern circle are very inadequate ? Will more funds be allocated for this circle in future ? Are Government aware of the fact that the Southern circle is in matter of extent much bigger than many other circles ?

(b) Have Government made a complete survey of the places that are worthy of excavation ? If they have not done that already, are Government prepared to take up the work at an early date ?

(c). Are Government aware of the fact that two prehistoric sites have been discovered in South India, one at Perumbair in the Chingleput District and the other at Adicchanallur in the Tinnevely District? Have extensive and proper excavations been carried on in those places? Are Government prepared to explore the site fully and do the needful at an early date?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) No such complete survey has been undertaken but Government have in their possession lists of the more important sites for purposes of excavation. For financial reasons it is not possible to carry out an exhaustive survey.

(c) The sites referred to were excavated by an Archæological Officer over 25 years ago. Further progress with the excavations could not be made for want of funds. The question of conducting further excavations at the sites will be considered when funds become available.

Statement showing the distribution of conservation grant for the year 1935-36 and excavation grant for 1934-35.

Distribution of conservation grant for 1935-36:—

	Rs.
Bombay	52,480
Punjab	58,430
North-West Frontier Province	4,830
Madras	22,198
Bengal	24,592
Assam	7,313
United Provinces	1,37,238
	includes a special allotment of Rs. 28,100 for repairs to the Akbari bridge damaged by the earthquake.
	Rs. 30,000 contributed by the U.P. Government are in addition to this allotment.
Delhi	77,777
Bihar and Orissa	19,409
Central Provinces	12,589
Coorg	298
Burma	30,414
Ajmer	3,000
Reserve	4,732
	<hr/>
	4,55,300

Distribution of excavation grant for 1934-35* :—

Punjab	10,750
Bihar and Orissa	3,000
United Provinces	190
Madras	1,000
Burma	500
Delhi	3,000
Sind	9,180
Bengal	4,500
	<hr/>
	32,120

*Distribution for 1935-36 not yet made.

Excavation grant for the current year (1935-36) has not yet been distributed. Funds for excavation are allotted with due regard to the requirements of the various circles while those for conservation are allotted in order of urgency of repairs to the monuments in the different circles. Having regard to the curtailed budget grant of Archaeological Department Government do not agree that the funds allotted to the Southern Circle have been inadequate. It is not possible to increase the allotment for the Southern Circle so long as the existing financial stringency lasts. Government are aware that the Southern Circle extends over a much wider area than some other circles but its monuments are in a better state of preservation than in some other provinces.

Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar : What is the answer to part (a) of the question ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : A statement is laid on the table.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Government passed a Bill some time ago in which they said that they can let out the excavation to foreigners. Was any attempt made to ask any foreigner to carry on this work in view of the fact that the Government of India are now suffering from financial stringency ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : There is a question on the Order Paper a little bit later on, and I would ask my Honourable friend to wait till that is reached.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Has anybody applied till now to excavate ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : The answer is a repetition of what I have already said to my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.

TAKING OUT OF INDIA SOME IMPORTANT ARCHÆOLOGICAL FINDS.

519. ***Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar :** (a) Is it a fact that some important archæological finds have been allowed to be taken out of India to foreign countries ? Are Government aware of the fact that some fine sculptures from Amaravati now find a place in the British Museum, the Musée Guimet in France, the Metropolitan Museum of New York and the Boston Museum ? Were they taken with the full knowledge of the Government of India ? If so, how did Government allow such things to happen ? Are Government prepared to stop such things in future ?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have permitted foreign Archæological societies to carry on excavations in select sites in North India ? If so, what are the societies that have been granted such privileges ? What are the places such societies have been permitted to work on ? Could not Government find funds to carry on the excavations themselves ? If for any reason Government could not take up the work at once, why did not Government wait till funds were available ? Are Government prepared to see that foreigners are not allowed to meddle with our monuments ?

(c) Are Government aware that some agents of foreign scholars are attempting to remove beautiful specimens of Hindu Bronzes ? Do Government propose to prevent such things ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : (a) Not since the passing of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904, so far as the Government of India are aware. The antiquities referred to by the

Honourable Member were probably taken out of India before this Act was passed. Section 17 of the Act to which I have referred is designed to prevent an exodus of antiquities of any value.

(b) A licence for the excavation of a site at Chanhuduro in the Nawab Shah District of Sind has been granted to the American School of Indic and Iranian Studies. Government regret that funds to carry on excavation on any large scale cannot be made available until the financial situation improves. The ancient sites, both historic and prehistoric available for excavation in this country are so numerous that it is highly improbable that more than a very small fraction of them could be explored by official agency during the next hundred years. Outside assistance under proper safeguards is, therefore, to be welcomed. Such safeguards will be found in section 20-B of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act and the rules made thereunder.

(c) Government have no information but if the Honourable Member will quote specific instances, they will consider the question of taking suitable action.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is the Honourable Member aware that, as recently as two years ago, a French scholar went to a place called Shantasala in the Kistna District of the Madras Presidency and took away some very valuable gold coins and also bronze statues ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : My Honourable friend has imparted information which I shall make the basis of an enquiry ?

Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali : Do the Government of India keep any list of these finds sent out of India, and, if so, where ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : I have already informed my Honourable friend that such finds as were sent out were sent out before 1904. It is not possible for Government to make a list of finds which were sent out of the country without their knowledge.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : The Honourable Member has just now said that at Chanhuduro some American company has been given some sort of licence. Will he kindly explain what sort of company it is ?

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai : I never said that any commercial company had been given a licence for purposes of excavation. What I said was that a licence had been given to the American School of Indic and Iranian Studies, which is a very learned society.

WATER BASIN ARRANGEMENT IN SOME OF THE BATH ROOMS OF SECOND CLASS COMPARTMENTS ON THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

520. **Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar :** (a) Are Government aware that in some of the bath rooms of second class compartments on the Madras and Southern Mahratta and other Railways, the water basin is fixed just above the commode ?

(b) Are Government aware that arrangements noted above cause great inconvenience to passengers accustomed to Indian style ?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of issuing necessary instructions for changing the arrangements so as to suit passengers living in Indian style ?

Mr. P. E. Sahu : (a) and (b). No.

(c) Government will bring this complaint to the notice of all Railways so that they can consider what action is possible to remedy the inconvenience referred to.

COLLECTION OF INCOME-TAX FROM *Nidhis* AND FUNDS IN MADRAS.

521. ***Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar :** (a) Is it a fact that the Income-tax Officer, Madras, has wrongly collected income-tax from several *Nidhis* and Funds though they claimed exemption on the ground of their being mutual benefit societies ?

(b) Was the attention of Government drawn to the Full Bench decision of the Madras High Court, dated the 5th December, 1934, in O. P. No. 197 of 1933 ? If so, what steps have been taken to refund the amounts wrongly collected ?

(c) Is it a fact that in spite of applications for review of the order levying the tax and for refund of the same, no orders have been passed ?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd : (a) Income-tax was collected from various Funds which had claimed exemption on grounds similar to those put forward by the assessee in the case which ended in the judgment of the Madras High Court to which reference is made in part (b) of the question. The tax was collected in accordance with the law as interpreted by the authorities at the time when the assessments were made.

(b) and (c). The attention of Government has been drawn to the judgment mentioned. A number of applications for revision had been kept pending until the result of the reference made to the High Court in that case was known. They were taken up after the question whether an appeal should be made in the Privy Council by Government had been considered and a decision not to make such an appeal arrived at ; and in those cases in which the facts were found to be similar to the facts in the cases which had been decided against Government in the Madras High Court refunds were ordered. There are one or two cases still to be disposed of in which the examination of the facts is not yet completed.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : Has any application been made to the High Court of Madras for leave to appeal to the Privy Council in any case ?

Mr. A. H. Lloyd : I have said in my previous reply that we considered the question of appealing to the Privy Council and decided not to do so.

PRICES CHARGED AT THE RAILWAY BOOK-STALLS OF MESSRS. A. H. WHEELER AND COMPANY.

522. **Pandit Sri Krishna Datta Pathwal :** (a) Will Government please state the terms of the contract of Messrs. A. H. Wheeler & Co., with the railway authorities ?

(b) Is it a fact that the charges of the aforesaid firm are abnormally high ?

(c) Is it further a fact that the above firm charges Rs. 1-2-0, 1-2-0, and annas 0-10-0 for single copies of the *struck, With Word and Weldon's*

Ladies Journal, respectively, whereas they are sold for Re. 1, Re. 1 and annas 0-8-0, respectively, even in the small places like Jodhpur ?

(d) Is it also a fact that omnibus books of s. 7|6|- are calculated at -|12|- a shilling thus bringing their prices to Rs. 5 or so whereas these books are sold at less than Rs. 3|5|- even in small towns ?

(e) Are Government aware that shilling novels are sold at a rupee and six penny novels at eight annas by Wheeler & Co. ?

(f) What steps, if any, do Government intend to take to put an end to these monopolistic prices ?

(g) Will Government please state how this contract was entered into and when will it expire ?

(h) Is the above contract in the nature of a monopoly ? If so, why ?

(i) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of calling tenders from others for this contract ?

(j) Is it a fact that Government do not grant license to any other agencies to sell books, papers and periodicals at the stations ? If so, why ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) Bookstall contracts are given separately by each Railway Administration and the terms of these contracts vary on the different railways. Generally, provision is made for the firm having an exclusive right to provide bookstalls for the sale of newspapers, books, periodicals and the usual travellers' requisites at rates not exceeding the prices usually charged by firms carrying on similar business in certain large towns. Provision is also made for the payment of an annual fee. I am placing in the Library of the House a copy of the agreement which the North Western Railway Administration have with Messrs. Wheeler and Company. This indicates broadly the lines on which agreements have been executed by the firm in connection with their contracts on other railways.

(b) This is a matter of opinion.

(c) to (e). I have not enough detailed information on this point to verify all the figures quoted.

(f) Government will draw the attention of the Railway Administrations concerned to this question to consider whether any action is necessary or feasible.

(g) and (i). Contracts on State-managed Railways have been given for a period of five years and were placed after calling for tenders. The dates on which the existing contracts expire vary, but Agents will no doubt call for fresh tenders in due course.

(h) and (j). A monopoly is considered necessary in order to induce a reliable firm to take on a contract for all the important stations on a railway. The sales at the less important stations are very small, and the firm cannot earn a reasonable profit without a monopoly.

Mr. Lalchand Navakrai : May I know if the Railway has got any control over these booksellers as regards prices ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : The only control that they have is what the contracts give them.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know if the contract gives power to the Railway to reduce the prices or to fix the prices ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I understand one of the terms of the contract is usually that they should sell these things at rates not exceeding the prices usually charged by firms carrying on similar business in the larger towns.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know if the Railways have ever gone into the question to find out whether the prices are high or low ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I have already informed the House that attention of the Railway Administrations will be drawn to this question and then they will consider whether any action is necessary or feasible under the contracts.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Will the Honourable Member send a copy to the Agents ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : Yes.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Wherever a monopoly is given for the sale of any article, whether books or eatables, does the Railway Administration see that they charge a minimum economic price ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : With regard to these bookstalls, I have already said that the contract has a term which provides that the prices of these books and periodicals should not exceed, ordinarily, similar prices in the larger towns.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Information promised in reply to supplementary questions to starred question No. 173 asked by Mr. B. Das on the 23rd July, 1934.

RESEARCH CONDUCTED UNDER THE LAC CESS COMMITTEE.

The question of the work to be undertaken to improve the cultivation of lac was considered by the Indian Lac Cess Committee in November, 1934, and at their next meeting held in March, 1935. The Committee approved of a scheme, prepared under their instructions by the Director, Indian Lac Research Institute, for a demonstration campaign in lac growing areas. Work on the scheme, the main object of which is to endeavour to bring the research work of the Institute to the notice of cultivators and others interested in the lac industry, has already been started.

2. The following resolution was passed by the Indian Lac Cess Committee in November, 1934, in regard to the suggestion that, on the expiry of the contracts with the Bio-Chemist, the Entomologist and the Physico-Chemist at the Institute, these posts should be advertised with a view to seeing whether suitable Indians are forthcoming on less pay :

“ The Indian Lac Cess Committee has given careful consideration to the question whether the senior appointments at the Lac Research Institute should be advertised when the present contracts expire. In view of the fact that the immediate need is continuity in Lac research and completion of the work in progress, the Committee resolves that, subject to the approval of the Governor-General in Council, the contracts of the Entomologist, Physico-Chemist and Mr. Thakur, be renewed for a period of two years on existing terms and with the present sanctioned scale of increments. As this recommendation was made, with the proviso that the Committee will review the general position in regard to the research programme of the Institute and consider what investigations are required in future, the staff necessary to carry them out, suitable scales of pay for such staff and the method of recruitment, the Government of India have accepted it and have sanctioned renewal of contracts of the Bio-Chemist, Entomologist and Physico-Chemist for a period of two years from the 1st January, 1935, 26th July, 1935, and 7th February, 1936, respectively. The Bio-Chemist has

since applied for and been granted leave for 1 year from the 1st January, 1936, with permission to retire on the expiry of leave. It is proposed to advertise the post both in India and in England.

3. As regards the entertainment and car allowances, the Government of India have decided that the entertainment allowance drawn by the present Director should be continued as she has not been given any increment in her pay. The allowance will automatically cease when the present Director proceeds on leave preparatory to retirement. As regards the motor car allowance the Director has agreed to forgo it.

4. The question of the reconstitution of the Indian Lac Cess Committee and amendment of the Indian Lac Cess Act is still under consideration.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 1095 asked by Mr. M. Ghiasuddin on the 28th March, 1935.

BUILDINGS OF HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE OCCUPIED BY THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES.

(a) The following is a complete list of buildings of historical importance at present occupied by the military authorities :

1. Govindgarh Fort, Amritsar.
2. Delhi Fort, Delhi.
3. Agra Fort, Agra.
4. Allahabad Fort, Allahabad.
5. Star Fort, Jhansi.
6. Supply Depot, Fyzabad.
7. Fort Calcutta Range, Fyzabad.
8. Ahmednagar Fort.
9. Belgaum Fort.
10. Bombay Castle.
11. Fort St. George, Madras.
12. Attock Fort.

No 12 is being handed over to the Civil authorities.

(b) The military occupation of these historical buildings tends towards their preservation rather than deterioration, because annual repairs and maintenance work are carried out by the Military Department while the Archaeological Department takes care to preserve the architectural or archaeological features of the monuments with which they are concerned. Notwithstanding the military occupation, every facility is afforded to the public to visit these historical buildings. Government do not, therefore, consider it necessary to act upon the suggestion that buildings now in military occupation should be evacuated, especially as it would cost little over one crore of rupees to construct new buildings for the accommodation of the displaced military establishments.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 81 asked by Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya on the 3rd September, 1935.

WILLINGDON BRIDGE OF THE CALCUTTA CHORD RAILWAY.

The amount of tolls collected during the year 1934 over the road traffic on this bridge was about Rs. 42,690.

The number of tickets sold was about 6½ lakhs, of which a little more than 5 lakhs were on account of passengers and the balance on account of vehicles and animals.

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 58 asked by Mr. V. V. Giri on the 9th September, 1935.

PROCEDURE FOLLOWED IN FILLING UP OF VACANCIES IN THE ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

The Agent, East Indian Railway, reports that vacancies in the higher grades of the Supervising Subordinate staff of the Electrical Department are filled by selection from amongst the senior men in the next lower grades after an oral examination by a selection committee composed of not less than three officers of the Electrical Department. When the record of service and other qualifications are equal, seniority is the final deciding factor.

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT.

ALLOCATION OF CERTAIN RESOURCES BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Order, order.

12 NOON. I have received notice of two motions for adjournment by Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra and Dr. P. N. Banerjea which are in identical terms. They propose to ask for leave to move the adjournment of the business of the House today for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, as follows :

“ The terms of the Communiqué, dated Simla, the 17th September, announcing the appointment of Sir Otto Niemeyer to undertake an inquiry to make recommendations to His Majesty's Government regarding the allocation of certain resources between the Central and Provincial Governments which shall have to be settled by Order in Council under the Government of India Act, 1935.”

I wish to inquire whether any Honourable Member has any objection.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar (Leader of the House) : Sir, I object to this motion, not because Government have any very strong objection to the discussion of the question on its merits, but because the matter involves a question of principle. We had yesterday a notice from the Leader of the Congress Nationalist Party of which Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra is a member, and you were pleased to fix a time for allowing that motion to be discussed. Later, when the matter came up, we were told that the notice had been withdrawn. We are now having another notice for discussing the same matter from another gentleman of the same Party. Now, Sir, no set of rules can possibly guard against all conceivable situations. As you are familiar, situations may arise in Courts which may not be covered by any specific provisions of any rule, but which, nevertheless, may constitute an abuse of the processes of the court. I submit that this is an abuse of the rules. Today Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra may not move his motion. Tomorrow some other Member may put in a similar motion. Is there any reason why Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra did not give notice yesterday ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : He did give notice, but in different terms, and he has withdrawn that notice.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : We are now discussing only this particular notice. We are now discussing a notice which, to

use his language, supersedes and withdraws the previous notice. I want to know where the question of urgency comes in. This process may go on not only for two days but for seven days, in fact the whole of the Session. My friend may or may not move his motion today and you will realise, Sir, what it leads to. If any Member finds, that on the day on which the motion is put down, he will loose on the division or he has not sufficient strength, all that he has got to do is to withdraw the motion and ask some other Member of the Party to give a motion the next day and try to get it through.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Suppose it is a *bonâ fide* notice and the Honourable Member thought yesterday that, as another Honourable Member had already given notice, it was unnecessary for him to give notice again of the same motion ?

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : The very short answer to that is that surely there is not much use in having a party system, if the Party Leader gives notice and the individual members of the party are not bound by it.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Leader might have acted independently as an ordinary Member of this House.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : That is a fact of which one could not take, say, judicial notice, but that is a fact of which notice could be taken. The Leader is recognised by you when you send communications to his Party.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : It must be remembered that all the parties here are not well knit.

The Honourable Sir Nripendra Sircar : The Leader makes a motion, and, later on, sends a notice that he is not going to move his motion. It is only common sense to assume that it must be known to the members of the Party, and, in any case, they should suffer for action of their Leader.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : May I draw your attention to one matter in this connection. Suppose 15 Members give notice of the same motion on the same day. Then, one man withdraws it on the first day, then the second man withdraws it on the second day, and so on. In this way, the motions may be continued to be withdrawn until the day they find themselves in majority.

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Why not ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Supposing the 15 Members have been acting independently and in a *bonâ fide* way ?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra (Presidency Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Mr. President, I am afraid I could not follow what the Honourable the Leader of the House was saying. It appears that the Honourable the Leader has taken shelter behind certain technicalities. I find that he is more obsessed with matters about Party Leaders, party questions, and so on, than with rules and Standing Orders. The position is this. I gave notice of a motion for adjournment just in time before the Assembly sat to transact business and I came to know later on that Mr. Aney had also tabled a similar motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : That notice is no longer before the House.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : For some reason or other, he withdrew it and I then gave a fresh notice and that still stands. My friend, Dr. Ziauddin, suggests that 15 motions of this kind may be brought, that is highly improbable. The point for you to consider, Sir, is this. If for some reason or other, one Member withdraws his motion, does it mean that any other Honourable Members, who have given notice of similar motions, are debarred from exercising their right? If that were so, it would be a serious curtailment of the privileges of the Honourable Members of this House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Chair thinks the Honourable Member has not followed what the Leader of the House said. What the Leader of the House said was that he took objection because the Leader of the Honourable Member's Party gave a notice and withdrew it, and that one of the Honourable Members of the Party, of which Mr. Aney is the Leader, has given a similar notice.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : In this connection I would like to point out that the notice was not given by Mr. Aney as the Leader of the Party. I have given my notice as a Member of this House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Chair would like to know from the Honourable Member if he knew that Mr. Aney had given notice.

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : Not at the time when I gave notice. I only came to know just on the eve of the sitting of this House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Can the Honourable Member give the Chair an explanation as to why the Leader of his Party withdrew his motion?

Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra : I do not know. I was informed late in the day that the motion was withdrawn.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : An important question has been raised in connection with this notice of motion for adjournment of the House, by the Leader of the House. The facts are that yesterday the Leader of the Nationalist Group in this Assembly gave notice of a motion for adjournment in connection with the appointment of Sir Otto Niemeyer, but, later in the day, he withdrew the notice and refused to move the motion which stood in his name. Today, another Honourable Member, belonging to the same political group, has given notice of a similar motion respecting the appointment of Sir Otto Niemeyer, and the objection that has been taken is that, under the circumstances which the Chair has mentioned, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra ought not to be allowed to move this motion and that the Chair should rule this motion out of order. The Chair asked the Honourable Member, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta Maitra, to say what he had to say as regards the withdrawal of the motion by Mr. Aney. The Chair does not wish on this occasion to deal with any hypothetical questions but only with the question that has arisen in this case. In the absence of any proper explanation as to why, after the Leader of the Nationalist Party had withdrawn his motion yesterday, another member of the same party

should have given notice of a similar motion today, the Chair must disallow this motion that has been sought to be moved today. (Applause from the Official Benches.)

Dr. Banerjea, also a member of the Nationalist Party, has given notice of an identical motion today. Does the Honourable Member wish to move it ?

Dr. P. N. Banerjea (Calcutta Suburbs : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Sir, I have nothing further to add, but I may say that the Leader of our Party, Mr. Aney, withdrew his motion without consulting any of us, and that he had given notice of it in his individual capacity. I have also given notice of my motion in my individual capacity. I may add that the question of urgency does not arise in this case, because the communiqué was published in the papers that we received in Simla yesterday morning.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : What is the date of the Honourable Member's notice ?

Dr. P. N. Banerjea : Yesterday afternoon, Sir, that is to say, as soon as it came to my notice that Mr. Aney had withdrawn his motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Chair has heard the explanation given by the Honourable Member, Dr. Banerjea, and it is not satisfied that there is any justification for this motion.

RESOLUTION *RE* QUETTA EARTHQUAKE.

Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raju (Madura and Ramnad *cum* Tinnevely : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, (Applause) I beg to move the following Resolution which stands in my name :

“ That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials may be forthwith appointed to investigate and report whether the situation arising out of the recent earthquake in British Baluchistan and particularly in the town of Quetta was properly handled, particularly as regards the search for and rescue of the living, wounded and buried, the salvage of property and the transference of the wounded and injured outside the affected area.”

I may be permitted to preface my speech with the assurance that I have very carefully gone through the pamphlet published by the Government of India which has been circulated to Honourable Members of this House. I may also state at the very outset that I fully appreciate the valuable work done by the authorities in Quetta for the alleviation of suffering and distress. In moving this Resolution, therefore, I am not actuated by any spirit of carping criticism, or lack of appreciation for what has been done, but I am only anxious that certain matters, which still require elucidation, should be fully enquired into by a Committee which commands general public confidence, and the lessons of this disastrous experience which Quetta has passed through should not be lost to the public. From the criticisms which have at various times appeared in the Press, the Government, I am sure, have realised that the public is not entirely satisfied with the conduct of affairs at Quetta, that there is still a good deal of suspicion in regard to the actions and motives of the Government in certain respects, and that there has been a general demand

[Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raju.]

for a thorough enquiry to sift the details. I desire to impress upon the Government that in a matter of this kind, which admits of no political considerations, both the Government and the public stand to gain a good deal by an open enquiry of this kind. There is nothing to hide. On the contrary, there is everything to be said in favour of giving full publicity to all the facts. It is only by an open enquiry that both the Government and the public can know whether the administration was able to cope with the unprecedented situation arising from this shocking catastrophe, whether their policy and methods in meeting this catastrophe were adequate and in every respect justified, whether there is any truth in any of the allegations made, and, lastly, whether, as a result of this experience, there are any lessons which the public can usefully draw. I have absolutely no doubt that if an enquiry of this kind is held, it would furnish materials which would be of valuable assistance in future years. It is not a matter for the Government alone. As there has been so much loss of life and property, it is a matter which vitally affects the public. An enquiry would reveal in what respects the work done was commendable, in what respects it was defective, what was actually done, what should have been done, and what should not have been done. I contend that full knowledge regarding all this is essential.

Sir, the recent earthquake at Quetta has been graphically described in the red pamphlet :

“ At three minutes past 3 A.M. on the morning of the 31st May, 1935, the irresistible processes of geological evolution caught Quetta by the throat—shook her for 25 vicious seconds—and left her, dead. The terror had spread for over 70 miles from Kalat through Mastung and Sariah, leaving in its wake broken hamlets and crushed villages. . . . A sudden dynamic convulsion ; a *surging*, implacable wave roared over the surface of the earth and made Quetta—in less than half a minute—a shamble, a *catacomb*. In its pitilessness, its suddenness and its cold-blooded finality, this earthquake must have the impious privilege of depriving Kangra and Bihar of their melancholy notoriety.”

About forty to fifty thousand people are estimated to have perished under its ravages. Sir, the red pamphlet has described in detail the relief work undertaken by the military authorities. We are all grateful to them, and to all the other agencies, who helped in the relief area. Undoubtedly, but for the prompt assistance that was given on the days immediately following the tragic occurrences, the loss in life would have been immensely greater, many more would have died or have become permanent invalids. (Hear, hear.) I certainly join in congratulating the authorities for whatever prompt work was done.

Sir, it would, however, be unwise if we allow our feelings of gratitude for what has been done to blind us to the need for a full and impartial enquiry into all matters connected with it. It is impossible for me to go in detail into all the matters which such an enquiry may legitimately enquire into, but I may mention a few which trouble my mind. Firstly, we learn from Mr. West's report on the earthquake of 1931 that he had given a distinct warning to the Government. He had pointed out that it was an earthquake area, and that during the last half a century there were more than twenty earthquakes, some of them serious. He had said that the buildings in the town were in a dangerous condition and were not suited to an area which was susceptible to earthquakes and suggested

precautions of the kind taken in Japan and other earthquake ridden countries in the world. Now, why was not this warning conveyed to the people of Quetta, and why did not the Government pay sufficient attention to Mr. West's warning ?

Secondly, Sir, in an unexampled tragedy of this nature, calling for colossal relief work, any Government, however great its resources may have been, should have been ready to accept whatever outside help was offered. In fact, they should have invited all possible non-official help. Here, Sir, we have on record that many non-official organisations offered their services voluntarily of their own accord, for dispensing relief to the earthquake sufferers. Mahatma Gandhi and Babu Rajendra Prasad, the President of the great Indian National Congress, offered their services immediately after the receipt of the news of this great tragedy. These offers of help were rejected with thanks. Why were these offers of help rejected ? The Government have had the experience, only last year, of how the Indian National Congress could co-operate with the Government in fighting the ills of the country. The experience of Bihar and the great energy with which the Congress contributed towards the relief of that part of the country could not have been forgotten by the Government within such a short time. Besides, according to the Government's own estimate, the damage done by the earthquake at Quetta was colossal. Why then did they reject the help offered by non-official agencies ?

No proper answer has been given by the Government for these questions, either in the communiqués and pamphlets issued by them or in the replies to questions on the floor of this House. The answers which they have given strengthen the suspicion, in certain quarters, that the Government have been trying to keep away certain things from the public. In these circumstances, it is but natural that various rumours have arisen. I do not propose to refer to them. Sir, these rumours may be true or may not be true. But one thing is certain. The fact that the Government did not allow men of such outstanding reputation as Mahatma Gandhi and Babu Rajendra Prasad to visit Quetta cannot be dismissed as of no consequence.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik (Home Member) : Babu Rajendra Prasad never asked to go to Quetta.

Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raju : If they had been allowed to visit the place, they would have certainly made valuable suggestions, and it would have restored public confidence, while by the refusal of permission, the Government have only laid themselves open to the charge that they are anxious to hide something. The only way to retrieve this mischief is by holding an open enquiry.

Thirdly, Sir, the Government are aware of the grave public dissatisfaction which arose from the delay in publishing the names of Indian casualties. While European names were available on the very first day, it was several days before we had the names of even the Indian officers and clerks in Government service who were killed or injured. Why was not an effort made from the first day to give information regarding survivors and casualties among the Indian population ? Was this a blunder ? If so, who was responsible ?

Fourthly, Sir, an explanation is due for placing the control of the situation for such a long period in the hands of the military. Could not

[Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raju.]

the Government of India have made immediate arrangements to relieve the military and take charge of the area ?

Fifthly, Sir, there have been several complaints regarding the way relief work was done, salvage operations, identification of persons and property, abduction of women, missing individuals and so on, into which it is unnecessary for me to go in detail. Even on the floor of this House, a question was put regarding missing jewels worn by women rescued to which no answer was given. It is impossible to say anything definitely about these allegations, but an enquiry will, I am sure, throw a good deal of light. It is not with a view thereby to blame the Government, or to throw aspersions on their conduct, that I refer to these things ; but I believe that it would be helpful to the Government itself if it allows an unprejudiced committee to look back on these events and form its own judgment. For instance, it has been said that more lives could have been saved if salvage operations had not been stopped so early. I am aware that the Government do not admit the suggestion, but if the public is to be satisfied, this should be corroborated by an independent enquiry. There has also been dissatisfaction, Sir, in regard to the fact that no independent non-official medical man was associated with Colonel Russel.

For these reasons, Sir, I strongly urge that the Government should appoint a Committee of officials and non-officials to go into the whole matter. This is neither an unusual nor an extravagant suggestion. If the Government agrees to it, it would not only be in accordance with the wishes of the general public but it would give an opportunity to the Government itself to establish beyond doubt what they claim to have done in Quetta, and also to rebut the charges and allegations which have been made from time to time.

Sir, I commend this Resolution to the acceptance of this House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Resolution moved :

“ That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials may be forthwith appointed to investigate and report whether the situation arising out of the recent earthquake in British Baluchistan and particularly in the town of Quetta was properly handled, particularly as regards the search for and rescue of the living, wounded and buried, the salvage of property and the transference of the wounded and injured outside the affected area.”

Sir Hormasji Peroshaw Mody (Bombay Millowners' Association : Indian Commerce) : Mr. President, I feel that the House should not support this Resolution. If the object of my Honourable friend was merely to evoke a discussion and to ventilate on the floor of the House certain controversial issues which have caused a great deal of uneasiness in the public mind, then I admit a very useful purpose would have been served by this proposition ; in this connection, I recognise the very temperate way in which my Honourable friend has put his case and I was particularly glad to note the appreciation which he expressed with regard to the efforts of the authorities and which he said he did not want to detract from. But, Sir, if the object is to go further, and not being content with evoking a discussion, to cast a definite doubt on the value of the great work done by the civil and military authorities and the survivors of the disaster, men and women, Indian and British, then I am

definitely against the proposition. (Applause from Official Benches.) Sir, the problem which was facing the authorities was an extremely difficult and abnormal one. I doubt if in the history of the world there has been a tragedy comparable to that of Quetta in its intensity, its suddenness, its concentrated horror. At dead of night, thousands of people were killed in their sleep, many more thousands were buried alive, and let us hope that their sufferings were short-lived and that they met a quick and merciful death. If an invading army equipped with all the weapons of destruction which science has brought into being had bombarded the town, it could not possibly have inflicted a fraction of the havoc which was wrought by the blind fury of nature in the incredibly short space of less than half a minute. What were the problems which, in these circumstances, the authorities had to face? It is well known that the civil arm was paralysed; the police lines had been wrecked; many members of the police force had been killed, and a number of the civil officials had also met their death. The military were the only arm which was ready to act, and how did they face the task? We have been supplied in the last few days with a couple of blue books, or, to be more accurate, one blue and one red, and, unless these books tell a positive lie, we are in a position to appreciate what was done.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Have you seen the green book?

Sir Hormasji Peroshaw Mody : Yes, I have seen all the colours of the rain-bow.

The problem that was facing the authorities was immediately to bring out the dead, to attend to the sufferings of those who had been injured, to dig out those who had been buried alive, to provide shelter, food and a great many other things for the homeless, to maintain communications in an area which is not too well supplied with communications, to safeguard property and to protect the population which was left against epidemics, insanitation and all the horrors of this tragedy, and in a thousand and one ways to take prompt action. If these books are any testimony to the work that was done, I find that a great many of these matters were tackled straightaway that very night and, Sir, if it had not been for a certain unfortunate circumstance, the present controversy would never have arisen at all. The representatives of the press were on the spot, and their testimony and that of the survivors and of those who were allowed to visit the area is unequivocal; they all alike speak in the highest possible terms of the work of the military and civil authorities. I will read, Sir, only two or three quotations from this blue book. The first quotation is from the *Hindustan Times* of the 6th June :

“ In spite of the immensity of the task, all the arrangements made by the authorities are excellent.”

A later extract from the *Free Press Journal* says :

“ The action and steps taken by the civil and military authorities on the spur of the unexpected tragedy or within a week after the loss in giving all humanly possible relief to the dead, dying and living are simply laudable and richly deserve praise from all quarters.”

And, finally, I quote the testimony of another strongly nationalist paper, the *National Call* :

“ So far as Quetta is concerned, there might be serious dissatisfaction in some quarters regarding Government *Dan* against the entry of prominent non-officials but

[Sir Hormasji Peroshaw Mody.]

there is a general feeling of appreciation of the manner in which the authorities have shouldered the responsibility at Quetta and how civilian and military officials and men have responded with signal devotion to the call of duty."

This last extract gives an indication of the grievance of the public, and that was, that the area was closed against the entry of outsiders and no opportunities were given to representative men to visit the area and to see for themselves what work was being carried on. I, Sir, am inclined to regard that decision as unfortunate. I think it would have been of very great value, if a few selected non-official representatives of the surrounding area had been allowed to visit and see things for themselves. (Hear, hear.) However, even if I am of that opinion and my Honourable friends on my right are of that opinion, what does it really amount to? It was at most an error of judgment, and when I think of errors, I am not surprised that any errors should have been committed at all, but that so few were committed. It is from that point of view that I urge my Honourable friends not to press this motion to a division. It was a most abnormal situation, and it was met heroically and devotedly. (Hear, hear.) The work that was done has evoked unstinted praise. Are we going to condemn it and ask for a committee of enquiry merely because a certain attitude was adopted by the authorities which was not acceptable to a section of public opinion? Unfortunately, as happens on these occasions, exaggerated stories got about both with regard to the magnitude of the disaster and with regard to the manner in which it was met. It is that which is responsible for the very extraordinary stories that began to be current after the first wave of appreciation of the work that was done had passed. These stories were contradicted, but they could not eradicate from the public mind a certain amount of uneasiness with regard to certain matters. But, I say, the manner in which the situation was handled by the authorities was most commendable, as the public and the Press representatives who were on the spot have admitted, as every one of us is bound to admit, and as my Honourable friend, the Mover of this motion, has himself admitted. I say it would amount to a very considerable discouragement and be a matter of great disappointment to all those who heroically and devotedly slaved night and day to try and repair the ravages of this unprecedented disaster if we do anything to discredit their work.

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham (Army Secretary) : Sir, it seems to me to be most regrettable that Honourable Members opposite should have seen fit to move this Resolution. It is all very well for the Honourable the Mover of the Resolution to say that its only object is to restore public confidence in the way in which the problem in Quetta was treated. We say, Sir, that there is no need to restore public confidence in that matter. It seems to me that you cannot get away from the fact that the real object behind this Resolution is to endeavour to bring the Government into discredit by suggesting that they were actuated by racial or political considerations in their treatment of the situation that arose in Quetta. Sir, it is nothing short of monstrous to our mind that any thought of politics or of racial consideration should intrude upon an occasion of this kind. (Hear, hear.) Here, Sir, was an occasion when British and Indian men and women worked shoulder to shoulder in a common cause, when all distinctions of birth, caste, creed or colour were obliterated

(Hear, hear), when English women performed, yes, and gladly performed, tasks which are usually performed by sweepers (Hear, hear), and when the one thought of all concerned was to save human life and to alleviate human suffering. (Hear, hear.) Sir, speaking on behalf of the Army, the one ray of light that we saw in the blackness of this disaster was the hope that the magnificent conduct of General Karlake and the troops under his command (Hear, hear) would lead to a better feeling and a better understanding between the people of India and the Army that they maintain to protect them in time of danger. And I do believe that in the hearts of thousands and thousands of simple folk throughout India that has been the impression caused.

I propose to deal only with that part of the Resolution which refers to the search for and rescue of the living, the wounded and the buried. I do not propose to pay any attention whatever to the more extreme allegations that have been made on this subject both in the Press and elsewhere. I do not think that a single Honourable Member in this House really believes that the troops spent their time in looting or in cutting off the hands of women in order to get their bangles. I take it, Sir, that the gravamen of the charge against Government is this, if I may quote from a pamphlet that I have received on the subject :

“The most serious complaint against the authorities at Quetta has been that they stopped rescue operations prematurely, thus entombing hundreds, if not thousands of persons who were yet living under the debris on June 2, and who could have been rescued on the succeeding days had rescue operations been systematically and energetically pursued.”—*The same thing is put in another way a few pages later on.*—“A miracle occurred when a woman was dug out on the fourth day and it was found that she had given birth to a male child which survived. Hundreds if not thousands of such miracles would have taken place if properly organized and adequate arrangements definitely designed to rescue the survivors had been made in the areas thickly populated by Indians even after June 2 and continued for a number of days with the proffered or other help from outside under necessary safeguards.”

Well, Sir, if those statements were true, if there was even one grain of truth in them, I would be prepared to admit here and now that the authorities were wrong to suspend rescue operations when they did and that they were wrong not to allow people to go into Quetta. The question is, was there or was there not, at the end of the third day after the disaster, any reasonable chance of saving further human life. One would expect that those who make the assertion that there was such a chance would at least produce some evidence in support of that assertion. What evidence has been produced? There is not one particle or shred of evidence to support that fact, and I challenge Honourable Members opposite to produce any such evidence. If they cannot do so, it seems to me that the whole of their case falls to the ground. The only suggestion that has been made or that could be made as far as I can see, is that in Bihar and Katgra cases did occur in which persons were dug out alive after six or seven days under the ruins. Even that is a bald assertion which is not supported by any facts, and as far as I know, there was no authenticated case of that kind.

Now, Sir, that is the evidence on the one side on which we are asked to make an inquiry. I would ask Honourable Members to listen for a few minutes to the evidence on the other side. First of all, there is the character of the disaster. Three-quarters of a mile square of crowded buildings intersected by narrow streets collapsed like a pack of cards,

[Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham.]

leaving behind it a mass of thousands and thousands of tons of debris which it will take months and months,—not weeks or days, much less hours, but months and months,—to remove. The streets themselves were obliterated and houses were completely unrecognisable. Then, Sir, secondly there was the time of the disaster, in the early hours of the morning when the whole population was wrapped in sleep and people were unable to make any effort to save themselves. Then, Sir, thirdly, there is the actual experience of the men on the spot. During the first day when they worked like heroes to rescue survivors their efforts were rewarded fairly liberally, and a large number of people were saved. On the second day signs of life became less and less. On the third day very few people indeed were brought out alive, and on the fourth day, so far as I am aware, there was only one case, the miracle of the woman to whom I have just referred, which rewarded their efforts. Then, Sir, there is the rather ghastly, but at the same time necessary, evidence which has been supplied by the results of the excavation work that has proceeded since the disaster. From the 10th June until about the end of August about 600 corpses have been recovered from the ruins of Quetta. There may have been more since, but I am taking the figures up to the end of August. These corpses were removed, under conditions that are almost too appalling to contemplate, by the devoted efforts of the Boy Scouts working under Mr. Hogg from the Punjab. And I should like to pay my tribute now to the extremely valuable work that they have done. Now, Sir, of these, 117 bodies, European and Indian, were taken from the ruins of the Civil Lines; the remainder came from the city. Of these 117, all except three were found in their beds. Only three had succeeded in escaping from their beds and the remainder were killed instantaneously while they slept. In the city out of the 500 or so bodies that were recovered only eight were found outside their houses; the remainder were all inside their houses and were killed instantaneously; and those that did manage to escape into the streets were killed immediately by falling ruins. It is not necessary here to go into very ghastly details, but an examination of the bodies that have been recovered does prove conclusively that 98 or 99 per cent. of the people who died were killed immediately by the earthquake. Then, Sir, finally there is the evidence of the spirit of the workers during those first three days. I have here a sheaf of records describing the exploits of individuals, British and Indian soldiers and their officers, during those first few days. I have no time to read them now. I hope they will be known one day. They tell a story of heroism and perseverance which it would be hard to beat. Now, Sir, the persons who performed those heroic deeds happened to be soldiers, but I would ask the House, if they possibly can, to forget that fact for a moment. I would ask them to regard these men as simple human beings, which they were; and I would then ask them to ask themselves whether any human beings, much less men who had just done what these men had done, could bring themselves to relax their efforts and to sit idly by with folded hands whilst the chance of saving one single life still remained. Sir, it does not ring true and it is not true.

Now, Sir, I hope the House will understand me when I say that it has given me no pleasure whatever and no satisfaction to drive this point home. It is perhaps one of the most distasteful tasks that I have ever had to perform, to stand up here and prove or try to prove that death

came quickly and that the calamity was enormous. But, Sir, that has been forced upon us by the way in which this Resolution has been put, and I hope that if I have succeeded in convincing Honourable Members that this main charge is baseless and that every possible step was taken to save human life, my words will not have been in vain.

Now, Sir, there are just two more points that I should like to mention before I sit down. The first point is this. There is no place in India, probably no place in the world, which was better equipped than Quetta to meet a disaster of this kind. Its 12,000 troops, its arsenal, supply depôt, hospitals, large medical and mobilisation stores, which fortunately were not destroyed, might have been supplied by express design to meet a calamity of this kind. Of these 12,000 troops a very large number, possibly more than half, were immediately employed on the multifarious duties which are described in our pamphlet. The remainder were sent to work, to try and save human life in the city, and Honourable Members should have no doubts in their minds as to the promptness and effectiveness of the way in which these troops were used, if they will look for a moment at the map that we have hung outside in the lobby and which shows the dispositions made by General Karslake himself in the early hours of the morning of the 31st May.

Now, Sir, it may be said that more than five thousand troops were needed for rescue work after a disaster of this kind. We admit that, if assistance had been forthcoming in those first 24 or 48 hours, that assistance would have been gladly welcomed. But, Sir, the plain facts are these. During those first three days there was no prohibition of entry into Quetta; actually during that time three thousand people did come to Quetta on their own business or out of curiosity. During that time little or no organised assistance from outside appeared in Quetta and the troops were left to deal with the situation practically unaided. And, Sir, after those three days outside assistance would have been useless from the point of view of saving life. And that, Sir, brings me to the second point that I wish to make. It is very easy for armchair critics to be wise after the event. It is easy to say that the water supply did not actually fail and that the food supply actually was sufficient. It is easy to say that the railway was not actually broken: it is easy to say that epidemics did not actually occur; it is easy to say that further earthquake shocks did not take place—actually there were one or two very serious earthquake shocks—but those were the possibilities that General Karslake had to face on the morning of the 31st, and any or all of them might well have taken place. General Karslake's responsibilities were already enormous. The death roll had been colossal and I say, and say it with complete confidence, that General Karslake was absolutely right in taking every possible step to prevent any further possible loss of life. General Karslake, I say, was the right man in the right place. He and the troops under his command rose to a situation of unparalleled difficulty in a way that ought to command, and, I believe, does command, the admiration of the whole world; and I, therefore, say that this Resolution which attempts to criticise General Karslake's dealing with this situation is misguided, misconceived and uncalled for.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to speak on this Resolution, because, not only am I living in Sind, but, when this earthquake occurred at Quetta, the refugees and the

[Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon.]

wounded came to Karachi, and I had opportunities of meeting about 3,000 people who came to Karachi either as wounded or as refugees. I was one of the members of the executive committee who looked after one whole camp in Karachi : I have met every day at least 1,200 people, and, on talking with them, I found that the Government and the military and civil authorities had done their best in giving them help. It is an undeniable fact that the people have received the greatest help from the authorities after this disaster. But, after fifteen days, they commenced to murmur about their property and their relations and their shops and belongings in Quetta and said that they had no money left : among these refugees and wounded, were many rich shop-keepers and merchants, as also servants and artisans and others. After listening to what they said, I will only say this: that whatever the civil or military authorities did was quite well ; but they did not consider the feelings and the conditions of the people—in what condition they were in the Punjab or Sind or Shikarpur or elsewhere. There were lots of rumours in the city that I heard from these people : they were complaining very seriously about the martial law proclaimed after the earthquake. Many of the refugees told me that they were not allowed to dig out this debris—they said they might have got some of their property and they might have saved some of their relations and they might have done many other things besides—I do not know how far they are correct : but knowing human nature, I think they would have done this work very well and they would have done it much better with the help of the Government. I do not know how far this is correct, but I heard that after two days of the earthquake, the Commanding Officer and the Civil Officer met together in committee and wanted to decide whether martial law should be proclaimed or not. According to the rumours, the health authorities were against martial law and the engineering authorities were against martial law, and they opposed the Commanding Officer saying that martial law should not be proclaimed, and that, with the help of the population, they could remove the debris and save their lives and property. I cannot say how far this is correct. I was not in the meeting, nor have I authoritative information : but I also heard that those officials, who were opposed to this martial law, have been removed from Quetta to some other places....

Mr. J. G. Acheson (Foreign Secretary) : There is no truth in that allegation.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : If it is not so, I am very glad, and I accept the Honourable the Foreign Secretary's statement....

Mr. J. G. Acheson : I can assure the Honourable Member that he is not right.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Besides that, the Honourable the

1 P.M.

Foreign Secretary and the Army Secretary will, of course, agree with me that the Baluchistan administration is not like the administration of the Punjab or United Provinces or Bengal—it is quite a different form of administration about which I do not want to say anything at this juncture : but everybody knows that the only authority in Baluchistan is one or two men—say the Commanding Officer or the A. G. G. or some other political officer. They have very little idea of how to deal with these civilians or the civil population. In Baluchistan, the administration is ordinarily

like martial law—I do not know if I am correct or not, but I think the normal administration there is like martial law. I live near by, and I have many relations and friends in Quetta who are trading there : so I know somewhat better than some others what the feelings of those sufferers are and how much they have suffered. They told me, and I do not deny it, that the authorities did very well in the beginning, but failed to do any good to the people after that beginning. Today they are living in a very destitute condition, and still they are unable to take any of their belongings left in Quetta. Not only that. I know of one instance—a Hindu lady : she is the widow of a gentleman who was serving in Baluchistan in a very high position and she came to Karachi and could not get anything to eat : she was living on the support of her relations. She has got a book in which her husband kept some money with the shroffs and those shroffs are unwilling to give a single pie to that lady, and she is compelled to file a suit in the Karachi Court : but the Karachi Court says : “ This suit must be filed in Quetta, and not in Karachi.” There are many more things of a similar nature that I can relate about Quetta. I said some time back that the administration normally in Quetta is such that it is martial law. After this earthquake occurred, very reliable, very big people, honorary magistrates, title holders and others were in Quetta, but they were not consulted as to how to give rescue to the people or how to conduct salvage operations. Sir, till now, not even a single Committee has been appointed by the British Baluchistan authorities to co-operate with them in the work of affording adequate relief to the earthquake sufferers in Quetta. There are many loyal people still vigorously working to give relief to the sufferers in Quetta, but unfortunately the authorities in British Baluchistan have so far completely ignored them. Of course, my Honourable friend, Sir Homi Mody, has opposed this Resolution for reasons best known to himself, but I for one, Sir, feel that he has given a very wrong advice to the Government, and I don't think that Government will be well advised in accepting his advice or in opposing this very important Resolution. (Hear, hear.) Sir, many accounts have been published by many individuals relating to the Quetta disaster, and I shall not refer to them, but I can confidently assert that many of the things that are published in the red pamphlet as well as in the green book are perfectly correct. My question to the Government is this : what is the harm in appointing a Committee ? If such a Committee, as the one suggested in this Resolution, is appointed, they will be able to go through all matters very carefully and they might even support the action so far taken by the Government, but perhaps the Government are afraid that such a Committee might even say or bring to light some things deprecating the action of some of the officers which will not be palatable to the authorities. Besides all this, the work connected with Quetta has not yet been finished. There are several applications pending from merchants, and money-lenders before the authorities in Quetta, and those applications have not yet been disposed of. There are many people who have asked me to approach the Government requesting them not to charge any court-fee in some of the cases, and to ask Government to appoint a tribunal to consider each case on its merits. The salvage operations are not yet over and much still remains to be done. Therefore, Sir, if such a Committee, as the one suggested in this Resolution, is appointed, they will be able to go through all these matters very carefully and to suggest what other

{Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon.}

and more expeditious methods could be adopted to give relief to the sufferers. If the Government will accept this Resolution with a slight amendment and appoint a Committee,—I do not know if the President will allow me to make an amendment in the wording of the Resolution or if the Mover will agree with me,—it will go a long way to dispel all suspicion in the minds of the public. My amendment is, how to proceed further with the moneylenders, with the merchants, with the salvage operations, and how to give further help to the refugees and sufferers. If this amendment is accepted, I do not know whether it will be accepted or not,—it will be a great help to every one. Before I close, Sir, I would again strongly urge upon the Government most sincerely to please accept this very reasonable Resolution (Hear, hear), because, Government can also get more help and more suggestions from a Committee of the kind suggested here, because they will also be able to work in co-operation with the Government. The Committee will also be able to go into all matters very carefully with the Government and they will be able further to say that Government have done well, they have done very good work, and that their critics are wrong. I, therefore, support this Resolution very strongly, asking the Government to accept it. (Cheers.)

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Sir, believe me, I have risen with a very heavy heart to speak on this motion. Coming as I do from Sind which has been a victim of this unprecedented calamity, because, most of the sufferers in Quetta were our own kith and kin, and, some of them, friends, who died,—I am very serious when I speak on this Resolution. Sir, at the outset I must assure my Honourable friend, Mr. Tottenham, that I have no desire to bring into disrepute the Government or the military authorities for any racial discrimination, but I cannot agree with him in the least when he says that all that was needed has been done by the Government at Quetta. I join issue with him on that point. Sir, the red pamphlet has been given to us.....

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : The yellow one by the Congress.

An Honourable Member : The green one.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : I am just coming to it. Sir, I am neither a Congressman, nor an extremist, but I merely ask the House whether what is demanded in this modest Resolution is reasonable or not? That is the issue that you have to decide. Now, as I was saying, this red pamphlet has been distributed to us from the Government side. A rebuttal of it, based also on Government information, on Government communiqués and on Government telegrams sent to England, is also contained in the green book which is in the hands of Honourable Members. On the one side there is the Government telling us that they have done well, while on the popular side there is a strong complaint that Government have not handled the situation properly, they have not done enough. Therefore, as the burden lies on the Government, let us consider what is the best course to adopt to decide this matter. Will it be by saying : " Oh, you people on the other side are wrong, or you on this side are wrong " ? Sir, I feel that it will be to the interest of Government, as my learned friend from Sind Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon just said, to see that they sift this question properly. If the Government have any fear or suspicion that a Committee of the kind suggested in this Resolution will decide against them, then only there can be justification for their

shrinking and opposing this modest Resolution, otherwise, Sir, I think this is the most reasonable Resolution. Coming then to Sir Homy, he thinks that we are here for the condemnation of the military and, therefore, he made out his case by showing from that pamphlet that the military have done what they possibly could. But may I tell him that he has missed the real issue? I give him the point that has to be decided. I come from Sind and being near Quetta I was in a position to know the facts and I had also correspondence and telegrams from time to time with Quetta authorities and the Honourable the Agent to the Governor General and I got replies. Therefore, I am in a position to know some things which others may not be knowing. The place where I live is about 260 miles from Quetta. The borders of Sind towards Quetta are about 200 miles. This earthquake was an act of nature of course, and we must say, "Thy Will be done". So far, it is all right, but there is a responsibility upon humanity principally the Government and it is very necessary for Government to clear themselves and show to the world that they have not been slack in their rescue and relief operations. On the night of the 31st at about three o'clock in the morning, the earthquake happened in Quetta and it had extended towards Sind. I personally was startled with my little children and we were wondering what was going to happen. You can imagine our state of mind then. Next day morning when we heard what had happened in Quetta we were out of our wits. What did we do? Naturally you will expect, and that was done, full train loads of people started from Sind to go up to Quetta to give first aid to their near and dear and kith and kin and also other people. They went as far as they were allowed to go, that is, as far as Sibi, and then they were held up.

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : When ?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : It was on the first day, the very first day, and this can be proved. If you are going to say "No", I will not take that, I will tell you to have an enquiry. Full train loads were going to Quetta and they were held up. You also find in this green book which has been placed in my hands :

"On 31st May, a rescue party of the people of Dera Ghazi Khan started in lorries for Quetta but it was stopped at Loralai after it had covered considerable distance and was compulsorily turned back."

I shall give you something more, my own personal experience, nothing more than that can be needed. It has been said that the excavations were stopped on the night of the 3rd. I join issue on that point. It had been closed on the 2nd June, and not the 3rd. I have got enough materials to prove that. However, all these things should be investigated. Look at the reply I get from the Agent to the Governor General. May I say, Sir, that I have my own personal distress also? Information from Quetta came that the whole family of my sister were destroyed. Therefore, imagine my feeling. I went on looking into papers and found that people were being held up at Sibi. So I thought that there would be no useful purpose served by my going without asking for permission. I wired to my sister, I could not know where she was or where her family were. Her family consisted of her husband, her son, two grandsons, one granddaughter and one daughter-in-law. The next day I sent my brothers to go up to Quetta. They went as far as Shikarpur and were held up.

An Honourable Member : What day ?

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : On the 2nd. On the second when they reached Shikarpur, they say they saw fully packed up trains going, but they were not allowed to go further. A man who was coming from Quetta gave them the information that my sister was in the train. They found her in a pitiable condition ; she showed them her little grand-daughter with her and told them that all the other members of her family had been destroyed. She said also that there was no help given at that time to her for the purpose of excavation. She was, on the contrary, taken away to the camp where the other people were. So she was helpless. I sent a telegram to the Agent to the Governor General asking for permission that I should personally go and help my relations and others. The reply that came is this, and it is dated the 3rd :

“ While deeply sympathising with you regret impossible grant you permit visit Quetta now under martial law and entry prohibited.”

I had made a second request and I gave them a description of the house where my sister's family lived and asked them to go and excavate it themselves. The reply that I got was :

“ Impossible excavate further dead bodies for medical and sanitary reasons.”

This is dated the 3rd.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member has exhausted his time.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : I do not think I have said even one-fourth of what I have got to say. However, if five or six minutes are given to me after lunch, I will try to hurry up and finish.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member can have five minutes more.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : A deputation had been sent to Quetta headed by Diwan Bahadur Murlidhar with the Honourable Mr. Ali Bux, Member of the Council of State, and Seth Chainrai. What they have said has already appeared in the papers. Diwan Bahadur Murlidhar says that on the 2nd June he and others saw the Commissioner in Sind and they were shown a wire from the A. G. G. stating that from that day the town was going to be sealed and that no more excavations would take place. Further on, Diwan Bahadur Murlidhar says :

“ I believe that if the Honourable Sir Norman Cater had a free hand and had not been handicapped by the military, he would have allowed volunteers from all parts to help and co-operate with him in this stupendous task. The batch of Multan volunteers led by Messrs. Shamlal, Mulchand and Parmanand, who arrived soon after, have done excellent work during their stay. They worked in serving and cheering the injured in the hospitals. They are about 70 in all and these 70 men would have worked day and night in clearing the debris to save lives. Numerous bands of such volunteers would have come to do rescue and salvage work entirely at their own cost. I myself sent such an offer by wire.”

Now, it has been said that there were no organisations and no associations which would have come forward with offer to help. This green book is a complete answer to what the Honourable the Army Secretary has said. From that, it would be seen that even the Congress Association with Mr. Choithram, as President, wired on the 31st and there were other telegrams on the same date. The points at issue are these and they cannot possibly be decided unless and until a committee has investigated them. The points are whether the time allowed for rescue work was adequate ; whether the rescue work was not stopped prematurely ; whether it was

not a blunder not to send for or to refuse help from outside when offered to them? From the materials that I have placed before the House, I hope I have convinced the House, and also my friend from Sind, Sir Ghulam Hussain, that the Government did bungle on these points, and that they did not manage this in a proper manner, though I must say that all credit is due to the troops for the excellent work they have done within their strength and the time allowed but beyond that, who is responsible? The higher officers who said that they would not allow any people to come in and help.

Now, Sir, I must say, through you, that the very way in which the Government conducted themselves was apt to create in the minds of men suspicion, distrust and grave concern. They on the spot very well organised themselves, did the relief and salvage work, and extended the hand of humanity to the best of their available capacity, but still the Government's inherent distrust of the populace led them to shut the door against some responsible men and associations, thus creating a feeling that all was not well at Quetta. It must be realised what an impetus did the woes and wails, cries and complaints—whether just or not—of the unfortunate, panicky and naturally dissatisfied sufferers of the gruesome disaster, impart, in an inflammable state of atmosphere, that already was surcharged with panic, apprehensions and dissatisfaction, on account of prohibition on entry for possibly saving their kith and kin. The Government failed to measure and appreciate sufficiently the anxiety and agony of men, the essentially different constitution of the Indian mind, and the characteristic sentimental disposition of an Indian. Think of thousands of women that lay waking and weeping, crying and cursing, praying and persuading themselves, all at the same time, in the hope that their dear ones and also the economic main-stays of their existence, might return safe and alive. Strike up your imagination and humanity to think of it.

I know how suffocatingly packed up trains of men, with full loads of provisions for a number of days, passed Shikarpur and Jacobabad for Quetta. People were prepared to stand on one leg all the time till they reached the place and they actually did till Sibi. Again people there were, for the sake of their dear ones, clung to the foot boards and handles when the trains hurried to Quetta at full convenient speed in response to the S. O. S. call. I do not mean by this that they all should have been allowed entry inside the stage of tragic drama, but I wish to show the urge of humanity and sacrifice in them. I, at the top of my voice, claim that in an Indian there is a great urge and capacity for endurance, service and sacrifice. He is a great sufferer—and fears God. The Government's persistent arguments of the possible shortage of supply of provisions and water and the outbreak of an epidemic are not worth the importance and weight that the Government attach to and claim for them. My reply to that in a nut-shell is that Government's nervousness was exaggerated and out of proportion. To my mind, an Englishman fears an epidemic more than he does God. My advice to him rather is to fear more the dissatisfied state of feeling so growing prevalent in an average Indian—an Indian worth the name. I do not wish to be unduly severe or wicked when I say that Government stopped the work rather too early. They ought to have continued it for some time more. Even if no person might have been extricated alive, Government would have spared themselves these unpleasant charges and given us an opportunity to thank them

[Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.]

to a measure such as Gods would have envied. The Government, in the usual way of a bureaucrat and an Imperialist, relied solely on the opinion of their official advisers and did not, in their great wisdom, seek some opinion of non-official experts, as to the apprehension of an outbreak of epidemic. Don't tell me it was not possible. At such a critical juncture, where politics might well not have been introduced, the Government once more displayed that traditional bureaucratic frame of mind and applied Cromwell's policy of 'thorough'. I say, Sir, if they had allowed responsible, organised and recognised men and associations they could easily have warded off this unhappy onslaught. They would have, I am sure, in men that had worked in Bihar exactly the persons that, contrary to their fears, would have earned them that praise and good-will, which they sorely stand in need of. In short, the Government have been unnecessarily nervous, afraid, slack and rigid. But before I close, I once more pay my genuine tribute to those men on the spot, civil and military, who rendered such invaluable service. I am also conscious of the services and am grateful to those English girls and women that, consistently with the traditions of their sex, served to the utmost of their capacity and humanity. I am also all praise for the North Western Railway and postal authorities and men who rose equal to the occasion. But, Sir, I cannot excuse the Government of India for not having done all that they could have done and what they were expected to do. Sir, with these words, I support the Resolution. (Loud Applause.)

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 (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) in the Chair.

Mr. G. Morgan (Bengal : European) : Mr. President, I rise to oppose the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Raju, and, in doing so, I would like to bring to the notice of the House the actual words of the Resolution moved. It seems to me, listening to the debate this morning, that we were wandering away from the Resolution and did not actually realise what it meant. With your permission, Sir, I would like to read the following words from the Resolution :

"was properly handled, particularly as regards the search for and rescue of the living, wounded, buried, and so on."

That refers to the rescue work from the 31st of May. My Honourable friend, Mr. Abdoolah Haroon, spoke of the future. If this Committee was going to be appointed, he would like to see what was to be done in the future with regard to the salvage of property and so on. That is not what the Resolution wishes to make out. My friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, mentioned one specific instance which was in connection with stoppage of entry which I think, is a convincing proof that so far as one could gather from the reports it was more or less justifiable. Now, Sir, unless this House is prepared to say that the statements in the two books issued by Government, that is, the blue book and the red book, are untrue—and that, Sir, I contend this House cannot with any decency do,—it must be acknowledged that the work done by the authorities and the troops, not forgetting the Boy Scouts, in Quetta, especially the work

between the 31st May and 3rd June deserves our unstinted admiration and praise. I doubt whether any finer work has been done in the history of the world under similar conditions.

First of all, I would ask Honourable Members to consider what would have happened had the earthquake travelled a further two miles northwards. No troops would have been available at all and I doubt whether we would have even heard that there had been an earthquake on the 31st of May. Now, owing to a providential escape, this part of the earthquake did not travel north where the Cantonment is, and where there were 12,000 troops available. If Honourable Members will read pages 4 and 5 of the red book, they will realise the magnificent work which was done at 6 A.M. on the 31st of May, 2½ hours after the earthquake occurred and practically during pitchy darkness. General Karslake and Sir Norman Cater were able to allot definite areas covering the whole of the City and the Civil Lines to the troops for rescue work. If Honourable Members will look at the map at the end of the red book, they will see what that means. Now, Sir, on page 9 of the red book we read :

“ Sufficient be it for us to notice that the whole energy and might of a most competent and efficient military garrison were directed to the salvation of the lives and property in the devastated areas.”

That is a very definite pronouncement.

On page 15, referring to certain allegations which have been made, of the red book we read :

“ The extraordinary allegation that the Indian inhabitants did not receive their full share of rescue work, and that volunteer organisations from other parts of the country could have saved more lives if given permission to enter Quetta is refuted by the history of events as recorded in this chapter. It is incredible that such an allegation was ever put forward.”

Then, Sir, certain remarks have been made about casualty lists. There, again, I can only refer to page 15 of the red book where the position is fully explained. If Honourable Members are fair in their criticism, they would realise that everything possible was done. Sir, a great deal has been made of the fact that the authorities refused outside aid. Now, let us review the situation. These organisations were not on the spot and I would ask Honourable Members not to forget that the earthquake took place in the very early hours of the 31st of May and action had to be taken as soon as possible. General Karslake had divided the whole place into definite areas at 6 A.M. and by the late afternoon of the 2nd June the military authorities having satisfied themselves that there was little or no hope of rescuing any more people alive, closed entrance, to the City on the imperative recommendation of the medical authorities. The medical authorities were definite that there was a great danger in not closing the City and taking the refugees out as soon as possible. Now, Sir, in this little pamphlet which I hold in my hand and which has been prepared for the Members of the Assembly there were many allegations. On page 2 there is an extract from a letter sent by a Military Officer in Quetta to Sir Walter Leslie, Adjutant General to the effect that by the evening of 31st May units in Bazaar and City : “ had but dealt with the fringe of their areas ”. Now, those words in the pamphlet are underlined and the insinuation which it is capable of is that more troops were used in other parts than in the City. In other words, the pamphlet, in my opinion, tries to make out that more care was taken to rescue people in other parts than was taken in the City. All reports go to show that this allegation cannot

[Mr. G. Morgan.]

be sustained. Sir, it is sought to make out a case for outside organisations not being allowed to come into the City. Now, Sir, could any organisation have been on the spot by the afternoon of the 31st of May? Any organisation arriving after the 1st of June would have been of no use to rescue the living. Again—and this is a very important point—on the 2nd of June at 2-50 P.M. another serious shock of earthquake occurred and the authorities came to the conclusion that they could not possibly permit an influx of more people into the City not knowing what the result was of the second shock. The water supply and the rations were a constant source of anxiety. To emphasize that, I will read a short extract from page 3 of the blue book :

“Owing to continued prevalence of earth tremors, the necessity of harbouring supplies and the heavy demands made on the Railway transport for the carriage of necessities and the evacuation of personnel,”

—That is a very important point in dealing with this particular question—

“the admission of private individuals into the Quetta area must unfortunately be prohibited. Until further notice, therefore, no private individual will be allowed to pass beyond Bohri unless in possession of a pass.”

Sir, by the second of June the possibility of there being other survivors was extremely remote and by the evening of 3rd June, as we read on page 10 of the red book :

“The stench was so unbearable and dangerous that further intensive work, on the strongest medical advice, had to be abandoned.”

Now, Sir, suppose for a moment the authorities had not acted on that medical advice and an epidemic had broken out. What would my Honourable friends have thought of the authorities and the military then? The living would have been amongst the dead and I do not know what would be said under those circumstances. But, Sir, this did not mean that all work of rescue was stopped as seems to be the idea of most of my Honourable friends opposite. It is definitely stated in the red book that patrols in gas masks were going through the City to see if by any chance there were any living still to be found in the debris. This movement was going on till the 7th June. Now, Sir, it has been rather emphasized that nothing was done after 2-50 on the second of June; but that is not so. On 7th June an extensive patrolling ascertained that not a living soul remained in the City.

Sir, I will again refer to this pamphlet. On page 10, it is stated that :

“all non-official opinion is quite unanimous that outside labour, professional as well as volunteer should have been allowed to come to help in the rescue work, and that many more lives would thereby have been saved.”

This is a general statement which is very difficult to substantiate. Where were these people? When could they have come in? As we knew any organisation arriving after 1st June could not have helped to save lives. But, Sir, there is more to it than this. The authorities had to think of the water supply and rations, also the second earthquake shock at 2-50 on 2nd June made them fear for the safety of the railway on which they had to depend for supplies and had the railway collapsed the fact of more people coming into Quetta would have matters very much worse.

Now, Sir, a short note on page 23 of this pamphlet reads :

“ This proves that if those who had actually arrived at Quetta station or places nearby had been allowed to enter, their aid would have saved many lives.”

This statement is based on the fact that some Sikhs had been able to do some admirable rescue work at Mastung. Now, Sir, could one or two thousand anxious relatives searching for the entombed in Quetta have been of any real use ? Could they have been enrolled as a labour corps under proper discipline ? Of course, not, and, therefore, I consider there would have been danger, rather than help.

Now, speaking definitely on the Resolution before the House, it is very easy to sit at a desk and make allegations. I would ask my Honourable friends whether any of them has been in a severe earthquake, because I have and have never forgotten the earthquake of 1897 which played such havoc in Bengal and Assam and I can only repeat that all the praise given to the authorities and the Troops was thoroughly well-deserved. His Excellency the Viceroy and His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief have testified to the marvellous work done by the troops and the least we can do is to give the troops our own unstinted admiration. (Hear, hear.) Sir, again I repeat I am speaking strictly to the Resolution and no words of mine can convey the indignation that we felt when we read this Resolution which had now come before the House in the terms in which it is stated.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Honourable Member has already exceeded his time limit.

Mr. G. Morgan : I shall finish in one minute, Sir. We ask, why was this, to our mind, ungenerous Resolution brought forward. The Honourable the Mover of the Resolution has stated that he is not wanting in admiration of what has been done. But if that is the case, I think his Resolution should have been worded entirely differently. If it is merely enquiring into some items such as my Honourable friend, Mr. Navalrai, brought forward, that can easily be done not in a Resolution of this description.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Will Government accept the Resolution, if it is amended ?

Mr. G. Morgan : That is for you to find out. All Honourable Members who have spoken since the Resolution was moved have emphasized their admiration for the work which has been done, and I am glad it is so. But really I cannot see what the object was in bringing forward a Resolution of this kind when the minds of Honourable Members are full of admiration for the work that has been done. I hope the Honourable the Mover will see his way to withdraw his Resolution. (Applause.)

Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah (Sind Jagirdars and Zamindars : Landholders) : Sir, I will not take up much time of the House. I will only make a few observations on this Resolution. The object of this Resolution is whether the authorities have handled properly the search for and rescue of the living, wounded and buried, the salvage of property and so on. What did we hear from the Mover of the Resolution and his two supporters ? All admiration and unstinted praise for the authorities, for the work that had been done. And my friend, Hajee Saheb from my part of the country, further quoted the independent

[Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah.]

testimony of the survivors or the refugees that had come to Karachi whom he had met ; and he told us that every one praised the work of the authorities. Therefore, I fail to see what is the good of bringing this Resolution when the Mover and his supporters praise the work of the authorities there. Where then is the necessity for an inquiry, when the authorities have properly handled the situation ?

Sir, I now come to my friend, Hajee Saheb. He has perhaps mixed up the Resolution with his suggestion. I agree with him about his anxiety as regards the distress of the survivors and he was very anxious that certain concessions should be made to those survivors in regard to court-fees and jurisdictions of the Courts, etc., if I understood him rightly. I should like to ask my Honourable friend whether by supporting this Resolution he will gain those objects. Certainly not ; but I am prepared to agree with him that Government should make certain concessions to these men. Then as regards his criticism of the martial law, my Honourable friend seems not to have read this literature. Why was there the necessity of military administration ? Because there was no civil administration. All the policemen were dead, the civil servants were dead and it required some time to set up an administration to take charge ; I draw his attention to the good work done under the martial law by the military authorities which has been praised in these books by the non-officials of the city of Quetta.

Now, Sir, I come to one of the allegations that have been made against the authorities there. This sad news flashed across the country early on the morning of the 31st. Everybody came to know of this calamity. Naturally those who had friends and relations at Quetta were very anxious about them. They wanted to know whether they were living or dead. When they could not get any information and when they saw that the list of casualties among Europeans was published, that created a greater suspicion in the minds of the Indians that perhaps the Indians in Quetta were not meted out proper treatment and that partiality was being shown to the Europeans. I might inform this House that that was my own impression until I read the explanation of Government. The European casualties were few in number because they were a handful of people. They were either in civil or in military employment or were connected with banks. So it was easy to identify them and as soon as they did not go to their work next morning everybody understood that they were dead, or their death was reported by their friends and servants. But look at the Indian population there in the city. There were nearly 50 thousand people ; the policemen were dead, the civil officers were dead, the municipal registers were destroyed ; how could anybody get any information as to who was living and who was dead ? Yet I must say to the credit of the authorities that within a few days they published a casualty list of six thousand people. It is very easy to sit in this House and make speeches but we must face the realities of the situation.

Then, another complaint was made that outside help was not admitted. For instance, we heard from Mr. Lalchand Navalrai that the Sind Congress Committee sent a telegram on the 31st May, but at what time it was dispatched to Quetta

3 P.M.

is not shown. And what are the contents of that telegram :

“ Sind Congress Committee prepared organise relief earthquake distress. Kindly wire if can lead with relief party specially for cremation, burial and attending women and children.”

The very work for which they wanted to go was already being done by the authorities. Even the refugees have said that that work was very well done. We must take into consideration the fact that all telegraph communications were cut off, and as we know the first telegrams were sent out of Quetta about the 2nd June. Moreover, by this time the authorities there must have received shoals of telegrams but they had to attend to more important work of rescue, medical relief and other things. It is very easy to complain that a telegram was not replied to, but that can be done in normal times and not in abnormal times. However, the Congress got a reply late in the night of the 2nd. Even if the authorities had given them permission to go to Quetta, the first train which they could have taken was on the 3rd, which leaves Karachi at 12 o'clock noon and is known as the Quetta Mail, and they would have reached Quetta on the 4th. But nobody was needed there after the 4th. The most important days were the first three days, 31st, 1st and 2nd. Again, entries were banned in Quetta for very important reasons, one of them being that there were repeated earthquake shocks in Quetta, and secondly, there was the danger of epidemics. If instead of these mild shocks severe shocks had occurred damaging more life and property, and if Government had not banned the entry of people, my friends on the opposite side would have blamed Government saying that Government knew that earthquake shocks would occur and yet they allowed outsiders to come in. Then as regards the danger of epidemics, that was also the opinion of experts. If against the advice of experts, Government had allowed outsiders to enter there and an epidemic had broken out, then also Government would have been blamed because knowingly they allowed them to come in.

Now, Sir, about the rescue work, they continued, as the previous speaker has explained, up to the 6th and 7th and the salvage work was also continued. I will now quote from a book which has not been published by Government nor by the Congress but by one Mr. Sethi, Municipal Commissioner, Amritsar :

“ The following statement of Bibi Harnam Kaur, a Sikh woman of Amritsar, who was rescued from Quetta after remaining buried for nearly six hours, was published in the *Statesman*, the *Hindustan Times*, the *National Call*, the *Leader* and a number of other English and Vernacular newspapers :

‘ Interviewed by the Associated Press she stated that she had little hopes of coming out alive since the whole thing happened so suddenly. Many poor people living in kutcha buildings have been saved, while the richer people living in palatial buildings were amongst the worst sufferers.’ *Continuing she said* : ‘ The behaviour of the British and Indian soldiers in the salvage operations were excellent. The task was most difficult—beyond human comprehension.’ She said that she was thankful to the British soldiers who had heard her cries and had brought her out. While in Quetta she had not heard of any complaints of misbehaviour or hardships caused to sufferers by soldiers. On the contrary, they were very kind and helpful. She had watched them take out many people. She emphatically denied the allegations of any distinctions made by them in extricating people whether they were Europeans or Indians, rich or poor. She said that all such talk was based on ignorance since the people out here could have no idea of the magnitude of the work.’

[Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah.]

I recommend the reading of this book from pages 24 to 29. Not only has a Sikh woman given this statement, but municipal commissioners and others also have praised the work of the military. I need not take the time of the House by reading out quotations from various press comments. Every one of them, friendly or unfriendly, has praised the work of rescue, salvage, etc. I think it is hardly fair for this House to criticise the good work of the authorities in Quetta. The Mover of the Resolution and his supporters have praised the work. In my opinion they deserve well of this House and of the country. With these words, I oppose the Resolution.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab : Muhammadan) : Mr. President, I rise to support the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Raju, and, in doing so, I must at the outset express surprise at what appears to me to be a misconstruction of the Resolution, and, as far as I am able to understand, of the spirit in which that Resolution has been moved. It has been assumed by some Honourable speakers who preceded me and notably by my Honourable friend, Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah, that a charge sheet has been framed against the Government, that the intention of the Resolution is nothing short of passing a vote of censure on the Government, and that the demand for the appointment of a committee of inquiry is really prompted by a desire to secure the conviction of Government for certain offences. Now, as far as I am able to understand the matter especially after listening to the speech of the Honourable the Mover, which the Army Secretary had the fairness to describe as a very temperate one, I submit that this motion should not be taken as an attempt necessarily to censure the Government. The object of the Resolution is simply to get more truth about the happenings at Quetta after that deplorable catastrophe, the earthquake. I may say straightaway that I have not had the advantage of receiving a copy of the red pamphlet which has been referred to by so many speakers : in fact only a few minutes ago I borrowed this copy from my Honourable friend, Seth Abdoola Haroon. I have not had the advantage or disadvantage of reading the green pamphlet which has been referred to by my Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, although I do admit that I received the small yellow pamphlet referred to by Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatallah ; also one day I found the blue pamphlet published by the Government on my desk. The fact that this valuable contribution to the literature on the subject—this red pamphlet—should not have reached every Member of this Honourable House.....

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : A copy was addressed to every Member of the Assembly.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang : Excuse me : I have not received it either at my residence or here in my seat : very good : the privileged Members might have got it.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Chair understands from the Secretary of the Legislative Assembly that copies of this pamphlet were circulated to all Members.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang : I refer to that fact in order to show the defect of the system by which necessary and relevant information

is circulated to those who are concerned with it. Suppose after reading this pamphlet my views on the subject had been materially changed, I ought to have got it in time ; but it never reached me. This is only by the way. I may say that I am keeping a perfectly open mind on the question, especially because very soon after this earthquake I received private information about the way in which the troops stationed at Quetta were doing their best, and I may say that what I heard from a friend of mine, who was there on the spot, was to the credit of the troops : I am not prejudiced in any way against the manner in which the troops handled the situation and in which the authorities on the spot did their work. In fact, from the information that I got at that early stage, when controversies had not arisen, I was very favourably impressed, and I consider it my duty to say it on the floor of this House that I join every one in this House who has paid a tribute to the work of the army and the authorities there. My point is simply this : that after the army and the authorities on the spot had been carrying on their work for a number of days, certain complaints arose. Some of those complaints found expression in the press and in the course of the speeches that have been made on the floor of this House today some complaints have been specifically referred to. Possibly other Members in their speeches will refer to some other specific instances in which people have had reason to complain. What this Resolution demands is an inquiry and nothing more. The Resolution does not assume any guilt on the part of the authorities who handled the situation after the earthquake. Now, where is the harm if Government say with Sa'di—

“ An rá lé hísób pákast, az muhásabá chí bákast ”

“ If my account is perfectly clear, I do not fear an audit ; you people want an inquiry, come, have it. Everything is fair and square, you will find that nothing is wrong ; we are prepared to accept an inquiry.”

I submit, Sir, the spirit in which this Resolution has been proposed, as far as I am able to judge, is one of wanting more light to be thrown on the many questions which have been raised relating to the management of the situation created by the earthquake, and to that extent, I think, it will be the height of statesmanship on the part of Government to offer an inquiry.—instead of acceding to the demand for an inquiry, they should offer an inquiry and say : “ We are perfectly sure that everything has been done correctly, you people have some complaints, you think that certain mistakes or errors have been committed, you want an inquiry,—all right, come, have an inquiry ”. It may be urged, Sir, that an inquiry would entail expenditure of time and money, but I submit, Sir, that all that expenditure of public time and money will be amply justified, nay more than justified by the results, because the questions involved are of vital importance. The earthquake at Quetta was an unparalleled event in the history of India, if not in the history of the world. Well, a very large number of people were affected by the earthquake and the allegations which have been made against the way in which things were managed concern the good name and reputation of so many officers and of the Government itself. Well, the issues involved are very vital. Where is the harm, I ask, in acceding to this demand for inquiry ? In fact, it will be very good if you have

[Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang.]

an inquiry in the way wanted by this Resolution. I may, Sir, submit in passing that it has become the habit of Government, whenever a fair demand for an inquiry is made, to oppose that demand. Only a few months ago, we had the Karachi firing. There were very loud complaints, there were so many demands for an inquiry, but all those demands were stubbornly refused. I doubt, Sir, if it was wise to refuse those demands for inquiry. What is the result? There are thousands and thousands of people in India who believe that really it was in order to hide the ugly facts that the Government did not grant the demand for an inquiry. Why, only the other day, on the 21st and 22nd of July, there was firing at Lahore in connection with the Shahidgunj Mosque dispute. All kinds of rumours were current in the Punjab. 14 responsible press men issued a joint statement making serious allegations and demanding an inquiry. A responsible public body like the Punjab Muslim League passed a very strong Resolution and demanded an inquiry, but there is no sign yet of those demands being listened to. This is the way in which, on every occasion when the public wants the matter to be inquired into, the Government turns a deaf ear to such demands. I submit, Sir, it is in the interest of the Government itself, in the interest of its good name, and its reputation, that the demand for an inquiry made by this Resolution should be granted. In fact I expect the Government will accept this Resolution and not challenge it. With these few words, I strongly support the Resolution.

Mr. J. G. Acheson : Sir, it has fallen to my lot to speak about that portion of the Resolution which deals with the evacuation of the sick and wounded from Quetta after the earthquake and also with the salvage of property. But before I proceed to deal with these matters, I would like to say a few words with reference to what was stated by the last speaker. He as well as some other speakers on the other side have tried to persuade the House that in some way it is to the advantage of the Government that they should accept this Resolution and that they should agree to a Committee of inquiry. I venture, Sir, to differ very deeply from that proposition. In effect, it amounts to this, that the Government is to accept the position of the accused in a Court; before a *prima facie* case has been established against it, before the complaint has been filed, before the affidavit of the complainant has been taken, the Government is asked to step into the dock. I submit, Sir, that that is not a fair proposition, and lest I should be accused of exaggeration, I would say that I have listened to every speech made by the Opposition very carefully, and I have heard nothing from beginning to end, except suspicions and allegations, without a shred of evidence to support them. If any Honourable Member were under any illusion on the point after hearing the very moderate speech of the Mover of the Resolution, I think, Sir, that illusion must have been shattered when he heard the eloquent and lengthy speech made by my friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, a gentleman belonging I believe to the legal profession. As Mr. Lalchand Navalrai warmed up to his theme he actually went so far as to produce from one of his pockets the charges against the accused neatly written and framed! I have little doubt if he had been allowed another quarter of an hour, he would have produced from another of his pockets the judgement fully drafted,—and no doubt condemning the accused to death. For these reasons, Sir, and I think every reasonable Member of

this House will support me,—I object very strongly and vehemently to the terms of the Resolution—reasonable though it may appear, to an unthinking mind.

I now come to the two specific points on which I have been asked to speak. With the first, I do not propose to detain the House long because, as far as I have been able to hear them, no reference whatever has been made today in any of the speeches of gentlemen supporting the Resolution to the question of the evacuation of the sick and wounded from Quetta. From the silence of Honourable Members on the other side, I think it can be assumed that there is even less than the usual flimsy foundation for this particular allegation that there was any kind of neglect or ill-treatment of the sick and wounded who were evacuated from Quetta. Therefore, Sir, I will very briefly detail the facts, because although it may be said that it is dangerous to excuse oneself,—the French proverb says whoever excuses himself accuses himself,—nevertheless in this case, all that the Government wish to do is to place the House in full possession of the facts. They have nothing to fear and nothing to conceal.

As regards the evacuation of the wounded which, as I say, occupies one-third of the Resolution, it has not been dealt with by any of the supporters of the Resolution. The facts are that in the first fortnight after the earthquake, no less than 30,000 persons including very many sick and wounded and injured were evacuated from Quetta. One's imagination tends in time to become deadened by the stupendous figures in connection with the earthquake, but I would ask the House just to think what those figures mean. After the first day or so,—I am not quite sure when the first relief train came to Quetta,—a stream of relief trains began to come to Quetta bringing food, provisions, medical stores and so forth, and taking away those survivors who wished to leave Quetta, and that, I think, Sir, included every living soul in Quetta who had not got official occupation there. Not a single soul was evacuated from Quetta against his will. A certain number of patients had to be evacuated from hospitals which naturally suffered from overcrowding after the disaster, and in addition to this, there was a stupendous rush of terror-stricken people in the scene of disaster. The terror of the earthquake was weighing on the minds of all, and all were animated by one desire, one impulse, to remove themselves as quickly as possible from the scene of the terrible experience through which they had passed. The railway service, however, coped with that emergency, and I think it speaks volumes for the efficiency of the railway administration that they were able to carry out this enormous evacuation as expeditiously and as efficiently as they did. On the way to their places of destination all that was possible was done for the refugees at the stations *en route* in the way of refreshments, assistance, medical comforts, etc., but the principal assistance was that which was given to them at the stations of arrival. And here I may say that this work of attending to the refugees on arrival at their home stations and in their home towns and villages was the really great work which the public were able to do to assist the refugees. This was the form of assistance which was asked for by the Government, and in respect of which the Government's appeal obtained such a magnificent response. The problem was not so much to send additional men to Quetta, but so far as possible to decrease the number of souls in the stricken city.

[Mr. J. G. Acheson.]

I turn now to the salvage of property. The case for the Opposition on this point was stated very reasonably, if I may say so, by my Honourable friend from Karachi. He represented the hardship which was caused to a number of survivors owing to the difficulty attending restoration to them of their property. The story can be simply told. It is not quite clear when the salvage of property was actually started, but it may be taken that for the first twentyfour hours the energies of all concerned on the spot were fully occupied with the salvage of life and not of property. During the second and third days individual salvage began, and on the third day, as far as I can make out from the reports, a certain amount of organisation was introduced in the salvage of property concurrently with the work of search for survivors. On the fourth day a salvage corps had already been established and efforts were being made to recruit further salvage corps from outside. It was at this stage that the medical authorities peremptorily and imperatively stopped further operations on the ground of grave risk of an epidemic. This was on the 4th June. There was then a gap from the 4th June to the 10th July when the first report of the Chief Medical Officer was available. On receipt of this report it was decided, though with some misgiving in view of the terms of the report, that it would be safe to start preliminary operations such as clearance of debris from the principal streets, and so forth, to prepare for the salvage of property in such houses as were only partially damaged, to which access was comparatively easy and in which there was reason to believe that there were no dead or only few dead buried. Steps were immediately taken to this end. Simultaneously, about this time further steps which were essential to the starting of a systematic salvage operation were also taken, namely, the issue of claims forms which were published in the form of an advertisement in the papers. This was a very essential measure because it enabled the authorities in Quetta to ascertain whether the inhabitants of each quarter were when the turn of their quarter came for salvage operations. Another step which was taken was the drafting of a Salvage Law, and this, I think, meets one of the points made by my Honourable friend, the Member for Karachi, in that the Salvage Law provides cheap and entirely gratuitous decisions of a semi-judicial nature as regards the disposal of property. If I am wrong on that point, I should be glad to be informed by my Honourable friend and I shall look into the matter.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : No, you are right.

Mr. J. G. Acheson : Thank you. From the outset, this work of salvage was entrusted to an officer who is well-known to many Members of this House. I refer to Colonel Parsons, and those Members who have had the privilege of knowing this officer will agree with me that he is not a man who allows grass to grow under his feet. Under Colonel Parson's guidance a fleet of lorries was engaged, a large salvage corps was recruited and, I believe, put under a sort of military discipline which was very necessary in view of the arduous nature of the work, and the materials for laying down a light railway were obtained. Since the work started—I am rather anticipating now—since the work started, no less than eighteen streets have been cleared in addition to the two suburbs of Nachari and Kasi which Honourable Members will know. The property returned to the owners already totals Rs. 7½ lakhs. The chief

difficulty now is, I understand, to procure the presence of the claimants of property in sufficient time to keep pace with the work of salvage. I had better go back,—I am rather anticipating, I am afraid—the work of salvage of individual houses of the kind which I have described was started on the 1st August after the receipt of the second report of the Public Health Commissioner who by this time was satisfied that operations could safely begin on a limited scale, and I am happy to inform the House that a systematic salvage of all houses without restriction is now in full progress.

To sum up then, it will be seen that the suspension of the work of salvage work was forced on Government by imperative medical advice, and I ask Honourable Members to imagine what the nature and volume of criticism would have been if Government had disregarded that advice and if, in consequence, they had been faced with an epidemic among the surviving population of Quetta. What we have heard today in the way of criticism would have been a mere whisper compared with the storm which would have been about our ears raised in that event. The second point is that the salvage work has proceeded so quickly that, as I have said, it has been difficult to procure sufficient claimants to keep pace with the work. My last point is that the salvage has been accompanied by no looting and by no epidemic disease—two very great achievements to which I have heard no reference made I think by any of the speakers on the other side. These facts, along with those that have already been laid before the House by my Honourable friend, Mr. Tottenham, will, I think, convince any Member who had not already made up his mind before the debate, that there is not the faintest or the flimsiest reason for asking Government to accept a commission of enquiry on the handling by its servants of this national crisis—a handling which has been the subject of praise all over the civilised world. Sir, I vehemently and emphatically oppose this Resolution and call on all Members whose votes are not already pledged, to join me in opposing it. (Applause.)

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai (Bombay Northern Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : I take the responsibility of having drafted the Resolution, though, by reason of the chances of the ballot, it fell to my Honourable friend, Mr. Raju, to move it before the House. Many interpretations have been sought to be put upon it, many insinuations are read into it and it is a matter of regret to me. The only explanation that I can give is the usual psychological one, which I hope my Honourable friends know very well—that you read too much into what obviously is a matter of enquiry, and not necessarily a charge. It is either a case of guilty conscience. Why do you read more into this Resolution than what in fact it says ? Why do you undertake to say, “ We are accused of not having done our duty. Therefore, don't pass this Resolution ” ? Why don't you, as men entirely unbiassed in mind, having done your duty,—all persons must have an unstinted admiration for what was done—why do you read more into it than what the Resolution says ? But you do so in the hope that by so doing you will bring round a few friends by saying “ Oh, we are condemned persons and, therefore, please vote for us ”. That certainly ought not to be the attitude of the gentlemen opposite who are in charge of a big Government,—the so-called national Government of this country. They ought to stand above this ingenious, somewhat astute and somewhat purposeful method of catching votes.

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

Sir, in all the great calamities that have occurred, calamities of nature and particularly that which has been most frequent in this country, namely, famine—it has always been the purpose and the duty of Government to hold an inquiry even before that particular event is over as to whether or not the rescue or the relief operations, as they were called, have been carried out in a manner satisfactory to the Government, satisfactory to the public concerned and also for the purpose of providing a lesson for the future. I am one of those who have a vivid memory of the year 1901 when the Macdonald Commission came out and when famine was still raging in large parts of Gujerat and other parts of the country and did the Government then say that an inquiry could not be made as to whether the operations were rightly handled, whether the Government and their officers were ready with every kind of resource, for the purpose of future guidance. In an unprecedented calamity of this kind I would not blame any Government whatever for not having more than what it has at its disposal at the time. That is never the dispute. Let us not make a mistake of imagining that because the soldiers did their duty—I will take it—more than their human duty—we are trying to blame them. I will assume that it was their duty to do what they were called upon to do. I would not be cynical enough to say that if they had failed in their task they would have come in for blame but you cannot at the same time ask us to present an address of congratulation to them for doing what I submit they were bound to do. All honour to them that they did it but, to come and suggest that because we are asking for an inquiry into what might have been omitted, what more might be done and what lessons we may learn for the future, we are trying to blame them—well that is a piece of logic which I cannot understand. It is a method of argument which I cannot possibly understand and have not yet understood. My friend, Sir Hormusji Mody, might understand it, but certainly I have had a little more logic and a little more of business in persuading judges of the Courts to see the right point of view. It is no use pretending that by this Resolution we are condemning anything that is done. What we are attempting to do is to have an inquiry into what was done, what more could have been done with a view to taking a lesson for the future, so that in cases of calamities of this kind, the Government may not find itself unprepared. Geological science has progressed and in fact Government has been in possession of a considerable amount of information with regard to those deltas, those belts, as to whether calamities of this kind may be apprehended at some future date. You must, therefore, remember, that I wish the House not to read more into this Resolution than what it says. When any Member from this side of the House moves a Resolution, it is going to be your attitude “we must put our back to the wall and fight in the last trench”. I think that will be the last trench of a demoralised government which will look on questions from this point of view. Why do you accuse yourself before we accuse you? All we are trying to do is to find out what was done. How can you, within the limits of a quarter of an hour, hope to satisfy this House or the rest of the country as to whether what was done was enough. Why should you shirk an inquiry, if all the glorious deeds on which you ask for our commendation have been already done? If that is so, you will come out all the better out of this inquiry, all the more unscathed and all honour will be given to you. But you come and say “Who

are you to come and tell us what we are to do ? We are the Government of this country. What we have done we have done and you shall rest content with that " Well, that is a position which I am here to repel.

I ask you to read the terms of the Resolution and see whether the stimulated address of my friend, Sir Hormusji, has any basis at all. The terms of the Resolution are these and I submit that any responsible government, having nothing to conceal, would immediately agree to accept it. The terms of the Resolution are these :

" This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials may be forthwith appointed to investigate and report whether the situation arising out of the recent earthquake in British Baluchistan and particularly in the town of Quetta was properly handled."

Now, what is wrong in that ? It does not lay the charge on you that you have mishandled. Where is the accusation. My friend, Mr. Acheson, suggested, that Government is called upon to be accused at the bar—of whom ?—of the committee which they will set up ? The words are : " whether it was properly handled ". If they are so confident of the work which they have done, they ought cheerfully to consent to this inquiry and say " we will have it. After all, it is not merely a matter of *prima facie* proof. I wish it were possible to arraign you all before a Criminal court." Then things would take a different shape ; but that is not the issue at all. We are here dealing with a much more conciliatory, much more sensible and much more prudent Resolution and after all in every country, whether the Government is responsible or irresponsible, the Government owe it to the people of the country to remove all suspicions from their minds. My friend, Sir Hormusji, suggested, there may be an error of judgment. Let me assume for the sake of argument that there is this suspicion, that there was an error of judgment. It is due to the people at large that you should remove their suspicions. It is up to you to come forward and prove that there was no basis for any suspicion or rumour. But if you say : " you must give us your reasons for your suspicions about our mishandling and it is only then that we shall go before a court of inquiry ", then it is a really a case of who excuses himself accuses himself. All we ask is for an inquiry. If all the glowing accounts that you have given of your conduct are correct, what have you to fear ? Are you afraid that some of these unfortunate sufferers will come before the inquiry and give their experiences which may not tally with your accounts ? We cannot rest satisfied with your assurances that everything that could be done was done. We want the country to be satisfied. I, therefore, submit, Sir, that when we ask for an inquiry in terms which convey no charge, no insinuation but which undoubtedly demand an inquiry whether or not that matter was properly handled, that it is not a matter that any Government, without, as I say, a guilty conscience and with possession possibly of information which they dare not, and do not wish to, disclose,—it is not a matter that any Government can ignore. If, Sir, neither of these circumstances exist, they ought to cheerfully accept this Resolution : in fact it is the very resistance to Resolutions of this kind which creates and confirms the suspicions of all those people throughout the country as to the manner in which the situation has been handled. (Hear, hear.)

And, now, Sir. I will take you, within the short time at my disposal, to the next two branches of the Resolution which call for an

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

inquiry. The Resolution says "particularly". Yes, why do we particularize,—“and particularly in the town of Quetta, was properly handled, particularly as regards the search for and rescue of the living, wounded and buried, the salvage of property and the transference of the wounded and injured outside the affected area”. Now what is wrong with that Resolution? What is the suspicion behind it? If you say: “we have rescued every person who could have been rescued; we have assisted every wounded that we could have assisted, and we have otherwise properly disposed of all people that have unfortunately struck down by this calamity”, what, then, is the objection to our Resolution? What is the insinuation behind it? Sir, I cannot understand it.

But, Sir, there are certain documents published by or under the authority of Government which do really call for an inquiry, for it is easy to make oneself the object of pity and sympathy and to say—“here I am doing my duty, dying to do my duty, dead almost in the act of doing my duty, and here are these ungrateful people who are wanting an inquiry”. Well, Sir, that is not, that ought not to be the way of a dignified and an innocent Government. Here, for instance, are certain facts namely, that at 3 A.M. in the night of the 31st May this horrible earthquake took place,—and there is an account given of the rescue work in an earlier statement published in the *Times of India* by the military officer addressed to General Sir Walter Leslie, and you have got a graphic and full account given at the very time, not made up afterwards, which will give you, Sir, the actual course of events that took place. He says, Sir, that: “on the 1st of June rescue work began at 7 A.M. and continued till 6 P.M.”. That is the first statement that he makes. Then he continues, and I will continue the same subject of rescue—and he further says:

“Conditions in the bazaar were getting pretty bad.” *Then at page IV he says:* “Second June was a very bad day for the troops and could hardly have been worse. Rescue work started at 7 A.M. and continued until about 2-30 P.M.” *And then he says:* “It was decided at mid-day that rescue operation must cease.”

That, Sir, is the account as given in that report that was submitted. Now the same account appears, namely, what was read out by my friend, the Honourable Mr. Tottenham, but the most amazing of all the salvage stories is that of the Indian woman in the city who was buried for two whole days and then it was found that she gave birth to a child! Then, Sir, from the very statement published by Government at page 10 of the red book, it appears that during the interval, meaning thereby, I presume, “up to the end of the mid-day of the 2nd of June”, well, the eye-witness records that “during this period nine corpses were being exhumed for every single live person found”. Now why must I take it from those who were in charge of these operations that every single person who may have been rescued was dead by the mid-day of the second of June? It is indeed—and I speak with great restraint—it is one of the most callous statements to make? Sir, human life is valuable, as I hope my friends recognize,—and why must it, therefore, have been taken for granted, and now I will deal with the point as to why I say it ought not to have

been taken for granted. It was not because a person here was suffering from an epidemic disease ; it was the type of case where say a wall merely of a house tumbled down by reason of this movement of the forces below the earth : and who dare say that though the top-most story may have fallen down, there were not and could not have been very many—as evidenced by the facts disclosed of the case of this woman giving birth to a child after two days of interment, and numerous other similar cases—cases of persons being supported by rafters or otherwise such as were sufficient to keep human beings going and keeping them from being crushed to death who might still have been alive. And now all that is said is that you must assume that at the end of the mid-day of the second of June everybody who could be saved was dead. I submit, Sir, having regard to the nature, the very nature of this calamity, you cannot assume that many persons might not have been entombed and still be alive between the 1st of June and the mid-day of the second of June. Then, Sir, not only that ; the matter does not rest there. When a telegram was sent to the Government, the very first answer that they gave was this. The Karachi reply was sent by the Commanding Officer : “ No effort is being spared to recover the survivors from the debris of the city promiscuous digging has closed ”. But what is the systematic excavation ? “ Troops detailed were able to cope with all the work ” !

Now, either we are to praise the heroism of the six thousand persons engaged in the maintenance of what you may call “ utility services ” and the remaining six thousand detailed for the purpose of this work ! Sir, an immense calamity of this character surely would call for many, many more men indeed being occupied whole days together ! And here it is solemnly and seriously said that when 26,000 persons were still buried and entombed, that the six thousand persons detailed were well able to cope with all the work ! Sir, I am quite willing to give whatever credit is due to the troops, and we are grateful to them for whatever services they rendered and for which we pay, but at the same time I am not prepared to take every statement that the Government make at its face value. I am here to say that they ought to have realized that the paltry number of six thousand persons doing this duty was certainly most cruelly inadequate for the purpose, for, indeed time was the essence of the matter. Any intelligent person could have realized that the six thousand persons detailed for this work were of little value for the purposes of this huge task, which could easily absorb sixty-thousand men within the space of this time. And yet it is said—“ we have done all we could ” ; and I will give you an idea, Sir, of when and how it could have been well tackled. I will give you, Sir, what is after all common knowledge. Karachi is fourteen hours’ journey, Sukkur is seven hours’ journey, Shikarpur is five, and Lahore is sixteen : and there must have been large numbers of people at work on the railway lines and otherwise who could surely have been drafted within a space of sixteen hours for undertaking this great work of humanity. And yet I am to be told here—“ give us your praise ; you are charging us ; we have employed six thousand people on this work ”. But, after all, six thousand men surely were not at all enough to cope with the work that was to be done. And yet, when offer of help was volunteered, this Government turned it

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

down ! Sir, I ask your leave to read the answer they gave ! Sir, it is not a personal question, it is a great question concerning people undoubtedly who were there. Sir, on the 1st of June the people of Shikarpore, through the Local Relief Committee made more extensive arrangements and chartered a special train to convey volunteers, foodstuffs, doctors, nurses and medical equipment. A large number of implements for excavation were also purchased. The special train was actually sanctioned by the authorities at Sukkur and was to leave at 4 P.M. on the first but was cancelled two hours before departure, that is at 2 P.M. on that day. Therefore, it is a matter of trifling with life ! You say they are dead. Undoubtedly they are dead ! May their souls rest in peace ! But nonetheless we cannot accept the excuse that more might not and ought not to have been done. I still make no charge. Government during the course of that inquiry may be in a position to show that it was impossible to get more than 6,000 men to do the work of excavation for the purpose of saving life on the 31st, 1st and 2nd. But it is up to them to show it. After all, we have known what resources they employed and the facts are there. They had only 6,000 men and they would not have any more. Is this House ready to pronounce that they did not need more than 6,000 men and that these 6,000 men were sufficient for the purpose of carrying out excavation work and to save some of the 26,000 lives which were lost ? Are we here merely to commend their work and to present them with addresses ? Sir, they are burking the issue. We are not here to charge those who have done the work. They have done their work well in the sense that all the 6,000 people put their shoulder to the wheel. We are here to find out whether more men ought not to have been there. We are not saying whether these 6,000 men did not do their work properly but whether it was not up to them to have rescued in a larger measure during the period of time when it was possible to do so. It was a case in which people might have been so entombed and so covered that it might have been possible to rescue them. In fact, it is common ground that only wherever the soldiers heard any sound of a living person crying for help that they attempted to see whether or not it was possible to rescue a living person. But was that enough in a case of this magnitude ? Then, Sir, there is another thing to which I must refer. What happened after the 2nd of June ? This is what the report says :

“ From the 3rd of June to Saturday evening, the 8th of June, troops were hard at work from 7 A.M. to 6 P.M. digging out the property of residents in Civil Lines and Cantonment area.”

Now, Sir, what right the man in charge of these operations had to detail the soldiers to do this work ? Even if the operations had proved to be futile it was his duty to have employed every single man that was available within the limits of the Quetta City for this rescue work for life even if it had turned out that they could rescue even one life out of one hundred. They had no business to turn away these 6,000 men from the work of rescuing life to the work of rescuing beautiful China. If these 6,000 men were allowed to continue their operations in the “ native quarters ”, and had been able to dig in the hope and expectation that one more life might have been saved, I would have said : “ All honour to them.” But, on the 2nd of June, they said : “ We

shan't do any more. We assume that everybody is dead." And then they go on to do this great work and say: "It is amazing to find the amount of stuff that had been recovered." Sir, what is more amazing to me is that some more lives were not recovered out of that debris. They say: "It is amazing the amount of stuff that was recovered undamaged; furniture, clothing, even jewellery, silver and glass was in many cases dug out from beneath the bricks, etc." Sir, if it was possible to dig out the debris ten feet high in order to get jewellery, silver, glassware, furniture and clothing, might they not have dug ten feet debris in the city during those days, even on the mere off-chance of finding some persons alive? This is a charge that I make but it is not a charge in the sense of making anybody answerable for it. But the point on which I lay great stress is this that the assumption and declaration that on the afternoon of the 2nd of June every single human life had been dead and, therefore, it was not at all necessary to do any further work for the purpose of rescuing life and utilising those persons who were available for the purpose of finding out clothing and jewellery in the Civil Lines and the Cantonment area was a grossly atrocious act. The report goes on to say:

"The troops have been particularly successful in salvaging what the dentists call dental plates. All the owners have had their property restored to them intact and undamaged."

I say no more damaging statement could have emanated from any responsible Government when they say this:

4 P.M.

"On the 2nd of June, we assumed that everybody was dead, but we did not assume that every piece of furniture had been broken. We must dig ten feet in order to find furniture, but we must not dig five or ten feet deep and continue to do so for the purpose, or even on the off-chance, of saving human life." That is why we have the second part of the Resolution which says: "particularly as regards the search for and rescue of the living, wounded and buried". Sir, why should anybody assume that on that fateful day, the mid-day of the 2nd of June, everybody had been dead and it was quite unnecessary to use even the resources that were available—let alone anything else—for the purpose of saving more lives? I am afraid I have not got much time at my disposal but there is one other point to which I must call the attention of the House. Offers were received from the Red Cross Association and other bodies and I honour all those who did that great humanitarian work. I wish to emphasise again and again that I honour every single man who engaged himself in this rescue work and did what he could. But that is not the issue. The real issue is: Firstly, why did you not try to have more men and, secondly, did you not apply your available resources to the higher and the better purpose? That is the issue and it is the issue which cannot be burked. That inquiry, I hope and trust, Government for their own purposes and not for the purpose of clearing their character will accept. Of course, they are honourable men and far above any charge but nonetheless there is such a thing as the people of India otherwise they would not have anybody to govern. And, in order to satisfy these people of India, it is necessary to have a committee of inquiry. After all, it is not the Treasury Benches alone who concentrate within themselves and within their own souls all the available vitality and all the useful vitality of this land. I hope and trust that they will imagine that there is a humanity besides those who sit on the

[Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai.]

other side of the House and those who choose to associate themselves by reading red books and other books. I say, therefore, Sir, that it is not the work they did that is condemned. What is condemned is the manner in which they did that work. I have no time to go into the details but the details are all available and will be available if my friends still think it worth while consenting to have a committee of inquiry. Offers were made from time to time from every available source not more than ten hours journey from the scene of disaster in order to render assistance but those offers were turned down with this remark : " We have enough resources and they are adequate enough to cope with the work." Either it was an error of judgment or it was the deliberate policy of Government. Nonetheless if that was the attitude that he took, why should not he stand an inquiry. If he said : " I have got 6,000 men and I have got 60,000 lives to save and I don't care whether they are saved or not but, for some reason or other, I won't allow you to come in ", he should be prepared to face an inquiry also and justify his conduct. After all, the people who cared to go were volunteers and they would not have blamed anybody if anything happened to them as the result of the dangers which were mentioned. They were going there in the hope of saving their own brethren, their own kith and kin and their own children whom they would have liked to save even at the risk of their own lives. On such occasions you must take risk and they were prepared to take it. After all conditions were not so bad at Quetta at that time. Water did not fail ; sanitation did not fail ; epidemics did not break out. Therefore, what I am suggesting is that for the second part of my Resolution, on the materials put by the Government themselves they have made out a perfectly clear case of inquiry.

The third part of my Resolution is :

' the salvage of property and the transference of the wounded and injured outside the affected area.'

I have no time to address myself in detail to the question of salvage of property but it is put in there for the important reason that the task of this committee would be to suggest measures in order that this property may be restored to their true owners in the most expeditious way possible. For indeed there is always an economic disaster following upon such a calamity, limited though it may be, and such disaster should be met and cleared in the shortest possible time. Coming, Sir, to the transit arrangement for the wounded and the injured, I beg to leave to say a few words before I conclude. This is the report shortly made after it had occurred :

" The first train which reached Karachi conveying the Indian wounded contained 288 patients. It was not an ambulance train but an ordinary troop train. The patients with fractured arms, legs, and hip bones were brought all the way from Quetta in a troop train with three berths one over another. An eye witness states that the whole train was stinking as it arrived at Karachi. The sanitary arrangements were inadequate and defective, especially as the movement of patients with broken limbs lying on the two upper berths was difficult. Some patients had developed gangrene. Four had died on the way. Doctors and nurses with the train were insufficient. When the train arrived at the Karachi platform, many of the patients despite their broken limbs had to be taken out through the windows of the compartments."

It is admitted by them that, up to the 8th of June, no ambulance train brought any Indian wounded.

Sir, I have done. My submission to you is this. My Honourable friend, Mr. Acheson, said, he was appealing to those who had not already made up their minds. May I humbly re-echo his words. May I humbly say that to those who have not made up their minds merely to allow the Government, as I said, each time, to adopt this particular obstinate and stubborn attitude of saying, "who are you to question us"—We are not questioning you. We are only humbly knocking at your door in order that you may lay the whole information about all the work you did at the disposal and before an impartial enquiry. But there is a two-fold purpose in this Resolution. It is first to find out what has been done and what ought to have been done and why every offer was rejected and secondly this Commission of Enquiry would also have the purpose of suggesting means and measures and ways of expeditiously dealing with this unfortunate chapter in so far as its economic aspect is concerned. Much more than that, we will know what had been done. We will then know how much has been done and how much we will have to do in future when a calamity of this kind occurs, so that the Government of the future would be prepared as to the best way and the most efficient way of meeting a calamity to the extent to which such unprecedented, unanticipated and unexpected calamities are capable of being met. Sir, I do appeal to the good sense of the House not to raise wrong issues, not to pretend and salve their conscience that they have answered them. We are not charging that the troops did not do what they were called upon to do and, therefore, any amount of praise of them is not going to cover the real purpose of the enquiry. All honour to those who did the work. On behalf of those whom I represent, insignificant though we are in power (Laughter), but significant as we are in numbers, on behalf of those whom we represent, and we claim to represent (Hear, hear), it is on their behalf that every assistance given is most suitably and appreciably acknowledged, but we are not going to allow that to be an excuse for burking an enquiry. Therefore, let the issue be clearly faced. We make no charges, we make no insinuations. I would have been very glad if the Government were arraigned at our bar, but at present all we are asking for is to set up a committee, and ask the Government to place all their materials honestly and straightforwardly and candidly and fully. Let us have our say, let the sufferers have their say and let the Commission then pronounce upon it. Therefore, I ask those who have not made up their mind, I call upon them in the name of India, in the name of those who have suffered, in the name of those for whom you pretend to sit here, even though nominated or elected, I call upon each one of you to support a Resolution which conveys no insinuation and which only demands an enquiry. (Applause.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Sir, before I address myself to the specific issues raised by this Resolution, I should like, with your permission, Sir, to say one word to voice the feelings that must, I think, be uppermost in the minds.....

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Bombay City : Non-Muhammadan Urban) : Mr. President, you have now called upon the Honourable the Home Member. Does it mean, Sir, that the debate is over ? I want this information. The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition spoke for 32 minutes. Does it mean that the debate is over and the Honourable the Home Member is replying or will other speakers be allowed after the Honourable the Home Member ?

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : That question does not arise now.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : May I point out, Sir, that it does arise in this way. The rule is that only 15 minutes are allowed to a speaker, but, by your gracious orders and your permission, the Leader of the Opposition has been allowed 32 minutes. I do not see why other speakers should be deprived of their privilege of addressing the House. I want to know whether I will be deprived of my privilege of speaking.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The Chair has at present called upon the Honourable Sir Henry Craik to address the House, and, when he has finished, and, if the Honourable Member, who has addressed this question to the Chair, rises, then, the Chair will consider. (Hear, hear.)

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Before I address myself to the specific issues raised in this Resolution, I should like to say one word to voice the feelings of sorrow and sympathy which I think must be uppermost in the minds of every one of us when we consider the terrible calamity which is the subject of our discussions today. It is no conventional expression of sympathy that I voice because it seems to me that there were features about the Quetta tragedy, its terrible suddenness, its finality, its completeness which make a peculiarly poignant appeal even to a generation like ours which has lived through the four most terrible years in recorded history. The tragedy of that peacefully sleeping city wiped out of existence in one second of time surpasses in its stark horror anything I think that occurred even during the four years of the Great War. I think our second thought must be this. How puny a creature is man when confronted with these terrible forces of nature and how infinitely trivial are our petty struggles and disputations and disagreements ! One would have hoped that at a moment like this, the entire sentiment of the whole country without one dissentient voice would have found expression in a resolution of sorrow for the dead and a single-minded desire to do all that is possible to comfort and succour the survivors. Unfortunately, this was not to be. Although the disaster has called forth the deepest sympathy of the whole world and the steps that have been taken to cope with it have evoked the admiration of the whole world, it was left to the Party opposite to strike a note of discord, and in its incessant desire to use any weapon to destroy the prestige of the administration, to use its own words, it has brought forward a Resolution which as I hope to show is founded on prejudice, on unfounded rumours and on distortion of facts.

The speakers for the Resolutions have disclaimed any idea of blaming the troops or the men on the spot. But the three points covered by the Resolution are specific and definite. All of them relate to the action taken by the troops and the men on the spot and all of them call for an enquiry in regard to that action. It is idle to assert, as the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition has asserted, in one breath, that you bring no charge and in the next sentence to bring forward what he himself described as " a most atrocious charge ". If that is the Opposition Leader's logic, then in his own favourite phrase I make him a present of it. This specious claim for an inquiry cannot, I submit, for a moment be sustained. We are asked why, if Government have nothing to conceal, do they not agree to an inquiry and indeed why they have not themselves

asked for an inquiry ? That is not my view at all. We inquire when we think there is anything to inquire into. In this case we are perfectly satisfied that our officers and our men did all that was humanly possible in a most difficult situation ; and we are content to accept the verdict already given by the entire civilised world in no hesitating way, that they did their duty in the most humane and courageous manner possible. Throughout these incidents the Viceroy, the Commander-in-Chief, and the Government of India have been in daily and hourly touch with the men on the spot. No step was taken without our fullest approval and nothing was done of which we were unaware. We are not going to cast on the honour of the army, British and Indian troops alike, the slur that would be implied by accepting this Resolution.

Sir, the charge against Government as it was originally framed in the motion of adjournment tabled on the first day of this Session, but not moved for some obscure reason of which I have no knowledge, was that we had refused to grant permission to two political leaders to proceed to Quetta. Our reasons for refusing permission to them were based on no political grounds ; the prohibition was general and everyone was treated alike. The reasons had been explained at length in statements issued by Government, but as they have been discredited or disbelieved by speakers this afternoon, I feel it my duty to repeat them. The reasons why entry into Quetta was refused after, but not before, the 2nd June, when a second and much worse shock of earthquake occurred, were as follows. There was a very grave risk of failure of the water supply. We are told, it did not in fact fail and where was the risk ? It was almost a miracle that it did not fail. Water is brought from a great many miles away and any one of these shocks,—and there have been almost daily shocks since the end of May,—might have broken down the water supply. The second reason was the risk of interruptions on the railway. The railway line on this side of Quetta has many long tunnels and it is only a single track line. One bad shock brings down one tunnel, and the place is cut off from the outer world except by road or by air. Then thirdly, there was the danger of the outbreak of serious epidemics. There again Honourable Members who spoke for the Resolution have taken the sneering line that there was no danger because there was no epidemic. That seems to me to be a completely fatuous line of argument. With thousands of corpses and millions of flies feeding on those corpses, in a place where typhoid, malaria and cholera are always endemic, there was the very gravest fear of an outbreak of disease ; and the more people in the place, the graver the fear. It was only the extremely fine work done by the doctors on the spot and the rapid reinforcement of medical personnel and the supply of medical prophylactics and necessities that averted that danger. Fourthly, there was the scarcity of food supplies and the total absence of accommodation of any kind. That is one thing to which no speaker today has referred. Every house in the place was either flat or was too dangerous to live in, and the only accommodation available was the tents which the military were able to supply. By the 2nd June the supply of tents had been exhausted and there was no accommodation for any one else of any kind whatever. Many of the wounded survivors were at that time necessarily lying out in the open because there was no cover to put them under. Fifthly, there was the necessity of conserving all forms of transport by rail, road or air for the carriage into the affected area of medical personnel and medical stores, and for the carriage out

[Sir Henry Craik.]

of the area of the wounded and refugees who desired to be evacuated. And lastly, there was the danger, which subsequent experience proved to be very well founded, of further shocks of earthquake causing possibly loss of life, in any case loss of nerve, and increasing the difficulties of those who had to deal with the panic-stricken refugees. The situation by the 2nd June was in short one where there was no need of any further help on the spot. People were being evacuated as quickly as possible; the first duty of the authorities then was to evacuate these panic-stricken people and the sick and wounded from Quetta so that none should be left but the able-bodied and the unwounded, who would naturally be more capable and better fitted to resist disease.

In such circumstances, the arrival of any additional relief party would have merely been embarrassing to the authorities. I should like again to emphasise that up till the 2nd June there was no prohibition. As Mr. Tottenham has pointed out, anybody who arrived up to that date was allowed to come into Quetta; and several small relief parties did arrive and something like 3,000 individual visitors. But, after the 2nd June, any more would have been a hindrance rather than a help and would have greatly added to the difficulties of the men on the spot who had most urgent work to do. Relief work was then in the hands of a large and splendidly disciplined force of men. Casual helpers under no discipline, possibly indifferently led, who had to be fed, accommodated, housed and medically looked after, could have been of no assistance whatever. They would merely have been so many more mouths to feed and would merely have meant turning out into the open people who had a better right to shelter than themselves. The scope for relief work then was in the relief camps started in various parts of India and in these camps splendid work was done by voluntary workers including, I am glad to acknowledge, many Congress organisations. But in Quetta itself at that time there was no scope for unofficial relief work.

I do not know that I need refer further to the question of the exclusion of these two political leaders, but I would make one observation on this point. Mr. Gandhi did not apply to go to Quetta till the 6th June. He then wrote a letter which reached Simla on the 8th or 9th. Even had permission been given to him he could not possibly have arrived there till the 11th or 12th at the earliest. The Congress President, Babu Rajendra Prasad, never made any suggestion that he should go to Quetta himself, but merely asked that relief parties should be allowed to go.

Sir, the gravest of the three charges against Government is as regards the search for and rescue of the living, wounded and dead. I should have thought that Mr. Tottenham's speech this morning had fully met the case on that particular point, but evidently from the speech we have just heard it has not carried the conviction that it ought to have to the Benches opposite. The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition has said it was a callous and a brutal assumption to make that there were no survivors after the 2nd of June. Nobody ever made that assumption: no such assumption was made; it was thought probable—and I think on very good grounds—that those who were buried under the ruins must all have perished by that time; but no assumption was made that there were no living persons under the ruins, and the search for

possible living did not stop on the 2nd of June as has been asserted, but went on continuously till the 7th June. It is true that on the 2nd of June the conditions in the city were so appalling and insanitary that work had to be temporarily suspended, because it was not safe to let men go on working without gas-masks of some kind. But the patrolling of the city went on continuously after that date and by the next day, I think, gas-masks had been served out and parties were working regularly with gas-masks. By the 4th June, a regular salvage corps had been organised of local labour, and was at work again on an intensive scale. The misunderstanding as regards that particular point, I think, has largely arisen from the use in one of the statements of the expression: "The city has been sealed." That was understood to mean that an impenetrable cordon of troops or police had been drawn round it and that nobody, military or civilian, was allowed to go inside. I admit that that was a very misleading expression. In actual fact it only meant that all excepting the military were cleared out of the city on the 2nd of June and that thereafter the only parties allowed to work in the city were military parties. But it does not imply—and that is the point that I want to drive home—that work of searching for possible survivors in the city ceased on the 2nd of June: it did not so cease: it went on continuously till the intensive drive through the city on the 7th June showed conclusively that there could not be a living soul in the city. That precaution which was described as "sealing up" was taken on sanitary grounds. It was impossible, without grave risk of infection from thousands of putrefying corpses, to allow anybody to work there except under the strictest medical precautions and the strictest control and discipline.

I have said that the people on the spot made no assumption that nobody could possibly be alive after the 2nd of June: but the people on the spot did consider that it was most improbable that there were any survivors after that date and, as a matter of fact, the only case of a survivor being dug out alive after the afternoon of 2nd June was the woman who was dug out with a baby on the 4th of June—what has been described as a miraculous escape. The conversation I had the other day with Mr. Hogg, to whom Mr. Tottenham referred, the Leader of the Boy Scouts, who did such magnificent work in handling and disposing of corpses, seemed to me the best possible corroboration of the view taken by the men on the spot on that point. Mr. Hogg went to Quetta on the 10th June and stayed there with his burial parties, as he called them, of Rover Scouts till the 23rd of August when he was struck down by sun-stroke and came here on a few days' holiday: he has now gone back to resume the splendid work that he was doing. All the corpses dug out by the salvage parties were handled by Mr. Hogg's three burial parties: whenever a salvage party came across a corpse, they called up one of these burial parties and Mr. Hogg saw every corpse himself: there were by the time he spoke to me over 600 of them; and he assured me that hardly one of them had not been killed instantaneously. There were none that showed any signs of struggle, and the few, the very, very few, that were found outside their houses and not lying on their beds, were buried under sometimes 8, sometimes 10, sometimes 12, and sometimes more feet of rubble and debris. Their death too must have been instantaneous or practically so. That is the strongest corroboration of the correctness of the deduc-

[Sir Henry Craik.]

tion drawn by those working in the city, that it was exceedingly improbable that after the first forty-eight hours, there could have been any survivors.

Much has been made both in this House and in the newspapers of the statement that in the Bihar earthquake many people were dug out after five or six or seven days. That seemed to be assumed as *a priori* correct. But I had the curiosity the other day to write to the Bihar Government and ask them whether they had heard of any case of such a rescue; and I was told that there was no case whatever on their records, and that though certain stories to that effect had been going about at the time, there was no authentic and proved case of such a rescue. In any case even if there had been an authenticated case, it would prove nothing. The conditions of the Bihar earthquake were completely different from the conditions of the Quetta earthquake. In Bihar the earthquake took place at 2 o'clock on a winter afternoon. Nobody would be asleep at that hour or hardly anybody; and most people would be either out of doors or sitting on their verandahs, and naturally a very large number succeeded in escaping. Moreover, the destruction of buildings was nothing like on the same scale as at Quetta. Many buildings were no doubt destroyed, but there was no case, so far as I know, of the complete and utter destruction of a whole town or even of an entire bazaar. In Quetta city I believe it is correct to say that every building went flat at once.....

An Honourable Member : So was the case at Monghyr—two miles long and one mile broad.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : In Quetta city, I believe, not a single building was left standing and there is no analogy between the extent of the loss of life in Bihar and in Quetta: in Bihar the earthquake was spread over a much wider area, but the loss of life was infinitely less. (Interruption.)

Now, those who assert that many could have survived after the first two or three days have tried to bolster up their theory by a most malicious and cruel story—cruel because it must have caused pain to the man's relations—that appeared in the press of a man who had dug himself out of a shop—a sweetmeat seller's shop, no less than 47 days after the earthquake. This was all related most categorically and circumstantially: the man's name was given and so on: the story of how he had been buried in his shop and how he dug himself out with the iron ladle with which he stirred his sweets. That struck us at once as a most peculiar story and we made investigations. It was found that though there was a man of that name living in Quetta, and though he did keep a sweet shop, he never slept at his shop, but he slept in his house at some distance from his shop: no living soul has since seen him since the earthquake, and the inference is that he as well as his family perished, not in his shop at all but in his house. The inventive malice that can produce a story like that, entirely false and utterly unsubstantiated, is really almost incredible, but I have seen in the press other stories almost as absurd as that. There was one, I remember that appeared in a paper, a strong supporter of the Congress party and a paper that pretends to be very reputable, the *Hindustan Times*,—it claims to be

that,—there was a story of an Anglo-Indian called Brookes who at the relief camp in Delhi had told the representative of this paper of his own horrible experiences in the earthquake. It was stated that he was serving in the Government Dairy Farm or Grass Farm,—I forget which,—at Quetta, and when his house collapsed, he was left with his head and shoulders sticking out, but his wife was less lucky, as only her hands were above the surface. Some soldiers came along and they pulled him out at his urgent request. After they had been hacking about with their spades—and it was said that they broke several peoples' arms and legs in their indiscriminate digging operations,—they came near the debris where his wife was lying helpless, and he said "Rescue my wife, her hands are still moving"; but he alleged that they callously walked away and left her to die. That story was printed with every circumstance of detail, with every appearance of truth. We made investigations, and we found out that not only was there no man of the name of Brookes employed by the Grass Farm, Dairy Farm or any other department in Quetta, but for six years there had been no one of that name on the roll of any Military department in Quetta. The Grass Farm was outside the zone of the earthquake, and no damage was done there at all. Brookes himself was found to be a drunken, half-witted loafer who was taking shelter in the Delhi relief camp along with other refugees, and he is now, so far as my inquiries have carried me, in a lunatic asylum. That is the sort of stuff out of which foul charges are manufactured against the soldiers!

There was another instance about which my friend, Mr. Satyamurti, was good enough to make inquiry across the floor of the House the other day, and this came to our notice in this way. At the end of a political meeting in England which was addressed by a lady whose name must be familiar to many Honourable Members, the Duchess of Atholl, an Indian from the audience came up to her and handed her a letter which he had received from his brother in Karachi. The brother related the experiences of a friend who had kept a draper's shop at Quetta. The draper had told his friend in Karachi, who had written to his brother in England, the following story, that his shop collapsed, that though he himself was uninjured, he saw many people all round buried under the debris, and British soldiers came along and deliberately tore off the rings from the hands of dead or dying women. They then looted this man's shop and helped themselves freely to his stock. He then in despair went to the officer in charge of transport and asked for a pass on the railway. The officer refused to give him a pass unless he paid him a bribe. That was pretty detailed and pretty circumstantial, names were given and so on. We got hold of the brother in Karachi. We got hold of the actual draper. The former was described by the officers who interviewed them as an unreliable youngman and likely to be influenced by unreliable stories. But the actual man (the draper), who had been in Quetta, denied the truth of every allegation repeated in the other man's letter and denied that he had ever made any such statements. That is the kind of thing with which we had to compete in the press. But that by no means exhausts the abominable stories.

A Cawnpore paper published a statement alleged to have been made by a gentleman called Dr. Muhammad Ismail, Medical Officer to His Highness the Khan of Kalat. This Doctor is said to have told a

[Sir Henry Craik.]

representative of a paper that if salvage operations had not been delayed, many more live persons could have been saved from the debris, and the complaint was that the work of digging was not done properly and that the soldiers worked very carelessly. Well, there again was an allegation we could follow up. We found Dr. Ismail, who is or was the Medical Officer to His Highness the Khan of Kalat. He denied that he made any statement of that kind to any newspaperman. He is alleged to have made the statement to a newspaper correspondent at Amritsar. It was discovered that he never even left his railway carriage at Amritsar on his journey to his home which was further south. He had made no mention of the subject of Quetta or relief work during the whole of his journey to any correspondent of any newspaper, either in Amritsar or elsewhere.

Then, there was another story in the *Hindustan Times*, that stalwart organ of the Congress party. Here again full names were given. Patram, son of Ishwardas, contractor, made written statement, it was said, to the camp authorities at Quetta, the substance of which was that his Munshi had notes worth Rs. 500, when some soldiers turned up and snatched away the money and distributed it among themselves. We traced with some difficulty Mr. Patram, who actually turned out to be a mason working on daily wages. He made a statement to the effect that British soldiers took away no money of his, but on the contrary they helped him in every way they could, and had treated him with the greatest kindness. (Official Cheers.)

Then a Saharanpur paper produced what I may call a really horrifying story of the atrocities committed by the military. Terrible stories of women who were refused help, and who recounted "the diabolical nature of the military administration". The military forcibly took away what jewellery they could get hold of. No name was mentioned, and we could not follow it up, but the paper was challenged, and the editor admitted that the whole story was an absolute lie from beginning to end and published an apology. I have said enough to illustrate the kind of stories, the kind of foul slanders that have disfigured a certain section of the press. Then I am asked to agree to an enquiry which, in spite of the moderation of the speeches made in this House, is, in essence, based on that kind of rumour, that kind of allegation. In every single case where it was possible to follow up the allegation, it was followed up and shown to be entirely and utterly without foundation except a foundation of malice and hatred. As I say, in essence the demand for an enquiry is based, as was admitted by many Honourable Members who spoke on the Resolution, on the fact that there are rumours about, and I have given you some specimens of these rumours. Into such rumours I entirely refuse to enquire further than I have done. If Honourable Members opposite would realise the contempt and indignation roused among the troops themselves by this kind of horrible slander, they would have hesitated before bringing forward such a Resolution.

The Leader of the Opposition has favoured the House with one of his usual brilliant orations. This time he indulged beforehand, like a popular *prima donna*, in a preliminary flourish of advertisement. We were told in another organ of the Congress Party, *Roy's Weekly*, just before the Session began.....

Mr. S. Satyamurti (Madras City : Non-Muhammadan : Urban) : Is it a Congress organ ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Is it not ? Then, all I can say is, I do not know why it publishes accounts of the debates in this House in the way in which it does. However, that paper said in an issue of last month that the Leader of the Opposition would speak on Quetta. Then, mind you, there was an adjournment motion contemplated, but apparently the Leader of the Opposition thought that it was better to have a wider field for his talents. We were told that his speech would be "the most sensational speech of the Session", that the Leader of the Opposition would not say a word that we was not "heavily docketed with incontrovertible facts". We were warned in advance that all those who wanted to hear his epoch-making speech should immediately apply for tickets to the gallery. I do not know whether the House considers that his speech has lived up to that preliminary puff. For myself I admit I entirely enjoyed it, and with all sincerity I congratulate the Leader of the Opposition. I have never heard a worse case more ably presented. (Cheers.) His case is as weak as any one I have ever heard. Specious pleas are put forward. "Grant an enquiry. What have you to lose ? You have nothing to hide. Grant an enquiry. We make no charges". And in the next breath most disgraceful charges are made ! In fact, we are to go into the dock, as the Honourable the Foreign Secretary said, with the charges ready framed against us, and to submit ourselves to what I suppose would be called an impartial jury largely composed of Honourable gentlemen opposite.

An Honourable Member : Are we not impartial ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Thank you, very much. We are not going to accept that invitation.

Sir, we have often heard from Honourable Members opposite the use of the term exploitation,—that we are exploiting the starving masses of India and so on. Is there a lower form of exploitation than exploiting this dreadful tragedy which has horrified the whole world, in order to gain a political advantage ? That is the lowest form of exploitation I can imagine. Sir, as I have said, every step taken at Quetta was taken with the approval of His Excellency the Viceroy, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the whole Government. If anything wrong has been done, we assume the responsibility. The responsibility is not that of the men on the spot ; the responsibility is ours. And we are to walk into the dock on these unspecified and unprovable charges ! If we are satisfied with what our agents have done, why should we agree to an enquiry ? (*Cries of "Oh !"* from the Congress Party Benches.) As regards the men on the spot, as I have said, we are perfectly content to leave their actions to the judgment of the world at large, and I claim that the civilised world has pronounced its verdict in an unmistakable fashion on the splendid action taken by the troops, on the courage and humanity with which they discharged their duty. We shall not have an enquiry, and we shall not be deflected from our decision by any arguments put forward by a political party whose only object is to employ any means, to exploit any incident in order to discredit the Government. (Loud Applause.)

Some Honourable Members : Let the question be now put.

Mr President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

“ That the question be now put.”

The Assembly divided :

AYES—67.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Asaf Ali, Mr. M.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Ba Si, U
Banerjee, Dr. P. N.
Baqi, Mr. M. A.
Bardaloi, Srijut N. C.
Bhagavan Das, Dr.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Das, Mr. B.
Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
Desai, Mr. Bhrulabhai J.
Deehmukh, Dr. G. V.
Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Syed.
Giri, Mr. V. V.
Gupta, Mr. Ghanshiam Singh.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
Jogenfra Singh, Sardar.
Khan Sahib, Dr.
Khare, Dr. N. B.
Lalchand Navarai, Mr.

Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Malaviya, Pandit Krishna Kant.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Mudaliar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nageswara Rao, Mr. K.
Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta.
Pant, Pandit Govind Ballabh.
Parma Nand, Bhai.
Raghubir Narayan Singh, Choudhri.
Raju, Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Saksena, Mr. Mohan Lal.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Sham Lal, Mr.
Sheodass Daga, Seth.
Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Anugrah Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Shri Krishna.
Som, Mr. Surya Kumar.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Thein Maung, Dr.
Thein Maung, U
Umar Aly Shah, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Vissanji, Mr. Mathuradas.

NOES—65.

Abdoola Haroon, Seth Haji.
Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
Acheson, Mr. J. G.
Ayyar, Diwan Bahadur R. V. Krishna.
Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Badi-uz-Zaman, Maulvi.
Bajoria, Babu Baijnath.
Bajpai, Sir Girja Shankar.
Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
Bhagchand Soni, Kari Bahadur Seth.
Bhat, Mr. Madhusudan Damsodar.
Blackwell, Mr. J. H.
Bower, Mr. E. H. M.
Boyle, Mr. J. D.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
Clow, Mr. A. G.
Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
Dalal, Dr. R. D.
Desai, Mr. S. P.
Desouza, Dr. F. X.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Sahib Shaikh.

Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kumar Vijay Ananda.
Gauba, Mr. K. L.
Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.
Graham, Sir Lancelot.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
Hands, Mr. A. S.
Hidayatallah, Sir Ghulam Hussain.
Hockenhull, Mr. F. W.
James, Mr. F. E.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
Lal Chand, Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.
Laljee, Mr. Husenbhai Abdullahai.
Leach, Mr. F. B.
Lee, Mr. D. J. N.
Lester, Mr. T.
Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
MacLachlan, Mr. D.
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Syed Muhammad.

NOES—contd.

Milligan, Mr. J. A.
 Mody, Sir Horimusji Peroshaw.
 Morgan, Mr. G.
 Muhammad Nauman, Mr.
 Mukherjee, Raj Bahadur Sir Satya
 Charan.
 Owen, Mr. L.
 Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.
 Rau, Mr. P. R.
 Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.
 Sarma, Mr. E. S.

Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.
 Sher Muhammad Khaz, Captain Sardar.
 Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
 Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
 Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.
 Yakub, Sir Muhammad.
 Yamin Khan, Mr. Muhammad.
 Zafrullah Khan, The Honourable Sir
 Muhammad.
 Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai : I am quite ready if they want further discussion. It was not our object to shut out discussion, but we had no other alternative but to ask for a vote. We have only this last non-official day allowed for Resolutions. If any one is under the impression that we wanted to shirk discussion, he is under a misapprehension. What we did desire was a decisive vote of the House one way or the other, and I do not mind if they do not want it.

Sir Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Muhammadan Rural) : The leader of a party has been insulted
 5 P.M. in a manner which I have never known before. Whatever may be the intention of the learned Leader of the Opposition, he always says one thing and means another thing.....

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) Order, order. The Chair cannot allow a matter like this to be discussed. There has been a division, and it has been declared that the "Noes" have it. The discussion will proceed either today or will continue on another day, if one is allotted. (*Honourable Members on the Government Benches* : "No, no.") Then the Chair is prepared to sit till six or half past six.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : Although I am under certain disabilities, I trust the House will really excuse me for intervening at this stage. As I was not in India when this terrible calamity occurred I was not able to follow the controversy between Government and some very worthy citizens of India on what should be done and what should not be done or what should have been done and what should not have been done at Quetta. I was unfortunately not present here this morning for no fault of my own. Suffering under these disabilities, I venture to say a few words.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, one of the Panel of Chairmen.]

From what I could make out from the speeches made this afternoon, it appears that neither the Mover nor any of the speakers who may have preceded the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition ever intended to contend that the army at Quetta behaved in any other than in the most creditable manner. That, I understand, was the trend of the speeches and, what is more, I understand that the Mover of the Resolution actually said so. Now, Sir, if that be the intention of the Mover or the Resolution and of others,—I do not include amongst all those who

[Sir Cowasji Jehangir.]

intended not to cast a slur upon the army, the Leader of the Opposition,— I mean if all those who intended that no slur should be cast upon the army, I would ask the House to read the Resolution a little more carefully. Sir, what does the Resolution ask the proposed Committee to consider? "... particularly as regards the search for and rescue of the living, wounded and buried". Who was responsible for that search? None other but the army that was present at Quetta at the time of this terrible catastrophe! It was the army who could alone serve the devastated area by "a search for and rescue of the living, wounded and buried". No other organization could have done this work, Sir, and, it was merely by chance, by the act of Providence, that the army was enabled to do this work, for, as somebody said, if the earthquake had taken just slightly another turn, there might have been no army to do this work: and, therefore, the investigation that is desired is to see whether the army that was there at the time did do its work of rescuing the dying and the wounded properly. Then, again, what else does this Resolution want?—to report on—"the transference of the wounded and injured outside the affected area". Well, Sir, in the first instance, again, it was only the army who could help; the other organizations came into existence for this purpose at a much later date: and, therefore, let it not be said that we do not read this Resolution correctly when we state that it was originally framed with the idea of a nasty, dirty insinuation that there was something wrong, something suspicious in the way in which the army acted in the first five days. I maintain, Sir, that that is the insinuation behind this Resolution, and it is that insinuation which has been so strongly repudiated by, I understand, all my friends on the Congress Benches except the Leader of the Opposition. Sir, never has it been my misfortune to listen to a more grossly atrocious speech than the one delivered by Mr. Bhulabhai Desai (*Cries of "Hear, hear"* from the Official and some of the Independent Benches). Sir, my Honourable friend himself used the words "grossly atrocious". Never has it been my misfortune in this Assembly to hear a more atrocious, and a more grossly atrocious, speech (*Cries of "Hear, hear"* from the Official Benches),—a more illogical speech, containing more specious arguments, unworthy of a Leader of the Opposition (*Cries of "Hear, hear"* from the Official Benches), unworthy of a great lawyer. (*Cries of "Hear, hear"* from the Official Benches.) Does he believe he was addressing a police Court? Sir, he first admitted that he was the author of this Resolution, that it was his marvellous brain that produced this wonderful Resolution! Well, Sir, all I can say is that my Honourable friend has three mentalities,—one when he drafted the Resolution, another when he began his speech, and a third mentality, very much like the first, when he began really to tackle what he thought was an argument: he really intended, when he drafted this Resolution, that there should be a sting in it. Now, having found the temper of the House not inclined to take that view, he tried to change it. Then, when he began to read the Resolution to the House, he found he had to put up some justification, and his mentality went back to the original state. Sir, that is how I analyze my Honourable friend's mentality today. Sir, he first stated that he endorsed the speeches which were meant to convey that there was no insinuation against the Army in this

Resolution. He asked—why should anybody read into the Resolution any idea or sentiment that was never intended to be conveyed? Well, I can understand that. I can understand a man sitting down to draft a Resolution and conveying in that Resolution in black and white ideas and sentiments which he never intends. That has often happened. There is nothing very strange about it. But he did not stop at that. He went much further, and went on to accuse the men on the spot on that occasion of having a mentality which did not care for the life or for the sufferings of humanity, for he said—“ what does life matter to these men ? ”—These men who, in the middle of the night, were called out to serve afflicted humanity, and who, perhaps, were really only doing their duty and who did it really well,—for them to be accused in this way today,—against them to use such a malicious insinuation that they had no regard for life and suffering—and these are the words he used—is monstrous! Then he went on to state that because in his imagination they did not go on in their search for the dead—which was contradicted by the Honourable the Home Member, and which I believe has been contradicted on more than one occasion before—he went on to say that this was a grossly atrocious act! Now, Sir, if this is the kind of justification for this Resolution which we have read correctly and which is intended to be an insinuation against those Indian troops,—not only against British but against those Indian troops at Quetta who were there heroically doing their duty (Hear, hear), who were instrumental, Sir, in saving thousands of lives, then I shall refuse—if I call myself an “ Indian ”—to associate myself with that speech, the dastardly speech made by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. (*Cries of “ Hear, hear ”* from the Official Benches.)

Mr. Chairman, I regret that you should be in the Chair, a worthy representative of the Congress, when I am forced to make a speech like this. But, after all, I feel and I hope and trust many of my friends on the Congress side also do believe—that their Leader over-stepped the mark. (*Cries of “ No, no ”* from the Congress Party Benches.) Let me hope that he did it unconsciously. (*Cries of “ No, no ”* from the Congress Party Benches.) If he did it deliberately, then I have no further words to state. I have only used the very words that were used by the Leader of the Opposition. I have not used words which he has not used himself. They were all men of honour and acted like men of honour and there were Indians who acted with the greatest credit to their country and the Leader of the Opposition called them men who acted atrociously. He has doubted their *bonâ fides*; he has doubted their humanity; and I, as an Indian, will not listen to this in silence. Mr. Chairman, all I have got to say is that there has been more than enough justification for our believing that the Resolution was intended to be an insinuation—a veiled insinuation if you like—against men who acted nobly and honourably. I won't say that they acted like heroes because I do not like exaggerated terms but I will content myself by saying that they acted honourably and I for one will not go into the lobby to support a Resolution which is a disgrace to our own people.

Mr. M. S. Aney (Berar Representative): Sir, I had no mind to intervene in this debate today because I thought that the question had been discussed sufficiently but for the speech which my Honourable friend,

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

the Leader of the Independent Party, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, has made. It is that speech which compelled me to break my silence. And I thought that before recording my vote on this Resolution, if it comes to vote at all, I should have my say. I want, at the outset, to protest strongly against the manner in which my friend expressed his difference with my Honourable friend, Mr. Bhullabhai Desai, the Leader of the Opposition. His opposition to the views propounded by the Leader of the Opposition is not a surprise to me but the way and the vehemence with which he put forth his views was nothing but—to use his own language—simply atrocious.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir : That word was used by the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. M. S. Aney : But it was worst for you to have used it, knowing that it was a bad word. My Honourable friend singled out this expression from its entire context in the speech of the Leader of the Opposition and tried to show that the Leader of the Opposition described the work of the military, who undoubtedly did good work, as a piece of atrocious act. That I positively say he never meant and it was interpreted in a wrong way. It was a deliberate and mischievous interpretation that he put on it. With all the harmony that exists between various Parties, I never expected that he would go so much out of his way and try to characterise the whole expression of his views as 'atrocious'. I am sure in his sober moments he will certainly repent for having said what he did. I have no doubt about that in my mind. I have been working in this House for so many years and I know him. He probably never meant what in a moment of fit and excitement he unwittingly gave out.

Sir, I will try to take as detached a view as possible of all the facts that have been brought to our notice during the course of this debate on this unfortunate calamity that occurred at Quetta. I will not try to import into it any feeling or heat whatsoever. I would like to look at the question only from one point of view—whether a case for an inquiry has been made out or not. Whether a case has been made out and whether such a case, if made out, would amount to any insinuation against the military are two different matters. The whole question has been clouded here on account of the particular angle from which it has been looked at by this Party and by that Party. If the facts that have been brought before us show that there is a *primâ facie* case for an inquiry into the matter, then I believe there should be no difficulty for the Government to accept this Resolution if we are prepared to make a frank and candid statement that there is no intention to cast the slightest insinuation against those who have taken part in these rescue operations and have acted so nobly and heroically in saving human life. With that clear assurance given to us, it is possible for us to take a detached view of the facts that have been placed before the House. I shall place only two facts for the consideration of the House. It is admitted that at some stage the rescue work was stopped. That fact is admitted by both the Parties. According to the red pamphlet, which is an official and more authentic document according to them, it was stopped on the 3rd of June.

Mr. G. E. F. Tottenham : It was stopped on the 7th of June.

Mr. M. S. Aney : According to Government, it was stopped on the 7th of June. Now, it has been stated here in another pamphlet that the work was stopped either on the 3rd of June or on the 2nd of June. I shall read out to you an extract from the letter of the correspondent of the *Times of India* who was probably present on the spot and who gives his opinion after having seen things for himself. It is from the *Times of India*, dated the 20th June. He says :

“ I need not enlarge the conditions under which the troops worked. They were too ghastly to bear description. (He is referring to the stink and so on.) It was decided at mid-day (he is giving the description of 2nd of June) that rescue operations must cease.”

Now, here are two versions. The person who was an eye-witness said that the decision was taken by the authorities that the rescue operations must cease on the 2nd of June. There might have been excavations going on up to the 7th of June for various purposes. It is not said that all work must stop. But here is a statement of an eye-witness to the effect that decision was taken to stop rescue operations on the mid-day of 2nd of June. There is another version here. The two versions are conflicting. The one version is given by the correspondent of the *Times of India*. He does not belong to the Congress or the Extremist party. In this letter you will find that the correspondent of the *Times of India* has given credit to the work that has been done by the troops. With all that he has said, I should like to associate myself and I will take off my hat to the soldiers, noble ladies and all others who have done their work most admirably. I associate myself with all the compliments that have been paid to the troops. At the same time, you will see, Sir, that here is a person who is not at all biased against the Government. On the other hand he is interested in upholding the honour of the troops as much as the Honourable Members of the Government are interested in upholding that. This correspondent makes a statement that during the mid-day of the 2nd June a decision was taken to stop rescue work. It is an important piece of evidence before the House. The House has to decide whether, in view of these two conflicting versions, it is not necessary to find out what is the exact position. I submit, Sir, that a *prima facie* case has been made out for a Committee to enquire into the truth about this matter because the question of stoppage of rescue work has got much to do with regard to the ultimate decision which we can take upon the general question whether there was any possibility of further saving any human life or not. It is only when we are able to find out exactly the hour at which rescue work was stopped, we will be able to come to a proper decision about the question whether further more human lives could have been saved or not. *Prima facie*, there are two versions given by witnesses whose veracity cannot be easily impeached. Even if nothing else has been proved excepting this one thing which we have got from the correspondent of the *Times of India*, I maintain that a *prima facie* case has been made out for an enquiry.

The next point is this. We were told that up to 2nd June persons were allowed to have free access to the City of Quetta. It is stated in this book also and Honourable Members of Government repeat that. If my Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navairai, has succeeded in proving demonstrably anything, it is that on his own personal knowledge, train-loads of people on hearing of the news of the great calamity that overtook

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

Quetta on the morning of 31st May, were going to that place and they were stopped at Sibi. That is a statement which has been made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, on the floor of the House. I am not prepared to think that he made that statement without knowing the meaning of what he was saying. He referred to the stoppage of people from going in trains to Quetta at Sibi and he also referred to some other stations beyond which the people were not allowed to go. I cannot say whether it was or was not a proper step for the authorities to stop the people from going in trains at those stations. The fact remains that the people who wanted to render help to their relations who might have been the victims of the calamity were not allowed to proceed to Quetta to render such help, sometime before 2nd of June. Immediately after they got the news of the calamity in Quetta, they went to afford relief to their relatives, but they were not allowed.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : I do not accept the statement that anybody arrived at Quetta on June 1st.

Mr. M. S. Aney : I am only trying to show that here is a piece of information which is different from that of the Government.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : To the best of my belief, the line was damaged, and no trains could get through to Quetta on the 1st ?

Mr. M. S. Aney : I do not vouch for the accuracy of this version. That only strengthens my plea that there are two different versions and two conflicting explanations which deserve to be considered very carefully by the Government and this House. In the absence of any further evidence coming forth is it possible for this House to come to a decision as to whether what the Honourable Member on the Government side says is the reality and what the non-official Member says is absurd ? It is difficult for us to accept the statement of the one as against the statement of the other. I am sure my Honourable friend, the Home Member, is acting upon the information supplied to him by his officers at Quetta. He is not in a position to give first hand information based on his own personal knowledge. It is quite possible that the information supplied by the correspondent of the *Times of India* who was on the spot and by my Honourable friend, who was living in the vicinity of the tract where the calamity took place, is the correct one and that subsequent information given to Government by somebody else may not be quite correct. My point is this. I am not going to impeach the veracity of anybody. I am trying to put before the House the fact that there is at any rate a doubtful point on which two conflicting versions are there. The proper solution of these two important conflicting versions has got much to do to enable us to know whether all has been done to rescue the people there, whether the excavation and salvage operations were properly done and so on. If we know the real version we can decide with some degree of certainty whether all that was possible to be done was done and whether anything more that was possible was left undone. To make up our minds on that point, it is necessary for us to ascertain all these facts. I believe there has been sufficiently conflicting opinions on this point coming from quarters whose veracity it is not possible for us to question. Simply because one Party says, 'Yes' and the other party says, 'No', nobody is in a position to state which is the correct version. We do not know how

far those people on whom the Government relied for accurate information gave such correct information. We, therefore, do not know whether what the correspondent of the *Times of India* says is the true version or what the Government say is the true version. If I have succeeded in proving that on these two points which are of vital importance for the sake of knowing the exact nature of the rescue operations and when they were stopped, there is evidence of a conflicting nature before the House, then I think a *prima facie* case has been made out for an enquiry. We should know whether the particular remedy that was taken, whether the steps that were taken were sufficient to cope with a calamity of such magnitude. If I have made out these two points to the satisfaction of the House, then I think I am entitled to ask both Parties to forget their differences, forget all the possible insinuations which are alleged to contain in the language of the Resolution. I would ask the Government and the Independent Party to accept the candid explanation given before the House by those who have sponsored the Resolution and I would appeal to them to consent to an impartial enquiry such as that suggested in the Resolution. I think, having proved both the points, I am entitled to ask both the Parties to take a detached view of the situation, and I believe if they would do that, we will come to the conclusion that there is a *prima facie* case made out for asking the Government to institute an enquiry of the kind suggested. I would have appreciated the observations of my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, and even of the Honourable the Foreign Secretary and of the Honourable the Home Member if they had suggested some suitable alterations to the Resolution to meet their objections. If my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, had suggested some amendment to make the Resolution less offensive in his eyes, I would have gladly understood his position. If any such suggestion had been made, I think the Congress Party would have also considered it. On the other hand if the object of my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasji Jehangir, and his friends, is to see that the enquiry is stopped, then we take strong exception to the attitude of those who persist in such obstinacy against the Resolution. I think the Honourable the Home Member and his colleagues standing behind him would see that it is eminently desirable to have an enquiry in order to show to the public at large that all the steps taken by Government were adequate or inadequate to cope with the situation in Quetta. I concede that the Government had to do everything at a very short notice with troops numbering about 6,000. They had to do everything within three or four days with such small resources of men. I am prepared to say that they did everything in their power that was humanly possible for them to do and that they did everything that was necessary to be done. But we are not able to pronounce any opinion on the question whether it was not possible for the Commander in charge of the troops to allow outside help. It is only if we have a dispassionate enquiry of the kind suggested in the Resolution that we will be able to come to the right decision on all these points. If we look at this question not so much from the point of view of the possibility of any insinuation or any charge or observation being implied against those who had done their work nobly, if the inquiry is conceded, but from the point of view of finding out what should have been done then, then we will succeed in drawing proper lessons that may be useful to us to cope with similar calamities if, unfortunately, they should recur again anywhere. If the House should take the latter view, then I am sure there would be no difficulty for Honourable Members on

[Mr. M. S. Aney.]

this side of the House whether they belong to the Independent Party or no party or whether they belong to the official party or any other party to record their vote in favour of the motion for holding an enquiry into this matter. Sir, with these few observations, I support the motion before the House. (Applause.)

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions : Mu-hammadan Rural) : Sir, I want to intervene in this debate not because I have practical experience of the earthquake in Quetta or I would not have been here to speak, but because I heard the whole story from persons who themselves had first hand experience. Five of my students were in Quetta at the time of the earthquake and they survived. Three brothers, who were there, told me when they came back to Aligarh that their grandmother, by some divine instinct, advised the whole family to sleep outside in the verandah and only one female servant was sleeping inside. The result was that the whole family was saved with the exception of this particular female servant who was sleeping inside. These students, who were there at the time of the actual catastrophe, who were there for several days subsequently, told me verbally about the splendid work which the military did in rescuing the people, and in providing every possible comfort. Of course I do not go by the reports of the newspapers because I know what value to attach to them and how far they can be relied upon. I myself have been a victim of these newspaper rumours and I have seen a number of articles published in various papers speculating the amount of salary which I should be drawing as Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh University ; and not a single paper has ever published the fact that according to the statutes of the Aligarh University the Vice-Chancellor is not entitled to any salary, honorarium or allowance of any kind sumptuary or otherwise. Even when I have to do the work of a Professor it must be honorary. No newspaper ever pointed this fact although a large number of them had been quoting as an established fact the amount which I must be drawing as Vice-Chancellor of the University. Therefore I do not go by the reports of newspapers but I go by the evidence of persons who have actually been in the scene of action, who have gone and seen everything for themselves and whose opinions are not prejudiced. They are all students and some of them are schoolboys of ages 13 and 15. There is no reason why they should tell me anything which is not true. And they spoke very highly of the splendid work which the soldiers had done for them and for everybody else, and they all praised enormously the work which they had seen themselves.

Then, another difficulty has arisen now to which I should like to take this opportunity of drawing the attention of Government and it was also hinted by my Honourable friend, Haji Abdoola Haroon. The refugees who have been sent away are now living with their relatives and friends. They can accommodate them only for a short time but not for a long time, and the question naturally before them is how to rescue their property in minimum time. This is one of the most important matters for investigation, how the property belonging to these people may be handed over to them with the minimum amount of delay.

Now, coming to the case of these Aligarh students who came to Aligarh they had not a single penny to pay their arrears nor they could pay their college dues. We have this relief to them. We admitted them

free ; but I wonder whether other refugees who had gone to their relatives or friends would be given the same relief as was given to our Aligarh boys.

Now, as regards entry into Quetta, as soon as we heard that there was this catastrophe a large number of Aligarh students volunteered to go and help in the salvage work. I telegraphed immediately that a party of Aligarh students were willing to offer their services for this work, but I was told that the whole thing was under the control of the military and it was not necessary to have the help of these students for whom there was neither food nor accommodation.

Pandit Krishna Kant Malaviya (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : When was this ?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : I do not exactly remember, but it was immediately after the report was published. Sir, I got a wire from the Officer in charge whose name I do not remember, as I have not got the papers with me here, to the effect that they will not be useful. The same reply was given to other volunteers and it is verified by the report published in this blue book. I will not read the details but I will draw the attention of Honourable Members to page 49 of this book which is published by the Bureau of Public Information. The *Hindustan Times* reports a statement made to them :

“ From my experience of the situation in Quetta, I am convinced that the authorities acted wisely in banning entry of outsiders into Quetta, as otherwise rations would have been exhausted, causing a serious situation.”

The *Free Press* also says :

“ With all the wealth of Quetta lying buried in the debris, we can appreciate the need of circumspection in allowing the entry of outsiders into the ruined city.”

The *Forward* also says :

“ The Government may have good reasons to take some steps to regulate the entry of outsiders into the devastated area. Probability of the failure of water and food supply as well as of infection are strong reasons why any and every person should not be allowed entrance into Quetta.”

I do not lay stress on what is published here. Our students were rather anxious to go to Quetta and help the authorities there, but the authorities for reasons which I can well appreciate and understand did not like that outsiders should interfere in the work which they planned out in a particular manner. Then they advertised for medical help. We also offered 40 beds, if there be any need, but the wounded persons were all accommodated in the hospitals of neighbouring Provinces and none of them came as far as the United Provinces and, therefore, our offer was not availed of. From the experience of the persons who were there actually in the field I came to the conclusion that the Military had the situation well in hand. Now coming to the question of—stopping salvage work after the third day, I am not a medical man and I am no authority to say whether salvage work ought to have been stopped on the fourth day or not. It is for the medical people to determine ; but as a practical man I can only say this, that after three days the chances of finding alive a wounded person were rather remote, and it is exceedingly difficult to locate and search for men still alive in such a wide field of devastation.

In conclusion, I emphasise once more the point that a committee may be appointed,—to find out a speedy method of restoring the property

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

to their lawful owners, and help to remove the financial miseries of survivors.

Mr. Ghansham Singh Gupta (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I only want to make one point and I do not think I shall take more than five minutes. It is said that the conditions in Bihar and the conditions in Quetta were different. That is admitted. My point is that on the first two days people were rescued alive. Therefore, it is clear that people were living in the first two days and that they did not die, because the conditions of Quetta and the conditions of Bihar were different. There were living persons. Now if there were living persons after two days or within two days and they were rescued, then it cannot be said that they were not living after two days. If persons were living after the earthquake then the only medical point of view that there can be was that they would have died of suffocation. If they died of suffocation they must die within a few hours and not within a few days. So, so far as the question of their being alive is concerned, the difference between Quetta and Bihar does not matter. Then if there were living persons inside the debris after two days, it is not a question for medical men to say whether a man who has not died at the first shock and who has not received any injury can or cannot remain alive for five or six days. It is ordinary common sense, I think : it is not a question for the medical man to say that a man who has not died of suffocation and who is inside the debris can or cannot remain alive, if he has remained alive for more than two days, after that time for three or four or five days. This is the point which I cannot understand and this is the point which I want to make out.

Sir Muhammad Yakub : Mr. Chairman, the esteemed and respected Leader of the Opposition has, this afternoon, delivered another very fluent and eloquent speech, which has won for him the status of a successful Leader of the Opposition Party.

[At this stage, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) resumed the Chair.]

No doubt, Sir, the speeches of the Honourable Leader of the Opposition are couched in very flowery and fluent language : they attract attention all round and the same was the case this afternoon. But if we apply the test of cold logic to the substance of his speech, we find after sifting and removing the flowery phrases, that very little substance can be found in it. This afternoon he was trying to show that there was a *primâ facie* case for instituting an inquiry into the after-effects of the disastrous earthquake at Quetta. We have to see whether he has succeeded, in the smallest degree, in establishing his proposition. Mr. President, the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition spent about 15 minutes in saying that the Resolution did not mean any attack on those who saved the lives of the people, those who worked hard for days and nights in performing their duty ; and then he said that if a man performs his duty he does not deserve any commendation or any approbation. I would ask Honourable Members of the Opposition themselves whether they would accept this argument or whether they will put any value on it. If this were true, then no processions of Congress leaders should be taken out, no addresses, in bombastic language, should be presented to the leaders of

the community when they go from town to town, because they only perform their duty—they are patriots and they are doing nothing more than performing their duty. So, if the performance of duty does not demand any approbation from the public, then, of course, it is for the opposition to judge what course they would in future take with their leaders : and it is all the more surprising when such an argument comes from an astute lawyer like the Leader of the Opposition.

His other argument was that when a disaster, or a calamity of this nature, happens, naturally there must be an inquiry. Unfortunately, only a year before the Quetta earthquake, we had another disastrous earthquake in Bihar. Of course in intensity that earthquake was not so severe as the one in Quetta, but still many hundreds of lives were lost in that earthquake and property worth lakhs and lakhs of rupees was involved. Was there any inquiry demanded about that earthquake ? Did the Members of the Opposition, or anybody in the country, say that as a calamity has fallen upon the country there must be an inquiry ? On the other hand, we find that the Bihar Earthquake Fund was opened by the worthy Congress president and in the country there were rumours, there were suspicions raised about the manner in which that subscription was spent. We saw in the papers also that money which was collected for the purposes of the earthquake in Bihar was spent over the last Assembly elections. (Laughter.) When this was the state in the country, did the Congress institute an inquiry to find out whether the money was properly spent or not ? Then, where is the force in saying that when there is a calamity of this magnitude an inquiry must be instituted ? Arguments like these are not worthy of a great lawyer like the Leader of the Opposition.

The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition said that there was some possibility, even after three days, if the work of rescue had been continued on a gigantic scale, as it was done for the first two days, some chance of some living person being discovered. But, do we not know under what difficulties this work of rescue was continued even for two days ? The heroic Indian soldiers, at the risk of their lives, put on masks on their noses and faces and they were performing this voluntary duty. Now, would it be wise, would it be patriotic even to say that the lives of these heroic men or a large number of them, should be endangered only on the assumption that it was possible that some people might be living or may be found in the debris ? I really am surprised. Most of these soldiers who were working under these hard conditions—some of them, at least, had their own relatives involved in the calamity, their houses had fallen, they were suffering under a great calamity and they were still working, with masks on their faces, and the stink was so severe that nobody could stand there. The probability was that if they had gone there after three days in such large numbers, they would themselves have got the poison and a large number of these heroic Indians would have died. Is it proper to say that they should endanger their lives merely because the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition thinks that probably a rat or dog living might be found in the debris ? Such is the force of the arguments which were used by him.

Again we know that this earthquake calamity fell three or four minutes after three o'clock, early in the morning ; and it is proved, and has not been denied, that within half an hour a number of soldiers were present in the city and were doing rescue work. Some of them reached

[Sir Muhammad Yakub.]

there at 5, some at 5/30 and some at 6 A.M. But by that time all the available soldiers in Quetta were performing rescue work. They did that work labouring under so many difficulties. They had to face the difficulty of water, there were incessant earthquake shocks, almost every day, for a few days, but in spite of all these difficulties, these people were there, for over two days in large numbers doing most magnificent work. Has anybody on the side of the Opposition even suggested what other methods could have been adopted, what other more expeditious devices could have been found, to do relief work in a more efficient and expeditious manner than what was done there? Sir, I was not at Quetta, but I had met some of the earthquake victims. I have also read a lot about the happenings at Quetta in the newspapers, not only in Anglo-Indian papers but also in the Nationalist papers, and I find that most of them have not levelled the charge that any life was lost in Quetta due to the negligence of the soldiers working there. Sir, I shall not weary the House by recounting how the work was performed there. That has been narrated by many of the speakers who preceded me. I propose to deal only with two points which were raised by my friend, Mr. Aney. My friend, Mr. Aney, like a clever lawyer, knew he had a very weak case to argue, because he himself said, at the outset, that he did not want to take part in this debate, but he made his speech only because he wanted to defend the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition, and did not want to oppose the Resolution seriously. Like a clever lawyer as he is, he tried to put at least two points and said there was room for an inquiry. His first point was that he had read in some statement in an Anglo-Indian paper that a decision was taken that that rescue work should be stopped at noon on the 2nd June. Now, if my friend were to advance such an argument in a Court of law, I ask him to say whether he would not be asked to show proof as to whether this decision was acted upon or not. Taking the statement at its face value, I admit it is correct,—a decision was taken that at noon on the second day rescue work should be stopped, but has my friend got any material to produce that this decision was acted upon and the work was actually stopped at the time stated by the correspondent in the press? He tried his level best to coin some argument, and the only argument he could produce was this, that a decision was taken. I submit, Sir, that this argument is not sufficient to justify the instituting of an inquiry.

Then, my friend's second argument was that the Honourable Mr. Lalchand Navalrai said that a number of people were stopped at a certain station and they were not allowed to proceed to Quetta on the second day. I submit that statement of my friend may be quite correct, for, Sir, have we not examined the difficulties which were confronting the authorities at Quetta? Are we not aware of the fact that each and every house in the Indian quarters was demolished? Do we not know that there was scarcity of water? Do we not know that there was great scarcity of food and provisions for the wounded and injured persons who were lying there? Is there any force in the argument that because my friend, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, made his statement therefore, we should institute an inquiry? These were the only two *primâ facie* facts which my friend, Mr. Aney, through his ingenuity, was able to advance before the House.

Now, Sir, it was asked—why do you shirk an inquiry? Why are you afraid of an audit? To this, I submit that it is not a question of your

accounts being correct. We all know that the heaviest calamity has fallen on that small spot of the country. We also know that property and goods valued at lakhs and lakhs are lying buried under the debris. Now, the process of removing the debris and recovering the property is proceeding apace. Very valuable property is buried under the debris, and if at this moment, when this important work is going on, we allow a foreign committee to sit in judgment of their work and if we allow witnesses to go to Quetta it is quite clear that the influx of the people and the work of this Committee would greatly interfere with the more urgent and more important work of removing the debris and recovering the property of the people, and, therefore, I submit, that the present time is most inopportune, it is the worst time to institute an inquiry, suggested in the Resolution.

Then, again, if we accept this Resolution, the question will arise as to who should be the members of the Committee. Only
 6 P.M. the other day a Committee was appointed by the Government in the Punjab. There was a section of the press which said that they had no confidence in the members, that those members were not proper representatives, that they would not accept their Report. The same case would happen here. If certain non-official members were appointed, I am sure that more than half the press in the country would raise the cry that they were Government men, that the country had no faith in them only because they were nominated by the Government. Then it would also be said : " Oh, Government men are in a majority and others are in a minority ". Then there would certainly be a Note of dissent and probably a minority Report also with it. Now, if there were two Reports, what would be the criterion to judge as to which Report should be accepted, and to which Report effect should be given. So I submit, Sir, that it has been established beyond doubt that there is no case for an inquiry on this subject. (" Hear, hear " from Official Benches.) On the other hand, the Commanding Officer and other officers and men under him, both Indians as well as Europeans, who performed the heroic and magnificent work of rescue operations, deserve the approbation and congratulations at the hands of this House. (Official Cheers.) Sir, if we do not value or appreciate the work of our own countrymen, then all our cry for Indianization of the army, and things like that, is only a cry in the wilderness. (Cries of " Oh, Oh " from the Congress Party Benches.) With these words, Sir, I oppose the Resolution.

The Honourable Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan (Member for Commerce and Railways) : Sir, I intervene for a very few minutes at this stage in the debate. Although over 3½ months have passed since the terrible morning of the 31st May, I have no hesitation in confessing that I still approach the subject of Quetta with a great deal of awe. Sir, it is not my purpose this afternoon to level charges or to condemn the making of charges. A good deal of that has already been done. But there are one or two matters with regard to which I desire to place certain factors before the House.

One matter to which I wish to draw the attention of the House is why Government found it imperative to refuse permission to relief parties to proceed to Quetta after the second or third day of the disaster. It is easy after any kind of calamity, sitting in comfortable conditions and circumstances, to pass armchair judgments upon what should have been done and

[Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan.]

what should not have been done. There has been no event of any importance in the world with regard to which critics subsequently looking back could not have pointed out factors which would have been far better managed by them than were managed by people who had actual charge of the situation. The fallacy underlying that kind of attitude of mind is that it forgets the actual conditions under which the situation had to be handled. And, if for one brief moment we shall try to revive in our minds the conditions under which rescue work had to start in Quetta and had to continue there, I think we would be far less critical and far more admiring of the work that was done and accomplished under the most trying conditions. I am aware that a mood of praise and admiration has been rendered from all sections of the House to those who were employed in this kind of work. Nevertheless, I submit that the conditions under which that work started and had to be continued have not been sufficiently kept in mind. Everybody here is aware that this great calamity overtook the sleeping town of Quetta a few minutes after three o'clock on the morning of the 31st May. Within twenty five minutes of the calamity a certain section of the troops had already been turned out and were on their way to the devastated city to render such assistance as they could. And it must not be imagined that while the town was in that condition the troops that had to render assistance were under normal conditions. They had themselves passed through this nerve shaking experience. I am lost in admiration of men who, within twenty five minutes of an experience of that kind, an experience which would shake the strongest nerves for weeks, were ready to turn out and to go and do their duty out of a sense of common humanity and out of a sense of common brotherhood. (Cheers.) Then within two hours of it, the entire military force available at Quetta had turned out and was engaged in rescue work. That does not reveal an attitude either on the part of General Karlake, who most fortunately was in command of Quetta on the 31st May, or on the part of his troops in Quetta, to neglect any chance that offered itself of rendering such aid as was possible to the injured and the wounded and to rescue those who were buried under the debris. This rescue work continued under most trying conditions. Everything had been upset. Although the railway track continued to be serviceable, one of the culverts had been damaged and had to be repaired. There was a grave danger of any of the eighteen tunnels, which the railway line between Sibi and Quetta has to pass collapsing at any moment as tremors and even severe shocks continued for days. Some of the *karezes* from which drinking water is obtained in Quetta had already collapsed. There was serious danger of the water supply being upset altogether. These were only some of the difficulties with which the troops had to contend. On the other hand, in that isolated part of the country, there was grave danger of marauders, hearing of the disaster, making a combined attack upon the city to loot and plunder. Order had to be kept, some sort of an organisation had to be set up among the survivors who were too terrified to shift for themselves. All food supplies in the City had been destroyed and the army had to throw open their own provisions for the maintenance of the survivors. These were the conditions under which the work started and had to be continued. We must not imagine that it was a sort of stage show or an army manoeuvre, after preparation and notice of what had happened

and what was about to happen. In the conditions prevailing at Quetta General Karslake was the best judge of how much material he could utilise for rescue work, and he being of the opinion that the forces at his disposal were as much as he could usefully employ for that work, permission to relief parties to proceed to Quetta would only have added to the confusion and hindered the rescue work. That is one factor which I wanted to stress.

I think during the debate we have been too apt to regard the relief work at Quetta as a sort of demonstration under ideal conditions as the result of which we had to award praise or blame. It was heroic work carried out under most terrifying conditions. The question is not what should have been possible under ideal conditions. The question is what was humanly possible under the conditions that prevailed and continued to prevail at Quetta, and the question is whether what was humanly possible under those conditions has or has not been done. The Honourable the Home Member has informed the House that His Excellency the Viceroy and his Government were in hourly touch with conditions at Quetta, and although what we did or what we left undone is no measure or standard for Honourable Members opposite, all that we can on this side assert is that with the fullest sense of responsibility that involved upon Government under the shadow of this terrible calamity Government were at all hours most watchful that nothing should be omitted that was possible, which would help either the injured or those that had survived and had to be looked after. It is quite possible—and I say it in no spirit of cynicism—that any other Government, composed of another set of human beings, might have done better, or even have done very much better. But the Government can only be judged from the standard which is applicable in the sense whether they did do what was humanly possible for them to do. But, Sir, I did not stand up merely to reinforce the point of view of Government. It can be said, it has been said: "You are always very self-complacent, you are always quite self-satisfied, you think that all that was possible was done by you, but we are not satisfied. You did all that was possible for you to do, but in any event it was possible for other people to have done very much better and you do not come up to that standard." In such a calamity it would be difficult to get first hand evidence. But fortunately, first hand evidence of a character to which I venture to think no objection could be taken on the opposite side is available, and at a very early stage I did satisfy myself, as an individual, —Member of Government or no Member of Government—that whatever was humanly possible had been actually done on the spot by the people who were in charge of the situation, and that, on the basis of evidence to which I shall refer in a moment, and to which, as I have said, I venture to think Honourable Members opposite could take no objection. That, Sir, is the evidence of a gentleman who is a lawyer and a municipal commissioner at Multan, who, shortly after learning the details of this calamity at Quetta, organised a fairly big relief party and managed to get to Quetta before control was established and whose help was welcomed and utilised to the fullest degree during the week or so that he and his helpers continued to be at Quetta. That gentleman is Chaudhuri Sham Lal. After his return from Quetta, he issued a statement to the press to which wide publicity was given at the time. He then came up to Simla and among various people, he also did me the honour of paying me a call.

[Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan.]

He reminded me that we had been associated together in Lahore in a certain connection and I had a long conversation with him over the details of the work that had been going on at Quetta. That, Sir, was pure non-official and unbiassed evidence. In the meantime, certain rumours had been started in the press, and although as I have said I was fully satisfied from official accounts that whatever was possible was being done, yet, having noticed some of these rumours to which currency had been given in the press, I pointedly questioned Chaudhuri Sham Lal with regard to these matters and I was assured by him in a heart to heart conversation, confined entirely to us, when nobody else was present, that none of the allegations that were being made in the press were justified in the slightest degree except one and that I am bound to state. In one instance there was a complaint against an Indian soldier that he had interfered with a trunk which contained some property and he was promptly punished. Well, now, this is the party that went to Quetta and this is the statement that Chaudhuri Sham Lal made in the press. He says :

“ Soon after the harrowing details of the havoc wrought by the earthquake in Baluchistan were received in Multan, I immediately organised a large relief party and proceeded to Quetta. It included volunteers from the local D. A. V. High School staff, Arya Samaj, College section, Sewa Samiti and Krishna Dal, prominent among whom were Lala Sukhu Ram, Doctor Vishnu Dutt, Bhagat Parmanand, Seth Rup Narain, Mr. Nand Lal and Seth Jindu Ram. We had taken a fair stock of provisions and medicines with us and further increased our supplies from Chaman and Pashin.”

The composition of this relief party and the names of its leaders are given here and I am perfectly certain that they would give entire satisfaction to Honourable Members opposite at least from this point of view that if any of these gentlemen during the week or so that they were in Quetta noticed any omissions on the part of the military or on the part of such civil authorities as could hastily be set up after almost the entire civil establishment had been wiped out, they would certainly not have failed to give expression to their dissatisfaction with the manner in which the rescue work was going on. In the rest of the statement which it would take too long to read out, Mr. Sham Lal has nothing but praise for everybody, troops, British as well as Indian, ladies, British as well as Indian and such volunteers as were available, with regard to the spirit of co-operation and humanity which all of them displayed in dealing with a very difficult situation. Now, Sir, that is the kind of evidence which would bring conviction to the minds of every one and my own conviction over this matter which I would respectfully place before the House is based not only upon knowledge of all the details which went to the organisation of the official rescue work but also upon assurances received from men like Chaudhuri Sham Lal with whom, as I have said, I had a long conversation and who satisfied me, as he had already stated in his statement to the press, to which I have referred, that there was nothing done during their presence in Quetta to which any reasonable objection could be taken. One matter I will make particular reference to with regard to what Chaudhuri Sham Lal told me. He has made a reference to that in his statement to the press also. He and his volunteers helped in the rescue work inside the town and he gave me a solemn assurance, because I was naturally anxious to satisfy myself on this point, that the rescue work was continued so long as there was any reasonable hope of rescuing human life. Sir, I am entirely at one with Honourable Members

on the other side regarding the sanctity of human life and the necessity of directing efforts towards saving every single human life that it was possible to save. I questioned Chaudhuri Sham Lal rather closely on this point and he told me that he and his men worked along with the military on the rescue work in the City and that the work was not stopped till the stench became so overpowering that human beings could not bear it. As I have said, Sir, I only wanted to put these facts before the House before it comes to a decision on the motion under discussion.

One point has been raised by the Honourable Member from Karachi, and it has also been emphasized by my Honourable friend, Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, that with regard to the salvage of property and the distribution of property, some measures ought to be taken in which outside opinion might be associated with the work that is being carried on. With regard to that, I have been authorised by the Honourable the Home Member to make this statement : he would have made it himself but for the fact that he has already spoken in this debate—that while not prepared to agree to any inquiry regarding the past, Government are quite ready to agree to the appointment of an advisory or consultative committee to assist the authorities with regard to (a) the salvage of property and (b) the questions connected with the resettlement of the civil population. Government are further prepared to extend facilities to parties of Members of this Honourable House who may care to visit Quetta and see the condition of things for themselves. Sir, with these words, I oppose the motion.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I am aware of the lateness of the hour at which I have stood up. The importance of the subject and the remarks that had been made are my apology for intervening at this stage. Sir, I regret that a gentleman of the position of Sir Cowasji Jehangir should have made the speech that he made today, which was utterly unworthy of him. I will not say more. It was just like the pleading of a man who has no case and seeks shelter in rank abuse against his adversary. Sir the Honourable the Home Member found a substitute for reason and argument in vehemence of language. He told us that he had never known such a vile exploitation of a calamity for political purposes. I have never heard a more audacious statement than that. I should like to put a few questions to the Honourable the Home Member as to when, according to him, this process of exploitation began. Even he, I hope, will have the generosity to concede that earthquakes are not controlled by the Congress Party. A Government like this may control earthquakes as King Canute once pretended to control the waves but a popular party can never put forth any such claim. Then, Sir, does he suggest that the Congress organizations were responsible for the rumours and the reports that took root and that spread from one end of the country to the other from the very day the earthquake occurred ? Does he hold us responsible for what was said from one end of the country to the other ?

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Yes.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : If he says that, then I have no more to argue with him ; and, if he thinks that the Congress organization set afloat a number of rumours and reports immediately after the occurrence of the earthquake with a view to preparing the ground for this Resolu-

[Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant.]

tion here today, then, Sir, whatever be *our* resourcefulness, his ingenuity is certainly of an amazing character (Hear, hear), and I can congratulate him for such marvellous flights of imagination. Sir, I venture to say that, so far as these reports were concerned, so far as these rumours were concerned, they purported to be the versions of eye-witnesses, of people who had seen and known things ; and what was, in the circumstances—I put it to the Honourable Members opposite—the duty of any responsible party which owed its very existence here to the suffrages of the people ? (Hear, hear.) There had been, Sir, allegations made of a type which had a very serious bearing and which deserved attention at the hands of the Government. Such allegations had been made : and they had been made, not by one, not by two men here and there, but they had emanated from sources almost innumerable : and however the Honourable the Home Member may boast about the opinions of the civilized world, I know that reports to this effect and of this character have appeared in British papers—in the *Daily Worker*, in the *Daily Herald*....

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Who cares for the *Daily Worker*.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : ... and in the *Daily Herald*, which was the mouthpiece, be it noted, of the Labour Party when it was in office—a paper which is today the accepted and the recognized organ of the Labour Party that is led by Mr. Lansbury...

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : They published the lies that I exposed.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : I do not know what opinion my Honourable friend has of the veracity or the usefulness of the opposition led by Mr. Lansbury or of the Labour Party when it was led by Mr. Macdonald when both of them were responsible for the writings that appeared in the *Daily Herald*. If, Sir, that is the standard of truth and veracity in the country from which fortunately or unfortunately my Honourable friend happens to come, then I should not be surprised if he holds the same opinion about papers that are published in this country (Hear, hear),—if, the accepted mouthpiece of the Labour Party in England can be treated by him as a mint for coining lies, then I should not be astonished if he holds a very uncomplimentary opinion about the obscure papers that are published in the remote corners of this vast land ! Sir, I do not want to raise any heat. I can understand and appreciate, the sentiments of Honourable Members opposite, considering the atmosphere in which they have been brought up, considering the intolerant spirit which must of necessity develop within them in the atmosphere in which they grow, and I can understand that it must be shocking to them that any sort of criticisms of this type should be made by ungrateful people like us. They feel like this—“ The Army did its best to rescue people in a helpless condition ; these people were extricated as best as they could be out of those difficulties, out of those inconceivable hardships by the army : and now, instead of offering the tribute, the need of praise and appreciation that they deserve, they have the hardihood to criticize the Army ! ” Sir, I appreciate that sentiment. I am always prepared for that sort of attitude ; I realise that, they have not been brought up as a responsible Government, which thrives in the light of criticism, which grows on publicity, and which is used to throwing searchlights within

itself ; for them it is a novel experience ; but, Sir, that would not, however, absolve us from the responsibility that we owe to our own people. I want to put it to the Honourable Members opposite whether, in the circumstances in which we were placed, when rumours of the type and reports of the character mentioned had been circulating freely, it was not the foremost duty of any Party, which claims and owes its existence here to the confidence and to the suffrages of the people, to ask the Government to appoint a committee to go into these questions in order that the public might know the exact state of affairs. Sir, it is easy to say that we are here only to undermine the prestige and the position of the Government. But whatever be our wish, what is, after all, the desire of the Government itself ? Does it not want to maintain its prestige ? Does it not want to examine the position in order to find out a solution of difficulties experienced, for its own future guidance ? Has it no notion of what is best in its own interests ? Is it not to their advantage when rumours of this type are afloat everywhere that they should readily agree to an inquiry being made by responsible people, altogether outside the Congress, in order to make an investigation about at least these allegations, even if they be not the facts, that have been circulated over the length and breadth of the country ? It cannot be denied, Sir, that such statements have been made again and again. The appalling number of newspapers that have been asked to furnish security and which have gone out of publication and circulation on this account is a clear index of the tremendous amount of excitement and interest that the subject has aroused. (Hear, hear.) So, Sir, with all these facts before us, why should the Government be anxious to burke an inquiry ? Sir, there is nothing insolent or impudent about this demand. In fact for us in this country it may seem something novel, but are not Honourable Members opposite aware of the fact that in England, every time martial law is proclaimed, an inquiry by a committee is legally necessary, and it is imperative for the Government to hold such an inquiry ? (Hear, hear.) Does that, then, indicate any lack of confidence in the people who administer the martial law there ? The real truth, Sir, of the matter is that, on exceptional occasions, when crises have to be faced, when emergencies have to be faced, there are delicate situations when even the best men are likely to err : and it is desirable in the interests of progress and future guidance that we should make a survey of what has been done in order to find out if better things could not have been done. Sir, what is there astounding about this proposal ? Was not, after all, an inquiry held after the Dardanelles affair, even during the course of the war ? Were the people employed in the Dardanelles operations less brave, honest or patriotic than those who attended to the dead and to the injured in Quetta ? Was not then an inquiry held in respect of the Mesopotamian muddle, immediately after the occurrence and again at a time when the war was going on ? Was not, in olden times, even one of the Viceroy's arraigned before the bar of Parliament by one of the great thinkers and statesmen of England itself ? Why should the Government grow so touchy now ? Why should it run away from every demand and every request for more of light, for more of truth and for more of justice and fair-play ? There is nothing so provocative about it and I do not see why sentiments should have run so high. The question is a very simple one. There have been numberless allegations and a few of those allegations have been refuted today, but the Honourable the Home

[Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant.]

Member was not personally present on the spot. He cannot personally vouch for the correctness of the statements he has made.

The Honourable Sir Henry Craik : Yes, I can.

Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant : After, all, he has collected information from others. All that the Honourable the Home Member could say is that he believes that his information is correct. He cannot assert that he has personal knowledge and that he has himself perceived that these facts are correct. And that makes all the difference in the world. People can arrive at two different conclusions on the basis of the same data and why should not the Honourable the Home Member, when he feels the necessity of refuting the statements of facts that have been made here, give a chance to an independent and impartial tribunal to adjudge between the two versions so that it may give its own impartial findings on them ? They are holding the authority and the power that they happen to, today and it is easy for him to say " we will not have an inquiry " but will that satisfy the public mind ? Will all the doubts and the suspicions that are entertained be removed and allayed on that account ? Nothing of the kind. On the other hand, it will have the reverse effect. So, it is worth his while even at this late stage to reconsider the position and to agree to an inquiry. Sir, it is easy to say that those responsible for this Resolution are actuated by malice just as it would be easy for others to retort that those who debarred public men from going to Quetta at the hour of need of Quetta were actuated by malice. It was because the Government had taken lesson from the firm hold that the public had gained during the time of the Bihar earthquake by disinterested service of the people that they denied them the opportunity of serving their brethren at Quetta. Sir, it is easy to attribute motives ; it is easy to befog and sidetrack issues ; it is easy to make noise and smoke. But that does not help anybody one way or the other. We were told that it was not possible to save life after three days. I heard, while these papers were being read, that the operations were stopped during the night even on the very first day ! They were conducted in the day time and were suspended in the night ! I was surprised to hear this. I wonder if people in Quetta do not die in the night under debris, otherwise I see no reason why these rescue operations should have been suspended in the night. That, by itself, is a clear omission which shows that there was carelessness, recklessness and—I will not use a stronger expression—callous disregard for that sanctity which human life demands and deserves. Sir, much could be said but it is a late hour and I would not like to take more time. I hope the Resolution will be adopted and accepted by the House.

Several Honourable Members : The question may now be put.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : Does the Mover of the Resolution want to reply ?

Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami Raju : No, Sir.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Abdur Rahim) : The question is :

" That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that a Committee consisting of officials and non-officials may be forthwith appointed to investigate and report whether the situation arising out of the recent earthquake in British Baluchistan and particularly in the town of Quetta was properly handled,

particularly as regards the search for and rescue of the living, wounded and buried, the salvage of property and the transference of the wounded and injured outside the affected area."

The Assembly divided :

AYES—57.

Aaron, Mr. Samuel.
Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr.
Aney, Mr. M. S.
Asaf Ali, Mr. M.
Ayyangar, Mr. M. Ananthasayanam.
Azhar Ali, Mr. Muhammad.
Ba Si, U
Banerjea, Dr. P. N.
Baqui, Mr. M. A.
Bardaloi, Srijut N. C.
Bhagavan Das, Dr.
Chattopadhyaya, Mr. Amarendra Nath.
Chettiar, Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam.
Chunder, Mr. N. C.
Das, Mr. B.
Das, Mr. Basanta Kumar.
Das, Pandit Nilakantha.
Datta, Mr. Akhil Chandra.
Desai, Mr. Bhulabhai J.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
Essak Sait, Mr. H. A. Sathar H.
Gadgil, Mr. N. V.
Giri, Mr. V. V.
Gupta, Mr. Ghanshiam Singh.
Hosmani, Mr. S. K.
Jedhe, Mr. K. M.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
Khare, Dr. N. B.
Lalchand Navalrai, Mr.

Maitra, Pandit Lakshmi Kanta.
Malaviya, Pandit Krishna Kant.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Mudaliar, Mr. C. N. Muthuranga.
Murtuza Sahib Bahadur, Maulvi Syed.
Nageswara Rao, Mr. K.
Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutta.
Pant, Pandit Govind Ballabh.
Parma Nand, Bhai.
Raghubir Narayan Singh, Choudhri.
Raju, Mr. P. S. Kumaraswami.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Saksena, Mr. Mohan Lal.
Sant Singh, Sardar.
Satyamurti, Mr. S.
Sham Lal, Mr.
Shaukat Ali, Maulana.
Sheodass Daga, Seth.
Singh, Mr. Ram Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Anugrah Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Satya Narayan.
Sinha, Mr. Shri Krishna.
Som, Mr. Suryya Kumar.
Sri Prakasa, Mr.
Thein Maung, Dr.
Thein Maung, U
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Vissanji, Mr. Mathuradas.

NOES—61.

Abdoola Haroon, Seth Haji.
Abdul Aziz, Khan Bahadur Mian.
Abdullah, Mr. H. M.
Acheson, Mr. J. G.
Ayyar, Diwan Bahadur R. V. Krishna.
Ayyar, Rao Bahadur A. A. Venkatarama.
Bajoria, Badu Baijnath.
Bajpai, Sir Girja Shankar.
Bewoor, Mr. G. V.
Bhagchand Soni, Rai Bahadur Seth.
Bhat, Mr. Madhusudan Damodar.
Blackwell, Mr. J. H.
Bower, Mr. E. H. M.
Boyle, Mr. J. D.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chatarji, Mr. J. M.
Clow, Mr. A. G.
Craik, The Honourable Sir Henry.
Dalal, Dr. R. D.
Desai, Mr. S. P.
DeSouza, Dr. F. X.
Fazl-i-Haq Piracha, Khan Sahib Shaikh.
Gajapatiraj, Maharaj Kumar Vijay Ananda.

Ghiasuddin, Mr. M.
Ghuznavi, Sir Abdul Halim.
Graham, Sir Lancelot.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
Grigg, The Honourable Sir James.
Hands, Mr. A. S.
Hidayatallah, Sir Ghulam Hussain.
Hockenhull, Mr. F. W.
James, Mr. F. E.
Jawahar Singh, Sardar Bahadur Sardar Sir.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasji.
Lal Chand, Captain Rao Bahadur Chaudhri.
Laljee, Mr. Husenbhai Abdullahai.
Leach, Mr. F. B.
Lee, Mr. D. J. N.
Lister, Mr. T.
Lloyd, Mr. A. H.
MacLachlan, Mr. D.
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sahibzada Sir Syed Muhammad.
Milligan, Mr. J. A.
Mody, Sir Hormasji Peroshaw.

NOES—*contd.*

Morgan, Mr. G.		Sher Muhammad Khan, Captain Sardar.
Muhammad Nauman, Mr.		Singh, Mr. Pradyumna Prashad.
Mukherjee, Rai Bahadur	Sir Satya	Sircar, The Honourable Sir Nripendra.
Charan.		Tottenham, Mr. G. R. F.
Owen, Mr. L.		Yakub, Sir Muhammad.
Rajah, Rao Bahadur M. C.		Yamin Khan, Mr. Muhammad.
Rau, Mr. P. R.		Zafrullah Khan, The Honourable Sir
Row, Mr. K. Sanjiva.		Muhammad.
Sarma, Mr. R. S.		Ziauddin Ahmad, Dr.
Scott, Mr. J. Ramsay.		

The motion was negatived.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 20th September, 1935.