

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

MONDAY, 26th JANUARY, 1931

Vol. I—No. 9

OFFICIAL REPORT



CONTENTS.

- Member Sworn.
Questions and Answers.
Unstarred Questions and Answers.
Short Notice Question and Answer.
Election of the Deputy President,
Election of Members to the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz.
Election of a Committee to consider Proposals on the Salt Industry.
Election of Members to the Standing Committee on Roads.
The Cantonments (Amendment) Bill—Introduced.
The Indian Territorial Force (Amendment) Bill—Introduced.
The Auxiliary Force (Amendment) Bill—Introduced.
The Vizagapatam Port Bill—Introduced.
The Indian Naval Armament (Amendment) Bill—Introduced.
The Gold Thread Industry (Protection) Bill—Introduced.
The Steel Industry (Protection) Bill—Introduced.
The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Bill—Introduced.
Election of Members to the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz, the Salt Industry Committee, and the Standing Committee on Roads.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 26th January, 1931.

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

MEMBER SWORN:

Sir Hugh Golding Cocks, Kt., M.L.A. (Bombay: European):

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE INDIAN MUSEUM, CALCUTTA.

1. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will Government please refer to the answer to my starred question No. 2 (2) (a) in the Legislative Assembly on the 14th July, 1930, stating that the Indian Museum is a "grant-in-aid institution" as distinct from "Government" institution and reconcile the same with the Preamble to Act XXII of 1876 and the statement made by the late Sir Asutosh Mookerjee in the Introduction to the Centenary memorial volume entitled "The Indian Museum: 1814-1914" issued by the Trustees to which I have been referred by the Honourable Member, that "We have now arrived at the stage at which the Museum ceased to be the property of the Asiatic Society of Bengal and was transformed into an *Imperial Institution*" (page 7)?

(b) Has any grant-in-aid institution been built entirely at the cost of Government and its total expenditure for maintenance defrayed by Government from general revenues? If so, what are their names?

(c) What is the difference between a "grant-in-aid" and a "grant for total expenditure"?

(d) Do detailed transactions of a grant-in-aid institution appear in the budget estimates of the Central Government? If so, under what rule?

(e) Will Government please lay on the table the civil estimates of the Central Government for 1914-15, 1915-16 and 1916-17? Do they show whether the Indian Museum had been classed as a "grant-in-aid institution"?

(f) Will Government please state the names of grant-in-aid institutions—not contributing to Government the cost of their establishment—the monthly pay bill of which is audited and paid by the Treasury Officer from the general revenues?

(g) Will Government please state whether any grant made to a grant-in-aid institution from the general revenues by the Central Government becomes transformed into the funds of that institution or remains unaltered as general revenues?

(h) Is any grant-in-aid institution *required by law* to submit to the Governor General in Council an annual report on the administration of that institution? If so, under what rule?

(i) Will Government please state whether the expenditure of a grant-in-aid institution is met from its funds or from the general revenues?

(j) Do Government, beyond giving a grant-in-aid to a grant-in-aid institution, undertake any financial responsibility for the upkeep of that institution? If so, under what rule?

(k) Will Government please say whether the Indian Museum is a Government institution?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) The Preamble to Act 22 of 1876 refers *inter alia* to the erection, at the expense of the Government of India, of a suitable building in Calcutta for the Indian Museum. The mere fact that the cost of the building is met from Government funds is not enough to make it a Government institution. I see no inconsistency which needs to be reconciled. As regards the passage quoted by the Honourable Member from the Centenary Memorial Volume entitled "The Indian Museum, 1814 to 1914", it would hardly be fair for me to interpret the sense in which the words "Imperial Institution" were used by the author.

(b) Information is not readily available, and I do not think the labour involved in collecting it will be commensurate with the value to be derived from it.

(c) A grant-in-aid does not necessarily imply that the grant is made only to meet a part of the expenditure.

(d) It is not clear what exactly is meant by the word "transactions". I may, however, mention for the information of the Honourable Member that there is no bar to showing in the budget estimates the details of the purposes for which a grant is sanctioned by Government.

(e) Copies of these estimates are placed in the Library of the House. The expenditure on the Zoological and Anthropological Section, Art Section and Archaeological Section is all shown under "Central Museum". The budget estimate for the Office of the Trustees appears to have been shown separately for the first time in the estimates of 1917-18.

(f) I am unable to answer this question, as the significance of the words "not contributing to Government the cost of their establishment" is not understood.

(g) and (h). A grant of this nature is at the disposal of the institution to which it is made. It is, however, open to Government to lay down any conditions on which a grant shall be made. In particular, Government may require that an annual report on the working of the institution shall be submitted to them.

(i) and (j). A private institution has to make its own arrangements for meeting its expenditure. A grant may be made by Government either towards the general expenses of the institution or for a particular purpose. It may be fixed in amount, or it may take the form of an undertaking to meet a portion or whole of the expenditure.

(k) No. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to part (a) of part 2 of his question No. 2 on the 14th July, 1930.

Mr. B. Das: Do I understand it, Sir, that in the opinion of the Honourable Member the Indian Museum is not a Government institution, and is it not a fact that 99 per cent. of its income is derived from Government aid?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Surely, the assumption that the Honourable Member wishes to make may be correct.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE INDIAN MUSEUM, CALCUTTA.

2. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will Government please refer to my starred question No. 3 (1) (a) in the Legislative Assembly on the 14th July, 1930, and the answer that there is no objection to the Trustees creating a new appointment, or altering the salary of an existing one, without the prior approval of Government, provided that they bear full responsibility for the financial consequences of their action, and reconcile the same with section 9 (b) of the Indian Museum Act X of 1910 specifying that, "No new office shall be created and no salaries of officers shall be altered without the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council"?

(b) Will Government please refer to part (b) of the answer to my starred question No. 474, dated the 5th March, 1930, in the Legislative Assembly stating that the charge on account of the cost of establishment of the Trustees of the Indian Museum falls on the Government of India and not on the Trustees of the Indian Museum, and reconcile the same with the statement referred to above "provided that they bear full responsibility for the financial consequences of their action"?

(c) Has any dual responsibility been contemplated in the Act X of 1910? If so, under what section?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) The answer given on the 14th July, 1930, to the Honourable Member's question No. 3 (1) (a) related to the ministerial establishment employed under the Trustees of the Museum. Such establishment is classed as "servants" and not as "officers" for purposes of section 9 of the Indian Museum Act, X of 1910.

(b) The Government of India make a fixed annual grant to meet the pay of the office establishment of the Trustees and petty expenditure. The Trustees may alter the salary of the incumbent of a ministerial post under them, but Government are not bound on that account to enhance their contribution.

(c) No.

SERVICE IN THE INDIAN MUSEUM, CALCUTTA.

3. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** Will Government please refer to my starred question No. 3 (2), dated the 14th July, 1930, in the Assembly and state:—(a) who determined the conditions of service in the Indian Museum, whether the Trustees or the Government of India; (b) whether service, the conditions of which are determined by Government, is Government service; and (c) whether service in the Indian Museum under the Trustees is Government service?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) The conditions of service as regards salaries, allowances, pensions and leave are determined by section 13 of the Indian Museum Act X of 1910.

(b) It is impossible to give an answer of general application to this question. The answer will depend upon the circumstances in which Government have fixed or have had a hand in fixing the conditions of service.

(c) No.

SERVICE IN THE INDIAN MUSEUM, CALCUTTA.

4. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** Will Government please state whether the late Head Clerk of the Trustees of the Indian Museum was a *public servant* and whether a clerk of any grant-in-aid institution is a public servant? If so, under what rule? Can a public servant, who is not a Government servant, get his monthly pay paid and audited by the Treasury Officer from the general revenues for work done in a grant-in-aid institution, which does not contribute anything to Government for the cost of its establishment? If so, under what rule?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Under Section 13 of the Indian Museum Act, 1910, he was deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of the Indian Penal Code. He did not draw his pay from general revenues. It is open to Government to prescribe as a condition of a grant-in-aid that the expenditure will be subject to audit in such manner as it considers fit.

CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDIAN MUSEUM, CALCUTTA.

5. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will Government please refer to my starred question No. 5 of the 14th July, 1930, in the Assembly and explain the answer that "The reply to parts (e), (f) and (g) of question No. 77 in the Council of State asked on the 25th September, 1929, referred to matters relating to the Indian Museum, Calcutta, dealt with in that question, and did not imply that the clerk concerned was a "non-gazetted Government servant"?" Will Government please state what the reply referred to above did imply?

(b) Will Government lay on the table the Annual Return of Establishment of the Trustees of the Indian Museum for 1928-29 and show the names of the non-gazetted Government servants omitted from the return of the previous year and the reason therefor?

(c) Do any private employers or any grant-in-aid institutions, who do not contribute to Government the cost of their establishment, submit a detailed annual return of establishment in accordance with article 62 of the Civil Account Code showing their staff as "non-gazetted Government servant"? If so, under what rule?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) The reply to parts (e), (f) and (g) of question No. 77 in the Council of State referred to the submission of a detailed statement of the permanent establishment in the office of the Trustees of the Indian Museum and to the omission of the name of the Trustees' clerk from the annual returns for 1928-29. It was not admitted by Government that the clerk was a Government servant. I, however, recognise that this should have been made clear in answer to part (f) of the question.

(b) I shall be glad to show the Honourable Member a copy of the annual return referred to by him. The post of the Trustees' clerk was shown as vacant in this return, as the last incumbent was discharged on the 22nd August, 1927. I should, however, like to make it clear that the clerk was not a Government servant.

(c) I am not clear what the Honourable Member means by the words "who do not contribute to Government the cost of their establishment". The statement prescribed in article 62 of the Civil Account Code is required to be furnished by a private employer or a grant-in-aid institution in respect of the establishment, the claims to pension for which are submitted to an audit officer of Government for verification of services and report. It would be a mistake to show the staff as non-gazetted Government servants.

DISMISSAL OF THE HEAD CLERK OF THE TRUSTEES' OFFICE, INDIAN MUSEUM, CALCUTTA.

6. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) What is the difference between discharge and dismissal?

(b) Is discharge a disciplinary measure? Will Government please state whether any charges of inefficiency or misbehaviour were proved against the late Head Clerk of the Indian Museum Trustees' Office? If so, what?

(c) What are the conditions laid down in the Civil Service Regulations for the discharge, as distinct from dismissal, of a public servant, whose conditions of service are governed by the Civil Service Regulations?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Discharge means termination of a person's employment, and is not regarded as a penalty, while dismissal is a disciplinary measure which ordinarily disqualifies a public servant from future employment under Government.

(b) No. The second part does not arise.

(c) Each case has its own peculiar features which have to be taken into consideration in determining whether a servant should be discharged or dismissed. The conditions for the grant of a compensation pension to a Government servant discharged in certain circumstances will be found in section II of chapter XVIII of the Civil Service Regulations.

PAY OF THE HEAD CLERK, TRUSTEES' OFFICE, INDIAN MUSEUM, CALCUTTA.

7. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) What was the pay of the late Head Clerk of the Trustees of the Indian Museum shown in the Estimates for Demand for the Central Government for 1926-27 and 1927-28?

(b) Did the Trustees write to the Government of India that they considered the scale of pay of Rs. 120—10—350 for their Head Clerk to be the *irreducible minimum* and that their *prestige would certainly suffer if they were to reduce their clerk's pay*?

(c) If so, under what circumstances had the Trustees of the Indian Museum to reduce their clerk's pay, which they considered derogatory to their prestige?

(d) Can the substantive pay of a public servant be reduced without any allegation of inefficiency or misbehaviour? If so, under what article of the Civil Service Regulations?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) The Estimates and Demands for Grants for expenditure of the Central Government for the years 1926-27 and 1927-28 do not show the details of the pay of the establishment employed in the office of the Trustees of the Indian Museum.

(b) Government are not prepared to disclose the nature of the communications that they received from the Trustees in regard to their Head Clerk's pay.

(c) So far as Government are aware, the decision of the Trustees to withdraw the increase in the clerk's pay was based on financial considerations.

(d) Government cannot regard the very general issue raised in the first part of this question as in any way germane to the case of the late Head Clerk of the Trustees of the Indian Museum, whose position under section 13 of the Indian Museum Act read with the Civil Service Regulations has been exhaustively reviewed in the judgment of the learned Judge who decided the suit brought by the late Head Clerk against the Trustees.

PAY OF THE HEAD CLERK, TRUSTEES' OFFICE, INDIAN MUSEUM, CALCUTTA.

8. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** (a) Will Government please state whether the holder of a post, the pay of which is changed, has the option of retaining his old pay in accordance with article 158 of the Civil Service Regulations?

(b) Did the Head Clerk of the Trustees of the Indian Museum exercise the option of retaining his old scale of pay of Rs. 120—10—350 when the pay of the office was altered to Rs. 75—5—175 by the Trustees of the Indian Museum?

(c) Is it a fact that the Head Clerk was debarred by the Trustees from the privilege of exercising the option of retaining his old scale of pay of Rs. 120—10—350? If so, why?

(d) Will Government please state the names of the members of the Board of Trustees of the Indian Museum in 1927 when their Head Clerk was discharged?

(e) Will Government please refer to the answer to part (c) of my starred question No. 5 in the Assembly on the 14th July, 1930, and lay on the table the letter of the clerk refusing to retire on compensatory pension referred to in the answer?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Under article 158, Civil Service Regulations, the incumbent of an appointment, the pay of which is changed, may at his option retain his old pay until the date on which he has earned his next or any subsequent increment on the old pay, or until he vacates his appointment.

(b) and (c). Article 158, Civil Service Regulations, does not apply in cases where an appointment is abolished within the meaning of Chapter XVIII of those Regulations. It was after the Head Clerk had declined the compensation offered by the Trustees in terms of that chapter that he was discharged.

(d) A complete list of the names is contained in the Annual Report of the Trustees of the Indian Museum for the year 1927-28, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(e) I am sorry I am unable to comply with the Honourable Member's request. The clerk was not a Government servant and if the letter referred to in this part of the question exists, it must be in the office of the authority under whom he was employed.

Mr. B. Das: With reference to the reply given by the Honourable Member to part (d) of the question, will the Honourable Member kindly read the question and then reply? The question was, which of the members of the Board of Trustees of the Museum took part in and voted for the dismissal of the Head Clerk; and Mr. Mitra did not want merely a list of members of the Board of Trustees.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: If the Honourable Member had wanted to see the proceedings of the Board of Trustees, then he ought to have framed his question accordingly.

Mr. B. Das: The question implies that Mr. Mitra wanted the names of the Board of Trustees who voted for the dismissal of the Head Clerk.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I am sure the House will realise that the questions are so detailed and are so many that there is hardly any room for implications of question also to be answered.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Am I not entitled to expect the Honourable Member to read the question before he answers it?

ADMINISTRATION OF THE INDIAN MUSEUM, CALCUTTA.

9. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** Will Government please state:

- (a) If it is a fact that the Trustees of the Indian Museum submitted for sanction of the Government of India in May 1925 a statement for reappropriating a sum of Rs. 600 from the head 'contingencies' to meet the increased expenditure involved in the adoption of the revised scale of pay for their Head Clerk for the financial year 1925-26?
- (b) Whether the Government of India accorded their sanction thereto?
- (c) Whether it was then pointed out to the Trustees of the Indian Museum that they were competent to reappropriate from one head to another within the sanctioned grant and the sanction of the Government of India was therefore not necessary?
- (d) Under what section of the Act X of 1910 are the Trustees empowered to sanction reappropriation from one head to another within the sanctioned budgeted grant?
- (e) Whether the answer given to my starred question No. 2 (3) (d) in the Assembly dated the 14th July, 1930, that the Trustees are empowered to reappropriate from one head to another within the sanctioned grant is correct?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) The matter is not regulated by Act X of 1910.

(e) Yes.

CONTRIBUTION TO PENSIONS BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE INDIAN MUSEUM,
CALCUTTA.

10. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra**: Will Government please state whether Colonel Alcock held an appointment under the Trustees of the Indian Museum as Superintendent of the Natural History Section? If so, for how many years? When was he pensioned off and how much pension is he getting? Have the Trustees contributed anything towards the cost of his pension for service under them in the Indian Museum?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Lieutenant-Colonel Alcock was appointed as Officer-in-charge of the Natural History Section of the Indian Museum in May, 1893. He also held the post of Superintendent of the Indian Museum, from which he retired on pension in 1907. Information as regards the amount of pension drawn by him at present is not readily available. The Trustees made no contribution towards the cost of Colonel Alcock's pension.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Will the Honourable Member explain how, if the Indian Museum is not a Government institution, Lieutenant-Colonel Alcock's pension could be paid from the Government funds?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I am sure that a reference to the judgment alluded to in a previous part of one of my numerous answers to one of the Honourable Member's questions, if carefully perused, will help towards answering that question.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Does my Honourable friend require every Member to read the judgments of all courts, whereas is he not entitled to know from the Honourable Member what the position is from the Government point of view?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I am not quite sure on that point.

Mr. B. Das: May I enquire from the Honourable the Finance Member whether officers that serve in a private institution like the Indian Museum can draw their whole pension from the Government?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I must have notice of that question.

PENSION OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDIAN MUSEUM, CALCUTTA.

11. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra**: (a) Is it a fact that in 1930, 55 years after the Museum was established, at the suggestion of the Government of India, a fund was created for meeting the cost of pension of the establishment of the Trustees of the Indian Museum?

(b) Will Government please state whether the charge of establishment of the Trustees of the Indian Museum, which falls on the Government of India, excludes the cost of pension? If so, under what rule?

(c) Will Government please state the names of the non-gazetted and gazetted establishment of the Trustees of the Indian Museum, Zoological and Anthropological Section, who were transferred to the Zoological Survey of India in 1916 when the Trustees' office was separated with their respective posts in the Zoological Survey of India?

(d) Will Government please lay on the table the service book of the Correspondence Clerk of the Zoological Survey of India and state the entries made in his service book in 1916 and 1917?

(e) Will Government please refer to the answer to my starred question No. 3 (5) (a) in the Assembly on the 14th July, 1930, stating that the Head Clerk of the Trustees of the Indian Museum held no substantive and permanent appointment in a Government Department before his services were transferred to the office of the Trustees of the Indian Museum and say whether the answer is correct?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) So far as the Government of India are aware, the proposal to establish such a fund is still under consideration.

(b) The Trustees of the Indian Museum receive from the Government of India a fixed grant, which is utilised for meeting the cost of establishment and petty expenditure. In fixing this grant, the expenditure to be incurred in the grant of pensions was not taken into account.

(c) A statement showing the names of officers and of other members of the establishment who were employed in the Zoological and Anthropological Section of the Indian Museum but who were subsequently transferred to the Zoological Survey of India, is placed on the table.

(d) I regret I am unable to comply with the request of the Honourable Member, as the service book of an employee is regarded as a confidential document.

(e) I am sorry the answer was not correct.

Officers in the Zoological and Anthropological Section of the Indian Museum transferred to the Zoological Survey of India in 1916.

Names.	Designation in Zoological Survey of India.
1. Dr. N. Annandale	Director.
2. Dr. S. W. Kemp	Superintendent.
3. Dr. B. L. Chowdhury	Assistant Superintendent.
4. Dr. F. H. Gravely	Assistant Superintendent.

Establishment in the Zoological and Anthropological Section of the Indian Museum transferred to the Zoological Survey of India in 1916.

Names.	Designation in Zoological Survey of India.
1. C. O. Bateman	Librarian and Publication Clerk.
2. J. B. Richardson	Entomological Assistant.
3. R. A. Hodgart	Zoological Collector.
4. E. C. Dormieux	Gallery Assistant.
5. J. W. Counter	Gallery Assistant.
6. J. N. Bagchi	Head Clerk and Accountant.
7. B. C. Batabyal	Correspondence Clerk.
8. Atiur Rahman	Registration Clerk.
9. M. M. Dutt	Gallery Assistant.
10. Nowbut Ram	Compositor.
11. Abdul Sobhan	Second Compositor.
12. A. C. Chawdhury	Artist.
13. D. N. Bagchi	Artist.
14. A. Martin	Head Taxidermist.
15. Abdur Rahim	Assistant Taxidermist.
16. Abdul Jalil	Taxidermist.
17. Phaku Ram	Insect Setter.
18. Ram Luggan	Insect Setter.
19. Hari Har	Collection Tender.
20. Sukhi Chand	Collection Tender.
21. Gopi	Collection Tender.
22. Phaguni	Collection Tender.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: Part (e) of the question. Does the Honourable Member mean to say that the answer given by the Government was not correct?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: That is what I have stated.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: You said that the answer was not correct?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Quite.

**REINSTATEMENT OF THE HEAD CLERK OF THE TRUSTEES' OFFICE,
INDIAN MUSEUM, CALCUTTA.**

12. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra:** Will Government please state (a) whether the late Head Clerk of the Trustees' Office, Indian Museum, after his transfer drew his pay as Head Clerk of the Trustees' Office from the general revenues or from the fund of the Trustees? (b) Whether his pay was audited and paid by the Pay and Accounts Officer, Miscellaneous Central Departments, Calcutta, from the specific grant made by the Government of India for the purpose? (c) whether he ceased to be on Government service as Head Clerk of the Trustees' Office, while drawing his pay from the general revenues? If so, why and under what rule? (d) whether Government are prepared to consider his memorial for reinstatement?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) From the funds at the disposal of the Trustees.

(b) His pay, like that of the rest of the staff, was drawn by pay bills presented to the Pay and Accounts Officer, Miscellaneous Departments, Calcutta, against a portion of the Government grant which was allowed by the Trustees to remain with that officer.

(c) As Head Clerk of the Trustees' Office he was not a Government servant and did not draw his pay from the general revenues.

(d) A petition has been received from him and is under the consideration of Government.

**RATE OF INTEREST OF THE RECENT GOVERNMENT OF INDIA STERLING
LOANS.**

13. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) What are the amounts of loans which the Government of India raised in London in the year 1930 and at what rates of interest?

(b) Under whose advice were these loans issued? Was the question of raising loans in England discussed by the Executive Council? What was its decision?

(c) Who fixed the rates of interest of these loans? What are the reasons for fixing such a high rate of interest as six per cent.?

(d) Was any attempt made to raise the amount in India? What attempts were made and with what results?

(e) What are the prices of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. (1933) and 6 per cent. (1933-35) loans, which the Government raised in London?

(f) Do Government propose in future to consult the Assembly before raising a loan outside India?

(g) What was the price of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. 1932 loan at the time, the Government of India offered 6 per cent.?

(h) What is the amount of loss to Indian tax-payers on account of the increase in the rate of interest from $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 per cent.?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) The following loans were raised in London in 1930:

- (i) 6 per cent. 1932-33 Bonds for £6,000,000 issued at 99.
- (ii) 6 per cent. 1933—35 Bonds for £7,000,000 issued at 99.
- (iii) 6 per cent. 1935—37 Bonds for £12,000,000 issued at par.

(b) The loans were issued by the Secretary of State after consultation with the Government of India.

(c) The rates of interest were fixed by the Secretary of State after consultation with the Government of India. The rate of interest at which a sterling loan is floated has to be regulated by India's credit on the London market. Unfortunately Indian credit has been affected by political uncertainties.

(d) In July last Government offered for subscription in India 6 per cent. 1933—36 bonds at par and placed no limit on the amount of subscriptions they would accept. The total amount subscribed was 29,71 lakhs. The public in India, therefore, had ample opportunity to subscribe to a rupee loan issued on approximately the same terms as the recent sterling loans and the response was not sufficiently large to provide necessary funds without additional borrowing outside India.

(e) The prices of the $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. 1932, and the 6 per cent. 1933—35 sterling loans on the 31st December, 1930, were £100 $\frac{1}{2}$ and £102 $\frac{1}{2}$ respectively giving redemption yields of 4.723 and 5.367 per cent.

(f) This would not be practicable. As in other countries, the executive must settle the details of Government borrowings.

(g) The price of the $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. 1932 sterling loan, at the time when the first of the above loans was issued, was £98 $\frac{1}{2}$; that is to say, the redemption yield having regard to the fact that the loan was due to be paid off on January 1, 1932 was 6.174 per cent.

(h) The Honourable Member can calculate what $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. means on the amounts raised, but I cannot admit that this represents a loss or that any arrangement was made which was not justified by the conditions.

Mr. B. Das: May I inquire if the Congress statement about the repudiation of loans had any effect over external loans in the London market?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: That is a subject on which I have frequently expressed an opinion in this House. I am afraid there is no doubt that that statement had an effect on the credit of the Government of India in London. I purposely did not allude to it in my answer. I used the more general term that the position of Indian credit was affected by political uncertainties.

Mr. B. Das: Was it not a fact that the London loan was subscribed almost immediately after it was floated in the London market?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: It is a fact that the London loan was taken up at once and I am very glad to say that it was a fact.

PRICE OF THE BURMAH OIL COMPANY'S PETROL.

14. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) What is the cost of production of petrol per gallon in the Burmah Oil Company?

(b) What is the price of B. O. C. petrol per gallon (i) in Rangoon, (ii) in London, (iii) in New York?

(c) At what price do Government purchase the (B. O. C.) petrol?

(d) Who regulates the prices of petrol?

(e) What is the export duty on petrol?

(f) What is the import duty on petrol? On what principle is the import duty levied?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) The Government have no information.

(b) Prices of B. O. C. petrol in Rangoon, inclusive of the excise duty of six annas per gallon, are fourteen annas per gallon ex-pump and fifteen annas per gallon ex-tin. B. O. C. petrol is not marketed in London or New York.

(c) The prices at which Government purchase petrol vary with the localities in which supplies are required and the method of packing. The following are the prices at which the Indian Stores Department purchases at present:

(i) F. O. R. at suppliers' installation in Rangoon, fourteen annas and six pies per Imperial gallon in returnable 2 gallon cans.

(ii) F. O. R. at suppliers' installation, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras or delivered free at these places, one rupee and one anna per Imperial gallon in returnable 2 gallon cans or in returnable 40/50 gallon casks.

(iii) F. O. R. at suppliers' installation, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras in buyer's containers or in bulk, fifteen annas per Imperial gallon.

(iv) For deliveries made at Karachi, six pies per Imperial gallon is charged over and above the prices mentioned in (ii) and (iii) above.

(d) The oil companies.

(e) Nil.

(f) The import duty on petrol is six annas per Imperial gallon and is levied for revenue purposes. Of this duty two annas is credited to a special fund from which disbursements are made for expenditure on road development.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: When the B. O. C. and other companies send their balance sheets to Government, is it not possible for Government to calculate the cost per gallon of petrol?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I am afraid not. I have had a good deal of experience at one time or another of the calculation of costs, and certainly from published accounts or balance sheets you could not arrive at an accurate figure. Also, I understand that in the case of petroleum products, while it might not be difficult to find out what the average cost of all product was, it is extremely difficult to say how the costs should be allocated, so as to determine the cost of a particular product.

DIVIDEND PAID BY THE BURMAH OIL COMPANY IN 1930.

15. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** What is the amount of dividend which the Burmah Oil Company paid last year?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: According to the reports of the twenty-eighth annual meeting of the Company, for which I would refer the Honourable Member to the commercial and financial newspapers, the dividend paid was 30 per cent.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Is it not a very high dividend?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I think the Honourable Member is in as good a position as myself to answer that question.

PROPORTION OF SHARES IN THE BURMAH OIL COMPANY OWNED BY INDIANS.

16. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** What was the proportion of shares owned by *bona fide* (not domiciled) Indians to the total capital of the Burmah Oil Company—

(i) at the time of paying last dividend?

(ii) at the time the company was first started?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: The Government of India have no information.

RESTORATION OF THE STIPENDS OF MEMBERS OF THE CARNATIC FAMILY.

17. ***Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have given effect to the Resolution passed by the Assembly in January, 1930, recommending the restoration of the stipends of the members of the Carnatic Family, who took part in the Khilafat movement, with retrospective effect?

(b) If no effect has yet been given, will they kindly state the reason therefor?

(c) Will Government kindly place on the table of the House the correspondence that has passed between the Government of India and the Government of Madras on this subject?

Mr. J. G. Acheson: (a) and (b). The Resolution passed by the House in January, 1930, relates to the case of two Carnatic stipendiaries, *viz.*, Messrs. Muhammad Abdul Ahad Sahib and Muhammad Abdul Latif Farookhi. Orders have been issued to give effect to it so far as the case of Muhammad Abdul Ahad Sahib is concerned. The case of Mr. Farookhi is under correspondence with the Madras Government and Mr. Farookhi and it is hoped will be settled before long.

(c) It is not in the public interest to place on the table of the House the correspondence that has passed between the Government of India and the Government of Madras, on the subject.

Mr. S. C. Mitra: This question was before the Government at the beginning of the last Simlā Session. How long will Government take to arrive at a decision in regard to Mr. Farookhi?

Mr. J. G. Acheson: My personal acquaintance with this case is necessarily very short and I am not in a position to answer that question.

Mr. B. Das: The Honourable Member's predecessor, the gentleman for whom the Honourable Member is acting, assured this House that Government would take action immediately and restore the pensions.

Mr. J. G. Acheson: It is a fact that the permanent Foreign Secretary accepted the Resolution on behalf of Government and I know he is taking a great personal interest in attaining the object of the Resolution.

RESTORATION OF THE STIPENDS OF MEMBERS OF THE CARNATIC FAMILY.

18. ***Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi:** With reference to the reply to the supplementary question of Mr. M. K. Acharya to my starred question No. 64, asked in the Assembly on the 14th July, 1930, will Government be pleased to state if they are now prepared to give effect to the Resolution passed by the Assembly in January, 1930, regarding the restoration of stipends, with retrospective effect, to members of the Carnatic family who took part in the Khilafat movement?

Mr. J. G. Acheson: I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to a question on the same subject by the Honourable Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur.

ABOLITION OF THE CREW SYSTEM OF TICKET CHECKING ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

19. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) Have Government decided whether the crew system in the East Indian Railway is to be abolished?

(b) If so, will the men now working in the crew department be discharged from their service? Are Government contemplating to appoint them as station ticket collectors, relieving clerks, travelling ticket collectors and guards in preference to outsiders?

(c) Are Government contemplating to introduce any new system for checking tickets in place of the present crew system? If so, what is the new system? Has it been tried on the East Indian Railway or in any other Government line?

(d) What are the reasons which led Government to conclude that the crew system failed?

(e) Do Government propose to appoint a special officer to look after the interests of crewmen, and to secure parallel posts for them in the same or other sections of the East Indian Railway?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) A final decision has not yet been made.

(b) If a change in the system of checking passengers' tickets is decided on, it is proposed to employ under the new system such of the existing crew staff as it is decided to retain. The East Indian Railway Administration will no doubt employ members of the existing crew staff in preference to outsiders.

(c) The present proposal, in the event of the crew system being abolished, is to have passengers' tickets checked by Travelling Ticket Examiners of whom one or two would be posted to each train. This system is at present employed on those Divisions of the East Indian Railway where

the crew system has not been introduced and on the majority of Railways, although it is not usual to have a Travelling Ticket Examiner on each train.

(d) The principal reason that has led to a reconsideration of the crew system is the difficulty that has been experienced in preventing passengers without tickets from entraining.

(e) Government have received no information indicating that the appointment of a special officer for this purpose is called for.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Will Government please lay on the table the Report and all the papers connected with the inquiry into the question of the abolition of the crew system?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am afraid I must have notice of that question, Sir.

DECLINE IN EXPORTS FROM INDIA.

20. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** (i) What was the amount of export—

(a) From April to September, 1929,

(b) From April to September, 1930?

(ii) What is the loss in income-tax on account of the decrease in export trade?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (i) (a) Rs. 160.46 crores.

(b) Rs. 125.13 crores.

(ii) There is no means of estimating the reduction in income-tax due to the fall in the value of exports during 1930. In any case profits made on exports during 1930 could only be assessed for income-tax in the year 1931-32.

PURCHASE BY GOVERNMENT OF THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

21. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) What steps have Government taken since the last Session of the Assembly for the purchase of the Bengal and North-Western Railway?

(b) What is the price of its share?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) Government have been in communication with the Secretary of State and the Governments of the United Provinces and Bihar and Orissa on the subject, and I propose to move during the present Session for the appointment of a Committee of Members of the Assembly to examine the matter in all its aspects.

(b) The ordinary stock of the Company was quoted about the middle of December at 273½.

RAILWAY PROJECTS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

22. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** What are the schemes, involving a capital expenditure of Rs. 50,000 or more, which are before the Railway Board for consideration?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I presume the Honourable Member wishes to know the schemes costing over Rs. 50,000 which the Railway Board propose should be taken up in 1931-32, I lay a statement of such schemes

on the table. There are, of course, other schemes under examination, though there is little prospect of their early inception, and I should explain that schemes costing under one lakh do not ordinarily come to the Railway Board.

SCHEMES COSTING OVER RS. 50,000 IN 1931-32.

Assam-Bengal Railway.

	Anticipated cost.
	Rs.
	Lakhs.
(1) Electrification—Badarpur	1·01
(2) Regrading Lunding—Manipur Road	2·25

Bengal and North-Western Railway.

(3) Remodelling goods yard, Samastipur	4·29
(4) Improving accommodation in old type staff quarters	2·50

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

(5) Doubling line Kharagpur-Bhadrak (Only two sections of this doubling estimated to cost 13·50 lakhs is proposed for early inception)	163·73
(6) Crossing stations between Akaltara-Naila, Champa-Baraduar, Baraduar-Sakti and Jamga-Dahgora, Bhatapara-Nipania, Bhatapara-Hatibandh, Dilbai-Drug, Drug-Muripur, Muripur-Rajnandgaon, Silyari-Mandhar	10·00
(7) Tender Shop at Kharagpur	7·49
(8) Conversion of mill wright shop into Locomotive shop stores (building and equipment) at Kharagpur	2·71
(9) Development of Bokaro Joint Colliery	1·78

Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway.

(10) Bandikui remodelling M. G. yard	2·30
(11) Renewal of girders on the Narbadda Bridge	40·36
(12) Strengthening bridges Kalakund Khandwa	12·00
(13) Strengthening Ravine Viaduct	1·61
(14) Strengthening Rutlam-Mhow Bridges	4·50

Burma Railways.

(15) Providing additional reception lines and extension to loop lines at certain stations from Pyinmana to Thazi, Yemethin District	2·50
(16) Re-roofing Tool Room, New Electric Shops and New Office for production staff offices	1·25
(17) Replacement of machinery for Locomotive Workshops	0·93
(18) Flat and approach girders for crossing rolling stock (Martban Moulmein South)	1·70

<i>Eastern Bengal Railway.</i>	Anticipated cost. Rs. Lakhs.
(19) Fulchhari—Permanent acquisition of land	2·32
(20) Kanchrapara improved water supply	1·00
(21) Naihati extra marshalling facilities in lieu of proposed Belgurriah yard	5·00
(22) Kanchrapara new hospital	1·00
(23) Renewal of weak masonry bridges	1·40
(24) Renewal of small spans	0·60

<i>East Indian Railway.</i>	
(25) Lucknow Division—Junction arrangements required of the Lucknow-Sultanpur-Zaferabad Railway	2·00
(26) Water supply 12" rising made from Monghyr to Jamal- pur	2·69
(27) Dinapur Division—Drinking water supply at Moghal- sarai station and colony	2·00
(28) Howrah Division—Dankuni—Provision of up and down passing sidings and raised platforms	1·26
(29) Moradabad Division—Provision of hospital and dis- pensary for European and Indian staff with nurses' quarters	2·09
(30) Asansol Division—Improved water supply at Asansol .	1·00
(31) Moradabad Division—Improving drainage in the Colony	1·30
(32) Rebuilding weak masonry bridges	1·25
(33) Strengthening Barakar bridge down track	2·80
(34) Renewal of foot-over bridges at Luckeeserai, Buktiaipur, Mokameh, Dinapore, Buxar and Arrah	1·50
(35) Machinery plant and equipment for mechanical work- shops	5·10
(36) Mechanical plant on divisions	2·80
(37) Colliery equipment	0·63

<i>Great Indian Peninsula Railway.</i>	
(38) Itarsi Agra Relaying	31·33
(39) Pucca Drains—Bhusaval Nagpur	5·68
(40) Strengthening and renewal of girders of Betwa and Betwa Nala Bridge	5·22
(41) Strengthening and renewal of girders of Keotan Bridge	3·10
(42) Strengthening and renewal of girders of Bina Bridge .	4·73

<i>Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.</i>	
(43) Tondiarpet Oil Depot Siding	1·16
(44) Watering arrangements at Ongole	1·24
(45) Ticket checking arrangements at Bangalore city . . .	1·20
(46) Additional Machinery at Hubli.	2·35

<i>North-Western Railway (Commercial).</i>	
(47) New Bay and 80-ton cranes in Boiler Shop, Moghalpura.	2·45
(48) Renewing and strengthening of girders on the Delhi Ambala Kalka section	8·22

<i>North-Western Railway (Strategic).</i>	Anticipated cost. Rs. Lakhs.
(49) Renewing and strengthening weak girders spans between Sibi and Kolpur	3·00
<i>Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway (Lucknow-Bareilly Section).</i>	
(50) Interlocking main line stations	2·10
<i>South Indian Railway.</i>	
(51) Remodelling Dindigul Junction	2·93
(52) Additional accommodation at Kumbaconam	2·00
(53) Podanur Mettupalaiyam section girder renewals	0·53
(54) Katpadi Branch—strengthening bridges, Cheyar, Palar and overbridges, M. & S. M. Railway	4·54

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY FROM BANSDIH ROAD TO MANIYAR GHAT.

23. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** (a) Was it ever proposed to build a branch line from Bansdih Road to Maniyar Ghat in Bengal and North-Western Railway?

(b) What opinions did the District Board of Ballia and the Collector of Ballia express on the necessity of constructing this line?

(c) Is it not a fact that the proposed line was intended to pass through the following towns:

(i) Maniyar, which is a big trading centre and a big Mela is held here called Ektijia;

(ii) Nankagam, famous for its shrine where thousands of people assemble every year;

(iii) Sikandarpur, which is one of the greatest trading centres and it exports oil seeds, perfumery and sugar;

(iv) Nawanager?

(d) What was the length of the proposed line and what was the estimated cost?

(e) What are the reasons for not commencing the construction work?

(f) Are Government prepared to consider the proposal again?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) A survey was made in 1907-08 for a line from Bansdih Road to Maniyar Ghat.

(b) Government are not aware of the opinions expressed at that time by the District Board and the Collector of Ballia.

(c) The surveyed line terminated at Maniyar, but a reconnaissance was also made in the direction of Sikandarpur and Nawanager and on to Bilthara Road. Government are not aware of the existence of the town of—I am sorry I am not aware of its exact pronunciation—Nankagam which is not shown in the survey of India maps or mentioned in the local gazetteer.

(d) The line surveyed was 14½ miles long and the estimated cost in 1908 was Rs. 5,32,460.

(e) The traffic prospects of the line did not appear sufficiently good to justify the cost of construction.

(f) Considering that the cost of construction would be at least 25 per cent. higher than in 1908 and the traffic prospects today would be even less favourable owing to the road motor competition which would be experienced, Government are not prepared to consider the proposal again.

EFFECT OF THE BOYCOTT MOVEMENT ON A DELHI FIRM.

24. ***Mr. B. Das:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following news published in the *Pioneer* of 22nd November as a message from its special representative at Delhi?

“That boycott and its advocacy can prove a two-edged weapon has been the experience of one well-known Delhi firm which relies for the great proportion of its business upon European custom. It became known that members of the firm, while accepting English money, were actively associated with anti-British propaganda and its dissemination. The news was circulated with the suggestion that custom might advantageously be withdrawn, and from evidence available, the effect appears to have been salutary.”

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the name of the Delhi firm referred to?

(c) What are the charges against members of this firm, and what evidence do Government themselves possess against this firm?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state to what extent Government officials took part in the circulation of the news that European custom might advantageously be withdrawn from this firm?

(e) Will Government be pleased to place the connected papers on the table?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) I have seen the message in question.

(b), (c), (d), and (e). I do not think I can add for the Honourable Member's information to the contents of the message itself.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar: Do Government consider this form of boycott worthy of adoption?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: I can only say this that if a firm is found to be engaged in activities hostile to the Government, it does not seem to me to be an unjustifiable proposition that Government should not lend it their financial support.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar: Would Government justify social pressure in cases of that sort?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: No, Sir. I do not justify social pressure in any circumstances.

Mr. B. Das: May I inquire, Sir, if officials of the Criminal Investigation Department have not communicated to the Honourable Member the names of the firms that are so banned, and also a list of the Government British officials who have agreed in the boycott of that particular motor firm and are carrying it out?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: I do not think any advantage would be gained, Sir, by my naming any names here.

Mr. B. Das: That is a matter of opinion.

RECENT LOANS RAISED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

25. ***Mr. B. Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of debt incurred by them till December, 1930, from 1st April, 1930?

(b) How much of this debt was anticipated in the last budget speech of the Honourable the Finance Member and how much was unanticipated?

(c) How much of the loan incurred up to date has been utilised to meet—

- (i) anticipated capital charges;
- (ii) capital charges not foreseen;
- (iii) deficit revenue of the Central Government;
- (iv) deficit revenue of the Provincial Governments;
- (v) other productive debts; and
- (vi) other non-productive debts?

(d) If any fund from new loans has been allotted under items (c) (v) and (c) (vi), will Government be pleased to state the nature of such expenditure and the necessity of their provision by public debt? Will Government be pleased to give details of expenditure on each of these items?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: A revised estimate of the debt position will be placed before the House when I present the Budget for 1931-32.

Mr. B. Das: May I suggest, Sir, to the Honourable Member that the purport of my question was the amount of debt incurred by my Honourable friend from 1st April, 1930, till 31st December, 1930, and the amounts advanced to the Provincial Governments and also spent by the Central Government on productive and non-productive heads?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, the purport of my answer was to suggest that when I present my Budget for 1931-32 I shall be in a position to give this House fairly accurate information on the various questions asked by my Honourable friend. If I were to attempt to answer the questions now, I should have to give very insufficient answers and a very incomplete statement. I suggest, Sir, that it is to the interest of the House that they should wait for a matter of four weeks when I shall be able to put the position as a whole in my Budget Statement.

LOSS OF REVENUE DUE TO TRADE DEPRESSION.

26. ***Mr. B. Das:** Will Government be pleased to state if they anticipate any loss of revenue owing to general trade depression? If so, what is the total amount of such loss (1) up to date, (2) anticipated total loss during the year 1930-31?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Government do anticipate a serious loss of revenue owing, amongst other factors, to the general trade depression. The position will be discussed at length in my budget speech. Meanwhile, I am afraid, I must ask the Honourable Member to be content with the information available in the published returns.

COMMITTEE APPOINTED RE SEPARATION OF RAILWAY AND GENERAL FINANCE.

27. ***Mr. B. Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Committee of both the Houses appointed to revise the Convention over separation of Railway Finance from General Finance reached any final decision about the future management of Indian Railways?

(b) How many sittings did this Committee hold in 1929-30 and 1930-31?

(c) Is it a fact that there was a deadlock over the preliminary discussion as to procedure to be adopted in the Committee's future deliberations?

(d) Is it a fact that after that deadlock between non-officials and officials in that Committee, Government never called any more meetings of the members?

(e) Will Government be pleased to place on the table a brief resumé of the work done in the various sittings of that Committee?

(f) Will Government be pleased to inform the House of the causes that delay decision over this revision?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state if on their own part they are anxious to arrive at a decision over the convention before the next Railway Budget will be presented to the House?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) No.

(b) Two meetings of the full Committee and one of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Committee to examine in detail certain special questions were held in 1929.

(c) and (d). No.

(e) I place on the table of the House the minutes of the meetings of the Committee and the Sub-Committee.

(f) I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the explanation on this point which I gave in a speech on the 22nd February last during the course of the discussion on the Railway Budget.

(g) Government consider it most desirable that a decision should be arrived at on the questions which the Committee was considering before the new constitution comes into force. But they do not think they can be settled satisfactorily except in relation to the constitutional changes.

Review of the separation of Railway from General Finances.

The following motion was adopted by the Legislative Assembly on 21st September, 1928, regarding the election of a Committee to review the Separation of Railway Finances from General Finances:—

“That this House do proceed to elect in such manner as may be prescribed by the Honourable the President sixteen members to serve with the Honourable Finance Member as a committee to review the separation of railway finances from the general finances of the country in accordance with the Resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly on the 20th September, 1924.”

In pursuance of the above, the following sixteen members were elected members of the Committee:—

1. The Honourable Sir George Rainy.
2. Mr. A. A. L. Parsons.
3. Col. J. D. Crawford.
4. Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.

5. Mr. M. S. Aney.
6. Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta.
7. Mr. G. D. Birla.
8. Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty.
9. Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi.
10. Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury.
11. Haji Chaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan.
12. Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur.
13. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt.
14. Rai Bahadur Tarit Bhusan Roy.
15. Kumar Ganganand Sinha.
16. Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim.

.MINUTES OF MEETINGS.

First meeting—17th February, 1929.

The first meeting of the Committee to review the separation of Railway Finances from the General finances of the country was held on Sunday, the 17th of February, 1929, in Room No. 50 of the Council House. The following Members were present :—

1. Sir George Rainy.
2. Sir George Schuster.
3. Mr. A. A. L. Parsons.
4. Mr. M. S. Aney.
5. Mr. G. D. Birla.
6. Maulvi Abdul Matin Chaudhury.
7. Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty.
8. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt.
9. Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi.
10. Haji Chaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan.
11. Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta.
12. Maulvi Syed Murtuza Sahib Bahadur.
13. Rai Bahadur Tarit Bhusan Roy.
14. Kumar Ganganand Sinha.
15. Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.

Sir George Rainy was elected Chairman of the Committee.

In opening the proceedings Sir George Rainy expressed his regret that it had not been found possible to obtain the presence of all members in time for a meeting before the beginning of the session, since during the session it was very difficult to find unoccupied days. He explained that the present meeting had been called in order that the Committee might settle their procedure, and that the Government members might have the advantage of hearing the views of other members of the Committee. Neither he nor Sir George Schuster had come with any pre-conceived ideas; they both wanted to know first what the points were which other members of the Committee thought should be examined. Certain members of the Committee had already indicated various subjects as requiring examination, and possibly other members would now be able to put forward additions to the list.

2. The suggestions already received were then read out. Mr. Aney proposed that in addition a statement showing the economies realised as compared with those anticipated by schemes placed before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways during the last few years should be prepared. Mr. Chetty thought that it might be useful to have the percentage of administration charges, operation charges, etc., to the total expenditure on Indian railways compared with similar figures for railways in the United Kingdom and the United States of America; but Mr. Parsons pointed out that it would be difficult to get a reliable basis for such a comparison, since it was unlikely

that charges booked under these heads were the same in all countries. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta considered that as a general guide the total operating ratio might be found useful for comparative purposes. It was finally decided that the notes already received should be circulated to all other members of the Committee as quickly as possible, and written suggestions invited from members by the 28th of February.

3. On the motion of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta it was decided to appoint a Sub-Committee consisting of :

Sir George Rainy.	Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi.
Sir George Schuster.	Mr. M. S. Aney.
Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas.	Colonel J. D. Crawford, and

Mr. Jamnadas Mehta.

The terms of reference to the Sub-Committee were then considered. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta suggested that the Sub-Committee should be asked to examine the operation of the Convention and to make suggestions for such changes or alterations in it as they considered necessary after this examination. Sir George Rainy suggested that it was principally the financial basis of the Convention which the Sub-Committee should examine, and on which it should make recommendations, and that possibly it might be better to leave other points to be dealt with by the main Committee. Sir George Schuster thought that in addition to examining and making recommendations on the financial aspects of the Convention, the Sub-Committee might usefully prepare a list of subjects which they thought should be examined by the main Committee.

Mr. Chetty expressed the opinion that it was for the main Committee first to settle what points should be referred to the Sub-Committee; and it was finally decided that, if possible, a meeting of the Sub-Committee should be held before the next meeting of the full Committee, and that the Sub-Committee should, after considering any suggestions received from members, themselves put forward proposals for the terms of reference, and suggest a time-table for the business of the sub and main Committees.

Second meeting—29th March, 1929.

The second meeting of the Committee to review the separation of Railway from General finances was held on Friday, the 29th March, 1929, in Room No. 12 of the Council House. The following Members were present :

Sir George Rainy.	Mr. Amar Nath Dutt.
Sir George Schuster.	Colonel J. D. Crawford.
Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta.	Kumar Ganganand Sinha.

2. The Committee approved of the draft terms of reference placed before them by the Sub-Committee with the addition of the following clause :

"18. Whether any recommendations made by the Sub-Committee would necessitate any amendments to the Indian Railways Act or any other Act of the Legislature, and, if so, what."

3. It was considered essential that the meetings of the Sub-Committee and of the Committee should be convened early enough to enable a report to be presented to the Assembly in the next session, and it was decided that meetings should be called sometime in the latter half of June, 1929; the intention was that ten days should be allotted for discussions both in the Sub-Committee and in the Committee, and that the meetings of the Sub-Committee should start three or four days earlier in order that it may be able to lay its recommendations before the full Committee. It was resolved that all papers circulated to Members of the Sub-Committee should be circulated at the same time to Members of the Committee who would thus be kept fully informed of the matters under discussion.

Terms of reference.

To examine and make recommendations on the following subjects :

1. Whether the present provision for depreciation is adequate and whether any alteration is necessary in the basis of the appropriations made thereto under the present rules of the Fund after investigation into the following, among other questions :

- (a) Whether the present assumption as to the life of assets is correct.
- (b) Whether the Depreciation Fund should provide for the full replacement cost of an asset or the original cost thereof.
- (c) Whether any special provision is required to be made for arrears of depreciation or for the writing down or writing off of capital.

2. Whether it is desirable to establish a fund to be made up by appropriations from surplus revenue to cover expenditure on betterment and minor capital improvements.

3. What should be the correct method of calculating interest on the capital advanced by the Government of India to the Railways.

4. Whether Railway revenues should be required to provide in addition to interest and depreciation an annual allocation from revenues for redemption of the whole or a part of the capital advanced by the Government to the Railways.

5. Whether in addition to the above payments Railways should make a contribution to general revenues, and, if so, on what basis the contribution should be fixed.

6. How the actual surplus accruing in any year, after provision has been made for interest, depreciation, etc., should be distributed, and in particular whether any, and, if so, what share should be allotted to :

- (a) the Reserve Fund ;
- (b) General Revenues ;
- (c) the welfare of employees ; and
- (d) non-recurring expenditure on increased amenities for the travelling public.

7. For what purposes the Reserve Fund should be held, and what should be its maximum limit.

8. What policy should be followed when Government are satisfied that there has been a permanent increase in the nett earnings of the railways, and in particular to what extent the recurring surplus should be devoted to :

- (a) the reduction of rates and fares ;
- (b) the improvement of the conditions of service of Railway employees ; and
- (c) the provision of increased amenities for the travelling public.

9. Whether strategic railways should be treated separately, and, if so, how.

10. How the balances of the Depreciation and Reserve Funds should be invested ; if left with the Government of India as part of the general ways and means balances, what rate of interest should be allowed thereon, and whether such interest as is payable should be added to the reserve themselves or taken as items of general railway revenue.

11. Whether any alteration is desirable in the form of the Railway budget presented to the Legislature or in the time of presentation.

12. Whether a change is desirable in the constitution, functions, or procedure of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways or the Central Advisory Council.

13. What changes, if any, are desirable in the powers exercised by Agents of Railways.

14. Whether there should be prepared by the Railway Board annually a balance sheet for each railway and a consolidated balance sheet for all Indian State-owned railways.

15. What should be the constitution and functions of the Rates Advisory Committee, or of any other body that may be set up for the control of rates and fares.

16. Whether it is desirable that the services of a Railway expert or experts should be obtained from abroad to examine any, and, if so, what aspects of the Indian Railway Administration.

17. What progress has been made in giving effect to the recommendations, apart from the Convention, in the Resolution of the Legislative Assembly of the 20th September, 1924, and what further steps, if any, in that direction are desirable and feasible.

18. Whether any recommendations made by the Sub-Committee would necessitate any amendments to the Indian Railways Act or any other Act of the Legislature, and, if so, what."

Letters containing suggestions received from Members of the Committee appointed to Review the separation of Railway from General Finances.

DEMI-OFFICIAL LETTER FROM MR. JAMNADAS M. MEHTA, DATED THE 14TH DECEMBER 1928.

I thank you for your letter of the 1st instant intimating the date of the first meeting of the Separation of Railway Finance Convention Revision Committee.

My views are—

- (1) That the Committee should be allowed to elect its own chairman.
- (2) That the contribution to the General finances from Railways should not be more than one per cent. on the capital at charge.
- (3) That the Railway Reserves must not be more than an amount equal to two years' contribution on the capital at charge. Any surplus must go towards the reduction of rates and fares and increase of amenities.
- (4) That the depreciation reserve rules should be revised so as to bear less heavily on revenue.
- (5) That members of the Railway Finance Committee should be allowed to raise any question of finance or policy *sui moto*.
- (6) That the minutes of the proceedings of the Railway Finance Committee should be so recorded that Members of the Assembly might be able to follow the trend of discussion and the main *pros.* and *cons.* of the issue.
- (7) That the Agents' powers must be curtailed in some respects of which I shall write hereafter.

DEMI-OFFICIAL LETTER FROM MR. G. D. BIRLA, DATED THE 14TH DECEMBER 1928.

With reference to your letter No. 4773-F., dated the 1st December 1928, the following are some of the points which I am likely to raise at the meetings of the Committee appointed to review the separation of Railway finance from the General finance of the country :—

1. The amount of contribution to General finance and the desirability or otherwise of the existing provision in the convention relating to strategic railways.
2. Purchase of stores.
3. Indianisation.
4. Policy with regard to the size, etc., of the Reserve Fund.
5. Rates and Fares.
6. Central Advisory Council—how far it has served the purpose for which it was formed.
7. The utility or otherwise of the Rates Advisory Committee.

I can think of nothing specific at the moment which requires the collection and tabulation of statistics, but I feel the members will like to have notes or memoranda dealing at some length with important topics like those mentioned above. It is a vast field which the Committee will have to survey and to enable it to discharge its duties in a truly satisfactory manner, it is essential that information on the various aspects of railway administration should be made available for it in a handy form. The members have received a set of papers containing the minutes placed before the Committee of 1925 that examined the question and they are thankful for it. This however is only a part of the material which will be required for an elucidation of the problem to be investigated. What I suggest therefore is the preparation by the Board of a set of papers explaining the *status quo* and showing the improvements

brought about all along the line in response to suggestions in the Legislature. The Board might go a little further and provide for the use of the members of the Committee a comparative study of some of the important aspects of Indian railway management, showing where it stands as judged by foreign standards and how far its modernization has gone.

I note that the first meeting of the Committee will be held at Delhi on the 21st January. I hope that the programme will be so framed as to lead to no clash of dates with the meetings of the Legislature. The members should have ample time to deal with the questions which are likely to arise, and this they cannot have if they have to divide it between the meetings of the Committee and of the Assembly or the Council of State.

DEMI-OFFICIAL LETTER FROM KUMAR GANGANAND SINHA, DATED THE 21ST JANUARY 1929.

With reference to your letter No. 4773-F., dated the 1st December 1928, I beg to say that I would like to have detailed information in regard to the following particulars in connection with the separation of Railway Finance from the General Finance:—

1. Railway Reserve accumulating from year to year.
2. Details of the amenities offered to the travelling public since the separation.
3. Reduction of freights and fares.
4. Improvement of the rolling stocks and locomotives.
5. Progress in regard to the Indianisation of superior services.
6. How far State Railway stores have been purchased from indigenous Indian firms.

Thanking you in anticipation.

DEMI-OFFICIAL LETTER FROM MR. JAMNADAS M. MEHTA, DATED THE 26TH FEBRUARY 1929.

In reply to your D. O. No. 4773-F., I am making the following suggestions:—

- (1) That one copy of the Standard Revenues Act (1921) for Railways in England be made available to every member of the Committee.
- (2) That the American practice in regard to the Depreciation and Reserve funds may, if possible, be made available to the members.
- (3) That statistics may be supplied to members as to the amount of interest paid from 1st April 1922 till 31st March 1929—
 - (a) for the construction of new lines before they are opened for traffic;
 - (b) for the schemes of rehabilitation and improvements until they are completed.
- (4) That a balance sheet of each railway and consolidated balance sheet of all the railways should be hereafter prepared and supplied to the Assembly.
- (5) That the form in which the Budget papers are presented should be re-considered.
- (6) That a memorandum should be supplied stating what particular powers, both financial and administrative, had been delegated to the Agents since 1921.
- (7) That a similar memorandum regarding the delegation of powers from the Secretary of State and the Government of India to the Railway Board and of the powers which the Secretary of State and the Government of India still retain in their hands.
- (8) That a statement of the steps that have been so far taken for arranging the Railway Budget in September instead of in February each year should be circulated.
- (9) That a statement of such railway industries as have been established since 1st April 1922 may be supplied to each member.

DEMI-OFFICIAL LETTER FROM SIR PURSHOTAMDAS THAKURDAS, DATED THE 26TH FEBRUARY 1929.

With reference to your D. O. No. 4773-F., dated the 18th instant, I think it desirable for the Committee to have a report from a qualified expert on the adequacy or otherwise of the Railway Depreciation Fund and generally on the progress made in the

efficiency of Indian Railways, since say, the Inchcape Committee reported, i.e., since 1st April 1923. As a Member of the Inchcape Committee, I should, in ordinary course, not refer to the Report of that Committee, but it is unanimously agreed that the Report on the Railway Expenditure as made by that Committee, is very valuable. I particularly draw the attention of the Committee to paragraphs 15, 16, 17, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29 and the general remarks covering paragraphs 33 to 37. I would also refer the Committee to conclusion No. 5 of the Committee as recorded on page 81 of their Report.

In order to be able to get a reliable lead on these various questions, I would suggest that the Government of India bring out an expert in Railway matters, of the position of General Manager of one of the Railways in England, to review the progress made in the efficiency of Indian Railways since April 1923. Mr. Milne, who was brought out by Lord Inchcape to assist the Committee, rendered such invaluable assistance in the preparation of the Report on Railway Expenditure, that I feel that the expenditure incurred in making similar advice available to the Committee will not only not be wasted, but will pay itself several times over. I would like to make it clear that I am for a really first-class railway expert being brought out and none else. I am aware that what I am suggesting may delay the consideration of the question of depreciation, but I fail to understand how the Committee can proceed with the question of adequate depreciation for Indian Railways without a report of the nature that I have indicated above.

DEMI-OFFICIAL LETTER FROM MESSRS. TARIT BHUSHAN ROY AND AMAR NATH DUTT,
DATED THE 7TH MARCH 1929.

With reference to your D. O. No. 4773-F., dated the 1st December 1928, we beg to state that we desire to raise the following points for consideration of the Committee which has been appointed for dealing with the question of separation of Railway Finance from General Revenues :—

- (1) The principle on which contribution should be made to the general finance and the nature and extent thereof.
- (2) The principle regulating the Reserve Fund and the Depreciation Fund.
- (3) The gradual reduction of freights and fares and the provision of increased amenities to the travelling public.
- (4) Improvement of coaching stock and adoption of measures for securing efficient and up-to-date transportation methods and quicker movement of the rolling stock.
- (5) Particulars relating to the purchase of stores.
- (6) The advantage or necessity of the Rates Advisory Committee.
- (7) Economy without impairing efficiency.
- (8) Transference of Strategic Railways from General Railway finance.
- (9) Time for presentation of Railway Budget.
- (10) Statement showing the actual receipts (both pre-war and post-war) from passenger traffic of different classes.

We should like to know the possibilities of electricity and oil fuel as a commercial proposition in the movement of rolling stock in India. We regret we do not appreciate the necessity of the formation of a sub-committee which can hardly be of service unless the whole committee is daily consulted and they have the opportunity of daily meeting the sub-committee. So it is necessary that the members of the full committee should also be present at the place where the sub-committee sits, to make suggestions as occasion arises. Having regard to the importance of the matters under consideration, we think it is eminently desirable that they should be considered by the full committee at meetings to be called and arranged for early in May or June next at Simla.

A meeting of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Committee elected by the Assembly to review the Separation Convention was held in Bombay on Sunday the 30th June. All the Members of the Sub-Committee, except Colonel Crawford, who was out of India, attended. The following Members were present :—

1. The Honourable Sir GEORGE RAINY, *Chairman*.
2. The Honourable Sir GEORGE SCHUSTER.
3. Sir PURSHOTAMDAS THAKURDAS.

4. Mr. A. H. GHAZNAVI.
5. Mr. M. S. ANEY.
6. Mr. JAMNADAS MEHTA.

2. The Chairman explained that Government had not prepared any definite proposals to lay before the Sub-Committee. When the separation proposals were placed before the Assembly in 1924, the initiative was taken by Government; but the present Committee had been appointed in response to a feeling in the Assembly that the existing arrangements might with advantage be revised, and Government therefore desired to ascertain the provisional views of the Members of the Sub-Committee in a general way at this preliminary meeting. Sir George Schuster pointed out that one of the most important questions that they had to consider was whether the Railway position was really as prosperous as it looked, or whether the system of accounting at present in force showed the results better than they really were. He doubted whether enough money was being set aside at present for depreciation or for minor capital improvements or for betterments, and pointed out that there was no provision for the amortisation by the Railways of the capital invested in them, though Government set aside annually a definite sum of money for amortising the whole of their debt including that incurred for Railways. Referring to the proposals made by Sir Arthur Dickinson in connection with the depreciation fund, he said that while there was room for difference of opinion as to the lives that should be assumed for the different classes of assets, which was a matter for experts to decide, the suggestion made by Sir Arthur Dickinson that revenue should bear the total replacement cost and not merely the original cost was a very sound one. It was estimated, however, that it would cost at present about 2 crores more from revenue per year. Another proposal which was worthy of consideration was the one made in General Hammond's letter to him that a sum of about 1/10th per cent. of the capital at charge should be set aside every year from revenue for betterments which did not directly earn revenue or reduce expenditure. He also favoured the suggestion that the limit of expenditure on minor capital improvements below which the cost should be charged to revenue should be raised to Rs. 10,000 from Rs. 2,000. This was estimated to cost about 30 lakhs a year at present.

After discussion, the Sub-Committee came to the conclusion that it would be desirable for the Chairman and Sir George Schuster to place their preliminary views before them for consideration. They also desired at the same time to have a statement showing what the effect of these proposals would have been on the Railway contribution to general revenues if they had been in force during the last few years.

3. The question was then discussed whether in view of the fact that the Statutory Commission would probably deal in the course of their general report with the constitutional position of Railways, it was worth while to go on with the present investigation. The general sense of the Committee was that the Statutory Commission were unlikely to make a detailed recommendation regarding Railways, and that the investigation they were engaged on should be continued.

4. The next question discussed was a suggestion made by Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas that an expert should be obtained to report on the adequacy or otherwise of the Railway depreciation fund, and generally on the progress made in the efficiency of Indian Railways since 1925. The Chairman undertook to obtain the views of the Railway Board on the proposal and to place them before the Sub-Committee at their next meeting.

Mr. B. Das: Do I understand that Government do not desire to call a meeting of this Committee in this Session of the Assembly?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I am afraid, Sir, the Committee is no longer in existence.

Mr. B. Das: Do I take it that the Government have no intention of asking this House and the other House to appoint a similar Committee once again?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I do not think, Sir, that the precise procedure to be followed in connection with the further investigation of this question can be settled in advance of the method of procedure that may be agreed upon for the investigation of all the numerous questions which have to be examined in connection with the new constitution.

FRANCHISE OF INDIANS IN CEYLON.

28. ***Mr. B. Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state at what stage of negotiation they are now with the Secretary of State for India about equality of franchise of Indians in Ceylon?

(b) Will Government be pleased to make a statement as to how the problem stands?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) and (b). In pursuance of the Resolution adopted on the 11th February, 1930, in this House the Government of India made further representations to the Secretary of State on the question of Indian franchise under the new constitution in Ceylon. His Majesty's Government gave full consideration to the views of the Government of India and their decision was contained in the Despatch of the Secretary of State for the Colonies No. 911, dated the 13th June, 1930, addressed to His Excellency the Governor of Ceylon. That Despatch was published in India immediately on its receipt, and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House. It will be observed that His Majesty's Government decided not to include in the Order-in-Council the provision that an applicant for a certificate of permanent settlement should be required explicitly to renounce any claim to special protection by any Government other than that of Ceylon. It was also made clear in the Despatch that there was no intention of repealing or amending to the detriment of Indians any of the laws of Ceylon affecting their position or privileges, or of abrogating or lessening the powers and functions of the Agent of the Government of India.

Mr. B. Das: Do I take it that the Government are satisfied with the position that has been stated by the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I shall be glad to hear if the House is satisfied.

Mr. B. Das: The House will express its opinion when the occasion arises. May I enquire if the Government of India are satisfied with the position as was stated by the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The Government of India do not feel called upon to take any further action.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Are the Government of India aware that the Indians who have been living in Ceylon for the past several years cannot expect equality of treatment as regards franchise because there is a clause put in in the new Act, which is coming into force next May or June, that Indians having a mind to return to India will not get the franchise?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I am not aware of such a contingency.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Are the Government of India aware that Indians, both Hindus and Muslims, held meetings repeatedly and sent copies of resolutions to the Government of India? (Hear, hear.)

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: On which subject, Sir?

Mr. K. Ahmed: On the subject that the Indians have their right of franchise, that is to say, equality of footing in the matter of establishing

their claim under the new reforms, which they are not getting. As a matter of fact equality of their right in the franchise is now being reduced under the new reforms.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I am quite satisfied, Sir, that in the matter of equality of franchise between Indians and Ceylonese there is no difference.

Mr. K. Ahmed: I say that the Government representatives preparing the list of voters and the judges who decide, as the revising officers, are liable to construe—since their salaries are paid by the Ceylonese Government—that Indians are likely to go back to India and therefore there need not be equality of franchise.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Is this a supplementary question to the question which was just answered by the Honourable Member?

Mr. K. Ahmed: Yes, Sir, (Laughter) if you will exercise your right judgment.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Is it right for an Honourable Member to answer a point of order addressed to the Chair and which the Chair has to decide?

Mr. President: Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: What about my point of order?

Mr. K. Ahmed: There is no point of order.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Sir, the Honourable Member has said that he had no information about any attempt made by the Government of Ceylon of the nature just mentioned by my Honourable friend, Mr. K. Ahmed. I may just say one thing more about it, that is, that this House . . .

Mr. President: The Honourable Member can only ask a supplementary question. He cannot make a statement.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: The post of a Deputy Secretary on a very high salary has been sanctioned for this purpose. Was it not the duty of that officer to find out all the facts?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: I am not able to follow the Honourable Member's question.

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member put a specific question?

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: The House sanctioned a special officer, called the Deputy Secretary for this purpose and specially to deal with emigration. Was it not his duty to enquire as to what was going on about Indians in Ceylon?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Of course, it is and that duty is being discharged fully.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Is it not a fact that last year a deputation waited on the Honourable Member or his predecessor? Is it not a fact that that deputation came here and spent some time and exchanged their views with the Members of this Legislature? Of course a majority of the Members of the House are new (Laughter), but I happen to be one of the old Members who knows about this.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will put a specific question, arising out of the facts disclosed in the answer to the question.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Are the Government aware that last year or so, representatives of Hindu and Muslim Indians living in Ceylon came and approached the Honourable Member's Department—either his predecessor or himself—and exchanged views with regard to this difficulty which they were anticipating in the coming reforms and what have the Government done in that regard?

Mr. Arthur Moore: Is it not a fact, Sir, that Mr. K. Ahmed is basing his questions on a state of affairs which has passed and that the difficulty to which he refers was removed by the representations made by the Government of India last year?

Mr. President: It is the privilege of the Honourable Member in charge to give that reply. (Laughter.)

Mr. Arthur Moore: May I state, Sir, that I am asking the Honourable Member whether that is a fact?

Mr. K. Ahmed: Is the Honourable Member raising any point of order, Sir?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: Sir, my reading of the reply must have been very indistinct indeed if the question that is now being put is to be answered over again, and therefore with your permission, I will read my reply again. May I do so, Sir?

Mr. President: Yes; do please.

(The Honourable Member, Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain, re-read the answer to question No. 28) and added:

If the Honourable Members, if I may be permitted to add to my answer, take their minds off from what happened before February, 1930, they will realise that the wishes of this House were carried out by my predecessor and by the office, and the views of this House conveyed to the authorities with the result that has been mentioned in my reply.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: May I enquire of the Honourable Member whether the Indian residents in Ceylon are satisfied with the decision reached by His Majesty's Government on the representations of the Government of India?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: That, Sir, cannot be answered either in the affirmative or in the negative, as it is, the Honourable Members will no doubt realise, so very difficult, without a referendum, to find out whether the opinion one way or the other preponderating.

TRADE COMMISSIONERS AT MILAN, HAMBURG AND NEW YORK.

29. ***Mr. B. Das:** Will Government be pleased to state if the Trade Commissioners' offices at Milan, Hamburg and New York have commenced their operations? Who are the Trade Commissioners at these places? How many of these belong to the Indian Civil Service and how many to the Indian commercial circle?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: No offices have yet been opened, but Mr. S. N. Gupta, I.C.S., at present Deputy Indian Trade Commissioner in London, has been selected to be Indian Trade Commissioner at Hamburg, and will assume charge of his new office this year. Steps are also being taken to make a selection this year for the post of Trade Commissioner at Milan through the Public Service Commission, the selection for this post being made from persons not in the service of Government.

RECRUITMENT OF TRADE COMMISSIONERS.

30. ***Mr. B. Das:** Will Government be pleased to state the *modus operandi* they have adopted or they intend to adopt for recruitment of Indian commercial men as trade commissioners?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Appointments of non-officials will be made on the advice of the Public Service Commission. As I have stated in reply to the Honourable Member's previous question, this procedure has been adopted in selecting an officer for the post of Trade Commissioner at Milan.

APPOINTMENT OF TRADE COMMISSIONERS IN TURKEY, AFRICA AND JAPAN.

31. ***Mr. B. Das:** Will Government be pleased to state if they have reached decisions regarding opening of trade commissioners' offices in Turkey, Africa and Japan? Do they expect to open these offices during the year 1931-32?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: The recently sanctioned scheme for the appointment of Trade Commissioners abroad, does not provide for such appointments in Turkey and Japan. It includes the appointment of three Trade Commissioners in Africa, but none of these offices is expected to be opened during 1931-32.

Mr. B. Das: May I inquire if it is not a fact that before the Standing Finance Committee the Government of India brought up a proposal for the appointment of six Trade Commissioners, and what is the cause of this long delay in the last three appointments?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: The original programme put before the Standing Committee was at the rate of two appointments a year. We then tried, in accordance with the wish expressed by the Standing Finance Committee, to expedite matters by proceeding with a third appointment this year. But the reason why we have been unable to do so, as the House will realise, is simply financial stringency on account of which very desirable items of expenditure are unavoidably postponed.

RETRENCHMENT OFFICER'S INQUIRIES.

32. ***Mr. B. Das:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if Mr. Jukes has completed his enquiry on retrenchment of expenditure on the civil budget? What is the total amount of saving they anticipate if Mr. Jukes' recommendations are given effect to?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if they intend to appoint the same officer or another officer to investigate if there are possibilities of retrenchment on the heads of (a) Army, (b) Railways?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Mr. Jukes' enquiry into the growth of Central civil expenditure was interrupted owing to his having had to act as Finance Secretary and Finance Member since September. An *interim* report was issued during the Simla Session, and I hope to be able to present his full Report about the time of the budget debate. I would refer the Honourable Member to what I said about the purpose of Mr. Jukes' investigation in the course of last year's budget debate. I hope to deal fully with the whole subject in my next budget speech.

(b) Different considerations apply to the expenditure on the Army and the Railways. I think the Honourable Member will have full opportunity for raising these questions and for eliciting a reply in the course of the budget debate.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar: May I inquire if Mr. Jukes' Report will be made available to the Members of this House?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Certainly, Sir.

REPRESENTATIVES SELECTED FOR THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

†33. ***Rajah Sir Vasudeva Rajah:** (a) Were the representatives to the Round Table Conference selected by the Government of India or on the recommendation of the Government of India?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state who are the gentlemen nominated to represent the Zamindars and Talukdars and their interests in the Round Table Conference?

(c) Has any representative of the ryotwari landholders, who form part of the landholders constituency in Madras, been nominated to the Round Table Conference? If so, who? If not, will Government be pleased to state why that important interest has not been represented?

REPRESENTATION OF RYOTWARI LANDHOLDERS IN THE LEGISLATURES.

34. ***Rajah Sir Vasudeva Rajah:** (a) Has the ryotwari landholders interest been represented in any province in India other than Madras? If so, will Government be pleased to state who the representatives are and whether they have the necessary qualifications to represent those interests in the Provincial or Central Legislature?

(b) Are Government aware that the interests of the ryotwari landholders and those of Zamindari landholders are different?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 33 and 34 by the Honourable Member together. The delegates to the Round Table Conference were not selected by the Government of India or on the recommendation of the Government of India. The Honourable Member will no doubt appreciate the fact that the delegation had necessarily to be limited and that representation individually of each of the numerous interests involved was consequently not possible. In the majority of cases persons were invited who might be representative of as many interests as possible and the delegates who might be held more particularly to represent one interest, represent in many cases other interests also.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar: May I ask whether the claims of landholders as such were considered in selecting the delegation?

* For answer to this question, see answer to starred question No. 34.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: As I have said, the selections were not made by the Government of India or on their recommendation, but certainly it is my belief that the representation of landholders was considered.

Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar: Then the question is whether the claims of the ryotwari landholders, who form by far the largest number, were considered?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I am afraid I cannot answer questions in detail about this because this is not a primary responsibility of the Governor General in Council.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: By whom were the selections made?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: By His Majesty's Government.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer: Will Government be pleased to see that in future discussions when the issues arising out of the Round Table Conference are considered the claims for representation of the ryotwari interest are considered?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I think I must remind the House that the whole question is in charge of His Majesty's Government. But I think I can say this that, if the Government of India were of opinion that any interests were so inadequately represented that some change ought to be made, they would certainly make representations.

Mr. K. Ahmed: May I safely take it that the Government of India were consulted in the selection of members of the Round Table Conference and they gave their views and made recommendations for selecting particular men?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: As I said in reply to the question, it is not so.

Mr. B. Das: May I inquire if it is not a fact that the list of delegates to the Round Table Conference that was published in the Press contained the names of 70 per cent. of the landholding classes?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I am afraid I cannot answer that without notice.

LAND REVENUE LEGISLATION.

35. ***Rajah Sir Vasudeva Rajah:** (a) With reference to the answer given by Government on the 23rd September, 1929, to Mr. Rangaswami Ayyangar's question in the Assembly regarding land revenue legislation, have the Government of India published the Resolution regarding land revenue legislation which they promised to issue on that occasion? If not, what is the reason for the delay and when will it be issued?

(b) What steps are Government taking to see that the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee in 1919 regarding land revenue legislation are given effect to in Madras?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. After further careful consideration, the Government of India came to the conclusion that, in

view of the approaching publication of the Statutory Commission's Report, no advantage was likely to result from the issue of a Resolution, the practical utility of which would, in all probability, be short-lived.

(b) In view of impending constitutional changes, Government do not consider that any action in the direction suggested by the Honourable Member's question is at present called for.

Mr. K. P. Thampan: Pending such legislation, will Government be pleased to issue orders to the Madras Government to keep in abeyance all new settlement proposals?

(No answer was given.)

SEPARATION OF BURMA FROM INDIA.

36. ***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) *Appropos* the Indo-Burmese separation question, will Government be pleased to state if any communications have passed between them and His Majesty's Government?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to lay the same on the table?

(c) Have Government considered the question of the advisability of circulating the said question of separation of Burma from India to responsible public bodies in both countries, and if not, why not?

(d) Do Government propose to take a referendum in Burma as to whether she wants separation from India on the understanding of her being converted into a Crown Colony or on the understanding of her enjoying Dominion Status in the terms of the Parliamentary announcement of August 1917?

(e) Has any communication passed between the Burman Government and the Government of India on the said subject, and if so, are Government prepared to lay the same on the table?

(f) Is it proposed that Burma should make any contribution to India for defence purposes?

(g) Is it proposed that the Viceroy after separation is to be known as the Governor General of India and Burma?

(h) If the answer to part (g) is "no", will Burma make her own separate arrangements with His Majesty's Government?

(i) Will a Committee of enquiry be appointed consisting of two of the Indian Members (non-official) of the Central Legislature and two of the Burman Members of the Burma Provincial Council besides officials to report on the minorities question?

(j) Will a statutory guarantee be given to Indians settled in Burma—or employed in Burma for a period of five years or more—of special protection of their interests in Burma and special representation in the Burma Legislature and services and if not, why not?

(k) Will Government be pleased to state whether the declaration of His Excellency the Governor General on October 31, 1929, on Dominion Status as embodied in the late Mr. Edwin Montagu's announcement of August 1917 applies to Burma also, and whether it would continue to apply after the separation of Burma from India? Will a provision to that effect be embodied in the statute relating to Burma, and are Government prepared to convey to His Majesty's Government that such a statutory provision should be embodied in the preamble of the new Burma constitution?

(l) Will Government be pleased to state whether a referendum will be taken—or Indian opinion in Burma consulted by some means other than a referendum—regarding the question of special protection for Indian minorities and interests in Burma? If not, why not?—

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a), (b) and (e). The views of the Government of India on the separation of Burma are contained in the published despatch on proposals for constitutional reforms. Communications on incidental matters and on matters of information have passed between the Governments concerned, but none on the broad issue other than those already published.

(c) (d) and (k). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given by the Secretary of State in answer to a question on the subject in the House of Commons on the 20th January, 1931, which has been reported in the Press. His Majesty's Government have decided to proceed with the separation of Burma and desire it to be understood that the prospects of constitutional advance held out to Burma as a part of British India will not be prejudiced by this decision, and that the constitutional objective after separation will remain the progressive realization of responsible Government in Burma as an integral part of the Empire. The Government of India have nothing to add to this statement.

(f) to (j) and (l). These are particular points, on some of which the general views of the Government of India have been clearly stated in the despatch. I would refer the Honourable Member to the Premier's statement in the final plenary session of the Indian Round Table Conference on the 19th January, 1931, to the effect that Government would make the necessary enquiries as to the conditions upon which separation was to take place. The Government of India have at present nothing to add to that statement.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Are the Government of India aware that since the Third Burmese War in the year 1836—if I am not wrong—the revenues of India have been squandered in order to make an addition to their territories, and Burma being added, do Government propose now for the benefit of India to give Indian interests the first charge on Burma and do they not consider that the people of India have the right to be consulted before the separation and Government have not done so?

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member put a specific supplementary question?

Mr. K. Ahmed: In view of the fact that the Government of India have spent money in the last Burmese War, from the Indian exchequer, is it not the right of the people of India and their representatives that they should have been consulted first before the separation of Burma was decided upon?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I may point out that the question was considered at the Round Table Conference in which a large number of Indians were present, and I hope it is not the Honourable Member's suggestion that they were not representatives of India.

Mr. President: Order, order.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RECRUITMENT AND PAY OF CLERKS IN THE DIVISIONAL ACCOUNTS OFFICES OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

1. **Mr. S. C. Shahani:** (a) Is it a fact that temporary clerks have been appointed after the 1st April, 1929, in the Divisional Accounts Offices of the North Western Railway without passing the competitive recruitment examination?

(b) Is it a fact that the initial pay of such clerks was originally fixed at the uniform rate of Rs. 40 a month without consideration of their various academic qualifications?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have recently sanctioned higher rates of initial pay to these clerks according to their university qualifications?

(d) Is it a fact that Government have directed that these clerks should be given the benefit of the new rates of salary with effect from the date of their appointment?

(e) Are Government aware that these clerks have not been given new salary from the date of their appointment but from some other fixed date?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for such procedure?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) to (c). Yes.

(d) to (f). The orders apply to recruits appointed after the date of issue; the question of extending them to similar staff appointed before that date is at present under consideration.

ALLOWANCES OF CLERKS IN RAILWAY DIVISIONAL ACCOUNTS OFFICES AT KARACHI AND QUETTA.

2. **Mr. S. C. Shahani:** (a) Is it a fact that some clerks in the Divisional Accounts Offices of the North Western Railway at Karachi and Quetta have not been getting compensatory allowance since April 1929?

(b) Is it a fact that all the clerks under Divisional Superintendents of the North Western Railway at Karachi and Quetta are enjoying the same allowance without any distinction among them and irrespective of the date of their appointment?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the anomaly in Divisional Accounts offices where some clerks are in receipt of the allowance and some are not?

(d) Do Government intend to sanction the said allowance for the clerks in question at Divisional Accounts Offices?

(e) If so, whether with retrospective effect?

(f) If not with retrospective effect, the reasons therefor?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, except clerks locally engaged in Quetta after 31st December, 1927.

(c) Clerks taken over from the old Audit Department have been allowed, as a personal concession, to retain their old scales of pay and also the compensatory allowances. New recruits, i.e., those appointed after 1st April, 1929, on the other hand, draw flat rates of pay, applicable to all stations at which they are liable to serve, without any compensatory

allowances. These flat rates have been worked out after taking into account the cost of living at the various stations at which these clerks are likely to be posted.

(d) No.

(e) and (f). Do not arise

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF WHEAT.

3. **Kunwar Raghbir Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how much wheat was imported in the year 1929-30?

(b) How much wheat was exported during the year 1929?

(c) Will Government please state whether any wheat was imported by Government agency or private firms in that year?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) 357,036 tons.

(b) The exports of wheat during the calendar year 1929 amounted to 14,204 tons.

(c) The imports of wheat in 1929 on private account amounted to 709,859 tons. There were no imports on Government account.

REPORTS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON COMMUNAL TENSION.

4. **Kunwar Raghbir Singh:** Will Government be pleased to lay on the table the reports of the Local Governments on communal tension since the last session of the Legislature?

The Honourable Sir James Creer: The Government of India have not called for nor obtained any special reports on the subject of communal tension from Local Governments since the last Session.

ELECTION EXPENSES AND FORFEITURE OF SECURITIES.

5. **Kunwar Hajee Ismail Ali Khan:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the Assembly candidates of the last general election who lost their securities and could not secure the required number of votes?

(b) Will Government kindly lay on the table the following information in connection with the last general election of the Assembly?

Name of the Candidate.	Name of the constituency.	The amount of the election expenses which they lodged before the Returning Officer.
		Total of Rs.

Sir Lancelot Graham: (a) The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

(b) A statement will be prepared and laid on the table.

**GRANT OF COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE TO CERTAIN CLERKS IN DIVISIONAL
ACCOUNTS OFFICES IN KARACHI AND QUETTA.**

6. Mr. S. C. Shahani: (a) Will Government be pleased to state:

- (i) whether it is a fact that after the separation of the Divisional Audit and Accounts Offices of the North Western Railway, clerks appointed before the 1st April, 1929, at Divisional Accounts Offices at Karachi and Quetta have been allowed to retain the compensatory allowance in addition to their revised scale of pay:
- (ii) whether it is a fact that this allowance is withheld only from the new clerks who were appointed at these offices after the 1st April, 1929: and
- (iii) whether it is a fact that all the clerks of the rest of the Divisions of the North Western Railway, appointed before the 1st April, 1929, who are transferred to these offices to displace the new clerks or otherwise, are being allowed to draw this allowance?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for this invidious distinction between the clerks made on the score of their date of appointment simply?

(c) Do Government know that the number of the new clerks at these offices is very small?

(d) If so, are Government aware that the additional cost of granting this allowance will be quite insignificant?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) (i), (ii) and (iii). Yes.

(b) The new scales of pay introduced from 1st April, 1929, on the separation of Audit from Accounts on the North Western Railway, do not provide for any compensatory allowance, because they have been worked out with reference to the average cost of living at the various places to which the clerks are likely to be posted from time to time. The staff in service on 1st April, 1929, were allowed, as a purely personal concession, to retain the allowances which they were previously drawing.

(c) and (d). I am not aware of the exact numbers and am ascertaining them for the Honourable Member. But as will be seen from answer to (b), it is not considered that there are sufficient grounds for granting the allowances to new clerks.

**GRANT OF COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE TO CERTAIN CLERKS IN DIVISIONAL
ACCOUNTS OFFICES IN KARACHI AND QUETTA.**

7. Mr. S. C. Shahani: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that after the separation of the Divisional Audit and Accounts Offices in the North Western Railway, the same revised scale of pay was fixed for all the new clerks in all the Divisional Accounts offices without taking into consideration the cost of living at various places?
- (b) Is it a fact that the cost of living at Karachi and Quetta is much higher than that at other places on the North Western Railway?
- (c) Is it a fact that in view of this consideration the old clerks in the Divisional Accounts Offices at these places were allowed to retain the compensatory allowance?

- (d) If this allowance for the new clerks in these offices be not sanctioned, will the scale of their pay be revised so as to bring their pay approximately to the level of the aggregate salary of their old colleagues, according to their qualifications and length of service? If so, will this be done with retrospective effect?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) No. The revised scale of pay was fixed with due regard to the average cost of living at the various stations to which the clerks are likely to be posted from time to time.

(b) Government understand that the cost of living at Karachi and Quetta is somewhat higher than at other Divisional Headquarters on the North Western Railway.

(c) The former staff were allowed to retain the allowances which they had been enjoying for some time before, as a personal concession.

(d) The answer to the first part is in the negative; the second part does not arise.

GRANT OF COMPENSATORY ALLOWANCE TO CERTAIN CLERKS IN DIVISIONAL ACCOUNTS OFFICES IN KARACHI AND QUETTA.

8. **Mr. S. C. Shahani:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that after the separation of the Divisional Audit and Accounts offices in the North Western Railway all the new clerks have not been locally appointed at Divisional Accounts offices at Karachi and Quetta;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the undertaking was given before the separation, that the new clerks would be appointed locally at all the Divisional Accounts offices;
- (c) whether it is a fact that some of the new clerks appointed at the Divisional Accounts office, Karachi, locally after separation, have been displaced by old clerks transferred from other Divisions;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the new clerks who will be permanent in these offices are those who have passed the recruitment examination;
- (e) whether it is a fact that even these clerks get no benefit of compensatory allowance; and
- (f) whether it is a fact that initial pay of such clerks is the same Rs. 40 a month as that of the temporary or substitute matriculate clerks who are not in receipt of compensatory allowance?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) Yes.

(b) No such undertaking was given, but efforts are being made at present to recruit the staff locally as far as possible.

(c) I am making enquiries on this point and will let the Honourable Member have a reply as soon as possible.

(d), (e) and (f). Yes.

CASES UNDER CERTAIN RECENT ORDINANCES.

9. **Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state the total number of cases in which action was taken under Ordinances Nos. II and VII of 1930, the number of newspapers seized, the number of printing

presses forfeited, the number of securities demanded and the number and total amount of securities forfeited? How many presses managed by Europeans have been affected by the Ordinances?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

CASES UNDER CERTAIN RECENT ORDINANCES.

10. **Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of persons arrested and tried or merely tried under Ordinances Nos. I, III, V, VI and VIII of 1930, the number convicted by the trial court, the number let off by the appellate court or court of revision, the number of persons sentenced to death, or whipping, the number executed and the number awaiting execution?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

PROPERTIES TAKEN POSSESSION OF UNDER ORDINANCE NO. IX OF 1930.

11. **Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of places notified and taken possession of under Ordinance No. IX of 1930 in the various provinces giving the number for each province separately?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

NUMBER OF ARRESTS AND CONVICTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT.

12. **Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state the total number of arrests made in each province since the 1st March, 1930, in connection with the civil disobedience movement, the number convicted and the number at present undergoing sentence? Will Government be pleased to state further how many of the persons convicted were placed in A, B and C Class respectively?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: I have no information regarding the number of arrests. The number of persons sentenced to imprisonment in connection with the civil disobedience movement up to the end of December 1930 and the number undergoing imprisonment at the end of December is as follows:

	No. sentenced to imprisonment.	No. undergoing imprisonment.
Madras	3,998	2,119
Bombay	9,732	3,803
Bengal	11,463	2,973
United Provinces	7,606	4,555
Punjab	3,561	1,348
Burma	Nil.	Nil
Bihar and Orissa	10,899	4,980
Central Provinces	3,861	2,139
Assam	1,089	291
North-West Frontier Province	761	337
Coorg	6	4 (on 30-11-30)
Delhi	1,073	953
	<hr/> 54,049	<hr/> 23,503

2. Information is being collected regarding the classification of prisoners undergoing sentence on the 30th November and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

CRIMES COMMITTED BY REVOLUTIONARIES.

13. **Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of anarchist crimes committed or attempted by the revolutionaries during the year 1930?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of arrests made in each province in the year 1930 of the persons connected with revolutionary crime, the number tried, the number detained without any trial and the number convicted by the trial court and the number acquitted by the appellate court, the number sentenced to death or transportation for life and the number actually executed?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member on receipt.

USE OF FORCE IN DISPERSING UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLIES.

14. **Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state the number of times the police or military authorities had to use force in dispersing unlawful assemblies in each province during the year 1930? How many persons were injured in each province? Was any medical aid arranged for by the Government for the injured before force was used? How many of the injured persons died in consequence of injuries received during those operations? In how many instances medical aid offered by non-official agencies after the infliction of injuries, was not allowed?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: I presume the Honourable Member is referring to dispersals by firing.

I lay on the table a statement of casualties among the public due to firing collected up to the end of July 1930. I have called for similar information from Local Governments in respect of the period between 1st August and 30th November last and will communicate it to the Honourable Member in due course.

I have no information on the other points to which the question refers, but I am trying to ascertain the occasions of dispersal by gun-fire when medical aid was provided.

STATEMENT.

Casualties during the month of April, 1930.

Provinces.	Casualties among the public.	
	Killed.	Wounded.
Madras— Madras City, April 27th	2	6 (one died subsequently).
Bombay Victoria Terminus, 4th April (Railway strike).		7 (one died subsequently).

Provinces.	Casualties among the public.	
	Killed.	Wounded.
Bhusaval, 6th April (Railway strike) . . .	1*	2*
Kurla, 6th April (Railway strike) . . .	..	1
Karachi, 16th April . . .	1	6 (one of whom died subsequently).
Bengal—		
Calcutta, 1st April . . .	7	59
Calcutta, 15th April . . .	..	3*
24-Parganas, 24th April . . .	1	3
Chittagong, 18th, 19th and 22nd April . . .	10 (terrorists).	2 (terrorists) (both died subsequently).
Noakhali (Feni), 23rd April . . .	..
Chittagong, 24th April . . .	1 (terrorist).	
N.-W. F. Province (Peshawar), 23rd April . . .	30 (approx.).	33 (approx.).
<i>May, 1930.</i>		
Madras, May, 1930 . . .		2
Bombay—		
Sholapur, 7th May . . .	..	..
Sholapur, 8th May . . .	12	28
Wadala Salt Pans, 24th May . . .		1
Bhendy Bazar, 26th and 27th May . . .	5	67
Bengal—		
Howrah, 6th May . . .	..	5
Chittagong, 7th May . . .	3 insurgents and 1 other.	1 insurgent 1 (who died subsequently) and 5 others (two of whom died subsequently).
Mymensingh, 14th May . . .	1	Between 30 to 40.
Midnapur—Gopinathpur, 20th May . . .		..

*These casualties were result of accident.

Provinces.	Casualties among the public.	
	Killed.	Wounded.
Bengal—contd.		
Dacca, 25th and 27th May (communal riot)	2	1
Lillooah, 29th May, E. I. Railway . . . . .	..	5
Midnapur (Pratapdighi), 31st May	2	2
United Provinces—		
Lucknow, May 26th	1	about 42 (2 died subsequently).
Punjab—		
Kalu, Jhelum District, May 18th	1	1
Burma—		
Rangoon, last week of May	5	37
N.-W. F. P.	17	37
Delhi, 6th May	4	40
Madras	3	18
Bagmari (Midnapur)	2	3
Chechuahat (Midnapur), 6th June, 1930		11
Narendia (Midnapur), 6th June, 1930		19
Fakirhat (Midnapur), 10th June, 1930		1 (died subsequently).
Kherai (Midnapur), 11th June, 1930		21
Ramnagar (Bakarganj) . . . . .	..	1
N.-W. F. P.	3	..
Madras	2	9
Khersai (Midnapur), 2nd July, 1930		1
Keshorganj (Mymensingh) . . . . .	..	11
Saran (Etah), 11th July, 1930	5	19
Amunagar Sarai (Meerut)	1	..
Jubbulpore, 19th July, 1930 . . . . .	..	6

FALL IN THE PRICE OF STAPLE FOODS.

15. **Sardar Sant Singh:** Are Government aware that the price of the staple food of India has fallen considerably during the last few months? What remedies have Government adopted to combat this fall in the prices?

Have the remedies already adopted proved adequate to check this fall? Are Government prepared to adopt any further remedies? If so, when?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: The answer is in the affirmative. No action by Government could prevent this fall, since the price of commodities such as wheat and cotton, which are exported from India in considerable quantities, must be governed by world prices. Government have, however, reduced the railway freight on wheat to Karachi in order to facilitate the export of the existing surplus, which is estimated at a million tons. The effect of this step is not yet evident. Government will continue to watch the position carefully.

IMPORT OF WHEAT AND GUR INTO INDIA.

16. **Sardar Sant Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that wheat and *gur* (raw sugar) have been imported into India during the year 1930, and if so, in what quantities and from what countries? How has this import affected the prices in the Indian market?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have been receiving representations from public meetings and public men to stop the import of these cereals? Is it a fact that the Punjab Government have been making constant representations to the Government of India in this respect? What steps have Government taken to stop this import?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) The imports of foreign wheat into India, mainly from Australia during the current fiscal year and up to December 27th amounted to 92,134 tons as compared with 249,449 tons for the same period in the previous fiscal year. These imports have been more than counterbalanced by exports of wheat amounting to 192,606 tons and exports of wheat flour up to November, 1930, amounting to 30,227 tons.

There are no separate statistics for the import of *gur*, but the imports of all kinds of low grade sugar, *i.e.*, of sugar below 8 Dutch standard, in 1930, amounted to 5,758 tons up to December 30th, of which 5,126 tons were imported during the current fiscal year.

Government do not consider that these imports, which are exceedingly small compared with the total Indian production, have had any effect on the internal prices of wheat and *gur*.

(b) Yes. As already stated, they do not consider that the imports have affected internal prices of wheat which are dominated by world prices and by the existence of a large exportable surplus. The question of the protection of the Indian sugar industry is at present under examination by the Tariff Board.

FIRING ON THE SIS GANJ GURDWARA AT DELHI.

17. **Sardar Sant Singh:** Will Government be pleased to state the circumstances that led to the firing at the Sis Ganj Gurdwara Sahib at Delhi? Is it a fact that this firing has considerably shocked the feelings of the Sikh community? Have the Government of India received any representations from the Sikh community on this subject? What demands have been made? How have Government met those demands? Has the attitude of the Government satisfied the Sikh community? If not, are Government prepared to adopt some reasonable method to conciliate the wounded feelings of the Sikh Community? Are Government aware that the

Shiromani Gurduwara Parbindhak Committee, Amritsar, is thinking of having recourse to some direct action to compel the hands of Government to right the wrong? Are Government prepared to agree to some measure which may go to satisfy the demands of the Shiromani Gurduwara Parbindhak Committee?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: I am supplying to the Honourable Member the information he desires.

NON-REPRESENTATION OF ORISSA AT THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

18. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the reason or reasons for which no member of the Oriya community or any body from the province of Orissa was taken to represent the interests of that province at the Round Table Conference; and
- (b) the reason or reasons for which no other Hindu member representing any other interests but the landowning was taken to represent Bihar and Orissa at the Round Table Conference?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is no doubt aware that the delegates to the Round Table Conference were invited by His Majesty's Government. The selection of the delegates is therefore not primarily the concern of the Governor General in Council. As I have previously said in reply to another question, the number of delegates had necessarily to be limited and in the majority of cases persons were invited who might be representative of as many interests as possible and the delegates who might be held more particularly to represent one interest, represent in many cases other interests also.

SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTERESTS OF INDIAN SETTLERS IN THE TRANSVAAL.

19. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the provisions of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Alienation Act;
- (b) since when the Government of India have become aware of that measure;
- (c) the steps the Government of India have adopted to safeguard the interests of the Indian settlers in the Transvaal so far as that particular measure is concerned; and
- (d) the details of the correspondence, if any, that has passed between the Government of India and the Transvaal Government on the subject?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the Transvaal Asiatic Tenure (Amendment) Bill. A copy of the Bill has been placed in the Library of the House.

(b) A summary of the provisions of the Bill was first telegraphed to the Government of India by their Agent in May, 1930.

(c) The Government of India took immediate steps to move the Government of the Union of South Africa to allow adequate time for careful examination of the provisions of the Bill. As a result of their representation, it was decided to postpone further consideration of the Bill until the following Session of the Union Parliament. The matter is still engaging the earnest attention of the Government of India.

(d) No official correspondence on the subject has passed between the two Governments.

RECRUITS FOR THE INDIAN ARMY.

20. Mr. Bauput Sing: Are Government aware of the speech made by one General Barrows at the East India Association, in London, in October last, to the effect that recruits to the Indian Army were generally made from bazar and dockyard coolies, riff-raffs and other non-descript population and that they abandon the service as soon as their want is removed?

If the answer is in the affirmative:

- (a) is it not a fact that the said military officer was once attached to an Indian regiment?
- (b) is it not a fact that the said General is still receiving a pension from the Indian exchequer?
- (c) is it really a fact what the said General has stated?

Mr. G. M. Young: Government are in possession of the full text of General Barrow's lecture. No statement of the kind suggested was made about the Indian Army. The Honourable Member probably has in mind a statement referring to one battalion of the Indian Territorial Force, which the lecturer had inspected during the tenure of his last command, and in the ranks of which he said, there were to be found—"Only waifs and strays from the docks and bazaars, and indigent wayfarers who joined up for the sake of the food, pay and clothing, and who after a single training departed to return no more".

The second part of the question does not arise.

LEAVE GRANTED TO SIR NORMAN BOLTON, CHIEF COMMISSIONER, NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

21. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the period for which Sir Norman Bolton, the late Chief Commissioner of the North-West Frontier Province, has taken leave;
- (b) the nature of the leave availed of by him;
- (c) the reference to the *London Gazette* or the *Times* in which the leave of that Officer has been published?

Mr. J. G. Acheson: (a) and (b). The leave granted to Sir Norman Bolton consisted of leave on average pay for 1 month and 16 days combined with leave on half average pay for 6 months and 14 days with effect from 1st May, 1930. This leave was subsequently extended by three months on half average pay.

(c) Government of India notifications of this nature are not published in the *London Gazette*, nor so far as Government are aware was this notification published in the *London Times*.

TERMINATION OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

22. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the year in which the existing agreement of the Government with the Bengal and North-Western Railway will terminate;

- (b) the arrangements that are being made by Government with that end in view; and
- (c) if any correspondence on the subject has of late passed between the Government and the Railway Company;
- (d) If the answer is in the affirmative the nature and details of that correspondence?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The agreement will terminate by efflux of time on the 31st December, 1931, but the Government have the option of determining it at the end of 1932.

(b) The question whether the contract should be determined on the earlier date is under consideration.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

REVENUES REALISED IN THE PROVINCES.

23. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state the revenues realised in 1929-30 and that expected in the present financial year in:

- (a) Bengal, (b) Bombay, (c) Madras, (d) the Punjab, (e) the United Provinces, (f) Bihar and Orissa and (g) the Central Provinces respectively?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: I take it that the Honourable Member wishes to have figures relating to provincial revenues. The revenues actually realised in 1929-30 and anticipated in the budget estimates for the current year are as follows:

(In lakhs of Rupees.)

Province.	Actuals, 1929-30.	Budget, 1930-31.
Bengal	11,36	10,97
Bombay	15,92	15,74
Madras	18,09	17,97
Punjab	11,27	11,82
United Provinces	12,99	12,84
Bihar and Orissa	5,95	5,85
Central Provinces	5,28	5,56

The revised estimates for the current year will not be available for some time yet, while I may say that it is clear that the Budget Estimates cannot be fully realised, I am not in a position to give any figures, and I am afraid the Honourable Member must wait for accurate information until the new Budgets in each province are introduced.

**GOVERNMENT BULLETIN TO COMBAT THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE
MOVEMENT.**

24. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) Since when the idea of starting a bulletin to openly combat the civil disobedience movement has attracted the attention of the Government;
- (b) The expenditure expected to be incurred on that head in each of the major provinces?
- (c) How long Government proposes to continue that sort of propaganda?
- (d) The names of the Publicity Officers in the major provinces and their qualifications therefor?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) During the past nine months some Local Governments have been issuing periodical bulletins to combat misrepresentations in furtherance of the civil disobedience movement.

(b) The information is not in the possession of the Government of India.

(c) The matter is one for the decision of Local Governments, who will no doubt be influenced by the extent to which activities in pursuance of the civil disobedience movement render such action necessary.

(d) The appointment of such officers is entirely within the discretion of Local Governments, and the Government of India are not in a position to furnish the information required.

INQUIRY TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY SIR ARTHUR SALTER.

25. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the special reasons for which Sir Arthur Salter, Director of the League of Nations, Economic Section, has been invited by the Government of India;
- (b) who else from Europe or India, but Sir Arthur, has also been invited for the purpose for which that gentleman has been invited;
- (c) whether India will have to bear the travelling and other expenses of Sir Arthur?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the Press communiqué issued by the Government of India on the 30th December, 1930, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

(b) No one.

CLASSIFICATION OF BUDDHISTS, ETC., FOR THE CENSUS.

26. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Commissioner of Census in India has circularised the Provincial Superintendents to direct the Enumerators not to classify the Buddhists, Jains, Brahmos, Sikhs and Arya-Samajists as Hindus, although these people may themselves desire to be so classified;

- (b) if the answer is in the affirmative, the reason or reasons for which such a direction has been given;
- (c) whether Government are aware that the judicial decisions made by the Indian High Courts have unanimously declared the Jains, Brahmos, Sikhs and Arya-Samajists as Hindus;
- (d) if the answer is in the affirmative, the particular reasons for which Government make a departure from the conclusions laid down by the High Courts in the present Census?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: (a) Instructions, as on previous occasions, were issued that the answer which each person gives about his religion must be accepted and entered by enumerators in column 4 of the general Schedule, but that Buddhists, Jains, Sikhs, Arya Samajists and Brahmos should not be entered as "Hindus" in this Schedule, with a view to secure accurate figures of the sub-totals of these sects. Table XXI (Religion) makes Aryas and Brahmos sub-heads of a general head "Hindu" and there was therefore no question of their exclusion from the Hindu total. As, however, some apprehension was felt, these instructions have been since revised so as to ensure that Brahmos, Aryas, Buddhists and Jains, if they desire, may add the term "Hindu" to the description of their religion given in column 4 of the general Schedule.

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

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THE STUDENTS OF THE BENARES ENGINEERING COLLEGE.

27. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the causes for which the Bahadurabad Hydro-Electric Management, in Saharanpur, in the United Provinces, did not grant permission this year to the final year degree students of the Benares Engineering College to undergo a course of training in the said institution as University improvers;
- (b) the reasons for which the Jamalpur and Lillooah Workshops are invariably shut out to that class of students;
- (c) whether students from other places are not allowed to undergo training as apprentices in those workshops;
- (d) whether the Chief Electrical Engineer at Jamalpur and the Deputy Mechanical Engineer at Lillooah are not invited to examine the degree students of the Benares Engineering College?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The information has been called for from the Local Government and a reply will be furnished to the Honourable Member on receipt.

(b) The rules for recruitment on State-managed railways of apprentice mechanics are in the Library of the House. They give no preference to students of particular Colleges or Universities, and if applications are received from students of the Benares Engineering College they are considered on their merits along with others.

(c) Students in other Colleges are eligible under the rules for appointment as apprentice mechanics.

(d) If the Honourable Member would let me know to what examination he refers, I will send him an answer to his question.

THE BANK RATE, REVERSE COUNCILS AND DEFLATION OF CURRENCY.

28. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the reason or reasons for which the Imperial Bank rate was raised from 5 to 6 per cent. on the 25th November, 1930;
- (b) the amount of the Reverse Councils which the Government disposed of just before that date;
- (c) to what extent the currency was contracted at that time;
- (d) the total deflation of currency during the present financial year?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) The fixing of the Bank rate is actually the responsibility of the Imperial Bank, and it is not their practice to give explanation of their action. Their policy in these matters is naturally considered in close relation with the policy of the Government as currency authority. For an explanation of this, I would refer the Honourable Member to my answer to part (b) (ii) of starred question No. 107 of Seth Haji Abdulla Haroon in this Session.

(b) The Bank rate was raised from 5 to 6 per cent. on the 20th November, 1930. Between the 17th and the 19th November, the amount of sterling sold by Government was £517,500.

(c) The amount of contraction effected in the week ending the 22nd November, 1930, was Rs. 5,88 lakhs.

(d) The decrease in the amount of the note issue between the 1st April, 1930, and the 31st December, 1930, was Rs. 15,89 lakhs. During the same period, the return of silver rupees to Government from the public amounted to Rs. 15,65 lakhs, but it is not possible to say how many of these rupees were in active circulation.

FACILITIES FOR INDIAN TRADERS IN JAPAN

29. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are British Consulates in the important cities in Japan;
- (b) whether there is also a large community of Indian traders in those places;
- (c) the approximate number of persons in that community;
- (d) whether the British Consuls have instructions to afford any facilities to the Indian traders;
- (e) whether British Banks there offer any banking or shipping facilities to the Indian traders?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The latest published statistics to which Government have access give the number of British Indian residents in Japan as 244 in 1926 and 271 in 1927. Government are unable to say how many of these were traders.

(d) British Consuls have instructions to afford assistance to all British subjects so far as they may be able to give it.

(e) Government have no reason to doubt that the British banks in Japan offer the ordinary facilities to all their clients.

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN INDIA AND THE INTELLECTUAL COMMITTEE OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

30. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) since when the Government of India have had under their consideration the desirability for establishing intellectual co-operation between India and the International Committee of the League of Nations;
- (b) what had led the Government to precipitate the fulfilment of their consideration into immediate action this year;
- (c) the name of the Educational Commissioner who is to act as correspondent with the Secretariat of the Intellectual Committee of the League;
- (d) the peculiar or special qualifications which the new Educational Commissioner possesses for the task he is called upon to perform;
- (e) the name of the service to which he is appointed, the period of his appointment and the nature of his emoluments; and
- (f) the names of other members of the League who have thus sought to establish such intellectual co-operation between their country and the International Committee of the League?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) and (b). The question of establishing relations between India and the organisation of the League of Nations for Intellectual Co-operation has been under the consideration of the Government of India since 1924. It was decided last year that, for the present, the most suitable arrangement would be to appoint the Educational Commissioner with the Government of India as Correspondent with the Secretariat of the International Committee of the League.

(c), (d) and (e). Mr. R. Littlehailes, M.A., C.I.E., the present Educational Commissioner with the Government of India, will act as Correspondent with the Secretariat of the International Committee in addition to his other duties and without any additional remuneration.

(f) Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Salvador, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia.

CONVENTION RE EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AT NIGHT.

31. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they have of late received any communication from the International Labour Office regarding the revision of the Washington Convention about the employment of women during night;
- (b) the details of such communication; and
- (c) the view that the Government propose to take in the matter?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) Yes.

(b) The letter, which is dated the 18th August, 1930, forwarded to the Government of India for their observations a draft report on the working of the Convention.

(c) At its meeting to be held this month, the Governing Body of the International Labour Office will, after taking into account the replies of the Governments, adopt the final report, and will define exactly the question or questions which it decides to place on the agenda of the next Conference in pursuance of the proposed revision of the Convention. The Government of India will finally decide on their attitude as soon as the proposals of the Governing Body are communicated to them.

LACK OF WIRE FENCING NEAR, AND FACILITIES FOR PASSENGERS AT, AZIMGANJ CITY STATION.

32. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the reason or reasons for which the permanent track is not protected by wire-fencing on either side between a mile outside Azimganj and Barharwa on the Bandel-Barharwa section of the East Indian Railway;
- (b) how many feet below the permanent track is the platform situated in Azimganj City Station;
- (c) whether there exists a waiting-hall for third class passengers also at the Azimganj City Station; and
- (d) the number of first and second class passengers that entrain and detrain normally at the Azimganj City Station annually?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: I am making enquiries and a reply will be sent to the Honourable Member when the information has been collected.

INCOME AND CLASSIFICATION OF AZIMGANJ CITY STATION.

33. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the income derived from Azimganj City Station annually for coaching and goods traffic; and
- (b) as regards normal income the class of station in which Azimganj Station will fall?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) For the financial year 1928-29, the earnings of Azimganj City Station were Rs. 83,735.

(b) Stations are not classified according to their income.

DISCRIMINATION IN THE ISSUE OF RAILWAY PLATFORM TICKETS.

34. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether all manner of persons without distinction of creed, caste and colour are required to take platform tickets for admission into the platforms where the platform-ticket-system is in vogue; and
- (b) what class of persons are usually exempt from the operations of that rule?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The rule on all railways is that at stations where platform tickets are issued all persons without distinction of creed, caste or colour, who are not passengers, must have platform tickets to obtain admission to station platforms.

(b) The only exception to this rule is that an officer or non-commissioned officer in charge of small parties of men who have to be despatched by rail may be allowed on the platform without being required to purchase a platform ticket.

WITHHOLDING OF FINANCIAL AID TO THE BENARES UNIVERSITY.

35. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the reason or reasons which have led Government to withhold financial aid to the Benares University during the present year;
- (b) whether the grant is not in the nature of a statutory grant from the Imperial revenues;
- (c) whether Government are not under an obligation to provide funds for the up-keep and maintenance of that institution; and
- (d) what other University is being thus treated in the matter of its financial aid from the Imperial Government this year?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) The payment of the grants-in-aid to the Benares Hindu University was deferred pending the receipt of certain information which was called for regarding the financial and general administration of the University.

(b) and (c). Not exactly. The Honourable Member is perhaps under some misapprehension.

(d) Does not arise.

RAILWAY MAGISTRATES:

36. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are such appointments as "Railway Magistrates" on the East Indian Railway system;
- (b) the place or places where there are such magistracies;
- (c) the special reason or reasons for which such magistracies are instituted in that place or those places;
- (d) whether the incumbents are in receipt of any kind of pay or remuneration and privileges or concessions;
- (e) the nature of duties which the incumbents have got to perform; and
- (f) any other place or places on any other railway system in India where such Railway Magistracies are in existence?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) and (b). At three stations served by the East Indian Railway, namely Allahabad, Moradabad and Bareilly, special Magistrates have been appointed for the purpose of dealing with railway cases.

(c) and (e). The Agent of the East Indian Railway reports that the special Magistrate at Allahabad was originally deputed to prevent molestation of pilgrim by Pandas and touts. His duties have since been extended and he tries cases of thefts, trespass, etc., occurring on railway premises, also cases under sections 112, 113 and 132 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890. It is believed that the same duties are performed by the special Magistrates at Moradabad and Bareilly.

(d) The incumbents receive no pay, remuneration, privileges or concessions from the Railway, except that the special Magistrate at Allahabad is given a railway pass to enable him to carry out his enquiries into railway cases.

(f) This information is being obtained and will be communicated to the Honourable Member.

EXHIBITION OF POSTERS BY THE BRITISH EMPIRE ASSOCIATION.

37. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether they are aware of the existence of an Association which goes by the name of the British Empire Association;
- (b) the names of some of the conspicuous persons who compose that Association;
- (c) whether that Association is now engaged in publishing posters on a large scale and exhibiting them on the streets of Calcutta with a view to caricature the non-co-operation movement;
- (d) whether they are prepared to call for some of those posters and place them on the Library table;
- (e) who provide funds for that Association;
- (f) whether high placed executive officers of the Government are not actively identified with the propaganda started by that Association; and
- (g) whether that Association is not the same as the *British Empire Party* referred to incidentally by the *Manchester Guardian* in criticising the inopportune speech of Mr. Churchill about India in December last?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar: (a) Yes.

(b), (c), (e), (f) and (g). The information asked for is not in the possession of the Government of India.

(d) The Association is a private body and Government have no authority to call for the posters, even if they considered it desirable to do so.

LACK OF A BOOKING CLERK AT BUKHTIARPUR JUNCTION STATION.

38. **Mr. M. Maswood:** (a) Are Government aware that the travelling public of Bukhtiarpur Junction is being greatly inconvenienced for the want of a booking clerk at the railway station?

(b) Is it a fact that representations were made to that effect to the proper authorities as far back as the year 1928?

(c) Is it a fact that in spite of the fact that the Railway Board, the Agent, the Chief Operating Superintendent, and the Divisional Superintendent of the East Indian Railway were approached, yet nothing was done in the matter till the 4th September, 1930, when the whole matter was abruptly dropped?

(d) Will Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the letter No. Com.-1402/28, dated the 4th September, 1930, from the Divisional Superintendent, East Indian Railway, Dinapore?

(e) Is it a fact that certain assertions of the Agent, East Indian Railway, as regards dealing with the grievances of the public were placed before the members of the Advisory Council for Railways in September, 1928, at Simla, for their information?

(f) If the answers to (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to take any action in the matter?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons: (a) The Agent of the East Indian Railway reports that there have been occasional complaints regarding the inconvenience in booking arrangements at Bukhtiarpur, but that it is not correct that the inconvenience is great.

(b) Yes.

(c) Additional booking clerks have not been appointed at present for financial reasons. With the heavy drop in railway earnings, the Administration consider such appointments not to be justified.

(d) I am having a copy of the letter referred to sent to the Honourable Member.

(e) Yes.

(f) For the reasons given in my reply to part (c) of the question it is not proposed to take any action in this matter at present. It will no doubt be considered by the Agent of the East Indian Railway when there is an improvement in railway earnings.

NEW RULES AT THE IMPERIAL LIBRARY, CALCUTTA.

39. **Mr. Bhuput Sing:** Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Librarian of the Imperial Library, Calcutta, has issued orders to the effect that seasonal or daily cards of admission, should henceforth be issued only to those who are either introduced by some Gazetted Officer or by somebody known to the Library staff;
- (b) whether it has also been required that the cards of admission should be shown to the durwan at the entrance and then to the officer in charge and every time when any requisition for a book is made;
- (c) whether the new rules have been introduced at the instance of the Educational Commissioner;
- (d) whether it is proposed to make the library a copyright library;
- (e) whether there is any other library in India or abroad where such a set of rules as newly introduced there is in operation?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) The question is under consideration.

(e) The rules of the Imperial Library follow generally the lines of those of the British Museum Library.

CURRENCY STATISTICS.

40. Mr. Bhuput Sing: With reference to the Official Currency Statistics for the week ending the 15th December, 1930, will Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of silver coins shown therein is the token or actual bullion value of the coin in reserve; and

(b) whether the amount of silver shown therein is the bullion or token value of the metal?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) Token value.

(b) The silver bullion now held in the reserve was obtained by melting down silver coin and is valued at the rate of one rupee for 165 grains troy of fine silver under clause (a) of sub-section 8 of section 18 of the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1923, as amended by the Indian Paper Currency (Amendment) Act, 1923.

THE GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

41. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state:

(a) when forty millions pounds sterling was reached in the Gold Standard Reserve;

(b) how much of the Gold Standard Reserve is invested in India and how much of it abroad; and

(c) how the interest accruing on the investment of the Gold Reserve is accounted for?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: (a) In 1920-21.

(b) On the 31st December, 1930, the Reserve was held in the following forms:

	£
Cash at short notice in London	4,728
Gold in India	401,106
Gold in London	2,152,334
Investments in London	37,441,832

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to paragraph 23 of my speech introducing the Budget for 1930-31.

INTEREST ON SECURITIES HELD IN THE CURRENCY RESERVE.

42. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state how the interest obtained on securities held in reserve in the Currency is accounted for year by year?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: The interest on securities held in the Paper Currency Reserve was earmarked for the reduction of created securities in the Reserve by the Paper Currency Amendment Act, XLV of 1920. This provision has, however, been temporarily suspended by successive Indian Finance Acts since 1922 and the interest has been credited to revenue under the head XXVII Currency.

GOVERNMENT WORK EXECUTED IN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE PRESSES.

43. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount (in rupees) of Government work that was executed in Government Presses in 1929-30; and
- (b) the amount of such work that was done through private presses?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: The Government of India regret that they cannot undertake to collect all the information desired by the Honourable Member, as it would involve an amount of time and labour disproportionate to the result. But the following information is readily available:

- (i) The amount of work done in the Government of India Presses at Delhi, Calcutta, Simla and Aligarh, for Central Departments, is approximately Rs. 42,10,000.
- (ii) The amount of work produced in the Provincial Government Presses for Central Departments is approximately Rs. 1,61,248. This figure does not include the cost of work produced in Provincial Presses on behalf of such Departments as pay for their work direct to Provincial Governments and not through the Central Stationery and Printing Department.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICITY WORK HANDLED BY PRIVATE PRESSES.

44. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount (in rupees) of Government publicity work that was executed by Government establishments; and
- (b) the amount of such work handled by private agencies?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar: The information is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

INAUGURATION OF NEW DELHI.

45. Mr. Bhuput Sing: Will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) the approximate cost estimated to be incurred in the forthcoming formal inauguration of New Delhi;
- (b) since when the project of the inauguration has been in the inception of the Government of India;
- (c) the details of the inauguration ceremonies; and
- (d) the purpose or purposes that are calculated to be achieved by the functions?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a), (b), (c) and (d). The project of the formal inauguration of New Delhi took shape in the course of 1929. The original intention had been to examine the possibility of conducting celebrations

on the lines of previous durbars. This intention however was abandoned on the ground of expense, and it was decided to confine the public celebrations to the ceremony of commemoration on the completion of the Memorial Arch, the unveiling of the four Dominion Columns and a Peoples' Fête in the Fort. A provision of approximately 2½ lakhs for this reduced programme was approved by the Standing Finance Committee and finds a place in the Budget for this year. In addition, the contractors of New Delhi have contributed very largely to the expenses connected with the Peoples' Fête.

REPRESENTATION OF RYOTWARI LANDED INTERESTS AT THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE.

46. **Dewan Bahadur T. Rangachariar:** Will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken by them to have an adequate representation of the *ryotwari* landed interests at the Round Table Conference now being held in London to settle the future constitution of the Indian Government?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: The delegates to the Round Table Conference were invited by His Majesty's Government. Their selection is therefore not primarily the concern of the Governor General in Council. The Honourable Member will no doubt realise that the number of delegates had necessarily to be limited, and in the majority of cases persons were invited who might be representative of as many interests as possible and the delegates who might be held more particularly to represent one interest, represent in many cases other interests also.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONERS ABROAD.

47. **Dewan Bahadur T. Rangachariar:** Will Government be pleased to state whether they have concluded their consideration of the question of the appointment of Indian Trade Commissioners abroad, and, if so, whether they will be pleased to lay on the table a statement of the principles, policy and programme that are going to be adopted by them in the matter?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Full details of the approved scheme are set forth in the proceedings of the meeting of the Standing Finance Committee held on the 16th January, 1930 (Volume IX, No. 13). As soon as budget provision had been made for the scheme, the Government of India took steps to carry it into effect. Mr. S. N. Gupta, I.C.S., at present Deputy Indian Trade Commissioner, London, was selected to be the first Indian Trade Commissioner at Hamburg and will assume charge of his new office this year. Steps are also being taken to make a selection this year for the post of Indian Trade Commissioner at Milan through the Public Service Commission, the selection for this post being made from persons not in the service of Government. Further progress with the scheme, which it had been hoped to accelerate in accordance with the views expressed by the Standing Finance Committee, has been prevented by the financial stringency and must await the provision of further funds.

ABOLITION OF THE SIND AND BALUCHISTAN POSTAL CIRCLE.

48. **Mr. S. C. Shahani:** (a) Do Government know that the Sind and Baluchistan Circle of the Postal Department existed formerly also?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state why it was abolished?

(c) Do Government know that after abolition of the Circle Sind and Karachi were attached to Bombay Circle and Quetta and Baluchistan to Lahore Circle?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether there were any protests from the public or the staff with regard to the abolition of the Circle?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state whether there were any difficulties experienced in the management of post offices of the Province of Sind and Baluchistan by their respective Circle Officers after the abolition of the Sind and Baluchistan Circle? If the work of the post offices in Sind and Baluchistan was being managed satisfactorily, will Government be pleased to state why the same Circle, *viz.*, Sind and Baluchistan, was given a second birth?

(f) By re-creating this Circle, will Government be pleased to state what was the saving that was made in the offices of the Postmaster-General, Bombay, and the Postmaster-General, Lahore, and what is the expenditure that is being incurred yearly on the maintenance of this Circle after its formation?

(g) Is it a fact that the then Postmaster-General, Bombay, was not in favour of the recreation of the Circle?

(h) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House copies of correspondence exchanged between the Postmaster-General, Bombay and the Director-General, in the matter?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) Yes, up to 1907.

(b) There was no necessity for the separate control over a small and at the time comparatively unimportant isolated Circle.

(c) Yes.

(d) So far as can be ascertained, there were no protests.

(e) Yes, difficulties were experienced in the case of the Bombay Circle. No information is available in regard to the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle.

The latter part of the question does not arise.

(f) The approximate figures under establishment charges are as follows:

	Yearly average saving.
	Rs.
(1) Bombay Circle Office	17,500
(2) Punjab and North West Frontier Circle	3,400
(3) Annual expenditure on maintenance of Sind and Baluchistan Circle after its formation	69,200

(g) The fact is not as stated by the Honourable Member. The opinions expressed by the Postmaster-General, Bombay, were that a Minor Circle for Sind and Baluchistan would be an advantage.

(h) No. Government are not prepared to publish departmental correspondence.

ABOLITION OF THE SIND AND BALUCHISTAN POSTAL CIRCLE.

49. **Mr. S. C. Shahani:** (a) Do Government know that the postal officials are discontented with the administration of the Sind and Baluchistan Circle *vide Indian Post* for the month of July 1930 and the issues of the *Postal Awakening* for the month of August, 1930, and that they want themselves to be attached to the Circle to which they were attached formerly, *viz.*, Bombay Circle?

(b) Do Government know that the Postmaster, Karachi, is a stationary First Class Postmaster vested with the first class powers and is competent to deal with public complaints and mail arrangements by himself?

(c) Will Government please state whether financial stringency and discontent were the cause for the abolition of the Sind and Baluchistan Circle formerly, and whether the same causes exist now also? If so, do Government propose to take any practical action?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) Government are not aware of any such discontent, nor could the reasons given by the Honourable Member be regarded as of any weight in reaching a decision on this question.

(b) Yes.

(c) The circumstances were not as stated by the Honourable Member. In this connection the Honourable Member's attention is invited to part (b) of my reply to his unstarred question No. 48 put in this House to-day.

The latter part of the question does not arise.

CONSTITUTION OF NEW POSTAL DIVISIONS IN SIND AND BALUCHISTAN.

50. **Mr. S. C. Shahani:** (a) Are Government aware that till the 30th September 1925, two postal divisions of Sind in Sind and Baluchistan Circle stood constituted as Indus Right Bank and Persian Gulf Division and Indus Left Bank Division but from the 1st October 1925, this constitution of the divisions was broken up and the two divisions, *viz.*, Lower Sind and Persian Gulf Division and Upper Sind Division were formed?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether there was any grievance from the staff against the constitution of the divisions that stood prior to the 1st October 1925?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether, while breaking up the old constitution of the divisions, the wishes of the staff were ascertained?

(d) Are Government aware that Mr. Crawford, the then Deputy Postmaster-General, Sind and Baluchistan Circle had, after a sifting enquiry and obtaining opinion of the Divisional Officers, rejected the proposal for reconstituting the divisions when placed before him?

(e) Are Government aware that, as soon as Mr. Crawford left charge of the Circle and Mr. Birlingham succeeded him, he gave effect to this proposal within two months of his arrival?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state why the same proposal once rejected was again put up before the new Circle officer, who put it up, and what were the new grounds that led to the effect being given to this proposal?

(g) Is it a fact that the officials of the Lower Sind and Persian Gulf Division sent their representations against the new constitution of the divisions but the same were not forwarded by the Circle officer to the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs, Delhi?

(h) Are Government aware that the officials of the Lower Sind and Persian Gulf Division were dissatisfied against this procedure of the Circle officer and sent a second representation to the Director General but it was also withheld by the Circle officer?

(i) Are Government prepared to call for the representations of the petitioners withheld by the Circle Officer?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) Yes.

(b) No such representation was ever received from the staff.

(c) No. The change was made for administrative reasons. The staff are not consulted in such matters.

(d) No.

(e) Yes.

(f) Does not arise in view of the answer to item (d).

(g) Yes.

(h) Yes.

(i) No. Duplicates of both these representations were received and considered by the Director-General.

CONSTITUTION OF NEW POSTAL DIVISIONS IN SIND AND BALUCHISTAN.

51. **Mr. S. C. Shahani:** (a) Are Government aware that the educational facilities in the Lower Sind and Persian Gulf Division are much less than those in the Upper Sind Division?

(b) Are Government aware that, outside the respective Head Offices in both the Divisions, there are only two high schools in the Lower Sind and Persian Gulf Division against ten in Upper Sind Division?

(c) Are Government aware that the approximate road journey, excluding Gulf offices, which an official of the Lower Sind Division is liable to travel over, is four hundred miles—the distance of the farthest post office, viz., Nagar Parkar from the Railway station at Gadra Road being one hundred and two miles, whereas in the Upper Sind Division the road journey is practically nil?

(d) Are Government aware that the Lar tracts of Karachi and Hyderabad Districts in the Lower Sind Division are noted for malaria?

(e) Are Government aware that the Lar tract of Karachi district has also no railway facilities?

(f) Are Government aware that the desert tract of Thar and Parkar district in the Lower Sind Division is devoid of any railway facilities, and on account of innumerable steep sand mounds, the road journey is also very difficult?

(g) Are Government aware that the tracts shown in parts (d), (e) and (f) form a major part of the Lower Sind Division?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state whether any tract, as pointed out in parts (d), (e) and (f), forms a part of the Upper Sind Division? If so, to what extent in comparison with the Lower Sind Division?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) Education is a transferred provincial subject, and the Honourable Member will be able to obtain information in regard to educational facilities from the Local Government.

(b) to (h). I regret I am not able to answer the various questions asked by the Honourable Member without knowing their exact purport. If the Honourable Member will be good enough to explain his meaning to me, I shall assist him to the best of my ability.

CONSTITUTION OF NEW POSTAL DIVISIONS IN SIND AND BALUCHISTAN.

52. **Mr. S. C. Shahani:** (a) Are Government aware that, before the constitution of the present divisions, the Lar tract of the Karachi District and the Gulf were in one division, and the Lar tract of the Hyderabad district and desert tract of the Thar and Parkar district were in the other division, *i.e.*, Indus Right Bank and Persian Gulf Division and Indus Left Bank Division, respectively?

(b) Are Government aware that the Circle officer has fixed a rotatory period in the Lar tract of the Karachi district on account of its unhealthiness?

(c) Are Government aware that the rotatory period is restricted to the officials of the Lower Sind Division and it will be the officials of that division only who will have to face the trouble?

(d) Are Government aware that the Circle officer, in his letter No. E.R. 17, dated 2nd April, 1929, to the Director General, has said that the petitioners by asking for reversion of the constitution of the present division to the old arrangement that stood prior to the 1st October, 1925, do not mean to serve in their own province? If so, will Government be pleased to state if as requested by the petitioners, the constitution of the divisions is made as it stood before the 1st October 1925, the two divisions will be in the province of Sind and the officials of the Lower Sind will also be in the same province?

(e) Do Government propose to take action by reverting to the old arrangement of the divisions that stood prior to the 1st October, 1925?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) As regards the first part of the question, Government understand that the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Karachi, reported that the petitioners were not content with serving in their own province, but were endeavouring to restrict their transfers to the immediate neighbourhood of their homes. The reply to the second part of the question is in the affirmative.

(e) Government do not propose to disturb the present arrangement.

LOCATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE, SIND AND BALUCHISTAN.

53. **Mr. S. C. Shahani:** (a) With reference to starred question number 671 of the 19th March, 1930, why has the headquarters of the Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, Sind and Baluchistan Circle, been fixed at Karachi, which is at the extreme end of the Circle, in face of clear rulings in the Posts and Telegraphs Manual, Volumes V and VIII, that the headquarters of the Superintendent must be at a central place in the Division?

(b) Is it a fact that on account of the headquarters being stationed at Karachi, the Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, is being granted House Rent of about Rs. 60 per month, the house rent being much higher than at Sukkur, which is the central place of his Division?

(c) Is it a fact that the office of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Lower Sind and Persian Gulf Division, was removed from the office of the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Sind and Baluchistan Circle to make room for the office of the Superintendent, Railway Mail Service? If so, what is the amount of rent being paid for the new office of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Lower Sind and Persian Gulf Division?

(d) Is it a fact that recently the headquarters of some of the Railway Mail Service sorters has been shifted to Karachi? If so, what was the additional expenditure incurred on account of their travelling allowance, increment of pay under F. R. 22, and compensatory allowance to selection grade officials, which is payable only at Karachi?

(e) Since how long have the headquarters of the Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, been located at Karachi and during that period how many inspections of sections, mail offices and record offices have been made by the Superintendent himself and how many by the Headquarters Inspector?

(f) Is it a fact that on account of the headquarters of the Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, being stationed at the extremity of the Division, the amount of travelling allowance granted to the Superintendent, the Headquarter Inspector and the sorters will be more than it would be at the central place (Sukkur)? If not, how?

(g) Is it a fact that the building of the office of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Upper Sind Division, Sukkur, is so big that the Superintendent has also his quarters in the premises? If so, could not the office of the Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, be shifted to Sukkur without having to pay any additional house rent?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the replies given by me to parts (a) and (b) of the starred question referred to.

(b) A house-rent of Rs. 46 a month is granted to the Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, at Karachi. Government have no information as to the comparative rates of house-rent at Karachi and Sukkur.

(c) With reference to the first part of the question, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to part (c) of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's starred question No. 671 in the Legislative Assembly on the 19th March, 1930. As regards the second part, the rent paid is Rs. 75.

(d) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the information is being collected and will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

(e) Since April, 1929, since then the Superintendent has carried out 12 and the Headquarters Inspector 30 inspections.

(f) In the case of the Superintendent, there will be a small increase. The Headquarters Inspector travels on a free pass and the sorters travel in the Mail Van, hence the question of travelling allowance does not arise in their case.

(g) Yes, and the Superintendent pays house-rent for the portion of the building occupied by him as his residential quarters. As regards the second part, the attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to part (d) of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's starred question No. 671 in this House on the 19th March, 1930.

APPOINTMENT OF TWO ASSISTANT DIRECTORS IN THE SIND AND BALUCHISTAN POSTAL CIRCLE.

54. **Mr. S. C. Shahani:** (a) Is it a fact that in the Sind and Baluchistan Postal Circle (which is a minor circle) the Director has got one Assistant Director on the Postal side and the other on the Railway Mail Service side? If so, cannot one Assistant Director do both these duties, and is each of them getting Rs. 100 special allowance for this duty?

(b) When the Railway Mail Service work was being transferred to the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Sind and Baluchistan Circle, was it then contemplated to give him an Assistant for the Railway Mail Service work? If not, why has the necessity arisen now, and what is the additional expenditure on that account?

(c) Is it a fact that the same officer is working as Assistant Director as well as Superintendent, Railway Mail Service?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) No. There is only one Assistant Director in the Sind and Baluchistan Circle; he is in receipt of a special pay of Rs. 100. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to my replies to parts (d) and (e) of Mr. Lalchand Navalrai's starred question No. 670 in this House on the 19th March, 1930.

(c) Does not arise in view of my replies to parts (a) and (b).

ERECTION OF A MOSQUE IN THE PREMISES OF THE KARACHI GENERAL POST OFFICE.

55. **Mr. S. C. Shahani:** (a) Is it a fact that a mosque (place for Mahomedans to offer prayer) has been erected in the premises of the Karachi General Post Office? If so, when was it built, whether it was built at Government expense or otherwise? If at Government expense, who sanctioned the expenditure? Is the D. P. T., Karachi, empowered to sanction the expenditure? If not, and if he has sanctioned it, what action is proposed to be taken in this matter?

(b) Is it a fact that there are some orders of the Bombay Government or the Government of India not to construct such mosques in the premises of such offices? If so, who is responsible for this? Do Government propose to take any action in this matter?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) The facts are not altogether as stated. A platform for prayers had been built by the Muslim staff at their own expense in the Karachi Post Office compound. When this platform was demolished in connection with the erection of quarters for menials, a new platform was built at Government expense by way of compensation. Subsequently in 1929-30 a roof was sanctioned by the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Sind and Baluchistan, under his own powers of sanction.

(b) Information is being obtained and will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

DISMISSAL OF POSTAL OFFICIALS IN SIND AND BALUCHISTAN.

56. **Mr. S. C. Shahani:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of dismissals of officials of all cadres since the formation of the Sind and Baluchistan Circle for the second time?

(b) How many appeals were made to the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Sind and Baluchistan Circle, Karachi, and with what result?

(c) How many appeals were made to the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs against the decision of the Director and with what result?

(d) What was the total amount of allowances paid to the dismissed officials on re-instatement?

(e) Is it a fact or not that the amount thus paid was a clear loss to Government?

(f) If the reply to part (e) be in the affirmative, what action do Government propose to take to avoid wrongful dismissals and the resultant loss of revenues?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

(f) Reply will depend on the information collected.

LOCATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF POST OFFICES, LOWER SIND AND PERSIAN GULF DIVISIONS.

57. **Mr. S. C. Shahani:** (a) Is it a fact or not that the Superintendent of Post Offices, Lower Sind and Persian Gulf Division, Karachi, has got his headquarters at Karachi?

(b) How many second class Head Offices has he in his Division and what are their names?

(c) Is it a fact or not that according to Post and Telegraph Manual, Vols. V and VIII, the headquarters of the Divisional Superintendent are to be located in a central place in the Division and preferably where a second class Head Office is located?

(d) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the articles appearing in local papers of Karachi, viz.: *Daily Gazette* and *Sind Observer*, dated the 26th August 1930 and 24th December 1930 in support of changing the headquarters of the Superintendent to Hyderabad (Sind)?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state what action, if any they propose to take in the matter?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) Yes.

(b) One. Hyderabad (Sind).

(c) Yes, the headquarters are required to be at an important central station in the Division where there is a head office.

(d) Government have seen two letters in the *Sind Observer*, but the *Daily Gazette* of the dates mentioned does not mention the matter.

(e) I have fully considered the question recently and have decided to make no change at present in the location of the headquarters of this Superintendent.

REFUSAL TO GRANT INTERVIEWS BY THE DIRECTOR OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS, KARACHI.

58. **Mr. S. O. Shahani:** (a) Is it a fact or not that the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Karachi, toured in the month of November 1930?

(b) Is it a fact that he also visited Hyderabad (Sind)? If so, for how long did he stay there?

(c) Did the Manager, Co-operative Societies, Hyderabad (Sind), apply for an interview with the Director?

(d) Was the Manager, Co-operative Society, granted an interview? If not, why not?

(e) Are Government aware that the Director refused to grant an interview to the Manager, Co-operative Society, Hyderabad (Sind), on the plea of his being very busy then?

(f) If the reply to part (e) be in the affirmative, do Government intend taking any steps to ensure to the public the grant of interview by the Director?

(g) Is it a fact or not that the Director also refused to grant an interview to certain officials of the Lower Sind and Persian Gulf Division at Hyderabad (Sind) on similar grounds?

(h) Will Government be pleased to give the names of the postal officials who applied for interview and who were refused?

(i) Will Government be pleased to lay on table a copy of the procedure observed in cases of interviews by the postal officials with the Director or the Circle Officer either at his headquarters or while on tour?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes; 2½ days.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). No. The letter of the Manager, Co-operative Society, asking for an interview reached the Director of Posts and Telegraphs on the 22nd November, 1930. The Director had already settled his day's programme and informed the Manager that he was leaving for Karachi very early next morning, that he expected to return to Hyderabad about the end of December, and that he would let the Manager know the date in due course. When the Director of Posts and Telegraphs came to Hyderabad in December, he wrote to the Manager and interviewed him on the 30th December, 1930.

(f) Does not arise. I would however add that, while Government expect their officers to be as accessible as possible to members of the public, they must decline to limit their discretion by the imposition of any hard and fast rule.

(g) No.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) No procedure is prescribed.

APPOINTMENT OF A HEADQUARTER INSPECTOR IN THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE, KARACHI DIVISION.

59. Mr. S. C. Shahani: (a) Is it a fact or not that one Headquarter Inspector is attached to the Office of the Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, Karachi Division, Karachi?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what are his functions?

(c) Are Government aware that this appointment was originally sanctioned for six months only?

(d) Are Government aware that while recommending the permanency of this appointment, the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Karachi, is said to have written that since air-mail work was being performed by the Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, this appointment should be sanctioned permanently?

(e) Are Government aware that the air-mail work has since been transferred to the Postmaster, Karachi? If so, will Government be pleased to state why the post of Headquarter Inspector, Railway Mail Service, still continues?

(f) Are Government aware that the volume of work of the Headquarter Inspector Railway Mail Service (in the Sind and Baluchistan minor Circle) is much less than that of the Headquarter Inspectors in other major circles?

(g) Do Government propose to still continue this post? If so, why?

Mr. H. A. Sams: (a) Yes.

(b) To assist the Superintendent in the general control of the Division, and to carry out investigations and inquiries.

(c) Yes.

(d) No. The Director did not justify his proposal by any reference to the work which has now been given to the Postmaster in connection with the air mail.

(e) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the retention of the appointment is justified for the performance of the duties referred to in the answer to part (b) above.

(f) No.

(g) Yes, for the reasons given in reply to part (e) above.

APPOINTMENT OF A TOWN INSPECTOR OF POST OFFICES IN HYDERABAD SIND.

60. Mr. S. C. Shahani: (a) Are Government aware that the post of Town Inspector in the Hyderabad Sind Head Office is a time-scale one?

(b) Are Government aware that this appointment carries an allowance of Rs. 40 per mensem excluding pay?

(c) Are Government aware that there is no fixed principle in filling up this appointment?

(d) Is it a fact or not that a most junior official in the Hyderabad (Sind) Head Office was appointed as Town Inspector since two years?

(e) Are Government aware that hitherto the post of Town Inspector was being filled according to seniority? If so, will Government be pleased to state why they have departed from this procedure?

(f) Are Government aware that there have been many complaints from the public, against the present Town Inspector? If so, do Government propose to take any action in the matter?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy: (a) to (e). Government have no information, nor do they propose to call for it as any officer feeling himself aggrieved by any particular appointment has his remedy by way of appeal, and it need hardly be said that any appeal will be considered carefully on its merits.

(f) Only two complaints were received against the present Town Inspector, which on enquiry were found to be groundless. The second part of the question does not arise.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

CONSULTATION OF INDIAN OPINION ON THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: (a) With reference to the Prime Minister's speech at the Round Table Conference, as reported in the Press, will
12 Noon. Government be pleased to state what steps they propose to take to consult Indian opinion on the subject of the new constitution?

(b) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of liberating Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and other leaders of the Congress movement to enable them to give dispassionate consideration to the proposed constitution?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to consult the Central and Local Legislatures on the subject?

(d) Will Government be pleased to see that the White Paper about to be published in England, embodying the provisional conclusions of the Conference, is translated into the Indian vernaculars and made available to the public?

(e) Will Government give this House an early opportunity to examine the proposals of the Conference before the close of its Delhi Session?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Leader of the House): (a) My Honourable friend has no doubt observed in the Prime Minister's announcement the expression of the intention of His Majesty's Government to continue discussions and maintain personal contacts, and also to consider without delay plans whereby Indian opinion may be consulted, and co-operation may be continued. His Majesty's Government have not yet communicated their contemplated plans to the Government of India, who are therefore not at present in a position to describe the steps which it will be necessary for them to take. If the Honourable Member has any suggestions to make, I need hardly say that I shall be very grateful if he will place me in possession of them.

(b) I lay on the table a copy of the statement published yesterday by His Excellency the Governor General on behalf of the Government of India.

(c) I shall be in a better position to deal with this question when the Government of India have received and been able to consider the plans which His Majesty's Government have in view.

(d) The White Paper to which my Honourable friend refers will presumably be a Command Paper, for the reproduction of which the approval of His Majesty's Government will be necessary. I do not, however, anticipate that there will be any difficulty on this point. The Government of India are fully sensible of the importance of giving wide publicity to the provisional conclusions of the Conference, and will certainly consider my Honourable friend's suggestion.

(e) An early opportunity for discussion is likely to arise on the Resolution which stands second on the agenda for the meeting on the 29th instant. Should further opportunity for discussion be generally desired, the Government will of course do their best to meet the wishes of the House.

Statement by H. E. the Governor General re Release of the Members of the Working Committee of the All-India Congress Committee.

"In order to provide opportunity for consideration of the statement made by the Prime Minister on the 19th of January, my Government, in consultation with Local Governments, have thought it right that the members of the Working Committee of the All-India Congress should enjoy full liberty of discussion between themselves and with those who have acted as members of the Committee since the 1st of January, 1930. In accordance with this decision and with this object, and, in order that there may be no legal bar to any meeting they may wish to hold, the notifications declaring the Committee to be an unlawful association under the Criminal Law Amendment Act will be withdrawn by all Local Governments, and action will be taken for the release of Mr. Gandhi and others who are now members of the Committee, or who have acted as such since the 1st of January, 1930.

My Government will impose no conditions on these releases, because we feel that the best hope of the restoration of peaceful conditions lies in the discussions being conducted by those concerned under terms of unconditional liberty. Our action has been taken in pursuance of a sincere desire to assist the creation of such peaceable conditions, as would enable Government to implement the undertaking given by the Prime Minister that, if civil quiet were proclaimed and assured, Government would not be backward in response.

I am content to trust those who will be affected by our decision to act in the same spirit as inspires it, and I am confident that they will recognise the importance of securing for these grave issues calm and dispassionate examination."

Sir Hari Singh Gour: Sir, with reference to the Resolution on the 29th of this month, will the Government be in a position to supply the Members with at least a summary of the White Paper issued on Saturday in the House of Commons?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I do not think so, Sir; and I can quite understand that the House might wish to have an opportunity for discussion after the full proceedings of the Conference have been brought before them. I only alluded to the Resolution on the 29th because it does provide an opportunity for some discussion on the subject.

Mr. B. Das: With reference to the reply to part (b) of the question, will Government be pleased to consider whether a general amnesty to all non-violent political prisoners will not restore the proper atmosphere for discussion of the Premier's declaration and the Viceroy's statement?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: I do not think that arises out of the answer I gave.

ELECTION OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY AND GOVERNOR GENERAL.

Mr. President: I have received the following communication from His Excellency the Governor General:

(The Assembly received the Message standing.)

"In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 63C of the Government of India Act, I, Edward Frederick Lindley, Baron Irwin, hereby signify that I approve the election by the Legislative Assembly of Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty as Deputy President of the said Assembly.

NEW DELHI;
The 22nd January, 1931.

(Signed) IRWIN,
Viceroy and Governor General."
(Applause.)

Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty: Sir, with your permission, I would just like to thank my Honourable colleagues for the honour they have conferred upon me in electing me as the Deputy President of this House, and I may assure them, Sir, that it will be my constant endeavour to prove myself worthy of the trust they have placed in me. (Applause.)

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEDJAZ.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Member for Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five Muslim Members to sit on the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz."

Mr. A. Das (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I had sent an amendment to the Resolution which has been moved by the Honourable Member. But in view of the fact that there is an apprehension that the moving of that amendment may give rise to communal discussion which is far from the object with which I sent in that amendment, I wish to withdraw it.

Mr. President: Motion by leave withdrawn.

Honourable Members: It is not moved.

Mr. President: It is not moved; it is withdrawn.

Mr. A. Das: May I make a suggestion that the five Muslim Members, who are to be elected, might be those who have themselves performed the Haj?

Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin: Instead of five, there might be seven Members.

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five Muslim Members to sit on the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz."

Mr. K. Ahmed (Rajshahi Division: Muhammadan Rural): Since then an amendment is moved to add two names.

Mr. President: Order, order. That was a suggestion and that suggestion cannot be translated into a motion or an amendment.

The question I have to put is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five Muslim Members to sit on the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF A COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS ON THE SALT INDUSTRY.

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

"That this Assembly do proceed to the election in such manner, as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Committee consisting of 10 Members of the Assembly to which shall be added two Members of the Assembly to be nominated by the Governor General for the purpose of considering the proposals contained in the Report of the Indian Tariff Board on the Salt Industry in India and making such recommendations in regard to them as they may think fit. One of the Members so nominated shall be the Chairman of the Committee."

Sir, as this is a matter of some public importance, I think it is right that I should give this House some explanation of the reasons which led me to make this proposal in its present form. I do not think it will be necessary, and I hope it will not be necessary, to have any lengthy discussion on the subject this morning. But I am anxious that Honourable Members should appreciate the issues that are involved, and I hope, after they have appreciated them, they will be able to agree to this proposal. In the first place, as regards the constitution of the Committee, we have included a proposal that two Members should be nominated by the Governor General. I wish just to explain the reasons for that. We wish the Committee, as far as possible, to be an unofficial committee, but as my own time is likely to be extremely fully occupied during the next few weeks, I thought it desirable that I should have one member who might serve as an understudy for myself; that is the reason why we have suggested that there should be two nominated members. I think the House will agree that ten unofficial members is a suitable number for a committee of this kind.

Then, Sir, as regards the nature of the business which we wish this Committee to consider: the Report of the Tariff Board on the salt industry has now been before the country since September, and I daresay a good many of my Honourable friends have read it. On the other hand, possibly some have not, and I should like to remind Honourable Members of some of the main issues. The Government of India, in their original Resolution of the 25th July, 1929, called upon the Tariff Board to report

whether, having regard to all relevant considerations, it is desirable in the national interests that steps should be taken to encourage the production of salt in India, suitable for consumption in those markets which are at present wholly supplied from abroad, and if so what measures they recommend. The Board were asked to take into account the relations between the Government of India and Aden, and the conditions of the existing salt industry in the latter place, and to make such special recommendations, if any, affecting the treatment of salt produced there as may seem to them to be appropriate.

In their Report, which was published on the 12th September, the Tariff Board came to the conclusion that it is possible to produce in India—and in that term they definitely decided to include Aden since Aden is actually part of the Indian Empire and three out of the four works there are Indian concerns and the industry is liable to Indian taxation—they decided that India, including Aden, could produce the quantity of salt of the required quality necessary to make India independent of foreign salt. The point at issue really is the salt required for the supply of the Bengal market. There is annually imported into Calcutta about 500,000 tons of fine white crushed salt: of that about 180,000 tons comes from Aden, and the balance of 320,000 tons would, if India is to be made self-supporting, have to be found from Indian sources, including of course the increase of the Aden production. The Board are of opinion that that additional 320,000 tons could be supplied partly by increasing the Aden production and partly by supplies from Karachi and Okha, and partly also by increasing the quantities of salt produced at certain northern Indian sources of production. The Board considered the encouragement of an increased supply of sea-borne salt would be to the national interest to some extent, but not to such an extent as to justify placing any considerable burden on the consumer for the purpose. And, here I should like the House to appreciate exactly what is involved in this question. It is a matter, as I have said, in which the public take considerable interest. On the other hand I think it is important to realise that what is involved is, at least on economic grounds, not of enormous economic importance.

“To produce 500,000 tons of salt”

I am quoting from the Tariff Board's Report—

“ . . . not more than 4,000 men would be required, engaged mainly in manual labour. Machinery is used in salt manufacture on a small scale and there is little scope for the higher type of employment. The additional employment afforded by the establishment of the industry is therefore extremely limited. As regards profits, the capital expenditure of the Indo-Aden works has been stated to be Rs. 17 lakhs for an output of 70,000 tons. The capital required for an output of 500,000 tons would not exceed Rs. 120 lakhs, and allowing a profit of 10 per cent., the amount remaining in the hands of manufacturers would be approximately Rs. 12 lakhs. Taking the price of fine white crushed salt at Rs. 8 per ton *ex-works*, the total amount of money retained in the country by the substitution of Indian for foreign salt would amount to about Rs. 40 lakhs. The whole of this advantage, however, will not accrue by the substitution of sea-borne salt from India proper for foreign salt, if it is decided that there can be no discrimination between Aden and other Indian sea-borne salt. For it must be assumed that Aden will retain at least her present import of 180,000 tons. If the balance of 320,000 tons were supplied by Karachi and Okha, it would mean employment of less than 3,000 additional men, while the additional amount of money retained in the country in the form of wages and profits would be about Rs. 26 lakhs. Thus although the national interests are to some extent served by the encouragement of the production of salt at Karachi and Okha, the advantages are not so marked as to justify the country in undertaking any drastic action or imposing any considerable burden on the consumer. This is particularly the case inasmuch as the production of salt at Okha or Karachi would afford no guarantee against a shortage of white salt in Bengal such as occurred during the war.”

[Sir George Schuster.]

The Tariff Board then go on to say :

“From the economic point of view there is no case for protection in the proper sense of the term so far as Indian sea-borne salt is concerned. The salt works at Aden have for many years faced foreign competition unaided, and since we have found that these works form part of the Indian industry, no claim for protection of the industry as a whole can be substantiated. Further, even if the works at Aden are excluded from consideration and salt manufacture at Karachi and Okha is regarded as a nascent industry, assistance on strictly economic grounds cannot be justified. These works on the whole possess no advantage over works situated on the Red Sea Coast in respect of natural facilities for the production of salt, including freight, and in consequence no economies may ultimately be expected in the cost of salt to the consumer in Bengal such as would justify a case for protection on ordinary economic grounds. Moreover it has not been proved to our satisfaction that they could ever face competition unaided save in respect of a small proportion of the possible output.”

I think these paragraphs state very clearly what making India self-supporting in the way of salt would mean economically to India, and they also state very clearly the limitations and the limited advantages which would accrue from anything done to increase the sea-borne supply of salt from Indian sources to Calcutta. On the other hand, the Board then go on to deal with the development of the supply of rail-borne salt, that is to say, salt which could be produced at sources of production like Khewra and Pachbadra, and might be brought down to Calcutta by rail. For that sort of development the Board consider that there are much greater and much stronger arguments. For such development would secure a guarantee against shortage in time of war; it would secure additional traffic for the railways; it would secure a reduction in the price of salt as a result of the increased production, chiefly at Khewra; and it would produce some additional business for Indian steel, iron and wagon companies. In the national interests, therefore, there is much more to be said for making an effort to develop these internal sources of supply. The Board then go on to consider the chief difficulties in developing an Indian industry and they find that the chief obstacle in the way of that has lain in the enormous fluctuations in the price of salt in the Calcutta market.

They, therefore, hold that stabilisation of prices is the first necessity. They consider that stabilisation of prices is impossible as long as the import trade remains in private hands, for at one time rings are able to raise prices to exorbitant heights, but another time unrestrained competition means that salt is brought into Calcutta at prices which must be less than the cost of production. These fluctuations, apart from other considerations, render direct protective measures on ordinary lines inapplicable, and that is one of the reasons why the Board come to the conclusion that ordinary protection could be of no value in this case.

Now, the actual scheme which they have recommended in all these circumstances is as follows. They recommend that Government should assume control of imports; that Government should provide India with second grade sea-borne salt at a price which represents, according to their calculations, a fair selling price. They put that price at Rs. 63-11-0 per hundred maunds *ex-ship*, which the Government would sell at Rs. 66 per hundred maunds. They make certain recommendations for extra prices for first grade salt. They consider that, if the production were greatly expanded at Khewra and crushing machinery installed and railway rates of one pie per maund per mile from Khewra to Calcutta were introduced,

it would be possible to put Khewra salt into Calcutta at competitive prices, and that Khewra salt, if assured of what they consider a fair selling price, could be produced at a profit. They consider, in recommending this scheme, that foreign salt will be required for many years to come, because it will take some time to develop the Indian supplies. For so long as foreign salt is required, the central purchasing organisation, which is controlling the market of salt, according to the Board's proposals, would have to buy that foreign salt at the lowest price at which it could be procured and which could be sold at the standard prices *ex-ship*. The difference between the buying and selling prices is supposed to meet the cost of the machinery of control but if on this foreign salt the Government were to make a further profit that profit would have to be funded for the purpose of recouping losses should the price of foreign salt rise above the Government standard price. That is to say, Government or the Central Control Board would buy Indian produced salt (and India, as I have already stated, includes Aden) at a price of Rs. 63-11-0 per hundred maunds, and would sell it at Rs. 66. It would buy the balance of foreign salt that is required at whatever price it could be got, and if it made a profit, the Central Control Board would refund that profit to cover future losses if it had to pay more than the standard price of Rs. 63-11-0. Then if it incurred a loss, that loss could be met out of any funded profits that had been previously earned; if there were no funded profits, the Government would have to bear the loss. I shall refer to that point again in summing up the arguments for and against the Board's scheme. For the moment I propose to go on and complete my account of the Board's scheme.

The Board do not consider that the control of imported salt ought to be exercised by a Government Department. They think that a Government Department is not a suitable organization for carrying on a business of that kind, and I must say that, to that extent, I entirely agree with the Board. They contemplate the ultimate formation of a Public Utility Company, or a similar body for the purpose, with permanent Government representation on the Board of Directors, operating as a Marketing Board and fixing prices on strict commercial principles. They say that to set up this Marketing Board and to introduce this complete scheme for control would take considerable time, and meanwhile they foresaw that immediate action might be necessary. There are various reasons why time should be taken in setting up the Marketing Board. In the first place, as it is quite clear, a great deal of elaborate machinery will have to be devised. In the second place, there is a practical question to be considered. The Board have assumed from their own provisional investigation that the production from the Indian internal sources, Khewra principally, and possibly also Pachbadra, can be very largely increased but they had not time themselves to investigate that question in all its technical details, and they have recommended, as a first step, the Government should undertake a further and much more technical inquiry into the possibilities of expanding those sources of production. That inquiry we launched at the earliest possible moment. We thought that the inquiry should be entrusted to a small and business-like body and that it should be mainly in the hands of a man of business experience, of public position in India, whose name would command confidence with the Indian public. For that purpose we approached Sir Chunilal Mehta and asked him if he would take on this inquiry. I am very glad to say

[Sir George Schuster.]

that he was able to accept it, and since the autumn Sir Chunilal Mehta and Mr. C. H. Pitt, who is one of the best practical Salt Engineers available in Government service, have been engaged in making this inquiry. We hope to have their Report in a few weeks' time, and one of the points which I expect would occur to Honourable Members when I am moving this motion for the appointment of a Committee, is that until the Committee have that Report before them, it will be very hard for them to make final recommendations. That is a very good point, and it is quite clear that they cannot make final recommendations until they have that Report. There is, however, a great deal of preliminary work to be done, and I think that it is advisable that the Committee should get to work as quickly as possible and we hope that in two or three weeks' time Sir Chunilal Mehta's Report will be available for their consideration.

Before I start to give my general résumé of the arguments for and against these proposals and of the difficult consideration that are involved, I would like to say something on the urgency of the matter. The Board anticipated that, before it was possible to introduce this scheme, there might be a fall in the price of imported salt which would be extremely embarrassing to the Indian producers that were just coming into existence. Their anticipations in that respect have been more than realised. There has in the last few months been a remarkable slump in the price of imported salt at Calcutta, and whereas the Board fixed the fair selling price at Rs. 63 per hundred maunds, the actual price now is not much more than Rs. 40 per hundred maunds. As a result of that, the producers who have just begun their business at Karachi and the new company at Okha and some of the smaller companies at Aden find themselves in considerable difficulty, and they have addressed an urgent appeal to the Government to take emergency action to protect their position. I myself was met on my arrival at Bombay on the 12th December by a deputation representing these companies, urging upon the Government that they should take immediate emergency action. We studied the matter with great care as quickly as we could, but we came to the conclusion that there was no action which we could properly take without referring the matter to the Legislature.

The deputation suggested various forms of action. They asked for a differential import duty to be imposed upon foreign salt, or if that could not be done, that a rebate of four annas per maund should be allowed on their production. They suggested that, if we could accept neither of these courses, the Government should at once start purchasing their salt at what the Board recommended as a fair selling price. But I think it will be obvious to Honourable Members that none of those steps could be taken without reference to this Assembly. If it is a question of imposing an additional import duty, that requires legislative action; if it is a question of giving a rebate on the excise, that, as a matter of fact, requires no legislative action, but it is a matter fundamentally affecting the financial position of the Government which, in present circumstances, we could not possibly undertake without consulting this House. Then, again, if it had been a question of Government stepping in and buying up this salt that would have meant expenditure of public funds on a new service, which could not be undertaken, at least without reference to the Standing Finance Committee. Therefore, our hands were tied, and even if we had

desired to do so, there was nothing which we could have done without bringing the matter before the Assembly. We have now taken the earliest possible moment to bring the matter before the Assembly, but for reasons which I shall explain more fully in a few sentences, we think that emergency action should not be taken until the case has been very thoroughly investigated. Investigation of that kind cannot be suitably undertaken in debate in the Assembly, and I venture to think that, if we can have a small Committee of Members who understand the situation and who are interested in the questions involved, that will be by far the best way of getting all the issues thoroughly studied and a right decision in the public interests arrived at.

There is, as I have said, a good deal to be said on both sides about this issue. In the first place, if it proved practicable, it would render India independent of foreign salt, and this, I have no doubt, is in itself a consummation that many Indians would desire to see. On the other hand, I would ask this House to remember that the economic results, as I have already pointed out, are not of very great importance. In the second place, it would, if the Board are correct in their appreciation of the position, secure to consumers in Bengal a regular price; they would be immune in future from the wide fluctuations in prices which have hitherto characterised the general salt market. On the other hand, as against that, the Bengal consumer, if that proposition were put to him to-day, would say, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. At present, our salt is costing us on a basis of Rs. 40 per 100 maunds. If you introduce this scheme, you will at once put up the price to Rs. 66 per 100 maunds. And what guarantee have we that that is going to be of any real benefit to us in the future?" It is going to mean an immediate loss to the whole of the Bengal consumers of something like 20 or 30 lakhs of rupees. I think that the Bengal point of view is one which deserves most serious consideration, and I hope that we shall have some Bengal representatives on the Committee. We must consider the interests of the Bengal consumer, and we must also consider that, apart from increasing the price, the Government could not possibly be justified in proceeding with a scheme the object of which was to force on the Bengal consumers a quality of salt which they do not want. Therefore, Bengal is entitled to be assured, first of all, that they will not in the long run be penalised as regards the price, and secondly, that these measures will not have the effect of forcing them to consume a quality of salt inferior to that which they want. Apart from this, a scheme of this kind obviously involves very far-reaching innovations. That it involves interference with the ordinary course of trade is plain: it would also mean a departure from the present Government policy of selling salt at cost price at Government sources and of allowing the inhabitants of tracts nearer to those sources to enjoy the advantages of their proximity, for one of the Board's proposals is that prices should be equalised all over India regardless of proximity of the place to the source of production. This, of course, might be regarded as an advantage by some of those affected but it would be a disadvantage to others according to the circumstances in which they live.

I think that on general lines I have said enough to indicate to this House the issues that are involved. I wish, as far as possible, in presenting the case, to preserve an impartial attitude. I wish to say no more than is sufficient to indicate to the House that considerable practical difficulties are involved. I hope, therefore, that the House will agree with

[Sir George Schuster.]

me that the Government have taken the right course in taking the Legislature into their confidence on the issues and in refraining from taking a decision one way or the other until the representatives of the public, as we see them before us here have had an opportunity of considering the matter in all its bearings.

Sir, I move.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): I rise to support the motion moved by my Honourable friend the Finance Member. When I came to this House to-day, I did not expect such a long speech (*An Honourable Member*: "And luminous speech.")—long and luminous and wise speech to which I shall allude later—from the Finance Member presenting the views of the various interests affected by the question, nor was I prepared myself to speak to-day on the subject.

Before I go into the main subject, I welcome the decision of the Government in that they have brought forward a Report of the Indian Tariff Board for consideration by a Committee of this House. It is a very welcome change, and I hope that my Honourable friend, Sir George Rainy, who has just left the House, will also follow that example. Whenever he gets a Report of the Tariff Board, instead of taking a quick decision on the subject or coming with definite proposals before this House, the Department of Commerce should take up the same attitude that the Honourable the Finance Member has taken, and ask a Committee of this House to go into the Report and arrive at the greatest measure of agreement on its recommendations. Now, Sir, I feel very grateful to the Honourable the Finance Member that his Department has not come to any decision over the recommendations of the Tariff Board on salt and that it will be guided by the Report of Sir Chunilal Mehta's Committee and by the Committee of this House. I welcome that, but I listened to his speech with mixed pleasure. A month or so ago when I received the Report on the Salt Industry by the Tariff Board I had the same feeling. When this question was debated before, Members of the Assembly—some of them are here now and some are not present on the floor of this House to-day—pressed on the Government an inquiry by the Tariff Board as to how far India could be made self-supporting in the matter of salt. As regards the salt industry, we wanted that salt should be manufactured as it was manufactured in the days of the East India Company all over the sea coast of India. It seems to-day, as has happened before on the floor of this House, that the Bombay capitalists have won. The Bombay capitalists who have got very large firms in Aden, Okha and Karachi want protection. These capitalists have got large manufacturing industries on a modern scientific basis and they want some protection, and they have got into favour with the Government of India as usual. Not that I say that my friend the Finance Member has said anything showing great favour to these manufacturing concerns, but his speech made me think that he is more inclined towards the protection of these large manufacturers than the millions of salt producers on the sea coast in Madras, Orissa and Bengal. I am not in the least concerned with the Aden, Okha or Karachi salt works. As far as I have read this Report cursorily, I am not convinced that they need any protection, but I think the provinces of Madras, Orissa and Bengal

can produce their own salt and supply their own local areas without getting salt from Cheshire or from Karachi or Aden and even they can supply interior provinces. Of course the Committee is going to sit and that aspect will be looked into in detail. I would refer those Honourable Members, who would like to get a full view of what was being done on the Madras coast and Orissa coast and in Bengal in the good old days of the East India Company and which was stopped by an ukase from London in 1863, to the speeches which my friend Mr. K. C. Neogy and myself have made on certain occasions on the floor of this House and I would refer them also to the speeches of Mr. Duraiswami Aiyangar. They will be found in the Library, in the Assembly Debates. I would also ask those who are interested in salt manufacture and also to know how it was destroyed in Orissa, to read my written evidence which was published in Volume I of the evidence before the Tariff Board on Salt and there they will find how the cruel and negligent policy of the then Government of Bengal killed that trade in Orissa. I am not concerned with the profit of the capitalists. Whether it is protection to the cotton mills or protection to the steel industry, it is only a few that enjoy the benefit. The Government may say that labour also enjoys a certain benefit, but everybody knows, and my friend, Mr. Kabir-ud-Din Ahmed, who is a member of the Indian Labour Commission, will come to my rescue when I say this, that labour gets only sweated wages and that it does not get anything much. What is the use of giving protection to these large concerns in Karachi, Okha and Aden? The number of workmen employed in these works is limited to hundreds. At one place in the Report, the Board have mentioned that the Bengal market could be supplied by the Madras process, but they have had no time to go into the details of the sources that can supply the Bengal market. On the East coast they recommend that, before Government come to any decision, they ought to avail themselves of opportunities for investigating the sources of salt supply that are at present available or are possible on the East coast. I was talking only yesterday to my friend, Mr. Govinda Reddy, who is himself a salt producer, and who has a salt pan of 75 acres from which he manufactures salt to the extent of 40,000 maunds per annum. If 40,000 maunds of salt can be produced with a farm of 75 acres, I think that system can again be revived on the coasts of Orissa, Midnapore and Chittagong, where the system used to exist in the days of the East India Company, and which was squeezed out of its existence by the administrative policy of the Bengal Government. It has been contended, the Honourable the Finance Member's predecessor said it, that the East coast rivers are discharging too much water into the Bay of Bengal and so the water of the Bay of Bengal has become less saline, but the East coast used to produce salt a hundred years ago. That point has been contested on the floor of this House and I still contest it. India is a country where the wages of labour are not, and cannot be, as high as is prevalent in England. There is no occupation for millions of people on the coasts in summer time. If these agricultural populations find an occupation for four to six months in the year by manufacturing salt, I think that would be a very welcome change. My Honourable friend is in charge of the Finance Department and he knows that the economic condition of India is very distressing and he has invited a gentleman, Sir Arthur Salter, from the League of Nations to give him advice as to how to form an

[Mr. B. Das.]

Economic Board in India. If that be so, I think that every avenue for improving the economic condition of these people should be explored. I have very often expressed it on the floor of this House, and I again say it, that in Orissa in 1863 the Government of Bengal stopped the manufacture of salt and soon after that great disastrous famine of 1865-1866 destroyed half the population of the coastal districts of Orissa. If salt manufacture had not been stopped this disaster would not have happened in Orissa.

Now, Sir, I welcome this Committee on which there will be the Finance Member and other Members of this Assembly. They ought to see whether they can make India self-supporting by the establishment of large manufacturing industries, which will receive a certain system of protection and bounty from Government, or whether they will permit the coastal people to manufacture salt, which they were able to manufacture in the days of the East India Company, and the question is whether the Government, as long as they have got the present system of duties, cannot adopt an effective system of duties and protection by which they can maintain their excise duties and yet coastal people can make salt all over. Sir, we are not blind to the demand of millions of people in the country that the salt duty ought to be abolished and that people should be able to manufacture salt without any prevention from Government. Well that is a point which, though I have got a good deal of sympathy with the people who hold that view, I cannot support at present because owing to financial difficulties the Government must be carried on. (Hear, hear.) Whether it is the Government of my Honourable friend, Sir George Schuster, or whether it is the Government drawn from those who are at present sitting in or abstaining from this House, Government must be carried on (Hear, hear), and at present I am not in a position to advise the Government completely to abolish a tax which brings them six crores of rupees. Yet I think the members of the Committee and the Government of India should bear in mind that the time is coming when the future Government in India should take steps to abolish the salt duty. If that be so, any system of protection that this Committee should recommend should not be only meant for the Bombay capitalists so that their bank balances may grow and the Honourable the Finance Member may get a little extra money from the income-taxes; but we have to see that the masses do benefit; and the coastal regions of India are so large, especially those of Madras, Orissa and Bengal, that these people can get a subsidiary income without any detriment to the Government revenue if the Government be only prepared to allow them 2 annas or 4 annas as protection or as a bounty. In fact I think in one place the Tariff Board have recommended a system of bounties; but any bounty that will go only to the big manufacturers I fear I shall strongly oppose, and I say this House would stultify itself if it always supports capitalists and capitalist interests and never looks to the interests of the masses.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I thank the Honourable the Finance Member for taking immediate steps in carrying out the recommendations of the Tariff Board on the salt industry, a question so important to this country, and I also join my friend, Mr. B. Das. in thanking him for giving us the opportunity

to discuss the Report. A few weeks ago I approached the Government and asked them whether they could give us an opportunity to discuss the Tariff Report in connection with the hides cess. I am still waiting for the reply and I hope with my friend, Mr. B. Das, that the Honourable Sir George Rainy will see his way to give us an opportunity to discuss that Report, and follow the good precedent initiated by Sir George Schuster. Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member has given some figures regarding the import of salt into this country. I put these figures in rupees. He gave his figures in tons. We import every year Rs. 175 lakhs worth of salt from other countries out of which Rs. 148 lakhs worth are consumed by Bengal. The supply of salt consumed by Bengal is the important problem for us. The first question that we have to consider is whether we can produce in this country the amount of salt which we import from outside. Now this question is answered by the Salt Committee and they say:

"We find therefore that salt of a quality suitable for consumption in the Bengal market can be manufactured by solar evaporation in any part of India where a brine supply is available either from the sea or from subsoil sources."

Now they have given the verdict that the amount of salt necessary for consumption in this country can be produced in this country. I, Sir, go one step further and say that all the salt required for consumption in Bengal can be produced in Bengal, and I entirely support the remarks made by my predecessor. In support of my remarks I will just quote the evidence recorded about a century ago before a Select Committee of the House of Lords. The Honourable Andrew Ramsay, an employee of the East Indian Company, in his evidence before the 1830 Select Committee of the House of Lords, showed that there was a lot to be said in its favour. The first question put by the Select Committee was, "What is the quality of the salt; is it refined?". He said, "No, it is not refined; it only undergoes one boiling". That is about the Bengal salt. The second question was, "Is it to be compared to the salt eaten in this country?". His reply was, "I think it is very far superior". The next question was, "In what respects?". The reply was, "It is not so bitter as the English salt". The next question was, "Are the crystals large?". The reply was, "It is very fine; it is not in crystals at all". Now this was the evidence given about Bengal salt a century ago. If, then, Bengal could produce the salt necessary for her consumption a century ago, I see no reason why the province should not go ahead and begin to produce again the salt which the people require today. Of course, I do not want to go into the history of salt manufacture during the last century, but it is plain enough that steps were taken from time to time by the Government of Bengal in the interests of the manufacturers at home. Now at one time the proportion of the salt imported from England into India was 85 per cent. in favour of England; that is, out of the total amount imported, England contributed 85 per cent., but during the last 50 years, other countries have come into the field and England is now importing only 15 per cent.; Spain, Germany and other countries are now importing more salt into India than the United Kingdom. Therefore, it is very important that we should take immediate steps to produce now the salt necessary for our consumption in this country, and not only this, but we should go one step further and try to export salt to other countries which don't possess natural resources for producing salt. Now the argument was

[Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad.]

brought forward some years ago that Bengal wanted a special type of salt which could not be produced there. Now this argument was prominently in the mind of the persons who carried on the recent investigation, and presumably in the interests of capitalists in Bombay. They say that Bengal wanted salt of a particular type which could not be produced except in a particular manner and in particular localities. I say Bengal wants salt, Bengal wants good salt and Bengal wants cheap salt; and as regards the shade of the colour, I think that is immaterial, as long as salt is cheap and is not poisonous, I think Bengal would be always willing to purchase it.

Sir Hari Singh Gour: They want white salt.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: As regards the question of whiteness, it is very difficult to define because there are so many shades of whiteness and it is very difficult to lay down the shade of whiteness that Bengal desires.

Mr. K. Ahmed: Try to get a refinery.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad: Bengal used to produce a large quantity of salt by the crude Molunghee process, and if the same process may be revived and started again then there is no reason why they should not be able to produce the amount of salt which they require. The Government of India recently instituted an Enquiry Committee. We are thankful for this enquiry, but at the same time, it is not desirable to spend large sums of money on this Enquiry Committee. A salt expert was engaged on a salary, which we can hardly believe to be true; he was engaged on a salary much greater than the salary of a High Court Judge. The salt expert was engaged on a salary of Rs. 5,000 a month to find out what particular quality of salt would be necessary for the benefit of Bengal. Now had this money been given in the shape of bounty to small firms and to those persons who carry on cottage industries in Bengal, then it would have been more usefully employed and probably the industry in Bengal would soon be able to stand on its own legs.

Sir, the province of Sind, we know, is a very neglected province; even in matters of salt manufacture it is neglected. We find that a great injustice has been done to the province of Sind. In 1847, Lieutenant Burke said that there was a very good salt bed on the left bank of the Indus, which was 20 miles long and 15 miles wide, but no special step was ever taken by the Government of India to get salt from this source or to tap this particular place where salt could easily be produced. Sir, the Salt Enquiry Committee has also drawn our attention to the abundance in the supply of salt in Northern India. In the division of Agra, we have got a large number of places where salt could be produced from *Reh*. In *Reh*, we find several things mixed up; Nitrates are mixed up with various forms of chlorides and at one time this was a very prosperous industry in the United Provinces. But on account of the policy of the Government of India in monopolising salt manufacture, the trade has practically disappeared. If only the Government would leave us alone and would encourage private individuals to carry on their indigenous industries as they had been carrying on about thirty years ago, the whole difficulty would disappear. We do not want many enquiries, we do not

want many committees, but we simply want the people to be left alone so that they may carry on the manufacture of salt in the way in which they had been carrying on from generation to generation during the last 3,000 years.

Sir, the next point to which I should like to draw the attention of the House is the recommendation, for the creation of this Marketing Board, made by the Tariff Board. I am glad that the Honourable the Finance Member did not approve of Government control of this Board, but I am very much afraid that if a commercial Board of this kind is established, it will monopolise the sale of salt in the same way as the petrol guild is regulating the sale of petrol. The prices will be put up by this Marketing Board and all the poor consumers will practically suffer. The example of the monopoly of petrol which is before us should serve as a guide for us and we should not take any further risks and should not create any Board of the type recommended by the Indian Tariff Board. Sir, the one thing in which the Government can really help the salt industry in this country is this. The Government may give facilities for carrying salt from one place to another place. If the railway authorities would come forward and cheapen the freights for carrying salt from one place to another, then this industry will very much revive. The Tariff Board mentioned that several railway companies, such as the B. B. and C. I., the G. I. P. and the E. I., were willing to reduce their freights to 1 pie per mile only between two particular places, that is from Khewra to Calcutta, but if this can be further reduced, which I think it is possible for them to do, then, it will be a great help for this industry. There are two points which I should like to mention and perhaps the Railway Board may see their way to reduce their freight still further. The one is that they send their coal from Dhanbad to various parts of India and many wagons return empty to the colliery from their places of destination. Now, if these wagons may be utilised to bring salt, the Railway without any loss will be able to cheapen their rates still further. The second point is this. The railway authorities also have repeatedly said that in traffic there are seasons of slackness. If special reduced rates are adopted during the seasons of slackness, then it is quite possible that producers may be able to convey the salt during this season to places where salt is consumed. With these few remarks, I beg to support the appointment of a committee.

Mr. B. N. Misra (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, now-a-days, the trend of thought has advanced in such a way that we always think of scientific methods, machines and engines. But we forget that hand-made-engines are nothing in comparison with the natural engines that we have got. On the Orissa coast, particularly, I am aware that throughout the coast, salt was manufactured to such an extent that a great historian, Mr. Sterling, stated that, in the year 1822, the revenue from salt was 18 lakhs of rupees, and the time has come now when we do not get even one pice worth of salt from our own sea or from the Lake Chilka. These were the natural sources from which we were getting salt and the rich people then were only those who had industries in salt, or what they called *nimak*. They were the only people who were doing it. Then science had not advanced so much as it has today. This must be said to the discredit of the East India Company. Though the coast of Orissa was only conquered in 1803 and there was then perhaps no proper

[Mr. B. N. Misra.]

control, salt was manufactured to such a large extent, that Orissa not only supplied its own needs, but supplied the needs of the Central Provinces, Bihar and other provinces too. Then, what happened? With the advent of scientific arrangements, probably certain officials were put in there where salt was manufactured, or in places like the Chilka Lake. The officer who was sent there, instead of helping the proper manufacture of salt, instead of assisting the process, as one would have naturally expected him to do, instead of devising ways and means for increasing the production, instead of that, he managed to send a report to the effect that there was no good production of salt there; that it was not a proper place for the manufacture of salt, and so on, with the result that salt manufacture was stopped there. In those days there were no machines. Nothing but the sun—the great natural engine—was used in the manufacture of salt. Salt water used to enter the fields or the salt pans and the sun used to dry up the water and salt would settle on those very fields, and in this way salt was easily manufactured. By this process, they supplied salt to all the provinces, and the revenue from salt was something like 22 lakhs of rupees. From this you can very well imagine how much money could be earned by the people, and how much employment it gave to the coolies engaged in the process of manufacture of salt. With the stopping of the manufacture of salt, the people lost their employment. There was also a Resolution in the Bihar and Orissa Council about this. The Government said that science was a great boon, but the people think that it is such a boon that it kills all our enterprise, all our industries and manual labour. The Government think that salt must be scientifically produced and so they will not consent to revive our old method of manufacturing salt. The Government think that they must have big machines and large sums of money to manufacture salt and without this equipment they could not manufacture salt. Perhaps they then requested the Tata Company, who were managing their steel concern. They did not agree, and perhaps as no rich man or millionaire came forward, it was not done. But it can be very easily done by any individual or any villager if salt is permitted to be manufactured on the Orissa coast. But the scientific method of manufacturing salt, as is done in the case of Liverpool or Madras salt, requires great capital and also a great many machines. You want to encourage these scientific methods but not these natural methods. You want only artificial methods. That is why the salt industry has been killed in Orissa, and also I believe in many other places. The natural method has been killed perhaps on account of the commercial spirit and commercial jealousy and not by allowing the natives of the soil to manufacture salt. But salt can be manufactured very easily, as was proved by the salt *satyagrahis* last year, who showed how it could be manufactured without any detriment to the Government revenue and without any cost to the people.

Sir, as a Committee is going to be appointed, I hope they will thoroughly examine not only the scientific method of manufacturing salt with the aid of machinery, but the natural method as well, whether on the sea coast or in the salt mines at Sambhar, where salt can be naturally manufactured. They should also consider whether the stringent rules against salt manufacture should not be abolished. It will also be of benefit to the Government because they will realise some duties and it will also be beneficial to the people.

Sir, I thank the Honourable the Finance Member for bringing this up for consideration and I hope the Committee will have both the methods in view.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I want to speak a few words on this motion because the speech of my Honourable friend Mr. Das might create some misunderstanding in this House. I come from a province which my Honourable friends say wants some sort of protection. I want to tell my friend Mr. Das that Karachi only recently started this industry.

Mr. B. Das: I know it.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon: And when they started this industry, the Calcutta market rate was between Rs. 60 and Rs. 75 per hundred maunds. Immediately the Karachi merchants began to transport their salt to Calcutta, these Red Sea port concerns found that Karachi could compete with them easily and therefore they started to reduce their prices. From 1915 they began to make lots of money from the Calcutta market. I think, before the war, the Calcutta price was between Rs. 60 and Rs. 65, and during the war they raised it to Rs. 175. I have not got the figures but they did make lots of money. They have plenty of reserves at present and therefore they commenced to bring more salt into the Calcutta market and tried to compete with Karachi—not compete properly, but they tried with their reserve funds to ruin Karachi. Therefore the industry requires some sort of protection because these Red Sea ports are sending today large quantities of salt to Calcutta and will not allow Karachi to sell. Therefore the Karachi merchants requested Government to pay attention to it and give them proper protection, because we are Indian and the Red Sea ports are not Indian. For this reason I support the motion of the Honourable the Finance Member.

Mr. President: Does the Honourable Member wish to reply?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: No, Sir. I have nothing more to say in reply.

Mr. President: The question is:

“That this Assembly do proceed to the election in such manner, as may be approved by the Honourable the President, of a Committee consisting of 10 Members of the Assembly to which shall be added two Members of the Assembly to be nominated by the Governor General for the purpose of considering the proposals contained in the Report of the Indian Tariff Board on the Salt Industry in India and making such recommendations in regard to them as they may think fit. One of the Members so nominated shall be the Chairman of the Committee.”

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ROADS.

Mr. J. A. Shillidy (Secretary, Industries and Labour Department): Sir, I move:

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

The need for the election of this Committee arises, Sir, from the election of the new Legislative Assembly.

The motion was adopted.

THE CANTONMENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. G. M. Young (Army Secretary): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cantonments Act, 1924, for certain purposes. The motion was adopted.

Mr. G. M. Young: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. G. M. Young (Army Secretary): I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Territorial Force Act, 1920, for a certain purpose.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. G. M. Young: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE AUXILIARY FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. G. M. Young (Army Secretary): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Auxiliary Force Act, 1920, for a certain purpose. The motion was adopted.

Mr. G. M. Young: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE VIZAGAPATAM PORT BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to make special provision for the administration of the port of Vizagapatam.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN NAVAL ARMAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Mr. G. M. Young (Army Secretary): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to give effect in British India to the Treaty for the Limitation and Reduction of Naval Armament.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. G. M. Young: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE GOLD THREAD INDUSTRY (PROTECTION) BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the fostering and development of the gold thread industry in British India.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE STEEL INDUSTRY (PROTECTION) BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy (Member for Commerce and Railways): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the modification of certain import duties relating to the fostering and development of the steel industry in British India.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE INDIAN INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, for a certain purpose.

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON PILGRIMAGE TO THE HEDJAZ, THE SALT INDUSTRY COMMITTEE, AND THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ROADS.

Mr. President: I may inform Members that nominations for the purpose of election of Members to the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz will be received in the Assembly office up to 12 noon on

[Mr. President.]

Tuesday the 27th January, while nominations for the Salt Industry Committee and the Standing Committee on Roads will be received up to 12 noon on Thursday the 29th January, 1931. The election for the Standing Committee on Pilgrimage to the Hedjaz will be held in this Chamber on Wednesday the 28th January, while the elections for the Salt Industry Committee and the Standing Committee on Roads will take place on Monday the 2nd February, 1931. The elections will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 27th January, 1931.