

Tuesday, 24th March, 1931

THE  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES  
(Official Report)

Volume III, 1931

*(12th March to 25th March, 1931)*

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FIRST SESSION  
OF THE  
FOURTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,  
1931



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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS  
1931  
13

# Legislative Assembly.

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CAPTAIN NUR AHMAD KHAN, M.C., I.O.M.

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MIAN MUHAMMAD SHAH NAWAZ, C.I.E., M.L.A.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 24th March, 1931.

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

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

1102. \***Mr. C. C. Biswas**: (a) Will Government be pleased to state what is the total amount of grant already allotted to agricultural and animal husbandry research by the Agricultural Research Council, and what researches have been already undertaken by the Central and the Provincial Governments and by the Universities on receipt of grants from the Research Council?

(b) What procedure is being followed in making such grants?

(c) What is the total cost of administration of the Research Council?

(d) Is the function of the Research Council limited, to making grants for research, or is the central organisation intended to act as a clearing house of all information relating to agriculture and animal husbandry, general and technical? What action, if any, has so far been taken by the Research Council in the latter direction?

(e) How many Indian agricultural investigators could find scope for research since the inauguration of the Research Council?

(f) Are Government aware that on the side of animal husbandry, the most important problem is to formulate a suitable policy in regard to cattle breeding? What steps, if any, have so far been taken in this direction?

(g) Is it not a fact that His Excellency the Viceroy had given an assurance that an expert should be invited from outside India to examine the whole question of animal husbandry with an open mind? If so, what led Government to appoint an Army Veterinary Surgeon (Col. A. Olver) to act as an expert on animal husbandry? What are his qualifications?

(h) What work has Col. Olver done since his appointment, with special reference to animal husbandry? When was he appointed?

**The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain**: (a) About Rs. 18 lakhs. A statement showing the research schemes so far sanctioned is placed on the table.

(b) A statement showing the procedure adopted by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in making grants is placed on the table.

(c) Rs. 2,42,200 for 1930-31. This expenditure is not debited to the Research Funds of the Council.

(d) No. The Research Council is charged with the encouragement of agricultural (including animal husbandry) research in the widest sense of the term both in the Provinces and Centrally administered areas and at



the Research Institutions under the Government of India. It also functions as a clearing house of information. A statement showing the action it has taken in the latter direction is placed on the table.

(e) The research workers employed under or directly financed by the Council are all Indians and number about 80. Information as to the number of research workers employed under schemes sanctioned by the Council but undertaken by Central Research Institutions or by Provincial Departments of Agriculture is not available but it may be mentioned that no scheme so far sanctioned contemplates the employment of research workers from abroad.

(f) Given better feeding and care of breeding stock, a suitable policy in regard to cattle-breeding is one of the most important problems on the side of animal husbandry. The Animal Husbandry Expert of the Council is engaged on a scheme for the co-ordination of animal husbandry work throughout India and for the improvement of livestock through the medium of representative committees.

(g) Yes. Colonel Olver was the only candidate recommended by a strong Selection Committee in England, which included Lord Linlithgow, Sir Thomas Middleton and Sir James MacKenna who, as Chairman and members of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, had special knowledge of the qualifications required for the appointment which was being created in pursuance of the recommendations of the Commission. A statement of Colonel Olver's qualifications is laid on the table.

(h) Colonel Olver was appointed on the 18th of April 1980. A statement showing the work he has done since his appointment is placed on the table.

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No. 1.

*Statement showing the research schemes sanctioned by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.*

*Under the direct control of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research :*

- (1) Cereal rust investigation by Dr. K. C. Mehta, Agra.
- (2) Testing of Khan Bahadur Hadi's open pan process of manufacturing sugar separately and side by side with the Rohilkhand Bel.
- (3) The designing of a suitable bone-crusher worked by :
  - (a) animal power and
  - (b) mechanical power.
- (4) Hemp Marketing Enquiry.
- (5) Appointment of a Sugar Technologist.
- (6) Scheme for research into the life history of the desert locust and for research into measures of locust control.

*Under the direct control of the Central Government :*

- (1) The establishment of a Botanical Sub-Station at Karnal.
- (2) Research on Mosaic and other cane diseases at Pusa.
- (3) Agricultural Meteorology, Poona.
- (4) The establishment at Karnal of a Sugarcane Sub-Station of Coimbatore.
- (5) Grant for the investigation of a disease known as Thelerosias among animals.
- (6) Appointment of a Protozoologist at the Imperial Institute of Veterinary Research, Muktesar.
- (7) Appointment of a special staff at the Imperial Institute of Veterinary Research, Muktesar, to investigate Tuberculosis and Johne's disease

*Under the direct control of the local Governments :*

- (1) Shahjahanpur Research Station for detailed examination of new seedling canes (United Provinces).
- (2) Experiments in the designing of a satisfactory small-power sugarcane crushing mill (United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, and Punjab).
- (3) Grant to the Harcourt Butler Technological Institute for the provision of a miniature sugar factory for experimental work and for training in sugar technology.
- (4) Experiments with sugarcane crushing and gur boiling plants (Bengal).
- (5) Bihar and Orissa Sugarcane Research Station.
- (6) Grant to all the Provinces for collecting data on manurial experiments conducted in the past.
- (7) Grant to Bihar and Orissa Government (Professor Parija) for research work on water hyacinth.
- (8) Grant to the Government of the Punjab (Dr. A. N. Puri) for work on the standardisation of physico-chemical single value measurements most suitable for Indian soils.

*Under the direct control of the Universities :*

- (1) Dacca University (Dr. J. C. Ghosh). Scheme for research into methods for the mechanical analysis of soil and assimilation of Nitrogen by the rice plant.
- (2) Calcutta University (Dr. J. N. Mukherjee). Scheme for research into properties of colloid soil constituents.
- (3) Calcutta University (Professor P. C. Mahalanobis). Scheme for statistical investigation on experimental errors in field trials.
- (4) Punjab University (Dr. Bhatnagar). Scheme for research on the effect of differentiations on plant growth.

*Contributions to Imperial and International Institutions :*

- (1) International Veterinary Bureau, Paris.
- (2) Imperial Institute of Mycology, London.
- (3) International Institute of Agriculture, Rome.
- (4) Imperial Agricultural Bureaux, London.
- (5) Imperial Institute of Entomology, London.
- (6) Royal Veterinary College, London.

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No. II.

*Statement showing the procedure adopted by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in making grants.*

A provincial scheme is, in the first instance, placed before the Agricultural Research Committee of the Province from which the application emanates. It is then submitted to the local Government concerned who forward it with their recommendations to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. Schemes emanating from the Imperial Institutes of Agricultural and Veterinary Research at Pusa and Muktesar are submitted to the Council through the Department of Education, Health and Lands. On receipt in the Council's Secretariat, schemes, whether from Provincial or Central Institutions, are subjected to careful scrutiny and are then placed before the Advisory Board for examination. They are then submitted to the Governing Body for orders with the recommendation of the Advisory Board. The function of the Advisory Board is to examine the schemes referred to it in their scientific aspect. It is for the Governing Body to decide whether a scheme is of such practical utility as to justify a grant from the Council, having regard to its resources at the moment.

## No. III.

*Statement showing the action taken by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research as a clearing house of information.*

The Council is building up a reference library which will be available in the near future for the use of all duly accredited scientific workers in India. The Council has also sanctioned the establishment of a Bureau of Agricultural Intelligence and proposals to give effect to this decision are now being worked out. The Council is in touch with various Imperial and International Agricultural and Veterinary organisations with whom reciprocal exchange of publications has been established. Its own publications comprise at present two scientific journals—The Indian Journal of Agricultural Science and the Indian Journal of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry—and one with a more popular appeal called "Livestock and Agriculture in India". In addition to these the Council will issue monographs to meet cases where publication in special form is desired. Where necessary, information intended for a wider publication is also broad-casted. During the locust invasion of last year, the Council issued periodic warnings of the course of the visitation to all concerned; it sent, at its own expense, an Entomologist trained in practical methods of locust control to advise any authority, including Indian States, which asked for his services on control operations and it issued a pamphlet describing in simple language locust control measures to be taken in areas affected or likely to be affected by a locust visitation. This pamphlet was translated into Urdu, Hindi, Gurmukhi and Gujrati and distributed free throughout the affected tracts.

## No. IV.

*Statement showing the qualifications of Colonel A. Olver, C.B., C.M.G., F.R.C.V.S., Animal Husbandry Expert to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.*

(i) *Veterinary training and experience.*

Qualified at the Royal Veterinary College, London; obtained the degree of F.R.C.V.S.

Joined the Army in 1899 and was employed during 1903-06 on work dealing with the control of contagious disease among army animals and carried out the bacteriological work required for its eradication. During the whole of this time he studied bacteriology under Dr. (now Sir Arnold) Theiler and became closely acquainted with his method for the investigation and control of contagious diseases of stock.

1906-08. Employed in control of rinderpest in the Sudan and establishment of lucrative cattle trade with Egypt, also conducted research on *Tse-tse* fly disease.

Appointed Principal Veterinary Officer to Sudan Administration and initiated the present veterinary organisation of that country.

Appointed Deputy Assistant Director General at the War Office, London.

*During the Great War.*—Engaged on remount duty in France, Canada and the United States of America. Worked out a highly successful specific hyper-immune serum for the control of pneumonia.

*After the War.*—Employed in London as Assistant Director of Veterinary Services and organised the Veterinary Section of the Imperial War Museum. Subsequently served for 5 years in Egypt and Palestine as Assistant Director of Veterinary Services. Worked out an Ana-toxin for preventing pneumonia among remounts. This toxin is now being prepared at the Imperial Institute of Veterinary Research, Muktesar, for remounts in India.

(ii) *Livestock Breeding and Animal Nutrition.*

The supervision of the feeding of Army animals of all classes is an important part of the duties of every officer of the Army Veterinary Service and in addition to scientific training in this subject Colonel Olver has, owing to long family connection, been closely associated all his life with livestock and is well versed in questions regarding animal breeding and nutrition. He is the author of the section on breeding of the text book on Veterinary hygiene, which is a standard work.

Both in Sudan and Egypt he took great interest in the improvement of indigenous breeds of cattle and horses.

No. V.

*Statement showing the work done by Colonel Olver since his appointment.*

Since his appointment, Colonel Olver has visited various parts of India to consider and discuss Animal Husbandry problems, and has made detailed recommendations to various Provincial and State authorities as to suitable measures for the improvement and care of live-stock, the control of disease, and the organisation of their Animal Husbandry Services.

He has put forward comprehensive schemes for grants to the major provinces and States affiliated to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for the co-ordinated investigation of local disease and nutritional problems of livestock throughout India. These schemes will provide scope for a considerable number of Indian investigators and should produce results of great economic importance.

He has put forward proposals for the standardisation of veterinary education throughout India and for the establishment of a higher course of veterinary instruction, in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India, the details of which will be worked out by an *ad hoc* Committee. A similar committee is being formed to consider the feasibility of the proposals, which Colonel Olver has also submitted, for all-India legislation for the control of contagious disease.

The above are the main lines of work Col. Olver has undertaken, but in addition advice has been given on a variety of Animal Husbandry subjects, including the establishment of an enlarged nutrition institute, to work in collaboration with provincial workers, with a view to making the best use of the forage available in India. He has also given advice regarding research and the production of biological products at Muktesar and other institutions.

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DESECRATION OF A TEMPLE BY GURKHA SOLDIERS.

1103. \***Lala Hari Raj Swarup:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the statement (published in the *Tribune* of Lahore, dated the 25th February, 1931) by the President of the All-India Aryan League in which he challenges the veracity of the Army Secretary's statement made in reply to my starred question No. 365, answered on the 5th February, 1931?

(b) With reference to the concluding portion of the reply to my starred question referred to above, will Government be pleased to place on the table of the House the result of the inquiry referred to therein?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what further steps they propose to take in order to satisfy public opinion in this matter and to exonerate the military of the charges levelled against them?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** (a) Yes. As the result of full inquiries made by the local military and civil authorities, it appears that the information supplied to Government refuting the charges of desecration was correct in every particular. The troops did not enter, or even approach, any temple. No sacred flag was touched, and no records of any kind were destroyed. Although the battalion was encamped at Bahadradabad, no complaint of any act of desecration was made to the Commanding Officer; nor was any such complaint made then or afterwards to the police or to a Magistrate. Government are satisfied therefore that these charges were fabricated subsequently.

(b) The inquiry mentioned in this part of the question was whether the disciplinary action taken in regard to the subsequent rough handling of two persons by the troops, after the latter reached camp, was adequate or not. The further reports received on this point tend to show that, in

this connexion, the Officer Commanding the detachment did not exercise over the troops the full supervision that he should have exercised. When this point has been fully cleared up, it will be possible to decide whether the disciplinary action already taken was adequate.

(c) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to part (b).

#### STUDENTS OF THE LADY IRWIN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, SIMLA.

1104. \*Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh: (a) With reference to the reply given to my unstarred question No. 257 (c) on the 6th March, 1931, will Government obtain and place on the table the following statistics in respect of the Lady Irwin School for Girls, Simla:

- (i) the total number of students on the 1st October in the years 1928, 1929 and 1930;
- (ii) the total number of students under the guardianship of employees of the Government of India Secretariat and attached offices who moved between Simla and Delhi during those years; and
- (iii) the total number of students who took discharge certificates from the said school during the years mentioned in item (i) above during the months of October and November to continue their studies in the winter in Delhi?

(b) What is the ratio of students taking discharge certificates during those years for continuing their studies in Delhi during winter months to the total number of students?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain: (a) and (b). A statement furnishing, as far as available, the statistics asked for is placed on the table.

#### STATEMENT.

	1928.	1929.	1930.
(i) Total number of students on the rolls on the 1st October	210	241	236
(ii) Total number of students under the guardianship of employees of the Government of India Secretariat and attached offices	*199	*211	*207
(iii) Total number of students who took discharge certificates during the months of October and November.	†58	†55	†71
(iv) Percentage of students taking discharge certificates during the year.	†27.6	†22.8	†30.0

\*No information is available showing how many of these students actually moved between Simla and Delhi or any other places.

†No information is available showing how many of these students continued their studies in Delhi or elsewhere.

**FEES CHARGED BY THE LADY IRWIN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, SIMLA.**

1105. \***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that students in the Lady Irwin School for Girls, Simla, are charged fees for the months of November and December with the fees for the month of October, *vide* rule 27 of the rules of the said School?

(b) Is it a fact that students taking discharge certificates from the Lady Irwin School for Girls, Simla, and continuing their studies in public schools in Delhi during the winter months are charged fees for the months of November and December?

(c) If the answer to parts (a) and (b) above is in the affirmative, does it not come to charging fees from the students for 14 months during the year while fees are ordinarily leviable for 12 months of the year?

(d) How do Government reconcile the statement made by them in reply to my unstarred question No. 257 (c) on the 6th March, 1931?

(e) What steps do Government propose to take to insure that students reading in the Lady Irwin School for Girls, Simla, are not charged fees for more than 12 months of the year?

(f) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of making it a condition to their grant to the Lady Irwin School for Girls, Simla, that they charge fees for the actual period the students continue their studies in the said school or in such way that the students are not to pay fees for more than 12 months of the year according to the rules of the Punjab Education Department Code?

(g) Have Government considered the advisability of making the Lady Irwin School for Girls, Simla, a moving school between Simla and Delhi and make their grant to the said institution on this condition?

**The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazi-i-Husain:** (a) and (b). Yes. All pupils except those who take their transfer certificates in October before the annual promotion examination which is held in that month and those who do not appear at the annual examination, pay tuition fees for November and December along with the October fees. Information is not available as to the number who continue their studies in schools in Delhi but it is understood that it is very small.

(c), (d) and (e). Pupils who leave the school in October before the end of the term and without taking advantage of the annual promotion examination, do not pay fees for November and December. The results of the annual examination are issued shortly before the 15th November when the school closes for the vacation. Pupils who take their transfer certificates after the publication of the results and who then read in a school in Delhi may be charged by the authorities of the latter school fees for December. Such pupils would pay fees for 13 months in the year, but to two schools. The Lady Irwin School is closed for the long vacation from November 15th to March 15th and since the school remains open during the whole of the hot weather pupils are expected to take at least the period from November 15th to December 31st as holiday. It is the normal practice for schools to charge pupils fees for the vacation months if a transfer certificate is taken immediately before the vacation begins. Pupils do not pay fees to two schools for the months of January, February and March.

(f) The matter will be examined. It should be observed, however, that this school is not yet recognised by the Punjab Education Department.

(g) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given to his unstarred question No. 254 on the 6th March, 1931.

**NUMBER OF MUSSALMANS EMPLOYED ON STATE RAILWAYS.**

1106. \***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad**: Will Government be pleased to furnish the following information regarding the number of Mussalmans employed on the State-managed and Company-managed railways, and the comparative figures of other communities, drawing less than Rs. 80; Rs. 80 to 50; Rs. 51 to 100; Rs. 101 to 150; Rs. 151 to 200; Rs. 201 to 250; Rs. 251 to 500; and Rs. 501 per mensem and upwards?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons**: Government regret that the information asked for by the Honourable Member is not available.

**PROVISION OF A THROUGH RAILWAY CARRIAGE BETWEEN DEHRA DUN AND PATNA.**

1107. \***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad**: (a) Is it a fact that through first and second class composite bogies run between Dehra Dun and Lucknow, Dehra Dun and Allahabad, Dehra Dun and Delhi and Dehra Dun and Lahore?

(b) Is it also a fact that no such bogie is attached to any express or passenger train from and to Patna?

(c) If the reply to part (b) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to consider the desirability of drawing the attention of the Agent of the East Indian Railway to the necessity of attaching a through bogie for upper classes for Dehra Dun from and to Patna?

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

(b) I understand that a through carriage runs between Howrah and Dehra Dun by the up and down Punjab Mail trains which pass Patna.

(c) Arrangements in connection with time tables are not matters in which Government can take part, but I will have a copy of the Honourable Member's question and of my reply sent to the Agent of the East Indian Railway.

**PROVISION OF A THROUGH RAILWAY CARRIAGE BETWEEN PATNA AND DELHI.**

1108. \***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad**: (a) Is it a fact that there is no through bogie of the upper classes from Patna to Delhi or Kalka and *vice versa*?

(b) Are Government aware that the upper class passengers who want to reserve compartments from Patna to Delhi or Kalka are put to much inconvenience for want of a through bogie between these stations?

(c) Has the attention of the Agent ever been drawn to this, and if so, what was his reply? What action did he take to remove this inconvenience of the public?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons**: (a) I understand that there is no through carriage especially reserved for passengers between Patna and Delhi or Kalka.

(b) and (c). Government have no information. The provision of through carriages between certain stations is a matter within the competence of the Railway Administration, and I will have a copy of the Honourable Member's question and of my reply sent to the Agent of the East Indian Railway.

**ADMISSION OF OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN TERRITORIAL FORCE TO THE ARMY IN INDIA RESERVE OF OFFICERS.**

1109. \***U Kyaw Myint**: (a) Is it a fact that officers of the Indian Territorial Force are ineligible for commissions in the Army in India Reserve of Officers? If so, why?

(b) Is it a fact that officers and other ranks of the Auxiliary Force are eligible for commissions in the Army in India Reserve of Officers as officers or officers-designate?

(c) Is it not a fact that urban units of the Indian Territorial Force function very much in the same way as Auxiliary Force units?

(d) Is there any reason why officers and other ranks of the Indian Territorial Force, Urban Units, including University Battalions, should not be eligible for appointment as officers or officers-designate in the Army in India Reserve of Officers?

(e) Was not a circular issued about two years ago stating that officers in a University Training Corps with six years' service or more were eligible for commissions in the Army in India Reserve of Officers? Is this circular still in operation? If not, why has it been withdrawn?

**Mr. G. M. Young:** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, but only as officers designate; and they do not receive the commissions until mobilization takes place.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). Under the circular issued in August 1929, which is still in force, officers of the Indian Territorial Force are eligible for commissions in the Army in India Reserve of Officers after they have completed their period of contract of 6 years in the Territorial Force: but if officers of the Territorial Force are appointed to the reserve, they have to resign their commission in that force, as an officer cannot hold two different commissions in India at the same time. Officers and men of the Auxiliary Force are not eligible for commissions as officers in the Army in Indian Reserve but are eligible for appointment as officers designate. Government are considering the question whether officers and men of the Indian Territorial Force should also be eligible for appointment as officers designate in the Army in India Reserve of Officers, in which case officers could retain in peace-time their commissions in the Indian Territorial Force.

**APPOINTMENT OF THE ACCOUNTANT, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, ALIGARH.**

1110. \*Maulvi Muhammad Yakub (on behalf of Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali): Is it a fact that in the Aligarh Government Press a non-matriculate junior clerk getting Rs. 50 per mensem has been appointed to the post of the Accountant, Rs. 100—5—140? What are the reasons for this? Is it a fact that there are clerks in the clerical establishment of that Press who are better qualified educationally and more experienced?

**Mr. J. A. Shillidy:** The Controller of Printing and Stationery, India, is responsible to Government generally for the efficient working of the Government of India Presses and Government do not propose to call for information regarding these administrative details which are matters for his discretion.

**REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS IN THE CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, ALIGARH.**

1111. \*Maulvi Muhammad Yakub (on behalf of Mr. Muhammad Azhar Ali): Is it a fact that the staff of the Government of India Press, Aligarh, especially the clerical establishment, is manned by Hindus in an overwhelming majority? Is it out of all communal proportions? What steps have been taken to represent the Muslim community?

**Mr. J. A. Shillidy:** Enquiries are being made.



### RECRUITMENT OF INDIAN ENGINEERING SERVICES.

1112. \***Rai Bahadur Pandit T. N. Bhargava:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the names of the two persons and the period of their appointment as temporary engineers, who were referred to in reply to my question No. 802, part (d) on the 5th March, 1981?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state what was the composition of the service which did not justify an increase in the number of vacancies by competition and which was referred to in reply to my question No. 802, part (g), on the 5th March, 1981?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) Mirza Mohammed Ismail, who was engaged as a temporary Engineer in the Punjab Public Works Department, Irrigation Branch, from the 4th of July 1927, and Mohammad Abdul Karim, who was engaged as a temporary Engineer on the North Western Railway from 27th of April 1925.

(b) The composition of the service was:

Europeans . . . . .	211
Hindus . . . . .	81
Anglo-Indians . . . . .	25
Muslims . . . . .	15
Sikhs . . . . .	6
Other communities . . . . .	5

### PROVISION OF FLYING PRACTICE FOR INDIAN AERODROME OFFICERS.

1113. \***Mr. Bhuput Singh:** (a) Is it a fact that Indians trained in England for four years in the art of flying have been appointed as aerodrome officers in New Delhi, Karachi and Allahabad aerodromes?

(b) Is it a fact that they are not allowed to use the Government machines supplied to the aero clubs of those places?

(c) Are Government aware that unless these officers are supplied with machines for keeping up their practice of flying, they are liable to deteriorate in the art of flying for the training of which Government spend a good deal of money? If so, do Government propose to supply these Indian officers employed in the aerodromes at Delhi, Karachi and Allahabad with machines for keeping themselves in touch with the practical art of flying? If not, why not?

(d) Is it a fact that the Government of India have spent a good deal of money in training the Indian officers in England for the purpose of appointing them as civil aviation officers?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state the cost involved in training these Indians?

(f) Are Government aware that, owing to the want of machines for keeping up their practice in flying, the money invested in their training in England for learning the art of flying will be wasted?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state how much money they have sanctioned for the Civil Aviation Department for the year 1981-82?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have considered the desirability of earmarking a part of the amount sanctioned for the Civil Aviation Department for the purchase of machines for being supplied to the aerodromes at Delhi, Karachi and Allahabad? If not, why not?

**Mr. J. A. Shillidy:** (a) to (f). The aerodrome officers were trained primarily for the purposes of aerodrome management, not as pilots.

(g) Rs. 85,77,000.

(h) No. A machine is not required to take the aerodrome officer from one part of the aerodrome to another for the performance of his duties.

**MEMORIAL FROM THE CLERICAL STAFF OF THE INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT.**

1114. **\*Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi:** (a) Is it a fact that the clerical staff of the Indian Stores Department submitted a memorial to the Government for revision of pay about five years ago? If not, when was the representation made?

(b) Is it a fact that the staff of the Indian Stores Department are getting lower pay, while that of the Director of Contracts are employed on higher rates? Are the staffs in both the offices doing the same class of work? Is recruitment for both offices made from the same class of society, and through the same source? Are both the offices located at the same station i.e., Delhi and Simla? If so, why is there differentiation in rates of pay?

(c) Is it a fact that Government first postponed consideration of the memorial on the ground of the question of the permanent station of the Indian Stores Department being then under contemplation and which has not yet been settled? If not, what was the reason for not considering the memorial?

(d) Is it a fact that the Association of the clerks of the subordinate offices approached the Government on the subject, and Government promised, both the staff of the Indian Stores Department and the Association that their grievances would be redressed? If so, what is the present position?

(e) Are Government aware that already years have gone by since the first representation was made? Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of revision of pay without further delay?

(f) Is it a fact that the Industries Department supported the memorial stated in part (a) on the grounds stated in part (b)?

**Mr. J. A. Shillidy:** The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given in this House on the 17th March, 1930, to starred question No. 614 by Mr. G. Sarvotham Rao. The question of the revision of the scales of pay of the clerical staff employed in the various attached and subordinate offices of the Government of India, including the office of the Chief Controller of Stores, Indian Stores Department, is still under the consideration of the Government of India. Government are not prepared at this stage to furnish any further information on the subject.

**NUMBER OF PASSENGERS ARRIVING AT STATIONS ON THE PATNA-GAYA  
BRANCH OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

1115. **\*Lieut. Nawab Muhammad Ibrahim Ali Khan** (on behalf of Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad): Will Government please furnish information regarding the total number of first, second, intermediate and third class passengers separately who were booked from, and arrived at, each of the stations on the Patna-Gaya Branch of the East Indian Railway during the year 1929-30?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** A statement showing the information required by the Honourable Member is placed on the table.

Statement showing the number of passengers by classes who were booked from and arrived at each of the stations on the Patna-Gaya Branch of the East Indian Railway during the year 1929-30.

Names of Stations.	Total number of passengers booked from each of the Stations on Patna-Gaya Branch during 1929-30.				Total number of passengers arriving at each of the Stations on Patna-Gaya Branch during 1929-30.			
	1st class.	2nd class.	Inter-mediate class.	Third class.	1st class.	2nd class.	Inter-mediate class.	Third class.
1. Faiza Jn. . . . .	No. 1,026	No. 3,125	No. 19,393	No. 244,182	No. 945	No. 3,173	No. 21,208	No. 259,309
2. Poonpooon . . . . .	28	134	2,382	94,457	32	149	2,409	80,768
3. Taregna . . . . .	41	311	4,736	99,965	47	323	4,555	102,076
4. Nadeaul . . . . .	5	23	309	24,774	1	21	305	18,556
5. Jehnabad . . . . .	105	442	4,557	96,370	75	442	4,701	104,802
6. Irki . . . . .	50	535	3,093	73,486	58	528	2,982	59,589
7. Tehta . . . . .	5	150	865	49,438	8	139	997	50,266
8. Makhdumpur Gaya . . . . .	8	123	2,087	70,266	11	111	2,227	66,478
9. Bela . . . . .	7	179	2,843	75,303	9	173	2,966	65,013
10. Chakand . . . . .	1	34	2,779	50,088	2	35	2,973	54,802
11. Gaya Jn. . . . .	765	2,622	21,566	250,193	845	2,581	20,087	270,023
Total . . . . .	2,040	7,678	65,110	1,128,522	2,033	7,675	65,410	1,131,482

**ATTACHMENT OF AN ADDITIONAL CARRIAGE TO THE EXPRESS FROM PATNA.**

1116. \***Lieut. Nawab Muhammad Ibrahim Ali Khan** (on behalf of Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad): (a) Is it a fact that two first and second class composite bogies run from Sealdah on the 13 up express and are Government aware that at least one of them arrives practically empty at Patna?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to issue instructions for the attachment of one of these two bogies to the 13 up express at Patna?

**Mr. A. A. L. Parsons:** (a) and (b). Government have no information, and are not in a position to take part in arrangements for the provision of through carriages, which is a matter within the competence of the Railway Administration. I will have a copy of the Honourable Member's question and of my reply sent to the Agent of the East Indian Railway.

**ASSAULT OF A SORTER BY A SUPERINTENDENT OF THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE**

1117. \***Haji Chaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan:** (a) Are Government aware that the Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, P. Division, assaulted a head sorter on the 23rd May, 1930?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether investigations were held by them in the case?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the nature of the investigations made and whether evidence of the witnesses in this case was recorded by the investigating authorities; if not, why not?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The enquiry was departmental in which witnesses were examined and their statements were recorded.

**ALLEGATIONS OF INJUSTICE IN THE BIHAR AND ORISSA POSTAL CIRCLE.**

1118. \***Haji Chaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan:** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the sub-head "Bihar and Orissa Circle" under the head "Notes and News" on page 104 published in the *General Letter*, the organ of the All-India Postal and Railway Mail Service Inspectors' Association?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the allegations made therein are correct?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to remedy the injustice done to the official concerned by reinstating him in his original position; if not, why not?

(d) If the answer to part (b) be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the facts of the case; if not, why not?

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

(b) to (d). Government do not propose to make any statement about the matter, which is properly one to be dealt with on appeal by the official concerned through the prescribed channel.

PROMOTIONS FROM ATTACHED OFFICES TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
SECRETARIAT.

1119. \***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether a graduate of an Indian University, having some years' permanent service in the First Division in an attached office and a record of good work and conduct to his credit, is eligible for appointment in the first division in the Secretariat Office without passing the Public Service Commission examination?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of lifting the ban, especially in the cases of those who are debarred from appearing at the Public Service Commission examination owing to the restriction of age limit?

**The Honourable Sir James Orerar:** (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) The reasons are stated in my reply to starred question No. 165 on the 5th September, 1929, in this House, to which I would refer the Honourable Member, who will, no doubt, recognise that Government are unable to make exceptions in individual cases.

DEATH OF A POSTAL PEON ON DUTY IN MYMENSINGH.

1120. \***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) Is it a fact that one Lachman Goals, a mail peon attached to the Bhairab Post Office (Mymensingh), died a few months ago?

(b) Is it a fact that while carrying mail bags from Bhairab Post Office to the railway station he suddenly collapsed and fell on the ground unconscious?

(c) Is it a fact that the sudden collapse was due to the fact that the weight of the mail bag was unusually heavy, the weight being more than 1 maund and a half?

(d) Have Government inquired into the real cause of his death which occurred a few days after? If so, with what result?

(e) If the replies to parts (a), (b), (c) and (d) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether any family pension has since been granted to the widow of the deceased;

(ii) whether any steps have been taken by the local authority not to send such heavy loads by a mail peon; and

(iii) if not, why not?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** The information required by the Honourable Member is being collected and a reply will be furnished to him when received.

DEATH WHILE ON DUTY OF THE SUB-POSTMASTER, NARIA.

1121. \***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that Babu Baroda Kanto Das, Sub-Postmaster, Naria, Faridpur, died on the 30th November, 1930, while on duty?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state if any pension has yet been sanctioned to his widow?

(c) Are Government aware of the allegation that the death was due to the insanitary condition of the post office building?

(d) Is it a fact that some of the villagers even applied to the Divisional Superintendent for removal of the post office from the present building?

(e) If so, will Government be pleased to state if any action was taken by the Department for the removal of the office? If not, why not?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** Government have no information. I will consider the question on receipt of a report from the Postmaster-General which has been called for.

**STAFF EMPLOYED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, CALCUTTA.**

1122. **\*Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** (a) Is it a fact that the Government of India's orders gave full power and discretion to the Presidency Postmaster, Calcutta, for selecting the personnel as well as calculating the number of staff to be employed on the basis fixed by Government?

(b) Is it a fact that nowadays a lesser number of staff is engaged for the purpose under the instruction of the Postmaster General of the Circle?

(c) Is it a fact that the inward foreign mail used to arrive at Howrah station at 3 A.M. and the delivery was to be out at 6 A.M.?

(d) Is it a fact that at present the mail reaches Howrah station at about 12-30 A.M. and the delivery is out at 6-30 A.M.?

(e) Is it a fact that as a result of this change the staff employed for the purpose have to work 6 hours instead of 3 hours?

(f) If the replies to the above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to inquire and state the reasons?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** The Honourable Member's question refers, I take it, to the disposal of the Foreign Mail. If so, (a) to (e). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to parts (c) to (e), (g) and (j) of my reply to Mr. S. C. Mitra's starred question No. 983 of the 17th March, 1981.

(f) Does not arise.

**IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN ORISSA AND GANJAM.**

1123. **\*Mr. B. N. Misra:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of capital invested and interest charged for:

(i) the irrigation project in Orissa,

(ii) the Risikulla irrigation project in Ganjam (Madras)?

(b) What is the amount of the capital charges made and interests realised on those projects up to 1931?

**Mr. J. A. Shillidy:** (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to Account No. 33 of the Finance and Revenue Accounts for 1929-30, a copy of which is in the Library.

**Mr. B. N. Misra:** May I get a copy for myself?

**Mr. J. A. Shillidy:** The Honourable Member will find a copy in the Library.

**Mr. B. N. Misra:** But I want a copy for myself.

**Mr. J. A. Shillidy:** I shall see if I can obtain one for the Honourable Member.

## UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

### PAY OF THE SANITARY OVERSEER OF THE BOMBAY GENERAL POST OFFICE.

391. \***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer:** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is a sanctioned appointment of a Sanitary Overseer for the Bombay General Post Office;
- (b) whether the present holder of the same post was appointed there some three years back and is continuing on a fixed pay of Rs. 75 per mensem;
- (c) whether the present holder of the said post is a qualified Sanitary Overseer holding a diploma and is also a matriculate of the Bombay University;
- (d) whether the matriculate candidate in the Bombay General Post Office gets a scale of Rs. 60—5—160;
- (e) whether the question of revision of pay of the Sanitary Overseer to something higher than that of the clerical staff on account of his additional qualification, has been under consideration for some time past; and
- (f) if so, whether the decision in the matter would be expedited?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) He passed the Sanitary Supervisor's examination. Government have no information whether he is a matriculate.

(d) A matriculate candidate is eligible for appointment as a clerk on the scale of pay mentioned.

(e) and (f). The question of the pay of the post has been under consideration, but in view of the financial stringency revision cannot now be undertaken.

### NOTICE TO CANDIDATES OF THE DATE OF THE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

392. **Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) With reference to Mr. S. C. Mitra's unstarred question No. 258 answered on the 6th March, 1981, will Government be pleased to state whether the Public Service Commission issued a memorandum which was numbered F.-61/29-M., dated the 20th May, 1929, regarding the last qualifying examination?

(b) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, is it not a fact that the candidates were made aware of the qualifying examination six months previous to the examination?

(c) If the answer to part (b) above be in the affirmative, do Government propose to extend the same privilege to the candidates who are about to appear in the ensuing qualifying examination? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir James Orerar:** (a) and (b). In the Memorandum quoted by the Honourable Member, the Public Service Commission announced the categories they would admit to the examination which they contemplated holding in June or July 1929. In fact, no examination was held in these months. Finally, on the 24th September, 1929, they fixed the actual dates of the examination which they held on the 4th and 5th November following.

(c) No. It was known as early as the 15th October, 1930, that an examination was in contemplation for temporary clerks who had not been admitted to the qualifying examination of November, 1929.

**NOTICE TO CANDIDATES OF THE DATE OF THE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.**

**393. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** With reference to answer to part (b) of Mr. S. C. Mitra's unstarred question No. 259, dated the 6th March, 1931, will Government be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the proposal for holding a qualifying examination for departmental candidates was taken up on the 2nd December, 1930, at the Inter-Departmental Conference;
- (b) whether there was any question of a qualifying examination being held before the 2nd December, 1930;
- (c) if it is a fact that before the 23rd February, 1931, candidates were not aware of any qualifying examination;
- (d) if it is a fact that even the establishment officers of the Government of India offices were not aware of the examination till the 18th February, 1931;
- (e) if it is not a fact that the question of a qualifying examination for Departmental candidates was first communicated to the Government of India Offices on the 18th February, 1931; and
- (f) if the answers to parts (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) are in the affirmative, the reasons for their answer "But it has long been known that an examination was in contemplation"?

**The Honourable Sir James Crerar:** (a) to (f). The question was discussed at the departmental conference and final orders were passed in February, 1931, but, as stated in reply to the previous question, Departments were aware as early as October, 1930, that an examination would be held.

**CASES OF CLERKS EXEMPTED FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION EXAMINATION.**

**394. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** With reference to Mr. D. K. Lahiri Choudhury's starred question No. 760, dated the 2nd March, 1931, will Government be pleased to state whether the Public Service Commission keep any record of the cases of exemption? If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the table the statement which was asked for in the above-mentioned question? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir James Crerar:** The Public Service Commission have a record of the cases in which they have granted exemptions, but I understand that the records of the late Staff Selection Board are not complete. I cannot undertake to collect the information for the reasons I gave in reply to Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury's question to which reference has been made.



**EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN CLERKS FROM THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION EXAMINATION.**

**395. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) Is it a fact that a few clerks of the Government of India offices were exempted from the examination of the Public Service Commission on the ground that they had served the Government for a considerable period (i.e., for over a year)?

(b) Is it a fact that three clerks were exempted only because the head of their department pressed strongly for their exemption?

(c) If the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons why the temporary clerks, who have been serving for more than a year, should be compelled to appear in the qualifying examination?

(d) If the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, is the Honourable Member prepared to inquire into the matter?

**The Honourable Sir James Orerar:** (a) to (d). I have no information but I am making enquiries.

**APPOINTMENT OF UNQUALIFIED CLERKS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICES.**

**396. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** With reference to the answer to Mr. D. K. Lahiri Choudhury's starred question No. 758, dated the 2nd March, 1981, will Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether Government propose to provide for the few clerks, who are not allowed to sit in the ensuing qualifying examination on the ground that they are below the educational standard required by the Public Service Commission; and

(ii) whether Government propose to keep a list of these clerks, with a view to provide them with permanent appointments in the offices of the Government of India, which enjoy the privilege of not being under the Public Service Commission? If not, why not?

**The Honourable Sir James Orerar:** (i) and (ii). I would refer the Honourable Member to my reply to part (d) of Mr. Lahiri Chaudhury's question No. 758. For the reasons there given, I cannot undertake to adopt any special measures such as those suggested by the Honourable Member.

**QUALIFYING EXAMINATION FOR TEMPORARY CLERKS.**

**397. Mr. Amar Nath Dutt:** (a) With reference to the Home Department office memorandum No. 94/80-Ests., dated 18th February, 1981, para. V, which runs as follows:

*"Temporary clerks at present serving in the 3rd Division who are not qualified will be allowed to appear at a special qualifying examination to be held shortly on a date to be announced by the Public Service Commission for a specified number of vacancies in that division, etc."*

will Government be pleased to state whether this qualifying examination will be of a competitive or a qualifying nature?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of posts reserved for the departmental candidates who are appearing in the said qualifying examination?

(c) Is it contemplated that those candidates only who will be recommended by the heads of the departments, will pass in the said examination?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the number of departmental candidates who are appearing in the said qualifying examination?

**The Honourable Sir James Orerar:** (a) The examination will be both a competitive and a qualifying one. The number of vacancies specified will be filled from among those who have attained the qualifying standard.

(b) The present estimate is that the number will be 34.

(c) No.

(d) I understand that the exact number is not known yet.

**EXAMINATION FOR INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES AND HEAD CLERKS TO SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES.**

398. **Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri:** (a) Will Government be pleased to state:

(i) whether with the introduction of the lowest selection grade of Rs. 160—10—250 both for officials in the general line of the Post Office and for Inspector of Post Offices and Divisional Head Clerks a separate cadre for the latter classes of officials ceased to exist;

(ii) whether the officials who have passed the former examination for promotion to the cadre of Inspector of Post Offices and Divisional head clerks in the grade of Rs. 100—175 are eligible for promotion to any of the posts included in the revised grade of Rs. 160—10—250 in order of seniority along with those who have passed the departmental lowest selective examination;

(iii) whether the former examination prescribed for Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices was a departmental examination and not a competitive examination;

(iv) whether there is any such rule in any Government department for men already in the department that in regard to those who will display merit in the departmental examination their names will be arranged in order of merit and promotions given accordingly, though they may be fairly junior to other senior passed men;

(v) whether in the Post Office Department the names of the passed candidates used to be borne on a waiting list for promotion to the cadre of Inspector of Post Offices and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices in order of seniority in service;

(vi) whether the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs has ruled that there will be only one general waiting list in each circle and the names of the above officials will be rearranged in order of seniority in service along with those who have passed the lowest selection grade examination;

(vii) whether the waiting list enforced in each circle for promotion in the cadre of Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices ceased to exist and a new waiting list in its place has been introduced with the names of such officials arranged in order of seniority in service and promotion in the fifth vacancy is given from this waiting list; and

(viii) whether the officials already in the department, who passed the old examination for Inspectors of Post Offices and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices in the same year, are given promotion in the fifth vacancy prescribed by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs in his Special General Circular No. 16, dated the 18th August, 1930, in the selection grade post in order of seniority of service?

(b) If the replies to the above questions are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state, whether, with a view to remove any misunderstanding, they propose to issue clear instructions to the Postmaster-General, Burma Circle?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** (a) (i) and (ii). Yes.

(a) (iii). Yes, a qualifying examination.

(a) (iv) and (v). Yes.

(a) (vi) and (vii). The general waiting list is one, but separate waiting lists are maintained for purposes of promotion to fifth vacancies.

(a) (viii). Officials who passed the old examination for Inspectors of Post Offices and the Railway Mail Service and Head Clerks to Superintendents of Post Offices and are approved candidates for promotion to the selection grade are eligible for promotion in fifth vacancies in order of seniority.

(b) The existing rules are sufficiently clear.

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## PROTEST AGAINST THE EXECUTION OF BHAGAT SINGH AND OTHERS.

**Diwan Bahadur T. Rangachariar** (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, with your permission, and with feelings of profound sorrow and deep indignation, I rise to make a statement. We view with grief and resentment the action of the Government in having carried out last night the sentences of death passed on Bhagat Singh and two others by a Special Tribunal so long ago as the 7th October last. The facts relating to that trial, Sir, are well known. For reasons which it is unnecessary to recapitulate here, it was a trial behind the back of the accused by a special procedure sanctioned by an Ordinance which this House always protested against. The vast majority of the public firmly believed that Bhagat Singh at least was not concerned with the particular crime for which he was convicted and sentenced to death. The volume of public feeling in the matter had been made manifest in manifold ways to Government, and the public had fervently hoped and earnestly expected

that Government would have recognized the force of public opinion conveyed to them by that great saint of India. Sir, Government have flouted that opinion, and they have done the thing which we fear will lead to more serious consequences. Not only that, Government have, by this disregard of public opinion, invited and are inviting serious trouble to themselves and the country. Sir, justice, tempered by mercy, would have redounded to the credit of Government. But, alas, wise counsels found no echo in the hearts of this Government. Peaceful atmosphere which is so essential now is seriously jeopardised. We resent this most strongly; we are, Sir, in great grief; and we shall not be able to take any part in today's proceedings in the Assembly.

I will wait to hear what the Government have to say before we walk out.

**The Honourable Sir James Orerar** (Home Member): Mr. President, I have only a few sentences to say in reply to what has fallen from the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition. I must, in the first instance, ~~emphasise very strongly that Government cannot accept the view that the persons concerned in this trial did not have a fair trial.~~ Government are convinced that they had a fair trial and that every opportunity and every facility was granted to the defence to produce a defence. As regards the provisions under which that trial was held, I need hardly . . . . .

(Interruptions by several Honourable Members of the Nationalist Party.)

**Mr. Amar Nath Dutt** (Burdwan Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): We are not here to listen to this.

**The Honourable Sir James Orerar**: I need hardly remind the Honourable Members that that question was considered by the highest judicial tribunal in the Empire. Government are perfectly well aware that all the circumstances connected with this case have excited very deep public feeling in various directions. I do not think that my learned friend opposite will be inclined to question it if I say that the original crime which instituted these proceedings profoundly moved public opinion throughout India; so also the subsequent proceedings greatly moved public opinion. Government are very sensible of that, but in view of the facts which I have stated, and after very careful and very anxious examination of the proceedings, they came to the conclusion that the trial was fair and the sentences were just. It is always a great satisfaction to Government when they are able to exercise clemency in capital cases, but I must add that in this case they had no doubt whatever that they would have failed in their duty to India and in their responsibility for the maintenance of the authority of the law if they had interfered with the due course of justice.

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy** (Leader of the House): Mr. President, I would only add one or two sentences. I have the highest respect for my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, and for those who support him. But I would remind them what, in effect, the action which they contemplate would amount to, namely, at a time when important public business is before the House which has got to be disposed of under great pressure of time, their action will amount to the abnegation of their responsibilities to their constituencies.

**Several Honourable Members of the Nationalist Party:** We are fully alive to all this.

(The Members of the Nationalist Party then walked out of the Assembly Chamber.)

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#### DISPOSAL OF PUBLIC BUSINESS AFTER THE WALK OUT OF A SECTION OF THE HOUSE.

**Sir Abdur Rahim** (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, it is a very unfortunate position in which the House has been placed today. Today is the most important day for the discussion of the most important measure of this session, and it is extremely regrettable that a very large section of this House refuses to take part in the proceedings. Sir, it is not my desire to say anything on the merits of the case of Bhagat Singh and others who were executed last night. But what we feel most strongly, is that, in the situation that has now been created, feelings not only in the country but in this House have been so extremely agitated that it is worth considering on your part, Sir, and on the part of the Leader of the House whether there can be any real discussion of this important measure. We all realise, I take it the Government Benches also fully realise, that in this important Finance Bill we are about to consider the proposals for taxation on income, about which there is a very large volume of strong feeling, certainly on this side of the House. I say it again, that it is for them to consider and also for you, Sir, whether it will serve any useful purpose if the business of the House were to be carried on after what has happened, with any advantage to the country. Sir, we can do no more than appeal to you and to the Leader of the House to consider this and to stop further proceedings of the day on the ground that under the circumstances no real business can be carried on today.

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** I have listened with great care to what has fallen from my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Independent Party, but the consideration which, it seems to me, ought to weigh most with the House and with you, Sir, as the custodian of the House, is, I think, a somewhat different one. The walk-out is nowhere, so far as I know, recognised as a legitimate parliamentary manœuvre, and if the principle is once recognised that a minority of the House, even though it be a considerable minority, can impede the disposal of public business on the ground that it is not reasonable or right that public business should proceed in their absence, a position might rapidly be established in which it would always be possible for a substantial minority of the House to bring public business to a standstill. I explained yesterday briefly the considerations of time which make it a matter of great importance to make rapid progress with the Finance Bill, and I believe the reasons I advanced were accepted by the House as good reasons. It is no part of our desire that the discussion should proceed except with all sections represented, so that all views can be fairly put forward. But, at the same time, when a section of the House—I have already used these words—abnegates its responsibilities and refuses to take part in the proceedings, I do not think—and I submit it for your consideration—that it is consistent with the dignity of the House or that it is consistent with the establishment of the right parliamentary precedents, that the House should submit to their dictation. I submit, Sir, that in these circumstances it would be right that the House should proceed with the business which is before it.

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir** (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Mr. President, the Leader of the House has quoted parliamentary practice and has emphasized the fact that no House should be at the mercy of a minority. I agree with the latter contention, but I regret I cannot agree with the first. When he talks of parliamentary procedure, he must realise that this House is not constituted like any other parliamentary institution outside India. Here, we have got in India an official block. The Opposition consists of elected Members. If half of the elected Members leave, there is no Opposition left, and that is the difference. If Government had been constituted as all other Governments are in Europe, they would have the right to say that we have behind us the representatives of the people, elected by the people, who put us in office, and if the Opposition chooses to leave us to ourselves, we shall carry on the Government of the country. The analogy is not good, because Government happen to be composed entirely of nominated Members, and therefore, if we proceed with the work of this House today—I need not emphasise the fact that the Finance Bill is the most important work of the whole year—you do so with a complete Government majority against which we are unable to fight on this side, and you take us at a disadvantage. I am certain the Honourable the Leader of the House does not desire to do so. If it had been any other day in the year, we might have considered the position, but today, it is impossible to consider the position placed before us by the Leader of the House. We are unable to carry on alone, and if Government choose to push through the Budget with their official majority, they are welcome to do so, but I do not think any Government, under the circumstances, would take advantage of the position and push through the whole of the Finance Bill under present conditions.

**Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar** (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Mr. President, I wish to emphasise the few observations which my Leader, Sir Abdur Rahim, has made and which the Honourable the Leader of the House has failed to realise. My Leader, Sir Abdur Rahim, said that apart from the merits of the question which the Leader of the Nationalist Party referred to, Members of the House, generally speaking, were in such a perturbed state of mind this morning, were so uneasy and so excited that the Honourable the Home Member himself realised that public feeling was running high on this occasion, and under the circumstances it would not be fair on the part of the House to expect any section of the House to give that dispassionate consideration to the Finance Bill which is essential on such a serious occasion. My Leader appealed to you, Sir, as the custodian of a proper discussion of affairs in this House, whether you will be getting that fair discussion on this occasion which is essential, especially in view of the state of feelings in which many of the Honourable Members are. I have never advocated a walk-out, and I am not one of those, who, on this occasion, is going to advocate a walk-out. But that is not the point. We have to realise that on this particular morning, a considerable section of the House—and I venture to think that even on the Government Benches, they are not altogether as calm as they have been on other occasions—a considerable section of the non-official portion of the House is considerably excited and it is not fair to expect us to take that even course which on other days we might be expected to take. I wish to place this consideration once more before the Honourable the Leader of the House. After all, we have been getting on in this House fairly calmly and fairly in a co-operative spirit, and I wish

[Diwan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar.]

the Leader of the House would not on this occasion take advantage of this fact and carry on the discussion. Sir, we are unable to carry on the discussion today. A considerable section of our friends have left and the most important measure which can ever come before the House during the whole course of this year is under discussion. It is not as if a Resolution, or even an ordinary Bill or anything like that is being considered. You have a vital portion of the whole Bill, that is that which relates to increase of income-tax and increase of taxation is under discussion and I appeal to you, Mr. President, as the custodian of a proper discussion of the matters placed before this House, to see whether you can fairly come to the conclusion that such a proper discussion is possible in the circumstances. I am not supporting anybody that has walked out, but in the interest of procedure and in the interest of a fair discussion which the public of this country have a right to expect in this House, I say that when that is precluded from the circumstances which have arisen today, you, as the custodian of that fair discussion, have the responsibility of taking a decision on this matter this morning.

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** Perhaps before anything is said further, I might offer this suggestion that I have no wish, no Member of the Government has any wish to proceed in a manner which is dissonant with the feelings of a large number of non-official Members. But what I would suggest is that if you, Mr. President, could adjourn the House for half an hour, that might give an opportunity for consultation to consider how best we can proceed. If that would meet the wishes of the House . . . . .

**Sir Cowasji Jehangir:** But how is that going to meet the position.

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** That is my suggestion for the moment.

**Sir Abdur Rahim:** If the Honourable the Leader of the House means that there should be some consultation for half an hour and then the result arrived at might be discussed again or considered again by this House, that is another matter; but if it means that the House is only going to adjourn for half an hour and meet again, I am afraid it does not meet the position.

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** If the Honourable Member would forgive me for interrupting, what was in my mind was that if we were not to sit today, then it would be necessary to consider what arrangements were desirable and possible so that the business of the House shall not be substantially delayed by what has taken place today. That was what was in my mind.

**Mr. President:** I think it is your pleasure, gentlemen, that I should accept the suggestion of the Leader of the House. Honourable Members will recognise that the Finance Bill must pass within a given time. If the Finance Bill is not passed within such time public revenues stand to suffer to the extent of 82 lakhs. I do not think any Honourable Member, belonging to any party would, for a moment desire that that should happen. I therefore accept the suggestion of the Honourable the Leader of the House to adjourn the House for half an hour, if Government still wish me to do so after hearing how I propose to achieve the object of getting the completion of the discussion on the Finance Bill within the time available. My suggestion is this: that the House should if necessary sit

tomorrow, after the tea-party, as long as it may be necessary to do so, in order that the Bill may be passed within time. That is the suggestion I wish the House to consider. Having done so if the Honourable the Leader of the House still wishes that I should adjourn the House for half an hour, I am prepared to do so.

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** I should like to have some opportunity for consultation with the Leaders of the other parties during that interval and it was for that reason mainly that I asked for it so that we should feel that we were agreed as to the proper procedure we proposed to follow.

**Mr. President:** I take it, it is the general desire that I should adjourn the House for half an hour at present. The House stands adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

The Assembly then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

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

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**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** Government have very carefully considered, Sir, the difficult position that has arisen and what their proper course of action should be, and they have discussed the matter with the Leaders of the various parties in the House. On the one hand it is not by any means their desire that important financial issues raised by the most important measure of the year, should be decided except when all shades of opinion in the House are in a position to express their views. On the other hand they feel equally strongly what I endeavoured to put before the House earlier, that we have to consider not only the immediate exigencies of the moment, but also the position and the dignity of the House and the effect of anything that is done today upon important interests in the future. They feel that if they were to agree that, in the circumstances which have arisen, the House should forthwith adjourn, that would in effect be an admission that any considerable section of the House could impede the discharge of public business by walking out. They do not feel that it would be right for them to agree to the establishment of such a precedent. The practical proposal which they have to put before you, Mr. President, and before the House is this, that the discussion of the Finance Bill should be resumed at the point at which we left it yesterday, but that when we reach clause 7 of the Bill, which is the clause in connection with which the most important issues arise, a general discussion on the clause should take place after you have put from the Chair the question that clause 7 stand part of the Bill, and that today no amendment should be moved, so that no important decisions should be taken today in a thin House. They believe that this is the best method by which this difficult situation can be met, but no doubt, Mr. President, before you decide, you will wish to hear what the views of other parties in the House are.



**Sir Abdur Rahim:** [Sir, we discussed this matter with the Members occupying the Government Benches, when the House rose, and we made our position clear that we do not want to embark upon an unreal discussion of the Finance Bill. I made it absolutely clear that we are pronouncing no opinion on the merits of the case of Bhagat Singh and others. All that we are concerned with is that these serious issues contained in the Finance Bill should be considered by all sections of the House, and when we found that a large section of the House owing to what has happened are not in a position to take part in the discussions, I ventured to suggest to you, Sir, and to the Leader of the House that the proceedings might be closed for the day. It is on account of the state of feeling prevalent among a large section of the House that I made that appeal. I am afraid the position will be by no means improved by the proposal now made by the Honourable the Leader of the House, though I fully realise that he has taken the difficulty into consideration so far as the decision of the issues involved in the Finance Bill is concerned. But the other difficulty remains. What I feel is that if the discussions go on even without division, as suggested by the Honourable the Leader of the House, this will not smooth the passage of the Bill or further discussion of the Bill tomorrow. That is the feeling.]

**Sir Hugh Cocks** (Bombay European): I am sorry to have to disagree with my Honourable friend on the right. We do feel on these Benches that the business of the House ought not to be suspended under the circumstances which have happened. We are perfectly willing to agree to any course of business so as not to take advantage of the absence of a considerable section of the elected representatives of this House, but we are strongly of opinion that we ought not to suspend our proceedings for today but that the business of the House should proceed.

**Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan** (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, we fully appreciate the feelings of the Honourable Members who have walked out and we have got a great regard for their genuine feelings; but at the same time we find that the practical point of view shows that we ought to go only to a certain limit and not beyond that limit. I think great regard is shown to the feelings of those Honourable Members in the suggestion which has been made by the Honourable the Leader of the House that we should meet their feelings and we should refrain from putting anything to the vote, and taking advantage of their absence but otherwise conduct the business of the day.

**Maulvi Muhammad Yakub** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I do not belong to any party, but this is a matter about which I think that silence on the part of some Members may be construed to mean something which they did not mean. I wish to make it quite clear that I do not associate myself with the views which were expressed by the Leader of the Opposition this morning, nor do I associate myself with the opinion which has been expressed by the esteemed Leader of the Independent Party, Sir Abdur Rahim. I think that if we agree with the suggestion which he has made, it would mean nothing but that one party has walked out from the front door and the other party proposes to walk out by the back door; it is a proposal to which I am not prepared to lend my support. I entirely agree with the Honourable the Leader of the House that we should proceed with the general discussion. Of course in the absence of a large number of Members, it would not be

right for us to have voting on important points like taxation; but at the same time I think we would be stultifying ourselves if we adjourned the House without transacting any sort of business.

**Mr. K. Ahmed** (Rajshahi Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, as one  
1 P.M. not belonging to any of the parties formed here since the beginning of this session, I want to clear my position. It has been said by the Honourable the Leader of the House that we should proceed today with the business because in future there may be complexities and difficulties. But, Sir, when the Leader of the House left, there was a general agreement between the Chair and other portions of the House that the House would not transact any further business today—not the Honourable the Home Member, but the Leader of the House (*Cries of "No, no"*). If any Honourable Member did not hear properly, it is his look out. That is what I understood from the Chair also, that on account of this feeling the House would be adjourned today, but for the settlement of the business for tomorrow the Assembly would meet after half an hour for consulting the Leaders of the House and the various parties. I thought that would be the position, as you, Sir, also said that we want to finish the Finance Bill in due time without any interference. Much water has flowed since then, not merely during the half hour for which the Assembly was adjourned in order to enable the Leaders of the parties to come to some agreement for arrangement for work for tomorrow, but more than three-quarters of an hour have elapsed over and above that half hour . . . .

**Mr. President:** Will the Honourable Member come to the point? Time is short.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** It is nearly an hour and a quarter but we do not mind the delay or being detained when a solution is being found for the great difficulties which have arisen today. That has been expressed by the party leader who walked out. Our sympathies are with them, but important passages of the Bill, such as clause 7, have still to be dealt with; and if the great bulk of the elected Members do not take part in the debate and are absent, it would not be much use; the Government's position may be safer or not . . . .

**Mr. President:** I cannot allow this sort of discussion; the matter is far too serious for long debates. I have tried to consult the House as regards the procedure they desire to follow in the circumstances which have arisen, and I want the Honourable Member merely to say whether he approves of the procedure that the Leader of the House has suggested, or whether he agrees with the Leader of the Independent Party. I do not want long speeches.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** All right, Sir. If the Leader of the House wishes us to proceed with the matter and not to go into the division lobby, but merely to do some introductory speeches on the Finance Bill, that is one thing. On the other hand we find Sir Abdur Rahim representing quite a different view. Under the circumstances it is very difficult for us, particularly on this side of the House, who are non-party men but at the same time elected Members of this Assembly, to follow either the Leader of the House or the Leader of the Independent Party. My view is just between the two. (Laughter.) We do not like to go in disregard of the views of the Leader of the House. On the other hand, if the feeling is that we should not proceed with any business today . . . .

**Mr. President:** Will the Honourable Member please be brief?

**Mr. K. Ahmad:** Yes, Sir. Under the circumstances, would it not be advisable for you, Sir, to adjourn the House, because such a course will serve a very useful purpose. Both parties will not in any way be hurt; at the same time we shall have an opportunity to properly consult all others.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I share the feelings of my friend, Maulvi Muhammad Yakub, when he referred to the question of the motion for adjournment about Mirzapur affairs . . . .

**Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** I never referred to it at all.

**Several Honourable Members:** He never referred to it this morning.

**Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad:** Then I withdraw those words. But, Sir, I look at the question rather coolly, and I find that we have before us the question of taxation, and this is a matter in which every section of the Indian community and every party in this House is equally interested. This is a thing which should not be forgotten by Honourable Members.

Now, Sir, the Independent Party has not walked out. The very fact that we are here and that we are discussing this matter clearly shows that the business is being transacted and that we have not walked out as my Honourable friend says by the back door. What we do request is this: that no question of taxation be taken up in the absence of the majority of elected Members. As even the general discussion on clause 7 of the Finance Bill may affect voting because Honourable Members who are absent today will not have the opportunity of following the discussion and thus voting might be affected, therefore the Leader of our party suggested that we should not discuss the question of taxation and the Finance Bill. Sir, we are not walking out, and I repeat again that the very fact that we are discussing this question shows that the House has transacted business and has not adjourned.

**Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi** (Dacca cum Mymensingh: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, much fuss has been made about the situation that has arisen this morning. I am sorry that my Honourable friend, Sir Abdur Rahim, is a new Member of this House. Many a time the Swarajists had walked out in this House and the business of the House on that account was not suspended. I should like to ask my Honourable friend, Sir Abdur Rahim, how many times he had suspended business in the Bengal Council when the whole of the Swarajist Group had walked out of that House? (Hear, hear.) Did he ever suggest then that the business should not be transacted? Sir, I feel that much of the public time has already been wasted. I do not even agree with the Honourable the Leader of the House. I feel we must continue the business of the House whether those Members who have walked out are present today or not. We must continue as if they are here. (Hear, hear.)

**Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur** (North Madras: Muhammadan): Sir, speaking for myself, I should certainly endorse the view expressed by my Honourable friend, Maulvi Muhammad Yakub. I think on a question of principle if an adjournment is agreed to, it will set a

very unfortunate precedent. So, Sir, I strongly oppose the adjournment. I feel that the *via media* suggested by the Honourable the Leader of the House is the best to follow under the embarrassing circumstances which have arisen.

**Mr. Jehangir K. Munshi** (Burma: Non-European): Mr. President, you are the custodian of the privileges of this House, and you sit in the Chair to carry out the general sentiment expressed in this House. The sentiment, Sir, need not necessarily be unanimous. There can be no doubt as to what the overwhelming sentiment of the Opposition Benches in the matter is. Government by their inexplicable and stubborn attitude have brought about the present situation in the country. Today the Honourable the Leader of the House seems to be equally stubborn over the procedure suggested by the Leader of the Opposition. I therefore suggest, Sir, that, as a deadlock has been created and as you are naturally in a very difficult position, the best and the easiest course for the Chair to get out of the difficulty is that you should suspend the sitting of the House till 5 o'clock this afternoon.

**Some Honourable Members:** How will it solve the difficulty or help matters?

**Mr. President:** Order, order. It has been my ambition that complete harmony should prevail amongst all sections of this Honourable House. I have tried my best to contribute to that result, and therefore, no one can regret the present situation more than I do. It has been repeatedly urged that I am the custodian of the House. I am highly honoured by that compliment, and if I am to discharge the duties which attach to that position, I have to be extremely careful and try to carry the House with me in any decision which I may be called upon to take.

Before I deal in greater detail with the issue with which we are faced today, I should like to ask the Leader of the Independent Party to tell me what the attitude of his party will be if the business is proceeded with. I have looked up precedents of similar occurrences in the history of the Assembly, and I have found that my distinguished predecessor, Mr. Patel, carried on the business of the House in spite of walks-out. The question before the House at present is of such vital importance to the country as a whole,—the Finance Bill proposes to impose additional taxation—that it is a matter of considerable hesitation on my part to decide what should be done. The Honourable the Leader of the House has suggested a way. I take it that that way simply represents the sentiment that should apply to the issue that is now before the House. The Honourable the Leader of the House does not desire that the House should be committed to any definite action in regard to any taxation proposals. I take it that is his view. (The Honourable the Leader of the House nodded assent.) At the same time, he desires that the House should proceed with the business without arriving at any positive decisions. That sentiment is due to the fact that no precedent should be created by which the work of the Assembly could be stopped in consequence of any action on the part of any section of the House. Before I decide the issue, I should like to know to what extent the Opposition Benches desire an adjournment. The issue that is before the House at this moment resolves itself into this. A walk-out has taken place; the House has been discussing many aspects of the situation. The House has not, in response

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to that walk-out, adjourned. It has discussed, but has not reached any definite decision in regard to any matter which appears on the Order Paper. In view of these circumstances, I should like to ask the Honourable the Leader of the Independent Party a definite question. Supposing the Chair decides that the business of the House should proceed, what would be the attitude of his party.

**Sir Abdur Rahim:** Sir, we have not had any opportunity of considering this question in the party. The party has not really met, but I must inform you that on the issue that has been raised there are some Members in my party who would be willing to take part in the discussion and others would not. That is the state of things in my party.

**Mr. President:** I am afraid that that is too indefinite for the guidance of the Chair. I shall therefore act on the suggestion that has occurred to me just now, and it is this. It being lunch time now, I will adjourn the House till half past two. The House will meet at 2-30 and will either proceed with the Finance Bill or deal with the situation as it appeals to it then.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

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The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

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**Mr. President:** I understand that Sir Abdur Rahim is now able to give me a reply to the question I put to him as regards the attitude of his party.

**Sir Abdur Rahim:** Since the adjournment I have had an opportunity of consulting the party and it has been decided that we as a party will not take part in the discussions on this Bill.

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** I am sorry to have heard what has fallen from the Leader of the Independent Party now. Government made an offer which I thought met the reasonable wishes of those who feel strongly on the subject, but if that offer is not acceptable then, I am afraid that all that Government can do, Sir, is to say that in their view, always subject to what you, Sir, in your discretion may decide, the business of the House should proceed exactly as it would have done in the ordinary course. That, Sir, is the position of Government, and at that I must leave it with the Chair.

**Mr. Jehangir K. Munshi:** Before you dispose of this matter, I should like to draw your attention, Sir, to the rulings given by your distinguished predecessor, Mr. Patel, to which you referred this morning. May I point out to you, Sir, that a very clear and important distinction exists between the cases that have happened before and the position we have to face today. In the previous cases, the Swaraj Party made a gesture and a demonstration and walked-out out of the House but made no appeal either

to the House or to the Chair to adjourn the business of the House either for a day or for any other period. Today the Leader of the Opposition has not only made a gesture and a demonstration in which he is backed by an overwhelming section of the Opposition Benches but he has gone further ; he has also requested the Chair to postpone the business of the House till tomorrow. I do submit that there is a clear distinction between these two cases.

**Mr. President:** In answer to the Honourable Member who has just spoken I should like to point out that that can make no difference so far as the Chair is concerned. The precedent is distinctly laid down. I am sure Honourable Members appreciate the difficulty in which the Chair finds itself in deciding this question. There are several issues which arise out of the situation that has arisen. The principle that the House should not adjourn in consequence of a walk-out is a very sound one and I entirely support it. If public business can be at the mercy of a section of the House, no public business can be transacted. Therefore, on the issue that the House should adjourn because for reasons, which appealed to a section of the House, they decided to walk-out, the Chair is definitely of opinion that it should not. Having cleared the position of the Chair in regard to the principle involved, I should like to say something about the state of business that is before the House now. If it had been ordinary business, I would have considered it my duty to continue the proceedings. Some doubts arise in my mind as regards whether that procedure is reasonable and fair to the House when we are discussing the Finance Bill. The situation which has arisen now is this. The Members of the Nationalist Party have walked-out of the House. The other leading party, the Independent Party, has also decided that they will take no part in the discussion of the Finance Bill today. That means that nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the elected Members will not take part in the business of the House today. I perfectly well recognise that it is their responsibility to decide how they will discharge their duties, and had it been any other occasion, I would have unhesitatingly said that if those Honourable Members did not wish to participate in the discussion it was their business. My doubts, as I say, arise in consequence of the consideration of the Finance Bill which has a substantial bearing upon the general public in this country. I much appreciate the attitude which the Leader of the House has taken up throughout in this discussion. He has recognised that it would not be fair to pass any portions of the Finance Bill which require a reasonable debate and vote and has therefore suggested a procedure which would ensure that the House should not be committed to any parts of the Finance Bill, involving additional taxation. He has suggested that the House should deal with the Finance Bill till clause 7 is reached which embodies the income-tax proposals, and that when that clause is reached, the House should discuss the motion from the Chair that the clause do stand part of the Bill. During my experience of 27 years in the Imperial and Provincial Legislatures, I do not remember to have come across a single occasion when any discussion on such a motion has taken place. I will stand corrected if any Honourable Member can draw my attention to any specific occasion when such a procedure was adopted. If that procedure has not been adopted in the past, I hope Honourable Members will recognize that I cannot allow such a departure from a well-established procedure to meet this special case. What occurs to me is this, that by that means, no defi-

[Mr. President.]

nite decision of the House can be arrived at. At the same time the object which the Government have, and with which I entirely agree, is that there shall be no question that the House has subordinated its liberty to function in consequence of a walk-out. I am explaining to the Honourable House the various points of difficulty that occur to the Chair in coming to a decision. If we follow that procedure, we will have to deal first with the amendment to the postal rates. The notice of that amendment has been given by a Member who has walked out and it cannot therefore be moved. The effect will be that the clause dealing with postal rates will have to be carried through without discussion, and so on till we reach clause 7. The Chair has the further responsibility imposed upon it that it shall take care that there shall be fair and reasonable debate. I ask Honourable Members to advise the Chair whether, in view of the present circumstances when two important leading parties in the House have refused to participate, there can really be fair and reasonable debate. I understand the position of Government to be this. They object—and I say rightly object—to the work of the House being subordinated to any incident of the kind that has happened today. I have said it before, and I repeat it, that I am entirely at one with that view, namely, that the work of the House shall not be subordinated to such incidents; and, that if there had been any other occasion excepting consideration of the Finance Bill, I would have allowed the discussion to proceed. If any procedure had been suggested, and could be even now suggested, that the House can proceed with the work without seriously affecting the public of India, I would have accepted it. My difficulty is that the House, situated as it is today, could not be allowed to impose additional taxation on the people of India. I recognise that the fault lies with those who refused to participate and in that respect my sympathy is all with those Honourable Members who have advised me that it should not be done. I should still like Honourable Members to tell me whether they can suggest any method by which it can be clearly established, with my fullest concurrence, that the business of the House shall continue irrespective of the walk-out. If such a suggestion is made I would be very glad to accept it and to act upon it. I want once again to ask Honourable Members whether any of them would come to the help of the Chair and suggest a way by which two things could be secured. One thing is a clear enunciation of the determination of the House to carry on the business of the House, that is public business, irrespective of being affected by any walks-out whatsoever, and secondly, the effect of proceeding with the business of the House may not be such as seriously to affect public interests. I would still welcome any expression of opinion on these points before I finally decide whether to adjourn or to continue the business of the House. (Cheers.)

**Mr. Arthur Moore (Bengal: European):** I think, Sir, I can offer such a suggestion. The question of the postal rates seems to me to have been discussed very fully in this House. Government yesterday had no difficulty whatever in carrying all its proposals with regard to the postal rates in the division lobby, and I think, Sir, a great many of us were completely taken by surprise by the adjournment of the House yesterday evening, and we expected to conclude that part of the business. But Mr. Amar Nath Dutt professed that he was tired. He, as I understood, gave the House

an undertaking that he would be here to move that amendment this morning. I do not think that he or anyone else seriously supposed that he had the smallest hope of carrying that matter. He has absented himself today, and I think that it is only reasonable that the House should make today the little bit of progress with the Finance Bill which they had hoped to make last night, and therefore I think that at any rate that part of the proposal of the Leader of the House might be accepted by everybody, so that we should at least clear the decks for clause 7. We shall then have done what you suggest; we shall have protected this House from a bad precedent, and at the same time we shall have refrained from prejudicing the very controversial question of the income-tax, for which we are all agreed in desiring that the House shall be as full as possible.

**Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney** (Nominated Non-Official): My only reason, Sir, for getting up is in response to your invitation. I am I think one of the oldest Members of this House, as far as its life is concerned. I have witnessed many walks-out and walks-in (Laughter), and I have not yet known the House to stop its business on that account. Sir, you rightly remarked just now that you did not desire to create a precedent as far as this matter is concerned. But with all respect to you and to the Government Member, I do think that, even if you do not create a precedent, you will at least encourage one if you suspend the business of the House because some of the Members have walked-out as a protest, one of whom I see is sitting in the Gallery of the Council of State.

**Mr. Jehangir K. Munshi**: Order, order. You cannot refer to the gallery; it is outside the House.

**Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney**: I refuse to be ordered by you. You must address the Chair, mind your own business and don't interrupt me. I am addressing the Chair not you Mr. Munshi.

**Mr. President**: Order, order. The Honourable Member is addressing the Chair.

**Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney**: I want to remind you, Sir, that we are now discussing a very important matter. It refers to the whole country and its taxation. Members have been returned to this House by their constituencies to give their votes for and against the Finance Bill and other matters. If they choose to absent themselves, it is their own business, not ours who remain in the House to do our duty. I therefore put before you two suggestions. The first is not to deal with the income-tax clause today but to deal with other less contentious clauses. The second suggestion is that you should take a referendum from elected Members now sitting in this House including if you like the non-official nominated Members and if we agree we should go on with the Finance Bill in spite of the absence of certain elected Members who have chosen to walk-out. I put forward those two suggestions for your consideration, Sir.

**Mr. Jehangir K. Munshi**: Sir, Colonel Gidney has taken upon himself the task of the Leader of the Opposition. I wish however to deal in the first instance with the arguments advanced by Mr. Arthur Moore. He pointed out to the House that yesterday when Mr. Amar Nath Dutt said that he was feeling tired, on that ground and on that ground alone, the business of the House was suspended and the House was adjourned till this morning. Now, my friend, Mr. Moore has not attacked the ground



[Mr. Jehangir K. Munshi.]

of that postponement. According to him you did right in postponing the business of this House because Mr. Amar Nath Dutt was feeling tired. Today Mr. Moore gets up and asks you to refuse the adjournment of the House, not on the ground of Mr. Amar Nath Dutt being tired, but he wants you to brush aside the very important consideration that practically the whole of the Opposition is absent from the House. I think it does not require much argument to point out the absurdity of Mr. Moore's statement that this House can proceed today with the postal part of the Finance Bill, although practically the whole of the Opposition is absent from the House, and although the House could not proceed with the discussion yesterday because Mr. Amar Nath Dutt was tired.

**Mr. Arthur Moore:** I said yesterday that it should have been continued then.

**Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** May I ask you, Sir, if you have got any undertaking from the Leader of the Opposition that the members of his party will come to the House tomorrow and take part in the proceedings?

**Mr. President:** I have had no such undertaking from any party and the Chair has never concerned itself with that matter except in the open House. But that is not the question. The question is really this. Whether they attend or they do not, is quite a separate matter. I have the assurance in this House of the Honourable the Leader of the Independent Party that they will attend and they will take part in the proceeding of the House tomorrow. I have repeatedly stated that the Chair would have refused to stop the business of the House even if both the leading parties had abstained from taking part had it not been for the fact that this is the Finance Bill. My difficulty only arises because it is the Finance Bill. The Honourable Member Mr. Arthur Moore said that yesterday we discussed one of the amendments on the postal proposals and we divided. That division established what the majority view was. Would the Honourable Member construe that division as justifying the conclusion that in another part of the Bill the same majority would prevail.

**Mr. Arthur Moore:** I was only referring to the question of the postal rates.

**Mr. President:** I am dealing with the postal matters also. The amendment which was discussed was in regard to postal rates as affecting letters. The amendment which is now the first on the agenda paper is in regard to the rates for postcards. That is the difference between the two positions.

**Mr. Arthur Moore:** There were two divisions yesterday which were carried by the Government. One of them proposed to reduce the postal rate of letters to the postcard rate and was defeated.

**Mr. President:** I should like the Honourable Member to refer to the Order Paper and he will find that the amendment proposed to reduce the rates of letters by 50 per cent. and the present proposal is to reduce the postal rates of postcards by 50 per cent.

**Mr. Arthur Moore:** But there was also another motion. There were two motions on the question of postal rates which were carried by the Government.

**Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** If you propose to adjourn the House today, I would make a request that we, who have wasted our time this morning, should not be penalised for the sake of other Members and should not be asked to sit late in the evening tomorrow.

**Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan:** I also support the suggestion, Sir, that it is due to no fault of ours that we should be asked to sit late tomorrow. We will conduct business for the whole day tomorrow and then for the sake of a few Members who have not attended the House today, we should not be penalised to sit after the tea party in the evening from 7 to 11 o'clock and give up our other engagements.

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** I have not very much to say, Mr. President. I have listened with great respect to what has fallen from the Chair. The specific question that was put by the Chair was whether in the circumstances there could be full and free debate. I would submit—I will not amplify the point—that those, who deny themselves the opportunity of debate when the opportunity is there, are not to be heard to protest that there is not a full and free debate. (Applause from Official Benches.) As I said, I do not wish to amplify that point. You have asked, Mr. President, for suggestions as to what course might be followed. I do not feel that it is possible for the Government to modify the attitude which it has already expressed, namely, that if a very unfortunate precedent is not to be established, the business of the House should proceed. It is, of course, for you, Sir, to judge whether you can allow a discussion such as I suggested on clause 7 of the Bill, and naturally your decision on that point is final. But, Sir, I can do no more than say that the only submission we can make to the Chair is that the business of the House ought to proceed.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Sir, you have invited suggestions from the House, and as I told you before, you have asked us to tell you a way out of the present difficulty. I, being an elected Member not belonging to any party in the House, hasten to accept the invitation of the Chair and offer my humble suggestions. Now, Sir, a difficulty has arisen on both sides. At the present juncture, as it is, you have already expressed certain views, the implications of which I have fully realised. I have already suggested before lunch time that you have got certain powers of discretion to save the situation and if I were you, I would have exercised that power. This will neither hurt this side of the House nor the other and this will not also form a precedent for the intricacies and difficulties which in future might crop up similar to the present. The present instance will have nothing to do with it. I tell you, Sir, under the Rules and Standing Orders you have the power (Interruption). My Honourable friend interrupts. Let the Honourable Member understand that this is not the Exchange market of Calcutta, nor the corridors of the High Court at Calcutta. If you turn to page 10 of the Manual of Business and Procedure, you will see that article 20 reads as follows:

"A meeting of the Assembly is adjourned by the President."

[Mr. K. Ahmed.]

Now, Sir, you have got ample discretion to save the situation and to get over the intricacies and difficulties which my Honourable friends occupying the Treasury Benches are no doubt experiencing. I, being an old Member of the Assembly, having had experience of a lot of walks-out—and some of my friends also walked in afterwards—there are also a lot of nominated Members who have had the same experience as myself because they are more or less fortunate, having been nominated after the expiry of every three years, I suggest that you should exercise your discretion under this Standing Order. The thing is clear. I again repeat my request to you to save the situation. As I have already pointed out, and as was pointed out by so many other Honourable Members, you are the custodian, you are the protector of the rights and privileges of all the Members of the House, including those of the Government Members, and the Leader of the House who is now moving to and fro in the House being in a difficult plight. You have experienced this difficulty yourself and you can get over this difficulty through your practical experience. You asked for suggestions from the Leader of the Independent Party. He said he must consult the Members of his own party. He could not suggest anything of his own accord and therefore the adjournment of the House was necessary. Under the circumstances, it is for you, Sir, to act in the matter. Under the powers vested in you, you can adjourn the House. The second point that I wish to say is, yesterday at the suggestion of my Honourable friend Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, you adjourned the House. . . .

**Mr. President:** That has nothing to do with the question before the House.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** So, I will simply suggest to you, Sir, that in view of the intricacies and difficulties, you can save the situation to the satisfaction of all, by exercising your discretion. Government will not be hurt, His Excellency the Viceroy and the Members of His Executive Council will not be hurt. They ought not to be hurt. They have no reason to feel that their power or prestige, in any way, will be lowered. I am also sure that if the Members of the European Group will come with an open mind, they will see that here are certain circumstances in this House and if the House is adjourned for the day a few hours before the usual time—it is already three o'clock—they will see that they would not lose anything. The House is rather in an awkward plight and I hope the Members of the European Group will also enlighten the House as to what will be lost if the House is adjourned. . . .

**Mr. President:** Will the Honourable Member please be brief.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Under the circumstances, I leave it to you, Sir, to save the situation by exercising your discretion. "

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster** (Finance Member): Sir, before you express your final decision, I venture to put before this House one consideration which I do not think has been sufficiently stressed. We have heard a good deal about the feelings of various groups in this House and the feelings of various sections of the community. Even on higher ground we have heard a great deal about the rights and privileges of this House, but I venture to say that there is a ground still higher than that, that is, the public interest of the country as a whole. (Hear, hear.) I

venture to say that in the various arguments that we have heard not enough emphasis has been laid upon that consideration. Now, Sir, in the course of the discussion, I think we have had some sort of indication of what giving consideration to the wishes and feelings of any particular group may lead to. My Honourable friend, Mr. Yamin Khan, with perfect justification on any logical ground, has said that if we are to be kept here for today wasting our time, why should we be punished by having to sit till 11 o'clock tomorrow night.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** How does the Honourable Member know that we will have to be here till 11 o'clock tomorrow night?

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster:** If you are going to take into account the feelings of those who walked out, then obviously, when the time comes, you will have to take into account the legitimate feelings of those that remain and between these two conflicting interests, I venture to put to the House that the interest of the public may be entirely forgotten.

Sir, it is a matter of the very greatest importance that the Finance Bill should be passed in the proper time. If it is not passed the result will be that a free gut of something like a crore of rupees will be made to a number of merchants who will have imported goods on payment of the higher duties. They will have been able to sell them on the basis of these higher duties and then they will receive from the public funds that money back again into their own pockets. I think in a time of financial difficulty like this, that is not a course which any Honourable Member would wish to see forced upon this country. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, whatever you may finally decide, I venture to put this before you, with all the emphasis that I can command, if you should decide that public business is in any way to be interrupted today, then, I put it to you, Sir, that the responsibility will rest upon you and upon all the Honourable Members of this House who have urged, in any way, that there should be interruption or who have taken up any part of the time, set apart for transaction of this business, in arguing that before you,—I venture to say that on all will rest a very heavy responsibility to see that this Bill is passed in proper time. That is all I have to say, but I believe that I have the whole House with me in stressing that point.

**An Honourable Member:** No, no.

**Mr. President:** I want to ask the Honourable Member to enlighten the House as to within what time the Finance Bill should pass the Assembly to prevent the loss to which he has drawn attention.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster:** That is a very difficult question to answer until one knows what is to be the course of proceedings. But I would put it to you that, unless we can get through the whole of the amendments by tomorrow night, there will be a very grave danger of an interruption in the procedure, which may mean that we shall not get the Bill through in time. I think that is the goal that ought to be set before this House, that is to get through the amendments by tomorrow night.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Suppose we undertake to do so by tomorrow night.

**Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Say, "I" and not "We". How can you speak for all.

**Mr. President:** I cannot help pointing out again that there are two issues for decision. The first issue is that no precedent ought to be created in regard to transacting public business because certain Honourable Members either do not wish to participate or do not wish to be present here. On that issue, I have repeatedly said that I am wholly with the view that that ought not to affect public business being transacted by this House.

The second issue is that raised by the Honourable the Finance Member, namely, that this Bill should pass, as far as possible, by tomorrow evening. The Chair cannot guarantee the passage of any Bill within any given time, unless it has the full co-operation of the House. If that co-operation is forthcoming, it is perfectly possible to deal with the measure within the time that is available to the House. And further, it is open to the House to sit later if necessary to discharge its duties. I am prepared to give the House, at least all those Honourable Members who are present here, an opportunity of transacting business of such a character as will not vitally affect the public interest on which the Honourable the Finance Member laid such emphasis. Those who are here and are co-operating will have to be content if we deal with some part of the Finance Bill which is not likely to affect the public interests, in order to satisfy them that no precedent is created of postponing the business of the House in consequence of a walk-out. So long as the vital interests of the public are not affected, the Chair wishes to co-operate with all those sections who are here in the Assembly. But the Chair considers it its duty to stand out against the transaction of any business which may vitally affect a large section of the public. The Chair would therefore ask whether the House would agree to proceed to deal with such parts of the Finance Bill as are not likely to affect the public and to ensure in that way that the House has transacted business in spite of a walk-out, and non-participation.

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** Sir, I have already said earlier in the day that it was not the wish of Government to utilise the abnormal position in which we have been placed, by which the strength of the Government in the division lobby has been abnormally increased. It is not our wish to deal with the important financial proposals in the Finance Bill in that way; and therefore, if it is the view of the Chair that it will be reasonable to proceed so far as we can with the Finance Bill without trenching on those matters which are obviously of major importance, Government will certainly acquiesce in the decision of the Chair.

**Mr. President:** In view of all that I have stated, I rule that the House should proceed with the business that is before it on the lines that I have indicated. The question before the House now is the consideration of clause 5.

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#### THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—*contd.*

**Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin** (Cities of the United Provinces Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I move that:

"In Schedule III to the Bill in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1926, under the head 'Book, Pattern and Sample Packets' the following entry be inserted:

'For a weight of 2 tolas or fraction thereof ... .. Quarter of an anna.'

The object of this amendment is to provide facility in transmission of trade circulars and handbills by mail order business men and other advertisers in India and thereby to increase revenue in the Postal Department.

In olden days when the quarter anna postcard was in force, we used to issue thousands of postcards duly printed throughout India every month, but today we prefer to have ourselves advertised through newspapers simply because it costs us cheaper in comparison to the cost of half anna postage rate.

Government have allowed concession rates for newspapers and journals and have deprived business men of that privilege for no valid reason.

I know there are many monthly magazines issued from different parts of India, whose only object is to advertise their own goods through the cheap system. They compile a few pages of any particular subject and all the remaining pages are kept reserved for advertising their own goods and by this method they are allowed to take advantage of  $\frac{1}{2}$  anna postage system.

I, therefore, move that a similar concession should be extended to all traders who issue their handbills, catalogues, notices, etc., to their customers throughout India, Burma and Ceylon and if this is adopted, I do feel that traders will generally patronise the scheme in preference to newspaper advertisements and this will be a source of considerable increase in postal revenue.

With these remarks, Sir, I move my amendment.

**Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan:** I lend my full support to the motion made by Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin. I should not have got up so early in support of this motion and would have liked to have waited and seen other opinions in the House, but I find that Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin is moving this cut at a time when it is not possible for him to have the support which he would have found. Therefore it is necessary for me to get up and lend my support at once at this hour. I know that the Post Office has been a losing concern in the last year and what we are expecting is not very much revenue in the next year, and there will be required some retrenchments to be made and we cannot afford to lose any penny we can get from any source in this Department; but I think that the proposal contained in the amendment will encourage many people to send out books and sample packets by post which are not sent now-a-days, and I think it will not affect the revenue very much though on the surface it looks like it. I support the amendment.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Sir, I oppose this amendment tooth and nail. I know my friend Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin is a very rich man and that he has got a beautiful shop for selling gun powder and ammunition as well as revolvers and guns. He knows how to prepare specimen patterns and also samples for sending them round the country in order to increase his sales and make a profit out of them. At the same time I have no sympathy for his supporter, Mr. Yamin Khan, who got himself lately elected to this Assembly by issuing a pamphlet, I suppose, which cost him more to send than to print . . . . .

**Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan:** My friend does not know probably that he and I were both elected as Members even in the first Assembly.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** But unfortunately on account of a difference of opinion . . . . .

**Mr. President:** Personal remarks are not permitted.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** My Honourable friend certified himself and said that he came into the Assembly in the year 1921. That was when the Swarajists in the country were non-co-operators and nobody came to submit nomination papers; my friend must have taken advantage of that and that is how he came in 1921. Afterwards in the election of 1923, he neither ventured to stand nor was he elected by his constituency. He had experienced difficulties in the next election also and only this year he arranged, as it is recorded in the Assembly Debates already, that his rival candidate should withdraw his candidature anyhow and my friend got the benefit of the doubt and that is how he came here.

**Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Are such personal remarks permissible, Sir, on this question?

**Mr. President:** I have already called the Honourable Member to order.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** I did not at all have any idea of making such a remark myself, Sir, but since my Honourable friend made a reference to himself, I was simply meeting him.

**Mr. President:** No such remarks should be made. Please get on with the merits of the case.

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** On the merits of the case, it is clear the House cannot have any sympathy with the Mover of the amendment or with the supporter, because the public circumstances go to show that they are self-interested men in this matter, and individual persons who are so interested cannot have any support of the House. Otherwise the country loses and does not get the benefit that it expects from the representatives in this Assembly. That being so, I am not at all anxious or jealous in any way either of Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin or my friend the supporter of the amendment. I welcome them because they are my old friends; and I will welcome them if they bring in any reasonable amendments in order to add to the profit of the Government or any suggestions in which the public is interested and get something done for the people of the country. Unless the Government change their attitude, I do not see how they can accept this amendment under the circumstances existing, and I oppose it.

**Sir Hugh Cocke:** Sir, after the concise speech of the Honourable Member, I should just like to say one or two words on this subject. The fact that the Mover of the amendment is engaged in a trade which will benefit from this reduction in the cost of postage for patterns and wrappers and so on, is no reason whatever why he should not bring it before this House. It is not brought here for his especial benefit, but it reacts to the benefit of all who engage in book and pattern postage . . . . .

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** Including auditors.

**Sir Hugh Cocke:** Including all those who advertise anything at all. Therefore I do not think it right to attack a Member for bringing forward a suggestion just because it is going to benefit himself or his particular business. There is a good deal to be said for this at present, when trade

is depressed, and everything possible should be done to assist the spread of advertisement, because the more advertisement there is the more people are induced to buy and more paper is used . . . .

**Mr. K. Ahmed:** When the public has not got money?

**Sir Hugh Cocks:** If it is imported paper, it pays duty; if it is paper manufactured in India, then the proprietor presumably pays income-tax on profits and therefore this reacts in wide directions. I do not know whether it is feasible from the point of view of the post office; but if it is, I hope the Honourable Member will take it into very careful consideration with a view to seeing whether it is possible to bring down the rates for postage of advertisement matter.

**Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi:** Sir, I had no desire to take any part in this debate. The Honourable the Mover of the amendment has clearly explained to the House why he wants this reduction of postage on book packets and sample packets up to two tolas. Sir, the Postal Department that is run by Government is not run on commercial lines. If it were run on commercial lines and if the head of the department was a man who understood business or had a commercial instinct, he would have surely made the post office pay. Post offices in other parts of the world make huge profits, whereas in India it is always in deficit . . . .

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** (Director General of Posts and Telegraphs): Not always.

**Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi:** I am glad to hear that; but for the last five years that has been my experience.

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** Only for two years.

**Mr. A. H. Ghuznavi:** It is not two years only; it is from 1928, Sir. At the present time they levy half anna on book patterns and sample packets on a weight of five tolas. What the Honourable the Mover of the amendment wants is that a levy of a quarter anna should be made on weights up to 2 tolas or a fraction thereof. I think, Sir, the Honourable Member in charge should consider this proposition very carefully. This, to my mind, will increase the revenue and will not decrease it in any way, for the obvious reason that a large number of book patterns will be sent by post. Merchants would take advantage of this concession and avail themselves of the post office for circulation of literature instead of the newspapers. Of course, I have no desire to press this motion to a division on this point, because the House is not full, but all that we want is that the Honourable Member in charge should give due consideration to this question.

**Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Sir, I rise to support the motion proposed by Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin. The concession which my Honourable friend seeks by moving this amendment is a very small one. The concession about the postal rates which has been allowed to the newspapers is on the ground that they give assistance to the public in order that the public must be benefited by the cheap rate charged by the post office. So, on the same principle, I submit that advertisements and packages which are sent by merchants for the benefit of the public should also receive the same concession. Moreover, Sir, we know that there has been a slump in trade in this country during the last year, and I think that anything that would encourage business men should not be grudged



[Maulvi Muhammad Yakub.]

by the Government. The loss which the Government will suffer on account of the reduction in the postal rate will be very small, and I think that if a large number of packages are posted as a result of the reduction in the postal rates, probably that loss could be recovered. The House will thus see that there will be no appreciable loss to the revenues; on the other hand, the mercantile community in the country, which has been suffering during last year, will see that Government have some sympathy for them by extending to them this concession. Sir, with these few words I support the motion.

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** Sir, I do not propose to controvert any of the arguments that have been urged in favour of this motion, because I am prepared to look into the question and see what my Department can do. In the short time that I have had at my disposal since receiving notice of the amendment, it has been impossible for me to look carefully into so delicate and intricate a matter as rates. I would deprecate the House taking any decision on the question, and if my Honourable friend Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin will withdraw his amendment, I shall be most happy to go into the whole question.

**Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** May I then move, Sir, that the consideration of this amendment be adjourned today, and after the Honourable the Director General sees his rates and tells us tomorrow what the position is, we can resume this debate?

**Mr. H. A. Sams:** Sir, I cannot possibly undertake to go into this question by tomorrow. I must have adequate time.

**Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin:** Sir, I am very thankful to the Honourable Member Mr. Sams for the very sympathetic attitude he has taken in this matter, and on the assurance given by him that he will look into the matter to see what can be done to give effect to my suggestion, I find no alternative but to ask for leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Schedule III was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

**Mr. President:** Gentlemen, I have allowed this discussion to establish the principle that the House will continue to do business in spite of walks-out. My objection to allowing further consideration of the Finance Bill, which affects the public so largely, stands. The principle having been established, I now propose to adjourn the House till 11 o'clock tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 25th March, 1931.