

Monday, 28th September, 1931

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THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES
(Official Report)

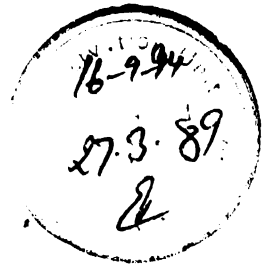
Volume VI, 1931

(23rd September to 3rd October, 1931)

SECOND SESSION

OF THE

FOURTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
1931



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1932

Legislative Assembly.

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THE HONOURABLE SIR IBRAHIM RAHIMTOOLA, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.

Deputy President :

MR. R. K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTY, M.L.A.

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MR. S. C. GUPTA, BAR.-AT-LAW.

Assistants of the Secretary :

MIAN MUHAMMAD RAFI, BAR.-AT-LAW.

RAI BAHADUR D. DUTT.

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

Committee on Public Petitions :

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SIR ADDUR RAHIM, K.C.S.I., KT., M.L.A.

RAJA BAHADUR G. KRISHNAMACHARIAR, M.L.A.

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

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 28th September, 1931.

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

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

PURCHASE BY POSTAL OFFICIALS OF MOTOR CARS FROM MOTOR MAIL CONTRACTORS.

961. ***Mr. B. N. Misra** : (a) Is it a fact that officers of the Postal Department, Madras, purchase motor cars from motor mail contractors and have money dealings with them ?

(b) Do Government propose to issue proper instructions on the subject to all such officers concerned ?

Sir Hubert Sams : (a) Government have no information that the fact is as stated.

(b) Does not arise.

APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS IN THE INDIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS.

962. ***Shaikh Fasal Haq Piracha** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of persons employed from different communities in the following posts in the Indian Army Ordnance Corps and also state the educational qualifications of various Assistant Store-keepers so employed :

(i) Assistant Store-keepers,

(ii) Store-men, and

(iii) Upper, Lower and Routine Division Clerks.

(b) Is it a fact that the posts of Assistant Store-keepers and Store-men have recently been Indianised under a new scheme ?

(c) Do Government realise that there is a clear paucity of Muslims in the newly created posts of Assistant Store-keepers and Store-men ? Are there any reasons for that ? If so, what are they ?

(d) How many Indians, and within what period, are to be taken under the above scheme ?

(e) Are Government aware that many qualified Muslims are available who have applied for the above posts ?

(f) Do Government propose to give chances to such other Muslims who may be already in the Indian Army Ordnance Corps and as such have also the required Ordnance experience ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) Schemes for the appointment of civilians as Assistant Store-keepers and Storemen were sanctioned in April, 1928 and November, 1930,

respectively. Under these schemes Indians, Anglo-Indians and members of the domiciled community are eligible for appointment to these posts.

(c) Government do not consider that the proportion of Muslims is inadequate.

(d) The number of posts at present earmarked for civilian Assistant Storekeepers is 133 : and the rate at which vacancies occur at present is about six a year.

236 civilian storemen are required, of whom 132 have already been appointed. The balance will be recruited as vacancies occur within the next 12 or 18 months.

(e) and (f): Yes.

Statement referred to in the reply to part (a) of starred question No. 962.

	Hindus.	Muslims.	Stkhs.	Chris- tians.	Other oom- munities.	Total.
Assistant Storekeepers ..	9	6	3	2	..	20*
Storemen	74	28	21	8	1	132
Clerks, Upper Division ..	39	5	5	7	4	60
Clerks, Lower Division ..	176	61	23	13	1	274
Clerks, Routine Division ..	93	33	21	4	1	152
Total ..	391	133	73	34	7	638

*16 are graduates. The remaining 4 were specially selected as they had done similar work for 3 or 4 years before appointment as Assistant Storekeepers.

SAFEGUARDING THE INTERESTS OF MUSLIMS IN RETRENCHMENT IN THE INDIAN ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS.

963. *Shaikh Fazal Haq Piracha : Have Government issued any instructions to heads of various Ordnance establishments in India to safeguard the interests of the Muslim minority while proposing the retrenchment of temporary or permanent establishments of the Indian Army Ordnance Corps ? If not, do Government propose to do it now ; if not why not ?

Mr. G. M. Young : No special instructions are necessary. The interests of minority communities are carefully watched whenever appointments are filled or vacated.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEDICAL AID FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

964. *Shaikh Fazal Haq Piracha : (a) Are Government aware that there are no arrangements made by Government for medical aid for the Members of this Honourable House ?

(b) Are Government aware that medical aid could not immediately reach the late Mr. K. C. Roy, Member of this House, in the Legislative Assembly Chamber ?

(c) Are Government also aware that Members of this House very often cannot get competent medical advice when they require it during the session period, which prolongs their illness and is often the cause of their continued absence from the House ?

(d) Are Government prepared to make arrangements in future for medical aid to the Members of this House when they require it during the session period of the Assembly ; and, if so, arrange to mention the full address and telephone number of the doctor or doctors appointed for the purpose in the list of Members of the Legislative Assembly supplied to every Member ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) Yes.

(b) Immediately after the late Mr. K. C. Roy was taken ill in this Chamber, his own doctor was telephoned for and arrived as soon as he could. There was no unusual or unnecessary delay in obtaining medical aid.

(c) No.

(d) In view of the large number of medical practitioners, private and official, both at Delhi and Simla, whose services are available to Members of the Legislative Assembly during the sessions, Government do not consider it necessary to make any such special arrangements as suggested. The names, addresses and telephone numbers of most of such medical practitioners will be found in the telephone directories.

Mr. K. Ahmed : In view of the fact that Government even in the boarding houses and hostels of colleges and public institutions have got medical officers to look after the people there, do Government propose, for the benefit of the public and the representatives of the country, to adopt a similar method in the Western Hostel at Delhi and other quarters and hotels at Simla ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : The point of my answer was this. The services of private medical practitioners are available for the service of Members of Legislature to exactly the same extent as they are for officials. They are so for this reason that their services can be obtained at short notice, with equal ease in either case.

Mr. K. Ahmed : My question is that, in view of the fact that there is a permanent arrangement in public institutions and in the hostels of Government colleges all over India for medical assistance, do Government propose, for the benefit of the people coming here from long distances and taking their residence at Longwood Hotel or at the Summer Hill Station or at the Cart Road or at the Western Hostel in Delhi or away from the town, to arrange for medical assistance near at hand to those places where Government had made arrangements for their stay ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I am afraid the Honourable Member is better acquainted with the arrangements at colleges and hostels throughout India than I am. But naturally Government would give great weight to a generally expressed desire of the Members of the House.

NAMES OF OFFICIALS HOLDING CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL POSTS IN DELHI.

965. *Lieutenant Nawab Muhammad Ibrahim Ali Khan : Will Government kindly state the names of the officials who held the important educational posts of Headmaster, Government High School, Assistant Superintendent of Education, District Inspector of Schools and the Head Clerk in Delhi, and period of tenure of respective officials :

- (a) so far as it can be ascertained before its formation as a separate province in 1912 ; and
- (b) after its formation as a separate province up to the end of 1927 ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazi-i-Husain : With your permission, Sir, I shall deal with questions Nos. 965—968 together. The information asked for is being collected and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

NUMBERS OF HINDU AND MUHAMMADAN TEACHERS EMPLOYED IN SCHOOLS IN DELHI.

†966. Lieutenant Nawab Muhammad Ibrahim Ali Khan : Will Government kindly state the numbers of Hindu and Muhammadan teachers, employed as on the 31st March, 1912 and the 31st March, 1928, in (a) Municipal schools in Delhi, (b) Municipal schools in New Delhi, and (c) District Board schools in Delhi ?

NUMBERS OF HINDU AND MUSLIM SCHOOLS IN DELHI.

†967. *Lieutenant Nawab Muhammad Ibrahim Ali Khan : Will Government kindly state the numbers of Hindu and Muslim Primary, Middle and High Schools in the areas of (a) Delhi Municipal Committee, (b) New Delhi Municipal Committee, and (c) District Board, Delhi, as on 31st March, 1912 and 31st March, 1928 ?

APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIM TEACHERS IN DELHI.

†968. *Lieutenant Nawab Muhammad Ibrahim Ali Khan : (a) Will Government kindly state the number of Hindu and Muslim teachers as on 31st March, 1931, and explain why the proportion of Muslims has still remained inadequate in the Delhi Municipal schools after the explicit orders contained in his letter No. 3197, dated the 14th May, 1915, of Sir Malcolm Hailey, the then Chief Commissioner, Delhi, on the point and whether they are prepared to direct the local Government to take early steps in consultation with the Education Department to redress this vast inequality ?

(b) Will Government kindly give the number of Hindu and Muslim teachers as on 31st March, 1931, in District Board schools ? Are Government aware that the number of Muslim teachers in those schools is very disproportionate ? If so, are they prepared to take steps to redress the inequality ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 965.

SAFEGUARDING THE INTERESTS OF MUSLIMS IN THE CLERICAL STAFF OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OFFICES.

969. *Lieutenant Nawab Muhammad Ibrahim Ali Khan : (a) Is it a fact that the Home Department have decided that no examination for the selection of ministerial staff should be held during the current year ?

(b) When do Government propose to hold the next examination for the selection of ministerial staff ?

(c) Is it a fact that there are no qualified Muslim candidates available for employment in the Government of India offices ?

(d) If the reply to part (c) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to fill up all future vacancies by non-Muslim candidates ? If not, how do they intend to fill them ?

(e) To avoid communal inequalities, are Government prepared to issue orders that :

(i) the unqualified Muslims now employed in the offices in question should be retained till the next examination ; and

(ii) the unqualified Muslims should be recruited on a *pro rata* basis in vacancies occurring hereafter ?

(f) If the reply to part (e) be in the negative, will Government please say how they propose to safeguard the interests of the Muslims so far as the clerical staff of the Government of India offices is concerned ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : (a) and (b). It has not yet been decided when the next examination for vacancies in the Secretariat will be held.

(c) Yes, but for the Third Division only.

(d), (e) and (f). The Government of India have arranged that unqualified Muslims should be allowed to continue to hold temporarily vacancies intended for members of that community until qualified Muslim candidates are available.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : If unqualified Muslims are allowed to be in service, why should not unqualified members of other communities also be given the same privilege ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : Circumstances arise which do not apply generally to all communities.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : I refer to unqualified members of other minority communities, such as Sikhs and depressed classes.

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : If the Honourable Member will give notice of the question, I shall have the point examined.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICER SUPERVISORS AT ARMY HEADQUARTERS.

970. *Lieutenant Nawab Muhammad Ibrahim Ali Khan : (a) Will Government state the total number of Officer Supervisors at Army Headquarters ?

(b) How many of them are Indians ?

(e) Will Government kindly give the proportion of Indian to European Superintendents who have been superseded, in the last three years, when making permanent or temporary appointments to Officer Supervisor ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) There are 18 Officer Supervisors in Army and Royal Air Force Headquarters.

(b) One.

(c) Three Indian and nine European Superintendents have been superseded during the last three years.

ALLOTMENT OF CLERKS' QUARTERS AT PHAGLI, SIMLA.

971. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing :** (a) Is it a fact that amongst the Government quarters at Phagli there are some blocks on a higher level and nearer the Secretariat than others which are very far down the *khad* ?

(b) Is it a fact that for the exchange of Phagli quarters from a lower level to a higher level of the same type a register is maintained for registering the names of candidates for such exchanges ?

(c) Is it a fact that in spite of the registration of the names in that register the tenants are asked to renew their applications for such exchanges every year ?

(d) Is it a fact that such renewal applications for exchanges are received direct by the clerks of the office of the allotting authorities from the applicants themselves and not officially through the respective Departments where these applicants are employed ?

(e) Is it a fact that the names in the register of applications are rearranged every year and new priority given to the applicants every year according to the time and the date of receipt of such annual renewal applications direct from the tenants of Phagli by the clerks of the office of the allotting authorities ?

(f) Are Government aware that by this method of renewal of applications the allotting authorities and the clerks of that office give on some applications a prior time and date of receipt and thus allot higher level quarters in the subsequent allotment ? If not, do Government propose to inquire into the matter ? If not, why not ?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) Applications are received direct by the allotting office.

(e) Yes. The names are entered in the order they are received in the office.

(f) No.

No. Government do not consider any such inquiry necessary.

ALLOTMENT OF CLERKS' QUARTERS AT PHAGLI, SIMLA

972. ***Mr. Bhupu Sing :** Are Government aware that candidates who applied for exchanges of quarters to a higher level in Phagli in 1927, and whose names were registered in that year for such exchanges have not been given any exchange up till now whereas others who entered Government Phagli quarters later have been given such exchanges ?

If not, do Government propose to inquire into such cases and state why those candidates have not been given such exchanges up till now? If not, why not?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : Government have no information, and have no reason to consider that an inquiry is necessary.

ALLOTMENT OF CLERKS' QUARTERS AT PHAGLI, SIMLA.

973. ***Mr. Bhuput Singh** : Is it a fact that in the annual allotment forms sent by the Estate Officer to the various Departments for being filled in by the employees of those Departments for being provided with Government quarters at Phagli there is a column to be filled up by such candidates mentioning the quarters they would prefer to have? If so, will Government be pleased to state whether filling up this column is treated by the Estate Officer as a renewal of application for exchange of quarters? If not, will Government be pleased to state why such a column is printed in the form at all?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : Yes.

No.

The column is intended for new applicants. Those who hold liens on quarters but want a change have to apply separately in writing.

ALLOTMENT OF CLERKS' QUARTERS AT PHAGLI, SIMLA.

974. ***Mr. Bhuput Singh** : Do Government propose to do away with the system of annual renewal of applications for exchanges of quarters in Phagli? If not, why not?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : No. The present system has been found by experience to be the best of several tried.

BANNING OF CERTAIN NEWSPAPERS FROM KATHIAWAR STATES.

975. ***Mr. S. G. Jog** : (a) Are Government aware that the delivery of certain newspapers was banned in some States of Kathiawar under the orders of the Postmaster General, Bombay?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, was the Government of India consulted before taking any such action?

(c) Are Government aware whether any criminal action was taken against the editors of these papers?

(d) Are Government aware whether the matter in those papers was declared to be seditious before taking action by the Postmaster General, Bombay?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : Inquiry is being made and its result will be communicated to the Honourable Member in due course.

ARRANGEMENTS ON STEAMERS CARRYING COOLIES FROM MALAYA TO INDIA.

976. ***Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah** : (a) Is it a fact that the B. I. S. N. Company chartered steamers for carrying coolies from Malaya to India?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state :

(i) how many such steamers have made voyages since 1st January, 1931 ;

(ii) the capacity of each steamer for carrying passengers ;

(iii) the number of passengers that were actually carried on each of these steamers ; and

(iv) the number of passengers that died on each voyage, with the causes thereof ?

(c) Is it a fact that there is no canvas over the decks of these steamers ?

(d) What is the number of medical officers in attendance on the steamers with their qualifications ?

(e) What is the number of beds maintained for the sick patients on the steamers ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazi-i-Husain : The information is being obtained and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

RESOLUTION IN THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO RAISE MADRAS INFANTRY BATTALIONS.

977. ***Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if they are aware that a Resolution for the raising of certain Madras infantry battalions was passed in the Madras Legislative Council on the 5th August, 1931 ?

(b) Was the record of that debate forwarded to the Government of India by the Madras Government ?

(c) What action do the Government of India propose to take on that resolution ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of India have seen a copy of the proceedings of the Madras Legislative Council ; but it has not been forwarded to them officially by the Government of Madras.

(c) The whole question of the future defence of India depends upon the outcome of the constitutional discussions now proceeding, and it is therefore impossible for the Government of India to take any action for the present on the Resolution, which recommends the raising of no less than ten new regular battalions of infantry.

REGIMENTS ADMITTING MEMBERS OF DEPRESSED CLASSES.

978. ***Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah :** Will Government be pleased to state the names of regiments in which the members of the depressed classes can be recruited ?

Mr. G. M. Young : Members of certain depressed classes are recruited to the following five units :—

(1) Queen Victoria's Own Sappers and Miners.

- (2) 1st and 2nd Battalions and Corps Headquarters, Madras Pioneers.
- (3) 4th Indian Divisional Signals and Waziristan District Signals.

HIGH RENTS IN BOMBAY PAID BY THE ARMY AUTHORITIES.

979. ***Mr. G. I. Griffiths** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether the letter from the General Secretary, European Association, to the Secretary, Government of India, Army Department, dated 5th June, 1931, has been received ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, what action has been taken thereon ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Army authorities still pay very high rents, i.e., Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 per mensem for residential flats in Colaba ?

(d) Are Government aware that landlords are demanding similar high rents from civilians for like accommodation in other parts of Bombay ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) Yes.

(b) Inquiries were made from the local military authorities and a reply is being sent to the Association.

(c) I am informed that the average rent paid for an officer's flat in Colaba is Rs. 450 a month. This rental was considered reasonable by the local Military Engineer Services for the accommodation provided at the time the leases were executed.

(d) I am informed that no cheaper flats were available at the time these were leased. As Colaba is not a cantonment, the military authorities have no power to regulate the rents of privately-owned flats or houses in that locality.

As the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, there is a considerable shortage of Government-owned quarters for military personnel in Bombay. Hiring of accommodation is, therefore, unavoidable. The military authorities endeavour to obtain the lowest possible rental in every case ; and, before hiring any accommodation, make inquiries into the rents paid for similar accommodation in the vicinity.

Mr. B. Das : Is the Honourable Member aware that the Army authorities are to-day paying the same rent in Colaba that they paid in 1922 and that they have made no efforts to see that their officers occupy premises on lower rents and reduce house-rents accordingly ?

Mr. G. M. Young : I am not aware of the exact rents paid to-day as compared with the rents paid in 1922. But it is certainly not a fact that the Army authorities have made no efforts to reduce rents for the accommodation provided for their officers.

Mr. B. Das : Is it necessary for military expediency that so many Army officers should be located at Bombay ?

Mr. G. M. Young : Yes.

Mr. B. Das : Is the Honourable Member aware that a certain Army officer pays an amount of something like Rs. 4,000 a month on the Malabar Hill for his office premises ?

Mr. G. M. Young : No, Sir ; I am not aware of that.

Mr. B. Das : Will the Honourable Member look into the matter in view of the retrenchment problem in the Army Budget ?

Mr. G. M. Young : The general question of hiring accommodation is under consideration in connection with retrenchment. If my Honourable friend will supply me with any facts relating to the hiring of accommodation at exorbitant rents for officers, I shall be very glad to receive them and to inquire into them.

PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF STAFF OF ATTACHED AND SUBORDINATE OFFICES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

980. ***Mr. B. N. Misra :** (a) Are Government aware that there is a perpetual and general discontent among the staff of the Government of India attached and subordinate offices on account of the Government's treatment towards them in respect of pay and allowances ?

(b) Is it a fact that they have memorialised several times to Government for the betterment of their pay and allowances and Government have on all occasions rejected the memorials ? If so, why ?

(c) Is it a fact that there has been a great difference between the pay and allowances drawn by the Secretariat staff and the staff of the attached and subordinate offices ? If so, why ? Do Government propose to bring down all pay and allowances to the same level ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : (a) and (b). The staff in question have from time to time made representations that the emoluments of attached and subordinate offices should be increased. The representations failed because Government were not satisfied that there were adequate grounds for undertaking a general revision.

(c) I would refer the Honourable Member to my answers to his question No. 938. For the reasons there offered, there seems to be no case for reducing the emoluments of the Secretariat staff and the staff of attached and subordinate offices to a common level.

PAY AND ALLOWANCES IN THE OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE.

981. ***Mr. B. N. Misra :** (a) Is it a fact that in the Central Board of Revenue there are some men who enjoy privileges of Secretariat people while others are treated as attached office staff ? If so, why is such differential treatment in existence in the same office ?

(b) Will Government please state whether there is any difference in the quality of the work in that office for which better facilities are given to men who do it ? If so, what is the nature of the work done by each class of men who draw more pay and allowances and who are deprived of it ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : Sir, my Honourable friend, Sir George Schuster has asked me to apologise to you and to the House for his inability to be in his place this morning : with your permission I will answer the questions standing in his name.

(a) There are nine men in the office of the Central Board of Revenue who are on the Secretariat scales of pay—two Superintendents, four

Assistants and three clerks. This scale is personal to them as on the formation of the Central Board of Revenue, they were transferred from the Departments of Industries and Labour and Commerce with the Salt and Customs work respectively and were in those Departments on the Secretariat scales of pay. They were given an undertaking that by their transfer to the Central Board of Revenue, they would not be losers. Whenever any of these men retires or goes on leave, the substitutes are entertained on Attached office scales only.

(b) There is no difference in the quality of work.

DISCRIMINATION IN PAY BETWEEN THE SECRETARIAT AND ATTACHED AND SUBORDINATE OFFICES.

982. *Mr. B. N. Misra : (a) Will Government please state whether it is not a fact that men for employment in the attached and subordinate offices and in the Secretariat are recruited by the Public Service Commission ?

(b) Is it not the fact that all passed candidates secure the same amount of marks in the examination ? If so, what is the difference in merit when a man is in the Secretariat and another is in the attached offices ? Why is such differential treatment meted out to the same class of men though holding appointments in the different offices ? Do Government propose to abolish such distinction ? If so, when ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : (a) and (b). A common test is held for the Secretariat and other offices which recruit through the Public Service Commission and the candidates are arranged in the order of the marks which they secure. Those higher in the list are appointed to the Secretariat, and the others to the other offices, according to the number of vacancies available in each. Vacancies which arise after the publication of the results of the competitive examination are filled by candidates in order of merit irrespective of the fact that the particular vacancy is in the Secretariat or in an attached office. The fact that all pass the same test does not mean that all should get the same pay. The pay must depend upon the character of the post.

ABSORPTION OF ATTACHED AND SUBORDINATE OFFICES IN DEPARTMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT.

983. *Mr. B. N. Misra : In view of the financial stringency, do Government propose to abolish all attached and subordinate offices and make curtailment in their expenditure by making those offices as the Branches of the Departments to which they are attached at present ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : The question whether attached offices can be abolished has been raised by the General Purposes Sub-Committee of the Retrenchment Committee and is still under their consideration. I may say, however, that, if instead of abolishing these offices, they were to be made into branches of the Secretariat, the probabilities are that, instead of economy, there would be an increased expenditure. The abolition of subordinate offices or their amalgamation with the Departments does not appear to be a practicable proposition.

APPOINTMENT OF ORIYAS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT AND ATTACHED OFFICES.

984. *Mr. B. N. Misra : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Oriyas working at present in the ministerial staff of the various Departments and the attached and subordinate offices of the Government of India ?

(b) Is it a fact that there is not a single Oriya among the permanent employees of the Government of India ? If the answer to the above is in the affirmative, what special step do Government propose to take in this direction ?

(c) Do Government propose to accord the same treatment towards Orissa as that accorded to the backward tribes and minority communities and unrepresented provinces as regards representation in the services ? If not, why not ?

(d) Will Government lay on the table a comparative statement showing the percentage of Oriyas with the men from other Provinces working at present in the Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : As explained in my reply to question No. 489 on the 16th September, Government have not undertaken to secure representation for provinces either generally or in terms of particular communities. Candidates from Orissa have equal opportunities with those from other provinces and it is not proposed to take any special action in the matter. This being the case, I do not think any useful purpose would be served by the collection of the statistics for which the Honourable Member asks.

LOW PRICES OF WHEAT.

985. *Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar (on behalf of Sirdar Sohan Singh) : (a) Are Government aware that there are a large number of exemptions from import duty, that such exemptions have nullified the effect of that duty upon wheat prices in India and that wheat is selling at most unremunerative prices ?

(b) If so, what further action do Government intend to take to strengthen prices ?

(c) Do Government intend to introduce legislation to extend the wheat Import Duty Act to another two years ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my speeches in the Legislative Assembly on the 31st March, 1931, on the Wheat (Import Duty) Bill, in which I explained that, apart from securing the Indian market for the Indian produce, the import duty was not likely to have any effect on the prices of wheat in India until the surplus existing in the Northern India markets was absorbed and that any action that could be taken would not have the effect of raising the level of prices.

(c) The conditions which rendered it necessary to pass the Wheat (Import Duty) Act, 1931, in March last unfortunately still exist, and unless there should be a material change of circumstances during the next three or four months, it will be necessary to continue the Act for a further period.

RAILWAY FREIGHT ON WHEAT AND COTTON.

986. ***Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar** (on behalf of **Sirdar Sohan Singh**):
(a) Are Government aware that the railway freight on wheat and cotton is very high as compared with most other commodities ?

(b) Is it a fact that the freight on cotton was increased during the Great War ? Has it been reduced since then ? If not, why not ?

(c) Do Government intend to lower the same to pre-war rates ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) Railway rates for wheat are the same as for the majority of other food-grains and are comparatively low. The rates for cotton are considerably higher than those for wheat and for a number of other commodities.

(b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply I gave on the 9th March, 1931, to Mr. E. F. Sykes's question No. 879. No general reduction in the rates for cotton has been made since these were enhanced during the war and post-war period. The question of a reduction in the rates for cotton, full-pressed, is under examination.

†987—994.

EXTENSION OF OPTION TO PURCHASE THE ASSAM-BENGAL RAILWAY.

995. ***Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** : (a) Is it a fact that the Assembly on the 18th July, 1930, adopted the following amendment of Mr. Fazl Ibrahim Rahimtullah " This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that negotiations should be undertaken with the Assam Bengal Railway Company and obtain for Government one year's extension of their existing option to terminate the Company's contract on the 31st December, 1931 " ?

(b) What action, if any, have Government taken on this Resolution ?

(c) Have Government entered into a new contract with the company ? What are the terms of the contract ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to lay a copy of the contract on the table ?

(e) When will Government actually take the administration of the Assam Bengal Railway in their own hands ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The Honourable Member's recollection is correct.

(b) and (c). I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies given by me on the 17th instant to Mr. S. C. Mitra's question Nos. 462 and 463.

(c) The terms of the original contract provide for its continuance for another period of ten years if not determined on the 31st December, 1931. No new contract was therefore necessary.

(d) Copies of the printed volume of contracts with the Company are in the Library of the House.

†These questions were withdrawn by the questioner.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : Is it not a fact that the Government originally proposed to extend the term of contract for ten years and then an amendment was moved and the Government accepted that it should be extended only for one year ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : My recollection is that Government originally proposed not to give notice of the termination of the contract,—it was not a question of extending the contract—and that what the Assembly desired was that negotiations should be entered into with the company to get an opportunity of taking over the line one year later.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : The Assembly recommended the extension for one year. I should like to know why, without coming to the Assembly again, you yourself have extended this term for ten years.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I must correct the Honourable Member, there was no question of extending the contract ; it was a question of not exercising the option to close the contract. The reason why the wishes of the Assembly were not fulfilled was that the Company was not prepared to give us an extension of the option.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : If the Company did not agree to the extension by one year, why was not the matter referred to the Assembly explicitly again ? We had the last meeting in the cold weather in January, February and March.

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Our option to terminate the contract was only up to the 31st December, 1930. The Assembly did not meet again till some time late in January, 1931. It was therefore not possible to refer the matter again to the Assembly.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : If such emergency arose, why were not all the papers laid before the Assembly as soon as it met ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : A question was put on the subject in the Assembly during the last cold weather session and was answered on the floor of the House.

INTERVIEW WITH SIR SAMUEL HOARE ON THE PRESS BILL.

996. ***Mr. S. G. Jog :** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyenger, a delegate to the Round Table Conference, interviewed the Right Honourable Sir Samuel Hoare, the Secretary of State for India, on the question of the Press Bill now before the House and had a discussion with him ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to announce to this House the result of that interview before the House proceeds further with the discussion on the Bill ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : (a) The Government of India have no information.

(b) Does not arise.

EMPLOYMENT AS A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE HEAD OF THE CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT.

997. ***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that they propose to employ the head of the C. I. D.,

now on the verge of retirement as a Member of the Public Service Commission ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what are the special qualifications of this gentleman to occupy the post ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : Under section 96-C of the Government of India Act, the Secretary of State in Council has appointed Sir David Petrie to be a Member of the Public Service Commission in a vacancy which requires under the rules to be filled by a person who has been for at least ten years in the service of the Crown in India. He selected Sir David Petrie on account of his distinguished career and wide knowledge of service matters. Sir David reaches the age of compulsory retirement from the Indian Police Service in 1934.

REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

998. **Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer :** (a) Is it a fact that the Retrenchment Committee have recommended the reduction in the number of the Members of the Public Service Commission from five to three ?

(b) Was this question sent to the Public Service Commission for their report ? If so, what was their report ?

(c) If they concurred in the reduction, are Government going to make it ? If not, why not ?

(d) What economy would this reduction effect per annum in the expenditure of the Government of India ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : (a) to (c). The views of the Public Service Commission on the question whether the number of Members of the Commission could be reduced to a smaller number than five were placed before the General Purposes Sub-Committee of the Retrenchment Committee. The Retrenchment Committee's observations on the subject have not yet been received, and there is no further information that I can give at present.

(d) The pay of Members of the Commission, not being Chairman, is Rs. 3,500 a month.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : Will the Honourable Member be pleased to say if the Public Service Commission recommend that their number should be reduced from five to three, whether the Government of India will be pleased to carry out that recommendation ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : I am afraid I cannot supply the House with an answer to that question.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : Are the Government aware that the Public Service Commission is so highly paid that the country cannot afford the cost and also that it need not have five Members to carry on the work that they are performing in view of the financial crisis we are at present in ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : I believe, Sir, the Honourable Member is asking me to express an opinion.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : Will the Honourable Member be pleased to consider the desirability of reducing the number of Members of the Public Service Commission ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : The Government will no doubt consider any recommendations on the subject which the Retrenchment Committee might make.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is it a fact, Sir, that the Public Service Commission have agreed to their number being reduced from five to three ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : I have no information to that effect.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : But this is part of the question.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : May I inform the Honourable Member that the Public Service Commission have so recommended ?

Mr. K. P. Thampan : May I know whether the Members of the Public Service Commission are full-time officers ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : Yes, Sir.

Mr. K. P. Thampan : Are Government satisfied that there is sufficient work for five men on the Public Service Commission ?

Sir Lancelot Graham : Yes.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : Are the Government aware that the opinion of the Public Service Commission was called for by the Retrenchment Committee ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : I have already replied in the affirmative.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : Will the Government be pleased to issue a communiqué as soon as they get the information on the subject as to what they propose to do in regard to the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : I must remind the Honourable Member that the appointment of Members of the Public Service Commission and the constitution of the Commission are under the control of the Secretary of State for India.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : Will the Government of India be pleased to recommend to the Secretary of State that the recommendations of the Public Service Commission that the number of Members should be decreased from five to three, should be accepted ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : I am afraid I must have sufficient information before I can reply to such a hypothetical question.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Have not the Government of India received any report from the Members of the Public Service Commission on this point ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : To the best of my knowledge we have no official proposals in this matter.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : That is contained in part (b) of the question which asks " Was this question sent to the Public Service Commission for their report ? If so, what was their report ? " I am asking for their report. I want to know if their report has been received by Government or not ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : To the best of my recollection, Sir, the Retrenchment Committee asked for information on these points

and the papers were laid before them. What views they might have on the subject, as I have already explained, I do not yet know.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : My point is, have you received a report from the Public Service Commission agreeing to their number being reduced from five to three ? Have you received a report or not ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : I think, Sir, the answer to that question is in the negative, but if the Honourable Member wishes me to do so, I will ascertain the facts.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : Is the Honourable Member prepared to assert that he has received no reply from the Public Service Commission relating to the numbers of the *personnel* of the Commission being reduced from five to three ? Was not a report called for by the Retrenchment Committee from the Public Service Commission ? Does the Honourable Member say that the Public Service Commission has made no report ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : I think the position is that the questionnaire was issued by the Retrenchment Committee, to which a reply was made by the Public Service Commission. So far as I am aware the Retrenchment Committee have not yet made any recommendation.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : Will the Honourable Member be pleased to give this House an opportunity of giving its views upon the subject before coming to a decision ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : I am not in a position to give the Honourable Member an assurance on that point.

Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad : In view of the fact that the Members of the Public Service Commission are in a better position than the Home Department to know about the quantity of work the Commission is doing, I would like to know whether the Home Department would agree to the reduction of their number if the Public Service Commission recommended that their number should be reduced from five to three ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : Their views on the subject will receive the very careful consideration of the authorities concerned.

APPOINTMENT AND REDUCTIONS IN MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

999. ***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer :** Are Government prepared to give the Assembly an opportunity to discuss the propriety of appointing a C. I. D. man to the Public Service Commission and of the necessity or otherwise of bringing two posts in the Commission under retrenchment ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : The appointment of Members of the Public Service Commission is made by the Secretary of State in Council under Section 96-C. of the Government of India Act one of the objects being to ensure that that body shall be entirely independent. The Honourable Member will, I am sure, agree with me that on public grounds it is undesirable that appointments to Public Service Commission should be a matter of discussion in the Legislatures. In regard to a reduction in the number of Members of the Public Service Commission, the Government of India await proposals from the Retrenchment Advisory Committee and will give them their careful consideration when they are received.

DEBTS OF PORT TRUSTS.

1000. *Lala Hari Raj Swarup : Will Government be pleased to give the following debt particulars of the major Port Trusts ? (The latest available figures may be given) :

- (a) Amount of outstanding direct loans ; (i) rupee, (ii) sterling ;
- (b) Amount of advances taken from the Government of India ;
- (c) Amount of advances taken from the Provincial Governments ;
- (d) Amount of money borrowed from such institutions as the Imperial Bank of India ; and
- (e) The amount of accumulated sinking fund in each case and the places where it is deposited ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : The Government of India are not in possession of complete information. The Port Trusts concerned have been asked to supply it, and when received it will be communicated to the Honourable Member.

NUMBER OF EUROPEAN AND INDIAN PORT COMMISSIONERS IN THE MAJOR PORTS.

1001. *Lala Hari Raj Swarup : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of European and Indian Port Commissioners in the case of major ports in India ?

(b) When do Government propose to bring forward the necessary legislation to increase the proportion of Indians on those bodies ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) A statement showing the number of European and Indian Port Commissioners at the major ports in India is laid on the table.

(b) Government do not contemplate legislation for this purpose. An increase in the proportion of Indians will follow on the accession of Indians to posts of which the holders are *ex-officio* or nominated members of the Port Trusts.

Statement showing the number of European and Indian Port Commissioners in the major Port Trusts.

Port.	Europeans.	Indians.	Total.
Calcutta	14	5	19
Chittagong	8	4	12
Madras	11	4	15
Bangoon	12	5*	17
Bombay	12	10	22
Karachi	8	6	14
Aden	8	3†	11

*Includes Indians, Burmese and Chinese.

†Includes 1 Arab.

THE WAGON INDUSTRY.

1002. ***Lala Hari Raj Swarup** : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement as regards the position of the State wagon industry ever since it was taken over by Government a few years ago, together with a few statistics of its position before it came under the present control ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The Honourable Member is mistaken in thinking that Government have ever taken over the wagon industry, in India ; it was always, and is now, in private hands.

TREASURY BILLS OUTSTANDING.

1003. ***Lala Hari Raj Swarup** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state (i) the amount, and (ii) the rate of interest of Treasury Bills of 3, 6, 9 and 12 months outstanding up-to-date ?

(b) Could Government give an approximate idea as to how much of the same are held as short term balances of foreign countries ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) The amount of three, six and nine months Treasury Bills outstanding on the 14th September, 1931, was approximately 79½ crores. These were issued at various rates which were given in the weekly communiqués published by the Controller of the Currency. There are no 12 months' Bills outstanding.

(b) The Government of India cannot provide an accurate estimate.

OUTFLOW OF CAPITAL FOR STERLING LOANS.

1004. ***Lala Hari Raj Swarup** : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to newspaper reports that Bombay and Calcutta subscribed heavily to sterling loans raised in February and May last ?

(b) If so, what steps have Government taken to check the outflow of capital thus caused ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) Yes.

(b) None. The Government of India understand that it would be greatly resented if Indians should be prevented from subscribing to sterling loans issued by the Government of India.

PRINCIPLES FOR INVESTMENT OF PROVIDENT FUNDS.

1005. ***Lala Hari Raj Swarup** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if there are any principles on which Provident Funds are at present invited by Government for investment ? If so, what ?

(b) Can non-Government but aided institutions also avail themselves of the privilege ? If so, how ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) The Honourable Member's question is not very easy to understand, but I would inform him that Government do not invite subscribers to Provident Funds to

withdraw their deposits so as to invest them in Government loans as their utilisation for the purpose of investment would be contrary to the provisions of the Provident Funds Act, which applies to all Government provident funds.

(b) Does not arise.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PREMIER REGARDING FINANCIAL HELP FOR INDIA.

1006. ***Lala Hari Raj Swarup** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the announcement of the Premier regarding financial help to India was made in response to some request of the Government of India ?

(b) If so, what is the nature of help demanded or expected of the British Treasury so far as the announcement is concerned ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) I regret that I am unable to give any information regarding the communications which have passed between the Government of India and the Secretary of State on this subject.

(b) That will depend on circumstances if the necessity arises.

Mr. B. Das : Does that mean that the Government of India never asked for any credit from the British Government ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : The Honourable Member will be rash to draw inferences too hastily. I would remind the House that my Honourable Colleague, the Finance Member, when he made his statement on Thursday and again on Saturday, I think, gave all the information he was in a position to place before them.

RENEWAL OF THE CONTRACT WITH THE IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

1007. ***Lala Hari Raj Swarup** : Will Government be pleased to state what steps Government have taken for the renewal of the contract with the Imperial Bank of India ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to Mr. B. Das' starred question No. 113 on the 21st January, 1930.

EXCHANGE FACILITIES OF THE IMPERIAL BANK OF INDIA.

1008. ***Lala Hari Raj Swarup** : Will Government be pleased to state with what banking institutions the Imperial Bank of India has got arrangements for the provision of exchange facilities for the sake of its regular or casual customers ? And on what terms ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : The Government of India have no information on the subject.

RATES FOR STERLING POST OFFICE MONEY ORDERS.

1009. ***Lala Hari Raj Swarup** : Will Government be pleased to state what have been the rates for the sterling money orders sent through the

Post Office ever since the present statutory ratio was fixed ? (The rates may be given for full pounds.) Why are these rates fluctuating ?

Sir Hubert Sams : The rates for sterling remittances through the Post Office since the present statutory ratio was fixed were as follows :

From 14th February, 1928 to 7th July, 1929 ..	£1 = Rs. 13-11-0
From 8th July, 1929 to 29th August, 1929 ..	£1 = Rs. 13-15-0
From 30th August, 1929 to 1st June, 1930 ..	£1 = Rs. 13-11-0
From 2nd June, 1930 to 25th March, 1931 ..	£1 = Rs. 13-15-0
From 26th March, 1931 to 10th June, 1931 ..	£1 = Rs. 13-11-0
From 11th June, 1931 to 19th September, 1931 ..	£1 = Rs. 13-15-0

The rates fluctuate to approximate as nearly as possible to the market rate.

PROMOTION OF UPPER SUBORDINATES IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1010. ***Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi** (on behalf of Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal) : (a) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of P. W. D. Upper Subordinates on Indian State Railways, and the percentage of the Sub-Engineers (all three grades taken together), Supervisors (both the grades taken together) and Overseers (all three grades taken together) on 1st January, 1920, and on 1st October, 1929 ?

(b) Is it a fact that the percentage strength of the Sub-Engineers' grade has decreased and that of Supervisors' grade increased from 1920 to 1930 ?

(c) Is it a fact that on account of the above reduction in Sub-Engineers' grade the promotions of the P. W. D. Upper Subordinates employed on Indian State Railways have been very slow inasmuch as they have not had any promotions for the last 2½ to 10½ years ?

(d) Is it a fact that further recruitment to the P. W. D. Upper Subordinates establishment in Indian State Railways has been stopped and some of the lower grades have already disappeared inasmuch as the Overseer grade in the above establishment will cease to exist on further promotion to the class ?

(e) If answer to parts (b), (c) and (d) is in the affirmative, are Government prepared to raise the strength of Sub-Engineers' grade and allot due promotions to the Upper Subordinates and compensate them for their slow and deferred promotions ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) I am sending a statement giving the information available to the Honourable Member.

(b) Yes, the percentage of Sub-Engineers has decreased by two while that of Supervisors has increased.

(c) The reduction in the percentage of Sub-Engineers has to some extent effected the promotion of Upper Subordinates.

(d) Yes.

(e) The question of raising the strength of Sub-Engineers will be examined.

ISSUE OF 6½ PER CENT. TREASURY BONDS.

1011. *Mr. Bhuput Sing : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether their attention has been drawn to the Press statements of Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas and Mr. Jamal Mahomed on the issue of the 6½ per cent. Treasury Bonds for 1935 characterising these bonds as injurious to the real interests of the country and the floatation of the loan as suicidal ?

(b) What step or steps do Government contemplate taking to prevent the diversion of capital from commerce, industry and agriculture ?

(c) What persons and commercial bodies have protested against the issue of these new bonds ? Has any public body supported Government's action ?

(d) Were the different Chambers of Commerce in India consulted before the loan was issued ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) Yes.

(b) This is a matter of opinion. Government are not prepared to admit that these bonds have caused a diversion of capital.

(c) The Southern India Chamber of Commerce, Madras, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Federation of Bombay Commercial Associations.

(d) No.

REPORTED SEIZURE OF CONGRESS PROPERTY.

1012. *Mr. Bhuput Sing : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware of the Press message from Mymensingh, dated 2nd September, 1931, published under the heading " Violation of Truce—Congress properties seized, Volunteers roughly handled " as published in the " *Advance* " of Calcutta of 5th September, 1931 ?

(b) If so, did Government consider it necessary to inquire into the truth or falsity of the allegations ?

(c) Were Congress sign-boards, working utensils, charkhas, national flag, actually seized by the police by raiding the Congress office ?

(d) Were volunteers roughly handled while engaged in peaceful picketing carried on in accordance with the Gandhi-Irwin agreement ?

(e) Are Government in a position to state the result of the inquiry, if any, made ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : (a) I have seen the Press message referred to.

(b) to (e). I am having enquiries made and will give the Honourable Member a reply in due course.

DELEGATES TO THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE FROM BIHAR AND ORISSA.

1013. *Mr. Bhuput Sing : (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many Hindus and Muhammadans have gone to London to attend the

Round Table Conference as delegates from Bihar and Orissa ? Does any of them belong to Orissa ?

(b) Who attended the first Round Table Conference and what names have been added and on what principles have the additions to the old list been made for the whole Conference ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) and (b). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave to Sardar Sant Singh's starred question No. 480 on the 17th September, 1931.

DATE OF CONCLUSION OF THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE AND PUBLICATION OF ITS RESULTS.

1014. ***Mr. Bhuput Sing :** (a) Are Government in a position to state when the work of the Round Table Conference is expected to be over and when the new constitution will be introduced in this country as a result of the Conference ?

(b) Do Government contemplate publishing the news and the proceedings of the Conference in different languages in the form of bulletins in order to familiarise the general public with the work and make it popular in India ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) I have no material for an estimate.

(b) No, Sir.

PROMOTION OF CLERKS TO THE LOWER DIVISION OF THE SECRETARIAT.

1015. ***Mr. Badri Lal Rastogi :** (a) Will Government please state how many clerks qualified for the Lower Division of the Secretariat in the qualifying examination held by the Public Service Commission in 1929 ?

(b) How many of them have been provided permanently or temporarily in that Division and how many still await their chance for promotion to that Division and are at present working either in the Lower Division of the attached offices or Third Division of the Secretariat, which carry the same scales of pay ?

(c) Is it a fact that when an officer is away for any reason, the vacancy caused by his absence is immediately filled by promotion ?

(d) Is it a fact that there are Lower Division vacancies in some of the Departments of the Government of India, e.g., Foreign and Political Department, Finance Department, Agricultural Research Council, and in spite of the fact that Lower Division clerks are available in those Departments, they are not promoted to that Division but are being employed in the Third Division ?

(e) Do Government propose to promote them in such vacancies forthwith ? If not, why not ?

(f) Is it a fact that even when there were several Lower Division clerks unprovided in that Division, examination for the Lower Division was held by the Public Service Commission in 1931 ?

(g) Is it a fact that candidates who qualified for the Lower Division of the Secretariat in the 1931 examination have been provided in permanent vacancies, while those who qualified in previous examinations still remain unprovided ?

(h) Will Government please state what steps they propose to take to provide for those who qualified in examination prior to 1931 ?

(i) Do Government propose not to hold any further examination for the Lower Division of the Secretariat till these men are permanently provided ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : (a) Thirty-one.

(b) The information readily available shows that in August, 1930, there were only eight men who have been provided with permanent appointments in the Second Division of the Secretariat or the First Division of attached offices. I have no information in regard to the rest.

(c) Yes, ordinarily.

(d) Yes, in the offices referred to.

(e) The matter is left to the discretion of Departments, who I understand are not overlooking the claims of qualified candidates for promotion to the Second Division.

(f) and (g). Yes.

(h) and (i). Under the recruitment scheme now in force, a proportion of vacancies in each Division must be filled by direct recruits. The Government of India have given the most careful consideration to the claims of qualified candidates serving in Lower Divisions and have come to the conclusion that no injustice is done to them by the filling of a proportion of vacancies by direct recruitment. Reasonable provision exists in the scheme for the promotion or confirmation of existing qualified men.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES LIABLE TO INDIAN INCOME-TAX.

1016. ***Mr. L. V. Heathcote :** (a) How many employees of Government, both Central and Provincial, including those employed by the State Railways, who are engaged in civil employment, were declared liable to Indian income-tax during either or both of the financial years 1929-30, 1930-31 ?

(b) How many Government servants in the Army and in the Army Department, not included in the number referred to in part (a) above, were declared liable to Indian income-tax in either or both of the financial years 1929-30, 1930-31 ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table giving such information as is available.

Statement showing the number of Central Government servants, in Civil employment including Railways and Army Department declared liable to Indian income-tax during the financial years 1929-30 and 1930-31.

	1929-30.	1930-31.
1. Central Civil Departments including Railways ..	20,598	22,131
2. Army Department	16,706	16,451

NOTE.—The figures mentioned above are approximately correct, but may not be quite complete as they refer only to those from whom tax was deducted at the time of the disbursement of the salaries and pensions. Information regarding offices under Provincial Governments is not available. Their number may be taken as roughly two and a half times that of the officers in the Civil Departments of the Central Government including Railways.

RECRUITMENTS IN THE OFFICE OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE ON THE EVE OF MOVING TO DELHI.

1017. ***Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur** (on behalf of Haji Chaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan) : (a) Is it a fact that the Headquarters, Royal Air Force, India, have asked for four qualified candidates to join on the 7th October, 1931, though the office is moving down to Delhi on the 9th October, 1931 ? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons why those candidates could not be asked to join after the office opens in Delhi ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether that would have given a saving of Rs. 500 to Government which they are paying, viz., travelling allowance to those men and the payment of Delhi camp allowance ? Is it a fact that men recruited in Delhi are not entitled to the Delhi camp allowance ? If so, why have those men been asked to join on the 7th October, 1931 ?

Mr. G. M. Young : (a) No, Sir. The Public Service Commission was asked to direct the clerks to report at Delhi on the 15th October, if they were not already employed in Government offices in Simla, and to report in Simla, on the 7th October, if they were already so employed.

(b) No, Sir. If the clerks are already employed in Government offices, it will make no difference financially whether they join the Army Headquarters in Simla or in Delhi.

RECRUITMENT AND PROMOTION OF MUSLIMS IN THE SECRETARIAT AND ATTACHED OFFICES.

1018. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim :** Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) the number, in each Division of such Muslim candidates working in temporary or officiating capacity, in the Government of India Secretariat or attached offices, who have qualified in the Public Service Commission or the Staff Selection Board examinations held prior to 1931, but have not yet been confirmed in the Division for which they have qualified ;

- (b) the number of vacancies, in each Division, kept vacant for the prospective candidates coming out successful from the 1931 competitive or qualifying examination ;
- (c) the number of candidates, Muslims and non-Muslims, separately in each Division, who passed the 1931 competitive or qualifying examination ;
- (d) in the statement below, how the posts in the various Divisions have been offered to the candidates who have passed in the 1931 competitive or qualifying examination :—

—	Division in which passed.	Appointment offered in					
		1st Division.		2nd Division.	3rd Division.		
		Secretariat.	Attached Office.	Secretariat.	Secretariat.	Attached Office.	
Muslims	I Dn. II Dn. III Dn.						
Non-Muslims ..	I Dn. II Dn. III Dn.						

- (e) the number of posts, in each division, not yet filled in permanently ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : The information asked for is being sent to the Honourable Member separately.

RECRUITMENT AND PROMOTION OF MUSLIMS IN THE SECRETARIAT AND ATTACHED OFFICES.

1019 ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim :** (a) Is it a fact that, as a result of the 1931 competitive or qualifying examination, Government could not get an adequate number of Muslim candidates to offer them appointments with a view to adjust their poor representation in the ministerial establishment of the Government of India offices ?

(b) If the reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, are Government disposed to consider the advisability of filling in the posts not yet permanently filled in and kept vacant for Muslim candidates, as well as those posts likely to fall vacant consequent on the compulsory or voluntary retirement of officials as a result of the retrenchment campaign in vogue, by—

(i) confirming Muslim candidates who have qualified themselves prior to 1931, and

(ii) holding a separate competitive examination for Muslims only ?
If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : (a) Yes, in respect of the Third Division only.

(b) I have already explained the orders which have been issued in the matter.

RECRUITMENT AND PROMOTION OF MUSLIMS IN THE SECRETARIAT AND ATTACHED OFFICES.

1020. *Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim : (a) Is it a fact that when a candidate is confirmed in any Division his name is removed from the list of candidates kept by the Public Service Commission, irrespective of the fact that he has qualified for a Division higher than the one in which he has been confirmed ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, are Government aware of the difficulties with which the candidates especially Muslims, are confronted in securing the appointment in the Division for which they have qualified ? If so, are Government prepared to consider the desirability of keeping the names of such candidates on the list referred to above, till they have been confirmed in the Division for which they have qualified ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 1020 to 1022 together. I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies given on 22nd September, 1931, to Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur's questions Nos. 744—746.

RECRUITMENT AND PROMOTION OF MUSLIMS IN THE SECRETARIAT AND ATTACHED OFFICES.

†1021. *Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim : (a) Is it a fact that the candidates who have passed the 1931 examination have been given permanent appointments, whereas those candidates who have passed similar examinations prior to that, are working satisfactorily in the offices, and have years experience at their credit, are still working in temporary or officiating capacity ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government please state the reasons why such a preferential treatment has been meted out to the new entrants ?

RECRUITMENT AND PROMOTION OF MUSLIMS IN THE SECRETARIAT AND ATTACHED OFFICES.

†1022. *Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Azim : (a) Is it a fact that orders have been issued by the Government of India that in regard to the passed candidates who will not be given permanent appointments (or will not be confirmed) up to a specified limit (up to 30th September, 1931, for the present) the fact of their having passed the prescribed test will be considered as null and void ?

(b) If the reply to part (a) above be in the affirmative, are Government disposed to confirm Muslim candidates who have qualified themselves prior to 1931 *immediately*, so that they may not be affected adversely by the orders referred to above, after 30th September, 1931 ? If not, why not ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1020.

CLERICAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE RAILWAY BOARD.

1023. *Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Asim : Will Government please lay down particulars of the clerical establishment of the Railway Board office in the statements A and B below ?—

A

Statement showing strength of clerical establishment of the Railway Board office at the end of each of the last five years.

	31-3-27.			31-3-28.			31-3-29.			31-3-30.			31-3-31.		
	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III
	ᐃᑦ	Dn.	Dn.	ᐃᑦ	Dn.	Dn.	ᐃᑦ	Dn.	Dn.	ᐃᑦ	Dn.	Dn.	ᐃᑦ	Dn.	Dn.
Permanent—															
(i) Total No. of employees in each Division.															
(ii) No. of Muslim employees in each Division.															
Temporary—															
(i) Total No. of employees in each Division.															
(ii) No. of Muslim employees in each Division.															

B

Statement showing vacancies occurred and filled in in the clerical establishment of the Railway Board office during the last five years.

	1926-27.			1927-28.			1928-29.			1929-30.			1930-31.		
	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III	I	II	III
	ᐃᑦ	Dn.	Dn.	ᐃᑦ	Dn.	Dn.	ᐃᑦ	Dn.	Dn.	ᐃᑦ	Dn.	Dn.	ᐃᑦ	Dn.	Dn.
Permanent—															
(i) Total No. of vacancies occurred in each Division.															
(ii) No. of vacancies filled by Muslims in each Division.															
Temporary—															
(i) Total No. of vacancies occurred in each Division.															
(ii) No. of vacancies filled in by Muslims.															

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : A statement is being sent to the Honourable Member.

CADERES IN THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT IN BURMA.

1024. ***Mr. Muhammad Anwar-ul-Asim** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether prior to 1st January, 1930, all appointments in the grade of Rs. 250—350 in the Rangoon General Post Office, Burma Mofussil Post Offices and the Circle Office were on a common cadre ? Were such appointments interchangeable ?

(b) Is it a fact that an official in the grade of Rs. 250—350 either from the Rangoon General Post Office or Burma Mofussil Post Office was liable to be transferred to the Circle Office without any prejudice to his future prospects ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Circle Office was made a self-contained cadre and was separated from the rest of the Post Office and R. M. S. with effect from the 1st January, 1930 ?

(d) Is it not the policy of Government to protect an official from any adverse effect arising out of an administrative arrangement ?

Sir Hubert Sams : (a) Yes.

(b) Liability to transfer between the units mentioned by the Honourable Member existed. Prospects were as they existed at the time.

(c) Yes.

(d) Instructions were issued on the occasion referred to in part (c) that, if any individual case merited special consideration, it should be reported in detail by the Postmaster General for orders.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST AN EXECUTIVE ENGINEER OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DELHI.

1025. ***Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur** : With reference to the reply given by Government on the 23rd March, 1931, to Sir Muhammad Yakub's questions Nos. 1086 and 1091 during the last Delhi Session of this House, will Government be pleased to state whether the said questions were referred to the Central Public Works Department ? If so, will Government place on the table the explanation received ?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : The questions were referred to the Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department. No explanations were called for, as it was not necessary to do so.

TRANSFER OF DR. DEISH, ASSISTANT SURGEON, COMBINED HOSPITAL, NEW DELHI.

1026. ***Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur** : Will Government please state if Dr. Deish, the New Delhi Assistant Surgeon, who has served for ten years in the Combined Hospital, New Delhi, has been transferred in pursuance of the promise held out by Government at the last session of the Assembly that steps were being taken to have him transferred ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : It is not a fact that Dr. Deish, Assistant Surgeon, New Delhi, has been serving for ten years in the Combined Hospital or that any promise was made during the last session of the House that steps were being taken to have him transferred. What was said was that the question of his transfer would be considered in due course. That promise will be kept.

PARTNERSHIP IN AN ELECTRICAL FIRM OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, VII PROJECT DIVISION, NEW DELHI.

1027. ***Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur** : Will Government state if it is a fact that Mr. Soi, Executive Engineer, VII Project Division, is a partner in an electrical firm in Bombay ? Is it a fact that electrical goods have been ordered from this firm for Government use ?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

POWER HOUSE SUPERINTENDENTS IN NEW DELHI.

1028. ***Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur** : Is it a fact that there are two Power House Superintendents in New Delhi ? Are Government prepared to consider the necessity of engaging one whole-time qualified Superintendent ?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : No. There is one Superintendent, and an Assistant Superintendent. The existing staff is considered adequate.

QUANTITY OF ELECTRICAL GOODS BOOKED AND USED FOR THE GENERAL POST OFFICE, KASHMIR GATE, DELHI.

1029. ***Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur** : Will Government please state what quantity of conduit and other electrical goods were charged and booked against the work of installing electric light and fan points in the new building of the General Post Office, Kashmir Gate, Delhi ? Is it a fact that far less quantity than was ordered was actually used ?

Sir Hubert Sams : Enquiry is being made and the information will be supplied to the Honourable Member separately.

ALLEGED SALE OF COAL FROM THE POWER HOUSE IN NEW DELHI.

1030. ***Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur** : Are Government aware that large quantities of coal from the Power House, Public Works Department, New Delhi, are being sold privately in the bazaar and that a portion is being privately utilised by some of the VII Division staff ?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : Government have no information.

MAINTENANCE OF ELECTRIC INSTALLATIONS AND ROAD LIGHTING IN OLD DELHI.

1031. ***Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur** : Is it a fact that in the absence of Mr. Prabhu the work of maintenance of electric installations and road lighting in Old Delhi was recently in charge of one electric assistant only and is it a fact that now there are two highly paid men ? If so, do Government propose to reduce the expenditure ?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : The reply is in the negative.

REPRESENTATION OF COMMUNITIES IN THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, VII DIVISION, NEW DELHI.

1032. ***Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur** : Will Government state how the several communities are represented in the office of the

Executive Engineer, VII Division, New Delhi, and on the outdoor work connected therewith ?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : As regards office staff, the numbers are : Hindus thirteen, Muslims six, Sikhs six, Indian Christians none, total 25 ; while the corresponding numbers in the case of outdoor staff are 132, 41, 45, 4 and 222, respectively. But I may remind the Honourable Member that the staff is only part of a common cadre.

WORKING HOURS IN THE SECRETARIAT.

1033. *Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur : Will Government be pleased to state as to :

- (a) what the working hours in the Secretariat are ;
- (b) whether they are uniform or vary in the several Branches of the Secretariat ;
- (c) whether it is a fact that in many Branches of the Secretariat the clerks are obliged to work for 9 or 10 hours a day ; and
- (d) whether they are prepared to issue orders that the circular setting forth working hours is acted up to ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : (a) and (b). The question of office hours is, within limits, one for each Department to decide for itself but generally the prescribed hours of work in the Secretariat are from 10-30 A.M. to 4-30 P.M. except on Saturdays when the hours are usually 10-30 A.M. to 2 P.M.

(c) It sometimes happens that in the exigencies of the public service, members of the office staff are required to work longer hours than those mentioned.

(d) No, Sir.

ABOLITION OF THE POST OF ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, AJMER-MERWARA.

1034. *Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur : (a) Is it a fact that as long as Mr. Watkins remained the Superintendent of Education for Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara there was no Assistant Superintendent of Education for Ajmer-Merwara ?

(b) Will Government please state if it is a fact that some one was appointed as Assistant Superintendent of Education, Ajmer-Merwara, after the abolition of the post of the whole-time Superintendent of Education for Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara in 1922 ?

(c) Is it a fact that on the appointment of a whole-time Superintendent of Education for Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Central India in April 1931, the post of the Assistant Superintendent of Education, Delhi, was abolished ?

(d) Will Government please state whether, in these days of extreme financial stringency and on the appointment of a whole-time Superintendent of Education, Government propose to consider the abolition of the post of Assistant Superintendent of Education, Ajmer-Merwara ? If not, why not ?

(e) If the reply to part (d) above is in the negative, will Government please state why they abolished the post of the Assistant Superintendent of Education, Delhi, after the appointment of the whole-time Superintendent of Education ?

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

(b) The post of whole-time Superintendent of Education for Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara was held in abeyance from 1923 to 1931, while the post of Assistant Superintendent of Education in Ajmer-Merwara was created in 1925.

(d) Government have considered the suggestion and have come to the conclusion that the retention of the post is necessary.

(e) It was decided to abolish the post of Assistant Superintendent of Education, Delhi, as the whole-time Superintendent of Education for Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Central India has his headquarters at Delhi, and the retention of the former post at Delhi could not in consequence be justified. The conditions at Ajmer-Merwara are quite different. It is essential that a whole-time officer, such as the Assistant Superintendent of Education, should be on the spot for ready consultation by the local authorities in educational matters.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : With regard to part (b) of the question in which a recommendation has been made for the abolition of the post of Assistant Superintendent of Education, Ajmer-Merwara, may I know if the post is held by a Muslim or a non-Muslim ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : It is very difficult for me to carry in my head the officers in my Department and the communities to which they belong.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is the Honourable Member aware that the post is held by Mr. Joshi who is a Hindu ?

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

Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda : Is it a fact that there never was a whole-time appointment of Assistant Superintendent of Education for Delhi and that the Headmaster of a High School at Delhi was appointed Assistant Superintendent to do the work of that appointment in addition to his work as Headmaster ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : It is quite possible.

Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda : Is it also a fact that the Superintendent of Education has all along been located at Delhi, and that even when the Educational Commissioner to the Government of India, was *ex-officio* Superintendent of Ajmer-Merwara and Delhi, he had his headquarters at Delhi and paid only furtive visits to Ajmer, probably for three or four days in a year ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : I should have expected that.

INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS IN AJMER-MERWARA.

1035. *Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur : (a) Will Government please place on the table of the House a list of recognised schools in Ajmer-Merwara ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Assistant Superintendent of Education, Ajmer-Merwara, does not inspect the Primary Schools ?

(c) Is it also a fact that the Assistant Superintendent of Education, Ajmer-Merwara, does not inspect the High Schools in Ajmer-Merwara ?

(d) Will Government please state the duties of the Assistant Superintendent of Education, Ajmer-Merwara ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) A list of all schools recognised in Ajmer-Merwara on the 1st April, 1931, is placed on the table.

(b) No.

(c) The Assistant Superintendent of Education assists the Superintendent of Education in the inspection of High Schools.

(d) A statement is laid on the table.

List of all recognised colleges and schools in Ajmer-Merwara and along the Railway line in Rajputana, posted up to April 1st, 1931.

No.	District.	Locality.	Name of School.	Highest standard taught.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Ajmer-Merwara.	Ajmer ..	<i>Government Colleges.</i> Government College ..	B.A., B.Sc.	
			<i>Aided Colleges.</i>		
1	Do. ..	Beawar ..	S. D. Inter College in Commerce <i>Government A. V. High School for Males.</i>	C.D.	
1	Do. ..	Ajmer ..	Government High School ..	X	
2	Do. ..	Do. ..	Moinia Islamia High School .. <i>Aided A. V. High Schools for Males.</i>	X	
1	Do. ..	Do. ..	D. A. A. V. High School ..	X	
2	Do. ..	Do. ..	Husband Memorial High School	X	
3	Do. ..	Do. ..	Oswal Jain High School ..	X	
4	Do. ..	Nasirabad	Cantonment Mission High School	X	
5	Do. ..	Beawar ..	Mission High School ..	X	
6	Do. ..	Do. ..	Sanatan Dharma High School	X	
7	Sirohi ..	Abu Road	Railway A. V. High School .. <i>Aided High School for Indian Females.</i>	X	
1	Ajmer-Merwara.	Ajmer ..	Sophia High School ..	IX	Cambridge Junior and Senior and High School Examinations.
..	Do. ..	Nasirabad	Christian Girls A. V. Middle School. ..	X	

No.	District.	Locality.	Name of School.	Highest standard taught.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
			<i>Aided European High School for Males.</i>		
1	Ajmer-Merwara	Ajmer ..	St. Anselm's High School ..	X	Senior Cambridge examination.
			<i>Aided European High School for Females.</i>		
1	Do. ..	Do. ..	Convent High School ..	X	Senior Cambridge examination.
			<i>Technical School.</i>		
1	Do. ..	Do. ..	Railway Technical School ..		Candidates work as paid apprentice for Railway employment only.
			<i>Aided A. V. Middle Schools for Males.</i>		
1	Do. ..	Do. ..	Railway Adler School ..	VI	
2	Do. ..	Do. ..	Agarwal Pathshala ..	V	
3	Do. ..	Kekri ..	Municipal A. V. Middle School	VIII	
4	Rajputana	Mt. Abu ..	Walter A. V. Middle School ..	VIII	
5	Jaipur	Bandikhui	Railway A. V. Middle School ..	VIII	
6	Do. ..	Phulera ..	Ditto ..	VIII	
7		Nasirabad	Veoparik Pathshala ..	VIII	
			<i>Aided A. V. Middle School for Females.</i>		
1	Ajmer-Merwara.	Ajmer ..	<i>U. F. C. Mission School for Females.</i>	VI	
2	Do. ..	Ajmer ..	M. E. Mission ..	VI	
			<i>Government Vernacular Middle School for Males.</i>		
1	Do. ..	Pushkar ..	Vernacular Secondary School ..	VII	
2	Do. ..	Pisangan	Ditto ..	VII	
3	Do. ..	Bhinai ..	Ditto ..	VII	
4	Do. ..	Sawar ..	Ditto ..	VII	
5	Do. ..	Saradhna	Ditto ..	VII	
6	Do. ..	Deolai ..	Ditto ..	VII	

No.	District.	Locality.	Name of School.	Highest standard taught.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
			<i>Government Vernacular Middle Schools for Males—contd.</i>		
7	Ajmer-Merwara.	Shreenagar	Vernacular Secondary, School	VII	
8	Do. ..	Jalia ..	Ditto ..	VII	
9	Do. ..	Masuda ..	Ditto ..	VII	
10	Do. ..	Bhim ..	Ditto ..	VII	
11	Do. ..	Harmara	Ditto ..	VII	
12	Do. ..	Ajmer ..	Model School, Mirahali	VII	
			<i>Government A. V. Middle School for Females.</i>		
1	Do. ..	Do. ..	Central Girls' School ..	VIII	
			<i>Aided Vernacular Middle Schools for Males.</i>		
1	Do. ..	Beawar ..	Mission Vernacular Final School	VII	
2	Do. ..	Ajmer ..	Saidia Vernacular Middle School	VI	
			<i>Recognised Vernacular Middle School for Males.</i>		
1	Do. ..	Beawar ..	Holland Municipal Middle School	VII	
			<i>Aided Vernacular Middle Schools for Females.</i>		
1	Do. ..	Ajmer ..	Arya Putri Pathshala ..	VI	
2	Do. ..	Nasirabad	Christian Girls' Vernacular Boarding School ..	VI	
3	Do. ..	Beawar ..	Mission Girls' School, Piplia Bazar.	VI	
4	Do. ..	Beawar ..	Society Girls' School ..	VI	
5	Do. ..	Ajmer ..	Sri Savitri Kanya Pathshala ..	VI	
			<i>Aided European Primary Schools (for both sexes).</i>		
1	..	Ajmer ..	Railway European School ..	IV	
2	Sirohi ..	Abu Road	Ditto ..	IV	
3	..	(Bandikui)	Ditto ..	IV	
4	Jaipur ..	{Phulera Gangapur.}	Ditto ..	IV	

No.	District.	Locality.	Name of School.	Highest standard taught.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Ajmer-Merwara.	Ajmer ..	<i>Government Vernacular and A. V. Training School for Males.</i> Government Normal School ..	V. T. C. & C. T.	
1	Do. .	Beawar ..	<i>Recognised Training School for Males.</i> Mission Training School ..	P. T. C.	
1	Do. ..	Nasirabad	<i>Recognised Training School for Females.</i> Christian Girls' Boarding Training School ..	V. T. C.	
1	Do. ..	Ajmer ..	<i>Government Vernacular Primary Schools for Males.</i> Model School, Mirshali (Ajmer Circle).	IV	
2	Do. ..	Ararka ..	Vernacular Primary School ..	IV	
3	Do. ..	Bhinai ..	Ditto ..	IV	
4	Do. ..	Brikchiawas	Ditto ..	IV	
5	Do. ..	Bandanwara.	Ditto ..	IV	
6	Do. ..	Bhanvta ..	Ditto ..	IV	
7	Do. ..	Beer ..	Ditto ..	IV	
8	Do. ..	Bergaon ..	Ditto ..	IV	
9	Do. ..	Barli ..	Ditto ..	IV	
10	Do. ..	Bajta ..	Ditto ..	IV	
11	Do. ..	Bogla ..	Ditto ..	IV	
12	Do. ..	Baghera ..	Ditto ..	IV	
13	Do. ..	Bithur ..	Ditto ..	IV	
14	Do. ..	Baghuri ..	Ditto ..	IV	
15	Do. ..	Chachias	Ditto ..	IV	
16	Do. ..	Chanpaneri	Ditto ..	IV	
17	Do. ..	Deoli ..	Ditto ..	IV	
18	Do. ..	Deolia ..	Ditto ..	IV	
19	Do. ..	Dhani ..	Ditto ..	IV	
20	Do. ..	Dhundri ..	Ditto ..	IV	
21	Do. ..	Dabrela ..	Ditto ..	IV	
22	Do. ..	Deogan ..	Ditto ..	IV	
23	Do. ..	Dantra ..	Ditto ..	IV	
24	Do. ..	Deranthu	Ditto ..	IV	

No.	District.	Locality.	Name of School.	Highest standard taught.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
			<i>Government Vernacular Primary School for Males—contd.</i>		
25	Ajmer-Merwara.	Govindgarh	Vernacular Primary School ..	IV	
26	Do. ..	Gagwada ..	Do. ..	IV	
27	Do. ..	Ghatiali ..	Do. ..	IV	
28	Do. ..	Goela ..	Do. ..	IV	
29	Do. ..	Gulgaon ..	Do. ..	IV	
30	Do. ..	Gola ..	Do. ..	IV	
31	Do. ..	Harmara	Do. ..	IV	
32	Do. ..	Thilwara	Do. ..	IV	
33	Do. ..	Junia ..	Do. ..	IV	
34	Do. ..	Jhipian ..	Do. ..	IV	
35	Do. ..	Jethana ..	Do. ..	IV	
36	Do. ..	Kadera ..	Do. ..	IV	
37	Do. ..	Khawas ..	Do. ..	IV	
38	Do. ..	Karel ..	Do. ..	IV	
39	Do. ..	Karonj ..	Do. ..	IV	
40	Do. ..	Kalera	Do. ..	IV	
41	Do. ..	Kerote ..	Do. ..	IV	
42	Do. ..	Kanpura	Do. ..	IV	
43	Do. ..	Kharekri	Do. ..	IV	
44	Do. ..	Kumharia	Do. ..	IV	
45	Do. ..	Khanpura	Do. ..	IV	
46	Do. ..	Kekri ..	Do. ..	IV	
47	Do. ..	Mahrn ..	Do. ..	IV	
48	Do. ..	Makrera ..	Do. ..	IV	
49	Do. ..	Nagelao ..	Do. ..	IV	
50	Do. ..	Nareli ..	Do. ..	IV	
51	Do. ..	Nyaran ..	Do. ..	IV	
52	Do. ..	Nand ..	Do. ..	IV	

No.	District.	Locality.	Name of School.	Highest standard taught.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
			<i>Government Vernacular Primary School for Males—contd.</i>		
53	Ajmer-Merwara.	Nandai ..	Vernacular Primary School ..	IV	
54	Do. ..	Nagola ..	Do. ..	IV	
55	Do. ..	Pushkar ..	Do. ..	IV	
56	Do. ..	Pisangan	Do. ..	IV	
57	Do. ..	Piplaj ..	Do. ..	IV	
58	Do. ..	Pranhera..	Do. ..	IV	
59	Do. ..	Paran ..	Do. ..	IV	
60	Do. ..	Picholian	Do. ..	IV	
61	Do. ..	Ramser ..	Do. ..	IV	
62	Do. ..	Rajgarh ..	Do. ..	IV	
63	Do. ..	Rajosi ..	Do. ..	IV	
64	Do. ..	Singawal	Do. ..	IV	
65	Do. ..	Sanod ..	Do. ..	IV	
66	Do. ..	Sarana ..	Do. ..	IV	
67	Do. ..	Sarandhna	Do. ..	IV	
68	Do. ..	Shreenagar	Do. ..	IV	
69	Do. ..	Satawarin	Do. ..	IV	
70	Do. ..	Sadara ..	Do. ..	IV	
71	Do. ..	Tanthoti	Do. ..	IV	
72	Do. ..	Tabiji ..	Do. ..	IV	
73	Do. ..	Tihari ..	Do. ..	IV	
74	Do. ..	Taragarh..	Do. ..	IV	
75	Do. ..	Tilonia ..	Do. ..	IV	
76	Do. ..	Untre ..	Do. ..	IV	
77	Do. ..	Andhidevri	Do. ..	IV	
78	Do. ..	Bhim ..	Do. ..	IV	
79	Do. ..	Baghana	Do. ..	IV	
80	Do. ..	Barar ..	Do. ..	IV	
81	Do. ..	Bacakhan	Do. ..	IV	

No.	District.	Locality.	Name of School.	Highest standard taught.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
			<i>Government Vernacular Primary School for Males—contd.</i>		
82	Ajmer-Merwara.	Barakhera	Vernacular Primary School ..	IV	
83	Do. ..	Bali ..	Do. ..	IV	
84	Do. ..	Baral ..	Do. ..	IV	
85	Do. ..	Biliawas ..	Do. ..	IV	
86	Do. ..	Bijainagar	Do. ..	IV	
87	Do. ..	Bar ..	Do. ..	IV	
88	Do. ..	Baylan ..	Do. ..	IV	
89	Do. ..	Chhapli ..	Do. ..	IV	
90	Do. ..	Chitar ..	Do. ..	IV	
91	Do. ..	Chang ..	Do. ..	IV	
92	Do. ..	Dawer ..	Do. ..	IV	
93	Do. ..	Dewanta	Do. ..	IV	
94	Do. ..	Delwara ..	Do. ..	IV	
95	Do. ..	Durgawas	Do. ..	IV	
96	Do. ..	Hanutiya	Do. ..	IV	
97	Do. ..	Jhak ..	Do. ..	IV	
98	Do. ..	Jaitgarh ..	Do. ..	IV	
99	Do. ..	Jalia ..	Do. ..	IV	
100	Do. ..	Jamola ..	Do. ..	IV	
101	Do. ..	Jawaja ..	Do. ..	IV	
102	Do. ..	Kachhballi	Do. ..	IV	
103	Do. ..	Kotra ..	Do. ..	IV	
104	Do. ..	Kukia ..	Do. ..	IV	
105	Do. ..	Kalalia ..	Do. ..	IV	
106	Do. ..	Kaldeh ..	Do. ..	IV	
107	Do. ..	Kukerkhera	Do. ..	IV	
108	Do. ..	Kabra ..	Do. ..	IV	
109	Do. ..	Kirap ..	Do. ..	IV	
110	Do. ..	Kharwa ..	Do. ..	IV	

No.	District.	Locality.	Name of School.	Highest standard taught.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
			<i>Government Vernacular Primary School for Males—consold.</i>		
111	Ajmer-Merwara.	Kania ..	Vernacular Primary School ..	IV	
112	Do. ..	Liri ..	Do. ..	IV	
113	Do. ..	Lotiana ..	Do. ..	IV	
114	Do. ..	Lulwa ..	Do. ..	IV	
115	Do. ..	Lakhaguda	Do. ..	IV	
116	Do. ..	Lamba ..	Do. ..	IV	
117	Do. ..	Miyalakhhet	Do. ..	IV	
118	Do. ..	Masuda ..	Do. ..	IV	
119	Do. ..	Mangarh	Do. ..	IV	
120	Do. ..	Naikalan	Do. ..	IV	
121	Do. ..	Nandwara	Do. ..	IV	
122	Do. ..	Nayagaon	Do. ..	IV	
123	Do. ..	Pipli ..	Do. ..	IV	
124	Do. ..	Rajiwass..	Do. ..	IV	
125	Do. ..	Rawatmal	Do. ..	IV	
126	Do. ..	Ramgarh	Do. ..	IV	
127	Do. ..	Rupnagar	Do. ..	IV	
128	Do. ..	Sawar ..	Do. ..	IV	
129	Do. ..	Sethana ..	Do. ..	IV	
130	Do. ..	Seroth ..	Do. ..	IV	
131	Do. ..	Shyamgarh	Do. ..	IV	
132	Do. ..	Shikhari ..	Do. ..	IV	
133	Do. ..	Sendra ..	Do. ..	IV	
134	Do. ..	Sheopura	Do. ..	IV	
135	Do. ..	Sarmalian	Do. ..	IV	
136	Do. ..	Tikarwas..	Do. ..	IV	
137	Do. ..	Toghi ..	Do. ..	IV	
138	Do. ..	Taragarh	Do. ..	IV	

No.	District.	Locality.	Name of School.	Highest standard taught.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Females.</i>					
1	Ajmer-Merwara.	Pushkar	Government Vernacular Girls' Primary School	IV	
2	Do. ..	Masuda ..	Do. ..	IV	
3	Do. ..	Kekri ..	Do. ..	IV	
4	Do. ..	Shrinagar	Do. ..	IV	
5	Do. ..	Pisangan..	Do. ..	IV	
6	Do. ..	Barar ..	Do. ..	IV	
7	Do. ..	Deoli ..	Do. ..	IV	
8	Do. ..	Sawar ..	Do. ..	IV	
9	Do. ..	Bhinai ..	Do. ..	IV	
10	Do. ..	Harmara	Do. ..	IV	
11	Do. ..	Bijainagar	Do. ..	IV	
12	Do. ..	Todgarh ..	Do. ..	IV	
<i>Recognised Primary Schools.</i>					
(Aided by Government or Local Board.)					
MALLES.					
1	Ajmer-Merwara.	Ajmer ..	D. A. A. V. Primary School ..	II	
2	Do. ..	Do. ..	Husband Memorial Primary School.	II	
3	Do. ..	Do. ..	Railway Adler Primary School	II	
4	Do. ..	Do. ..	Agrawal Primary School ..	II	
5	Do. ..	Do. ..	Oswal Primary School ..	II	
6	Do.	Do. ..	Madarsa Himayatul Islam ..	IV	
7	Do. ..	Do. ..	Madarsa Moinul Islam ..	IV	
8	Do. ..	Do. ..	(Akbari Masjid). Islamia Moinia Dargah Orphanage Primary School.	IV	
9	Do. ..	Do. ..	Saidia Primary School ..	IV	
10	Do. ..	Do. ..	Gujrati Primary School ..	IV	
11	Do. ..	Do. ..	Gulab Bari Primary School ..	IV	
12	Do. ..	Ajmer Circle.	Mission Primary Schools (4) ..	IV	

No.	District.	Locality.	Name of School.	Highest standard taught.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Recognised Primary Schools—</i>					
<i>contd.</i>					
<i>(Aided by Government or Local Board.)</i>					
13	Ajmer-Merwara.	Beawar ..	Mission Primary School ..	II	
14	Do. ..	Do. ..	Sanatan Dharma Primary School	II	
15	Do. ..	Todgarh ..	Mission Primary School ..	IV	
16	Do. ..	Beawar ..	Shanti Jain Primary School ..	IV	
17	Do. ..	Merwara Circle.	Mission Primary Schools (8) ..	IV	
18	Do. ..	Nasirabad Circle.	Mission Primary Schools (9) ..	IV	
19	Do. ..	Nasirabad	Vioparik Primary School ..	II	
20	Do. ..	Do. ..	Mission Primary School ..	II	
21	Do. ..	Do. ..	D. A. V. Primary School ..	II	
22	Sirohi ..	Abu Road	Railway Primary School ..	II	
23	Jaipur ..	Gangapur	Do. ..	IV	
24	Do. ..	Bandikui ..	Do. ..	II	
25	Do. ..	Phulera ..	Do. ..	II	
FEMALES.					
1	Ajmer-Marwara.	Ajmer ..	Railway Adler Girls' Primary School.	IV	
2	Do. ..	Do. ..	Sophia Girls' Primary School ..	II	
3	Do. ..	Do. ..	Sultania Girls' Primary School	IV	
4	Do. ..	Do. ..	Savitri Primary School ..	II	
5	Do. ..	Do. ..	Moinia Girls' Primary School ..	II	
6	Do. ..	Do. ..	M. E. Mission Primary School	II	
7	Do. ..	Do. ..	Drynan Repressed class primary School.	II	
8	Do. ..	Do. ..	Lakhan Kotri Primary School ..	II	
9	Do. ..	Do. ..	Sita Kanya Primary School ..	IV	
10	Do. ..	Beawar	Mission Primary School (Suraj-pole).	IV	
11	Do. ..	Nasirabad	Kanya Pathshala ..	IV	
12	Jaipur ..	Bandikui ..	Railway Indian Girls' Primary School.	IV	
13	Sirohi ..	Abu Road	Do. ..	IV	

No.	District.	Locality.	Name of School.	Highest standard taught.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Municipal Schools. Males.</i>					
1	Ajmer-Merwara.	Ajmer ..	Moinia Islamia Primary School	IV	
2	Do. ..	Do. ..	City Vernacular Primary School	IV	
3	Do. ..	Beawar ..	Holland Municipal Primary School.	II	
4	Do. ..	Do. ..	Municipal Primary School (Shahpura).	IV	
5	Do. ..	Do. ..	Municipal Primary School (Surajpore).	IV	
6	Do. ..	Do. ..	Municipal Primary School (Bicharli).	IV	
7	Do. ..	Do. ..	Night school (Bicharli) ..	IV	
<i>FEMALES.</i>					
1	Ajmer-Merwara.	Ajmer ..	Municipal Girls' Primary School (Naya Bazar)	IV	
2	Do. ..	Do. ..	Do. (Mohalla Hindu Mochian).	IV	
3	Do. ..	Do. ..	Municipal Girls' Primary School (Diggi Bazar).	IV	
4	Do. ..	Do. ..	Municipal Girls' Primary School (Nagra).	IV	
5	Do. ..	Do. ..	Municipal Girls' Primary School (Kharl Kunwa).	IV	
<i>Indigenous Schools aided by Local Board.</i>					
1	Ajmer Merwara.	Somalpur	Muslim League Primary School	II	
2	Do. ..	Rasulpur..	Do. ..	II	
3	Do. ..	Hatundi	Do. ..	II	
4	Do. ..	Ajesar ..	Do. ..	II	
5	Do. ..	Makupura	Do. ..	II	
6	Do. ..	Madarpura	Hindu Sabha Primary School ..	II	
7	Do. ..	Atitmand	Do. ..	II	
8	Do. ..	Athun ..	Do. ..	II	
9	Do. ..	Jethana ..	Adult Night School ..	IV	
10	Do. ..	Bhim ..	Do. ...	IV	
11	Do. ..	Jalia ..	Do. ..	IV	

No.	District.	Locality.	Name of school.	Highest standard taught.	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
<i>Indigenous Schools aided by Local Board—contd.</i>					
12	Ajmer-Merwara.	Kukra ..	Adult Night School ..	IV	
13	Do. ..	Jawaja ..	Do. ..	IV	
14	Do. ..	Bhawani-khara.	St. Martin Mission Primary School.	IV	
15	Do. ..	Bhadole ..	Mission Primary School ..	II	
16	Do. ..	Dorai ..	Do. ..	II	
<i>Oriental Institutions.</i> (Aided by local Boards.)					
1	Ajmer Merwara.	Ajmer ..	Sanskrit Hitaishni Pathshala ..	..	Prathma and Madhyama examinations of Benares Hindu University.
2	Do. ..	Beawar ..	Sanskrit Pathshala ..	..
3	Do. ..	Nasirabad	Do. ..	..
4	Do. ..	Punhkar ..	Do. ..	..

Statement showing the duties assigned to the Assistant Superintendent of Education, Ajmer-Merwara.

1. Signing the pay, contingent and travelling bills of the Sub-Deputy Inspector, Office and all the Government Primary and Middle Schools as well as of the Government Normal School, Ajmer.

2. Grant of leave, casual and otherwise, to the officials given in paragraph 1 above, within the sanctioned allotment for travelling allowance and leave salary.

3. Disposal of miscellaneous papers referring to the Indian Aided High, Middle and Primary Schools, for boys and girls.

4. Appointing menials in the Government Middle and Primary Schools within the sanctioned pay.

5. Appointing teachers in Government Middle and Primary Schools up to and including Rs. 30 per mensem and with the concurrence of the Superintendent of Education above Rs. 30 per mensem.

6. All cases dealing with transfer of boys from one school to another.

7. Inspection of all the Indian Government and aided schools, males and females except Government College, Government High School, Moinia Islamia High School and Government Normal School.

8. All correspondence in connection with the middle school examination of boys and girls, the Vernacular Teachers' Certificate Examination and the Normal School Examination.

9. Preparation of Educational Budget subject to the approval of the Superintendent of Education.

10. Preparation of educational returns and draft report.

11. Preparation of draft progress report for submission to Commissioner.

12. Recognition of schools and inter-school rules except that the recognition of High Schools may be made with the previous sanction of the Superintendent of Education.

13. The disposal of routine and miscellaneous questions, *i.e.*, circulation of routine orders received from the Accountant General, Central Revenues, etc.
14. Calculation of grants-in-aid to Indian aided schools.
15. Signing bill and issuing cheque for Kekri school.
16. Papers regarding construction and repairs of all the schools except Government High Schools.
17. Diary of Sub-Deputy Inspector of Schools.
18. All other miscellaneous work in connection with the Indian Government and M. B. Middle and Primary Schools and aided schools.
19. All letters to the Local Government asking for orders and sanction to matters in connection with Government middle and primary schools will be sent by the Superintendent of Education. The Assistant Superintendent will submit to the Superintendent the complete file or files together with proposed drafts.
20. Appointments in all Vernacular Schools for boys up to Rs. 40 per mensem.
21. Control of accounts and correspondence due to the centralisation of work in Ajmer in 1927.

AUDIT SCHEMES.

1036. *Maulvi Sayyid Murtaza Sahab Bahadur : (a) Is it a fact that the local audit scheme has already failed ?
- (b) What are the causes of its failure ?
 - (c) Has any improvement been made under the new scheme ?
 - (d) If so, what are they ?
 - (e) Do Government propose to resort to the old system of check, *i.e.*, on inward basis ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). No. The scheme has not been abandoned in the main, but that part of it which required group accounts offices at various centres of a railway has been discontinued, as it was possible to carry on further experiment with the main features of the scheme in a centralised office at less cost than in a group of separate accounts offices.

(c) and (d). The Local Traffic Accounts scheme was introduced as an experimental measure on the North Western Railway and other State-managed Railways with a view mainly to :

- (i) effect an early check of invoices by the accounts staff and thereby reduce station outstandings ;
- (ii) relieve the station staff of accounts work and thereby reduce station establishment ;
- (iii) expedite the closing of the accounts ; and
- (iv) effect economy in expenditure by avoiding duplication of work.

(e) The experiment is still continuing with suitable modifications on the North Western Railway, and no final decision has yet been arrived at.

APPOINTMENT OF CLERKS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

1037. *Maulvi Sayyid Murtaza Sahab Bahadur : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that :

- (i) certain appointments were created for the office of the Development Commissioner of the North West Frontier Province ;

(ii) several senior Muslim clerks submitted applications for the appointments, and

(iii) they were filled up by selecting non-Muslim junior clerks ?

(b) If the replies to the above questions be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why

(i) no consideration was given to the claims of the senior Muslims, and

(ii) no competitive examination was held to secure the services of the best men ?

Mr. E. B. Howell : The information required has been called for and will be supplied to the Honourable Member in due course.

REVIEW OF COMMUNAL INEQUALITIES IN THE NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

1038. ***Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Sahab Bahadur :** With reference to the reply given by Government to question No. 236 (regarding interpretation of the term minority community as applicable to the North West Frontier Province) asked on the 2nd March, 1931, by Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin, will Government be pleased to state if the review declared by Government to be still being made in regard to the effect of the orders of the 5th February, 1926, relating to communal inequalities, has now been completed and final conclusions arrived at ?

The Honourable Sir James Crerar : The necessary material for the review was complete only recently. The Government of India hope shortly to be in a position to arrive at their conclusions in the matter.

APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS TO THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

1039. ***Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Sahab Bahadur :** (1) With reference to the reply given by Government to question No. 208, asked by Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin, in the Legislative Assembly on the 17th February, 1931, regarding the preponderance of non-Muslims in the Military Accounts Department in India, will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that :

(a) the total strength of the establishment in the Military Accounts Department in India, as it stood on the 28th March, 1930, was as follows :—

Name of Post.	No. of Muslims.	No. of non-Muslims.	Percentage of Muslims.
Clerks	316	3,404	8.5
Accountants	23	444	4.9
Deputy Assistant Controllers	3	97	3

(b) Government issued instructions in the abovementioned Department from time to time regarding adequate representation of each community ;

- (c) the Establishment Officer, Government of India, Army Department, issued Circular letter No. 33846-1 (A.D.), dated the 19th November, 1926, to all Heads of Military Departments directing them occasionally to examine the communal composition of their respective offices and to give adequate representation to members of such communities as have been less represented ;
- (d) In reply given to a question asked by Mr. A. H. Ghaznavi, M.L.A., in the Delhi Session of 1930, regarding the policy of Government in the matter of communal representation in Government services of minority communities, Mr. Parsons said on behalf of Government that the prevention of undue preponderance of any community in the service, the security of adequate representation of minority communities and the removal of the existing communal inequalities was the key-stone of the Government policy to which effect was being given ?

(2) If the answers to the above questions are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a preponderance of members of one community has been allowed to take place in the clerical and other establishment of that Department ;
- (b) whether they are prepared to direct that recruitment by selection of temporary clerks should be confined to the members of the Muslim community in India till their number reaches one-third of the total strength of clerks in the Department ;
- (c) whether they propose to adopt special measures to reserve 1-3rd appointments of the present total strength of the accountants and D. A. C. M. As. for such Muslim clerks and accountants respectively as have already qualified themselves and are yet on the waiting list ; and
- (d) whether highly qualified Muslims may not be enlisted as probationers as is being done in other Accounts Departments if the existing number of qualified Muslims happens to be inadequate in the Military Accounts Department ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply already given by me on the 22nd September, 1931, to a similar question No. 724 by Khan Bahadur Haji Wajih-uddin.

APPOINTMENT OF MUSLIMS TO THE MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT.

1040. *Maulvi Sayyid Murtuza Saheb Bahadur : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that :

- (i) out of 66 permanent Assistant Accounts Officers in India the Muslims hold only one appointment ;
- (ii) out of 321 permanent appointments of subordinate accounts service the Muslims hold only 8 ;
- (iii) out of 3,076 permanent appointments of clerks the Muslims hold 177 ;

- (iv) out of 246 permanent appointments of Divisional Accountants the Muslims hold only 10 ;
- (v) out of 9 permanent appointments of stenographers none is held by Muslims ;
- (vi) out of 81 permanent appointments of typists the Muslims hold only 8 ; and
- (vii) the percentage of Muslims in all the appointments calculated together (out of a total number of 3,793 posts the Muslims hold only 200) comes to only 5.14 per cent. †

(b) If the replies to the above questions be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether the declared policy of Government regarding redressing the communal inequality is in force in this Department ? (See Home Department letter No. 176|25, dated the 5th February, 1926.)

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

- (i) why the preponderance of the members of one community is allowed in the Department ; and
- (ii) what special and effective steps do Government now propose to take to remove the existing unprecedented communal inequality in the Department ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) (i). There are 73 posts of Assistant Accounts Officers out of which two are held by Muslims. Promotions to the rank of Assistant Accounts Officers is made by selection from the rank of Accountants and no preference is given to the members of any community in respect of such promotion.

(ii) No. The correct number is 557 of which Muslims are 27.

(iii) to (vii). The collection of information in the form required would take a long time, but I may state for the information of the Honourable Member that the total clerical staff in the civil Audit and Accounts Department is 7,760, out of which 522 are Muslims, i.e., nearly 10.6 per cent.

(b) The instructions contained in the Government of India, Home Department, Memorandum No. 176|26-Ests., dated the 5th February, 1926, contemplate that one-third of all future vacancies should be filled by members of minority communities of which Muslims are one. These instructions apply to the civil Audit and Accounts Department. They are not disregarded, and in order to see that they are observed the Government of India receive and scrutinise annual statements showing the communities to which personnel recruited during the year belong.

(c) (i) and (ii). Do not arise.

GRIEVANCES OF IHSAN ILAHI, A PRISONER IN THE LAHORE CENTRAL JAIL.

1041. *Mr. S. C. Mitra : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to an article appearing in the *Daily Herald*, dated the 4th September, 1931, under the caption "Ihsan Ilahi in Jail" ?

(b) If so, will Government please state what steps they have taken to redress the grievances mentioned in the above article ?

(c) If no steps have been taken, will Government please state the reasons for not taking action ?

(d) If the answer to part (a) be in the negative, do Government propose to look up the article and take steps for redress ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : (a) I have seen the article.

(b) If the Honourable Member will refer to the replies given by me this session to Sardar Sant Singh's question No. 100, Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal's question No. 150 and Mr. Muhammad Azhar's question No. 822, he will see what the facts are regarding most of the complaints made.

I have no information regarding the allegation of delay in attending to the State prisoner's personal wants in jail, but will send a copy of the question and of this reply to the Punjab Government for any action considered necessary.

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

PERSONS KILLED AND WOUNDED IN THE RIOT IN THE BANNU DISTRICT, NORTH WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

1042. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many persons were killed and wounded on the side of the crowd on the 24th August, 1930, at Spina Tanga, District Bannu, North-West Frontier Province by the firing of the military ?

(b) Were any machine guns used to disperse the crowd ? If so, how many machine guns were used ?

Mr. E. B. Howell : (a) The Honourable Member presumably refers to the engagement which took place between Government forces and an armed crowd in Hathi Khel country, Bannu District, on the 24th August, 1930. The casualties sustained by the armed crowd in this engagement are estimated at 40 killed and approximately the same number wounded.

(b) One Lewis gun came into action during the engagement.

POSTS RETRENCHED IN THE ARMY DEPARTMENT.

1043. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that in connection with the contemplated retrenchment three Superintendents and certain assistants and clerks whose posts will be abolished in the Army Department Secretariat, have been served with notice of discharge in the beginning of August last ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, will Government please state whether similar notices have been issued by other Secretariats of the Government of India ?

(c) Do Government propose to give any concessions to the persons to be retrenched on the abolition of their appointments ?

(d) If the answer to part (b) be in the negative, will Government please state whether Departments other than the Army are awaiting the settlement of the concessions referred to in part (c), and if so, what are the special reasons for the issue of notices in the Army Department so early and in advance of other Secretariats ?

The Honourable Sir George Eainy : (a) Yes. The Army Department, owing to recent reorganisation, were in a position to effect certain

retrenchments at once, provided that retrenchment concessions were granted. They, therefore, issued the three months' notice prescribed in article 436, Civil Service Regulations, as it was expected that before such notice took effect, the special terms (if any) for retrenched personnel would be settled. On this understanding the notices were given.

(b) Similar notices have not yet been issued by other Secretariat Departments of the Government of India.

(c) Yes. The matter is under consideration.

(d) Other Departments have been awaiting the reports of the Retrenchment Committee. The reasons for earlier action by the Army Department have been given in the answer to (a).

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Sir, may I know if the retrenchment in the Army Department has been effected in pursuance of any recommendation of the Army Retrenchment Sub-Committee ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I understand, Sir—if the Honourable Member is referring to the answer to clause (a) of the question—the position is that these notices were given before the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee were received ; but I cannot claim an intimate personal knowledge of these matters.

†1044—1045.

REDUCTION OF SALARIES OF THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

1046. ***Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state :

(i) if they propose to take steps to secure the consent of the Secretary of State for India to reduce the salaries of the members of the Indian Civil Service and other superior services by twenty per cent.

(ii) if any correspondence has passed between the Government of India and the Secretary of State for India on the subject ;

(iii) if the answer to part (ii) is in the affirmative, whether the Secretary of State has agreed to reduce the said salaries, and, if so, by what percentage and till what period ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to make an announcement in regard to this question ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : Government are unable to make any statement at present.

Mr. B. Das : Did the Government of India address the Secretary of State on the subject ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I think, Sir, the Honourable Member might wait and see, a little longer. (Laughter.)

FUTURE POLICY REGARDING BROADCASTING.

1047. ***Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state their policy regarding the future of broadcasting in India ?

†These questions were withdrawn by the questioner.

(b) Have any alterations or improvements been made in broadcasting under State management with a view to popularising the same? If so, has there been any increase in the number of receiving licences?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : (a) Government have the matter under their consideration and hope to make an announcement shortly.

(b) The answer is in the affirmative to both parts of the question.

QUALIFICATIONS OF DIVISIONAL ENGINEERS (WIRELESS).

1048. ***Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the qualifications of their Divisional Engineers (Wireless) who have been in charge of broadcasting, with special reference to their training in radio engineering and broadcasting?

(b) Have these Divisional Engineers had the requisite training, and is there a specialist staff in the department?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : (a) Divisional Engineers (Wireless) are not in charge of broadcasting.

(b) The first part of the question does not arise: the reply to the second part is in the affirmative.

INDIAN OFFICERS IN THE WIRELESS BRANCH.

1049. ***Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of officers attached to the Wireless Branch drawing Rs. 500 and over?

(b) How many of these are Indians and how many of non-Indian domicile?

(c) How many were recruited after 1928?

Sir Hubert Sams : (a) Eighteen.

(b) Three Indians; one Anglo-Indian; thirteen definitely of non-Indian domicile and one the question of whose domicile has not yet been decided.

(c) None.

IMPROVEMENT OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION.

1050. ***Rao Bahadur M. C. Rajah :** Do Government contemplate increasing the activities of the Wireless Department with a view to improving the communication systems of the country?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : The use of wireless to improve the communications of India and Burma receives continual attention and a number of schemes have been examined in details. Owing, however, to financial stringency, many of such schemes, could not be carried out and in the present financial situation no large increase in the activities of the Wireless Branch can be provided for.

PROGRESS OF EDUCATION IN AJMER-MERWARA.

1051. ***Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda :** (a) Is it a fact that between the years 1925 and 1931 the number of recognised educational institutions in Ajmer-Merwara has risen by 105 and the number of pupils in attendance

by over 9,000 and that rural education in Ajmer-Merwara has made very great progress and extra curricular activities like scouting, first-aid, vocational training, village libraries, adult night schools have been started successfully during this period ?

(b) Have Government perused the annual Administration Reports of Ajmer-Merwara for the years 1925 to 1931, and are they aware that the progress of education as recorded in these reports is satisfactory ?

(c) Will Government please state the name of the officer who has been the Superintendent of Education in Ajmer-Merwara during the major portion of the last six years ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) Between the years 1925 and 1930, the number of recognised educational institutions in Ajmer-Merwara rose by 76 and the number of scholars by 6,365. Figures for 1931 are not yet available. The reply to the latter part of the question is in the affirmative.

(b) Yes, except the report for the year 1930-31 which is not yet available. The progress of education recorded in these reports is, on the whole, satisfactory.

(c) Mr. R. Littlehailes, C.I.E., M.A., Educational Commissioner with the Government of India.

EDUCATIONAL CODE FOR AJMER-MERWARA.

1052. *Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda : (a) Will Government please state whether Ajmer-Merwara has got an Educational Code of its own ?

(b) Are Government aware that a large number of the questions against the Ajmer-Merwara Education Department asked in this Assembly during the last four or five years relate to the alleged violation of the United Provinces Code rules by the Educational Officers ?

(c) Is it a fact that in reply to a certain question regarding the acceptance of private tuitions by the Principal, Government College, and the Headmaster, Government High School, the Honourable the Member for Education stated that the United Provinces Education Code was not absolute in its application to Ajmer-Merwara and that the Local Government had discretion to follow it as far as practicable ?

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

(b) A few questions on the subject were asked in the years 1926 and 1930, but none prior to 1929.

(c) Yes, except that the reply was not given by the Honourable Member.

SATISFACTION BY THE RAJA OF PISANGAN OF THE DEMANDS OF HIS PEASANTS.

1053. *Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda : (a) With regard to starred question 272, answered on the 16th July, 1930 (regarding visit of the Assistant Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara to Pisangan), are Government aware that the peasants of Pisangan have recently apologised to the Raja for the no-tax campaign, which was launched by them last year under instigation of certain persons ?

(b) Are Government also aware that as a result of the above the Raja of Pisangan has satisfied all the demands of the peasants ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : (a) and (b). Government have no information on the subject.

SALARY OF THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

1054. ***Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda :** With regard to the answer given on the 11th September, 1931, to my starred question No. 234 to the effect that the salary of the post of the Health Commissioner to the Government of India was fixed some years ago and that the Health Commissioner, whatever his grade may be in the Medical Service, would draw that salary, will Government state if the present incumbent, who is a Major-General, draws the fixed salary of the post or draws a higher salary ? If he draws a higher salary will Government state their reasons for incurring this higher expenditure by keeping a Major-General in that appointment instead of appointing a man of a grade contemplated when the salary was fixed ?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain : The present incumbent of the post of Public Health Commissioner draws the fixed salary of the post, viz., Rs. 2,500—100—3,000, plus £13 6s. 8d. a month overseas pay. The second part of the question, therefore, does not arise.

ATTENDANCE BY GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AT POLITICAL MEETINGS.

1055. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that the President of the Simla Congress Committee requested Government to allow Government servants to attend a public meeting, which was addressed by Mahatma Gandhi in Simla, on the 14th May last ? What reply, if any, was given to this request ?

(b) Will Government kindly state the position of Government servants regarding their attendance at public and political meetings ? Has there been any relaxation, or deviation from the rules prescribed ? If so, on what occasions ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : (a) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The reply given was to the effect that it was not customary for Government in such cases to give orders either permitting or prohibiting the attendance of Government servants.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply which I gave to Sirdar Harbans Singh Brar's starred question No. 1187 on the 25th March, 1931. There has been no modification of the Government Servants' Conduct Rules.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : Was it customary for the Government to permit any public man to address a meeting in Simla in the place in which the meeting was addressed ?

Will the Government be pleased to state whether it was not an extraordinary occasion when an extraordinary man addressed a public meeting and therefore where the ordinary rules regarding Government servants attending a meeting could have been suspended ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : I think the Honourable Member has asked me for an expression of opinion !

EXAMINATIONS FOR THE PROMOTION OF POSTAL OFFICIALS.

1056. *Mr. Goswami M. B. Puri : (a) Is it a fact that deserving junior officials of the Posts and Telegraphs Department, with certain restrictions of age were allowed to sit for the lower selection grade examination held in December, 1930 ? If so, will Government be pleased to state the number of such junior officials allowed to sit for the said examination from each Circle ?

(b) Is it a fact that no junior official from the Central Circle was allowed to sit for the said examination ? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons why the junior officials of the Central Circle were debarred from appearing in the said examination ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the lower selection grade examination for Posts and Telegraphs officials will be held this year ? If so, will the junior officials be given a similar concession as was done last year ? If not, and if the reply to the first part of part (b) be in the affirmative, do Government propose to hold a special examination for the junior officials of the Central Circle only ?

(d) If, however, it is decided to hold the examination this year and the senior officials are also allowed to appear for it, will the junior officials of the Central Circle be given the concession of appearing in double the number allowed for this year ?

Sir Hubert Sams : (a) Yes, subject to a further restriction regarding the number of candidates to be allowed to appear as junior candidates. This restriction was that the number of such candidates should not exceed 25 per cent. of the probable vacancies in the lowest selection grade during the year 1931-32. The number of junior officials who were allowed to sit for the examination held in December, 1930, from each Circle, was as follows :—

Bengal and Assam Circle	..	..	..	11
Bihar and Orissa Circle	..	..	..	4
Bombay Circle	..	..	..	2
Burma Circle	..	..	..	1
Central Circle	..	..	..	N \bar{a}
Madras Circle	..	..	..	25
Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle	..	..	..	11
United Provinces Circle	..	..	..	10
Sind and Baluchistan Circle	..	..	..	N \bar{a}

(b) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to part (a) of the reply to Rai Sahib Harbilas Sarda's starred question No. 620 in this House on the 22nd September, 1931.

(c) With respect to the first two parts the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply to Mr. S. C. Mitra's starred question No. 607 in this House on the 21st September, 1931. The third part does not arise.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (c).

Mr. Lalchand Navarai : Will the Honourable Member be pleased to speak up so that we might put certain supplementary questions ?

Sir Hubert Sams : Yes, Sir.

EXAMINATION FOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS SERVICE.

1057. *Nawab Major Malik Talib Mehdi Khan : (a) Is it a fact that in the competitive examination of the Public Service Commission in 1930 for appointments to the Audit and Accounts Service no candidate taking up *Arabic* as one of the subjects for the examination obtained sufficient marks even to qualify in the examination ?

(b) Is it a fact that the total number of marks obtained by the first hundred students in 1930 was higher than the marks obtained by the first hundred candidates in 1929 ?

(c) Is it a fact that the number of marks obtained by the first three candidates in *Arabic* fell from 314, 270 and 250 in 1929 to 168, 152 and 146 in 1930 respectively ?

(d) Will Government kindly state if the percentage of marks allotted to candidates in *Arabic* was the lowest as compared with the percentage allotted to the candidates in other subjects ?

(e) Were any instructions issued by the Public Service Commission to the examiner or examiners concerned about the marking of the *Arabic* papers ; if so, will Government kindly place a copy of these instructions on the table of the House ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a), (b) and (c). Yes.

(d) No.

(e) No instructions as to marking were given other than the common form of instructions given to examiners in other language subjects. These instructions are confidential and cannot be laid on the table.

EXAMINATION FOR APPOINTMENTS TO THE AUDIT AND ACCOUNTS SERVICE.

1058. *Nawab Major Malik Talib Mehdi Khan : (a) Is it a fact that the total number of marks in *Arabic* is 400 and that the maximum marks shown on the question papers was 200 in the Indian Audit and Accounts Service examinations of 1929 and 1930 ? Will Government kindly state their reasons ?

(b) Have Government satisfied themselves that no mistake was done by the office in recording the marks given by the examiners by overlooking the maximum marks ?

(c) Is it a fact that the candidates standing first in the various subjects obtained the following marks ?—

Subject.	Marks obtained.	Percentage of the marks obtained.
English	190	63
Economics	279	70
Mathematics	298	75
Physics	263	65
Chemistry	244	61
History	296	74
Philosophy	262	65
Botany	295	74
Geology	244	61
Sanskrit	279	69
Persian	265	66
<i>Arabic</i>	168	42

(d) Do Government propose to reduce all marks to the same scale? Is not that the practice followed in most examinations?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) The maximum marks for Arabic were 400. Examiners sometimes find it convenient to mark to a maximum of 100. In such cases the necessary multiplication is made to bring the total to the prescribed maximum.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes, if the Honourable Member refers to the 1930 results.

(d) An endeavour is made to secure that all subjects are marked on the same standard, but obviously if the candidates for subject A are very bad and the candidates for subject B are very good, the candidates in subject A cannot be awarded the same marks as the candidates in subject B.

Dr. Eiauddin Ahmad : I should like to know whether any attempt was made to reduce the marks to a common scale? This question was asked in the last session and no reply was then given. I made inquiries and found that the candidates in Arabic obtained very high marks otherwise in University examinations. Will the Honourable Member let me know whether any attempt was made to reduce the marks obtained by different candidates in different subjects to a common scale?

12 Noon.

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : I am afraid, I did not quite follow the Honourable Member's question, but I think he will obtain the information, he desires, more readily by asking my Honourable Colleague privately about it. I am very doubtful whether I am in a position to provide it now.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

SHOP RUN BY THE HEAD CLERK, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA.

91. **Mr. S. C. Mitra :** Is it a fact that the Head Clerk, Government of India Press, Simla, is running a book binders' shop and a stationery mart just above his residence in Simla and the Press binders work *gratis* in that shop after office hours, and on holidays? If the reply is in the affirmative, will Government please say what action they propose to take against the Head Clerk?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : Government have no information, but they are asking the Controller of Printing and Stationery to enquire into the allegations in this question.

EMPLOYMENT OF RELATIVES OF THE HEAD CLERK IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA.

92. **Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that in the Simla Government Press relatives of the Head Clerk are recruited when vacancies occur, preference being given them over individuals possessing better qualifications?

(b) Is it a fact that a promise has been given to his son for the latter's employment in an anticipated vacancy in the Press establishment?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : The Controller of Printing and Stationery is responsible to Government generally for the efficient administration 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.

QUALIFICATIONS OF INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES.

93. **Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that it is essential for an Inspector of Post Offices to be qualified in telegraphy ?

(b) Is it a fact that an Inspector of Post Offices must be conversant with the branch office rules ?

(c) Is it a fact that an Inspector of Post Offices has to inspect the traffic branch of a combined Post Office ?

(d) Is it a fact that the syllabus for the lowest selection grade examination of Postal candidates does not include branch office rules, pension rules, traffic instructions or the hand book on elementary telegraphy ?

(e) Is it a fact that the answering of questions in the lowest selection grade examination is done with the aid of books ?

(f) Is it a fact that an official passing the above examination is eligible for promotion as Inspector of Post Offices ?

Sir Hubert Sams : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Branch Office rules are not included, being covered by the Head Office and Sub-Office rules, which are included. Inspectors do not sanction pensions. Inspectors who are not already qualified in telegraphy have to undergo a course of training in that subject which includes traffic instructions and the handbook of elementary telegraphy.

(e) Yes.

(f) Yes.

SYLLABUS OF EXAMINATION FOR INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES.

94. **Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that the syllabus for the old examination for Inspectors of Post Offices contained branch office rules and the Traffic Instruction Manual ?

(b) Is it a fact that a knowledge in telegraphy was an essential qualification for nomination as a candidate for the old Inspectors' examination ?

(c) Is it a fact that non-combined hand Inspectors had to undergo six weeks' course of compulsory training in telegraphy and that they had to pass an examination in three papers for being duly declared as qualified in telegraphy ?

(d) Do Government treat the officials passing the lowest selection grade examination equally in the matter of appointments of Inspectors of Post Offices with those who passed the old Inspectors' examination ?

Sir Hubert Sams : (a) Yes. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to part (d) of the reply to his unstarred question No. 93 in the current session.

(b) No.

(c) The facts are substantially as stated by the Honourable Member.

(d) The officials who have passed the lowest selection grade examination are grouped together with officials who passed the old examination for Inspectors and Head Clerks of Superintendents of Post Offices, and both classes of officials are eligible for promotion to the lowest selection grade posts whether in the general or the Inspectors' line, in order of seniority. Junior officials who passed the old examination for Inspectors and Superintendents' Head Clerks, or who have passed the lowest selection grade examination are entitled to every fifth vacancy in that grade whether in the general or Inspectors' line.

NAMES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF CERTAIN INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES.

95. Mr. S. C. Mitra : Will Government be pleased to state the names of the following officials with the kind of departmental examination passed by each of them ?—

- (i) Town Inspectors of Rangoon General Post Office ;
- (ii) Town Inspector of Mandalay General Post Office ;
- (iii) Inspector of Post Offices, Pegu Sub-division ; and
- (iv) Inspector of Post Offices, attached to the Postmaster-General's Office, Burma, for investigation.

Sir Hubert Sams : The information is being called for and will be furnished to the Honourable Member when it is received.

INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES IN THE BURMA CIRCLE.

96. Mr. S. C. Mitra : (a) Will Government be pleased to state :

- (i) the total number of Inspectors of Post Offices in the Burma Circle ; and
- (ii) the total number of approved candidates for promotion to the lowest selection grade appointments who passed the old Inspectors' examination ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state if they are prepared to consider the advisability of giving preference to the officials mentioned in part (a) (ii) above in making postings to Inspectors' posts whenever that could be done without incurring any extra expenditure on that account ?

Sir Hubert Sams : (a), (i) 13 and (ii) 14. As on the 31st March, 1931.

(b) Government regret that they are unable to accept the Honourable Member's suggestion.

NON-TRANSFER OF CERTAIN TOWN INSPECTORS OF POST OFFICES IN RANGOON.

97. **Mr. S. C. Mitra** : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that two of the Town Inspectors in the Rangoon General Post Office have been working as such for nearly 10 years without a change to any different station ;
- (b) whether they are liable to be transferred either as Head Clerk or Sub-Postmaster ;
- (c) why these officials are kept for so long as Town Inspectors ; and
- (d) when these two officials are likely to be shifted from their present position ?

Sir Hubert Sams : (a) to (d). Government have no information. The matter is within the competence of the Postmaster-General, Burma, to whom a copy of the question is being sent.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS AS POSTAL SUPERINTENDENTS IN THE BURMA CIRCLE.

98. **Mr. S. C. Mitra** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if there is any rule debarring Indian employees of the Postal Department in Burma from being nominated as candidates for the Postal Superintendent's examination ? If the reply is in the affirmative, why is there such racial discrimination in the Department ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many Indian employees from the Burma Circle have been allowed to sit for the Postal Superintendent's examination during the last 15 years ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state if Indian employees of the Postal Department in the Burma Circle will be allowed to sit for the future examinations ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state when the next examination is likely to be held ?

Sir Hubert Sams : (a) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(b) One since 1919, prior to which the records are not available.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply to (a).

(d) Government are not in a position to make any statement at present.

CASUAL LEAVE FOR OFFICERS AND CLERKS OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

99. **Mr. Jagan Nath Aggarwal** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state how many days' casual leave an officer on the North Western Railway is entitled to take during the year ?

(b) Is a member of the clerical staff also entitled to a similar privilege ?

(c) How many days at a time can an officer take casual leave on the North Western Railway ?

(d) Does a member of the clerical staff enjoy a similar privilege ?

(a) Is any record kept of the casual leave taken by officers during the year? If no such record in the case of officers is kept, will Government be pleased to state reasons for not doing so?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : Government have no information. Casual leave is unrecorded leave and its grant is entirely at the discretion of the Agent.

ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE OF ROME.

100. **Mr. E. F. Sykes :** Will Government be pleased to place in the Library any records they may have of the activities of the International Chamber of Agriculture of Rome, Italy?

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Hussain : Yes; necessary action is being taken.

THE PRESS EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION, CALCUTTA.

101. **Mr. S. O. Mitra :** (a) Are Government aware that the Government of Bengal, in pursuance of a Resolution passed in the Bengal Legislative Council in 1925, appointed a Committee consisting of both official and non-official Members of the Council including the representative of the Press Employees' Association, Calcutta, to inquire into the grievances of the employees of the Bengal Government Press, Alipore?

(b) Is it not a fact that during the strike in the Government of India Press, Calcutta, in 1920, negotiations were carried on between the Government of India and Mr. B. Chakravarti, Bar-at-Law, the then Vice-President of the Press Employees' Association on the situation then existing?

(c) Is it not a fact that the Secretary, Department of Industries and Labour, issued a circular in 1920 to the effect that Government Press employees might join any organised union?

(d) Is it not a fact that in 1925 the Honourable Mr. Ley communicated with the Secretary, Press Employees' Association, Calcutta, regarding the grievances of the employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta?

(e) Is it not a fact that the representatives of the Press Employees' Association consisting of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and the Organising Secretary waited in a deputation in 1925, before the Honourable Sir B. N. Mitra, the then Member-in-Charge of the Department of Industries who, on the representation of the said deputationists, personally inquired into the grievances of the employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, and removed some of them?

(f) Are Government aware that the opinion of the Press Employees' Association, Calcutta, was invited and submitted to the Royal Commission on Labour in the shape of a printed memorandum as well as oral evidence in the year 1930?

(g) Are Government aware that in matters relating to labour legislations or sending delegates to the Geneva Conference, the opinion of the Press Employees' Association, Calcutta, is invited both by the Government of Bengal as well as the Government of India?

(h) Are Government aware that the Press Employees' Association is a registered body under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 ?

(i) If the answers to parts (a) to (h) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons that led Mr. J. A. Shillidy to state in answer to the starred question No. 258, dated 2nd February, 1931, that the Press Employees' Association, Calcutta, is not recognised by the Government of India ?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : (a) Yes. But the Government of India are not aware that any representative of the Press Employees' Association, Calcutta, was on the Committee.

(b) Mr. B. Chakravarti, Bar-at-Law, made certain representations to Government on behalf of the employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, who were on strike in 1920.

(c) I am unable to trace any such circular in 1920.

(d) The Secretary, Press Employees' Association, Calcutta, interviewed Mr. Ley in 1926, and informed him that the Association had been recognized by Government. On this understanding Mr. Ley undertook to consider a general representation submitted by the Association. As the Association had not been recognized by Government, the Secretary of the Association was informed that the Government of India were unable to consider any representation made by it.

(e) Sir B. N. Mitra while agreeing to receive a deputation of employees in the Government of India Press at Calcutta definitely refused to receive any deputation on behalf of the Association.

(f) Yes.

(g) No special invitation is issued to the Association in regard to the nominations for the International Labour Conferences. On proposals for labour legislation on which opinions are invited, the Association may be consulted by the Government of Bengal.

(h) Yes.

(i) The Press Employees' Association, Calcutta, does not fulfil the conditions which entitle an association of Government employees to official recognition.

NON-GRANT OF MEDICAL LEAVE WITH PAY TO TEMPORARY PIECE-WORKERS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

102. **Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Are Government aware that the temporary piece-employees of the Government Printing, Bengal, are allowed medical leave with pay ?

(b) Is it a fact that the temporary piece-employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, are not allowed medical leave with pay ?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons of part (b) ?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : (a) Government have no definite information.

(b) No. Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given by me to his unstarred question No. 259 in the Legislative Assembly on the 2nd February, 1931.

(c) Does not arise.

GOVERNMENT PRINTING WORK PLACED WITH PRIVATE PRESSES.

103. **Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that the rate of the private firms for printing the Army Department Training Manual and the binding charge of Army Form No. A-64 were considerably higher than that of the Government Presses ?

(b) Is it not a fact that Mr. H. I. Macdonald, Special Officer, Central Revision Section, Army Department, Government of India, in his note, dated 1st July, 1931, expressed the desirability of work being done at the Government Presses on economic grounds ?

(c) Is it not a fact that charges of the private printing firms with whom contracts are placed by the Government of India are higher than that of the Government Presses ? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for placing printing orders on an increased scale every year with private firms ?

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

PAYMENTS MADE TO PRIVATE PRESSES FOR GOVERNMENT PRINTING WORK.

104. **Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Will Government be pleased to refer to the statement made by the Controller of Printing and Stationery in forwarding to Government the annual statistical return showing the working of the Government of India Presses, to the effect that, during 1929-30 the payments for outside printing reached upto Rs. 12,93,697 ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to explain this statement with reference to the statement made by Mr. J. A. Shillidy in reply to starred question No. 248 of the 2nd February, 1931, showing the amount paid to the private contractors for printing work during 1929-30 was Rs. 4,02,000 ?

(c) What amount was paid to the private contractors during 1927-28 to 1930-31 for printing orders placed with private contractors ?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : Information is being collected and will be furnished to the Honourable Member in due course.

PRINTING OF REPORTS OF COMMISSIONS ON LABOUR, RETRENCHMENT, ETC.

105. **Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state :

- (i) the number of Commissions and Committees appointed from 1923 to 1931 to inquire into the conditions of labour, retrenchment as well as political conditions in India ;
- (ii) where the reports of these Commissions and Committees were printed ;
- (iii) the total expenditure incurred for printing the reports of those Commissions and Committees ;
- (iv) the total expenditure incurred for printing in India, if any, the reports of these Commissions and Committees ; and
- (v) the total expenditure incurred for printing outside India, the reports of those Commissions and Committees ?

(b) Is it not a fact that the Government of India has four well-equipped and efficient presses at Simla, Calcutta, Delhi and Aligarh ?

(c) Is it not a fact that not a single report of the Commissions and Committees was printed in India ?

(d) If the answers to parts (b) and (c) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons of part (c) ?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : (a) I do not propose to call for the information required by the Honourable Member, unless he specially desires it, as its collection would take a great deal of time and trouble and because he is, I think, under the impression that the printing of the reports of these Commissions and Committees has been done outside India. I would refer him to my answer to (c).

(b) Yes.

(c) So far as I am aware, without having detailed information, most of the reports lately published have been printed in India.

(d) Does not arise.

CASE OF BABU ABINASH CHANDRA CHAKRAVARTI, A COMPOSITOR INVALIDED FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

106. **Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it not a fact that, in answer to unstarred question No. 356, Mr. J. A. Shillidy stated on the 21st March, 1931, that the case of Babu Abinash Chandra Chakravarti, compositor, Section 4, Government of India Press, Calcutta, is being examined by the Controller of Printing and Stationery ?

(b) Is it not a fact that the case of Babu Abinash Chandra Chakravarti has not yet been finally disposed of ? If so, will Government be pleased to state what it intends to do in the matter ?

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

(b) Government have no information ; but they are asking the Controller to look into the case.

MEMORIAL FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A WORKS COMMITTEE AT THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY PRESS, CALCUTTA.

107. **Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it not a fact that the compositors, distributors, binders and machinemen of the Eastern Bengal Railway Press, Calcutta, submitted a memorial to the Government in April, 1929, praying for the introduction of a Works Committee on the election basis ?

(b) Is it not a fact that the Royal Commission on Labour in India recommended for the introduction of such Works Committees ? If so, what action Government intends to take with regard to part (a) ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The reply is in the negative.

(b) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part the question will be considered when a decision has been come to by Government on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour as regards a Works Committee.

MEMORIALS FROM EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN AND EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY PRESSES, CALCUTTA.

108. **Mr. S. C. Mitra** : Is it not a fact that, in answer to unstarred question No. 360 regarding memorials from employees of the East Indian and Eastern Bengal Railway Presses, Calcutta, Mr. A. A. L. Parsons stated on 21st March, 1931, that the original memorial of the employees of the Eastern Bengal Railway Press, with the Agent's remark is awaited? If so, will Government be pleased to state what action has been taken in the matter? If not, why not?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. The views of the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, are awaited and he has been asked to expedite them.

MEDICAL CERTIFICATES OF EMPLOYEES OF THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY PRESS, CALCUTTA.

109. **Mr. S. C. Mitra** : (a) Is it a fact that in answer to starred question No. 372 regarding medical certificates submitted by employees of the Eastern Bengal Railway Press, Calcutta, Mr. A. A. L. Parsons stated on 11th February, 1931, that the information with regard to parts (b), (c) and (d) would be communicated on its receipt from the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that the information was not supplied as stated? If so, will Government be pleased to supply the information?

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

(b) The information was supplied to the Honourable Member in the Railway Board's letter No. 579-E.G., dated the 22nd June, 1931.

DISMISSAL OF AN INKMAN IN THE EASTERN BENGAL RAILWAY PRESS, CALCUTTA.

110. **Mr. S. C. Mitra** : (a) Is it a fact that in answer to starred question No. 371, regarding dismissal of Mustafa, an inkman in the Eastern Bengal Railway Press, Calcutta, Mr. A. A. L. Parsons stated on the 11th February, 1931, that the action intended to be taken by the Government with regard to parts (e), (h) and (i) would be communicated later on?

(b) Is it a fact that the action intended to be taken by the Government has not yet been communicated? If so, will Government be pleased to state what action is intended to be taken with regard to the employees referred to in starred question No. 371, dated 11th February, 1931?

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

(b) The reply was sent to the Honourable Member in June, 1931, vide Railway Board's letter No. 579-E.G., dated the 22nd June, 1931.

MEMORIAL FROM THE EMPLOYEES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS, CALCUTTA.

111. **Mr. S. C. Mitra** : (a) Is it a fact that in answer to the unstarred question No. 360, Mr. A. A. L. Parsons stated on the 21st March, 1931, that the memorial from the employees of the East Indian Railway

Press, Calcutta, is under consideration ? If so, will Government be pleased to state the action taken on it ?

(b) If nothing has been done as yet, will Government kindly state when they mean to take steps in the matter ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) and (b). The reply to the first part of (a) is in the affirmative. As I have just said in my reply to question No. 108, the views of the Agent, Eastern Bengal Railway, on a similar memorial from the Eastern Bengal Railway Press Employees are awaited and it is proposed to deal with both the memorials, when a reply is received from the Agent.

STRENGTH OF SUPERVISING AND OPERATING STAFFS IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS AT CALCUTTA AND AT HOWRAH.

112. **Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that the number of the supervising staff of the East Indian Railway Press, Calcutta, and Howrah, are on the increase while the operative staff have been decreasing since 1926 ?

(b) Is it not a fact that the present total strength of the operative staff, in Calcutta and Howrah, is 550 whereas the number of the supervising staff is 840 making, 1 supervising staff responsible for 6 operators ?

(c) Is it not a fact that the strength of the compositors, in Calcutta and Howrah, was 101, of the distributors 31, of the binders 134, of the proof-pullers 16, of the machinememen 30, of the inkmen 45, and of the pressmen 11, in 1926, while it has come down to 66, 24, 100, 12, 26, 37 and 5, respectively in 1931 ?

(d) Is it not a fact that there was only 1 overseer, 1 foreman, 2 section-holders, 2 computers, 1 assistant timekeeper and 6 clerks, both in Calcutta and Howrah, in 1926 whereas they have been increased to 2, 3, 4, 15, 4 and 30, respectively in 1931 ?

(e) Is it not a fact that the posts of the Office Superintendent, the Press Mechanic, the Workshop Accountant and Checker were not in existence in 1926 whereas they exist in 1931 ?

(f) If the answers to parts (a) to (e) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state what necessitated an increase in the supervising staff though the operative staff has appreciably been reduced ?

(g) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the strength of the operative staff in compositors, distributors, proof-pullers, machinememen, inkmen, pressmen and binders as well as of the supervising staff of the East Indian Railway Press both in Calcutta and Howrah, for the years 1926 and 1931, respectively ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : I have called for certain information from the Agent, East Indian Railway, and will communicate with the Honourable Member on its receipt.

PAY, APPOINTMENTS AND DISMISSALS OF SUPERVISING AND OPERATING STAFFS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

113. **Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that at the last revision of pay, the supervising staff of the East Indian Railway Press were allowed increments while the operative staffs were not ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing :

- (i) the pay, with the names, of any two section-holders, foreman, overseers, computers and checkers as well as the earnings of any five compositors, five binders of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd class, five distributors, five pressmen, five machinememen and five inkmen, with their names ; and
- (ii) the number of appointments, dismissals and retirements from the service, both of the supervising and operative staff from January, 1924 to June, 1931 ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) I have called for information from the Agent, East Indian Railway, and will communicate with the Honourable Member on its receipt.

(b) Government regret they can not undertake to collect the information required as it would entail a disproportionate expenditure of time and labour.

REPRESENTATION FROM THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION.

114. **Mr. S. C. Mitra :** Is it a fact that the Deputy Secretary, Railway Board, in his letter No. 5018-E., dated the 5th June, 1931, informed the Honorary Secretary, Press Employees' Association, Calcutta, that his letter, dated the 20th May, 1931, had been forwarded to the Agent, East Indian Railway for disposal ? If so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to inform the House of its contents and the result of the communication ?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, I am unable to give the information asked for, as the letter from the Association was forwarded in original to the Agent, East Indian Railway, and I am not aware of the action taken by him.

PROPORTION OF SUPERVISING STAFF TO WORKERS IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS.

115. **Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that in reply to unstarred question No. 358 regarding proportion of supervising staff to workers in the East Indian Railway Press, Mr. A. A. L. Parsons stated on the 21st March, 1931, that certain information was being called for and would be communicated on its receipt ?

(b) Is it a fact that the information was not communicated ? If so, will the Government be pleased to reply to the unstarred question No. 358, dated the 21st March, 1931 ?

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

(b) The information has been supplied to the Honourable Member in the Railway Board's letter No. 579-E.G., dated the 25th September, 1931.

AMENDMENT OF THE INDIAN FACTORIES ACT.

116. Mr. S. C. Mitra : Is it a fact that the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal, in his report for the year 1929-30, reports the various difficulties in discharging duties under the Indian Factories Act, 1926 unless certain portions of the Factories Act are amended? If so, will Government be pleased to state whether they contemplate to amend the Factories Act in the light of the report of the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : In his Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act for the year 1930 the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bengal, has made certain suggestions for the amendment of the Act. These suggestions will receive due consideration when the revision of the Act is taken in hand as a result of the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Labour.

MEMORIAL FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A WORKS COMMITTEE AT THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY PRESS, CALCUTTA.

117. Mr. S. C. Mitra : (a) Is it not a fact that the compositors, distributors, binders and machinemen of the East Indian Railway Press, Calcutta, submitted a memorial to the Government in January, 1930, praying for the introduction of a Works Committee on the election basis?

(b) Is it not a fact that the Royal Commission on Labour in India recommended for the introduction of such Works Committees in the Labour Industry? If so, what action Government intend to take with regard to part (a)?

Mr. A. A. L. Parsons : (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given to part (b) of his earlier question No. 107.

LEAVE GRANTED TO AN OVERSEER AT THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA.

118. Mr. S. C. Mitra : (a) Is it a fact that under the Civil Service Regulations no Government employee, who is on extension, can be allowed leave on average pay for more than fifteen days?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. Fergusson, the acting Overseer and formerly the Head Reader of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, has been allowed four months' leave on average pay?

(c) If the answers to parts (a) and (b) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons of part (b)?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to article 234 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations and rule 86 of the Fundamental Rules, which regulate the leave of Government servants after the date on which they must compulsorily retire.

(b) to (c). 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.

REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON LABOUR.

119. **Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Are Government aware that the Royal Commission on Labour in India has submitted its report with certain recommendations on labour conditions in India ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state when those recommendations are going to be accepted by Government ?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : I would refer the Honourable Member to the first part of the reply given by me to starred questions Nos. 143—149 asked by Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer on the 10th September, 1931.

QUALIFICATIONS AND COMMUNITIES OF THE EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA.

120. **Pandit Ram Krishna Jha :** Will Government be pleased to state the number of persons on the clerical staff of the Government of India Press, Simla, showing the number of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and others as they exist at present, and the educational qualifications of each of them ?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : The information is given below : —

<i>Community.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Educational qualifications.</i>	
Muslims	.. 14	Matriculate ..	.. 2
		Non-matriculate ..	.. 12
Hindus	.. 13	Matriculate ..	.. 2
		Non-matriculate ..	.. 10
		Graduate ..	.. 1
Sikhs	.. 2	Matriculate ..	.. 1
		Graduate ..	.. 1
Christian	... 1	Non-matriculate ..	.. 1
	—		—
	30		30

APPOINTMENT OF HINDUS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, SIMLA.

121. **Pandit Ram Krishna Jha :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether or not the Hindu community, in spite of being a majority community, is in a minority as to its representation on the staff of the Government of India Press, Simla ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether there was a general circular issued to all Government offices to stop recruitment to all vacancies as an economic measure ?

(c) Is it not a fact that owing to the reduction in the printing budget of some Departments there was less work to be tackled by the clerical branch ?

(d) Is it a fact that a certain clerk of the staff of the Government Press, Simla, resigned his post in April last, and that the vacancy has been filled up ?

(e) If the replies to parts (c) and (d) are in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to say whether the appointment in question was in disregard of the circular and why was it made ?

(f) If so, do Government propose to abolish the post as a measure of retrenchment ?

(g) Are Government prepared to make inquiries as to who is responsible for such disregard of the rules and circulars and deal with him in an appropriate manner ?

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

APPOINTMENT OF HINDUS AS DEPUTY POSTMASTERS-GENERAL AND SUPERINTENDENTS OF POST OFFICES.

122. Bhai Parma Nand : (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the communal composition of the Deputy Postmasters-General and Superintendents of Post Offices in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle ?

(b) Is it a fact that out of three Deputy Postmasters-General (Postal and Telegraph) in this Circle there is no Hindu but there are two Muslims and one European ?

(c) Will Government please state whether it is not the policy of Government to prevent as far as possible preponderance of members of one community in one and the same office and, if so, are Government prepared to take suitable steps for the proper representation of all communities in the rank of Deputy Postmasters-General ?

(d) Is it a fact that this Muslim preponderance has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Director General and the Government of India and the matter has been disposed of by the reply that the posting of officers is decided on administrative and not on communal grounds ?

(e) Is it also a fact that out of 29 Superintendents of Post Offices including probationary and reserve there are only 7 Hindus against 12 Muslims ?

(f) Are Government prepared to make good the deficiency in the number of Hindu Superintendents ?

(g) Are Government aware that this policy of Government is viewed with concern and alarm by the members of the Hindu community and has created great discontentment among the employees of that community ?

Mr. J. A. Shillidy : (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) Yes.

(c) The orders for the adjustment of communal inequalities apply to new recruitment to a cadre or a unit, which may be composed of one or more offices. They do not apply to Deputy Postmasters-General, who are promoted officers and not direct recruits. Deputy Postmasters-General are borne on a general cadre for the whole of India and Burma and their

postings to different Circles depend on service exigencies from time to time and are not made on the basis of communal representation.

(d) Government are not aware that the fact is as stated in the first part. A reply of the kind stated in the second part would have been appropriate, had it been made in answer to such a representation.

(e) Yes, except that the total is 28.

(f) Superintendents are borne on a general cadre for the whole of India and Burma and any communal inequalities are adjusted in the case of direct recruits to that cadre.

(g) No.

Statement of communal composition of the Deputy Postmasters-General and Superintendents of Post Offices (excluding Reserve and Probationary Superintendents) in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Circle as on the 22nd September, 1931.

	Deputy Postmasters- General.	Superin- tendents.
Hindus .. .. .	.. .. .	7
Muhammadans .. .. .	.. .. . 2	12
Sikhs .. .. .	.. .. .	4
Europeans or Anglo-Indians .. .. .	.. .. . 1	5

QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER AT HAMBURG.

123. **Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** : Have Government seen the recent quarterly report of the Indian Government Trade Commissioner, Hamburg ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : Yes.

REMOVAL OF THE EXPORT DUTY ON HIDES AND SKINS.

124. **Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** : Will Government be pleased to state whether, having regard to the effect of the present general trade depression on the Indian raw hide industry, they contemplate the removal of the export duty on hides and skins ? If so, when ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : The action to be taken in regard to the removal or retention of the duty is under consideration in connection with the Report of the Hides Cess Enquiry Committee.

REPORT OF THE HIDES CESS ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

125. **Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** : Will Government be pleased to state whether or not they intend to take action on the Hides Cess Enquiry Committee's Report ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : Government have not yet come to a decision in the matter.

OPINIONS SUPPORTING THE HIDE CESS ENQUIRY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

126. **Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad** : Will Government be pleased to state with regard to the Hide Cess Enquiry Committee's Report, what com-

munications, if any, have been received direct or through the Provincial Governments :

- (a) supporting the report ; and
(b) supporting Mr. Price's minute of dissent ?

The Honourable Sir George Rainy : (a) and (b). Copies of the communications so far received are placed in the Library, from which the Honourable Member will be able to obtain the required information.

STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL ENGLISH HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES IN INDIA.

The Honourable Khan Bahadur Mian Sir Fazl-i-Husain (Member for Education, Health and Lands) : Sir, I beg to lay on the table the information promised in reply to starred question No. 670 asked by Mr. Badri Lal Rastogi on the 23rd February, 1931, regarding the number of residential English High Schools and Colleges in India.

Statement showing province by province the number of Residential English High Schools and Colleges in the whole of India.

Province.	Institutions.					
	Colleges.			High Schools.		
	Which are almost entirely residential.	In which more than 50% of students reside in approved hostels.*	In which between 25% and 50% of students reside in approved hostels.*	Which are almost entirely residential.	In which more than 50% of students reside in approved hostels.*	In which between 25% and 50% of students reside in approved hostels.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Madras	3	4	16	2	27	39
Bombay .. ..	..	4	5	13	12	24
Bengal	3	3	11	1	5	29
United Provinces ..	10	6	15	15	8	15
Punjab	9	7	20	15	9	73
Burma	2	2	1	4	6	8
Bihar and Orissa ..	..	7	4	..	9	14
Central Provinces ..	2	1	1	..	6	12
Assam	1	1	1	4	..	2
Coorg .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	1
North-West Frontier Province.	..	1	2	..	..	1
Delhi .. ..	..	1	2	1	2	2
Baluchistan .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ajmer-Merwara .. ..	..	..	1	1	..	1
Hyderabad .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Mysore .. ..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Central India .. ..	..	..	1	1	1	1
Rajputana .. ..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Western India States ..	..	..	..	2	..	..
British Reserve, Manipur.	..	..	..	..	..	..

*Approved hostels are those in which the boarders are amenable to the control and discipline of the college or school authorities concerned.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY PUBLICITY COMMITTEE.

The Honourable Sir James Orerar (Home Member) : Sir, I beg to move :

“ That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, seven members of the Advisory Publicity Committee to assist in the publicity work of the Government of India.”

I may mention, Sir, that this Committee was originally constituted in 1921, its functions being to advise the Government of India in publicity matters generally and in particular to scrutinise and examine the proposals for the expenditure on the bureau. During recent sessions of the Assembly,—and I am afraid I must take some blame for it myself—owing to congestion of very urgent work, the Committee which was due to have been constituted was not so constituted. I understand, however, that a desire has been expressed from several quarters of the House that the Committee should now be reconstituted. I therefore make this motion.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, may I ask the Honourable Member if there had been any meeting of this Committee last year ?

The Honourable Sir James Orerar : During the last year there has been no meeting because the Committee has not yet been reconstituted.

Mr. President : The question is :

“ That this Assembly do proceed to elect in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, seven members of the Advisory Publicity Committee to assist in the conduct of the publicity work of the Government of India.”

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President : I may inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of Members to the Advisory Publicity Committee the Assembly office will be open to receive nominations up to 12 noon on Wednesday, the 30th September and that the election, if necessary, will take place in this Chamber on Thursday, the 1st October, 1931. The election if necessary will be conducted in accordance with the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

THE INDIAN PRESS BILL—contd.

The Honourable Sir James Orerar (Home Member) : Sir, I beg to move that the Bill to provide for the better control of the Press, as reported by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.

Mr. S. C. Sen (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce : Indian Commerce) : Sir, I rise to a point of order. The point of order arises in this way. The Bill as introduced in the Assembly has not been published in the Gazette as I shall presently show, and consequently all proceedings taken thereafter, viz., the report of the Select Committee, are *ultra vires*, illegal and void. From the report of the Select Committee it appears that they certify that the Bill was published in the Gazette of the 12th September, last. I refer to the Bill as it appeared in the Government Gazette and I find—I was astonished to find—that in spite

of the reports in the newspapers, the Bill as published in the Gazette was the same as was introduced in the Delhi Session, and withdrawn. When I came here, I inquired into the matter and I found that the Bill which was introduced here was not the Bill which was published in the Gazette. You will find, Sir, on reference to the Gazette, that the Bill which was published in the Gazette contains 33 clauses. There is a Statement of Objects and Reasons over the signature of Sir James Crerar and it is dated 9th January, 1931. The Bill as introduced in this Assembly contains 32 clauses and there is a Statement of Objects and Reasons over the signature of the Home Member dated the 2nd September, 1931. It is apparent, therefore, that the Bill which was published in the Gazette is not the Bill which was introduced in the Assembly. In the circumstances, my contention is that the Bill has not been published at all as directed by the Rules and Standing Orders. The first is rule 18. This does not touch the matter now because under this rule (page 26 of the Manual) :

“ The Governor General may order the publication of any Bill (together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons accompanying it) in the Gazette, although no motion has been made for leave to introduce the Bill. In that case it shall not be necessary to move for leave to introduce the Bill, and, if the Bill is afterwards introduced, it shall not be necessary to publish it again.”

Of course this has not been done on this occasion and it also provides for publication of the Bill before introduction. But the clause which applies to this matter is rule 20 (page 27 of the Manual) :

“ As soon as may be after a Bill has been introduced, the Bill unless it has already been published, shall be published in the Gazette.”

This is peremptory and there is no option left either to Government or anybody else to disregard this rule.

Then, Sir, I will refer to Standing Order 41 at page 31 of the Manual. It says :

“ After publication in the Gazette of a Bill as required by the rules, the Select Committee to which the Bill has been referred shall make a report thereon.”

This implies that the Select Committee cannot take cognisance of any Bill or make their report unless previous publication has been made in the Gazette. Clause (4) of the rule says :

“ The Select Committee shall in their report state whether or not in their judgment the Bill has been so altered as to require republication.”

This presupposes that there has been a publication and they are to consider whether it requires republication. It goes further. It further says :

“whether the publication directed by the rules has taken place, and the date on which the publication has taken place.”

I do not know what the Select Committee did in this matter. If they have certified in their report that the Bill was published on the 12th of September, I do not think that the Members of the Select Committee did themselves justice in saying so. The real crux of the question is this. What was the Bill which they looked into ? Is that the Bill which was published on the 12th September or is that the Bill which was introduced in the Assembly ? Apparently they looked not into the right Bill but into the wrong Bill and therefore the whole of the proceedings of the Select Committee is *ultra vires* and void. Now what is the object of publication ? It is that the whole world might know about it and not only the 140

[Mr. S. C. Sen.]

Members who adorn these Benches here. Therefore, if the Bill has been wrongly published in the Gazette, the whole proceedings of the Select Committee are wrong. I say this is a vital point and I should think that the report of the Select Committee should be considered as ineffective and inoperative.

Mr. President : The attention of the Chair was drawn to this point this morning and it has no hesitation in admitting that, through an oversight of the Assembly Department, a wrong Bill was published. The matter is much regretted. The question for consideration now is, what should be done in the circumstances? The Chair will be glad to hear Honourable Members on the subject. It is clear that no further proceedings in regard to the Press Bill which is on the Agenda Paper can take place to-day. If any Honourable Member wishes to address the House he is welcome to do so.

Sir Hari Singh Gour (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions : Non-Muhammadian) : I think that the further course that this House should adopt is perfectly clear. I would draw your attention to paragraph 76, page 27 of the Manual of Business and Procedure, which says :

“ When a Bill is introduced, or on some subsequent occasion, the member in charge may make one of the following motions in regard to his Bill, namely—that it be referred to a Select Committee.”

Then you will find on page 31 the procedure which the Select Committee has to adopt. Paragraph 81 says :

“ After publication in the Gazette of a Bill as required by the Rules, the Select Committee to which the Bill has been referred shall make a report thereon. Such report shall be made ”.....

This is the point I am making :

“ Such report shall be made not sooner than three months from the date of the first publication of the Bill in the Gazette, unless the Assembly orders the report to be made sooner.”

Consequently this clause (2) clearly contemplates that the report of the Select Committee should not be made till three months have expired from the date of the publication, unless the Assembly wishes that the report should be made earlier. Now, Sir, the object of this rule is to give the public at large sufficient notice of the provisions of the Bill so that they may criticise it and submit the Bill to their representatives in the House. The points therefore are very clear. The first is that the Assembly must give the public three months time before it takes the Bill up, unless the Assembly orders otherwise. The second is that the Select Committee cannot assume jurisdiction to report on the Bill till after the publication in the Gazette as required by the rules. The procedure that these rules and Standing Orders contemplate is very clear. The Government in a case of urgency may publish the Bill in a Gazette so as to give the public at large an idea of what they intend to do. Having done that, the Bill is as good as introduced. But then after that publication they can move for the reference to a Select Committee for further consideration. That is abundantly clear from paragraph 76. Now if you read paragraph 76 with paragraph 71, it will mean that after a Bill has been published or introduced or on some subsequent occasion the member in charge may move that it be referred to a Select Committee. Therefore, the Bill not having been published, there can be no motion for reference to a Select Committee

and because there can be no motion for reference to a Select Committee, therefore the proceedings of the Select Committee are *ultra vires*. If not *ultra vires* their power is spent. You will also remember that the Honourable the Home Member had moved that the Select Committee do submit its report on or before the 21st September. As a matter of fact the Select Committee signed their report on the 20th September and the report was presented on the 21st. Therefore, the three months did not expire and could not expire, and there is no direction for the earlier presentation of the report of the Select Committee. I therefore submit that the publication of the Bill being a condition precedent to the taking of further proceedings, further proceedings must be set aside and the Bill must now proceed after publication as if it has been introduced for the first time in this House.

Sir Lancelot Graham (Secretary : Legislative Department) : Sir, I should like first to thank my Honourable friend, Mr. Sen, for drawing the attention of the House to what is undoubtedly a very serious irregularity. It would have been most unfortunate if the Bill had been passed through all its stages and subsequently its illegality had been declared in a court of law. I think, Sir, the whole House owes a debt of gratitude to Mr. Sen for having pointed this out. (Hear, hear.) I am not quite sure if the House would not have felt greater gratitude if he had pointed out the irregularity a little earlier, in which case the time of this House and the money of the State might have been saved to a considerable extent. But as Mr. Sen considered it fit to make the point of order now, I am not going to quarrel with him on that account. From the applause with which the facts of the publication of the wrong Bill were greeted in this House, I should have thought that most of the Members were under the impression that the Legislative Department was responsible for that mistake. Sir, it was a very easy mistake to make and as Secretary of one of the Departments of Government, I wish to express my sympathy with the Secretary of another Department.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : It may be due to the hustling of the Bill that that mistake was made.

Sir Lancelot Graham : What has actually happened ? I should like to give my view of the effects of this irregularity, and particularly I may say that I agree with Mr. Sen that from the production of the report of this Committee the proceedings are irregular. The Report could not properly be made on that day the 21st, and I think that is as far as Mr. Sen wants us to go. He has suggested that the Committee might have been scrutinising the wrong Bill ; but if he had himself examined the report of the Select Committee which contains the Bill examined and presented to them and the amendments made therein by them, he would have realised that that suggestion is merely frivolous.....

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt (Burdwan Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Do not commit another blunder.

Sir Lancelot Graham : My Honourable friend, Mr. Amar Nath Dutt, says " Do not commit another blunder ".

An Honourable Member : You will be challenged if you do.

Sir Lancelot Graham : I should like to know who committed the first blunder. I shall now get to the actual facts of this irregularity. I agree with Mr. Sen that the point where we have gone wrong was in allowing

[Sir Lancelot Graham.]

the report of the Select Committee to be presented on the morning of the 21st September. So far I agree. But I must join issue with my friend, Sir Hari Singh Gour, when he suggests that the motion to appoint the Select Committee could not be made until after publication of the Bill in the Gazette. I must say I am surprised that my Honourable friend should have made that suggestion. As he says, there are three rules, or rather one rule and two Standing Orders concerning this matter. We are not concerned with the earlier rule, which deals with the publication of a Bill before introduction. That is Legislative Rule 18. The rule with which we are concerned is Legislative Rule 20, which says that, as soon as may be after a Bill has been introduced, unless it has already been published, it shall be published in the Gazette. But it will be observed that that does not affect the fact of introduction. A Bill is introduced by moving for leave to introduce, and then saying, "I introduce the Bill". Thereafter the Bill is introduced, and publication has nothing whatever to do with the introduction of the Bill. Therefore when my Honourable friend, Sir James Crerar, got up on the morning of the 7th September and said, "I introduce the Bill", that Bill was introduced.

Now, we proceed to the Standing Orders which govern this matter. Standing Order 38 is the one which really contains the whole matter and it says this : when a Bill is introduced, that is to say, on the day on which it is introduced, or on some subsequent occasion, the member in charge may make one of the following motions in regard to the Bill—that it be taken into consideration, or referred to Select Committee, or circulated. A motion for referring this Bill to Select Committee was made on Friday the 11th. The making of that motion depended solely on the fact that the Bill had been introduced, and it did not depend, as suggested by my Honourable friend, Sir Hari Singh Gour, on the Bill having been published. I think that is perfectly plain not only because there is no mention of that condition here, but because that motion could have been made on the very day on which the Bill was introduced.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : May I intervene for a moment and say that my Honourable friend and I seem to be at one on that point. The Select Committee may have been validly appointed. But that Committee could not make a report ; that is what I was submitting all the time.

Sir Lancelot Graham : I understood from my friend that everything to do with the Select Committee, including its appointment, was involved. I do not know if he conveyed the same impression to other parts of the House.....

Sir Hari Singh Gour : This portion of the motion saying that they should report on or about the 21st being part of the motion appointing the Select Committee, the whole motion appointing the Select Committee will now have to be revised and a fresh motion made ; that was my point.

Sir Lancelot Graham : I did not understand him to be making that suggestion. It was not made by the Honourable Member when he made his speech. Probably it was an after-thought which he wanted to put in by way of interruption. As I was saying, the Honourable Member in charge was entitled to make his motion that the Bill be referred to a

Select Committee, although publication had not been made. Publication has nothing to do with it.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadian) : No, no.

Sir Lancelot Graham : As I said, the motion was made on the 11th to refer the Bill to Select Committee. It has been suggested that the date of publication of the Select Committee's report may be changed. The proceedings in Select Committee took rather longer than expected. It was originally expected that they would report by the 18th ; and afterwards it was altered to the 21st.

We now pass on to the Standing Order 41 ; Honourable Members will remember that the motion that was put before them was that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of a certain number of persons named therein, with instructions to report on or before the 21st September. Those provisions were put in because in the opinion of the Government the matter was urgent. It was open to any Member of this House at the time to move an amendment that those words should be struck out. No such amendment was moved, and the motion was passed in the form that the Select Committee should report on or before the 21st September. Consequently there is no question now of the three month's limit referred in Standing Order 41 applying. But what is necessary still under sub-order (1) of Standing Order 41 is that a report should be made after publication in the Gazette of the Bill ; and therefore I fully agree with my distinguished friend, Mr. S. C. Sen, that so far there has been no publication under the rules.

Now, I come to the remedy. I trust that I have convinced the House that up to the time of the appointment of the Committee with instructions to report on the 21st, there was no irregularity. The complication now comes in that, owing to the fact that the Bill which was introduced on the 7th September, not being duly published in the Gazette of India, the presentation of the Select Committee's report on the 21st was premature. They were not entitled to make their report until after publication of the Bill in the Gazette. The question now is how we can remedy the defect. As regards the Select Committee we may say that they have been a little premature. They presented their report too soon on the understanding that the Bill had been published ; that understanding was incorrect.

Sir Hari Singh Gour : It is *functus officio* after doing that.

Sir Lancelot Graham : The Select Committee, having merely presented a premature report, has not become *functus officio* ; they have not ceased to exist because they have not yet presented a valid report. But they are not thereby discharged from performing their duty because they have presented a premature report.....

Sir Hari Singh Gour : Without a fresh power from the House.

Sir Lancelot Graham : Not at all. They came to the House too soon and the House can say, " Well, go back now and come back on the right day ". I am going to suggest a remedy ; that is, that the Assembly Department should today in a Gazette Extraordinary publish the Bill as introduced on the 7th ; thereafter the Select Committee should be recalled to complete their work.....

Sir Hari Singh Gour : The Select Committee should be reappointed.

Sir Lancelot Graham : Not reappointed, but recalled by the Chairman. The Select Committee should be recalled by the Chairman, and there will be no irregularity at all. The Chairman will then satisfy itself that the real Bill which was referred to the Select Committee has been published, and after he has so satisfied himself, the Committee will sign their report, and the Honourable Member in charge of the Bill will lay the Select Committee's report on the table.

Then, Sir, we shall have to consider the next stage. The next stage will be a motion that the House do take into consideration the Bill as reported by the Select Committee. Finally, Sir, I repeat that the appointment of the Select Committee and its sittings are in order, and the only point on which the Committee has gone wrong is in their presentation of the Bill too early. I now, Sir, with confidence leave the matter in your hands.

Mr. Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, after listening to the Honourable Member who has just spoken, I think there is one point which requires to be made clear which will be a great factor in your decision. Legislative Rule 20 says at page 80, "As soon as may be after a Bill has been introduced, the Bill, unless it has already been published, shall be published in the Gazette". Now, it is incumbent upon the authority who introduces the Bill, that the Bill must be published either before or as soon after as it is introduced in the Assembly. Now on page 112 Standing Order 38, to which reference was made by my friend just now, says that when a Bill is introduced, or on some subsequent occasion, the member in charge may make one of the following motions, namely, that it be taken into consideration by the Assembly at once or at some future day to be then specified. Of course, the Bill can be introduced without publication in the Gazette, but it is not clear from Standing Order 38, whether the subsequent motions which say that the Bill be taken into consideration or that it be referred to a Select Committee and so on, whether these subsequent motions can be made after the Bill has been published in the Gazette or not. Rule 20 lays down two conditions, either there should be a previous publication or a subsequent publication. If Standing Order 38 refers to that condition, and the Bill has already been published, then it is all right, but it is not clear from Standing Order 38 whether these subsequent motions can be made if the Bill had not been published as required by Legislative Rule 20. Before that publication is made in the Gazette, the question is whether these motions can or cannot be made, and that point has not been made clear by the Honourable Member, and this is a point which will require some elucidation from the Chair.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, as pointed out by my friend, Mr. Sen, under rule 20 and Standing Order 41 there should be a previous publication in the Gazette, and the Select Committee considered a Bill quite different from the one that was published in the Government Gazette under the rule. The Bill that this House is to consider is a Bill that is introduced in it, and in this case the House considered the Bill that was introduced, but under the rule and Standing Order that Bill has no leg to stand upon now. Let us treat the discussions so far in this House as more or less like those of a Committee of the House of Commons considering a Bill

which as has been shown had no connection whatever with the Bill that was published in the Gazette. According to the rule, this amended Bill is invalid, as my friend has pointed out. Therefore, when the Government publish the new Bill,—and I would advise them to publish the Bill as reported by the Select Committee as the new Bill,—the House can go through all the stages, not only of the circulation of the Bill but also of its reference to the Select Committee if the House so chooses. That is the point I wanted to make.

Incidentally I want to tell my friend Sir Lancelot Graham that so far as Mr. Sen was concerned, it was not possible for him to place this information before the House, because he came to Delhi from Calcutta only a day or two before yesterday, but the Honourable the Home Member gave him an opportunity by making the motion that he has made to-day to raise a constitutional objection under the rules and Standing Orders. I thought when my friend Sir Lancelot Graham suggested that Mr. Sen could have informed the Government earlier,—though the Opposition, whether in this House or in the House of Commons owes no duty whatever of the kind to the Government,—he was speaking rather under a misapprehension. Finally, I would seriously urge upon your attention, Sir, to consider that the Select Committee had no leg to stand upon in the absence of the due publication of the original Bill in the Gazette, without which this Bill as amended has been introduced.

Mr. President : The Chair does not wish to prolong the discussion. The Chair holds that the Bill was validly introduced ; there can be no question about it. Now what happens after a valid introduction of a Bill ? Standing Order 38 says—“ When a Bill is introduced or on subsequent occasion the Member in charge may make one of the following motions in regard to his Bill ”. I should like to invite the attention of Honourable Members to the fact that immediately after leave to introduce a Bill is granted by the House and the Honourable Member in charge introduces the Bill, he is entitled to move one of the three motions mentioned in the Standing Order, one of which is that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. Therefore, the motion, to refer a Bill to a Select Committee does not require previous publication. The Standing Order is quite clear on the subject. The motion to refer a Bill to a Select Committee is perfectly in order, and the House can consider and pass it without previous publication. This is confirmed by Standing Order 41. I do not wish at this stage to invite attention to the rule which makes it compulsory that a Bill shall be published immediately or as soon after introduction as possible. There is no difference of opinion on that issue. Now, let us refer to Standing Order 41. It says :

“ After publication in the Gazette of a Bill, as required by the rules, the Select Committee to which the Bill has been referred shall make a report thereon.”

These words also indicate that it is open to the House to appoint a Select Committee immediately after the formal introduction of a Bill. The Select Committee may be appointed, but they are required not to make a report before publication in the Gazette. As publication in the Gazette through an unfortunate oversight has not taken place, no report can be made by the Select Committee. The point at issue therefore is whether the report of the Select Committee presented to the House can be considered by the Assembly. The obvious answer is that it cannot, because the report was presented before publication of the Bill, in contravention of Standing Order 41.

[Mr. President.]

I hold therefore that as the Agenda Paper of to-day's meeting contains only one item, viz., the Press Bill, the House cannot proceed to consider it. As regards what is to happen in these circumstances, is a question on which the Chair does not feel called upon to express any opinion at present. The ruling given is clear that the House cannot consider the Select Committee's report, it having been presented before publication, in contravention of Standing Order 41. The Chair wishes, however, to say that it is quite prepared to agree to any solution which may be suggested consistently with the rules and Standing Orders. As this unfortunate incident has occurred through the oversight of the Assembly Department, the Chair is very anxious to co-operate with the Honourable House to find a reasonable solution of the difficulty which has arisen. The Chair will be prepared to give the best and most sympathetic consideration to any practical suggestions which may be made from any part of the House in order to help the further progress of the business before the Assembly. The Chair has now no option but to adjourn the House till 11 A.M. to-morrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 29th September, 1931.